



GIFTED RESOURCES NEWSLETTER DECEMBER 2007

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**NEW PO BOX
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VIC 3136**

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

THIS EDITION WILL BE **ONLY** GIFTED RESOURCES NEWS

November was a very busy month both for Gifted Resources and for me personally. It was a time of looking back on the events of 2007 and making preparations for 2008 So I decided that this edition of the email newsletter will be dedicated solely to Gifted Resources news. You have received a holiday programs newsletter and this **may** be the last newsletter this year.

Praiselife
Christmas Special

It is that time of year again and I have been busy with writing and teaching the Praiselife Christmas Special program for the Church School at Crossroads Christian Fellowship (See <http://www.giftedresources.org/jo/index.htm> under the heading Church School Programs) and painting the Christmas windows (See <http://www.giftedresources.org/jo/index.htm> on the main page and under the heading Window Painting)

GIFTED RESOURCES ACTIVITY REPORT 2007

During 2007 Jo Freitag /Gifted Resources has

Presented at Conferences, Expos and Workshops for National Home Education Conference, Portsea; Eastwood Primary School; S.W.A.M. (Students with Active Minds) GEMM Program, Warrnambool; Western Suburbs Group, Victoria University Footscray; Gifted Support Network, Cheltenham.

Provided PD on resources for Gifted Education to teachers, Gifted Ed and Learning Needs coordinators and service providers.

Provided resources to Catholic Education Office Gifted Section, Billanook College, Southwood Boys Grammar and Luther College

Assisted with preparation for Luther College participation in Da Vinci Decathlon and Night of the Notables

Hosted guest speakers Maxine Cowie – Launch of VSL Literacy CD and Jennifer Grant – The Advocacy Journey

Hosted the first solo exhibition of 9 year old gifted VSL artist, Kristian Lang

Attended PD sessions and workshops – Critical Agendas Brighton

Been interviewed by radio for National Home Education Conference

Been interviewed by Email by Michael Shaugnessy of the American Education news website Ednews.org

Developed and maintained the website for Gifted Resources

<http://www.giftedresources.org>

Written and distributed by email 15 issues of the Gifted Resources Newsletter and 3 issues of Gifted Resources Newsletter Extension and Holiday programs

Housed, maintained and circulated part of the V.A.G.T.C. Inc. Library (297 volumes)

Housed, maintained and circulated Gifted Resources Library (746 volumes)

The catalogues can be seen online at <http://www.giftedresources.org/web/grlibrary.html>

Updated the Gifted Resources Information Pack

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

Provided information and resources for homeschooling families and those contemplating commencement of home schooling

Provided information and resources for teachers and parents during personal consultations, by phone and by email

Planned Itineraries and details of proposed 2008 visits to Melbourne of Stephanie Tolan (U.S.) and Rosemary Cathcart (New Zealand)

The Gifted Resources Activity Report for this year can also be read by following the link under the heading Gifted Resources in Action on the About Us page

HOLIDAY TIMES

Gifted Resources will be **closed 17 December 2007 to 7 January 2008**

During January I will be mostly working from home but can make appointments to go into the office at Luther College for teachers who find it hard to come in during term time and parents and Homeschoolers who wish to gather resources for the coming year. To make an appointment email jo@giftedresources.org or Phone (03)9876 1349

GIFTED RESOURCES WEBSITE www.giftedresources.org

This year there have been a number of new sections added to the website –

Biorama - a collection of mini potted biographies of people who have influenced understanding or provided service in the field of giftedness.

