



**GIFTED RESOURCES NEWSLETTER  
MARCH 2010 NO 1**

## *Gifted Resources News*

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**PO BOX 4176  
CROYDON HILLS  
VIC 3136**

The last few weeks have been very busy both personally and with Gifted Resources.

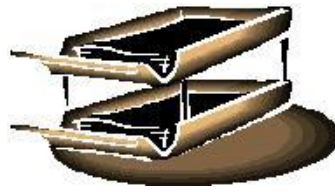
One thing I have been enjoying is the weekly Twitter #gtchat sessions. They are held at noon and 7.00pm Friday U.S time which translates to 4.00 am and 11 am Saturday for me - see

<http://www.giftedresources.org/jo/blog/?p=479>

The topics are chosen by a poll early in the week. Some of the topics we have discussed so far are Advocacy, 2E students, Dabrowski's Overexcitabilities and Literature for gifted students. Transcripts of previous chats can be found at Deborah Mersino's Ingeniosus Blog"

<http://giftedperspective.typepad.com/ingeniosus/>

And I have found a couple of shiny new toys – Prezi for creating presentations which are not slide based as it is with PowerPoint and Youblisher which allows you to create flippable booklets from PDF files. I have used Youblisher to collate some of the themes from Sprite's Site blog into storybooks whose pages turn with a satisfying sound. See <http://www.giftedresources.org/jo/> to read the Memory Elephant, Black Dog (about depression) and Dabrowski's Dogs booklets.



## WHAT'S IN THE IN TRAY?

These items have been received recently and can be found in the In Tray which is located on the Home page of Gifted Resources Website [www.giftedresources.org](http://www.giftedresources.org) The links in the newsletter are not live – please go to the In Tray to access them

If you would like information included in the newsletter and/or the In Tray please send to [contributions@giftedresources.org](mailto:contributions@giftedresources.org)

**CHIP CHAT February 2010** [PDF FILE](#)

**G.A.T.E.WAYS BRAINWAVES CLUB 2010** [PDF FLYER](#)

**CAROL BARNES Gifted...With something else going on?! 8 March 2010** [FLYER](#)

**BILLANOOK COLLEGE DIMENSIONS PARENTS FORUM Billanook College 15 March 2010** [FLYER](#)

**CRITICAL AGENDAS Success in teaching twice exceptional children Jo Freitag & Maxine Cowie**  
11-12 March 2010 PDF [FLYER](#)

**GIFTED SUPPORT NETWORK Penny Willoughby Spot The Difference - A Practical Approach To Differentiation For Gifted Children 18 March 2010** [PDF FLYER](#)

**G.A.T.E.WAYS LEADERSHIP SEMINARS** [FLYER](#) [FORM](#) [WEBSITE](#)

**CHIP WEEK OUT AUTUMN HOLIDAY PROGRAM 2010** [PRELIMINARY FLYER PDF BROCHURE](#)

**ACE2010 Digital Diversity Conference Melbourne Convention & Exhibition Centre 6-9 April 2010** [WEBSITE](#)

**SCRATCH DAY 22 May 2010** [WEBSITE](#)

**COMPUTER GAMES BOOT CAMP MONASH UNIVERSITY 3-9 July 2010** [WEBSITE](#)

**11th ASIA PACIFIC CONFERENCE GIFTED 2010 SYDNEY 29 July - 1 August 2010** [WEBSITE](#)

**AUSTRALIAN GIFTED SUPPORT CENTRE Harry P and the Professors Hogwarts in Melbourne**  
Gifted Camp 15-17 October 2010 [FLYER](#)

**11<sup>th</sup> International Conference of The Mathematics Education into the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Project**  
Turning Dreams into Reality: Transformations and Paradigm Shifts in Mathematics Education  
**Rhodes University, Grahamstown, South Africa September 10– 16, 2011** Preliminary Announcement and Call for Papers [FLYER](#)

**JUNE**

**GUEST SPEAKER**

**DR. GAIL BYRNE**

**YOU HAVE AN ASSESSMENT - WHAT HAPPENS NEXT?**

Friday 18 June 2010

7.00pm for 7.30pm start

Centre for the Exceptional Learner Luther College Plymouth Rd Croydon Vic 3136

Cost: \$20.00

Having had an assessment of your child you should now have a report which contains some educational recommendations.

