



GIFTED RESOURCES NEWSLETTER JULY 2007

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Welcome to the Gifted Resources Email Newsletter in the new pdf attachment format. If you are not able to receive attachments you can read this newsletter online at

<http://www.giftedresources.org/web/newsletter.html>

You may be receiving this newsletter because someone has forwarded their copy to you. If you would like to receive your own copy please subscribe from our newsletter website at <http://www.giftedresources.org/web/newsletter.html> You may also access back issues of the newsletter (from January 2005), or change your subscription options, from this address.

You can also read the newsletter online at

<http://www.giftedresources.org/web/newsletter.html>

If you have news of events, conferences, lectures, workshops, children's programmes, etc. that you would like included in our newsletter please email contributions@giftedresources.org



GIFTED RESOURCES NEWS

NEW EMAIL ADDRESS

Phasing out of the virtual and vicnet email addresses is almost complete. Please can you ensure that the address you have for Gifted Resources is jo@giftedresources.org and the email address for the newsletter is contributions@giftedresources.org

PDF NEWSLETTER ATTACHMENT

Thank you to all the people who sent me feedback about the pdf attachment format for the newsletter. Most people who responded said they prefer this format and found it easier to read.

RSVP

Please note that I have added an RSVP date of 20 July 07 for The Cheetah Analogy event on Friday 27 July 07

I often find that people reply during the final two days before events. In this case, owing to the amount of organization and expense and the distance Dianne Gordon, the guest speaker, will have to travel, I need to know the numbers expected by the previous week. At least 15 enrolments are required to ensure that the event can proceed.

OUR WEBSITE - www.giftedresources.org

New sections Gallery and Articles have been added.

The Biorama section has been modified and some entries added. Please keep the nominations flowing in!

More websites have been added and changes made to the Website Links - Home Education section

GIFTED RESOURCES EVENTS

VICTORIA UNIVERSITY - FOOTSCRAY

SOCIAL SUPPORT FOR PARENTS OF ACADEMICALLY GIFTED CHILDREN

Wednesday 25 July 2007 7.15pm

The School of Psychology, in conjunction with Gifted Resources, invites you to an evening presentation and discussion forum on parenting academically gifted children. We will talk about our personal experiences and research on the challenges and joys of parenting gifted and the possible role of social support groups.

Speakers: Jo Freitag – Coordinator, Gifted Resources

Adrian Fisher, Associate Professor, School of Psychology

When: 25 July 2007

Time: 7-15 until 8.30 pm

Where: Victoria University – Footscray Park Campus, Building E, Level 4, Room 405. Ballarat Road, Footscray

RSVP: 23 July 2007

Phone: 0425-779-829 (Sally-Ann Free for more information) or 9919-55052 (Terri Adorni)

Fax: 9919-4324

Email: sally-ann.free@research.vu.edu.au

For full details and the Invitation see

<http://www.giftedresources.org/gr/files/vuininvite250707.doc>

THE CHEETAH ANALOGY

Friday 27 July 2007 7.30pm

R.S.V.P. needed for this event by Friday 20 July 2007

Registration from 7.00pm

Centre for the Exceptional Learner, Luther College

Plymouth Rd. Croydon, Vic 3134

DIANNE GORDON

Education Officer Melbourne Zoo Discovery and Learning

Dianne will speak about cheetahs, about the role of the zoos in cheetah conservation and about the Education programs and the Holiday programs that are offered by the 3 Victorian zoos.

One of her roles at Melbourne Zoo Discovery and Learning is to develop and coordinate the programs for gifted and high potential students and she will discuss how teachers can utilise these programs

JO FREITAG

Gifted Resources Co-ordinator

will discuss the analogy of the cheetah to the gifted student and how the cheetah analogy can be extended to debunk various myths surrounding giftedness

Cost: \$10

Booking essential. Phone (03) 9724 2452 and leave a voicemail message or email jo@giftedresources.org or use the form on the Events page of Gifted Resources website

THE ADVOCACY JOURNEY - One family's story

JENNIFER GRANT

Friday 31 August 2007 7.30pm

Registration from 7.00pm

Centre for the Exceptional Learner, Luther College

Plymouth Rd. Croydon, Vic 3134

Watch the Events page for further details.

