# The Inspiring Educator

A conference for pre-service and early career teachers, 21-22 July 2010

Griffith University (Mt Gravatt campus)

## PROGRAM

### DAY 1: **July 21**

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<td>From 8.00am</td>
<td><strong>Registration</strong></td>
<td><strong>AUDITORIUM FOYER</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>9.00am – 9.15am</td>
<td><strong>Welcome, Introductions and Housekeeping</strong></td>
<td><strong>AUDITORIUM M23</strong></td>
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<td></td>
<td><em>Professor Richard Bagnall, Acting Dean of Education</em></td>
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<td><em>Dr Cheryl Sim, Conference Convenor</em></td>
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<td>9.15am – 10.25am</td>
<td><strong>Keynote: The Art of Creativity – a practical approach</strong></td>
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<td><em>Mr Nigel Collin, leading creatives</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>10.30am – 10.55am</td>
<td><strong>Morning Tea</strong></td>
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<td>11.00am – 12.25am</td>
<td><strong>Workshop: Session 1</strong></td>
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<td></td>
<td>A. Understanding the boys’ education debate, <em>Martin Mills</em></td>
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<td>B. Move to think, <em>Alissa Phillips</em></td>
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<td>C. Universal Design for learning: Supporting diversity in the classroom, <em>Jeff Souter</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>12.30pm – 1.00pm</td>
<td><strong>Lunch</strong> <em>(Provided)</em></td>
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<td>1.00pm – 2.25pm</td>
<td><strong>Workshop: Session 2</strong></td>
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<td>A. Funnel Thinking – generating workable ideas, <em>Nigel Collin</em></td>
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<td>B. Whatever happened to the guys from uni? <em>Craig Wood</em></td>
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<td>C. Mainstream technologies for inclusive classrooms, <em>Jeff Souter</em></td>
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<td>2.30pm – 3.55pm</td>
<td><strong>Workshop: Session 3</strong></td>
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<td>A. Engaging students in critical and creative thinking, <em>Gerard Alford</em></td>
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<td>4.00pm – 5.30pm</td>
<td><strong>Conference Celebration</strong></td>
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<td>Drinks and Finger food.</td>
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**DAY 2: July 22**

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<td><em>Dr Kay Hartwig</em></td>
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<td>9.15am – 10.25am</td>
<td><strong>Keynote: The Inspiring Educator</strong></td>
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<td><em>Mr Tony Ryan, Headfirst consultancies</em></td>
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<td><strong>Workshop: Session 4</strong></td>
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<td>A. Surviving your first year, <em>Tony Ryan</em></td>
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<td>B. Looking after your well-being as a teacher, <em>Jane Taylor</em></td>
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<td>C. Think to ask, <em>Alissa Phillips</em></td>
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<td><strong>Workshop: Session 5</strong></td>
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<td>A. Becoming the teacher you want to be, <em>Eric Frangenheim</em></td>
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<td>B. Teaching and learning for engagement (including social and emotional learning) – the Mind Matters approach - <em>Ms Jane Taylor</em></td>
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<td>C. Creative approaches to curriculum design, <em>Dr Sally Stephens and Mrs Cathy Clemot</em></td>
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<td>2.30pm – 3.00pm</td>
<td><strong>My Story, Your Story ... Looking Forward</strong></td>
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<td><em>Mr David Barber, Stretton State College</em></td>
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<td>3.00pm – 3.15pm</td>
<td><strong>Lucky Door prizes, Close, Certificates</strong></td>
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**ACKNOWLEDGMENTS**

Griffith Education began running the Mid Year Conference in 2008 as an initiative for the Graduate Entry teacher education students. It was so successful that we decided to extend this professional development opportunity to final year preservice teachers in all our programs and to graduate teachers in their first and second years of teaching.

The Conference provides opportunities for students and early career teachers to experience keynote speakers and workshops that extend their knowledge and enthusiasm for the profession. Further, the conference provides the important opportunity for networking and for experiencing one of the major forms of professional development that they will attend as future ‘in-service teachers’.

