Vice Chancellor’s welcome to MOD. opening

Time: 6:30pm – 9:00pm
Date: Thursday 10 May, 2018
Place: MOD.
Ngangkirna, Miyurna! Naa marni Ngai nari David

Ngai yarta-nungku yaku, ngai kunturrkinthi taakanthi ngaityu wardli

Ngai pudlunthi naa-itya, ngai wangkanthi warra Kaurna meyurna, miipudlunthi ngaityu kuinyuntapinthi.

What I just said, for those of you who lack the Kaurna language, is that my name is David and while I am not originally from this country, I am proud to call it my home and I do so in the language of the Kaurna people as a mark of my respect.

Hello

I don’t think any words are adequate to describe this space, or to explain what you are seeing, so I’m going to make a non-speech to welcome you and to request that you forget anything you’ve ever known.
• Starting back in 2014 the University of South Australia planned to create an outreach centre for Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics.

• We thought bringing science and technology out of the labs and into the public realm would also play an important role in helping young people find that spark and drive to pursue careers in science and innovation.

• This is becoming increasingly important as we witness a decline in the number of students interested in studying science, technology, mathematics or engineering across the globe.

• As we move to a technology-based, innovation-dependent economy, the demand for these skills is greater than ever before so it is vital that we do everything we can to excite a passion for science and technology, especially in young people.

• So plans for our own outreach centre began.
• We wanted to provoke new ideas at the intersection of science, art and innovation.

• We named it MOD. which means Museum of Discovery but because MOD. is a name without a given meaning, it allows our audience to project their own interpretations.

• And that’s what this place is all about.

• It’s even more inspiring than we imagined, although its purpose remains the same: to inspire young adults to pursue science and technology careers in related industries and to make sure they remain inspired to explore science as a cultural and community activity throughout their lifetimes.

• I actually envy you your first look at this space.
• It just makes you want to learn more and to know more.

• MOD. will challenge what you think you know about what it means to be human.

• MOD. will help you explore artificial worlds and augmented realities; and

• it will challenge your perception of pain and injury.

• MOD. places importance on Aboriginal ways of knowing and features the accomplishments of our first and future scientists of this land.

• We have Australia’s first Science on a Sphere which will allow you to explore the universe without leaving North Terrace,

• and I know of at least one exhibit here that tempted the redoubtable Professor Tanya Monro to dance like a teenager on television last week,
• so interactivity is encouraged and even guaranteed.

• There is no way, having seen this collection of exhibits, that you will not be challenged and delighted and eager to open your minds to new possibilities.

• That’s what we do as educators. We do it so much better when we have facilities like MOD. to bring it alive.

• Before I introduce you to MOD.’s director Kristin Alford, let me thank

   o our Foundation Partner, the State Government of South Australia;
   o our Gallery Sponsor, the Gould Family;
   o our Innovation Supporters – Redarc, CBA and Macquarie and
   o our official radio partner, Southern Cross Austereo’s station Hit 107.
• It was in the Gould Interactive Gallery that Channel 7, filming a live cross to their evening news last week, caught Tanya Monro on camera, dancing.

• MOD. makes you want to do things like that.

• Now, please welcome MOD’s director Dr Kristin Alford who is likely to take you out of your comfort zone sometime soon.

• Thank you.