Cost: \$10

Booking essential. Phone (03) 9724 2452 and leave a voicemail message or email jo@giftedresources.org or use the form on the Events page

PARENT SUPPORT GROUPS

MAROONDAH GIFTED CHILDREN'S PARENTS' ASSOC. INC.

Morning Coffee at MacDonald's, Maroondah Hwy. Croydon Vic. at 10.30 am on Wednesday 4 July, 1 Aug, 5 September, 3 October

If you have suggestions for family activities, guest speakers, etc. for 2007 please phone or email Jennifer or Louise.

PO Box 1279

Croydon Vic 3136

Contact Jennifer Grant

Phone 9779 4218

jjgrant@optusnet.com.au

Louise Howe

Phone 9801 2912

louise_h@tpg.com.au

GIFTED SUPPORT NETWORK

(Formerly Bayside Young Active Minds - BYAMS)

Active network in Melbourne's south eastern region offering the following services to families with gifted children:

- * "Mini Minds" - weekly activities for preschoolers
- * "Primary Minds" - fortnightly activities for primary school aged children and their parents
- * "Teens & Tweens" - activities for teenagers and their parents each term
- * Information evenings with expert speakers covering issues relating to the gifted
- * Daytime and evening social events for parents to share their experience of parenting the gifted child
- * Comprehensive members library
- * Quarterly newsletter containing professional articles

For further information visit www.giftedsupport.org

or phone Carolyn (9576 5137)

P.O. Box 2808 Cheltenham, 3192

Email address is gifted-support@hotmail.com

TERM 3 SPEAKER

**Acceleration & Advocacy: The Challenge Continues” presented by
Lynne Mackenzie-Sykes on behalf of Gifted Support Network**

(www.giftedsupport.org)

This presentation will address the issues associated with acceleration and advocacy using current, individual case-studies and highlighting the function of the case-conference in the acceleration process for gifted students. School personnel and parents are encouraged to attend.

Wednesday 22 August, 7:45 – 9:30pm

Venue: Mentone Girls' Grammar School,

Mentone Parade, Mentone (Mel Ref 86 K8)

Parking: drive in at Gate A for access to the staff car park.

Walk into “David Hunt Centre” and follow signs to the Jubilee Theatre

Cost: \$10 bookings essential

RSVP Liz lmachin@bigpond.net.au or phone 9580 6939

ACTIVE MINDS (was S.W.A.M.) WARRNAMBOOL

President Carolyn Jennings 03 55620915 cpjen@bigpond.com

Vice President Warwick Price 03 55603888 warwickp@brauer.vic.edu.au

Secretary Andrea Sampson 03 55603888 sampsonsensei@hotmail.com

Treasurer Lenny Brockmuller 03 55605624

PARENTS OF HIGH ABILITY CHILDREN (POHACs)

Lyn Chudleigh

Berwick Lodge Primary School

Mansfield St

PO Box 454

Berwick

Vic 3806

Phone 9707 1766 Fax 9796 2198

Email berwick.lodge.ps@edumail.vic.gov.au

GIFTED EDUCATION NETWORK PARENT SUPPORT GROUP

For families with gifted children in Casey/Cardinia
Meets regularly every fourth Tuesday of the month from 7.30 - 9.00pm
at the Beaconsfield Community Centre, O'Neil Rd, Beaconsfield.

Contact

Karen Grubb (Coordinator of Parent Support Group)

kgrubb@optusnet.com.au

and

Lyn Chudleigh (Gifted Education Network Coordinator)

c/o Berwick Lodge Primary School

ph: 9707 1766

GIFTED @ CENTRAL

<http://www.araratcc.vic.edu.au/gifted@central/welcome.htm>

A foundation team of teachers, schools and supporting organization to
improve options for gifted students in the Central Area of Victoria

For details of proposed activities and contacts see the website.