What do you do with that report?

To whom do you hand the report?

What can you expect from the school if you hand them the report?

When is acceleration (grade advancement) likely to be considered an option by a school?

How do schools view it? How can you achieve it if it is considered appropriate for your child?

What is an IEP or ILP – does your child need one?

Dr Gail Byrne

As a psychologist Gail operates a private consultancy specialising in the IQ assessment of children and adolescents and consults to a number of schools about their testing programs and the identification and management of exceptional children who may be challenging and complex and need individual education programs developed.

Gail's involvement in the gifted field started some 20 years ago. She has been involved with the CHIP Foundation since 1989 and was elected Chairperson in 2001, a role she still holds.

After completing a Master of Education (1992) in curriculum differentiation, and a Graduate Diploma in Counselling (1995), Gail was awarded a Doctorate in Psychology in 2002 for her research into the levels of academic achievement and underachievement in a group of 50 children with IQs ranging between 125 and 200.

Gail is sought after as a speaker on giftedness, underachievement and testing; has completed a DEET project on giftedness and has authored a number of papers on exceptional children.

As a registered psychologist, practising teacher and parent of two gifted children (now adults) she has developed a quite unique understanding of intellectual giftedness.

**TO BOOK OR FOR FURTHER INFORMATION  
CONTACT GIFTED RESOURCES BY 16.06.2010**

Phone (03) 97242452

Email [jo@giftedresources.org](mailto:jo@giftedresources.org)



# GIFTED SUPPORT NETWORK

[www.giftedsupport.org](http://www.giftedsupport.org)

Presents

**Penny Willoughby**

B. Ed. Primary, First Class Honours

## **“Spot The Difference - A Practical Approach To Differentiation For Gifted Children”**

Thursday 18 March, 2010, 7.45 - 9.30pm

When I go to my Pilates class, the teacher gives us a huge range of options and encourages us to work at our own level. This is the standard practice for this teacher; not a special occurrence. Naturally we all work at our own pace and level because we all have such different needs. This is not unlike differentiation in the classroom. It needs to be the way we teach all the time and if done properly, will cater suitably for all students. This is readily accepted for children with learning disabilities and also needs to be implemented for gifted students. *“Psychologists and teachers agree that the best learning happens when a student’s level of understanding matches the challenge of new material.”* (Gifted Children in the Classroom. Accor Services, North America, 2004)

This seminar will address the following:

- What is the difference between real differentiation and what’s actually happening in many classrooms?
- How can differentiation cater for gifted students’ needs?
- What does effective differentiation look like?
- What are the basics of implementing differentiation in your classroom?
- How can a parent encourage effective differentiation for their gifted child?

If you are a teacher, this seminar will provide you with a better understanding of differentiation and some practical ways to implement it in your classroom. If you are a parent, you will learn how to identify real differentiation and pick up some hints for how to approach the school about the topic. A range of examples will be provided to demonstrate differentiation. You’ll also receive a list of practical ideas for conducting differentiated lessons.

*No prior knowledge expected.*

**Venue: Southern Community Church of Christ, Corner Chesterville Rd & Pine St, Cheltenham (Mel ref 86 J1)**

**Cost: \$5 members, \$10 non-members,**

**Bookings essential (payment on the night)**

**RSVP by email [admin@giftedsupport.org](mailto:admin@giftedsupport.org)**

**or phone Louise 9578 8068 (after 6pm)**

# PARENT SUPPORT GROUPS

## 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" - activities for preschoolers
- \* "Primary Minds" - 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](http://www.giftedsupport.org)

or phone Carolyn (9576 5137)

P.O. Box 2808 Cheltenham, 3192

Email address is [admin@giftedsupport.org](mailto:admin@giftedsupport.org)

