

## News from WEF SA Section

*Ian Penny*

Since the report in June we have seen the fruition of two workshops. The first the “Learner Well Being: Making a Difference” workshop was presented by Gaynor Quinn of the Department of Education and Children’s Services Well Being Team. The second, “Design and Technology at Play Through Creativity, Thinking and Values” workshop was presented by Steve Keirl, lecturer at the University of South Australia at Mawson Lakes.

Both workshops attracted over 60 participants and were informative and lively.

Our Annual General meeting in June was also well attended with over 30 participants. The speaker was our WEF Australian Forum President Professor Colin Power who spoke on “Towards a Global Community: Educating for Tomorrow’s World”. The talk was based upon the recently completed report of a global study, of the same title, by the late Jack Campbell and Nick Baikaloff and Colin Power. Colin spoke of the findings of the study undertaken by WEF, in collaboration with UNESCO, concerning the views of leading thinkers in 36 countries about the type of global community needed to ensure a peaceful and sustainable future. He also spoke about the attributes that education programs need to develop in learners to develop their unique potentials and to be responsible members of a diverse and restless global community. Colin’s talk was most inspiring and those present were impressed with the detail he provided and the impetus that the study gave educators to further develop school curriculum.

The inspiration given by Colin’s talk assisted the election of a full committee for 2006/7. Our new president is Professor Philip Gammage who has been working with the Department of Education and Children’s Services over at least the last 10 years as a consultant. The Secretary is Ian Penny a perennial WEF SA member who keeps bobbing up in different roles, the Treasurer is Joan Chinnery and Judith Ann is our immediate Past President. These together with twelve other members make up the committee for the ensuing year.

At the moment we are working very hard to determine the future directions of WEF SA to give us a strong purpose and to improve our influence in gaining the best educational outcomes for children in South Australia. We also wish to develop stronger links and partnerships with other Australian Sections to support our program and the vitality of WEF Australia wide. Other directions will focus on improving the flow of information from key educators and researchers to WEF members and others via a greater public focus. To assist this we would be grateful if other sections could supply us with names and contact addresses of people whom they have found useful or would like to bring to Australia in partnership with the SA section.

In closing I wish to record our appreciation of the sterling work that Judith Ann has accomplished over many years in conducting the affairs of WEF SA as president, secretary and treasurer. Judith has been an untiring leader and in somewhat difficult times has kept the WEF Flag flying. Thank you Judith, you have done us proud.

Both Judith and I were honoured with the granting of life membership of WEF SA towards the end of 2005.

## Contact

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