V.A.G.T.C. Inc

Contact

P O Box 132

Caulfield South

Vic 3162

Phone 0402 056 140

<http://www.vagtc.asn.au/index.html>

V.A.G.T.C. CONFERENCE 2007

Head & Heart

Telstra Dome

Docklands Melbourne

Wed 14-Thursday 15 November 2007

http://www.vagtc.asn.au/assets/htm/conf_intro.htm

<http://www.vagtc.asn.au/assets/pdf/07%20conf%20pdfs/VAGTC%20Conf%20Announcement.pdf>

Call for Papers

<http://www.vagtc.asn.au/assets/pdf/07%20conf%20pdfs/2007%20Conference%20Call%20for%20Papers.pdf>

DSNSG Defence Special Needs Support Group

A support group for Australian Defence Force families who have members
with

special needs, including giftedness & talent. DSNSG provides support and
information for Defence families posted throughout Australia and overseas

Sarah Tuckerman dsnsggat@optusnet.com.au

Gifted & Talented Coordinator

Defence Special Needs Support Group

Phone contact 1800 037 674

www.dsnsq.org.au

NSW Assoc. for Gifted and Talented Children Albury-Wodonga Support Group

A recently formed group of parents who meet bi-monthly to share information
related to the education of G & T children.

For more information phone (02) 60591888

PENRITH PARENTS of GIFTED CHILDREN GROUP

WiseOnes is helping to establish the Penrith Parents of Gifted Children Group in NSW. The first meeting will be a get-together at McDonalds in Penrith

Date: Thursday 21st June: Location: McDonalds. High Street Penrith from 3.30 to 4.30 pm. Toddlers welcome.

THINKING AHEAD (WESTERN AUSTRALIA)

Recognising and Parenting your Visual Spatial Learner Seminar presented by Helen Dudeney M.Ed. COGE

Monday July 9 2007 7.00 - 9.30 pm

Venue Hakea Room, Mt Claremont Community Centre, 107 Montgomery Ave, Mt

Claremont

Cost \$41 (inc GST) per person; GATCA members (2 per membership) \$36 (inc GST)

Details of the seminar at http://www.thinkingahead.com.au/july_9.htm

Does your child have uncommon ability in some areas but struggles with things

like spelling and learning times tables?

Do they have handwriting you (or the teachers) despair over, or could be described as 'organisationally challenged'?

Perhaps they have a vivid imagination, or seem to know things without being able to explain how or why, or have a passion for building things.

This seminar will give you some insight into visual spatial learners and the way they learn and view the world. It will cover some practical things you can do as parents to support them at home and at school and advice about living with visual spatial children (and adults).

Helen Dudeney is a counsellor and educator with many years practical experience in working with, and providing information and support to gifted children, their parents and teachers. Presenting to teachers and parents around Australia on many topics including Visual Spatial Learners, she also held the position of President of the NSW Association for Gifted and Talented Children for many years.

Details of the seminar at http://www.thinkingahead.com.au/july_9.htm

There are still spaces in most of the workshops for the holiday program running from July 16 - 18. You can check out the program at <http://www.thinkingahead.com.au/program.htm> along with course information and registration forms etc.

One Day Gifted Conference 20 August 2007

***The Making a Difference: Gifted Children in the Classroom
one day gifted conference***

See <http://www.thinkingahead.com.au>

Derrin Cramer Thinking Ahead Extension Workshops

PO Box 171 Como WA 6952

Ph (08) 9474 4594 M 0409 372 109

Fax (08) 9474 3462

NEW HOME EDUCATION REGULATIONS

The new Education Act was declared and came into effect on 1 July 2007
See this statement on the DET website " The Act came into effect when it was proclaimed on Sunday 1st July 2007 by the Governor in Council."

<http://www.education.vic.gov.au/about/directions/reviewleg.htm>

The new Education Act requires that home educators be registered. More details on the requirements are available here <http://www.home-ed.vic.edu.au/category/victorian-legal-situation/> including a downloadable pdf <http://www.home-ed.vic.edu.au/wp-content/uploads/2007/04/victorianlegalinformation.pdf> giving details of the Education Act and associated regulations.