**For the full program of Gifted Support Network activities see the excellent calendar of events at**

<http://www.giftedsupport.org>

## 'THE BIG BANG COFFEE CLUB'

**The Big Bang Coffee Club meets on the first Monday of the month at 9.30am (School and Public Holidays excepted) at:**

### The Coffee Club

Shop 49-50

Moonee Ponds Central

14-16 Hall Street

Moonee Ponds

3 hours of free undercover parking is available in the Moonee Ponds Central car park

Contacts:

Sally-Ann Free

[sallyann.free@live.vu.edu.au](mailto:sallyann.free@live.vu.edu.au)

Mobile 0425 779 829

Tina McCarthy

[tina@tinamccarthydesign.com](mailto:tina@tinamccarthydesign.com)

## BIG BANG COFFEE CLUB

### Mini/Primary Minds group

For details contact

Melissa Conley Tyler

[m.conleytyler@gmail.com](mailto:m.conleytyler@gmail.com)

mobile 0409 765 787

## MAROONDAH GIFTED CHILDREN'S PARENTS' ASSOC.

Morning Coffee at MacDonald's, Maroondah Hwy. Croydon Vic. at 10.30 am on the first Wednesday of the month

Postal address:

c/- 13 Heathwood St

Ringwood East Vic 3135

Contact Jennifer Grant

Phone 9779 4218

[ijgrant@optusnet.com.au](mailto:ijgrant@optusnet.com.au)

Louise Howe Phone 9801 2912

[louise\\_h@tpg.com.au](mailto:louise_h@tpg.com.au)

## CHIP GEELONG

CHIP Family Support Group Geelong

Contact

Meg Kinsley email [Kingsleys@optusnet.com.au](mailto:Kingsleys@optusnet.com.au)

## **Bass Coast/South Gippsland shire, Phillip Island, Wonthaggi area**

Megan Leigh would like to connect with other parents of gifted children in the Bass Coast/South Gippsland shire. Phillip Island, Wonthaggi area who would be interested in getting together for a network

Contact Megan Leigh

PO Box 906

Cowes, 3922

Phone (03) 5672 3336

Mobile 0411 469 759

email [indigo2crystal@yahoo.com.au](mailto:indigo2crystal@yahoo.com.au)

## **Casterton and district area**

Catriona Hill would like to connect with other parents of gifted children in the Casterton and District area

Contact : Catriona Hill

Phone (03)55812529

Mobile 0419008734

Email: [antrim@netspace.net.au](mailto:antrim@netspace.net.au)

Web: <http://au.groups.yahoo.com/group/tallpoppysyndrome/>

## **GIFTED RESOURCE AND INFORMATION GROUP - CASEY/CARDINIA**

For families with gifted children in Casey/Cardinia

Meets at Maranatha Christian School Rix Rd, Officer.

Contact

Victoria Poulos

Phone 0420 286 307

Email [victoriapoulos@gmail.com](mailto:victoriapoulos@gmail.com)

Email [victoriapoulos@gmail.com](mailto:victoriapoulos@gmail.com)

## **VICTORIA / NEW SOUTH WALES**

### [NSW ASSOCIATION FOR GIFTED & TALENTED CHILDREN ALBURY/WODONGA SUPPORT GROUP](#)

Meets bi-monthly in Wodonga, Victoria, and welcomes parents & teachers of gifted children

For information contact

Secretary, Cathy Baillie (02) 6021 5913

Phone: 02 60215913

Assistant Secretary, Jeannie Bowen (02) 6021 2073

website link <http://www.nswagtc.org.au/albury-wodonga>

## **NEW SOUTH WALES**

NEW GROUP in the St George/Sutherland area

Just letting everyone know that a support group has started for gifted children 2-5yrs (or there about) and their parents/carers in the St George/Sutherland area.

We meet each Thursday of school term 10am -12pm.

We are finalising a hall, so are meeting at a park for the time being.

It is a relaxed friendly and supportive group where children get an opportunity to mix with like minds and the adults feel comfortable to discuss G&T issues :)

Bring drinks/snacks and a smile.