I must thank the academic and general staff who have led the conference program, in particular Kay Kimber and Sue Wilkinson. Importantly, a team of Graduate entry students from the Primary and Secondary programs have assisted us in the planning and management of the Conference. Our thanks therefore go to these students: Brad Koehler, Tamara Valentine, Kyla Nicholass, Michael Beohm, Michael Slinger, NathanHill, Sharon Kirkpatrick.

*Dr Cheryl Sim*  
*Conference Convenor*
KEYNOTE: The art of Creativity – a practical approach
9.00am – 10.25am

It’s no secret that in today’s world creativity is more important than ever. In many countries around the world, governments want their schools to spark creativity in their students from the early years. But how can you capture and harness the creative abilities of your students and more importantly, how can you apply creativity to yield practical and strategic results?

This keynote will look at the role creativity plays in today’s world and the factors essential in building a culture and environment that supports and stimulates creativity, and allows it to flourish.

- The role of creativity
- Essential elements to allow it to flourish
- Building a culture and environment conducive to creativity

Add creativity to your teaching repertoire for becoming an inspirational educator.

Nigel Collin, leading creatives

Session 1. 11.00am – 12.25pm

EITHER 1A Understanding the boys’ education debate

This presentation begins by asking: ‘What are the educational needs of boys?’ and proceeds to address some of the ways those needs might be met. It suggests that the issues are complex and as such require complex solutions. Drawing upon extensive research data the presentation will provide an overview of what some Australian schools have done that have worked to improve the education for boys and what some have done that have been less successful in achieving the desired outcomes. Central to the arguments presented in this overview of schools’ engagement with the boys’ issue will be the claim that what teachers do in the classroom matters, and hence there will be a focus on what classroom practices work for boys (and girls). Throughout the presentation there will be a concern with social justice and an understanding that improvements to boys’ education must not come at a cost to the education of girls.

Martin Mills, The University of Queensland

OR 1B Move to Think

Most simply and directly, we can take our best-guess action without knowing everything we would like to know before taking it. This includes having courage and being willing to take risks. It requires entrepreneurial processes and in most cases can be a very creative approach to problem solving. Ultimately, since we can never know everything about a situation, this process is present to some extent in every action we take. Alissa Phillips ‘moved to think’ and in this session will share with you her personal story, in particular, how she became a known social entrepreneur in Brisbane and the founder of her own company. Learn about how to build a movement, how to make your passion sustainable, and most importantly how to create an inclusive community.

Alissa Phillips, Founder and CEO of Specialised Programs And Community Endeavours (aka s.p.a.c.e)
Universal Design for Learning: Supporting diversity in the classroom

Teachers and educators have significant challenges within today's classrooms. There is an expectation that all students achieve to their full capacity, whilst having a greater diversity than ever before within their classroom.

This presentation will explore how teachers can effectively cater for this diversity, using an approach called Universal Design For Learning. The session will also explore how technology, much of which teachers are already using, can enhance the learning opportunities for a diversity of students with the modern mainstream classroom.

Jeff Souter, Co-ordinator, Learning Development Centre – ICTs – students with disabilities

Funnel thinking – Generating workable ideas

The goal of this workshop is to teach you how to think more creatively and generate workable ideas and keep coming up with them. We will give you the tools you need and knowledge and confidence to use them today and every day after.

We will look at our unique process called ‘the funnel’ which captures ideas and then funnels them down into workable solutions. We’ll also show you how to apply a variety of relevant thinking tools.

* Learn and apply ‘the funnel’ as a process for generating relevant ideas
* Learn and use a range of relevant thinking tools and idea generators
* Discover how to steer ideas in the right direction and stay on track
* Instigate ‘blue-sky’ rules to make sure ideas flourish

Nigel Collin, leading creatives

Whatever happened to the guys from uni?

The presentation provides an insight into how quality teachers minimise incidents of classroom disruptions. The educational theories of the ‘guys from uni’ are considered in terms of: What do the theories of Piaget, Skinner, Carl Jung, Ed Ford, Bill Rogers and Christine Richmond look and sound like in the contemporary classroom? and how can classroom teachers apply the theory in their classrooms?

