



staff bulletin

Informing, connecting and recognising Monash University Library staff



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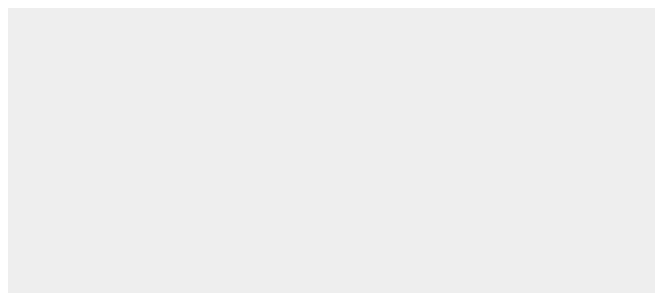
Posted on [February 3, 2015](#) by [Angela Lang](#)

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Walking the CoachingOurselves path...

By Penny
Presta,
Stephanie
Foott,
Anne
Young,



**Paula
Todd, Jill
Walker
and
Angela
Lang**



— (L-R) Angela Lang, Jill Walker, Paula Todd, Anne Young, Penny Presta. Photo: Stephanie Foott

Bringing together a mix of people with different roles and experiences might pose some challenges in a traditional staff development setting aimed at imparting a particular skill.

The *CoachingOurselves* program however thrives on this diversity as topics are designed to spark conversation about aspects of our professional lives. The contribution of staff from different areas makes for a rich and lively discussion and opens up new avenues of thinking.

In our group, team contact Angela coordinates the choosing of topics and we rotate sessions around various locations across campuses. Our latest meeting followed a different format in that it was a 'walking meeting' at the Peninsula campus!

Blessed with perfect weather we started on some seating outside the library, and after each section of the topic we walked to another seating area on campus. Paula, who is based at Peninsula, was able to elaborate on the key features of this beautiful location as we went along and guided the group to the next suitable stopping point.



As you can see from the photos we are having a lot of fun in our team, but we also recognise how worthwhile the time spent at these sessions is. It has afforded us the rare opportunity for meaningful reflection on our workplace and its management, our own work and the work of our colleagues. The shared experience has been positive and has promoted understanding of the complexity of organisations, as well as highlighted the things that we enjoy and that the library does well.

The success of our group is largely due to the willingness of all participants to prioritise this program within our busy schedules. The reward has been that the same people are contributing each time, furthering the trust and respect between us and enhancing the frank and open conversations. Our topics so far have included

silos and slabs in organisations, political games and feeding forward to name a few. They have challenged us in many ways, with the most recent session demanding we listen more closely and really attend to what others say.



We would love to hear from the other teams about what topics they think are hot for stimulating discussion and professional development!



This entry was posted in [Professional Development](#) by [Angela Lang](#).
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ONE THOUGHT ON "WALKING THE COACHINGOURSELVES PATH..."



Janette Burke on [February 19, 2015 at 4:44 pm](#) said:

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What fabulous topics and a great way to get fit and engage professionally. Well done.

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