The Gallery

The In Tray – a place for recent flyers and announcements of events that have been sent to me especially if they arrive too late for a newsletter. Another advantage is that attractive PDF files can be displayed there

The Blog

I did not manage to attend the VAGTC Head and Heart Conference in Melbourne so I would love to hear feedback about it. Once again my fairy godmother failed to deliver as you can see from the Blog entry

Fairy Nuff returns on the Gifted Resources website

WEBSITE STATISTICS

Until the end of November 2007 the new Gifted Resources website **received**

6449 unique visitors who made

9274 visits and viewed

41046 pages

The visitors came (in order of number) from **USA, Australia, Unknown, China, Saudi Arabia, A European country, Canada, Hong Kong, Great Britain, Taiwan, Brazil, Indonesia, Israel, Norway, Bahrain, Switzerland, Spain, South Korea, Singapore, Libya, Thailand, Sri Lanka, Germany, Egypt, Russian Federation**

THE LIBRARY

This year Gifted Resources Library has received generous donations of books from Catriona Coote and Jamie Tarling. I purchased a bookshelf and I am busy processing the new books and reorganising the library. The Online catalogue will be updated soon.

FINANCIAL AFFAIRS

In the 2006 financial year Gifted Resources made an overall loss of \$500

There are two ways to look at this

Glass half empty – we made a loss, oh woe is me! (Which if not checked rapidly can escalate into “It’s not fair! Why do sports stars and bimbo celebrities get paid millions of dollars? “)

Glass half full “Wow I managed to operate an Information service, a website and newsletter, a library and a bookshop which provided wide ranging benefit on a shoestring budget!”



Most of my energy recently has been spent on planning itineraries and workshops for the 2008 visits of Stephanie Tolan and Rosemary Cathcart. We have enjoyed a wonderful exchange of phone calls and emails in which we shared our own stories I will be sharing some of these stories with you via the website soon

GIFTED RESOURCES PRESENTS

Stephanie Tolan

[CLICK HERE FOR A MIND MAP OF ALL THE ASPECTS
WE WANTED TO FIT INTO STEPHANIE TOLAN'S FIRST 'DOWNUNDER' TOUR](#)

WORKSHOPS AND LECTURES FOR

Parents of gifted learners

Teachers at any level who have gifted learners in their classrooms

Teachers of English language and literature, teachers of creative writing

Homeschoolers

Children's Librarians

Gifted young writers, middle and secondary school age

MONDAY 7 APRIL 2008 DROMKEEN RIDDELLS CREEK



FOR PARENTS

Raising Your Gifted Child: What's Your Story?

There is no question that gifted children have different needs than more average kids—social, emotional, academic, to name a few. Our first parenting task is to recognize those needs (which sometimes requires us to rethink our own). After that we are faced with the challenge of meeting these needs in a world that isn't set up to do that for us. Our goal must be to empower our children from within.

This session will deal with ways to do this.

FOR STUDENTS WHO ARE GIFTED CREATIVE WRITERS

Accessing the Magic of Your Imagination

Reading and writing stories takes us into the world of our imagination—a magical world where whole worlds and real people emerge from nothing and take form on the screen or printed page. In this workshop we'll explore the ups and downs of the creative process and share our experiences. At the same time we will do our best to remember that whatever the reason we choose to write and whatever the desired outcome, no matter how passionate and serious our intention, creating is closely related to play. Keeping this in mind, even when one hits the wall of "writer's block," can provide us a way around it.

A special note for students

This workshop is for you if you know that creative writing is your real strength and if you believe that writing will always be part of your life even when you are an adult – if you believe that one day you will be a published author or poet or playwright, even if you haven't told anyone else that that's what you hope. Stephanie Tolan believed from the age of nine that she would become a writer, so she understands exactly how you feel.

TUESDAY 8 APRIL 2008 WERRIBEE OPEN RANGE ZOO



GENERAL INTEREST

The Cheetah Analogy

Stephanie Tolan's article "Is it a cheetah?" c.1996

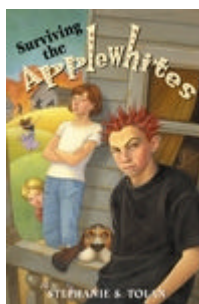
http://www.stephanietolan.com/is_it_a_cheetah.htm has been translated into over 40 languages. It has made the cheetah an analogy for gifted students all over the world and has become the logo of many groups working on behalf of these children. This moving article has helped teachers, parents and policymakers to grasp the different attributes of the gifted child and the need for specific provision for them. It has also been a powerful symbol to generate networks devoted to the conservation of the cheetah.

