

Views from the **Grassy Knoll** and other vantage points

Two perspectives on the Dallas APTi conference

Phil's perspective

Prologue

In need of US currency, I visit the National Australia Bank. It's opposite the site of the 'Battle of Brisbane', two nights of brawling between American and Australian servicemen in 1942. I'm told that NAB is backing out of currency exchange. I ask for \$150; they have only one \$100 bill, one \$10 bill, and the balance in dollar bills. I leave with an unaccustomedly bulging wallet.

Wednesday: Here and there

The American Customs and Immigration were less than welcoming, and we left ... in a morass of red-tape form-filling and an indefinable feeling of mistrust.

Michael Palin, diary entry, 1973

*He who would cross the Bridge of Death
Must answer me these questions three*

Monty Python and the Holy Grail

At Brisbane Airport I clear security, only to find a second check at the departure gate, where shoeless passengers are frisked as their bags are hand-searched. It's required by US law—as is the announcement that passengers are not permitted to gather in groups anywhere on the aircraft.

Our 747 is named 'Longreach', the town where Qantas has its roots, and a town I've visited several times over the years. An hour into the flight, the on-demand entertainment system packs up. I hope that the flight systems are more robust.



The consensus among the witnesses at the scene was that three shots were fired.

However, some heard only two shots, while others testified that they heard four and perhaps as many as five or six shots.

Warren Commission report (1964)



Peter Geyer and Philip L Kerr



APT International conference
Dallas, Texas | 5–9 August 2009

Peter Geyer and Philip L Kerr travelled to the APT International Conference in Dallas, Texas in August. It was Peter's ninth APTi conference and Phil's first.

Peter is APTi's interest area consultant for Theory and Research. Phil is national president of AusAPT and editor of the *Australian Psychological Type Review*. Both prefer INTP.

Peter and Phil present their parallel perspectives on the proceedings, the people, and the place.

Peter's perspective

People in the US want things to be clean and neat and good and not rotting.

Angelo Spoto

Among the possibilities, you make fine distinctions ...

Rachel Fitzgerald

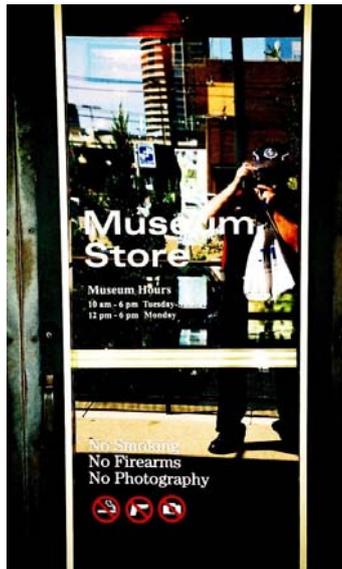
Every two years a different part of North America is laid open for inspection by an APTi conference. For this type traveller it's an opportunity to meet colleagues and friends in a familiar environment, albeit in a place never visited before or unfamiliar in other ways. Notwithstanding the benefits and the surprises, it's an expensive way to meet, no matter where you come from—particularly in the current climate.

If you have a formal role to play—as I do, being the APTi Interest Area person for Theory and Research—you find a way to get there, much as others do who have presentations to make and people to meet. There's also Dallas to look at and things to look for, particularly for me as the place of the assassination of John F Kennedy in 1963. I wanted to go and find out where that was and walk around that area.

The way I found was via United Airlines, an old favourite. A recent experience had saddened me a bit, with both plane and staff appearing to have had better days, but this time everything seemed much better and the United geniality had returned. The flight from Sydney to Los Angeles contained several dozen people from New Guinea, brightly clad in identifying T-shirts and with a demeanour of gentleness, quietness and calm. The arrival over the expanse of urban Los Angeles produced a number of awestruck comments and sounds.

The airport, personally familiar, continued to fit current security requirements into old, unsuitable structures. Signs were displayed asking for patience, calmness and attention to directions, including attention to instructions that were not explained in any way. To be fair, the environment was not helpful to the people there trying to do their job, and with a particular mindset.