Louise

Mobile 0411 586 830

Listen to DR DEBORAH L. RUF on radio

ABC Radio National Life Matters

<http://www.abc.net.au/rn/lifematters/stories/2010/2812698.htm>

## **11th Asia Pacific Conference on Giftedness** **EARLY BIRD ONLINE REGISTRATION IS NOW OPEN**

<http://www.gifted2010.com.au/>

The theme for the conference in Sydney in 2010 is  
*"Thinking Smart: Effective partnerships for talent development"*.

The conference will feature the **Think Bank Workshop, Think Bank Program** and **Youth Summit**. This event provides the opportunity for educators, professionals, students and parents to gather for meaningful discussion, exchange ideas and opinions and learnings through plenary sessions and workshops

The program outline can be downloaded at [http://www.gifted2010.com.au/wp-content/uploads/gifted\\_2010\\_program\\_outline12.pdf](http://www.gifted2010.com.au/wp-content/uploads/gifted_2010_program_outline12.pdf)

Helen McGowan  
WSM for GIFTED 2010  
11th Asia Pacific Conference on Giftedness  
Australian Association for the Education of the Gifted & Talented  
Tel: 03 9645 6311  
Email: [helen@wsm.com.au](mailto:helen@wsm.com.au)

### **G.A.T.E.WAYS 'Next Step' Leadership Series**

G.A.T.E.WAYS is now enrolling for its first Grade 6 Next Step Leadership Series program for 2010, to be held on March 29th and 30th.

Parents may enrol direct with G.A.T.E.WAYS for this program.

Program information is available on [www.gateways.edu.au](http://www.gateways.edu.au)

To register, please contact the series organiser, Christine Ireland on 9894 2116 or [christine@gateways.edu.au](mailto:christine@gateways.edu.au)

### **The Royal Commonwealth Society's Global Competitions for all**

Theme Science, Technology and Society for 2010.

The creative writing, photo and video competitions with sections to cover junior primary to senior secondary.

The writing is due 1 May, [www.thercs.org/youth/essaycompetition](http://www.thercs.org/youth/essaycompetition)

the photo image is due 1 June [www.thercs.org/youth/photoawards](http://www.thercs.org/youth/photoawards)

the 30-90 sec film is due 1 July [www.thercs.org/youth/visionawards](http://www.thercs.org/youth/visionawards)

## **UNEP 19<sup>th</sup> annual Painting Competition for 6-14 year olds**

Theme “Biodiversity – connecting with nature”

Hard copy of painting to be sent to the regional UNEP office by 15 April

For more info

<http://www.unep.org/tunza/Events/19thPaintingCompetition/tabid/1328/language/en-US/Default.aspx>

## **National Curriculum**

The draft K-10 Australian Curriculum in English, mathematics, science and history has been uploaded to the web and is now available for a period of 'public consultation'.

You can read, review, download or print it from

<http://www.australiancurriculum.edu.au/> however, site registration is required.

The K-10 consultation process will be open until 23 May 2010.

The government plans to implement this national curriculum next year.

A national curriculum for years 11 and 12 is to follow.

It would be wise for home educators to be aware of what the national curriculum covers.

## **From David Reid Giant Classroom**

### **The Giant Classroom – resources for History, Geography and Science**

In 1992, the savvy Tasmanian company Giant Classroom was formed to allow students from Australia and New Zealand to interact with each other in a contemporary, friendly and educational shared online environment.

“It is the goal of Giant Classroom to engage students on a global learning platform so that they can become more informed of relevant issues around the world, and more culturally aware,” says David Reid, former teacher and founder of Giant Classroom. “We are also interested in rewarding the development of research, analysis and interpretive skills rather than pure rote memorisation.”

Giant Classroom programs include The Great Race, the Asia-Wise Competition, the Science Challenge and the Primary Research Project, which are tailored for both primary and secondary school students. The programs encourage thorough investigation into areas of history, science, geography and studies of society and environment (SOSE) in enjoyable ways, and offer various levels of competition. Content is produced by local teachers, and has in the past involved collaboration with institutions such as the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO). Success has been wide-spread, with the Asia-Wise Competition engaging over 20,000 students per year from Australia and New Zealand.

