

**The West Australian Association  
of Teacher Assistants Inc.**



# **WAATA 2017 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary**

August 25<sup>th</sup>, 26<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup>

Rendezvous Hotel

The Esplanade, Scarborough

**Registration:** Friday, August 25<sup>th</sup> – 5:30pm-6:30pm  
Saturday, August 26<sup>th</sup> – 7:30am-8:00am

**Sip 'n' Chat:** Friday, August 25<sup>th</sup> – 6.30pm-8.00pm *Mentelle Room*

**Conference Dinner:** Saturday, August 26<sup>th</sup> – 7.00pm *Grand Ballroom*  
(Doors open at 6.40pm - Please be seated by 6.50pm)

# WAATA 2017 - 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Conference Programme

## Saturday, August 26th - Morning sessions

### SESSION 1 8.30am – 10.00am

#### Barrier Games

Leanne Sharp and Sue Charlick

Learn what a Barrier Game is and how to create and play Barrier Games. This session will inspire you in a very practical, hands on workshop. Barrier Games are a powerful tool to strengthen literacy and numeracy. You will be shown how to set up Barrier Games and learn the value of this strategy. The hands on gives you the opportunity to be the Directors and the Listener in a variety of Barrier Games and how to increase the levels of language and communication. You will leave with the skills and knowledge to create and play Barrier Games.

#### Developing Reasoning through Early Geometry PP-3

Richard Korbosky

This session will be 'hands on' aimed at developing young students understanding, thinking and reasoning skills in shape. There will be a focus on manipulative mathematics materials to help students to visualise, communicate, draw and reason accurately. Participants will be introduced to the NEW Mathomat (Primary) which allows children to draw 2D shapes accurately, to be creative in their drawings and to keep an accurate recording of the geometry work they have been involved in. Come along or be square.

#### Explicit Teaching of Vocabulary

Rosemary Collis

Assistants and support staff are often asked to work with students with low literacy and ESL students. These students require the explicit teaching of teaching vocabulary at a subject specific and generalised level. This workshop will explain the importance of vocabulary for reading comprehension and writing; provide strategies, templates and activities to teach vocabulary and provide time to experience how these strategies work in a classroom setting. *Bring along a thumb drive* and download an array of ready-to-use templates and activities to assist with vocabulary acquisition. The session will be divided into three parts: 1. Why teach vocabulary? 2. The research 3. Practical activities.

#### Number Sense - Supporting Students who have a Specific Learning Difficulty in Maths Shirley Houston

Dyscalculia is sometimes referred to as "the mathematical equivalent of dyslexia." It has a similar incidence rate but is probably the least known of the specific learning difficulties that can impact significantly on academic achievement. This workshop will help participants to understand the difficulties typically experienced by dyscalculia students. It will provide opportunity to learn about and trial strategies and resources that support them.



### MORNING TEA - 10.00am-10.30am



### SESSION 2 10.30am – 12.00pm

#### Supporting Students with ADHD in the Classroom

Dr. Michele Toner

Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD) is a common condition affecting 5-7% of school-aged children. Whilst much information about ADHD centres on the core symptoms of Inattention, Hyperactivity and Impulsivity, it is also helpful to focus on the Executive Function (EF) impairments typical of the disorder which has serious implications in the classroom for students with ADHD. In addition, most students with ADHD will have at least one co-existing condition that further complicates their ability to learn. This presentation will provide a summary of EF dysfunctions and their impact on students' learning. It will provide practical strategies for engaging students with ADHD and the scaffolding required for them to flourish at school.

#### Geometry in 4-6:

#### The T's of Spatial Thinking: Transform, Translate and Tessellate

Richard Korbosky

An important thinking skill for students to develop is the ability to visualise. They should be able to connect 3 dimensional models to their 2 dimensional representations. The ability to look at drawings or pictures to see the mathematics needs to be developed. Students need to progress from manipulative materials to drawings to abstractions and it should not be rushed. Participants will be introduced to the NEW Mathomat (Primary) which has been specifically designed for students to accurately draw and develop creative thinking in geometry. Come along or be square.

#### Coding for Beginners PP-6

Helen Oke

Explore the Digital Technologies Curriculum, focussing on computational thinking and coding through a variety of apps, websites and unplugged activities.

#### TOBY–Autism Early Intervention Program & Supporting Strengths & Interests–In and Out of School

#### 1st Topic: TOBY - An Early Intervention Program

Tania Rodwell

TOBY Autism Therapy is a unique, therapist-and-parent designed Early Intervention application for children with Autism. TOBY's iPad tasks co-ordinate with off-iPad tasks to help a child learn skills in the real world. By having a dynamic curriculum, TOBY is able to adapt to each child's learning and developmental needs by choosing goals and adjusting the difficulty of tasks.

#### 2nd Topic: Supporting Strengths and Interests In and Out of School

Louise Sheehy/Alison Davis

The Special Interests Model and a Strengths Based Approach for young people with Autism Spectrum Disorder is a reflection on how a 'strengths based' approach and supported collaboration on special interests, creates a positive environment for individuals who experience social anxieties, and how they can improve self-esteem and create friendships.



