

Dyslexia WA Newsletter

harness the gift
dyslexiawa.com.au

Volume 4 Number 2
March 2015

Newsletter of Dyslexia Correction Service trading as Dyslexia WA; Contact (618) 9591 3482; 0439 698 587; 0479 121 163. email dyslexiacorrectionwa@gmail.com. Annette Johnston: Licensed Davis Facilitator

A special mention in US writers' contest

Frank Johnston

"Because Dyslexic People are Amazing!" is the very positive motto of the Dyslexic Advantage website based in the USA.

In their annual Karina Eide Awards 2015 writers' contest, for US citizens only, Caillin Thompson of West Busselton entered anyway and scored a special mention for her efforts.

Caillin, now 11, did her Davis Program with Annette back in April 2012.

In the holidays Caillin wrote a story and submitted it even though not eligible to win main prizes because she wasn't from the US, but she got a special recognition for being a winner from Australia.

Now Caillin gets the opportunity to take part in an online meeting with **Pulitzer Poet** (and dyslexic) **Philip Schultz**, and all the other winners on May 9.

To follow up her first success, Caillin would now like to turn her story into a novel. Wonderful ambition!

International members of the Dyslexic Advantage Community were prevented from formally entering the program because of international rules. Dyslexic Advantage wants to acknowledge the wonderfully writing abilities of Sophie from Great Britain and **Caillin** and **Tian** from **Australia!**

The motto, **"Because Dyslexic People are Amazing"** mirrors our own **"harness the gift"** which indicates people with dyslexia, far from being the lazy or slow workers they are often labelled by teachers and others, are in fact very bright and intelligent people who work very hard at achieving success in literacy (and sometimes maths) but are handicapped because of the unsuitable (for them) teaching strategies being applied in the classroom.

We have observed this simple fact many times: not everybody learns the same way, no one-size teaching strategy fits all, people with dyslexia have a different way of learning, so require a different way of teaching.

"If children don't learn the way we teach, perhaps we should teach the way they learn" is a wonderful quote to apply for the many visual thinking and creative people who have already completed the Davis Program with Annette.



Caillin checks out a submarine on a recent visit to Sydney



Congratulations Caillin, and good luck with your future writing.

Unlocking and harnessing that gift!

Frank Johnston

It's just amazing, surprising and immensely satisfying to witness the change from gloom and a sense of frustration to a feeling of achievement, a new sense of hope and a bright outlook, acquired by students all in a few days.

And it continues... throughout the rest of school and into adult life.

We've recently received some notes and cards, from recent clients as well as some who worked with Annette some years ago and just had to share a couple of them with you...

...real people harnessing their gift.



9 year old Molly West sent a 12 - page story she wrote about her experience with Annette.

A quote from Molly's book... *"I felt like someone special, not dumb. I have changed like a chameleon."*

From Nate Ballegooyen



To Annette

Thank you very much for helping me to read better. I enjoyed my time with you very much because you made learning fun. Thanks again.

Love Nate

Annette and Frank

Words will never do justice to what I want to say, but you already know that! Thankyou for taking the time to understand dyslexia. Your decision to help others has changed my life and helped me to understand myself. I'm so grateful that you have empowered Hannah and Molly with knowledge that will effect the rest of their lives. Thankyou both for the time and energy you put into helping others unlock their gift of dyslexia. Mel West

"I am really inspired watching you work with Nate and so excited to see the growing confidence and pride in Nate... I felt so blessed to have stumbled across your service and had the opportunity to see first hand the reality of the gift of dyslexia."

Vanessa Ballegooyen.

“Would you work with a 70-year-old?”

By Suzanne Buchauer : Davis Facilitator in Kew, Australia

This article comes from The Dyslexia Reader; issue 1 2015 Vol 68

In May of 2014 seventy-year-old Marguerite sat in the front row at a power point presentation in the Kew Library in Melbourne, Australia.

The talk, called *Dyslexia – Challenge and Opportunity*, was about the Davis Dyslexia Correction Program. Her long flowing hair and open face stood out in the crowd. She was a presence and an inspiration to the somewhat nervous speaker.

