



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.

## Did you know?

Past series of Australian PD events have included...

- Teaching About Islam Today (May 2017)
- Teaching About the End of Life (May 2016)
- Teaching Ethics through the Movies (May 2015)
- Teaching the IB Theory of Knowledge (May 2015, 2014 and 2013)
- Teaching Ethics Today (May 2014)
- Teaching RE and Values through the Arts (May 2012)
- Laying Strong Foundations – Primary RE (October 2011)
- Towards Rigour and Relevance in Teaching Christianity Today (August 2011)

## To Book...

PD places in 2020 cost \$190 each, with a small discount available for block-bookings of 3 or more teachers when they are paid for promptly and together.

Bookings must be made through Wendy Rowe

- by email [mail@wombateducation.com](mailto:mail@wombateducation.com)
- or via the website [www.wombateducation.com](http://www.wombateducation.com)

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

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# Wombat Education 2020

## BEYOND THE CAVE: *Teaching Ethics in a Post-Truth World*

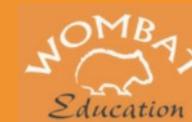
“one of the best ethics sessions I have attended in really supporting teachers with ways they can develop these concepts in the classroom...”

Anne, Lutheran Education

2<sup>nd</sup> June: Hobart St. Mary’s College

5<sup>th</sup> June: Melbourne CBC St. Kilda

12<sup>th</sup> June: Brisbane St. Paul’s Bald Hills



[www.wombateducation.com](http://www.wombateducation.com)



In an age of post-modernism and President Trump's alternative facts, 'Truth' is a problem across the curriculum.

Students like to say that everything is relative, that one person's opinion is just as good as another and that there is no absolute right and wrong... until somebody questions their own absolute right to have that opinion or to do just as they like...

This unique one-day PD conference is suitable for all teachers who have to tackle questions of Ethics and Values in their classrooms, supporting them in confronting the dominant relativism and encouraging young people to question their assumptions and think more critically about the decisions they make and the lives they lead.

Sessions include:

#### What is Truth?

This introductory session will explore the nature of Truth, setting out two basic theories - correspondence theory and coherence theory - and exploring how there was a shift away from one and towards the other during the 20<sup>th</sup> Century. The implications of changing ideas about Truth for Ethics and for education as a whole will be discussed before ideas for helping students to reflect on the nature of Truth using Art, Mathematics are opened up.

#### Beyond the Cave...

After morning coffee we will focus on Ethics and consider how to help students look beyond utilitarianism and basic relativism to appreciate the depth and wisdom in absolutist approaches like Natural Law and to take the possibility of universal moral laws seriously. A range of clips from recent movies will be suggested as discussion-starters.

#### Alternative Facts?

After a light lunch we will explore how teaching about Environmental Ethics might be used to provoke deeper discussions about Truth and Values. Is Truth in Science just about what coheres with the dominant paradigm - however what is dominant might be measured - or is it about moving ever-closer to objective knowledge? Is it possible to have "alternative facts" about climate change, or has this approach to truth now gone up in smoke?

#### All you need is love?

In the final session of the day, we will turn to the most tricky area of applied Ethics and will talk about sex... or at least how to talk to students about sex. Rich examples from Art and movies will be suggested as ways of starting meaningful discussions and ensuring that sex and relationship education goes well beyond being briefings about how to avoid STIs or teen pregnancy and deals with questions of Ethics, Values and Truth.

Full notes will be provided to accompany the sessions.

#### Teacher Feedback

"As always it was simply delightful. I honestly have never been to PD so useful as Peter's. In every case – and I've been to plenty. Usually there are dud sessions in most PD'S – never in a Vardy event."

I Carmichael, Marist Regional College TAS

"First of all I'd like to thank Peter for a such a wonderfully interesting, informative and challenging PD last week. My colleague had never heard of Peter before and was really unsure of what the day would hold. From Peter's very first words he was totally hooked and engrossed – so a huge thanks"

Teacher VIC 2018