Teachers have also found Giant Classroom’s innovative programs hugely successful in helping to alleviate their workloads. These primarily self-directed learning tools steer students to access questions, submit answers and receive reports online, meaning that there is no preparation or marking required from the teacher. The programs allow ideal flexibility as they can be accessed throughout the school year from any location, and can act just as effectively as homework tasks or as extra projects for accelerated learners.

“Another wonderful education resource that has been both enjoyable and challenging,” says the deputy principal of St Joseph’s College in New South Wales, of the Primary Research Project, “the event was such a buzz.”

“The students are so keen to do more. I feel that I will be able to use this as a basis for building an advanced group interested in the humanities,” says teacher Joe Moore of Mazenod College, Western Australia.

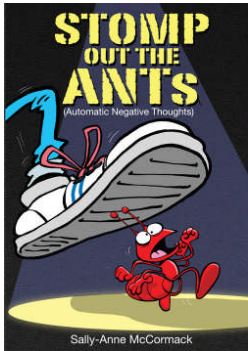
For further details or interview, contact:

David Reid, Giant Classroom: [www.giantclassroom.com.au](http://www.giantclassroom.com.au)



## FROM SALLY-ANNE McCORMACK

It's been a big year for the WebPsychologist practice so far. On Thursday March 18<sup>th</sup>, my first book (Stomp Out The ANTs) is being launched in Balwyn by ADAVIC.



ANTs (Automatic Negative Thoughts) are annoying creatures that trouble everyone! This simple guide is effective due to its content and the practical writing style of the author, and can be referred to by anyone who is dealing with a plague of ANTs!

Sally-Anne describes the analogy of the ANTs - everyone gets them, they are hard to get rid of, and we often don't notice them until there is a huge pile of black pests hiding all of the good things underneath them. She describes some popular strategies to "stomp" out the ANTs, and ways of helping yourself to prevent future infestations!

If you have ever been anxious, depressed, or had any negative thoughts, then this book is for you!

We had a small "preliminary" book launch with Gifted Resources in Croydon which was an informal and intimate introduction to this book (*incidentally, Jo Freitag is currently reading over my next book which is about parenting gifted children!*). Soon we will have EVERYONE stomping!!! ,

In addition, I have tentatively pencilled in some dates for the Stomp Out The ANTs program for Year 5 & 6 children. It is a 6 week program for 10 - 12 year olds to teach them skills and strategies to help them to prevent depression and anxiety. Research shows that these preventative programs can have a protective factor for children years afterwards. Remember, for those with a Mental Health Care Plan, some of these sessions are partially rebatable through Medicare!

The dates are Wednesdays from the 21<sup>st</sup> April to 26<sup>th</sup> May at 5pm for one hour in Blackburn. Jo Freitag, please forward this information on to other interested parents and let me know in the next few weeks if you would like to book in. You can click [here](#) - the booking form is at the bottom of the page.

**PLEASE** make sure that you have **CHANGED** your bookmarks. My website is now [www.WebPsychologist.com.au](http://www.WebPsychologist.com.au) so please click on [this link](#) and save it onto your computer.

And finally, please let your school / work place know that Sally-Anne is available for presentations again this year on topics including "Child & Adolescent Depression", "Adult Depression and Anxiety", "Dealing with Sleep Issues" among others. If you have a particular topic that you would like a psychologist to present, please contact her office. And book in early as she continues to have many media commitments (as you may have noticed!).

Sally-Anne McCormack  
PRINCIPAL PSYCHOLOGIST M.A.P.S.  
(03) 881 22 373

There are some photos of the preliminary book launch at Gifted Resources on Gifted Resources homepage [www.giftedresources.org](http://www.giftedresources.org)  
**STOMP OUT THE ANTS** is available now from Gifted Resources at a cost of \$20.00

FROM DERRIN CRAMER THINKING AHEAD W.A.