The  
WAATA  
Committee  
invites you  
to attend the  
25<sup>th</sup>  
Anniversary  
WAATA  
Conference

#### EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

CHAIRPERSON  
Nadia Reynolds

VICE  
CHAIRPERSON  
Julie Corich

SECRETARY  
Sue Collins

TREASURER  
Lyn Worth

#### CONFERENCE COMMITTEE

CONFERENCE  
CO-ORDINATOR  
Nadia Reynolds

CONFERENCE  
SECRETARY  
Lawana Williams

CONFERENCE  
COMMITTEE/  
MARKETING  
Sue Collins  
Julie Corich  
Maria Cox  
Jan McCagh  
Karen Peters  
Louise Rhodes  
Kerrie Wann  
Angie Williams  
Lyn Worth

#### NEWSLETTER

EDITOR  
Maria Cox

# WAATA 2017 - 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Conference Programme

## Saturday, August 26th - Afternoon sessions



**LUNCH - 12.00pm-1.00pm**



### **SESSION 3 1.00pm – 2.30pm**

#### **Aboriginal Engagement in Perth Metropolitan Region**

**Mikayla King/Preston Culbong**

This presentation is about understanding how to best support Aboriginal students and their families in the role of Education Assistant. We will be covering three main topics that have a direct impact on students and families, which are; Relationships, Identity and the Learning Environment. We will provide you with key ideas to implement back in your educational setting and to share with your colleagues. The two presenters have a range of experience working with primary and secondary schools, community, Aboriginal students and families that spans years. The session will finish with a question and answer opportunity where we can strengthen your further learning and provide support for individual situations.

#### **Moving on with Literacy – The synergistic effect of movement on beginning literacy and readiness to learn**

**Dr. Deborah Callcott**

The positive effect of specifically programmed, neuro developmentally appropriate movement on the physical, social/emotional and cognitive development of young children. Developmental factors enhanced by specific movement programming including links to engagement and learning.

An outline of the simple program that has proven results in improving beginning literacy and movement outcomes when combined with a phonologically based literacy development program. Research results recently published in an International Early Childhood Journal. Program particularly suitable for 3 year old Kindy, Kindy and Pre-Primary children. Takes into account the needs of early years' educators who have limited time to develop important school readiness skills such as manual dexterity, mid line crossing and perceptual motor skills in their classes.

#### **Introduction to the New Mastery Learning Folder Strategy for K-12**

**Nicola Carr-White**

Education Assistants serve a vital role in delivering specialised learning programs in schools. This session will provide participants with the understanding needed to immediately implement this practical and powerful strategy to address the individualised learning needs of students.

*Folder content can include a combination of:* specific learning content e.g. phonics sounds, multi-step tasks e.g. mental maths strategies, exercise descriptions e.g. fine/gross motor skill practice, life skill goals e.g. social skills and agreed routine/task accountability. The session will include background information, a demonstration of the folder process, an overview of the free online resources and a workshop component for participants to make their own Mastery Learning Folder.

#### **CV and Application Writing**

**Jackie Watt**

This workshop will assist you in creating a professional CV and the information you should include. Learn how to write your cover letter incorporating the selection criteria in a Situation, Action, Outcome (SAO) format. You will be encouraged to discuss specific situations pertaining to your job role during the workshop and Jackie will assist you to articulate this in your application.



**AFTERNOON TEA - 2.30pm-3.00pm**



### **KEYNOTE SPEAKER - 3.00pm-4.00pm**

#### **MAGGIE DENT - Dare to be Exceptional as an Education Assistant**

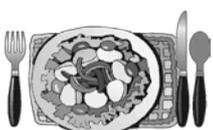
**WAATA Patron**

This seminar challenges the mediocrity of meeting minimum standards and shaping people to be able to do a job rather than being a person who can change the world. Maggie inspires big thinking in a simple and practical way and shows that anyone can be exceptional in their chosen career provided they follow their passion and use their natural abilities and talents. Why be a 'Jack of all Trades,' when you can truly master one?

### **ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING - 4.00pm-5.00pm**

**Preston Room**

Presentation of 5, 10, 15 & 20 Year Badges and Certificates



### **CONFERENCE DINNER 7.00pm**

**Grand Ballroom**

*(Doors open at 6.40pm. Please be seated by 6.50pm)*

**Pre-dinner Speaker: Anne Lewington**



**GOLD SPONSOR**



**SILVER SPONSORS**

**BOOKS & GIFTS DIRECT**

**CAHOOTS**  
Connect. Learn. Celebrate.

*Jackie Watt*  
CONSULTANCY

**Mastery LEARNING GROUP**

**Teachers Health Fund**

**Little ones** EARLY LEARNING EXPERIENCES

**OLM**  
OBJECTIVE LEARNING MATERIALS™  
*Innovation In Learning*

**BRONZE SPONSORS**

**FREMANTLE PRESS**  
The Independent Publishing Press

**PLD**  
Literacy and Learning

**SUPPORTERS**

**Kwik Kopy Canning Vale**

*Providers of our lanyards and pouches.*

# WAATA 2017 - 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Conference Programme

## OUR ASSOCIATION'S OBJECTIVES ARE:

To enhance the professional development of Teacher Assistants for the advancement of education in all areas of education in Western Australia.

