DIALOGUE AUSTRALASIA NETWORK PRESENTS

An unique opportunity to work with one of the best known Religious Educators in the UK

If there is no God, then why be good?

An intensive one day event for senior students

with Robert Kirkwood

Thursday 10 March 2016
Overnewton Anglican Community College, Keilor
What this conference offers:

- This full day conference for senior students with renowned RE educator, Robert Kirkwood, will provide an invaluable overview of the **Ethical Theories** covered in the **Ethics and Morality** Unit for VCE Religion and Society, and support Yr 12 students studying **Units 3/4**.

- The **latest scholarship** on ethical themes will be presented, drawing on the insights of Literature, Art, Film and Popular Culture.

- Students and teachers will come away with a **cognitive map** of Ethical Theories and a working knowledge of the **key ideas in Moral Philosophy** which they will be able to build on throughout the year and apply to their chosen ethical problem.

- Rob’s conferences are always fresh, provocative, stimulating, humorous and memorable. After 20+ years of teaching and lecturing, Rob has a gift for making complex ideas accessible to students of all ages and abilities.

- All those attending will be given access to a **downloadable set of detailed notes** from Rob’s book **Ethical Theories** - used widely throughout the UK as an accredited A Level Exam Board resource.

Topics:

* **IF THERE IS NO GOD THEN DO WHAT YOU LIKE:**
In Dostoevsky’s book *The Brothers Karamazov*, the character of Ivan maintains that if there is no God then everything is permitted. This idea that morality can only be meaningfully grounded in an objective **Divine Creator** will be explored by focusing on the ideas of Nietzsche and Sartre.

* **UTILITARIANISM:** One morning Susan passes a one-eyed man begging in a shop doorway. She quickly throws a 50 cent coin in his direction which bounces from the pavement and hits him in his good eye. The man is now completely blind.

The Ethical theory of Utilitarianism appears to be committed to the view that what Susan did was morally wrong because consequences are more important than intentions. This view will be explored through an examination of **The Utility Principle, Bentham, Mill, Higher and Lower Pleasures, Act and Rule Utilitarianism**.

* **KANT:** Another morning you and your brother come across a friend being mugged. You both risk getting your heads kicked in by intervening. However, your intervention is motivated by friendship while your brother’s is motivated by duty. Kant’s Ethical Theory appears to be saying that only your brother’s bravery could be described as moral. This judgement will be explored through a complex interactive investigation of Kant’s theory of **Duty** and will focus on **Categorical and Hypothetical Imperatives**, the various formulations of **The Categorical Imperative** and the ideas of **The Moral Law, Good Will** and **The Summum Bonum**.
NATURAL LAW & VIRTUE ETHICS
The words 'natural' and 'unnatural' are increasingly being used as a way of describing 'good' or 'bad' food, and a TV comedy programme illustrated the weaknesses of this criterion with the following advert. The viewer sees a combined harvester moving through a field of wheat with the following voice over:

"Roughage K the whole wheat breakfast with nothing taken away and nothing added. Everything you would expect to find in a breakfast that has been left out in the rain for a year until it was covered in muck. Nature's muck. Trampled on by B.O. ridden incontinent farmers. It's all natural.....'Roughage K'... THE BAG OF NATURE".

Philosophers have for centuries tried to use the same criterion of nature for establishing what is either a morally good or bad person ie. natural and unnatural behaviour. This criterion will be examined and will focus in particular on the views of Aristotle who maintained that human nature will only flourish if it grows within itself a 'virtuous' character.

SITUATION ETHICS
The 'situationist' view is that we are only required to follow the 10 commandments if they serve love. Love is the 'boss' and law is the 'servant' which means that in certain 'situations' (if it serves love) it may be right to lie, cheat, commit adultery and even kill another human being. This idea will be examined via the writings of Joseph Fletcher.
Robert Kirkwood Lectured in Religious, Moral and Philosophical Studies at the University of Edinburgh and is one of the best known Religious Educators in the UK. He has written a series of groundbreaking textbooks that introduce Moral Philosophy and Philosophy of Religion to students of all ages and abilities in the Middle & Secondary School.

Books such as *Looking for God, Looking for Proof of God, If I Were God I’d Say Sorry, Jesus in the Dock, Jesus the Jester, Jesus have you got a light, ? Ethical Theory, Philosophy of Religion* and more recently *The Only Way is Ethics* (2015) are used extensively in Schools in a variety of different countries, and have had a major impact on the development of RE in the UK.

Rob has a wealth of experience as a lecturer and teacher developing resources and ideas for both non-specialist and experienced RE teachers. He is a speaker who brings to conferences a fresh approach and an ability to provoke, stimulate and inspire.

For more information on Rob see www.sparksintheclassroom.org

**BOOKING DETAILS**

The cost is $20/student, with one free teacher place for every 12 paying students. Unaccompanied teachers are welcome at $100 for PD.

Each teacher will receive access to a downloadable set of detailed notes from Rob’s book *Ethical Theories*.

Students should bring their own lunch and water bottle, and we will provide a light lunch for accompanying teachers.

To book places for your students, please email:

Belinda Hill, DAN Executive Officer
E. dan@dialogueaustralasia.org
T. 08 9367 8903 M. 0427 295 691
www.dialogueaustralasia.org

An invoice will be emailed to you with payment details. **ABN 906 219078 34**

**REGISTRATION**

Registration will begin at 915am. The conference will start at 945am and finish by 230pm.

Rob is also presenting a Teacher PD Workshop
**Wednesday 9 March 2016, Carey Baptist Grammar** www.dialogueaustralasia.org