

Dear LDA Members,

I am very pleased to announce the winners of this year's LDA and AJLD Awards, including the recipient of the inaugural Rosemary Carter Award. The winners will be presented with their awards and will make short presentations at our AGM on September 22. The AGM will be held at the Treacy Centre in Melbourne

AJLD Eminent Researcher Award

Professor Kate Nation is a Professor in Experimental Psychology and Fellow of St. John's College at Oxford University in the UK. Professor Nation's research is concerned with the psychology of language, especially reading and its development. She is interested in how children learn to read words and comprehend text, and more generally, the relationship between spoken language and written language. Alongside her research on typical development, Professor Nation studies language and cognitive processes in children with developmental disorders that impact on language and literacy development, including language impairment, autism and dyslexia.

Mona Tobias Award

Alison Clarke is a Speech Pathologist from Melbourne. She is a passionate advocate for evidence-based practice and developed the website Spelfabet. Alison helps parents, teachers and others incorporate this evidence-based approach into high-quality initial instruction and early intervention through the provision of resources and timely advice with her blog and engaging videos that demystify what it means to teach reading, spelling and writing effectively.

Bruce Wicking Award

Ray Boyd is the principal of West Beechboro Primary, a high performing school in Perth. Through his enduring commitment to teacher-directed instructional practices and evidence-based literacy instruction students, staff at West Beechboro Primary School ensure students are not 'defined by their post-code.' Because of Ray's commitment effective literacy instruction, students who might otherwise have experienced difficulties learning to read achieve success.

Rosemary Carter Award

Fay Tran is the inaugural winner of the Rosemary Carter Award. Fay is an outstanding Consultant Member who has contributed to the field of learning difficulties through her work with students as a Learning Support Teacher at Geelong Grammar and following her retirement as an LDA Consultant providing private tuition. Fay's commitment to evidence-based practice saw her resist pressures to abandon the phonics approach for the teaching of initial reading in the 80s and 90s, and she was successful in ensuring that direct teaching of phonics was maintained at her school. Fay is the author of Teaching Kids to Read and through her website Learning2Read provides a wealth of information and resources for parents and teachers.

Best wishes,

Anne Castles
President, LDA