Stephanie will present The Cheetah Analogy at the Savannah Centre at the Werribee Open Range Zoo.

FOR GIFTED STUDENTS

G.A.T.E.WAYS <http://www.gateways.edu.au/> will present a workshop for Year 5-6 students

WEDNESDAY 9 APRIL 2008 BELGRAVE LIBRARY



GENERAL INTEREST Especially Homeschooling families

BOOKCHAT "SURVIVING THE APPLEWHITES"

Stephanie Tolan's critically acclaimed novel, a 2003 Newbery Honor book, and now a play.

"In this laugh-out-loud novel, a young teen on the fast track to the juvenile detention center suddenly finds himself living in rural North Carolina with the outrageously eccentric Applewhite clan. Jake Semple, 13, has been expelled from a long line of schools before coming to the Applewhites to be home-schooled. This extended family forms what a visiting reporter christens an "artistic dynasty," with various creative endeavors absorbing the adults' time and attention. Jake is left largely to his own devices, since the family doesn't believe in telling their charges what or when to study. He develops a loyal following consisting of an active four-year-old and an overweight basset hound, and his transformation is complete once he becomes enmeshed in the family's production of *The Sound of Music*. Quirky characters, from the cub reporter to the visiting guru, add to the offbeat humor. The Applewhites' over-the-top personalities mark them as literary kin of Helen Cresswell's *Bagthorpes*. Running beneath the narrative that gently pokes fun at everything from sculpture to TV documentaries, though, is also the story of a boy allowing himself to belong and begin to discover his own potential. This has terrific booktalk and read-aloud potential, and will help fill the need for humorous contemporary fiction." -- *Starred review, School Library Journal*

THURSDAY 10 and FRIDAY 11 APRIL 2008 MELBOURNE

The details of the events for these days have not been finalised yet but are expected to include

✱

A LECTURE **Who Are the Gifted and What Do They Need From Us?**

This lecture will explore the powerful differences that gifted children bring into our classrooms, our libraries, and our families and will address ways to meet the wide-ranging needs those differences create, from academic through social and emotional. When our world is full of cages, how can we find ways to allow the cheetahs among us the opportunity to run free.

✱

A DINNER SPEAKING ENGAGEMENT **Change your story - change your life**

Stephanie has realized from the feedback of many grateful readers that she has a role as a "**story healer**" whose work breaks down the isolation and negativity many gifted people feel and helps to heal the stories that they are telling themselves about their lives." As we move through our lives, moment by moment, day by day, each of us is telling ourselves a story – about ourselves, about what is happening to us, about what we can or should do about it, and what it all means"

What Stephanie calls the "Story Principle" is a method of personal empowerment that any of us can learn to use for ourselves and also share with children.

WATCH GIFTED RESOURCES WEBSITE FOR MORE DETAILS OF STEPHANIE TOLAN'S TOUR

Also see the Invitation to Sponsor Brochure for Sponsorship and Advertising Opportunities.

ROSEMARY CATHCART TO VISIT AUS IN JULY 2008 !

Workshops for parents and teachers



Rosemary has been involved in gifted education since 1981 in a wide variety of roles as both parent and teacher. In the mid 1980's she developed the REACH model for teaching gifted children, then became involved in taking workshops for teachers, and from 1990 to 1994 was tutor for the Auckland College of Education's post-grad papers in this field. From 1992 to 1995 she served as sole advisor on gifted children for the Special Education Service (now GSE). In 1995, she established New Zealand's only education centre specialising in gifted education, the George Parkyn Centre, led it through its first decade to its present nationally recognised status, and developed its innovative One Day School programme. She lobbied intensively for many years for change in official attitudes toward gifted education, leading to the Minister's Working Party on which she served. She has also worked extensively with parents and with parent groups and has served as national president of the NZ Assn for Gifted Children and for many years as advisor to that body's National Council. Her published work in this field includes a teachers' manual now in its third edition, editing the papers of Professor George Parkyn, writing a management guide to implementing the Ministry's policy following the NAG change in 2005, and various articles. She was awarded the QSM in 2004 for her work in gifted education.

