

AETA IN ACTION

April 2008 – March 2009

Conferences and Workshops

- **Knowing our Neighbours: improving intercultural relationships and creating harmony through education**

This fantastic event was held at the Nan Tien Temple on 30/31 May 2008. Sessions on Global Education, Courage to Care, Visual Literacy and supporting intercultural/interfaith understandings at an Islamic school made for a very enriching, full program. Sincere thanks to Pauline Sheppard and Jenny Curtis for organizing this wonderful conference.

- **Indonesia in the Bush Conference**

The lucky participants of this fabulous event, on March 7/8, had the chance to work with inspirational artists from Indonesia to create grass puppets, beautiful batik and music. Congratulations to Vana Ford for her vision and commitment to providing a most rewarding learning experience for teachers.

- **Religion Workshops**

Dr Christopher Hartney presented a lecture series on Islam, Judaism, Christianity, Buddhism and Hinduism at Penrith NSW during August/September 2008. The excellent series was patronized by a small but enthusiastic, interested group with lots of thought provoking questions and discussion.

Overseas Trips

- **Borneo**

This exciting, inaugural tour was ably led by Terry and Adrienne Haddow in July 2008. Highlights of this wonderful experience included visiting an orangutan rehabilitation centre and adopting an orangutan for AETA! More information about this great trip is available at www.aeta.org

- **Cambodia-Vietnam-Laos**

This humanitarian trip was led for the third time by our intrepid leader, Dianne Gamage. Participants were involved in the construction of houses in local villages for needy people in Cambodia. The house building part of the tour was in conjunction with Tabitha.

- **Japan**

The beautiful trip to Japan, planned by Jenny Curtis and Diane Dunlop, in April 2009 was, unfortunately cancelled due to the changes in the global economy, increasing the price of the trip to an unaffordable level. It is hoped in improved economic circumstances this trip will be offered again to members. So keep an eye out for future flyers if you're interested in travelling to Japan.

Professional Development

Members of the Executive have undertaken professional development courses through the year aimed at continually improving the quality of what the Association offers our valued members.

Professional Teachers' Council NSW / NSW Institute of Teachers- Courses for Endorsement Workshop: "How to Apply". All courses to be run by the Association from Term 2, 2009 will be put forward for endorsement. A committee has been formed to complete the application forms

Professional Teachers' Council NSW- Adult Education Workshops 2008

Lobbying

Significant contribution by members of the AETA Executive to the development of the **Call to Action: Asia Literacy for every young Australian** demand crafted by the Asia Education Foundation

Strong response to the **National Curriculum Framework for History** requesting explicit Asian history content be included

Applied for membership of both Advisory Boards for the writing of the National Curriculum

Wrote letters of support, to the BOS, for the marking of the PIP's (Personal Interest Projects) to remain unchanged

Journals

Four outstanding issues of the Association's journal, **ASIA**, were produced this year. Focus areas were **International Links, Religions, Celebrations and Visual Arts**. It was wonderful to include our first ever colour insert with the Visual Arts journal. We sincerely thank John Morrison our printer for donating the printing costs. The **Festivals of Asia** resource is proving to be a bestseller and is great value at \$12.50 for members. Excellent, "hands on" activities on Ramadan, Chinese and Vietnamese New Year and Diwali are included.

Farewell...

After almost 30 years of invaluable contribution to the Association it is time to thank and farewell Marshall Leaver. Marshall has been a strong advocate for the Studies of Asia and has worked tirelessly to ensure this area of learning remains in NSW syllabuses. He has presented at many conferences and enthused students and teachers alike about the importance of this area of learning. Marshall served as Public Officer on the Executive for many years. We wish him a wonderful future in all educational endeavors. Best Wishes Marshall.

Membership Initiatives

Journal Logo Our journal needs a new logo! Details about this innovative competition are on our website- www.aeta.org. A great prize is available. Encourage your students to tap into their creativity and have a go! Entries are still being accepted!

