



PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATION for LEARNING SUPPORT Inc

Newsletter December 2016

President's message

Welcome to our final newsletter for 2016. The Professional Association for Learning Support (PALs) wishes all our members a safe and restful break. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the 2016 PALs committee who have volunteered their time selflessly and for their continued dedication and commitment to the association over the year.

On behalf of the Committee I want to pay a special tribute to Katy Britton who is standing down from the committee after many years. Her professionalism and her drive and commitment to PALs has made a difference for children and their families.

It gives me great pleasure to announce the PALs committee members elected for 2017:

President: Frida Hristofski

Vice President: Karyn Knowles

Secretary/ Treasurer: Annette Guterres

Members: Greg Bamford, Ros Broomfield, Kerry Fitzsimmons, Shams Hussain, Sandra Kerr, Betty Kiekebosch, Nicki Levi Deborah Lloyd, and Joanne Raheb-Mol.

2016 has been a very successful year for PALs. We celebrated our 20th Birthday at Vacluse House, we have held a variety of workshops and a conference which were well attended. This year we also presented for the first time The Anne Kennedy Award for Exemplary Practice to Kim Henderson. Congratulations Kim.



I was recently in Thailand and saw this sign in front of a school, which I believe, sums up what we aim to do as learning and support teachers.

In closing, I would like to wish all our members a very Merry Christmas and a very Happy New Year and look forward to seeing you in 2017.

Frida Hristofski
President

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PALS Conference 2016



... of Being an Effective Learning and Support Teacher

Thank you to our conference presenters

Janelle Ford, Deputy Principal
Claremont College (AIS)

Helen Ganis, Assistant Principal
Learning & Support, Woniora Rd SSP

Geraldine Gray, State Coordinator
Special Learning Needs (CEC)

Annette Guterres, PALS Secretary/ Treasurer

Halima Heywood, Learning & Support Teacher,
Pennant Hills High School

Dr Samantha Hornery, Therapy & Education
Manager – Learning Links

Frida Hristofski, PALS President & Learning and
Support Teacher, Riverside Girls High School

Karyn Knowles, PALS Vice President,
K–2 Literacy/Numeracy Intervention Teacher,
Early Action for Success, Bexley Public School

Marina Laing, Senior Project Officer,
Special Education BOSTES

Zannah Mathieson, Senior Project Officer
Special Education BOSTES

Anne O'Brien, Head of Learning Enrichment
St Aloysius College (CEC)

Linda Smith, Principal Project Officer,
Disability, Learning & Support (DET)

Katie Thorley, Learning and Support Teacher,
Wallsend Public School

Amanda Tocci, Educational Consultant &
Lecturer – University of Newcastle

Neale Waddy, Leader Support & Development,
Learning & Engagement NSW (DET)



Thank you to our main sponsor
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PALS Conference 2016



Keynotes

System Requirements: Collection & recording of data to identify students with disability with focus on NCCD & NDIS (M. Clements)

Evidence Based Practice to be an Effective LaST (A. Guterres)

Working as part of a team to meet the needs of students with learning difficulties (Dr S Horner)

Adjustments & Assessments (M. Laing)



Workshops

Doing the groundwork in school settings: How to meet the systems requirements for data collection (J. Ford, G. Gray & L. Smith)

Working as a Primary LaST (K. Thorley)

Working as a Secondary LaST (A O'Brien & F. Hristofski)

Working as part of a Learning & Support Team (H. Ganis)

Numeracy Strategies for primary LaSTs (K. Knowles)

Numeracy Strategies for Secondary LaSTs (H. Heywood)

Literacy strategies for LaSTs (A. Guterres)

BOSTES: Primary and Secondary school focus (M. Laing & Z. Mathieson)

Working Memory & Learning. Practical Strategies for teaching & learning (A. Tocci)

Did You Know?

Anne Kennedy Award Presentation

On the 25th November at the Annual General Meeting of our Association we were able to present for the first time the Anne Kennedy Award for Exemplary Practice. Of the teachers nominated two teachers were selected as finalists and the committee then chose Kim Henderson, a LaST who works at Shoalhaven and Bomaderry High Schools.....that in itself is quite an achievement.

We were honoured to have present at the AGM our Founding President Anne Kennedy who made the Award to Kim at the meeting. Prior to making the Award Anne outlined the reasons PALS was started in the first place twenty years ago and expressed her appreciation that PALS has continued to prosper. In our 20th Birthday year we are delighted to have instigated this award and listening to Kim's accounts of her experiences we were left in no doubt that she was a worthy recipient.

