

## Editorial

It is with a degree of nostalgia that I am writing the editorial for the last volume of *New Horizons in Education*. There are personal reasons for this nostalgia as well as professional ones.

To take editorial licence I would like to start with the personal. In 1975 I was a young (very young) teacher at Cowandilla Demonstration School in South Australia. The Headmaster at the time was Ned Golding (many would know him as the person who introduced 'new Maths' to Australian primary schools.) Mr. Golding (as we called him of course) announced at a staff meeting that there was to be a World Education Fellowship meeting that night with a particularly good speaker and I decided to go along. What Ned had failed to mention was the meeting was also the Annual General Meeting.

When it inevitably came time to nominate committee members there was some talk about 'getting some young things involved' and Ned, who was sitting in front of me, turned round and said something to the effect of 'You should go on the committee' and before I could blink he had nominated me. Mind you, in those days one did not disagree with one's Headmaster, at least in public.

I was on the committee for many years, several of them as secretary, and attended four of the WEF international conferences. However, work moves to Darwin and then Jakarta meant that I ceased my contact with WEF until toward the end of 2002 when I received a call from Ruth Rogers. You will notice that in this volume Ruth's name is mentioned on a number of occasions. Ruth (as Bryce Saint says in his Reflection) has a way of asking you to do something that you cannot refuse. Ruth was asking me to take over Editorship of *New Horizons in Education* from David Massey. And, just as that night in 1975, I agreed.

Hence, it truly is hard to believe that what started as 'attending one meeting' in 1975 would end up with me being the Editor with the unenviable role of closing a journal which has been published since 1937.

However, on a professional note, *New Horizons in Education* has performed a wonderful role in Australian education and you will gain a sense of that when reading through this volume. Inevitably there is a mixture of *New Horizons in Education* and World Education Fellowship.

Our first paper is from the National President, Colin Power. Professor Power explains what the Executive Committee has in mind as an alternative to *New Horizons in Education*. He encourages subscribers to consider *New Era in Education*, the WEF publication from the UK as an alternative to *New Horizons in Education*. We have been invited to be associated with *New Era in Education* and so an associate editor from Australia is being sought!

I had approached a number of previous editors of *New Horizons in Education*, several of them very busy in their active retirement and/or overseas, as well as several past Presidents and you will be able to read their reflections.

Bryce Saint, Editor in the mid-1990s, provides a reflection on *New Horizons in Education* and his role as Editor. It is interesting to note his recognition of others in assisting him with the journal at that time; Margaret Henry and Sybil McCulloch.

David Massey as Editor of the *New Horizons in Education* before I took over that role. David has submitted a very strong paper that reflects not only on *New Horizons in Education*, but also on the theme

of new horizons. Firstly he addresses the issue of ‘how we live now’ and then what harms this way of living might have for our society. However, on a more positive note, in keeping with new horizons, he then examines ways by which education might respond to our current situation.

Margaret Henry, Associate Editor for *New Horizons in Education*, has provided a very thought provoking piece outlining NHE’s role as a clearinghouse for ideas. She outlines some of the topics which were among the more contentious over the past ten years. Certainly NHE has had its fair share of issues.

Elvin First (WEF Tasmania) has provided a very interesting historical perspective on WEF in Tasmania based on a paper written by HS (Stan) Payne, a long-term president of the Tasmanian Section. The role of the WEF international conferences in the development of WEF in Australian is clearly demonstrated in this paper.

Ian Penny, Immediate Past President of the WEF Australian Forum and Secretary of the South Australian Section, has submitted a ‘tribute’ to *New Horizons in Education*. Ian points out that the editorship has rotated among the Sections since the inception of the journal with South Australia hosting the journal four times since 1944. Ian also quite rightly points out that in recent years the journal has been very reliant on the Queensland Section. In fact, in one of my earlier Editorials I suggested that if it had not been for Queensland the journal would have faltered in 2003-2004.

John Stephenson offers an international focus in his paper titled *New Education for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century?* John provides a brief historical review of WEF at the international level and then revisits the main themes described in that review for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century. John asks ‘Is it [WEF] to become a cosy club exchanging wise but well-worn beliefs about education with a decreasing number of fellow believers or is it capable of building alliances with other sympathetic groups to marshal intelligent and telling interventions that have a chance to make even a small difference?’ He challenges WEF members to imagine a NEW21 campaign regarding New Education worldwide for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century.

A paper by Brian Caldwell ‘reflects what has transpired over 70 years since [the] remarkable meetings [of 1937]. Caldwell poses the following question to WEF members:

- How do we acquire knowledge of developments in education in other countries?
- Is there a place for journals such as *New Horizons in Education* and *New Era in Education*?
- Does WEF have a role to play in either its current form or in a re-invented association?
- What is the relationship between that role and UNESCO, given that WEF has the status of a non-government organisation affiliated with UNESCO?
- What has transpired in Australia in respect to the issues raised by presenters at the conference in 1937?

Caldwell concludes that the need for an active WEF ‘will be as great in 2007 as it was in 1937’.

Having read this overview of what is included in this final volume of *New Horizons in Education* you might understand my professional nostalgia as well as my personal. Thankfully several of the papers provide exciting future possibilities, some of them demonstrated in the reports from Sections.

Particular thanks are due to Margaret Henry—I can quite honestly say that I could not have managed to get the manuscript to John Browne for printing without Margaret’s assistance, good humour, and attention to detail. John managed to print each volume, despite my having left some pages un-numbered, or margins too narrow. As far as I am concerned, some form of magic occurs between the time I send the

camera-ready hard copy to John and receiving the printed and bound journal. Part of that magic is Anne Feeney who manages all the parts of the journal that are to me a mystery; subscriptions and distribution. Chris Jeffrey is one of the most efficient people I know. I send information about each volume to him for the WEF web site and by the time I have had a cup of coffee—it's up there!

I have been Editor with two national presidents, Ian Penny and Colin Power, both of whom have provided enormous support but little interference—ideal for an Editor

One particularly important person for me to thank is Ruth Rogers. Ruth was my child development lecturer in my first year of teacher training and then my boss for five years in the early 1980s when I worked in the Early Childhood section of the SA Education Department. But more importantly Ruth was, and still is, a mentor and friend—who else would be able to talk you into editing a journal when you felt you already had more than enough on your plate!

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