



Dr Peter Vardy was Vice Principal of Heythrop College, University of London (1999-2011). One of the founders of DAN and the originator of the “five strands” approach to Religion and Values Education, he is internationally recognised as a leader in the fields of Religious Studies, Philosophy and Ethics and Values Education and will be recognised for his contribution to Religious Education through the award of an Honorary Doctorate in Theology later this year.

Peter is a prolific academic author whose latest book “Beyond the Cave – a defence of Truth” is forthcoming in 2020. On the basis of bestselling textbooks including “The Puzzle of Ethics” and “What is Truth?”, he runs the biggest events for students and teachers of Philosophy and Ethics in the United Kingdom as well as making frequent trips to Australia, New Zealand and other countries.

In Australia Peter has been a keynote lecturer for organisations as diverse as AHISA, the IBO, The Principals of Australian Independent schools, the Lutheran Teachers’ Conference and the Catholic Diocese of Tasmania, has appeared on ABC radio and has written articles for Australian newspapers and journals. For nearly three decades Australian schools and colleges have looked to Peter to provide outstanding learning experiences, resources and PD events, both to support their work in Ethics and Philosophy.

“It was a pleasure to be taken out of my comfort zone and to explore ideas in detail that may not have occurred to me otherwise. The topics that were explored I found to be both relevant and interesting. I much enjoyed the day and would definitely urge others to attend.”

“Peter Vardy is a fantastic lecturer who made us realise what it will mean to truly participate in today’s society. I would highly recommend going to one of Dr Vardy’s conferences, especially if you want to expand your worldview. He’s confronting, smart and funny. I’m glad I went.”

“Peter Vardy is fantastic. You can no longer simply say our purpose in life is to be happy. My mind has just been blown apart!”

To Book...

Student places for this conference cost \$30 with a free place for teachers accompanying 12 students.

Registration will take place at 9.30am for a 10am start and will conclude at 2.30pm.

Morning tea and a light lunch will be provided for teachers but students must bring their own lunch and refreshments.

Discounts available for 100+ students.

Bookings must be made through Wendy Rowe

- by email mail@wombateducation.com
- or via the website www.wombateducation.com

Cancellations will be accepted up to two weeks before the conference.

Telephone: 02 6227 4191
14 Wellington St. Binalong NSW 2584

ABN 31 699 068 585

Wombat Education 2020

ETHICS, PHILOSOPHY & RELIGION

1st June: Launceston (St. Patrick’s College)

3rd June: Hobart (Guilford Young College)

4th June: Ballarat (Loreto College)

11th June: Brisbane (St. Peters Lutheran College)



www.wombateducation.com

A student reports on a Melbourne event...

On Wednesday 10 May, a group of Year 11 boys were taken to Xavier College in Kew to what would be the most mind-blowing experience – a lecture in Ethics presented by one of the smartest philosophers I have ever had the pleasure of meeting and listening to first-hand as he lectured on religion, science, life, and the universe. He managed to, in one day, change my entire perception of the world we are currently living in. This man is Dr Peter Vardy.

Before the lecture, I had led myself to believe that the lecture was going to be a religious preaching session, however, to my surprise it was a session looking at life, why are we here, how are we here, are we currently in a multiverse, and is there such thing as God. These questions were raised and debated over the course of the day. I cannot begin to relay Dr Vardy's wealth of knowledge shared with us Parade boys, but I can tell you, there was nothing more eye-opening than this lecture.

If this opportunity ever presents itself to you, take it, because you will receive more than you could imagine. You will learn that mathematically, everything in the world is connected. For instance, the Fibonacci spiral which is found in flowers, tornados, and cosmic events. You will learn the way we are 'programmed' as a species and our purpose in life, as scientific research has found. You will learn that in twenty to forty years many jobs will be taken over by A.I. (Artificial Intelligence). But the major thing you will learn is that you know nothing of the world you see right in front of you"

A student reports on a Sydney event...

The lecture that we attended on it served as a great opportunity to understand the applications of morality within society... Throughout the presentation, we discussed topics ranging from the nature of the dichotomy between religion and science, to our attempts to understand the endlessly confusing universe, to the impact of artificial intelligence on society, and in doing so were given the chance to form our own opinions on the issues that humanity will face moving into the future, an aspect of education that doesn't feature significantly in traditional pedagogy. Ultimately, I felt that the presentation was an extremely interesting exploration of ethics, science and society, and I have come away from it a more capable student, not only in my ethics class, but also in every other subject that I take"



Sessions Include:

NATURAL LAW and UTILITARIANISM CONTRASTED

In Natural Law, the approaches of Aristotle, St. Thomas Aquinas, John Finnis, Bernard Hoose and Proportionalism will be explored. In Utilitarianism the contributions of Bentham, Mill and Singer will be explanation and evaluated. The strengths and weaknesses of each position will be evaluated and the significance of John Stuart Mill's focus on the importance of altruism in understanding utilitarianism will be explained. The key distinction between Peter Singer and alternative Christian approaches to the Sanctity of Life debate will be evaluated.

MEDICAL ETHICS

We will start by exploring the key assumptions underlying the Hippocratic oath and the more recently developed 'Autonomy' model of ethics. What it means to be human and the significance of belief in God to the debate. Topics covered will include genetic engineering of plants and animals, transhumanism and CrispR. Germ line and Somatic cell genetic engineering and their consequences as well as the first approval given for the use of Mitochondrial DNA transfer and its significance. The advent of Artificial Intelligence as well as Transhumanism and what, if anything, makes human beings distinct will also be explored.

ABORTION AND EUTHANASIA

With the focus on identifying the key assumptions and how to produce a good argument, this session will analyse the key assumptions made by both sides of the debate as well as dealing with active and passive euthanasia, the contrast between euthanasia and assisted suicide and the strengths and weaknesses of alterative positions will be examined. The significance of Grisez and Boyle's as well as the contribution of Professor John Finnis will be evaluated and explained.

EVIL AND THE GOD OF LOVE

How in the face of horrendous suffering can belief in God be justified? If God is all good, God would want to get rid of evil. If God is all powerful, God would be able to create a world with no evil: The existence of evil, Australian Philosopher JL Mackie argued, is a good argument against the existence of God. The approaches of St. Augustine and St. Thomas Aquinas will be explained together with their understanding that evil is a privation of goodness and the relevance of this position in the modern world will be explained. These will be contrasted with Hick's Irenean theodicy and the strengths and weaknesses of both will be explored.

Finally, A DEBATE will take place dealing with one of the above topics.