Two perspectives on the Dallas APTi conference



I wanted to walk around that area

Dallas was accessed via wide freeways



Phil's perspective (continued)

We cross the International Date Line, and hey hey, it's Wednesday—again. As dawn draws near, a gang of four seniors defies US regulations by gathering at the back of the plane to pass the time chatting.

In the entry queue at Los Angeles, one of the Gang of Four stridently proclaims that she has already answered the questions on the Immigration card online, and plans to tell that to the Immigration officer. Her fellow travellers counsel her against that—but we share her sense of frustration.

Providing a passport number when booking my trip got me to first base. US visitors must now apply, on line, for a visa waiver. Ticking off the questions about my history of mental disorders, drug use and 'crimes of moral turpitude' advanced me to second base, an authorisation to travel.

Third base is the filling out of a green card (as distinct from a Green Card) handed out in flight. 'Welcome to the United States', it says, then asks the same questions as the online visa application.

Who's on fourth? A Homeland Security functionary in paramilitary uniform, buzz cut and dour demeanour, who asks me: *What is the purpose of your visit to the United States?* 'To attend a conference.' *What sort of conference?* 'Psychological type.' *Are you a psychologist?* 'Er, no—I work for a State government.'

Answering these questions three admits me over the Gorge of Eternal Peril. After my fingerprints are scanned, it's into the Third World chaos of Los Angeles Airport. I join a queue snaking along the footpath, through the gridlocked terminal and up the escalator to another security check, before checking in for my flight to Dallas.

'Breakfast served', said American Airlines' itinerary. Translation: breakfast is sold in a box. I settle for a ginger ale, which seems to be uncontaminated by any ginger. With an eerie synchronicity, in *Time* magazine I encounter Werner Herzog lauding the logic of the *Warren Report*. In my bag I have my own well-worn copy of the official report on the JFK assassination.

In 1963 the *New York Times* called Dallas a city 'where right-wing conservatism is the rule'. Curiously, a decade later it was Dallas where *Monty Python's Flying Circus* gained a foothold in the USA.

Dallas was amiably reached at any rate and the conference hotel accessed quickly via wide, clean freeways and a few turns in the older part of the city. The streets weren't exactly teeming with people, but in the oven-like heat, perhaps it was a sensible idea to stay inside. Although there was a day or so until the conference proper, there were preconference workshops and people setting up stalls and displays, so I managed to run into a few people I knew, such as **Jamie Johnson** and **Sally Campbell**.

Everyone's conference is different: random encounters and longer meetings, as well as personal interest and choice, take you away from what's on offer. And the people you meet and discuss things with over a meal and or a drink may not be the ones expected, or intended, if there are such intentions in mind at the start. Even before the formal opening of the conference, this pattern was apparent as people sat together in various places, others as yet unseen, or elsewhere.

A surprise for me was the appearance of *Review* editor and AusAPT president **Phil Kerr** one day earlier than I'd anticipated. We'd agreed to share a hotel room, something not undertaken lightly by INTPs in particular, and I had anticipated a day of sole occupancy before his arrival.

Research and Theory symposium

One of my duties was to facilitate and present at the Theory and Research event, one of a number of interest area symposia traditionally held prior to the Thursday evening conference opening.

Apart from my own presentation on Self and Identity, the papers were from research conducted at the University of Texas at Austin, mostly under the tutelage of **Ray Hawkins**. Ray was the main presenter, as his students were, for various reasons, unable to attend. He presented on type and dreams, projection, eating disorders, and, with **Marcus Barnes**, on a handwriting project. His feature presentation was on J H van der Hoop, whose 1939 book *Conscious Orientation* was a key reference for Isabel Myers. All the presentations were appreciated by a small but attentive group and much was learned.



A personal pleasure is meeting Jamie Johnson

My presentation was on Self and Identity



Dallas–Fort Worth Airport sits between the two cities that form the 'Metroplex'. I board a taxi, and see Arabic newspapers on the floor. Post '9/11', I would have thought the driver risked being reported to Homeland Security. Maybe Texans don't have fridge magnets to tell them who to call.