MENSA AUSTRALIA 2007 GRANTS

For full details see

<http://mensa.org.au/?q=about/children/grants>

Although the Bull Bequest is specifically for families that can show parents, grandparents, great grandparents domiciled in Australia - other grants with less stringent conditions are also available. Note that the closing date is 30th September 2007, and the child must be under 18 at the end of 2008 and that the application must show evidence of family hardship and detail how the grant will be spent.

For further information phone Mensa Australia's Gifted Students Fund administrator Cliff Schwarz on (02) 66855856

VICTORIA UNIVERSITY PROJECT

Ongoing project exploring the psychosocial supports needs of parents of gifted children. Victoria University have conducted a variety of interviews and focus groups in western Melbourne in the past and have presented at a number of conferences – both in gifted areas and in psychology.

After Adrian Fisher presented at Gifted2006 in Fremantle he was approached by a number of parents who were also teachers. They said that the findings resonated with them, but were often magnified by their dual and at times conflicting roles.

They are taking this line of research further, with masters student John Mitchell taking the lead. Therefore, they are asking teachers who are also parents of gifted children if they would be willing to participate in this research.

So, if there are any members in this category, they would appreciate hearing from them. Please, in the first instance, contact john at:

john.mitchell5@students.vu.edu.au, or by phone on (03) 9687 6686 or 0415 722 293.

This research has received Ethics Approval through Victoria University.

Adrian Fisher PhD
Associate Professor
School of Psychology

Victoria University -- Footscray Park
PO Box 14428
Melbourne VIC 8001
Australia
PH: +613-9919-5221
Fax: +613-9919-4324
www.staff.vu.edu.au/commpsyh

SUPPORT GROUP FOR THE WESTERN SUBURBS

A Letter from Tina McCarthy

Dear Parents and Carers,

Some time ago I placed an advertisement in the Gifted Resources Newsletter requesting interested people for a new Western suburbs gifted kids and/or visual spatial group.

After much deliberation the group never commenced - too many interested people, not enough resources, my own return to study etc etc! It all grew very large very quickly. Apologies!

However, I have recently been contacted by some staff and students at Victoria University who are very keen to get things going for us. With their assistance, our 'support' group may in fact eventuate...this would be great news for our kids!

If you would like to find out more or join the group, then please contact me via email

tina@tinamccarthydesign.com

DOCTORATE RESEARCH PROJECT

Julie King is completing her Doctorate in Clinical Psychology through the University of Ballarat and is at the data collection stage of her research examining 'The experience of intellectual giftedness as asynchrony'. She is looking for gifted (IQ tested at 130+) young people between 10 and 13 years to attend with a parent for an individual interview (one for parent one for child). Interviews take approx.30minutes each and the parent is also asked to complete a Child Behaviour Checklist and demographic form.The purpose of the project is to learn more about how gifted young people feel and relate to others. This project also aims to see how parents see their child's experience of giftedness.The interviews are being conducted on St. Kilda road in St. Kilda. If you would like more information or plain language statements, she would be happy to forward them on to you.

Julie can be contacted on 0414 432 623 or at juliek@mhaustralia.com.

Regards, Julie King

GIFTED RESEARCH INTEREST GROUP

Expressions of interest are being sought for an informal group open to people undertaking research related to giftedness, to provide mutual support and a forum for sharing ideas. To express your interest, or for further information, contact Jodie Valpied (PhD student, University of Melbourne).

Email: jodiev@tpg.com.au

Parent and Family Support Centre at the University of Queensland Project

Parenting a gifted and talented child presents many challenges. Gifted and talented children have specific behavioural, educational, social and developmental needs, which can be difficult to understand and even more difficult to meet. Parents of gifted children often

feel unsupported and may also receive negative responses from the community. They may feel an increased burden of responsibility to help their child realise his or her potential.

