Conference 2014

August 8th, 9th & 10th
Esplanade Hotel
corner Marine Terrace and Essex Street,
Fremantle

Registration:  
Friday 5:30pm – 6:30pm
Saturday 7:30am – 8:00am
(Southern Cross Gala Ballroom Foyer)

Sip ‘n’ Chat: Friday 8th August  6.30pm-8.00pm  King Sound/Admiralty Gulf

Conference Dinner: Saturday 9th August  7.00 pm (Doors open at 6.40pm)
(Southern Cross Gala Ballroom)  (Please be seated by 6.50pm)
Where do I start?

The committee invites you to attend the 22nd Annual WAATA Conference

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Cindi Starcevich

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The numbers of students diagnosed with Autism Spectrum Disorder is increasing and they require specialised strategies and understandings in order to meet their learning needs in the school. This session will raise awareness of the Underlying Characteristics of Autism and the impact on teaching and learning. Evidenced based intervention strategies and support structures will be identified to facilitate effective teaching and Learning.

“Science is everything” for years 4-7

Hannah Fay

Everything that we do, eat, smell, think or say can be linked to science in one way or another. The trouble is trying to link Science in the classroom and syllabus, to Science in real life. Practical activities using everyday materials can help to link syllabus statements to things that we experience on a daily basis and can even start to change the way that we think. Each session will have sample activities that are specific to the appropriate syllabus, along with a hands on activity.

Measurement in the F-2 Primary Classroom

Richard Korbosky

This workshop will provide you with practical hands-on activities that teach students about units, direct measure and the language across a range of attributes. Measurement should be active and students should experiment with different units before putting a ruler in their hands. Measurement should be linked to both number and geometry. All activities will be linked to the Australian Curriculum including the proficiency strands.

9.45am - 10.15am MORNING TEA

10.15am – 11.45am — SESSION 2

Building Positive Relationships with Students
Lavinia Andrews & Sandra Ivers

The quality of the relationship between a child with an emotional or behavioural disorder and their EA may be the single most important factor for positive adaption to school. Close, caring and supportive relationships can result in improved neurological function and improved behavioural and overall wellbeing outcomes for the child. In this session we will look at the importance of positive working relationships with students and ways in which these relationships can be formed, maintained and, if necessary, repaired.

Measurement in the 3-7 Primary Classroom
Richard Korbosky

In this workshop we will explore the activities and manipulative mathematics materials which support the development of a student’s understanding of critical measurement ideas. Measurement is dependent on a student’s understanding of whole and decimal number. Much of what we do in measurement depends on understanding the language and deciding on the attribute that needs to be measured. Measurement for older students should be active not passive.

“Science is everything” for years F-3

Hannah Fay

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Occupational Health & Safety at work for EAs
Sheree Colley

This workshop will be an overview of occupational health and safety practices in the Department of Education plus hands on activities to hone your skills, knowledge and interest in all things to do with OSH. Please bring a glue stick and scissors.
WAATA Conference 2014 Programme  
Saturday, August 9th — Afternoon sessions

11.45am – 12.55pm — LUNCH in the Atrium

1.00 pm - 2.30pm — SESSION 3

The Gifted and Talented Child  
Clare Magee

We don’t often think of the Gifted and Talented Student as having special educational needs, but they clearly do. On average, 3 children in every classroom will be gifted, so why is the identification of these children so important and yet sometimes so difficult? Why is the notion that ‘they’ll be ok’, so problematic and why are their learning needs sometimes so difficult to meet? This session will attempt to shed some light on why these children may be at risk and what we can do to help them.

Sustainable School Gardens  
Colin Barlow

How to create a successful waterwise and sustainable school garden. In this session you will learn what you need to know to get it right the first time. Choosing the best soils, composts, additives and fertilisers. Worm farm management. Composting basics: a guide to creating an on-going resource for your garden. The best plants and crops to grow and when to plant them. Crop rotation: the secret to continual success. Safe pest and disease control: How to beat the bugs the safe way.

The Complexity of Aboriginal Art Practice in the 21st Century  
Deborah Bonar

Deborah will give a brief Power Point presentation about traditional and contemporary Aboriginal Art and the complexity of her own art practice. This will be followed by an interactive painting workshop which will include a demonstration of simple painting techniques. Participants will be given the opportunity to complete a small painting.

Handwriting Difficulties  
Gemma Boyle

Many students at primary and secondary school experience difficulties with handwriting that can impair their ability to adequately communicate in the written form. This workshop will provide participants with a comprehensive understanding of the mechanisms underlying handwriting skill and practical strategies to address difficulties with handwriting will be provided. Gemma is a Foundation Psychologist with Dyslexia-Speld Foundation.