At the Fairmont Hotel I drop my bags in the room I'm sharing with Peter, then head to the conference desk. After registering, the first person I see is ... Peter. He was not expecting me until the next day—perhaps because that's what I'd told him.

We adjourn to the lounge bar, from where I meet a passing parade of people familiar from type literature. A personal pleasure is meeting **Jamie Johnson** from CAPT after years of congenial email exchanges.

Thursday: Party like it's 2009

*I've been bad, I've been good
In Dallas, Texas ... Hollywood*

Z Z Top, 'Tush'

I'd like to say it's a bulletproof study.

Marcus Barnes, in Dallas

Day 2 of the preconference program offers symposiums in 7 of APTi's 8 interest areas (apart from Religion and Spirituality, listed as cancelled). I opt to support Peter in the symposium he's convening as Interest Area Consultant for Theory and Research.

Theory and Research symposium

'Personal identity and psychological type' is the theme. Peter introduces **Raymond Hawkins** and **Marcus Barnes**, a pair who present just as you might expect INTJ and INTP academics to. Raymond examines the contributions to type theory of J H van der Hoop and Marcus previews a research project on handwriting and type.

But this is Peter's show, so I'll let him tell you about it ...

In the lunch break, I join APTi President **Suzanne Brue** and her husband Nordahl in the hotel restaurant.



Ray Linder and
Karla Edwards

The Conference

In the evening **Daniel Liew** from Malaysia opened the conference, mixing his ENTJ preferences with his cultural background.

His very active presentation was based on the eight functions, although I missed a bit of that, because he began with two interactive exercises which derailed me a bit—although they seemed much appreciated as icebreakers by the group. It takes me a while to adjust to the idea of interacting with others in this way: it's highly public to me and I feel exposed emotionally, so I naturally retreat, rather than engage.

I spent some time managing that and was then able to appreciate Daniel's excellent understanding of, and approach to, type. His ethical approach impressed me, and he finished with an evocative short video clip exemplifying culture and type, to me, anyway.

Daniel Liew



Multicultural and International Issues symposium

In the afternoon I call in on the symposium convened by **Ray Moody**. The audience is indeed international—from Finland, Saudi Arabia, Germany, Korea, Japan, Australia, Canada and the USA. **Kathleen Hughes** is present, 30 years after her grandmother Isabel Myers spoke at the first conference of what was to become APT International.

Our own **Sue White** had presented earlier. **Sally Campbell** from Scotland opens the afternoon by sharing what she learned as a marine biologist: '*everything* influences people systems'. The self-described 'first multicultural person' for APTi observes that the 'American mindset' is application.

'I'm a survey guy', says **Rich Thompson**, reporting on CPP and OPP's research on behavioural expressions of type. A survey of experts in 22 countries found that type is generally perceived to be similar across cultures. [See discovery.skillsone.com]

The conference proper opens on an international note, with convener **Dario Nardi** introducing **Daniel Liew** from Malaysia. In his keynote speech on 'type in challenging times', Daniel highlights the need for 'mindfulness' of the uniqueness of each type and the values that make us all unique.

A buffet dinner follows. After a welcome from **Suzanne Brue**, APTi's Membership Director **Jill Chivers** steps up as MC with an attention-getting '*G'day!*' that leaves no doubt as to her nationality. As it's the 30th anniversary of the first MBTI conference, **Jamie Johnson** hosts a celebration with archival photos and audio, plus a birthday cake. A Texan band adds to the festivities by leading some line dancing.

After dinner, several APTi Board members and friends adjourn to **Ray Linder's** room. APTi's INTP Director of Finance is nothing like the dour stereotype of a bean counter. INTP is the modal type in the room, so I'm right at home: and even more so after Ray produces a litre of Australian shiraz.

There are also two bottles of a Californian red with the evocative appellation *Ménage A Trois*. Having sworn on my green card that I wasn't seeking 'to engage in immoral activities', I repress any impure thoughts.