If you are the parent of a gifted or talented child and can relate to the above, or have concerns about day-to-day parenting tasks, the Parent and Family Support Centre at the University of Queensland would love to hear from you. A research project currently underway at the Parenting and Family Support Centre is examining the needs of parents of gifted and talented children, surveying the experiences and challenges faced by these parents. We are seeking parents of 3 to 10 year-old, gifted and talented children to contribute their experiences about the rewards and challenges of parenting their child. More information about the project is available from:

Alina Morawska

Parenting and Family Support Centre, School of Psychology, University of Queensland, St Lucia QLD 4072

Phone: +61 7 3365 7304, Fax: +61 7 3365 6724, Email:

alina@psy.uq.edu.au

SALLY-ANNE McCORMACK

Term 3 Life Strategies Programs

Starting Saturday 11 August 2007

This 5 week program is where students learn skills to help them see things optimistically and learn some ways to prevent (or reduce) stress, anxiety and depression. They are taught a variety of strategies to view events more positively

Further information about these programs can be found on

www.psychonline.com.au

ALISON BROWN www.psychologyandchildren.com.au

3rd term social skills program for boys aged 8 – 12 years – “Playing by the Rules”

Knowing what to do and say in social settings can often prove challenging. Social skills do not always develop easily or naturally. Some children need to practice and learn these skills as an intellectual exercise. Identifying, discussing and developing social skills is of great importance, as many difficulties in student interactions and in classroom behaviour can stem from a lack of social awareness or competence. Good social skills are critical to successful functioning in life. Designed for students in regular schools, this program caters for children experiencing social and / or communication difficulties, such as awkwardness mixing with peers, trouble understanding body language, rehearsed or mechanical conversations, and difficulty coping with change.

Participants will be involved in group discussions and activities, role plays, games, and interactive tasks. Group work provides a social learning environment where children can share their thoughts and experiences. With a qualified facilitator, children benefit from receiving accurate interpersonal feedback from their peers in a supportive and enjoyable setting.

Saturday afternoons 21st July – 8th September 1.00 – 2.00pm

Melbourne University Private – Hawthorn Campus 442 Auburn Road

Alison Brown Psychologist

24 Robinson Street, Malvern 3144

Phone: (03) 9824 6617

Mobile: 0408 177982

Email: alisonbrown@psychologyandchildren.com.au

MINDFUL! TERM 3 **Wednesday 'school'**

Encouraging and developing autonomous learning

This group provides support for gifted students, including the 2e, in their development of self motivated learning. Previous groups have shown just how capable gifted children are if they are allowed time and space to follow through on an idea. It is not a day off from school, the students work very hard!

The atmosphere will support learning from peers, the constructive use of the World Wide Web, the use of interviews, books and other texts, experimentation and discussion.

There will be 4 Wednesdays which are devoted to 3D maths (shapes), number systems (Roman, Egyptian, Mayan etc) and maths tools (calculators, Napier's bones, abacus).

Then 4 Wednesdays will focus on science fiction texts.

Weds: 25/7/07 - 15/8/07 9:00 - 3:30 Maths

Weds: 29/8/07 - 19/6/07 9:00 - 3:30 Science fiction

Cost: Maths \$125 Science Fiction \$125

Where - Wednesdays: Mindful! 381 Burwood Hwy, Burwood, 3125

Book on Phone (03) 9808 1460

Email AJxn@bigpond.com

A sanctuary for those with Aspergers Syndrome.

Every Friday Anne Jackson will be facilitating a group for mainstream students living with Aspergers syndrome. The intention is to provide an environment that encourages learning but is informal, flexible, safe and different from school. The sessions will provide the chance to immerse ones self in the world of science fiction. A world where intelligence and life come in many forms; communication does not always depend on spoken words; sensations and customs are different, the unusual is acceptable and accepted.

The maximum number of students is 6 thus allow for the sharing of passions. Stories or authors will be recommend, the library can be visited, web sites trawled, politics, science, emotions, ethics discussed. Interests and ideas will be followed up allowing production of animations, web pages, presentations, even the writing of science fiction. Suitable products can be loaded onto the world wide web so others can engage with the individual student.