Craig Wood, Behaviour Advisory Teacher, Education Queensland

Mainstream technologies for inclusive classrooms

ICTs are now firmly embedded in today's learning environments. The use of ICT now goes way beyond computers and the internet. Portable devices, digitised input and even electronic gaming is enhancing the learning opportunities for many students. These type of devices also have significant potential to enhance learning of the diversity of students we have on our modern classrooms.

This session will explore how everyday and readily available ICT can support inclusive learning. We will explore and discuss the use of ICT such as the Nintendo Wii, digital pens, the iPod and iPad and other mainstream devices in enhancing our learning environment and providing opportunities for all students to
EITHER 3A Engaging students in critical and creative thinking

We are all teachers of thinking! However, good thinking does not happen automatically. It requires effort and explicit modelling, regular practice and constant encouragement wherever it occurs. This practical and hands-on lecture will explore a range of critical & creative thinking tools designed to promote, engage & sustain deeper thinking for the students in your class. Practical examples of where these tools can be applied in the classroom will be shared and participants will have reflection time and assistance in transferring these applications to their own teaching practice.

Gerard Alford, Director, ITC Publications, Pty Ltd

OR 3B Think to ask

Our own not-knowing can help us motivate people -- especially through asking questions, inviting people into inquiries with us, and/or convening conversations. What we don't know can be used to engage people and even help them make self-defined shifts or breakthroughs in their own thinking. In “Think to Ask” participants will be exposed to a variety of tools for conversation including World Café and Circle Work. Join Alissa and expose yourself to a series of techniques that will help you develop skills for communication in yourself and your students.

Alissa Phillips, Founder and CEO of Specialised Programs And Community Endeavours (aka s.p.a.c.e)

OR 3C Whatever happened to the guys from uni?

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Craig Wood, Behaviour Advisory teacher, Education Queensland

DAY 2: July 22

KEYNOTE

The Inspiring Educator

Teaching is the most important profession on the planet. It changes lives. It creates the future. This session will explore some of the attributes that can often be found in inspiring educators.
Session 4. 11.00am – 12.25pm

EITHER 4A  Surviving your first year

The very first year of teaching can make or break new teachers. This practical and very direct session will clarify some of the pitfalls, and offer some possible solutions for these issues.

Tony Ryan, Headfirst consultancies

OR 4B  Looking after your well-being as a teacher

This hands-on workshop will give you an outline of the MindMatters resources available for Beginning Teachers to support their mental health and wellbeing. You will also be given an outline of the StaffMatters health and wellbeing model that is being utilised within schools to build the mental health and wellbeing of all staff.

Jane Taylor
Qld MindMatters Coordinator, Principals Australia – MindMatters Initiative

Session 5. 1.00pm – 2.25pm

EITHER 5A  Becoming the teacher you want to be

In this interactive session, Eric will model several processes encouraging self-reflection of attributes needed to be an inspirational rather than a pedestrian teacher. In doing so, participants will be employing various higher-order thinking tools which will assist in determining what sort of teacher they want to be.

Eric Frangenheim, Director, ITC Publications, Pty Ltd

OR 5B  Teaching and learning for engagement (including social and emotional learning) – The MindMatters Approach

This interactive workshop will give you an overview of the MindMatters approach to teaching and learning for engagement, which includes social and emotional learning. The workshop will discuss the research in relation to engagement and social and emotional learning as well as practical ways to build these within your classroom.

Jane Taylor, Qld MindMatters Coordinator, Principals Australia – MindMatters Initiative

OR 5C  Creative Approaches to Curriculum Design
Becoming an excellent teacher is not just determined by how long you have taught. Curriculum design is a critical factor in engaging and challenging learners. Creative approaches to curriculum design can be developed. You can do it too.

In this workshop, the presenters will describe how backwards design can be used to overcome the “twin sins” of traditional planning - activity-focused teaching and coverage-focused teaching. They will outline some stimulating activities and performance tasks that encourage students to participate in science classes. Their approach is applicable to teachers of all disciplines, not just science.

Sally Stephens and Cathy Clemot
Director of Science Faculty and Science teacher, Brisbane Girls Grammar School

CLOSING SESSION: My Story, Your Story … Looking forward
2.30pm – 3.00pm

David offers an honest, down to earth presentation to equip an early career teacher with an insight into what to expect in the first few years as an inspiring teacher. He draws upon both personal experience and colleague reflection to outline tips and tricks to inspire from day one.

