

## Would you believe... ?

This Newsletter represents attempt number two following our first newsletter sent out over 18 months ago!

No excuses... except not wanting to fold up all those pieces of paper and lick all those stamps. Hooray for the internet!

Welcome along to what we intend to be an informative, newsy, perhaps amusing and sometimes interesting look into the world of living with or being dyslexic.

To be perfectly frank (I'm Frank but nowhere near perfect as Annette may tell you), Annette and I were aware of the

existence of dyslexia but only as a word to describe the condition of people in any age or stage who found difficulty with reading and other literacy tasks.

Over several decades as teachers, the students who did not respond well on activities *we thought* would resolve their difficulties were left for 'specialists' and school psychologists to mull over.

Unfortunately their solutions often resulted in no improvement.

Our Damascus moment came in 2007 when we were impressed by the change

shown in one student who had been through the 'Davis' program in San Francisco.

Annette has now worked with 30 students (children and adults) with very satisfying results.

Through this newsletter we hope to share some of those moments, to hear of the experiences of others and to learn about new happenings and research into the frustrating condition of dyslexia.

Please feel free to print off and pass to others who may also be interested.

### A change of look and name

Dyslexia Correction Service has given way to Dyslexia WA.

After someone asked me if we worked for one of the state prisons as correction officers I thought a name change might help.

So, Dyslexia WA was available, as was Dyslexia Perth, so we registered them both.

Both new names will take you to our website, [www.dyslexiacorrection.com.au](http://www.dyslexiacorrection.com.au) which is unchanged (but being rebuilt).

Our email address is also still the same, [dyslexiacorrectionwa@gmail.com](mailto:dyslexiacorrectionwa@gmail.com) and the old one still works too... [dyslexiacorrection@hotmail.com](mailto:dyslexiacorrection@hotmail.com)



### Viv Groskop: Anna Karenina stars are proof that dyslexia is no bar to creativity

(from [The Independent.co.uk](http://TheIndependent.co.uk))

The Dyslexia Hall of Fame is a happy place to hang out. Whoopi Goldberg, Anthony Hopkins, Orlando Bloom, Tom Cruise, Salma Hayek, Keanu Reeves, Vince Vaughn. They're all there. Granted, you might want to avoid some of them. I am looking at you, Tom Cruise. Although I'll stop now because that's exactly what you want everyone to do.

But, in the main, these names are a prettily good advert. Certainly aesthetically. Who wouldn't want to find it difficult to read if that's the company you're keeping? And now the members of this most glamorous club can rejoice further as their all-consuming power grows as last night was the premiere of Anna Karenina, a film featuring the talents of two more famous dyslexics, director Joe

Wright and actress Keira Knightley. It's a movie everyone has wanted to hate, not least because Knightley-bashing has become something of a national sport. But the film is a triumph. And Knightley is tipped for an Oscar. People are fond of making fun of Keira, perhaps she is a bit too young and beautiful for comfort. How dare she be a good actress, too?

AND.. From <http://www.bbc.co.uk/newsround/19476866>

### Keira Knightley: dyslexia 'doesn't mean you're stupid'

**Pirates of the Caribbean star, Keira Knightley, has spoken about how acting helped her to find a way around her dyslexia.**

Keira, who was diagnosed when she was 6, says that: "Dyslexia is like a wall... it's very difficult to see over it. I was really lucky because I had acting... it was like a carrot that was being dangled in front of me because I had to be able to read those lines in order to do it."

**\*\* read more at the above web address**



Participants get involved at the February conference in Rockingham,

## Hey, I'm not alone...

The chance to meet others who have similar experiences in coping with dyslexia is too good an opportunity to miss.

For the second year the **Dyslexia Correction Service** has held a conference - chatfest for families who have completed or are thinking

of completing the 30 hour Program. It's a chance to compare notes, answer questions or simply realize you are not alone, support and help are available.

Annette usually starts the conference off with a short talk about recent

happenings or developments within the dyslexia community, especially if any enlightening research has been published.

Some activities which give insights into the phenomenon of dyslexia get the talks moving along.

The major focus, however, is to give

conference members time to share experiences and find out who has been through the same ordeals, how schools and teachers are helping (or not) and what possible solutions are out there.

The junior members of the group, school pupils in primary or secondary, were certainly ready to air their thoughts and they are to be congratulated on their contributions to the discussions.

The verdict: "Valuable talks, great to listen to others, a wonderful chance to relate to others' experiences."

Conference 3 next year looks to be a sure thing. Usually held after the start of the new school year, it is 2 hours of free, open discussion, questions are asked and problems shared.

Keep February Saturday mornings free and we'll provide more details closer to then.

## Fun with Dyslexia

By David Van Ess

When someone noticed the problems I have with spelling, she asked if I suffered with dyslexia.



I told her no, that I mostly enjoyed it.

Living with a non linear brain has allowed me to easily grasp concepts like non-Euclidian geometry, random behavior, distribution theory, chaos, and reading a memo on your boss's desk while it is upside down and backwards.

Since I can't write and listen at the same time, I have learned to process new ideas very quickly.

I received an e-mail from Amazon with the subject saying **Recessed Lightning**. Cool, I thought and quickly opened it.

It turned out it was for **Recessed Lighting** and it was only a bunch of stupid lights, but it made me think about what recessed **lightning** could be.

So I went to Google and after convincing it I really did mean **lightning**, I figured it must be weather that keeps a school from letting their students outside for break during a thunder storm.

Or maybe it was those plasma balls used as recessed lighting. That would make a really cool effect for kitchens.

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I looked up plasma balls which led to light-

ing in a jar which led to making outdoor lighting with mason jars. So, last night, I got to spend a couple of enlightening (pun intended) mind expanding hours all because I saw a word differently than most.

Oh, by the way. left and right are not strong concepts for me. Someone told me a trick to stick out my thumbs and index fingers.

The one that forms the L is your left. A really stupid idea. You get a different answer with palms up than with palms down.

Or get the same answer on both if one is up and the other is down. It also requires that you remember which way an L is supposed to go.

I like my solution. When I was 8, I got a really bad scar on my left elbow. Until it became automatic, when I needed to know left, I would just grab my elbows.

The one on with the scar was left. When tired, I still occasionally catch myself doing it.

Now in no way do I advocate the intentional scaring of young dyslexics. Maybe tattoo a finger. If you are sure they will be engineers then tattoo which fingers on the right hand are for current, voltage, flux, and power.



Ps Here is a Dyslexia joke I made up:  
Old Mac Donald had dyslexia O I E E I

From David's blog: [http://www.cypress.com/?rID=68625&source=home\\_cdc](http://www.cypress.com/?rID=68625&source=home_cdc) if you would like to read more.



"It's called 'reading'. It's how people install new software into their brains"

## October School Holidays Top Up

There is a repeat of last year's "Top Up" option for all who have completed the one week Dyslexia Program with Annette.

As before, it is a free 2 hour one-on-one revision session of skills and tools as learnt in the 30 hour program.

Not everyone feels the need but if you do then email or phone and we'll slot in a time for you... first in first served.

## Any comments, ideas, suggestions...

Our first effort in compiling an email newsletter for you is a modest affair.

We want to make it better, something you would enjoy scanning over.

Would you like to contribute a letter, short yarn, questions to trick Annette, relate an experience of your own?

Please send in to our email, we would love to hear from you.



[dyslexiacorrectionwa@gmail.com](mailto:dyslexiacorrectionwa@gmail.com)