During the exploration and dissection of alien cultures Anne will encourage the student to question the culture and norms of Earth. In this way earth's social skills and interactions can become just another alien behaviour that is studied and analysed.

9 Fridays from 20/7/07 till 14/9/07. 9:00 - 15:00

Parkdale Church of Christ, 174 Como Parade West, Parkdale, 3195.

cost \$350

For further information contact Anne Jackson

Phone (03) 9808 1460

Email AJxn@bigpond.com

EDNEWS INTERVIEW

EdNews.org has published on its site an interview with Mark Bade and Linda Neumann of the 2e Newsletter on the topic of twice-exceptional students. The interview explores what twice-exceptionality means for the kids and their schools.

The interview is at: <http://www.ednews.org/articles/13548/1/An-Interview-with-Mark-Bade-and-Linda-Neumann-Twice-Exceptional/Page1.html>

BRAINY DAYS 'GIFTED' TEACHER REWARDS

Brainy Days Gifted Teacher Rewards – June Winner

It was thrilling to start receiving nominations and realising there are so many dedicated, talented teachers out there catering for the needs of bright, gifted and talented young children. Nominees ranged from highly experienced and qualified teachers to those who have found themselves for the first time faced with providing an education for one of our unique and special little children. Congratulations to our winner for this month, **Jeanette Baker from Murrumbeena Primary School in Victoria**. She was nominated by Lisa Emrose, one of her parents. Applications from the following schools also impressed us and will be considered for next months Reward. Jeanette will receive a \$100 gift voucher.

- Roma State College (formally Charleville School of Distance Education), QLD
- Wanniasa Hills Primary School, ACT
- Fairholme College, QLD
- Hurstbridge Primary School, VIC
- St Paul's Grammar School, NSW
- The Patch Primary School, VIC
- Appin Park Primary School, VIC
- Our Lady of Lourdes, QLD
- Smithton Primary School, TAS
- Mater Dei Primary School, QLD
- Eastwood Public School, NSW

For more details see the flyer - there is a link from Gifted Resources website Resources for Sale page

or contact Amanda Cousins
Products & Marketing Manager

Brainy Days

P.O. Box 4185

Croydon Hills Vic 3136

phone: +61 3 9725 4196

mobile: 0414 586 915

e-mail: amanda@brainydays.com.au

www.brainydays.com.au

G.A.T.E.WAYS

THE G.A.T.E.WAYS CHALLENGE

As part of The Education Show "Resources For Courses" at the Melbourne Exhibition Centre on August 14th and 15th, G.A.T.E.WAYS will be running a seminar on The G.A.T.E.WAYS Challenge.

The G.A.T.E.WAYS Challenge is a team event created to challenge, extend and excite primary school students from Years One / Two, Three / Four and Five / Six. Teams consist of four students (three for the Grade One / Two grouping) who exhibit advanced abilities in either specialised areas or across the curriculum.

The G.A.T.E.WAYS Challenge:

- Stresses teamwork over individual performance, with the ability of team members to interact in an efficient and cohesive manner being of crucial importance
- Emphasises problem-solving skills - the ability to recognise and negotiate obstacles and, as a team, to find solutions
- Challenges the participants across the curriculum

- Provides all participants with opportunity for leadership
- Practises the fundamental skills necessary for competent performance
- Gives satisfaction from the activities themselves as well as the outcome
- Emphasises having fun with learning

The G.A.T.E.WAYS Challenge will be held in Term 4 at various locations across the metropolitan area. Invitations to compete in The Challenge will be mailed to schools at the beginning of Term 3. Following registration, teachers will receive a practice booklet of mini-lessons to help them prepare their teams.

The seminar at the Education Expo will be held between 4.15 and 5pm on August 14th, and will showcase previous Challenge activities. There will be a short introductory session, after which participants will have the opportunity to become part of one of five or six teams to tackle the Challenges.

A two book set of a previous Challenge for upper primary, Solve It – Mysteries For Inquiring Minds, will be available through Blake Education at the Expo.

