Dr. Peter Vardy has been working with schools and with tens of thousands of young people across Australia and New Zealand for the past twenty years. Peter has also worked with organisations such as the International Baccalaureate Organisation and the UNHRC to improve opportunities for young people around the world to engage with the “big questions” which affect us all.

Known as a charismatic speaker, Peter has the rare ability to keep a mixed audience enthralled for hours. His lectures are pacy, packed with movie clips, references to literature, art and popular culture so there is no time to be bored, but all the same there is lots of solid academic content.

Wendy Rowe (trading as Wombat Education) has been organising training conferences across Australia, NZ and Hong Kong for several years. Wombat Education aims to help schools and teachers improve the standard of their offering in Religious and Values Education and Philosophy.

TESTIMONIALS

“As always the Teacher PD 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 PDs – never in a Vardy event.”

Ian Carmichael Hobart

TO BOOK

Places for ETHICS GOES TO THE MOVIES cost $175 each, discounts available for three or more teachers from the one school.

Morning tea and a light lunch will be provided as well as a DVD of resources for use in the classroom.

Registration will take place at 9.30am for a prompt 10am start and the conference will conclude at 3pm.

Bookings must be made through Wendy Rowe
E: mail@wombateducation.com
T: 02 6227 4191
M: 0429 078 714 (landline preferred)

or booking form at www.wombateducation.com

Wombat Education
PO Box 100
Binalong NSW 2584
ABN 31 699 068 585
Wombat Education presents an all-new intensive professional development event, which explores ways in which the teaching of Ethics may be enriched by drawing on movies old and new. Young people watch far more films than read books and they are used to discussing film characters and the scenarios they face. Their interest can be harnessed, making lessons appealing, helping to communicate difficult ideas, but most of all to provoke discussion and turn the focus away from the teacher onto the students, developing a genuine spirit of enquiry in the classroom.

This event will appeal to all teachers of Religious Education, IB Philosophy or Theory of Knowledge. It may also be of interest to School Chaplains. Sessions will be led by Dr. Peter Vardy (who with Charlotte Vardy in 2010 led the highly successful “RE goes to the Movies” Professional Development events across Australia and New Zealand.

SESSIONS WILL INCLUDE...

**Being Human**

This session will explore what it means to be human, how technology threatens to blur the distinction between human beings and other life forms and why this matters when it comes to Ethics. Clips from films as diverse as “I Robot”, “The Sea Inside”, “Her” and “Flatland” will be discussed and ways of opening topics in Medical Ethics, including challenges and responses to the importance of the Sanctity of Life as well as Genetic Engineering, will be considered.

**War**

The emphasis will be on student-led enquiries, stimulated by short clips from a films as diverse as “The Hurt Locker”, “Green Zone”; “Bonhoeffer” and “Atonement”. Many young people struggle to understand topics such as war because (thankfully) they have limited personal experience; films are a good way of helping them to empathise with other people and situations and to reflect on the ethical issues that raise.

“Film excels as metaphor, forging a connection between dissimilar objects or themes… Show, don’t tell, is the rule of cinema…”

Professor Thom Parham “Behind the Screen: Hollywood Insiders on Faith, Film and Culture” (2005)

**Punishment**

This session will explore the issue of punishment, including capital punishment, and the related questions of freedom and responsibility. Classic films such as “Dead Man Walking” and “The Green Mile” will figure alongside more recent releases, such as “The Adjustment Bureau”, “I’ve Loved you so Long” and “Camp X Ray” encouraging young people to ask whether life imprisonment may sometimes be even more inhumane than capital punishment and whether people who appear to have limited freedom can really be held responsible for their actions. The aim here will be to encourage higher order thinking and to get young people out of rehearsing familiar arguments.

**Relationships**

Teaching young people about human relationships is not easy. Whether in the context of Sex and Relationships Education, Sexual Ethics or the discussions of the treatment of homosexuals in different parts of the world, it can be difficult to get young people really thinking about the issues or beginning to understand their importance. The use of film clips can be a way of provoking discussion which is both “safe and potentially deeper” (characters and scenarios on screen allow young people to talk about issues without revealing too much of themselves or commenting on the views or actions of others they know). This session will show how clips from films ranging from “Four Weddings and a Funeral” to “The Hunger Games: Catching Fire” and “Frozen” can transform lessons on human relationships.

**Business**

Getting young people interested in Business Ethics can be a real challenge! Nevertheless, following the continuing financial crisis that began 2008 it is important for young people to understand the moral significance of financial decisions. Clips from films such as “Inside Job”, “Margin Call”, “Up in the Air” can explain the issues while also helping young people reflecting on how they want to live and on what is really important in life.