RULE Zooms to Oz
PA Rural-Urban Leadership Program

Winter day hiking in Canberra by Andrea Hogg. Highlights include sightings of white cockatoo and many kangaroos.

Philippa Woodhill with her pups, Tanna and Stradie. Background: D’aigular National Park

Matt Linnegar, CEO of the Australia Rural Leadership Foundation

Three leadership growers, with the Australia Rural Leadership Foundation, shared their passions, their reverence for First Nations and their curriculum cogs to a captive RULE audience. In a Pennsylvania evening, our guests were greeting us pre-dawn of the next day from their respective remote locations throughout Australia. Our Aussies explored different veins of culture with a shared syllabus.

Philippa, Director of Partnerships, shared her keen perception, “JD, Tara and a mob of enthusiastic RULE participants made for a great way to kick off a productive workday! Stopping to share a little is always a nice reminder of the special work that we do and the importance of connection. Whilst distance and scale separate our lived experiences – the challenge and opportunity of leading through this time is shared.”

Andrea, Director of Learning, focused on program of studies as well as her view on remote programming. “These webinars have actually provided a wonderful medium to reach into many corners of the world, to share ideas and stories, to offer support and inspiration and to meet friends, existing and new. Apologies for our attempts to sing our nonsensical anthem – so many references in it that even most Australians don’t understand!”

ARLF’s CEO, Matt’s “G’Day” featured a remote background with he and his wife, Reggie astride the Nittany Lion. Clearly, he has affinity for our sense of place. He related his personal experience as being a scholar himself as well as his discomfort with the Disruptive Curriculum Cog (closely related to conflict and group process). Matt said, “The world has turned upside down and I was privileged to share some time with the RULE class, on the other side of the globe and through the ether of Zoom. Despite what may separate us, I came away feeling like we were closer than ever as we lead adaptively and collectively for something greater than ourselves. Thank you RULE and go, the mighty Nittany Lions!”

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