



# Newsletter

PO Box 62  
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[www.pa.ash.org.au/rstaq](http://www.pa.ash.org.au/rstaq)  
April 2004

## Editorial

The guest speaker at our AGM, Tony Ryan, inspired us with a talk about change and how we need to take care of ourselves. Tony also gave us a glimpse of our electronic future. As we have joint and organ transplant operations today, in a probable future we may be able to electronically enhance brain capacity and memory. These may sound like science fiction of the future but about a week later on an ABC Radio National program called 'All In The Mind' a researcher was certainly exploring these possibilities in the not too distant future, within our lifetimes in fact. This will have important implications for our work. STLD's no longer needed because learning difficulties can be 'cured' electronically? Hardly. Good teachers will always be needed, those who know how to teach. Collaboration, team work, discussion, and networking are all capacities that we need to encourage in ourselves and our teachers.

Our '*Perspectives*' editor Michael Boyle is planning an issue around collaboration for later in the year. In the issue he would like to advance the case for collaboration and share the stories we have to further enhance our capacity to cope with our probable future.

... *Stephen Mysliwy.*

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## 2004 President's Report - presented at the Remedial and Support Teachers' Association of Queensland Annual General Meeting 20.03.04

I would like to pay tribute to the committee of the RSTAQ. During 2004 we have worked hard to solve some of the unresolved issues of the past few years. We have grown markedly in our ability to make decisions, act quickly on them and move forward. Many great ideas have been generated and most of them put into operation.

Early in the year we were privileged to have communications consultant Rob Murray lead us in an analysis of our vision for the future of RSTAQ. This led to a revitalizing of the committee and the formation of teams: *Advocacy, Communication, Membership, and Professional Development.*

Committee members gave generously of their time – spending a whole Saturday writing the vision, objectives and constitution of the Association. Joy Seary generously allowed us to invade her home and Rob Murray was a mine of information.

It has been a year of tying up loose ends, creating a vision for the future and laying a foundation upon which we can build that vision. Our achievements include:

- Wind-up of STAQ – thanks Chris
- Constitution and Vision planning day – thanks everyone
- Advocacy to ED Qld through – year 9 testing committee

- Appraisal Review
- Ministerial Taskforce on Inclusive Education – Learning Difficulties sub-committee.
- Representation on Joint Council - thanks Chris.
- Professional Conference in conjunction LDA – many thanks to Joy for her coordination of this role.
- Building of bridges with SPELD
- *Perspectives* – our revamped professional journal – thanks to Steve and Mike, and to Marianne.
- Newsletter.
- Website maintenance – many thanks to Jill.
- Database revised and moved to Morningside SS – thanks Wendy and Ruth.
- RSTAQ banner and seal produced – thanks Wendy.
- Revitalization of secondary listserv – thanks Helen.
- Survey of members needs – thanks Gayle and Barb.

I expect that 2004 will be a year when we build on these achievements and break new ground in providing professional support for you, our client base. In response to the survey results, we are planning for rural conference in Toowoomba June 26th - thanks Steve. We are working on a membership certificate, scholarships for those studying to be Support and Resource teachers and an advocacy letter to principals. In order to better meet your needs we need to hear from you. Any member is welcome to attend the committee meetings at Rainworth State School. Our next meeting is May 15 at 10:00, where we will set the dates for the year. We are happy to hear from people by mail and by email. Let us know your thoughts, and how we can be of service.

We would like to broaden the committee and get more input from the private sector, secondary sector and those outside the metropolitan area. So don't be shy. We are a great group.

Thanks to Rainworth State School for the provision of a most hospitable venue. And last, but definitely not least, to our hard working secretary, Robyn Downes without whose comprehensive minutes I couldn't have written this report – thanks for your years as secretary.

... *David Waterworth.*

### **COLLABORATION – ‘Let me tell you about the experience I had the other day.’**

Working collaboratively is not as easy as it may seem. Most of us can cite success stories and just as many where our attempts to work with other professionals on behalf of our students have met with unmitigated failure. Having tasted both success and failure in applying collaborative practice, it would be rewarding if members could share some of the things they have learned in endeavouring to become more professional in this very difficult area.

In the next issue of *'Perspectives'* we would like to explore the issues. What do you think are the underlying considerations that make or break attempts by support teachers, classroom teachers, administration and others in their intent to work together harmoniously, efficiently and effectively?