As I mentioned in the newsletter recently, this year I am planning to offer gifted kids whose schools don't run the program the chance to be involved in the Future Problem Solving Program through Thinking Ahead.

This is a great program that is particularly suited to gifted kids and gives them the opportunity to develop critical and creative thinking skills, as well as research and communication skills while investigating multiple aspects of a future based topic. As they work in small teams (4 or 5 students) it is a chance to develop team work skills with like minds. Have a look at some more information about the program and the sorts of skills your child would develop through being involved via [this link](#).

The coaching sessions will take place on Wednesday afternoons and will be held in the library at Nedlands Primary School (selected as it provides a fairly central venue) from 4.00 until 5.30pm. Cost will be \$22 per week and will be invoiced by the term (rather than paid week by week). The number of sessions varies slightly each term and further details can be found on the Thinking Ahead website at [www.thinkingahead.com.au/fps.htm](http://www.thinkingahead.com.au/fps.htm)

If your child was part of a team who qualified to attend the National Competition there would be extra costs involved in travelling to Melbourne to compete.

Coaching sessions will be held on the following dates:

Term 1 - March 10, 17, 24, 31.

Term 2 – April 21, 28. May 5, 12, 19, 26. June 2, 9, 16, 23, 30

Term 3 – July 28, August 4<sup>th</sup>

Students who qualified for the National Competition would need to attend 5 additional training sessions will be held on Sept 1, 8, 15 and 22 (Term 3) and October 13<sup>th</sup> (Term 4) prior to travelling to Melbourne to compete October 15 – 17<sup>th</sup>.

The first session will be held on **March 10<sup>th</sup>**. While registrations may be able to be accepted after this date, we do need a minimum of 10 students for this program to go ahead so please do register early.

I have had a couple of queries about whether you can come along to 'try it out'. As it has taken a while to get everything in line and I will have to pay the team registrations prior to our start date, it won't be possible this year to have a try out session. However, if your child comes to the first session and then really does not want to continue, please let me know. If we still have sufficient numbers for the teams registered, I can just invoice you for the first session. (If not, I would have to invoice you for more than one session to cover the cost of team registration, unless we had some late comers. Please don't consider this option unless you are prepared to be flexible with regard to the cost involved)

**The coach** for the team will be Liberty Cramer, a young lady who is a registered coach and has also completed the evaluator's course. Liberty was involved with FPS as a co-curricular program for her last 3 years of high school years and with her team qualified to attend the national competition twice. Since then she has been involved with coaching teams of girls at Penrhos College. She is currently studying a Law/Arts degree at UWA. You may have spoken to Liberty on the phone, or met her when she was supervising holiday programs at various times over the last few years.

I can highly recommend the Future Problem Solving Program. I consider FPS to be one of the most valuable things my own daughters have done in their school years and apart from widening their world view I have seen them transfer the skills they learned into other areas of life, particularly to situations where problem solving is needed, but also in structuring their thinking (which has been useful in essay writing). My younger daughter is just starting her 6<sup>th</sup> year of involvement with FPS and so far has qualified for the national competition 3 times (once as an individual) and despite the workload of Year 12 has elected not to drop it from her co-curricular program.

If you have further questions about Future Problem Solving please contact me (preferably by email). To find out more about the program and how it works, go to the FPS Australia website at [www.fpsp.org.au](http://www.fpsp.org.au) (they cant help you with any queries, this link is simply if you want to know more about this great international program). For a snapshot, go to <http://www.thinkingahead.com.au/FPS%20General%20Information.doc>

To register your child for this program go to [www.thinkingahead.com.au/fps.htm](http://www.thinkingahead.com.au/fps.htm) where you will find answers to some questions you might have, or you can go directly to the registration form at [www.thinkingahead.com.au/fps\\_registration.htm](http://www.thinkingahead.com.au/fps_registration.htm)

Derrin Cramer. MEd Gifted and Talented, Dip Teach ECE, COGE  
Director, K&D Holdings Pty Ltd **Trading as Thinking Ahead Extension Workshops**  
PO Box 171, Como WA 6952

