

Council notes

Wendy Moore

LDA AGM

LDA Members and guests are invited to attend LDA's AGM and the conferring of Awards on Saturday, 22 September.

Time: 1.00–3.30pm, AGM and Award Winners' acceptance addresses

Place: Treacy Centre – 126 The Avenue, Parkville, Melbourne

Afternoon tea will be provided – please RSVP to Kerrie McMahon, LDA Administration Officer by email: ldaquery@bigpond.net.au.

LDA Awards

LDA is very pleased to announce the recipients of the 2018 LDA and AJLD Awards, including the inaugural Rosemary Carter Award. These awards are designed to recognise outstanding work in the field of learning difficulties. They are open to both members and non-members of LDA. This year's awards will be presented at the LDA AGM on September 22 at the Treacy Centre in Melbourne.

For more information about the awards, application processes, and previous winners, visit the Learning Difficulties Australia website.

AJLD Eminent Researcher Award

Professor Kate Nation is 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 recipient 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 she provides a wealth of information and resources for parents and teachers.

Professional Development

This has been a very busy year for LDA organised professional development events. In May, Dr Judi Humberstone presented a very useful session on dyscalculia and the difficulties students experience in developing mathematical understandings. Then in June, Jenny Baker delivered a very well received full day session on developing sentence complexity in written expression. Attendees at both sessions walked away with new knowledge and insights which they will be able to apply straight away in their work with students.

The packed LDA professional learning schedule has two more exciting events coming up with sessions in Adelaide, Melbourne, Perth and Sydney.

Kate Nation - Reading and language comprehension difficulties: research-practice links and applications for the classroom

Melbourne: Friday 21 September
2018 Treacy Centre, 126 The Avenue, Parkville

Adelaide: Monday 24 September
2018 Education Development Centre (EDC), 4 Milner Street, Hindmarsh

Sydney: Friday 28 September
2018 Mantra Parramatta, cnr Parkes St & Valentine Avenue, Parramatta

LDA is honoured to present Kate Nation – Professor in Experimental Psychology and Fellow of St. John's College, Oxford, Director of ReadOxford, Partner Investigator ARC Centre for Excellence, and LDA's 2018 Eminent Researcher Award winner – in Melbourne, Adelaide and Sydney. Kate will consider the complexity of reading by constructing meaning from print, highlighting why children may struggle to understand what they read, and discuss evidence-based interventions for children with poor reading comprehension, considering implications for the classroom.

Professor Nation's work is of direct relevance and critical importance to everyone working with children with language and literacy difficulties. Registrations have been strong for these workshops and we are expecting that they will generate a lot of interest and discussion.

Spelling: Beyond the Alphabetic Principle

Perth: Saturday 20 October 2018 Edith Cowan University Lecture Theatre building 10, room 131

Sarah Asome will present a systematic explicit evidence-based approach to teaching spelling, focusing on teaching spelling as a 'process', based on the structure of the English Language including phonology, syllabication (structural analysis) and morphology. Explanatory session notes and hands-on practice will be provided. Participant will learn:

- basic procedures for spelling regular 1-syllable words based on sound-symbol relationships, (phonology)
- basic procedures for spelling irregular words,
- spelling rules for 1-syllable words,
- basic procedures for spelling multisyllabic words on syllables, (structural analysis),
- spelling rules for adding suffixes, (morphological principles).

Sarah Asome is a dyslexia specialist and the Learning Support Leader at Bentleigh West Primary School in Victoria. She has been instrumental in leading change at BWPS, which has led to a significant increase in their students' literacy levels, with the 2018 NAPLAN results now placing BWPS as a high performing school. Sarah also continues to support many colleagues state and nationwide in implementing evidence-based literacy instruction in their schools. In 2015, Sarah Asome was awarded 'Outstanding Primary Teacher in the VEEA awards. Sarah is featured in "Outside the Square", a DVD resource for teachers, and in 2017 appeared on Insight – 'A teacher Who Changed My Life'. Sarah regularly presents at state and national conferences in relation to literacy and dyslexia. She is an inspirational ball of energy and passion.

News from the Website

The LDA website provides members and those interested in supporting students with learning difficulties with a treasure trove of information. Some new functionality has been added to the website recently.

LDA Bookshop

The new, revitalised, LDA Bookshop was launched in late May and has got off to a great start. The online bookshop features a carefully curated selection of books for LDA members and visitors, founded on evidence-based research, which bridge the gap between research and practical teaching resources.

The LDA Bookshop is regularly updated with new resources and recommendations from LDA members are welcomed. If you come across a book which you believe will be helpful to other LDA members, then please let us know via the Contact page on the LDA Bookshop website. All suggestions will be reviewed and if aligned with the bookshop's guidelines, they will be added where we can offer them to LDA members at a reasonable price.

To see for yourself and to make suggestions, click on the LDA Bookshop link on the home page of the LDA website.