David Barber, Stretton State College
Auditorium M23

PRESENTERS

Alford, Gerard
Gerard has been teaching for over seventeen years. He has held the position of Head of Faculty, acting Director of Studies and Assistant Dean – Staff. He is the Director, co-author, and editor of ITC Publications, publishers of the innovative teachers’ companion, a teacher diary designed to promote innovative teaching (see www.itcpublications.com). The innovative teachers’ companion has sold over 300 000 copies and is now in its 8th edition in Australia and New Zealand and in its 4th edition in the USA.

Gerard is a regular presenter at schools, teacher conferences and universities promoting the use of cognitive and collaborative tools to engage and promote students in higher order thinking.

Barber, David

David graduated from Griffith University (Mt Gravatt) with a Bachelor of Arts in Leisure Management, Majoring in Tourism. He then travelled the world for five years working with Marriott Hotels before returning to Griffith to complete a Post Graduate Degree of Education, Middle Years. He is currently a 2nd Year teacher and the Year 11 Coordinator at Stretton State College. He offers an honest, insightful vision of what to expect as a first year teacher.

Clemot, Cathy

Cathy Clemot has just over four years’ teaching experience but shares her colleague’s interest in science beyond the classroom. She has taken every professional development opportunity offered to her to extend this interest to the implementation of a differentiated curriculum, an approach that aims to optimise the learning experiences of the full spectrum of student abilities. She is a Science teacher at Brisbane Girls Grammar School.

Collin, Nigel

Nigel Collin is a champion of creativity - which means he works with organisations to help them lead their creative people to get results. After fifteen years in the creative sector Nigel realized the challenge with creativity is not in finding creative people, or teaching your people to be more creative. It’s in knowing how to lead your creative people, harness their genius and direct it towards viable outcomes.
For nine years Nigel owned and ran Absurd Entertainment - an Entertainment design company, before passing the baton on in 2004. He worked on a multitude of corporate and public events including the 2000 Sydney Olympics and Paralympics, The Sydney Royal Easter Show 1997-2003 and was Show Director for Australia’s largest-ever corporate event in Sydney in 2005. Many companies across a myriad of industries including IT, Entertainment, Design, Events, Marketing, Finance, Pharmaceuticals, Government and Telecommunications have benefited from Nigel’s experience and expertise. He has studied organizational creativity at The Walt Disney Company, USA and sat on the roundtable for the Queensland Governments ‘Year of Creativity’.

Nigel is a CSP, (Certified Professional Speaker) the highest designation offered by the National Speakers Association of Australia. His work has taken him throughout Australia, and around the globe.

Frangenheim, Eric
Eric has taught since 1970, in Rhodesia, South Africa and since 1987, in Queensland. With a background in history and gifted education, he is passionate about the infusion of thinking skills in the daily classroom in order to extend all students on a regular basis. He is the author of ‘Reflections on Classroom Thinking Strategies’, which has sold over 24000 copies and ‘The Reconciliation of Goldilocks and the Three Bears’, which is a training text to encourage the use of thinking tools in a curriculum setting. He is also the co-author of the ‘innovative teachers’ companions’, teacher diaries which contain hundreds of teaching ideas for the daily classroom.

Mills, Martin
Martin is a Professor in the School of Education where he is Director of Research and Graduate Studies. He is the author of seven books and numerous articles in leading international and high impact journals. He also has four co-authored SOSE and history textbooks. He has been involved with and led significant commissioned research projects (including policy evaluations) relating to gender and/or pedagogy. He is a member of the Queensland Studies Authority’s Equity Advisory Committee and provides expert advice on equity considerations in relation to new syllabus documents and Authority policies. He is an editor of the international journal, Discourse: Studies in the cultural politics of education, and is an International Editorial Consultant on the leading international journals Gender and Education and British Educational Research Journal.