(08) 9474 4594

È (08) 9474 3462

[www.thinkingahead.com.au](http://www.thinkingahead.com.au) Gifted education opportunities for children, parents and teachers

## CHANGES OF ADDRESS

### **AISV**

New mail address  
PO Box 119  
North Melbourne Vic 3051

New street address  
40 Rosslyn St  
West Melbourne Vic 3003

Phone 03 9825 7200  
Fax 03 9826 6066

### **KIDS AT KOOYONG**

#### **Becci Torode - Speech Pathologist**

Becci is an experienced Paediatric Speech Pathologist. She has a keen interest in the assessment and management of 0 – 5 year old children presenting with a range of complex developmental communication difficulties, including articulation, language and conversational skills. Becci has a particular interest in the assessment, differential diagnosis and holistic management of young children presenting with Autism Spectrum Disorder. She frequently works as part of a multi-disciplinary team and is interested in working with others to offer conjoint developmental cognitive and communication assessments. These detailed assessments assist in the differential diagnosis of children presenting with Autism Spectrum Disorder and/or other complex behavioural, emotional or communication difficulties.

email: [becnel@optusnet.com.au](mailto:becnel@optusnet.com.au)  
mobile: (03) 9500 8088

#### **Alison Brown - Child Psychologist**

Alison Brown is a registered psychologist, an experienced teacher and a parent. She works in both a counselling and consultancy capacity with parents, students and schools, offering individual counselling and parenting support for children experiencing anxieties, behavioural problems, and social / emotional issues. She also runs parenting seminars, teacher inservicing, and small group programs in social skills development both through the clinic, and in schools. Alison brings experience from both an educational and psychological background. Having taught for seven years at Methodist Ladies' College, Melbourne and worked as a school psychologist at Mosman Preparatory School and Kincoppal-Rose Bay, Sydney, she has first-hand experience in recognising and catering for the social, emotional, and academic needs of students. Alongside her private practice work, Alison is also completing a PhD through La Trobe University investigating the benefits of using Narrative Therapy with children in counselling.

email: [alisonbrown@psychologyandchildren.com.au](mailto:alisonbrown@psychologyandchildren.com.au)  
mobile: 0408 177982

#### **Emma Donaldson - Educational Consultant**

Emma Donaldson from Colours Of Grey Matters will be practising at 'Kids in Kooyong', specialising in Special Education tutoring, sessions and programs. Emma's expertise is in particular working with gifted individuals, individuals with an ASD and dual labelled individuals. Literacy and numeracy support are also incorporated into the range of services available. Emma has experience in Coordinating Gifted Programs and Case Managing in ASD. Emma is the Co-Director of PLIESE Pty Ltd and the Co-developer of PLIESE Learning Tool, which has been designed specifically for Special Education. Emma is thrilled to be joining the Kids in Kooyong clinic, providing services through Colours Of Grey Matters as a Special Education Consultation and PLIESE Pty Ltd guidance for all PLIESE families or interested parties. Currently, Emma is completing a PhD in Special Education/Psychology focusing on dual labelled students - gifted with Aspergers syndrome.

email: [emma.donaldson@cogmatters.com.au](mailto:emma.donaldson@cogmatters.com.au) / [emma@pliese.com.au](mailto:emma@pliese.com.au)  
mobile: 0438 951716 / 0413 408076

# ICT for the Gifted and Talented Professional Learning Series

<http://www.vitta.org.au/events/event/ict-for-the-gifted-and-talented-pl-series>

Session 1 17 Mar 2010



## **Digital Citizenship and the thinking student**

Bloom's Digital Taxonomy attempts to account for the new behaviours and actions emerging as technology advances and becomes more ubiquitous.

These technologies include Web 2.0 technologies and increasingly personal and cloud computing. Bloom's Digital Taxonomy isn't about the tools or technologies rather, it is about using these to facilitate learning. The communication skills covered range from texting and instant messaging to debating, negotiating, moderating and collaborating. These skills are associated with the range of thinking skills from lower order to the higher order thinking skills. In this new cyberworld students need to learn about digital citizenship and thinking.

