

South Australian Section

*Judith Ann
President*

WEF SA Section has had a busy 2005 year.

In March 2005 following the suggestion at the meeting of Australian Council in November 2004 (after the International Conference sponsored by UNESCO and working in collaboration with APNIEVE and other organizations) WEF SA Section endeavoured to work on building harmonious relations between cultures and religion.

Professor MacMullin addressed the issue of Children: Armed conflict and forced migration. Professor MacMullin presented an experiential and lively workshop about his experiences and research in Sierra Leone, Algeria, Iran, Jordan, the Occupied Palestinian Territories, Syria, Lebanon, Uganda and Afghanistan. A paper is available if members are interested and can be forwarded by contacting judann@ozemail.com.au.

On 9th June 2005 the focus centred on Values Education in the context of UNESCO, National Values and SACSA Framework. Maureen Cochram, Superintendent of learning in DECS (SA) linked them together. Maureen suggested the impetus for values was globalisation and world-view. UNESCO has influenced the world in Human Rights, mutual respect and Delores, which enshrined values. The global aspiration was dignity. The National Values framework of excellence, fairness, integrity, respect, responsibility and cooperation were being developed in Adelaide's Northern area in view of what they look like in practice.

On 19th August 2005 Steve Keirl presented a lively and informative workshop on Design and Technology addressing the aspects of this that have been hidden from the public by large multi corporate companies. This was frightening as it was aimed at dis-empowering citizens at the expense of technology for the common good and for the benefit of vested interests. Steve suggested 'In some parts of the world Design and Technology is a school subject. In South Australia it's a Learning Area. It's gaining recognition as both a focus for curriculum integration and a place for students to learn in multiple ways.'

Steve is a passionate advocate of D&T for all students in all parts of the world. His presentation explained the place of D & T and its significance in education by exploring different technologies and some of the many ways teachers can easily work with D & T in their own settings. D & T is an ideal field for developing creativity, thinking and values. As members of WEF might know the session was filled with fun, some poetry and values (and some washing-up of brushes). Steve is prepared to organise a full day workshop in 2006 with other presenters to explore this further and to highlight activities to empower students, teachers and members of the community.

WEF SA Section retains membership of CEASA (Council for Education Associations of South Australia Inc). CEASA presents valuable workshops for organisations like WEF. One workshop on a Saturday presented *A way forward: The future for professional associations and networks*. The presenter was Bill Brown, Director, Queensland consortium for professional development in education.

He focused on:

- declining membership and the difficulty in gaining and maintaining them
- costs and accountability (to governments and the public)

- rapid development of evolving curriculum
- competing demands on time and energy for volunteers.

The SA committee feels these are important issues for WEF.

WEF SA has also been involved in meetings to form a UNESCO club with other interested organisations and people. This is an Australia wide development and is being formed in all states. The first meeting was held on Saturday 3rd September, 2005. A report of the meeting can be obtained by contacting judann@ozemail.com.au.

Past and Present members of WEF Reunion.

Ruth Rogers and Ian Penny have worked on collating past and present members of WEF in SA over the past years. They have contacted many of these members and a reunion will be held on October 30th at Pilgrim Hall Adelaide. It is hoped the reunion will bring renewed enthusiasm to the section in SA particularly when achievements of the past demonstrate how WEF has been a positive influence on educators over many years.