2.30pm - 3.00pm – AFTERNOON TEA

3.00-4.00 pm KEYNOTE SPEAKER
Dr Jenny Brockis

Brain Smart  More efficient, more productive, that's smart work.

In today's world, whether you are in the education system, the area of learning and development, or just trying to do your job: efficiency and productivity matters. Knowing how to regain focus and manage all our distractions is what provides us the opportunity for personal and professional growth and to achieve more. Today we all have to work faster, know how to focus on what matters and be skilled in filtering out the relevant from the irrelevant. Knowing how your brain is best operates is vital, because sometimes we ask our brain to work in ways it wasn't designed for. It's about choosing the correct prescription to up-skill those thinking habits that will deliver the best results.

4.00 -5.00 pm ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Southern Cross Gala Ballroom
The West Australian Association of Teacher Assistants Inc. AGM and presentation of 5, 10, 15 and 20 Year Badges and Certificates.

7.00 pm — Conference Dinner will be held in the Southern Cross Ballroom
(Doors open at 6.40pm. Please be seated by 6.50pm)

Pre dinner Speaker
Ken Tasker - Operation Christmas Child

Sponsors: Gold

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WAATA Conference 2014 Programme
Sunday, August 10th

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

Janni Goss
Laughter Yoga Leader

Dr Jenny Brockis
Brain Fitness Specialist

Peta Day
School of Special Educational Needs/Disabilities

Richard Korbosky
President MWA

Hannah Fay
Peter Moyes Anglican PS

Lavinia Andrew
Sandra Ivers
Swan Primary Behaviour Centre

Sheree Colley
OHS Consultant DoE

Clare Magee
John XXI11 College

Natalie Tarr
Associate Principal Highgate PS

Colin Barlow
Gardens from Eden

Deborah Bonar
Scribblebark

Gemma Boyle
Dyslexia Speld Foundation

Monika Wong
Australian Academy of Tai Chi

Paul Vassallo
GESB

Sue Lambert & Iola Knight
Magic Boxes

Kaitlyn Hawking
Carmel McDougall
Therapy Focus

9:00am-10:30am — SESSION 4

Tai Chi for Health and Relaxation
Monika Wong
Learn the ancient Chinese technique of Tai Chi for health and relaxation. This technique will help calm the mind, energise the body and still the spirit.

Getting to Know Your Superannuation: GESB
Paul Vassallo
It’s discovering the ‘unknown unknowns’ that could turn your lifestyle in retirement into the one you’ve always dreamed about. This interactive session has been designed to help you learn what you need to know. Learn how to make the most of your superannuation, how to read and interpret your member statements, how to determine how much wealth you will need and how ‘Transition to Retirement’ works. Includes tips, online resources and much more. Please bring your most recent GESB member statement.

‘MAGIC BOXES’: spelling in the early years
Sue Lambert & Iola Knight
Magic Boxes is an explicit and sequential spelling program to provide children with a strong foundation of skills and phonemic knowledge, through games and written activities, so that they can become successful spellers. The Magic Boxes program is aimed at years K to 2 and is a valuable resource throughout the Primary School for students who have difficulty with spelling.

Catching Up – a practical approach to teaching life skills
Kaitlyn Hawking
Carmel McDougall
A Speech Pathologist and Occupational Therapist will provide a summation of the ‘Catching Up’ program run at Therapy Focus and the factors which contribute to its success. This workshop will equip participants with the knowledge to identify resources to facilitate the teaching of life skills to students with a disability. It will also highlight some strategies which can be incorporated into a student’s everyday environment to allow them to experience success and independence.

10:30am - 11:10am — MORNING TEA (extended for check-out time)

11:15am - 12:30pm — CLOSING PLENARY

THE ART AND SCIENCE OF WELLBEING
Janni Goss B.App Sci (Physio)
Laughter Yoga Leader – Teacher – Ambassador
Advisor for Ageing and Disability – National Council of Women WA

Do you need strategies to outsmart stress and improve your wellbeing? Can you recognise early signs of stress and choose healthy coping strategies? Positive psychology shares theories which demonstrate that gratitude is the foundation of wellbeing. Discover the Five Ways to Wellbeing which promote wellbeing through daily activities. Laughter is one of the most accessible, cost-effective remedies for stress-reduction, boosting the immune system and contributing to health and wellbeing. We will explore the Laughter Prescription, so be prepared to fully participate in experiencing the power of Laughter and Laughter Yoga! Is Laughter the Best Medicine? Try a dose and see!

12.30pm — CONFERENCE CLOSURE

Endorsed by the Professional Teaching Council of Western Australia