### **About the Presenter**

Jess McCulloch has spent the last three years working with various Web 2.0 technologies to make her classes more interactive, collaborative and creative. These technologies have enabled her to work with particular interest in extending gifted and talented students in her classes. Jess is passionate about including the complete range of student learning abilities and learning styles to empower

Jess has built herself a strong online Personal Learning Network and has experience with blogging, using wikis, podcasting, social networking to build her professional learning. This year she is beginning her Masters degree with a focus on how to best use social networking for language learning to assist teachers to successfully implement them into their practice.

**Date:** Wednesday March 17, 2010

**Time:** 4:30pm to 6:30pm

**Venue:** VATE Training Room - Suite 201, 134 Cambridge Street, Collingwood

**BYO:** Laptop

**Cost:** VITTA and VAGTC members \$ 150 (Inc. GST) non-members \$190.00 (Inc. GST)

## **MR. FAISAL ALAMIRI**

"*Faisal Alamiri* is a qualified primary teacher and has worked as a gifted educational advisor to Saudi Arabian primary school. He holds a Bachelor degree in Special Education specializing in Gifted Education from King Saud University, Saudi Arabia. He also holds a Master degree in Special Education from La Trobe University, Australia, and prior to his studies in Australia, was a Lecturer in Special Education at the King Abdulaziz University, in his home country. His master thesis is titled: *Challenging Gifted Children and the Phenomenon of ADHD: A Qualitative Study of Teachers and Parents Perceptions in a Saudi Arabian Primary School*. Alamiri is currently a doctoral student at La Trobe University for the degree of *Doctor of Philosophy in Gifted Education*"

I am looking to engage (whether as a participant, or observer, or learning partner) in some school activities directed to gifted children, gifted programs (e.g. Enrichment programs... etc.), workshops/training programs about giftedness and twice exceptional children, or any related activities.

Also, I would be happy to speak or present on the topic of my master thesis '*Three Misses Model*' of Giftedness and AD/HD that was derived from my research. The research topic including this model was presented at the VAGTC conference in August, 2009.

### **Mr. FAISAL ALAMIRI**

**A doctoral candidate  
Special Education-Gifted Education  
LA TROBE UNIVERSITY  
Australia**

**Mobile: +61 43 123 1161  
Email : [faisalgift@hotmail.com](mailto:faisalgift@hotmail.com)**

## **SOME INTERESTING WEBSITES**

Davidson Institute Educators Guild

<http://www.davidsongifted.org/edguild/>

Forests Forever Ecology Camp - 2nd - 5th April

<http://www.eastgippsland.net.au/>

Jenny Luca Review of Educon

<http://jennylu.wordpress.com/2010/02/08/the-philadelphia-experiment-educon-2-2/>

Educon 2.2

<http://educon22.org/>

The Giant Classroom – extension programs for history, geography and science

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

The Dyslexia myth

<http://dyslexicbrian.com/dyslexia-videos/the-dyslexia-myth/>

Make the letters stop dancing

<http://dyslexicbrian.com/inspirational-stories/make-the-letters-stop-dancing-%E2%80%93-an-inspirational-dyslexia-life-story/>

Bright Mind Labs

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

Don't be THAT Mom be THE Mom

<http://ow.ly/15Nbm>

Gliffy

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

Prezi

<http://prezi.com/>

Ginger – the write solution

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

WATI – Wisconsin Assistive Technologies Initiative

<http://www.wati.org/?pageLoad=content/supports/free/index.php>

Youblisher

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

First Lego League Robotics Coaching page

[http://web.me.com/keithmjohnson/Site/Coaching\\_Page.html](http://web.me.com/keithmjohnson/Site/Coaching_Page.html)

Spencer Tait

[http://news.mongabay.com/2010/0216-hance\\_spencertait.html](http://news.mongabay.com/2010/0216-hance_spencertait.html)

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Kind regards, Jo Freitag

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