When the optical illusion slides popped up, Marguerite suddenly shifted in her seat and looked ill. Looking around quickly, I announced, “if any of these slides bother you in any way, please look away, because I don’t see a trash bin in here.”

The following day, Marguerite called to inquire about a Davis Dyslexia Correction Program for herself.

“Would you work with a 70-year-old?” she asked.

“Yes, ma’am, I certainly would!” She proceeded to explain her situation.

Up until recently, her husband had been the person she had relied on for many things she found to be challenging. Now that he was no longer alive, she was faced with navigating the world without his aid, and she was also taking care of her 93 year-old mother in hospital. She also had a burning desire to overcome her own reading challenges.

The program lasted one and a half weeks. Marguerite’s experiences growing up in a boarding school left quite a few images and impressions on her. She had been trauma-

tized by the school in the areas of reading and self esteem.

Marguerite responded swiftly and extremely positively to the Davis tools and at last many things suddenly became clear to her. She overcame major areas of trauma with the letters and reading, and she was astounded to discover she was going from realisation to realisation.



Marguerite also worked on several challenging issues, such as pronunciation, spatial awareness when riding an escalator, driving her car, reading fears, directional confusion in the car or while in the labyrinth-like hallways in the hospital where she visited her mum, filling out forms and discussing choices with doctors in the hospital.

And Marguerite overcame the generalised feeling that things seemed out of control at times, that things seemed to just happen randomly around her.

She told me that she now has no problem making clear decisions when discussing her mother’s situation with physicians, and feels very clear about what she wants to happen.

At the end of her program and again, one year after she completed her program, Marguerite said, “The Davis Dyslexia Correction Program felt so right for me, then and now.”

Concerning the fear and trauma she felt about reading, she exclaimed, “That’s gone now! A thing of the past!”

During a recent phone conversation Marguerite told me, “Because I have done the program, I understand myself and how I think. This area of my life was a mystery before and things seemed to just randomly happen.”

Marguarite went on to say, “I’m not at the mercy of others or confusion any more. The Davis tools have created a state of freedom for me.”

Marguerite and her support person were able to do the follow-up work for quite a long time after the program. She is still doing exercises with her son and support person. When I called Marguerite to ask permission to publish her story, she recounted a story about a trip she took to the city last week. “I was able to get on the escalator for the first time ever and go down, without fear!”

Thank you Ron Davis!



Suzanne Buchauer holds a Master of Arts in Education. She has been a Davis Facilitator near Melbourne, Australia since 2013. You can reach her through her web site, <http://www.dyslexia-works.com.au>



Sir John Young “Jackie” Stewart

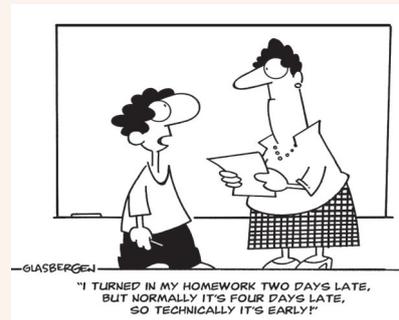
Jackie Stewart is a former Formula One racing driver from Scotland, who, while competing in Formula One from 1965 to 1973, won three World Drivers’ Championships.



In 2009 he was ranked fifth of the fifty greatest Formula One drivers of all time. He also competed in the United States and served as commentator on ABC’s *Wide World of Sports* and *ABC Sports* from 1982 to 1984. When he was growing up, his family ran highly successful car dealerships. Jackie was a poor student, with undiagnosed dyslexia. As a result by age sixteen he quit school and began working in his father’s garage.

He has said, “When you’ve got dyslexia and you find something you’re good at, you put more into it than anyone else; you can’t think the way of the clever folk, so you’re always thinking out of the box.”

Recently Stewart took the time to visit Chartwell, a school specializing in educating students with dyslexia and other learning challenges. “Find other ways of doing things,” he told the students, “it can be a more successful route.



Even in business I have never taken the interstate. I take the winding rural road instead, and see opportunities other people don’t.” We hope that these days Stewart realizes he should include himself in the category of “clever folk”!

