

TA TALK

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Leaders in
Professional
Learning
For
Teacher Aides



Stella Liliendal and Mandy Bell, ATA Directors

Australian Teacher Aide Directors Message

Welcome to the September edition of TA Talk.

We are very excited to announce that word about ATA is spreading, and more schools are joining their entire teacher aide teams. Last month, we welcomed a number of Queensland schools including Mooloolaba, Maleny, Beerburrum and Victoria Park State Schools and this month, so far, Toukley Public School in NSW and Noosa District State High in Queensland have joined us.

We also welcomed our first student members this month. They are really embracing the opportunity by participating in MyPLC and using the ATA professional development resources and webinars to continue their learning. You will find our special offer for students and volunteers on page 4.

Karen Clarke, author of 'From Bullied to Brilliant', not only presented an informative and engaging webinar on ending the pattern of bullying, but generously offered participants a 50% discount on book purchases. Karen also gave away one book to our lucky winner, Fiona, from Jones Hill State School in Gympie, Queensland. Karen was thrilled that the winner was from the Gympie area, as she is currently working in partnership with the Brisbane Broncos, and with Gympie schools in their "Fit for Life" programs.

Cheryl White will present our next open webinar, Digital Skills for Teacher Aides, on Thursday 20th October. Cheryl initiated the Digital Practice Guide for teacher aides in Queensland State schools and is the Director of Digital Skills Depot.

Happy holidays to everyone. Talk again soon.

Warm regards

Stella Liliendal & Mandy Bell

SEPTEMBER WEBINAR: From Bullied to Brilliant – Ending the pattern of bullying

With author, Karen Clarke.

Karen Clarke is the author of 'From Bullied to Brilliant', a book for parents and educators that challenges how we think about bullying.

Karen's book is the result of a 20 year personal journey to find a solution to feeling bullied, helpless and intimidated. Her journey began as a teenager, in a family of 7 children, on the Ivory Coast in Africa where she grew up in a volatile and hostile environment.



Karen's goal is to help people rediscover their strengths, find self-acceptance and hope, and end the cycle of bullying.

Her book has received outstanding reviews from school principals, and she has also impressed some very influential people, including Dr Arun Ghandi, the President of the worldwide Ghandi Education Institute, as her book is built on the principles of non-violent resistance.

In this engaging and interactive webinar, Karen shared with us, some of her story that led her on this journey, and explained her step by step strategies for ending the pattern of bullying, building resilience and overcoming challenges.

Lots of people told us they were disappointed to miss Karen's presentation. Members are reminded that this webinar, along with all our previous webinars, can be viewed anytime, in the ATA Webinar Library.

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR WINNER

Our lucky book winner is Fiona Ledger. Fiona, kindly, told us a little about herself and, as you can see below, champions the role of the teacher aide in schools.



My name is Fiona and I'm a relief teacher at Jones Hill State School in Gympie, Queensland.

I have had the pleasure of working there in many capacities, as an all level class teacher, librarian and as a special education teacher. All of my roles have taught me new skills, opened up my learning and affirmed that being a teacher is the best decision I ever made.

Previous to teaching I was a teacher aide in the private education sector in Noosa so I have had experience in both fields.

I believe that teacher aides are pivotal to a successful school. Regardless of whether they work full time or part-time, whether they are helping one on one or in a group; without teacher aides our schools would struggle.

The teacher aides at Jones Hills are a wonderful group of people who are crazy, generous, fun and dedicated to their work.

P.S Thank you for the book...

MEMBERS WEBINAR

LANGUAGE OF ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

In our September members' webinar, Stella presented the topic: *Language of Acknowledgement*. This was the third conversation in a series based on the 'Balance Model', designed to encourage and support positive relationships with students.

The Language of acknowledgement uses the skills of:

- Non-verbal encouragement
- Descriptive encouragement



Non-verbal encouragement

Nonverbal encouragement such as gestures, facial expressions, para-language and proximity can be used effectively in the classroom to acknowledge students who are on task, and redirect those who need to be. Before discussing this skill we talked about the important role of non-verbal communication and its cultural variations that may affect how it is interpreted by some students and their parents.