The next day I met with **Mark Majors**, whom I hadn't seen since the 2001 APTi conference in Minneapolis when he was Director of Research for CAPT. Mark has his own questionnaire in the MajorsPTI, worked on MBTI Step I and II, and is a co-author of the Step II Manual. With his wife, Mary, we had a genial chat about a number of issues, from historical aspects of Isabel Myers's and Mary McCaulley's collaboration to teaching the Majors, which I commenced this year for ACER.

In the afternoon I had a presentation on my method of using MBTI Step II categories in Step I interpretation, which I've been working on and using for several years. I was unsure how compressing a day course into 90 minutes would go, but it worked well and I had a large, appreciative group who appeared to find my method interesting.

The rest of the day was spent maintaining energy levels: essentially sitting quietly in the conference area, reading newspapers. The hotel provided *USA Today* (described enthusiastically by one staff member as 'America's paper! Because it's positive!'), *The Wall Street Journal*, *New York Times*, *Dallas Morning News*, and financial papers beyond my knowledge or interest. I had a relaxing time with those throughout the conference, mixed with random conversations.



Jill Chivers: no doubt as to her nationality

Friday: Nothing but heat today

Friday begins with a Regional Breakfast, complete with breakfast burritos. I head for the International table to join **Susan Nash**, **Sally Campbell** and **Wynn Rees** (Britain), **Damien Killen** (Ireland), **Mauricio Rocha** (Brazil), **Andreas Thomma** (Switzerland), **Sue Blair** (New Zealand), and **Sue White** and **Marie Carmody** (Australia).

All up, eight Australians are in Dallas. **Jill Chivers** and **Peter Geyer** are prominent in their APTi roles, and **Mary McGuinness** is presenting a concurrent session. **Trudy McCutcheon**, like me, is at her first APTi conference. There's also expat **Robin Wiley** with his wife, **Vicky Jo Varner**.

Panel: Sustainable use of type in organizations

Linda Berens introduces panellists from organisations that have embedded type in their cultures. 'We had a sense that there had to be a better way to work together', says **Brian Robertson**. His 'Holacracy' method embodies learnings from applying type in his company, Ternary Software.

The MBTI is SouthWest Airlines' 'personality assessment of choice'. 'We geek out on Myers-Briggs in my department', says **Nichole Miller**. A key lesson is that it's not vital to know the other person's type code; just that they are different from you.

Jennifer Tate tells of Yakima Valley Memorial Hospital's success in improving staff communication with a type-based program that has run for 12 years—and has earned the hospital an Organizational Excellence Award, to be presented on Sunday.

After the panel, I take some time out. *Get ready for Buddy, Beatles, Bee Gees!*, says Platinum Radio, bridging the gulf between the bespectacled rock'n'roller from nearby Lubbock and the brotherly balladeers from over yonder in Redcliffe, Queensland.

At high noon, the type editors meet: **Gayle Veltman** (*APTi Bulletin*), **Sue Blair** (*TYPE-type*, New Zealand), **Nancy Silcox** (*Type-Face*, UK) and me (*Review*)—plus **Jamie Johnson** (CAPT) and **Katherine Hirsh** (APTi). We reaffirm our policies of mutual support in reprinting and advertising.



Australians abroad: Marie Carmody, Sue White, Trudy McCutcheon

▼ Peter Geyer

*When you've begun to think like a gun,
the rest of the year is already gone*

*Once you've begun to think like a gun,
the days of the year have suddenly gone*

John Cale

I found that Dealey Plaza, the location of John F Kennedy's assassination in 1963, was not too far away from the hotel, so I headed off in that direction in the morning heat and vacant streets. Although I'd read quite a lot about the event, I found I had a different picture of the locality to what it was really like: it was much smaller than I thought and some things seemed in reverse, perhaps because I hadn't factored in that Americans drive on the opposite side of the road to Australians.

So I wandered around what was essentially a grassy area in three parts, near where a wide road came together, went under the bridge and stood behind the Grassy Knoll fence (the knoll being one of those parts), and looked out at the marker for the event, an 'X' painted in the middle of the road, a faintly eerie thing to see.