### **RSTAQ EXECUTIVE**

<b>President:</b>	David Waterworth	<b>Committee:</b>	Robyn de Vere, Gerard Healy, Wendy Hine, Mary Lancaster, Robyn Downs,
<b>Vice President:</b>	Stephen Mysliwy		Joy Seary, Gayle O'Leary, Helen Little,
<b>Secretary:</b>	Barbara Murray		Michael Boyle.
<b>Treasurer:</b>	Christine Longton		

**The Remedial and Support Teachers' Association of Queensland  
and  
The University of Southern Queensland Toowoomba  
present a seminar for teachers**

**'Diversity is the Norm'  
26<sup>th</sup> June 2004**

In today's education world, greater demands are being placed on teachers to cater for an increasingly diverse population of students. This seminar, a collaboration between the Remedial and Support Teachers' Association of Queensland and the University of Southern Queensland, will help answer questions surrounding catering for diverse learners.

**Keynote Address: Dr Don Rice USQ - Strategies that work.**

Many speakers will address needs in the primary and high school contexts. Topics include:

- Supporting students at risk
- Remediation through contexts
- Support personnel as facilitators
- Establishing inclusive settings for high school students
- Collaborative strategic reading
- Positive behaviour support
- Middle school learners
- Planning integrated multi level tasks using new curriculum documents

**Venue : Allison Dickson Centre  
University of Southern Queensland**

**RSTAQ Members: \$50.00 Non-members: \$75.00**

**Registration includes conference package and catering.**

**Make payments to : The RSTAQ Conference  
PO Box 62 GRANGE 4051**

**Selected Conference Abstracts**

**Louise Alexander: Planning Inclusive Multi-levelled Integrated Tasks'**. The presenter will demonstrate to participants a unit planning and assessment process that readily caters for the diverse learning needs of students. The process uses complex tasks as the focus and successfully combines the outcomes-based syllabus documents with Productive Pedagogies. The process was used by the presenter with her Year 6 class which included 3 ascertained students (levels 5 and 6).

**Barry Fields: Managing Oppositional Defiant Behaviour in the Classroom.** Along with hostile-aggressive behaviour, oppositional defiant behaviour represents the most challenging behaviour teachers have to manage in the classroom. This workshop looks at the nature of oppositional defiant behaviour, how teachers typically respond to it, and a strategy for a more appropriate response.

**Mark Hohnke: Building inclusive community** In order to build a truly inclusive school community that effectively caters for students with diverse learning needs, a collaborative team approach is required. The special educator must develop the interpersonal and communication skills to facilitate the best learning environments for all students. An understanding of the communication process is vital including an understanding of the potential barriers to communication. This workshop aims at enabling the educator to identify the pivotal role they play within the inclusion process and how this self awareness can lead to an increased repertoire of skills and attitudes that lead to the development of effective teams. A number of models will be considered (inc. the ladder of inference, perceptual positioning) that will assist participants in their understanding of communication techniques as well as practical examples from current school environments.

**Visit our website: [www.pa.ash.org.au/rstaq](http://www.pa.ash.org.au/rstaq)**

**Speld Qld Inc proudly presents again in 2004**

**TEACHING STUDENTS WITH DYSLEXIA  
AN INTRODUCTION TRAINING COURSE FOR TEACHERS**

Presenters are Alison Playford, a Specific Learning Difficulties teacher who has been teaching students with dyslexia for 18 years, and Annette Brock, psychologist, who was awarded a Churchill Fellowship to investigate teaching methods for students with dyslexia in the U.K.

The four day program will incorporate highly structures phonetic-instruction, drill and repetition, use of multi-sensory methods, highly sequential learning objectives and direct instruction in the acquisition of comprehension and metacognitive processes.

The first course is being held on June 22, 23, 24 and 25 in the Alexandra Room, Speld Campus at Queen Alexandra Home, Old Cleveland Road, Coorparoo. Days extend from 9.00 until 3 p.m. (Check out our website: [www.speld.org.au](http://www.speld.org.au))

Cost :       Approx. \$375.00(includes lunch)

A deposit of \$75 dollars will reserve your registration. Full payment by 1<sup>st</sup> May 2004.

**Contact Speld Qld on 33942566 and book yourself a place!**