

News from Victoria

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Victorian Section

After a modest re-birth of the Victorian Section in 2004, activities and membership are now showing a trend of growth and new interest. We have adopted the name of the *World Education Forum*, as approved at the national executive meeting in January this year, to broaden our appeal.

Second WEF Vic Forum: 10 May

Following the success of the initial forum held at RMIT University in November 2005, with its focus on new developments in curriculum and the place of internationalism in school experiences, a second forum was set down for 10 May. The forum, running from 6 pm to 8 pm at RMIT University again, is an invitation to Victorian educators to be part of a truly global project in education that we are promoting as the next in our seminar series.

This Forum focusses on *Education for Sustainability in the 21st Century*, featuring Professor John Fien speaking on *The UN Decade of Education for Sustainable Development*, and Mr Dennis Cunningham speaking about *Languages in a Global Curriculum*. With plenty of opportunity for input from participants during open forum, the evening will be moderated by Professor Colin Power, WEF National President.

We have adopted a policy of encouraging interested people to find details and to register for the forum online at www.wef.org.au/vic, where there will be a report on the forum later in May.

Other Developments

An enthusiastic group of WEF Supporters met recently as we expanded the membership of our WEF Coordinating Committee. We are most appreciative of the support of Professor Brian Caldwell, WEF member, and other leaders and teachers in education.

The Committee:

- Reviewed identity and objectives of WEF Victoria—especially in promoting the international issues in education, and confirming the still very relevant mission statements of WEF.
- Considered ways of re-energising WEF Victoria.
- Adopted an aim of financial independence as soon as possible, and expressed appreciation to the WEF National Executive for its provision of a seeding grant to assist in development.
- Proposed a range of activities that could take place during the year.
- Is investigating potentially beneficial cooperation with related groups.
- Explored building networks to extend WEF influence and image.
- Confirmed its close links with UNESCO, in the development of world education perspectives and policies.
- Proposed a third forum around August 2006, with the keynote speaker being Professor Brian Caldwell.
- Proposed that a fourth forum, to celebrate and build awareness of teaching, to be held on Thursday 5 October, on International Teachers' Day.

Some WEF History

On an interesting note of historical significance, Geoff Haw (President) met recently with Mr Arthur Sandell, who was a stalwart supporter of WEF Victoria for many years, and who had written a detailed history of almost 60 years of WEF in Victoria. His book runs to over 500 pages. He is now almost 90, an amazing gentleman and although his mobility and vision have diminished, to speak with him is an inspiration. We acknowledge his generosity in donating five copies of his book to WEF Victoria, and his delight in knowing that the Victorian Section has sprung back into new life.

We welcome our affiliation with WEF Australia, and look forward to an exciting partnership in the future.