The building from where shots were fired had been renamed, and the 6th floor from where Lee Harvey Oswald had almost certainly taken his mark was now a museum. Photographs were not allowed. The floor comprised an excellent social and political history of the period in word and picture. The corner from which shots were fired was glassed off and left in a similar way to how it was after investigators came upon it after the assassination.

The floor above displayed the work of a news photographer whose photo of Jack Ruby shooting Oswald was used across the world. It was an interesting presentation that took you outside the Kennedy event and to other aspects of that time.

I walked back by a different route, past a pioneer hut (Dealey Plaza is where the founding buildings of Dallas were erected) and up a sparsely-populated street mostly comprised of glass-fronted buildings and interesting street sculptures and art, before tiring and heading to the hotel, past a very modern light rail service that locals somewhat incongruously call a 'trolley'.



I sneak a shot from
above the sniper's nest

I stood behind the
Grassy Knoll fence



▼ Philip L Kerr

*... here we were ... on the most famous—
the only famous—grassy knoll in the world,
looking up at the Book Depository windows
from which Oswald had fired ...*

Michael Palin, diary entry, 1975

*... the ghost of Oswald ... has always been
beyond the reach of anyone's tape measure.*

Thomas Mallon

As I get ready for Friday, Platinum Radio plays 'Abraham, Martin and John', Dion's eulogy for assassinated American leaders, including the President who was slain just a few blocks away.

After lunch I pass up Sarah Michel's 'interactive event' and step outside for the first time in two days. *Nothing but heat today*, Platinum Radio had warned. Dallas's sun-baked streets are deserted as I wend my way past the Baptist Credit Union and the Downtown Pregnancy Center to the city's most infamous landmark.

Have I had a lifelong interest in the JFK assassination? Put it this way: I have a daughter named Jackie.

'What struck me most was the eerie ordinariness of the spot', Michael Palin wrote during a 1975 visit. I see what he means.

The former Texas School Book Depository houses the Sixth Floor Museum, a worthy tribute to the fallen President. On this hot August afternoon dozens of visitors are inside, including, it appears to me, a high proportion of African-Americans.

Cartons stacked by a window overlooking the Triple Underpass reproduce the scene on 22 November 1963. Photography is not allowed, but I sneak a shot (as it were) from the 7th floor, right above the 'sniper's nest'.

In the museum shop I buy a fridge magnet of Warhol's iconic Jackie Kennedy for her namesake, and a 'JFK' T-shirt for myself. I learn later that my INTP roommate bought the same shirt in a similar colour.

*The year 2000 will see men still arguing and
writing about the President's death.*

A *New York Times* editor, on hearing of
JFK's assassination, quoted in Salisbury

The evening brought with it a reception for meeting leaders and authors, which was pleasant and agreeable.

This was followed by a Type Research and Theory Forum, which was a surprise addition to the conference format that I'd agreed to facilitate. A group of 20 or so on commencement grew to well over 40, and there were some interesting and valuable contributions.

My role wasn't to pursue a particular point of view, although I'd written a discussion context as a guide. I started by displaying two old books containing Jungian ideas: Herbert Read's *Education Through Art* and Jolan Jacobi's *Psychology of C G Jung*, both from 1942, the time of commencement of MBTI research and development, which aroused some interest.

The ensuing discussion varied a bit. I discovered many different and some unusual views of what research entails, and a general restlessness about the current research and theory situation, particularly associated with the MBTI and its use. I took down some general points and promised to pursue them, inviting further discussion via email. It was a fairly successful event, which was pleasing.



Saturday brought an Interest Area Breakfast where tables were set up for the various interest areas—careers, health, education, multicultural, etc. (The previous morning had been geographical, so International tables were provided.) Both events were agreeable and enjoyable, notwithstanding my lack of a morning perspective regarding networking or any interactive activity. Perhaps a different time zone helps, although the discussions were genial and interesting.