Phillips, Alissa
Alissa Phillips had a simple idea that has grown into something special. With a Masters in Music Therapy, Alissa began her career as a private practitioner specialising in disability before evolving her skills and concept into a bigger mission of ‘Activating Inclusive Communities’ through the demonstration of what it would take to create one. In 2007, Alissa founded s.p.a.c.e, Specialised Programs and Community Endeavours. Operating from a hall in suburban Brisbane, she initially set up a program called Big Night Out, a monthly dance party where people with special needs could connect. Big Night Out continues to this day and in addition to this Alissa grew a range of weekly programs aimed at engaging members of the community with and without disabilities in regular, dynamic and affordable community activities. Most significant to her work is the ripple effect her own passion has had on other young people in the community. s.p.a.c.e directly affects near 100 people with disabilities in Brisbane. s.p.a.c.e indirectly, however, affects 1000’s of young people, their families and friends inviting them to participate in the very important conversation “what would it take to create an inclusive community?”

Her work has garnered her a number of awards including 2007 Lord Mayor's Youth Citizen of the Year. University of Queensland's Young Alumni 2008 and 2009 Queensland Young Volunteer of the Year and 2009 Young Social Pioneer. Alissa was also recently named one of ten emerging leaders by The Weekend Australian and last month was one of 6 Australian women to be recognised by Madison Magazine as female reshaping Australia. Alissa believes that disability and difference can be embraced in our communities’ dynamic conversations and education through positive and shared experiences.

Ryan, Tony
A former teacher, Tony is an educational consultant and writer, and offers professional support to school organisations throughout the world on issues such as lifelong learning, quality classroom practice…. and enthusiasm for just being alive.

He has presented numerous keynotes and workshops at state, national and world conferences in the past fifteen years. Tony also has been engaged as a teacher-in-residence in over 400 schools throughout several countries. In this role, he teaches extensively, and offers guidance to teachers with their everyday practice.

He is a prolific author of books on effective thinking and learning. These books include The Ripple Effect, Thinkers Keys for Kids, Mindlinks, Brainstorms, Thinkfest and The Clever Country Kits. His latest update of the Thinkers Keys features an exciting Pack of colourful strategies. His website and blog at www.tonyryan.com.au contain numerous free downloads of his material.

He is an ambassador for School Aid (http://www.schoolaid.org), a non-profit organization that encourages thousands of schools to co-ordinate their fund-raising activities for major local and global disasters. School Aid also provides invaluable assistance to schools in the encouragement of active citizenship opportunities.
Souter, Jeff
Jeff has been working in the area of inclusive technology for fifteen years, focusing on the use of ICT to enhance the learning opportunities for all students. He currently coordinates the Learning Development Centre – ICTs – Students With Disabilities, providing professional development to school staff, parents and students in inclusive technology, as well as researching the use of ICT to support an inclusive learning environment.

Stephens, Sally
Dr Sally Stephens has over thirty years’ experience as a teacher of Science and Mathematics. Her professional interests include investigating the myriad of ways that students learn science and how that impacts on curriculum design. She has been instrumental in developing opportunities for students to extend their engagement with science and has travelled extensively with student groups in this pursuit. She is Director of the Science Faculty and Acting Dean of Administration at Brisbane Girls Grammar School.

Taylor, Jane
Jane Taylor is the Queensland Co-ordinator for MindMatters. Jane is a health and physical education teacher and has worked in schools in a variety of positions including head of department, sports coordinator and health and physical education coordinator. In her spare time, Jane enjoys going to the movies, walking on the beach, learning new things and working within the tennis community. Jane thoroughly enjoys integrating and implementing the MindMatters resources, principles and processes across school communities and empowering people to make a difference.

Wood, Craig
Craig graduated from Griffith in 1996 with a B. Ed. (Drama) and has since taught Drama in Queensland and the UK. In 2004 he began working with students who were ‘at-risk’ of disengaging from education. Most recently Craig has worked as a BAT in South-East Brisbane and Logan-Beaudesert district schools.

Craig is presently working on his Masters in Drama Education and is a member of a number of committees including DET/QTU Joint Taskforce on Developing Performance Framework, QTU's Professional Issues Committee and QTU New and Beginning Teachers' Committee.

Griffith Education Professional Experience Office and Professional Learning

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