

**Teachers and students talking about the benefits of Philosophy for Children**

"Learning to think is like learning a trade or how to drive a car. You pick some things up, but you do better if you're trained in the procedures."  
A student

"It means children beginning to figure things out for themselves, being more aware of hidden meaning and bias, and developing a healthy, querying outlook on life, where decisions and actions are based on reason." A teacher

"Everyone is paid the respect of being listened to. We listen and then we ask questions. The chances are we might end up disagreeing, but that's all right. You have to live with disagreement. There aren't always right or wrong answers." A student

"When you're studying a problem in maths, sometimes you find the procedures you follow aren't getting you where you want to go. Philosophy teaches you that there may be other ways to solve the problem. You play around with it." A student

"I can see tremendous spin-offs for reading comprehension, literature appreciation, writing and values clarification." A teacher

**Skills, abilities and dispositions that Philosophy for Children helps to develop**

- \* reading for meaning
- \* understanding arguments
- \* problem seeking
- \* detecting fallacies
- \* questioning
- \* being consistent
- \* making distinctions
- \* seeing what's relevant
- \* making connections
- \* sticking to the point
- \* classifying
- \* giving reasons
- \* formulating criteria
- \* seeing broader perspectives
- \* exploring concepts
- \* using examples
- \* analysing statements
- \* using analogies
- \* seeing assumptions
- \* constructing explanations
- \* drawing inferences
- \* exploring alternatives
- \* predicting consequences
- \* generalising from particulars
- \* active listening
- \* fair-mindedness
- \* verbal confidence and fluency
- \* being reasonable
- \* sharing ideas
- \* seeing different perspectives
- \* open-mindedness
- \* respecting others
- \* intellectual courage
- \* self-correction

1993  
Philosophy for Children  
National Conference

**"A Celebration of Excellence  
in Thinking"**



**9-11 July  
Goethe-Institut, Sydney**

Presented by the Australian Federation of Philosophy for  
Children Associations in association with the Goethe-Institut,  
Sydney.

The conference will have an emphasis on philosophy as practised in the classroom, with workshop sessions run by experienced classroom teachers, addresses by international speakers, and discussion groups with philosophers and teacher-educators working in the field.

## **International Speakers**

### **Professor Helmut Schreier**

Helmut Schreier is Professor of Education at the University of Hamburg. He has published extensively on philosophy for children and has been a leading specialist in the field for many years.

### **Professor Klaus Doderer**

Klaus Doderer is Emeritus Professor at Frankfurt University and an international authority on children's literature and the philosophy of childhood.

### **Professor Ronald Reed**

Ron Reed is Professor of Education and Philosophy at Texas Wesleyan University. He is an author of philosophical stories for children and is well-known for his publications on talking with children.

### **Professor Tom Jackson**

Tom Jackson is Professor of Philosophy at the University of Hawaii. He is best known for his work in philosophy with children and teachers in the early years of school education.

## **Conference Venue**

Housed in a classical two-story building in the gracious suburb of Woollahra, the Goethe-Institut is some 3 km from the city and around 8 km from Sydney Airport. The venue includes a large lecture hall for the major conference presentations, together with several smaller meeting rooms for parallel sessions, and a dining area where luncheon and coffee will be served. (Lunch and coffee are included in the registration fee.)

## **Accommodation**

Limited accommodation has been reserved for the conference at the Olympic Hotel, 308 Moore Park Road, Paddington. Cost: from \$32 a night. Bookings should be made directly with the hotel. Phone (02) 361 6315. A list of other hotels in the conference area will be sent upon request.

## **Conference Program**

Each day of the conference you will be able to choose from a range of small group sessions involving talks and workshops run by educators from across Australia. You will get first-hand experience of exciting innovations in classroom inquiry. There will also be presentations by distinguished international guests from Germany and the United States of America. In addition, you will have the opportunity to meet and exchange ideas with teachers and teacher educators from many parts of Australia who will share your interest in promoting excellence in thinking.

Conference hours will be:

- 10.00am-7.30pm Friday, 9 July
- 9.30am-6.00pm Saturday, 10 July\*
- 9.30am-4.00pm Sunday, 11 July

\* There will be a conference dinner on Saturday evening, beginning at 7.30pm for those wishing to attend.