The breakfast brought a formal end to my participation in the conference as a leader and presenter, which had been enjoyable, but also took up a lot of energy.



I displayed old books of Jungian ideas

Sue Blair meets the author Susan Nash



Type in the land of technology

My day job is in an IT unit, so this session from **Carol Linden** was a must, as it was for the woman from Google sitting next to me.

'I'm ENFP and Southern', says Carol. She sounds like Dolly Parton—and says 'y'all'. We undertake group activities on type and role choices in IT. Carol says she spends a lot of time on the S–N dichotomy, which is 'huge in terms of communicating'.

Carol show some striking EEG prints from Dario Nardi's research on type and neuroscience, and shares an example from the Hurricane Katrina disaster. The Federal Emergency Management Agency had a Guardian culture: 'the faxes had to come in' before FEMA would act. The US Coast Guard, by contrast, is trained as an Artisan agency, ready to act.

Evening brings the 'Meet the Leaders and Authors' event, with a wraparound array of tables and authors displaying their wares.

Type Research and Theory forum

By a programming quirk, **Peter Geyer** has inherited a 'special evening discussion' at 8 pm. Despite the hour, 35 people turn up.

A remark from Peter about the American preoccupation with measurement sets the ball rolling. Bold statements are batted to and fro by a few of the participants. I often get caught up in such sparring, but tonight I'm content to observe. Peter will tell you how it felt to be in the firing line.

Saturday: Beware of the dudes

*You're so sadly neglected, and often ignored
A poor second to Belgium when going abroad*

Michael Palin, 'Finland'

Today the breakfast tables display signs for APTi's interest areas. (Curiously, the Religion and Spirituality table is vacant.) I join the Theory and Research table with **Dario Nardi, Don Dangremonde, Jenny LaChance, Julie Campe, Sally Campbell** and, of course, Interest Area Consultant **Peter Geyer**.

If you're going to sit under the light, you're missing out on a lot of your life.

Angelo Spoto

Steve Myers, developer of the MTRi and currently undergoing Jungian Studies at the University of Essex, facilitated 'Rediscovering Jung', a panel of three Jungians in **John Beebe**, **Angelo Spoto** and **Rachel Fitzgerald**. This followed the format of a previous conference, with Rachel in place of John Giannini. It was a pleasure to meet her beforehand for a brief chat. (**Lenore Thomson** had originally been scheduled. I was disappointed that she was unable to attend, as I'd corresponded with her, but we'd never met.)

Steve started drolly with Cliff Richard and the Shadows performing *The Young Ones*, which must have been a cultural mystery to North Americans, at least. There were clips featuring Jung and others associated with him before. In many ways, this was a somewhat random conversation observed vicariously, and it seemed to me that John Beebe, a genial man, wished to have the last word at most junctures. It might have been the dominant extraverted intuition or something unconscious.

A feature of this kind of exchange is that (to paraphrase Angelo Spoto, who made some memorable statements), in contrast to the general aspect of this kind of conference, there aren't any answers or applications: you had to read between the lines as things darted everywhere from persona as a lie, shadow knowledge and a preoccupation with rotting, to religious and medieval ideas and a grumpy, angry Jung. At times I felt challenged and wished I had more of a classical education, but in retrospect this was the apogee of the conference. Interestingly, a question about the future of APTi was asked of the panel at the end.

I continued with **Steve Myers** in his presentation on whether Jung believed in God, which contained the closest to a philosophical discussion I'd experienced at any type conference, with interesting comments from an interested and interesting group of attendees. Steve didn't have a concrete answer to the question, but that wasn't the point of the exercise.



Steve Myers facilitated a panel of Jungians

Jennifer Tucker: type and strategic planning



Does type influence your approach to change?

Greg Husczo defies INTP stereotypes with his confident presence and focus on real life: his past life on a Detroit assembly line, and his audience's work experience. (One young participant refers to her job in a Pizza Parlor.) Greg shares advice from a 'curmudgeon' he'd met early in his career: *Beware of the dudes*—the managers who dress like cowboys, but can't ride a horse.

