



## Some Highlights of the SEAA

### Biennial Conference

2010

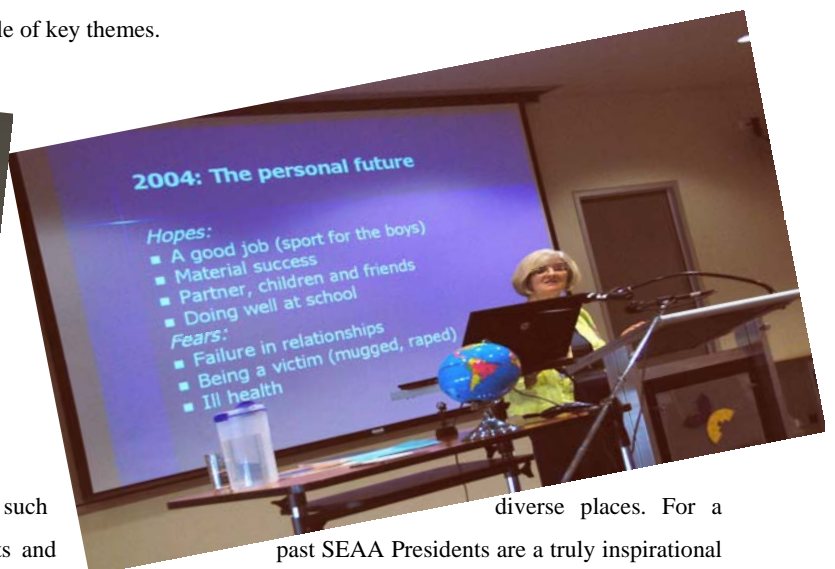
*Learning for Life.  
Sustainability, Global  
Citizenship and Social Justice.  
Adelaide, February 19<sup>th</sup> to 21<sup>st</sup>*

This was a truly fabulous conference- so much to learn. Being attached to SASOSE Annual Conference was a truly inspired idea and having the leadership of Margaret Calder and Mark Wildy was incredible. In addition we had excellent conference support from Claire Gurry who stepped in on numerous occasions to salvage small hiccups, including providing the entertainment for the conference dinner. Many thanks to the Global Education Centre in South Australia who provided such strong support and the Global Education Projects in the various states. A special thanks to Adele Pring and the SASOSE group who worked tirelessly to provide a special conference that was both relevant to their local state members but could also offer great learning opportunities for national SEAA participants. So what were the highlights? Too many to mention.

Perhaps the conference can be perceived in a couple of key themes.



**The People:** The joy of meeting people from such start we had a plethora of past SEAA Presidents and group. They are all driven and continue to contribute to social education in many fields. Attending the conference were Libby Tudball, Joy Schultz, Peter Leverenz, Lorraine Securo and Malcolm Macarthur. There were conference participants and presenters from all states of Australian and overseas including Sweden, Japan, Italy, Great Britain. Additionally the participants were from many sectors including early childhood, primary, secondary and tertiary education, the tertiary



#### 2004: The personal future

##### Hopes:

- A good job (sport for the boys)
- Material success
- Partner, children and friends
- Doing well at school

##### Fears:

- Failure in relationships
- Being a victim (mugged, raped)
- Ill health

diverse places. For a

past SEAA Presidents are a truly inspirational

humanities sector, museums, NGO's such as World Vision and Red Cross and organisations such as the Global Education Projects who provided such strong support.



**The Music:** I think was a great feature of this conference. We were treated to powerful and rhythmic music from Burundi drummers, Aboriginal songs, some sung by children, and The Borderers with

their action focused music. It underlines the importance of Creative Arts in all aspects of our society and the representation of societal issues.



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**The Global focus:** This was inspiring. From the food – particularly the wonderful Ethiopian cuisine at the Zagol House - with demonstrations of how to eat it in the traditional way - to the inclusion and focus on groups from different cultural backgrounds including hearing the personal life story of Mr Hieu van Le-OA- the Lieutenant Governor of South Australia. His story of his escape from Vietnam and his arrival on the shores of Australia was so relevant to current discussions on our response to refugees who arrive at our shore. Also the story of Ayen Kuol, a Dinka woman from Sudan and star of ‘Ayen’s Cooking School for African Men’ and how she has assisted other refugees to make homes in Australia. There was also the panel on sustainability organised by Bob Hill which offered a strong global perspective on the issues. The resources we accessed from the Global Education Centre where the conference was held were fabulous.



**The Learning:** Fabulous ideas for educators from our keynote speakers. Professor Rob Gilbert - drew us into the world of the national curriculum with a special focus on some of the politics of curriculum making. Professor Cathie Holden provided lots of practical ways we can engage children in global education and an overview of how global education is viewed in other countries. Tim Costello from World Vision provided an insight into the realities of providing aid on a global scale. Brian Hoepper entertained us with one of his ethical hypotheticals. How amazing it was to see how differently we would all react to changes in our life plans based on the different value we held about issues. One of the great highlights was on the last day when we were presented with an inspiring array of people who had put into action sustainability, global education and social justice. There were examples from varied contexts - from students helping other students in South Africa, to gathering and sorting and then shipping resources to schools around the world, to surfers putting resources back into communities where they surf. Lots of examples of service learning experience of real students and citizens - action plans and opportunities were fascinating.



**Choice:** This varied from academic papers to field visits to workshops at all levels of education. Although I missed so much in that it was impossible to go to them all but I received feedback from different participants and so I still learned. I am still learning as a result of links I made to various people at the conference.



**Policy and issues:** Joy Schultz's started us working through our SEAA manifesto and so a multitude of issues arose. We started thinking about the breadth of our charter in social education. There were a number of discussions around our press announcements to address shortfalls in the national curriculum documents. We were able to engage in a national conversation about what social education elements needed to be included – a wonderful achievement indeed in this era of state based curriculum development. We participated in a number of sessions that addressed national Geography and History curriculum developments.



**The passion and goodwill of the organisers and participants:** Just the happy smiling faces and the dedication of so many of the participants. Truly inspiring!! The SASOSE quiz was great – I nearly knew a few facts. Mark Wildy provided much joy as we all realised what we did not know. The teaching awards given to South Australian teachers and then to our SEAA pre service teachers teaching awards for their wonderful Human Rights based units of work. And the energy of Margaret Calder who kept adding to the value to the conference by putting in just one more element here and then another there.



Thanks to all. What do they say after every Olympics ? It was the best conference ever.

Ruth Reynolds , President.