

News from the Australian Sections

SOUTH AUSTRALIAN SECTION

The SA Section of WEF has had another busy six months.

Our Annual General Meeting was held on May 29th and elected executive:

President	Judith Ann
Secretary	Lois Brock
Treasurer	Amanda Hunt
Vice Presidents	Jacquie Taylor & Cheryl Nolan
Committee members	Val Baldwin, Ian Penny, Ruth Lenton (Parent Rep), Gwendolyn Morphett and a new committee member, Seona Esterhuizen

During the last six months we held two extremely successful workshops for educators including:

Student Engagement through Essential Learnings presented by Erica Womersley, Carol Cockburn and David Garrett all Policy Officers Essential Learnings R-12.

Over 70 people attended this workshop and presenters asked participants to reflect on their practice to connect knowledge of systems with a holistic view of the Essential Learnings, understand the interconnection between student engagement and the Essential Learnings and to explore how learning outcomes are improved as students engage with Essential Learnings.

Catering for Boys' Needs in Early Childhood Education presented by teacher Linda Hale to over 120 participants and indicated the interest to many educators in this State at this point of time.

Linda holds a Masters Degree in Special Ed, has undertaken research into Brain Based learning, is a classroom teacher at Braeview Junior Primary School, has an all-boys class, vertically grouped, including 6 students with disabilities and some SHIP children. She incorporated her learning and experience into a lively, informative, practical and well-received workshop. Her presentation covered Brain based learning, Construct of Gender and a list of practical ideas based on the research into these topics and which she successfully uses in her classroom.

WEF SA Section continues to work with APNIEVE (Australia Pacific Network for International Education and Values Education). Members of Australia Council of WEF are currently working with President Joy DeLeo on a joint project and SA members will be involved in this.

WEF SA Section retains membership of CEASA (The Council of Education Associations of South Australia Inc) and uses their office staff to assume responsibility for publicity and other matters associated with workshop presentations.

CEASA has over 100 educational associations as members and forges a link between these various groups. The overwhelming concern with all groups associated with CEASA is the current decline in the inability to recruit educators both on the executive and as members. This is a common experience with all associations and education is not alone in the drift. The problem is how to rekindle interest in membership and the SA Section is exploring ways of achieving this but it will not be easy considering the work-load on all educators.

Does your section have ways of exploring and consolidating ways of lessening the effect of reduced membership? Let's share them because it's a world-wide issue.

TASMANIAN SECTION EVENTS

In addition to our regular dinner meetings providing traditional fellowship and interesting speakers, the main public events have been:

The William Oats Memorial Lecture in Hobart and

The Honora Deane Memorial Lecture in Launceston

delivered by Professor Colin Power AM (formerly Deputy Director-General for Education UNESCO) at the University of Tasmania campuses in Hobart and Launceston in August.

Professor Power's topic was: Educating for Tomorrow's World: Opportunities and Dilemmas for Australia and Tasmania.

Global forces are linking people's lives more deeply, more intensely and more immediately than ever before. These global forces create particular problems for education systems, for they must prepare the young for life in a rapidly changing global marketplace, a world of super-complexity and of new threats to security and sustainable development. In response, fundamental questions are being asked in many countries about the role that education must play in creating the kind of society we wish to become in the 21st century.

In Australia and Tasmania, the educational reforms underway are placing considerable emphasis on a set of core values and key learnings deemed to be essential for active and responsible participation in our democratic, multicultural society.

But what are the investments needed, what are the outcomes sought, and will the reforms underway deliver them? To what extent is there an international or national consensus about the values, essential learnings and outcomes being emphasised? And what needs to be done to improve the quality of education and to ensure that our schools, colleges and universities are effective in achieving these outcomes sought?

The lecture sought to place Australian and Tasmanian educational reforms in an international context, and to assess the opportunities that these create for teachers and students, as well as the problems that need to be faced in educating the young and not-so-young for tomorrow's world.

Educating for Tomorrow's World; is available on a professionally produced video for \$33.00 including postage and handling. Orders and cheques to Joy Spence, Hon.Sec. WEFT, 26 Napier Street, Beauty Point, Tasmania 7270.

On the day after each lecture Professor Power led workshops in conjunction with Department of Education specialists on Tasmania's new Essential Learnings initiative. These were aimed to bring community members in touch with teachers and enhance understanding of the importance of Essential Learnings. These were hosted by the World Education Forum Tasmania at The Friends School in Hobart and The Queen Victoria Museum and Art Gallery, Inveresk, in Launceston.

On his final morning in Tasmania Dr Power spoke to, and with, a multi-school and multi-sector audience of school and college students in the Sinclair Trust auditorium at Launceston

Grammar School. Three sections covered The Power of One (examples of the influence of younger teenagers based on UNESCO's Millennium Dreamers), People who changed the world (including Vaclav Havel, Mary Robinson, Nelson Mandela, Jacques Cousteau and Chris Reeve) and Issues you must face.

QUEENSLAND SECTION EVENTS

(Snippets from the Queensland Section Newsletter)

Memorial—Dr Peter Henry, husband of Dr Margaret Henry, Associate Editor of New Horizons in Education

Dr Peter Henry died on Friday 29 August after a battle with leukaemia. From the 1970s when he and his wife Dr Margaret Henry, along with Lady Anna Cowen and Joyce Vaughan, resurrected WEF in Queensland, Peter supported Margaret's contribution to the organisation and its active program. While pursuing till the end his own scientific practice and research, Peter Henry also worked all his life to make education more humane.

Centenary Medal Award

Wayne Fossey, member of the WEF Executive in Queensland, has been honoured for his contribution to education with the award of the Centenary Medal, specifically for his work with the Air Force cadets at his school, Beenleigh State High School.

Third seminar for 2003: Tough Decisions for the Hi-Tech Future: Science literacy for citizens

Professor John Mattick, Professor Peter Fensham, Dr Tony Wright, Gordon Powers, Dr Sandy Zincus and Mike Duggan all contributed to a seminar regarding science education and ways of using everyday events and examples as illustrations of scientific principles.