A study by Greg and his student Vanessa VanClaus found that during organisational change, behaviours are driven by *situations* at least as much as *type preferences*. (The subjects were that captive audience much favoured by researchers, students.)

Type and strategic planning

Having worked in strategic planning, I'm curious about the application of type to it. **Jennifer Tucker** suggests it's a predominantly intuitive activity that tends to produce plans that are too abstract—which fits with my experience.

When **Hile Rutledge** asks, 'Who knows temperament?' barely a third of the group raise a hand. I'd expect more in Australia. Oddly, Hile cites Keirse's 1978 estimates of temperament frequencies, rather than those from the 1996 US national sample.

Downtown Dallas is deserted at lunchtime. Searching for an ATM, I miss the Jungian panel—but Peter will tell you about that.

Decoding the mystery of midlife reorientation

Vesa Routamaa was a generous host to my wife Chris and me last year (as well as a guide to Finland's 'roads less travelled'). After a drama over the unavailability of a projector, Vesa reports on his research.

456 adults aged from 22 to 61 completed the MBTI and a Maslow Needs Hierarchy survey. The results supported the proposition that the hierarchy of needs changes through life in line with the development of the less-preferred functions.

I forego a 'conference mixer' at Dick's Last Resort to dine in with **Susan Nash**.

The evening provided an opportunity to go to a place called Dick's Last Resort for what was called a 'conference mixer'. I had considered attending, but synchronicity got in the way and instead I had a quiet, agreeable and special discussion and meal with **Sally Campbell**, **Rachel Fitzgerald**, **Steve Myers** and **Sharon Wallace** in a corner of the hotel restaurant.

The decision to miss the mixer was further justified the next morning when panellist **Fatma Al-Hawsawi** announced that her answer to the question 'What de-energises you?'—previously 'Times Square, New York'—had been supplanted by 'going to Dick's Last Resort'. I gathered that conversation had been difficult, amongst other things, and I reflected that my favourite event at APTi conferences by a long way was a tour of jazz and blues music bars in Kansas City in 1995.

My friends **Sally Campbell**, **Ray Moody** and **Danielle Poirier** were also on the panel. Danielle had flown in from a remote part of Canada, and I was fortunate to have a brief chat. There were some interesting moments, but this seemed disjointed to me, as it was a bunch of people telling their stories, or a particular story, as a way of stating what they did.

*I've been down, but not like this before
Can't be round this kind of show no more
Stop and realise what is true
Just follow the rules
Keep your eyes on the road that's ahead of you*

Lowell George

That was the conference at any rate. I found it enjoyable whilst missing out on various sessions that had some interest, which is fairly much the norm for me, as energy and time only goes so far.

A feature of this event not really articulated was the difficulty that some I knew had in attending the conference at all, from both regular and first-time attendees. Some are looking for work outside what they have normally done with type, so Dallas might have been a final meeting for some, which is sad, however realistic.



Leadership award:
Katherine Hirsh

Dario Nardi and John Beebe



Sunday: High noon

After a memorial service for now-departed members of the type community, it's on to the Awards Breakfast. The spread of the awards is pleasingly international.

Korea's **Haesook Sim** receives the Mary McCaulley Lifetime Achievement Award—fittingly, as Mary had been one of Dr Sim's mentors. The Innovations Award goes to Canadian **Danielle Poirier**, creator of the multimedia package *The Magnificent 16*. The Excellence in APTi Leadership awards range near and far: **Cash Keahey** of the Dallas–Fort Worth APT, **Julie Cummins** of the New Zealand APT, and APTi Board member **Katherine Hirsh**.

The *Journal of Psychological Type* Award goes to **Brian Gerrard** for a case study of discrimination. **Yakima Valley Memorial Hospital** receives the Otto Kroeger Award for Organizational Excellence for its type-based communication skills program.

Other recipients include academic **Scott Anchors** (Gordon Lawrence Educational Achievement Award); *APTi Bulletin* Editor **Gayle Veltman** and Jungian **John Beebe** (President's Awards); and the developers of the MBTI Step III, **Naomi Quenk**, **Allen Hammer** and **Wayne Mitchell** (Isabel Myers Memorial Research Award).