Verbal encouragement

Rudolph Dreikurs said 'Encourage the Deed, not the Doer'. This concept is supported by Carol Dweck, from Columbia University, who found that praise can hamper risk taking, and that children who were praised for being good at tasks, chose easier tasks next time, to avoid making mistakes.

DATE CLAIMERS

11 October: Members Webinar

[The Language of Correction: Simple and positive strategies that work](#)

20 October: ATA Open Webinar

[Digital Skills for Teacher Aides](#)

8 November: Members Webinar

[The Balance Model - Summing up: What did you learn and where to next?](#)

['The power of believing that you can improve'](#) is an inspiring TED talk by Carol Dweck. Carol talks about the difference between a fixed and growth mindset, and explains the effect of using encouragement to acknowledge effort, strategy, focus and improvement.

She provides examples of how children have improved in math using games that reward these traits, and turned around disadvantaged groups through growth mindset training.

You are invited to join us for our members' webinars, held on the second Tuesday of each month at 3.45pm. Members receive a reminder email each month, prior to the webinar, including registration details.

Top Post: Queensland Teacher Aide Day

21,016 Views 1,207 Reactions, Comments and Shares

ATA is all about the teacher aide and therefore we take every opportunity we can to promote this very important teaching and learning support role.

Whilst it was officially Queensland Teacher Aide Day on 2nd September, we hope you know that we were extending our recognition to you all, regardless of which state or territory you live and work in. Based on the number of post “shares”, many of you gave us a helping hand by commenting, sharing the post and tagging colleagues. Well done, ATA community! We hope your schools celebrated with you, as well.

Your reaction to our post on 16th September that shared the Smart Jobs advertisement for 9 teacher aides gave us some very strong feedback and reinforced some of our ideas and vision for the near future. It is unusual to see so many jobs advertised at one school and it certainly created a buzz with colleagues tagging others in the vicinity of Moreton Bay.

Please keep following us on our [ATA FB page](#) and don't forget to share the page with your colleagues.



SPECIAL ATA MEMBERSHIP OFFER TO STUDENTS

Are you a student studying to become a teacher aide?

The ATA community connects teacher aides from our capital cities with those in small rural towns and TA's with many years of experience with those who are new to the job.

When you join ATA, the only professional association for teacher aides, you will become part of the voice of teacher aides, throughout Australia, and discover new opportunities to network, share, learn and participate in professional development.

A 12 Month Student Membership is only \$47, a saving of almost 60%.

To access student membership, enquire via our [Contact Us](#) form. Please include the name and location of the registered training organisation you are currently enrolled with.

CURRENT EDUCATION TOPICS FOR YOU

Each month we bring you resources and ideas that you can use in the classroom or at home. As this month's open webinar was about ending the pattern of bullying, we have found some resources around this topic that we know you will find useful.

BULLYING.NO WAY

[Bullying. No Way!](#) is an Australian website to help educators, parents, communities, teenagers and kids to learn about bullying, and how to respond, prevent and teach about bullying. Resources include videos and lesson plans, as well as apps for iPads and Android

tablets. Also, check out their links to other bullying sites. The website is coordinated by the Queensland Government, on behalf of the Australian Government, Catholic and Independent school communities



KIDS MATTER VIDEO – SOCIAL EMOTIONAL COMPETENCE

Kids Matter has many useful resources that not only focus on bullying, but importantly on building the social and emotional skills to build relationships with others and manage emotions. [This video](#) introduces you to the five key social and emotional competencies: self-awareness, self-management, social awareness, relationship skills and responsible decision-making.

BE DEADLY ONLINE

[Be Deadly Online](#), is a campaign developed with indigenous writers and actors about bullying, reputation and respect, and how to behave online. The information about cyberbullying, social networking, and sexting, as well as the resources for schools and the community, is presented from an indigenous perspective, using relevant language and fun animations. It is a useful resource for all Australians.

SHARE YOUR STORIES FROM AROUND THE STATES AND TERRITORIES. HERE ARE SOME IDEAS:

- **Make a difference:** Acknowledge someone who is making a difference in the lives of students
- **What's new?** Are you using a new App, literacy program, STEM activity?
- **What have you been learning?** Have you attended an awesome workshop? Share it with your paraprofessional colleagues here

SEND US YOUR NEWS STORIES: CONTACT US

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