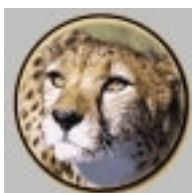
She has a particular interest in professional development in this field. She has travelled regularly throughout New Zealand delivering many hundreds of workshops and seminars for teachers at every level, in schools, universities, colleges of education and to various professional groups ranging from trainee psychologists to ERO, and has worked on various Ministry contracts. In 2006 she established REACH Education Consultancy to allow her to focus on this aspect of gifted education. She is also currently involved in a research project in cooperation with the US National Research Center on the Gifted and Talented.

Her "other" life has included activities such as working as a postie while studying, editing an arts programme for Concert FM, writing feature material on house design, being a play centre Mum, setting up an annual community fair and being an active political party member. She lives in Rotorua with her husband and a mischievous cat.

You can read more about Rosemary Cathcart and her work in New Zealand **on the REACH website** www.reachgifted.org.nz

For details of Rosemary's book 'They're not bringing my brain out' [CLICK HERE](#)

Rosemary Cathcart will be a Keynote Speaker for the AAEGT 12th National Conference "Celebrating Ability" in Hobart, Tasmania 9-11 July 2008
<http://www.giftedconference.org.au/>



**GIFTED RESOURCES
PRESENTS**

Rosemary Cathcart



MAKING IT DIFFERENT !
FULL DAY TEACHER WORKSHOP
THURSDAY 17 JULY 2008 9.00-3.00pm

Magic! Adapt your planning for gifted learners – and enhance your lessons for all your pupils! Here's how...

Explore an exciting “conceptual curriculum” approach to differentiating your planning, with a host of teacher-friendly strategies to support you in making it work in your classroom. This is an approach that's high-interest for teachers as well as pupils, gives a fresh perspective to teaching and learning, and is thoroughly practical for busy teachers.



GIFTEDNESS THREEFOLD !
A TRIO OF PRACTICAL WORKSHOPS
FULL DAY TEACHER WORKSHOP
FRIDAY 18 JULY 2008 9.00-3.00pm

Session One

The gifted learner as researcher (2-hour workshop)

Session Two

Getting gifted boys to write! (2-hour workshop)

Session Three

Coping with the *parents* of your gifted learners! (1.5 hour workshop)



PARENT WORKSHOP

THURSDAY 17 JULY 2008 7.30-9.00pm

Coping with school and your gifted child (and other tricky questions!)

How do you tell the school you think your child might be gifted without them thinking you're a pushy parent? What can you do if they don't seem interested? What if you're not sure whether your child is gifted – how can you tell? How can you respond to a teacher who does not give your child challenging work? How can you help your child at home? Should you be worried if your child spends lots of time alone? Etc etc!
A practical workshop for parents who know or suspect they have a gifted child, with a chance to ask your own questions.

[CLICK HERE](#) FOR FULL DETAIL FLYERS AND REGISTRATION FORMS

Registration cannot be completed Online

Please PRINT OUT the Registration form and send with payment to

Gifted Resources

PO Box 4176

Croydon Hills

Vic 3136

WISHING YOU ALL A GREAT CHRISTMAS AND A SAFE, HAPPY AND PROSPEROUS NEW YEAR!

RITCHIES IGA COMMUNITY BENEFITS

Gifted Resources is participating in the Ritchies IGA Community Benefits scheme. To give Gifted Resources benefit every time you shop for groceries ask at any Ritchies IGA for a Community Benefits card and nominate **Gifted Resources Number 90417**

DISCLAIMER

Gifted Resources aims to provide information about events, services, products and websites which could be of interest. Inclusion in Gifted Resources Website, Information Pack or Newsletter does not necessarily imply any endorsement or guarantee of quality or suitability to meet your specific needs.

Kind regards, Jo Freitag

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