Panel: Insights from the experts

Sharon Richmond chairs the final panel, again international in flavour. **Fatma Al-Hawsawi**, founder of the Middle Eastern APT, talks about type in Saudi Arabia, and **Sally Campbell** shares her memories of wartime Britain. **Danielle Poirier** (Canada) and **Ray Moody** (USA) also offer insights.

Vicky Jo Varner introduces me to **John Beebe**, who takes time to talk. Profound ideas, and a point to take away: 'Yes, type is complex—but no more so than music.'

The conference ends at high noon with the usual mix of euphoria and anticlimax. Afterwards, most of the Australians hang out in the lounge, with Dario Nardi, John Beebe and Steve Myers. Robin Wiley enlists me for an interview for his website to illustrate how INTPs differ from INTJs. We then all head out for a convivial dinner.

The final day in Dallas was spent largely chatting with Mary McGuiness and Phil Kerr whilst processing the newspapers I'd read. Naturally, Australia did not really feature, apart from brief news about businessman Stern Hu in China.

There was a discussion on the death penalty, suggesting that if it was abolished in Texas, it might be more for cost reasons than anything else. The positive *USA Today* provided an article on happiness that suggested a number of people aren't all that happy when pursuing it, and another on obesity that implied we'd be better off if we soberly considered food as fuel rather than a happiness-inducing social lubricant. And the *Wall Street Journal* remembered the 100th anniversary of Freud's visit to America, which was of course C G Jung's first visit.

Eventually, the three of us went out into the oven-like heat of Dallas for the last time, heading to the airport to take our respective flights and perspectives to our various home cities in Australia.

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Photos: Philip L Kerr, Peter Geyer, Nancy Silcox, Vicky Jo Varner.

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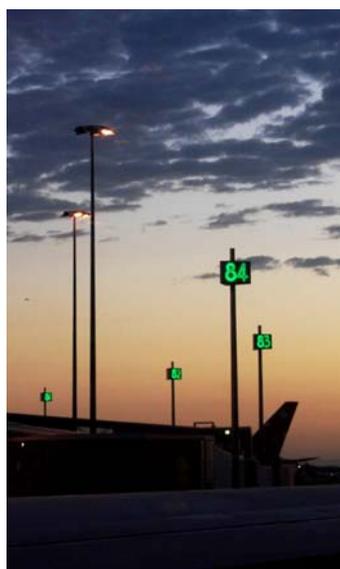
Philip L Kerr (INTP) is the national president of AusAPT and editor of the *Australian Psychological Type Review*. He travelled to Dallas at his own expense.

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The final day was spent processing newspapers

I land in Brisbane as Wednesday dawns



Monday: Lost in translation

Platinum Radio plays Elvis, and I think of Mary McGuiness. I'm unable to check in online as the first leg of my flight is not on Qantas (although it's code-shared). Peter and I occupy a table in the lounge to see the day out, where Mary joins us to form an apt trio: Peter, Phil and Mary.

We head to the airport, passing Parkland Hospital where JFK received the last rites. The check-in clerk somehow fails to grasp that Brisbane, Australia is an international destination. Later, at LA Airport, QF16 is not listed on the departures board. Foreign travel seems to be an alien concept here.

I find the gate and board 'Longreach' again. Tuesday disappears into a black hole over the mid-Pacific and we land in Brisbane as Wednesday dawns. Chris is waiting and we head off for my first flat white in a week.

Epilogue

A few years ago, Peter Geyer noted that the APT 'International' conferences were essentially American. In Dallas, however, faces from around the world featured as presenters, panellists and award winners, and delegates came from 21 countries.

The election of a President who has lived outside the USA holds out hope of a less insular America, re-engaged with the world. Similarly, I'm confident that when the next conference rolls around in 2011, APTi will be even more international in its outlook. Maybe I'll see you in San Diego.

Phil's references

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