The Award will now be made each year at our AGM. Early in 2017 we intend to ask for nominations. Each nomination must be endorsed by the Principal of the school in which the nominee works. Realising that many LaSTs work are the only person in their role in the school we do not require that they or the nominator be a member of PALS.....though we would like them to be. We do, however, encourage PALS members to promote the Award through their networks.

Please find below extracts from Kim's nomination.

Kim Henderson is an exemplary teacher due to her extensive qualifications and experience, but more importantly due to the way she goes above and beyond in her service as Learning and Support Teacher. The students, parents, staff and department owe a great debt to this outstanding person and colleague.

I can recall numerous examples of students who entered high school as troubled, suffering and misguided individuals who have grown to become some of the most respected and



The 2016 Anne Kennedy Award recipient Kim Henderson (right) with PALS founding president Anne Kennedy

admirable people due to Kim Henderson's guidance and support. Students whose education was the least of their concerns have now achieved their educational goals (some even gaining HSC qualification) and entered the work force as motivated, respectful and confident individuals. There also those students who would not be with us to today to honour this magnificent teacher had it not been for her guidance and support.

For each and every student that Kim has helped, there are the confused, struggling parents and guardians, who find a sense of calm, strength, hope and understanding in Kim Henderson.

The staff who work with these students call upon Kim's effective strategies to ensure that their students are able to participate to their full potential. Kim also works collaboratively with executive members of staff due to her extensive knowledge of department policies and procedures. The staff who work with Kim always sing her praises and express their awe of her amazing talent and skill as Learning and Support Teacher.

Beyond the realms of her home schools, Bomaderry High School and Shoalhaven High School, Kim is also vital in the training of whole school groups in Non violent Crisis Intervention.



Left to right: PALS President, Frida Hristofski, Kim Henderson, the 2016 Anne Kennedy Award recipient, PAL Vice President, Karyn Knowles, PAL Founding President, Anne Kennedy, PALS Secretary/ Treasurer: Annette Guterres and PALS member Ros Broomfield

PALS 2017 Events

Disability Provision Seminars

YARC and HSC Disability Provisions in partnership with BOSTES
Friday 17 February at Charles Sturt University, Bathurst
Thursday 23 February at Bankstown Sports Club, Bankstown

Supporting Learning – An oldie but a goodie

Classroom Strategy: SQ3R (Survey-Question-Read-Recite-Review)

SQ3R is a comprehension strategy that helps students think about the text they are reading while they're reading. Often categorised as a study strategy, SQ3R helps students "get it" the first time they read a text by teaching students how to read and think like an effective reader. Downloadable SQ3R guide is available on the following link. www.adlit.org

PALS Committee contacts

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Annette Guterres – Secretary/Treasurer and PALS Newsletter editor	sec.pals@gmail.com

Whats Happening?



Specific Learning Difficulties

Learning Difference Convention 2017

Thursday 2 and Friday 3 March 2017

Grand Pavilion, Rosehill Gardens Racecourse

Who Should Attend:

Teachers, Tutors, Teacher Aides, Parents, Health Professionals, Students and Adult Dyslexics

Further information and online registration – <http://www.learningdifferenceconvention.com/>

Talk for Writing (T4W)

Friday 17 & Saturday 18 March 2017

Parramatta Mantra Hotel

Presenter educational psychologist Peta Collins

Who Should Attend:

Classroom teachers and/or tutors of Kindergarten to Year 6 students

Further information and online registration – <http://www.learningdifferenceconvention.com/>



Three days, forty-five speakers, great resources and an opportunity for anyone with an interest in improving literacy outcomes for all students.

Who Should Attend: Teachers, school principals and administrators, school psychologists, speech pathologists, occupational therapists, allied health professionals, tutors, parents and other key stakeholders concerned with the effective education and support of all school-aged children – including those with learning difficulties.

Further information and online registration – <https://literacylanguageconf.com/>



cheri
the children's hospital at Westmead
Education Research Institute

CHERI Conference 2017 – Improving student learning through well-being

Thursday 25 & Friday 26 May

Parramatta RSL Club,
Cnr O'Connell & Macquarie Sts, Parramatta

Who Should Attend:

Educators, school counsellors, psychologists, allied health professionals and all those in whose care rests the well-being of every child.

Confirmed speakers and program now available from <http://www.cheri.com.au/conferences.html>

The conference presents the opportunity to learn firsthand from local and international experts on the key contributors to student well-being along with practical strategies to enhance it.

Save the date –
Monday 26 & Tuesday 27
June 2017

Successful Learning Conference 2017

Conference detail: This annual conference focuses on issues and developments in the provision of quality education for students K–12 with additional learning needs in a mainstream classroom setting. Areas addressed will include literacy, numeracy, accountability and assessment, behaviour support, technology and social skills instruction.