For more information see www.theeducationshow.com.au

NEXT OGTOC CONFERENCE

<http://www.neiu.edu/~ourgift/index.html>

Lynne Kelly Aug 10-12, 2007

"Practical Curriculum Extension for Gifted Students"

Well designed extension material can offer qualitatively different learning experiences which address the unique abilities of gifted students. By being available through the school network or on local computers in every classroom, any time a student has demonstrated mastery of the class work, the teacher can offer them the enrichment material then and there. No student should ever be bored! By compacting the class work, students find they can tune in and out of what is happening in the classroom, thus maximizing their learning in the given time. A flexible compaction/extension model enables schools and home schools to implement a wide-ranging gifted program in a practical format.

Lynne Kelly has worked with gifted students for over 25 years specialising in curriculum development for mathematics, science and cross curricular themes. The author of 13 books and the Enrichment Units for the Middle Years (EUMY) suite, she has established online enrichment programs used in six countries.

<http://www.lynnkelly.com.au/>

Indepth Bio: <http://www.neiu.edu/~ourgift/pages/GuestBio.htm>

Additional Info: <http://www.neiu.edu/~ourgift/index.html>

WiseOnes

Annual Conference Friday 26th October.

Brandon Park Primary School

The topics are yet to be decided but the sessions will be run as if they were WiseOnes lessons; so teachers can get the feel of participation in a gifted class. It promises to be challenging in pace, complexity and dealing with abstract principles to cover aspects of Intellectual, Moral and Social issues.

Email the office office office23@tpg.com.au

For further details contact Pat Slattery

Suite 17, 245 Thomas Street Dandenong Vic 3175

Phone 03 9794 8258

Email pat@wiseones.com.au

<http://www.wiseones.com.au/>

Scientific Discovery - A Playgroup

A focus on nature & science projects for kids

3 to 5 year olds. Once a week 10am to 12 noon

Siblings are welcomed

Private home - Hampton

Contact Elle - 0422 541 842

V.A.G.T.C. CONFERENCE 2007

Head & Heart

Telstra Dome

Docklands Melbourne

Wed 14-Thursday 15 November 2007

http://www.vagtc.asn.au/assets/htm/conf_intro.htm

<http://www.vagtc.asn.au/assets/pdf/07%20conf%20pdfs/VAGTC%20Conf%20Announcement.pdf>

PROJECT IDEAS AT THE WLMD WEBSITE

<http://www.wherelightmeetsdark.com/>

There is a **competition** on the site at the moment. Entries close at the end of winter. The prize is a copy of a book for which the site owner wrote a chapter earlier this year.

The competition is to correctly identify 15 Australian animals from their photographs.

Also Chris is looking for assistance with the website to do with Tasmanian tigers.

Chris said in a recent posting on the Gifted Families email list

"The site has 4 main areas:

"Examining the evidence" (for rare fauna)

"Local action for conservation" (to inform about local community activities)

"Up close and personal" (with wildlife through photography)

and "Newswatch" which streams news headlines related to any of the above (much like on the giftedfamilies website homepage: <http://giftedfamilies.org>)

The most common Newswatch articles tend to fall into 3 main topics: New species discoveries, Extinctions, and Rare and Endangered species updates.

The site attracted the attention of Sydney Morning Herald blogger Daniel Dasey when I announced a Google Earth tour of post-extinction thylacine sightings. That led to radio interviews with Alan Jones in Canberra and some night-time show in the UK. The tour itself

has attracted Google's attention and was nominated for their showcase tours gallery. Other articles include a discussion on cloning, and soon to come, thylacines as pets.

I'm looking for help with my site! And I don't see why it can't be turned into a real project for our kids.

Here is a summary on what would be involved:

Newswatch - this is the area I'd most like to see maintained. I have set up some Google alerts for key terms like "new species", "extinction" and "Tasmanian devil" so I receive an email whenever these terms show up in news articles. As often as I have time, I then read the news report. If I like it and want to put it on the site home page, I log in and add it. That involves crediting the source article with a link, and finding an image that I can use without breaching copyright. Usually I'll go to Wikipedia for that image, and link back to Wikipedia also, but sometimes I use the image from the source article. If others were contributing Newswatch items, I can put it through a publishing process so that I check everything before it goes live. Ideally I'd like to see 5 Newswatch items a day, or at least 5 every 3 days, but I'm struggling to even make that at present.