To create a network of Teacher Assistants which will foster educational thought and practice and set before itself and the community the ethics of high professional responsibility and peer support.

To organise and conduct regular meetings, workshops and conferences for the professional development of Teacher Assistants.

## PRESENTERS

### KEYNOTE SPEAKER Maggie Dent

### PLENARY SPEAKER Dr. Amy Finlay-Jones Telethon Kids Institute

**Leanne Sharp  
and Sue Charlick**  
Little Ones - Early  
Learning Experiences

**Richard Korbosky**  
Dapma Pty Ltd

**Rosemary Collis**  
English and EAL/D  
High School Teacher

**Shirley Houston**  
Sound Start WA

**Dr. Michele Toner**  
ADHD Consultant and Coach

**Helen Oke**  
Professional Learning  
Manager Scitech

**Tania Rodwell,  
Alison Davis and  
Louise Sheehy**  
Autismwest

**Mikayla King and  
Preston Culbong**  
Aboriginal Engagement

**Dr. Deborah Callcott**  
Moving on with Literacy

**Nicola Carr-White**  
Mastery Learning Group

**Jackie Watt**  
Jackie Watt Consultancy

**Claire Orange**  
BEST Programs 4 Kids

**Rob Tiller**  
Relationships Australia WA

**Rebecca Stewart and  
Tara Sita**  
Drumbeat Quest Education  
Coordinators

**Dolly Bhargava**  
Behaviour Zen Pty Ltd

## Sunday, August 27th - Morning sessions

### SESSION 4 – 9.00am - 10.30am

#### Friendships & Learning: Helping kids to not sweat the small stuff

Claire Orange

Friends and friendships, learning to learn and what to learn – the BIG stuff for little children. When issues arise within the world of children's friendships and in their learning environments, they can experience significant stress. Those happenings can wash over into all aspects of their lives – friendship issues can disrupt learning, learning issues can disrupt home life. Messy! But a normal part of childhood.

That's why teaching children how to not sweat the small stuff is the key to a happy and successful journey through their school years. In this workshop, learn practical and immediately applicable TOOLS to help children to cruise over the inevitable social, emotional and learning BUMPS of childhood.

#### Suicide Prevention & Technology Support for Social and Emotional Learning

##### Topic 1: Using Drumming in Suicide Prevention

Rebecca Stewart

This session will focus on research and case studies around the effectiveness of rhythm and drumming on mental and physical health regulating emotions, stress and wellbeing and as a suicide prevention strategy.

##### Topic 2: How Technology is used to Support Social and Emotional Learning

Tara Sita

Technology, specifically games, are powerful tools for engaging, motivating and building social and emotional learning outcomes for students. This session will delve into how technology can empower students to set their own learning pathways and the real-world skill transfer that leads to improvements across self-regulation and educational outcomes.

#### Mindful Classrooms – Keeping your Cool even when Kids go 'Rogue'

Rob Tiller

A mindful, more emotionally present life can be challenging enough if you're a monk in a cave. Throw a classroom of under-slept overstimulated children into the mix and you've got a recipe for premature grey hair. Mindfully managing our daily stressors not only keeps our nervous system cooler and more responsive but our capacity to self-soothe rubs off on the young people we work with – win/win. This short workshop will give you a real-time experience of how to calm your mind and catch your breath when the going gets tough.

#### Managing Challenging Behaviour in the Classroom

Dolly Bhargava

This practical and interactive workshop will address: 1. Causes of challenging behaviours. 2. Internalised and externalised challenging behaviours. 3. Utilising the positive behaviour support framework to identify proactive, active and reactive strategies.



### MORNING TEA - 10.30am-11.00am



### CLOSING PLENARY - 11:00am–12.00pm

#### Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders (FASD) Dr. Amy Finlay-Jones - Telethon Kids Institute

Fetal alcohol spectrum disorders (FASD) are lifelong neurodevelopmental conditions resulting from in utero exposure to alcohol. FASD is characterised by brain damage and impairment across up to 10 functional domains, including attention, cognition, executive function and adaptive function. In countries where alcohol is consumed, FASD is a leading preventable cause of intellectual disability, and is associated with a high rate of secondary disabilities, including academic failure, substance use disorders, mental illness and contact with the justice system.

Educational contexts represent a key setting for early intervention for individuals with FASD. In this session, the neurodevelopmental profile of young people with FASD will be discussed in the context of implications for school engagement and classroom learning and behaviour. In addition, the evidence base for classroom intervention for young people with FASD will be presented and practical classroom practices required to educate Australian children and young people with FASD will be discussed.

### CONFERENCE CLOSURE - 12.00pm



Professional Teaching  
Council of Western Australia

Endorsed by the Professional Teaching Council of Western Australia