



# **“Back to the Future”**

**(Early Childhood in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century)**

**Cairns ECTA / C&K Conference**

**Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> & Sunday 16<sup>th</sup>  
August 2009**

At Rydges Tradewinds Cairns, 137 The Esplanade, Cairns

**All registrations should be received on or before 31st July.**

*Sponsored by:*



# **“Back to the Future”**

## **(Early Childhood Education in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century)**

### **PROGRAM: Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> August**

8.00 am	Registration (tea/coffee available) Trade Displays available.
8:30 am	Opening and Welcome to country
8.45-9.15am	Opening Address <b>Barrie Elvish</b> C&K “The elephant not in the room”
9.15-9.45am	<b>April Schipke</b> Education Queensland “The Early Years Learning Framework”
9.45-10.45 am	<b>Keynote Speaker</b> <b>Sarah Davies-Roe</b> Queensland Health “What’s attachment got to do with Early Childhood Education?”
10.45-11.15 am	Morning Tea and Trade Displays
11.15-11.45am	<b>Dr. Reesa Sorin</b> James Cook University “The Australian Early Development Index”
11.45am-12.30pm	<b>Mary Kimani Githaigu</b> James Cook University “Early Childhood Education in Kenya”
12.30-1.30pm	Lunch (in Latitude 137 Restaurant – adjacent to the pool) Trade Displays available.
1.30-3.00pm	Workshop Session One
3.00-3.30pm	Afternoon Tea and Trade Displays
3.30-5.00pm	Workshop Session Two

If you wish to stay and network with colleagues afterwards, you are welcome to use the bar (at your cost) by the pool.

### **Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> August**

7.45-8.45 am	Breakfast on the verandah, next to the Trinity Room Trade Displays available.
8.45-9.45am	<b>Keynote Speaker</b> <b>Eva deVries</b> Independent Schools Queensland “Young Children’s Numeracy Learning”
9.45-11.15am	Workshop Session Three
11.15-11.45am	Morning Tea and Trade Displays
11.45am-12.15pm	<b>Office for Early Childhood Education and Care</b> “Where to From Here?”
12.15-12.45pm	Closing with Storyteller, <b>Helen Ramoutsaki</b> “..And they all lived wisely and well.” – Some words to take away with you.

## **GUEST SPEAKERS & KEYNOTE SPEAKERS: SATURDAY**

***Barrie Elvish: CEO of C&K***

**“The elephant not in the room”**

This opening address will include updates on Early Childhood at the state and national levels.

***April Schipke: Regional Early Years Consultant, Education Queensland***

**“The Early Years Learning Framework”**

This presentation will explain the background, supporting research and the development of the Early Years Learning Framework. Participants will examine possible implications of the framework on the Queensland early years.

April Schipke has taught for many years in North Queensland in a variety of contexts including Preschool, multi-age class, Prep, Acting Deputy Principal and more recently, Head of Curriculum (Edge Hill State School P-3) and Regional Early Years Consultant. As the Early Years Consultant, April supports teachers through facilitating Prep / Year 1 classroom observation visits followed by a workshop. Ongoing support is provided for teachers to embed new learning into their classroom teaching and learning.

***Sarah Davies-Roe: Perinatal Infant Mental Health, Principal Project Officer, Nth Queensland, Queensland Health.***

**“What’s attachment got to do with Early Childhood Education?”**

The presentation for ECE professionals will explore the importance of early relationships and how this affects mental health and behaviour of preschool age children. The presentation will also address strategies to promote the social and emotional development of children in the classroom and child care setting.

Sarah Davies-Roe is a Social Worker with a Masters of Infant Mental Health. Sarah has worked with families and young children in the areas of mental health, child protection and trauma. She is acutely aware of the need to intervene early and is passionate about enabling all sectors in the community to hear the voice of the infant.

***Dr. Reesa Sorin: Coordinator of Early Childhood Education, School of Education, James Cook University***

**“The Australian Early Development Index and its place in preparing children for learning and development in the early years of school.”**

The Australian Early Development Index (AEDI) is a measure of school readiness first created as the Early Development Instrument (EDI) in Canada in 2000 and modified and trialled in Australia from 2004 – 2007. Beginning in 2009, the AEDI is being implemented Australia-wide. This presentation explains the AEDI – how it evolved and what it is. It looks critically at how the AEDI can be used to help caregivers, teachers, families, schools, services and communities support early learning and development.

Dr Reesa Sorin’s research interests include: school readiness; multimodal literacies in early learning; conceptualisations of childhood and emotional literacy in early childhood. Dr Sorin was involved in the AEDI trial in Cairns South 2006 – 2007. Her 2008 Study Leave included AEDI study and research with McMaster University, Healthy Child Manitoba, and the Human Early Learning Partnership at the University of British Columbia

***Mary Kimani Githaiga: James Cook University***

**“Early Childhood Education in Kenya”**

This presentation will trace the development of early childhood education in Kenya from the pre-colonial times to the present. It will look at the role of the community in the development of early childhood education in Kenya, government involvement, challenges in providing quality early childhood education and make suggestions on the way forward.