Examining the evidence - do your kids have a passion for investigation? Thinking critically about photographic or video evidence? Or how about researching historical information? I am more than willing to consider articles to be published in this area. Perhaps your child has an interest in an area not already on the site; suggest it to me - anything related to Australian fauna will probably be okay. You can look through my existing articles for ideas. It may not even have to be rare fauna - I wrote an article once after I took two very poor photos of a wallaby in a local park. The discussion was about how hard it actually is, to get those photos and how, even with hundreds of people in the park, Amelie and I were likely the only two people to see it.

Local action for conservation - although I really want to promote this area, I just can't prioritise the time for it. Left to myself, I would probably remove this area, *but* - if there are kids on this group with a passion for local conservation activities, then I welcome articles! I have previously written about Perth Zoo's "Great Australian Marsupial Night Stalk" surveys, volunteering at Australia Zoo, and highlighted environmental activism events. If your child's school is doing something like bushland regeneration, they might like to put together a report. They might be involved in StreamWatch - monitoring local water conditions. Perhaps one of you is involved in wildlife rescue and your child wants to talk about what it's like to live with wombats or kookaburras, etc.

Up close and personal - do your kids like to take photos of animals? Have they ever thought to? Even lizards, spiders, bugs, fish - anything. Most of my own photography is of little things like those just mentioned, but if you've gone to the zoo, perhaps you might like to write about the animals they most liked there? Usually I'll research the animal I'm writing about - using a combination of books and the web for information - and credit the source in the article. I am also thinking about just setting up a photo gallery without the need for full length articles, so again, I'm open to ideas.

One more idea I thought to do is have a "meet the team" area - so if there was a bit of interest, we could put a little bio page on each contributor - perhaps a photo and a few quick questions or something.

I guess the idea provides the opportunity to go to just about any level. The site could well become a children's newspaper on issues environmental - if that's the vision that the team would have. In that regard, the site itself could be seen as a bit of a project - given a broad theme, and a choice of directions to take it, where would a team of children take it?

If anyone is interested (for themselves, or their children), please let me know. Feel free to pass this information on.

If anyone has feedback on the idea, I'd love to hear that too.

I guess the news story about the 6th grade class monitoring local traffic violations was the trigger for sending out this concept, and it runs similar to other kids' projects I've heard about, like the primary school team of GT students who helped write a scientific paper to describe a new species of wasp in Canberra - only this project is more about online publishing, collaboration and research, with opportunities for writing, photography, forensic research and teamwork, centred around the themes of the environment and Australian wildlife."

That website address again <http://www.wherelightmeetsdark.com/>

SOME INTERESTING WEBSITES

Monash Short Courses

<http://www.shortcourses.monash.edu.au>

ICT In Education Victoria

<http://www.ictev.vic.edu.au/>

Lab3000 calendar

<http://tinyurl.com/2jrl4y>

<http://preview.tinyurl.com/2oeu4w>

The Amazing Human Body Exhibition

<http://www.amazinghumanbody.com.au/>

Simply Music

<http://www.impactmovie.com/simplymusic/>

Jennifer Riggs on Radio National's Ockhams Razor

<http://www.abc.net.au/rn/ockhamsrazor/stories/2000/223949.htm>

<http://www.abc.net.au/rn/ockhamsrazor/stories/2002/702859.htm>

<http://www.abc.net.au/rn/ockhamsrazor/stories/2004/1068666.htm>

<http://www.abc.net.au/rn/ockhamsrazor/stories/2004/1266660.htm>

<http://www.abc.net.au/rn/ockhamsrazor/stories/2007/1913317.htm>

Georgia Brown

<http://tinyurl.com/3xl9av>

Child genius TV program

<http://tinyurl.com/2l55ub>

Curriki

<http://www.curriki.org/xwiki/bin/view/Main/>

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