



**Association Report**  
**to the**  
**Australian Federation of Societies for**  
**Studies of Society and Environment**

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**Values education, civics and**  
**citizenship**

**“Australians All”**

12 August 2003

**“Australia Fair”**

11 November 2003

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**By the**  
**ACT History Teachers' Association**  
**On behalf of**  
**The History Teachers' Association of Australia**

**Association:** Australian Capital Territory History Teachers' Association  
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**Dates, Times & Venues of Forums:** (both forums were run in partnership with the ACT Discovering Democracy Officer, and the Civics and Citizenship Officer from the ACT Department of Education, Family and Youth Services)

**Australians All - engaging students in Australian history**  
12 August 2003, 1:00pm – 4:00pm  
Visions Theatre, National Museum of Australia

**Australia Fair – engaging students in citizenship/social justice**  
11 November 2003, 8:30am – 3:30pm  
Centre for Teaching and Learning Technologies, Griffith, ACT

**Invitees:** Two Civics and Citizenship Officers in every ACT government school (primary, secondary, and senior secondary) were invited, along with representatives from all non-government schools.

It was expected that participants would attend both sessions (10 August and 11 November). In most cases, this was so, but in some cases, substitutions occurred, due to illness etc.

There were approximately 100 attendees on 12 August, and 115 on 11 November.

**Program:** A summary of the two forums follows.

Some materials from the forums are provided, either in hard copy, or on the AFSSSE website.

## **Australians All - Engaging Students in Australian History**

12 August 2003

The afternoon took the form of a series of short presentations, focused on issues and pedagogy, each of approximately 20 minutes duration.

Melissa Planten      Curriculum Issues and Directions in Civics, Citizenship and Values  
(ACT DEYFS)

Nick Ewbank          What's Hot in Australian History – using values and controversies  
(ACTHTA)              to engage students

Margaret Fleming    Using role play and drama to engage students in issues  
(OPH)

Mitch Preston        The Visual mode - using visual media to engage students  
(Screensound Australia)

Rita van Haren        The Written mode – engaging students through reading text in  
(ACT DEYFS)            ways

Kevie Read            The Oral/Aural mode – 'the power of the story'  
(Indigenous oral historian)

Pamela                Portraits as Visual Text  
Clelland-Smith  
(National Portrait Gallery)

Judy Gauld            Discovering Democracy materials  
(NMA)

## **Australia Fair – engaging students in Citizenship**

11 November 2003

This day was a mixture of lecture style presentations and workshops.

8:30-8:45	Registration
8:45-9:00	Welcome to Country Matilda House, Elder of the Ngunnawal people
9:00-9:30	International Citizenship Justice Sir Michael Kirby
9:30-10:30	Citizenship/Values Education Dr Alan Reid University of South Australia, 2003 DEST Fellow
10:30-10:50	Morning Tea
11:00	Remembrance – One Minute’s Silence
11:02 – 11:50	Workshop 1*
12:00-12:30	Celebrating Democracy – the ACT Discovering Democracy Awards
12:30-1:10	Lunch
1:10-2:10	Workshop 2*
2:10-3:10	Reflection and Evaluation
3:10	Thank Yous and Close

\* see over

## Workshop Sessions

These were mostly repeated, so that participants had a wider range of choice.

Presenters included:

Richard Eckersley (ANU)	The state of the nation, the fate of the planet and citizenship
David Turbayne (Cool Communities) and Anna McKenzie (AAEE)	The role of environment, human rights, and other community organisations in enhancing democracy
Tim Herne (Dept of Defence) and Robert Lewis (Ryebuck Media)	What's Defence got to do with citizenship?
Tanya Nelipa, Kelly Starkey and Amber Smith (ACT DEYFS)	A whole school approach to Civics and Citizenship
Rose Costello (Oxfam)	Australian citizenship today: participants, activists, volunteers and stakeholders
Kratai Visityuthasart and Shane Hart (ACT DEYFS)	Access Asia – Voices and Values

## **KEY ISSUES, STRATEGIES AND IMPLICATIONS FOR TEACHING:**

- The need for teachers, schools and school communities to 'walk the walk' as well as 'talk the talk' on matters related to values, democracy and citizenship
- That different modes of learning can all be used to encourage the growth of values and citizenship
- The power of language, in particular, and the unintended curriculum
- The role of critical literacy
- Values and citizenship education are vital – it's our responsibility to do it now!
- Need for support from whole school – administration and community
- How do we gain space in a crowded curriculum?
- CCE and Values should be contextual in our curriculum, not an add on
- On-going professional learning opportunities for teachers needed
- What are the implications of national testing?
- The forum provided valuable 'networking' opportunities, given the large participation, and cross-sectoral participation
- Seeing a wide range of presenters/institutions/resources, most of whom are readily available to teachers in the ACT
- The importance of experiential learning
- Use of different modes, critically – eg film
- Importance of oral history
- Use of integrated units of work
- Miles Franklin Primary School