

Tasmanian Section

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The winter months of 2005 were exciting and busy ones for WEF Tasmania who conducted a series of four lectures/workshops in Hobart and Launceston provided by brilliant speakers on the overall theme of *Knowing, Feeling, Understanding and Caring*. The sessions were very well received and attended and they also attracted generous sponsorship support and the co-operation of the University of Tasmania and the Tasmanian Education Department as well as other bodies. The section has appreciated and acknowledges the encouragement and support received from the Australian College of Educators (Tasmania), the Australian Council of Educational Leaders, the Dean of the Faculty of Education, University of Tasmania, the Catholic Education Office and the Association of Independent Schools in Tasmania.

In Launceston on April 21, Professor David Lindenmayer Senior Fellow, Centre for Resource and Environmental Studies, ANU addressed a large and appreciative audience on *Bringing the Realities of Environment into Education- Opportunities and Challenges*. He thus introduced the overall conceptual theme of the 2005 series.

Again in Launceston on June 27 Professor Colin Power AM the Australian chairman of WEF, spoke to a large audience on the topic, *Towards a Global Community*, in which he referred to research undertaken by himself, Prof. Jack Campbell and Mr Nick Baikaloff involving thinkers in 36 countries. Again we were delighted by the large number who attended and received the lecture enthusiastically.

A third presentation in Launceston was on July 25. The speaker was Professor George Ellis, chair of Complex Systems at the University of Cape Town and winner of the very prestigious and valuable Templeton Prize in 2004. He is a theoretical cosmologist specializing in general relativity theory, an area first investigated by Einstein. Dr. Ellis is considered to be among a handful of the world's leading relativistic cosmologists, including such people as Stephen Hawking and Malcolm MacCallum. His first book, *The Large Scale Structure of Space-Time*, written with Stephen Hawking continues to be a standard reference work on the subject. His work on the fundamentally complementary nature of science and religion won him the Templeton Prize.

Two events were organised by WEFT for Professor Ellis: a luncheon at which he spoke on *Complexity in the Modern World and the Limits of Science*. This session was attended by about forty people, mainly university staff. At night, Professor Ellis spoke on *The Science and Religion Debate Today* to a large and appreciative audience.

In Launceston on August 18 and Hobart on August 21 we were addressed by Sr Veronica Brady. Sr Brady is Honorary Senior Fellow in the Department of English at the University of Western Australia, and is well-known for her work on the Australian poet, Judith Wright. Sr. Brady was the Honora Deane Memorial lecturer in Launceston. (Honora Deane was a teacher in Launceston in the 1940s and 1950s and a most energetic secretary of this section.) Her topic was *Restoring Justice, Truth and Compassion to Australia's Agenda: Furthering our Humanity*.

In Hobart Sr Brady presented the 2005 Tasmanian Peace Trust Lecture and the William Oats Memorial Lecture at the University of Tasmania, Sandy Bay. For this occasion, WEFT combined with the Tasmanian Peace Trust. William Oats was headmaster of Friends School for many years, and a prominent member of WEF Australia.

In both Hobart and Launceston, Sr Brady conducted workshops on *Thinking with the Mind of the Heart* considering the growth of the human spirit in Judith Wright through her poetry.

Copies of Sr Brady's lecture are available for \$4 for single copies, or \$22 for 10 copies including postage from Christopher Strong whose address is shown later in this edition.

Details of the other three addresses can also be made available to anyone interested. Please contact Christopher Strong.