What's in the box?

An artifact/object from Asia will be packed in a box along with suggestions for syllabus related activities. Each school involved will have the box for a week. It will then be forwarded onto another school. An expression of interest form will be included in the June journal if your school would like to be a part of this fun activity- be the first to receive this mysterious, exciting package!

In the Pipeline

The idea for an AETA Library has been proposed. Teachers and schools would be able to borrow bulk loans related to countries, literature and a wide range of Asian topics at both primary and secondary levels. Organizational details are being worked out.

A **writing competition for teachers** is being considered. Worthy prizes will be awarded along with winning works being published in our journal, **ASIA**.

Promoting the Association

Website

Our new look website is a major way used to promote the Association. Thanks to the enormous efforts of Terry Haddow we now have a "dot org" address and can be located via the internet. The website is updated regularly and has everything you need to know about the Association and more! Jenny Mendick's pioneering efforts in setting up our initial website were invaluable in taking the Association into the technological era!! Thanks Terry and Jenny!

Asia Ed Net

More use is being made of Asia Ed Net to advertise our workshops, conferences and resources.

Professional Teachers' Council

Our professional development opportunities were advertised on the PTC calendar and in the PTC's All Schools Mail out for NSW

Conferences

Schools in the vicinity of conference venues are mailed information about the event and AETA

Professional Teachers' Council Award Ceremony

Our illustrious editor of 20 years, Diane Dunlop, was honoured for her unswerving dedication and commitment to AETA at a special ceremony held on December 16, 2008. The Education Minister, Verity Firth, presented Diane with her award for Outstanding Professional Service. The Minister spoke passionately about teachers and their contribution to education especially in a voluntary capacity as part of a professional Teachers' Association. Diane's enormous and continuous contribution of 35 years was acknowledged by the bestowal of Life Membership of the Association at the 2008 AGM. Thank you Diane!

Linking with other Organisations

Executive members attended the AEF's **National Forum** in Adelaide: **Leading 21Century Project for School Principals**
The AEF contributed \$1000 to defray postal costs of the AETA. Our Association includes AEF articles in an occasional journal or resources in our quarterly mail-outs

Jenny Curtis has been invited to talk about **including Asian case** and **site** studies at four conferences organized by the **Geography Teachers' Association**

AETA and **PHSIETA** are in the process of developing a joint event for primary teachers

AETA President attended a day with representatives of other Associations on 27 November 2008 titled **Working Together: HSIE 2009**

Global Education funding supported costs of "Knowing our Neighbours" Conference at the Nan Tien Temple

Thank you...

I sincerely thank the enthusiastic, passionate members of the AETA team for their continued efforts to keep the Association alive and vital. Pauline Sheppard, Terry Haddow, Adrienne Haddow, Sigi Cerveny, Hala Hazel, Diane Dunlop, Diane Gammage, Vana Ford, Marshall Leaver, Jennifer Curtis, Sue Shaw and Peg and Cec White all need to be acknowledged for the tremendous job they do to ensure a high standard of opportunities, resources and service is maintained. The jobs involved are many and varied and are all carried out with great commitment and dedication, all in a voluntary capacity. Diane Bashford, our typesetter, and John Morrison our printer contribute greatly to the production of our journal, ASIA. The Executive is most grateful and appreciative of their continued support of the Association. On behalf of the Executive I would like to thank you, our most valued members for your loyalty to AETA and your endeavors in promoting and implementing this most important area of learning.

Opportunities and Direction for 2009-201

Support the implementation of the Studies of Asia component of the Federal Government's National Languages initiatives- Indonesian, Mandarin, Japanese and Korean

Produce journals and provide professional development opportunities based on China, Japan, Korea and Indonesia

Ensure all professional development opportunities are put forward for endorsement with the NSWIT

Liaise with other professional associations and organizations to provide professional development opportunities

Respond to and monitor the development of the National Curriculum

Julie O'Keeffe President