

Tasmanian Section

Elvin Fist

The William Oats Memorial Lecture, Hobart, on 17th August, and the Honora Deane Memorial Lecture, Launceston, on 18th August were organised by WEF Tasmania in association with the University of Tasmania and the support of many organisations including the Education Department.

William Oats was for many years Principal of the Friends School, Hobart, and a stalwart of WEF in Australia. Honora Deane was a much-loved teacher at Launceston High School, and secretary of WEF in Launceston for many years.

Dr Jennifer Butler (who worked with marginalised people in Thailand and was Associate Professor of Community Medicine and Public Health, UNSW) originally accepted our invitation to speak on Attitudes and Actions: Working with marginalised communities in today's world, but she felt unable to fulfill the engagement because of the political/constitutional crisis involving her husband, Richard Butler, at that time Governor of Tasmania. A panel of speakers was arranged to take her place in Hobart and Launceston where both meetings were well attended.

In Hobart, a panel consisting of three speakers addressed the following topics:

- global and Australian realities and perspectives on marginalization (Professor Margaret Reynolds, President of the United Nations Association of Australia)
- information and observations on the health dimensions of marginalization (Dr Roscoe Taylor, Director of Public Health in Tasmania)
- some Tasmanian educational responses to marginalisation (Ms Alison Jacob, Deputy Secretary, Schools Education, Tasmania).

The meeting was introduced by Christopher Strong, President of WEF (Tasmania) and by the Vice-Chancellor of the University, Professor Daryl Le Grew who spoke about Mr Oats and the relevance of the topic in today's world.

In Launceston, the meeting was introduced by the Deputy Vice-Chancellor of the University of Tasmania, Professor Rudi Lidl, and the panel addressed the following:

- health challenges and marginalisation (Professor Judi Walker Deputy-chair, 'Tasmania Together' Progress Board, and Professor of Rural Health University of Tasmania)
- working with the marginalised for the marginalised (Ms Alison Jacob and Mr Grant Maynard, TEAR Australia, Tasmanian Coordinator).