

EARLY YEARS IN EDUCATION SOCIETY



President's Report Annual General Meeting, March 28 2009.

This year the Early Years in Education Society celebrates its twenty-fifth anniversary. It is twenty five years since its inaugural Spring Conference at the Freeway Hotel in South Perth. EYES began when a group of educators with a particular interest in the Early Years, observed that professional development in this area was lacking and decided to be proactive in addressing this issue. Two of the women who were members of the original committee and remain great advocates for the early years of education, Vi Galatis and Pauline Starkey, are still actively involved in EYES today.

The 2008/09 year began with the Annual General Meeting and Term One professional development in March at the Wesley College Junior School. About fifty Early Years teachers attended this gathering and shared two workshops and a delicious morning tea. The workshops were entitled Interactive Whiteboards and Photo Story 3.

In September we had our Annual Spring Conference 'What's the Hurry?' featuring a number of outstanding presenters such as Maggie Dent, Kathy Walker, Barbara Piscitelli, Donna Cross, to name a few. For the first time in many years a change of venue occurred and the conference moved from Observation City Hotel, Scarborough, to the Sheraton Perth Hotel. It proved to be an enormously popular event with 440 delegates attending and many more being turned away. In recent years the conference has been extended to include Friday, as a day where the interests of teachers from country and remote schools are addressed.

The 2009 conference 'Food for Thought,' will again be held at the Sheraton Perth Hotel and is on September 18 and 19 this year. Speakers include Jackie French, Louise Porter, Joy Lubawy, Peter

Dingle, Jenni Woodroffe, the Move to Learn team and Mark Pearson (Sand Therapy). The Friday conference for teachers from remote and other country schools, will again take place and is now in its final stages of planning.

This year, in response to a perceived need, EYES, in partnership with Events WA, is trialling a Regional Seminar at Bunbury Senior High School on Saturday, May 2.

In April 2008, applications for an EYES Grant of up to \$500 were received. Four Grants were awarded and each of these winners set up a static display of their project at the Spring Conference.

A sub-committee reviewed the Grants Applications at the beginning of 2009, resulting in some significant changes. The process of application has been revised and the available amount for successful recipients increased to \$1000. The applications for 2009 were processed and the eight successful candidates advised by the end of Term One.

EYES has established an Early Years in Education Society prize for an Early Childhood student teacher at university, who exhibits excellence in teaching. This award recognises and celebrates the achievement of student teachers during their university studies and school teaching practice experiences and has been offered to each of the Universities in Western Australia. Awards have been given in 2009 for students who completed their studies in 2008. Mrs Kelly Trec from Curtin University, was presented with an award in recognition of academic achievement and outstanding professional conduct during the Early Childhood Education course. Mrs Vanessa Verbruggen's award was for the student who demonstrates outstanding qualities in classroom practice in Early Childhood, in their second or third year of study. At Notre Dame University, Rebecca Ward received her recognition for the graduand who has shown the greatest potential as an advocate for young children and the Early Childhood in Education profession.

EYES liases with ECTA (Early Childhood Teachers' Association) and an EYES committee member regularly attends ECTA meetings in order to report back to the committee. For an extra \$30.00 EYES membership includes a copy of the quarterly ECTA Newsletter.

The EYES website has recently been reviewed and updated considerably. It is now more attractive, user-friendly and contains more information.

www.earlyyearsinedutcationsociety.com.au

I would like now to pay tribute to the EYES committee for 2008/09, all of whom are committed to education in the early years and to supporting and providing professional development for teachers and education assistants in these vital early years.

Vice Presidents - Jane Franz, Jodie McQueen

Secretary - Jane Franz

Treasurer - Leonie Day

Minutes Secretary - Heather Kerr

Committee - Vi Galatis, Michelle Sullivan, Dianne Donovan, Pauline Starkey, Jodie McQueen, Kath Comber, Nicole Brown, Giovanna Arfuso, Debbie Bull, Laura-Celeste Armstrong, Mary Morris.

EYES provides professional development that is based on sound pedagogy, is realistically attainable and can readily be put into practice in the classroom. I acknowledge and sincerely thank these dedicated and wonderful women, all of whom work in a voluntary capacity. I thank them for their professionalism and persistent commitment to the vital area of Early Childhood Education.

Gillian Venables

President of EYES.