Mary Kimani Githaiga is currently a Ph.D. student in early childhood education at James Cook University. Prior to this Mary was a lecturer at Daystar University in Nairobi, Kenya in the Department of Education. While at Daystar she developed and co-ordinated the post-graduate diploma in education (PGDE) programme and acted as the co-ordinator of the Centre for Excellence in Teaching and Learning (CETL). Before then she worked as a curriculum developer with the national curriculum development body in Kenya (Kenya Institute of Education), where she also trained as a trainer of trainers (TOT) in early childhood education.

## **GUEST SPEAKERS AND KEYNOTE SPEAKER: SUNDAY**

***Eva deVries: Program Officer (Numeracy / Mathematics) Independent Schools Queensland***  
**“Young Children’s Numeracy Learning: Oral language, mathematical representations and engagement.”**

This presentation will look at a range of mathematical learning experiences for young children. These activities are inclusive for all learners and are engaging, exciting and rewarding for mathematical learning.

Eva deVries is currently the Program Officer (Numeracy / Mathematics) with Independent Schools Queensland four days a week, and she also works one day a week as research officer at the Australian Catholic University. Eva has worked alongside Indigenous trial schools to develop support materials for various programs including the development and writing of the 2004 Queensland Mathematics syllabus. She developed and wrote Support a Maths Learner and the Year 2 Net. Eva is currently working on an oral language project in indigenous schools to support the development of oral language in mathematics in the early years. She also developed a DVD called “Jump into Number. She is currently developing a mathematics software program called “Fun with Construction” that will focus on Mathematics Investigations from P-12.

***Office for Early Childhood Education and Care***  
**“Where to From Here?”**

The newly formed Office for Early Childhood Education and Care is part of the national early childhood reform agenda which focuses on providing Australian families with high-quality, accessible and affordable integrated early childhood education and child care services. The Office plays a lead role in the licensing and monitoring of children’s services in Queensland and works closely with early childhood stakeholders to develop children’s services and maintain child care standards across the state.

## **WORKSHOPS SESSION ONE: SATURDAY 1.30 – 3.00pm**

***Sarah Davies-Roe: Perinatal Infant Mental Health, Principal Project Officer, Nth Queensland***  
**“Starting to sow some SEEDS in your organisation”**

SEEDS (Social and Emotional Early Development Strategy) provides a way for caregivers to enhance the social and emotional well-being of the children in their care, to reflect on care practices and develop a deeper understanding of the importance of early life experiences both now and for future development. Throughout this workshop the SEEDS package will be explored and unpacked. Participants will gain an understanding of the underpinning principles and have the opportunity to identify strategies that can be utilised within their care setting and commence the process of planning how the seeds will be sown.

***Jenni McDonald: Head of Curriculum, Freshwater State School***

**“Alternatives to Worksheets! (Developing literacy and numeracy understandings through hands-on learning.)**

With the increasing pressure for children to “achieve” high literacy and numeracy standards (look at all the publicity around NAPLAN – the Australian wide testing this year), it could almost be understood why more and more teachers are opting for a “pencil and paper” approach to teaching. However, there is an alternative way to get the results required, engage students and ensure everyone is able to learn. By attending this workshop, participants will play with ideas for hands-on learning activities for children from 3 to 8 years. Come along and enjoy the fun (and you’ll be learning at the same time!)

Jenni McDonald is passionate about hands-on learning and is happy to share her practical application of effective Early Childhood practices from her 20 years of on the job training! Seventeen of those 20 years have been spent working in Far North Queensland. Jenni is renowned for workshops that are fun, lively and educational.

**Gwenyth Beale: C&K Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Unit Resource EC Librarian**  
**“Creating great-looking documents, presentations and web pages”**

This multi-media / ICT workshop will be a practical hands-on look at designing effective parent handbooks, newsletters, your centre’s web page and short-cuts that will make the job easier. It will also have a look at how you can use PowerPoint and / or Movie Maker presentations as a way of sharing the children’s learning experiences and portfolios with parents. At the end of the workshop you will have a CD of templates and instructions you can use as a basis of developing your own resources. **Participants will need to bring their own laptops. There will be a limited number of laptops available for use.**

Gwenyth Beale is a teacher / librarian with over 10 years experience and is a passionate advocate for early childhood education. She believes that providing good resources for children, educators and parents will enhance the early education experience for all. Gwenyth believes that resources can take many forms, from artefacts, games, written and electronic materials. One of Gwenyth’s projects in 2009 is to update the web pages representing our Unit’s work on the C&K web site, and using it as a forum to promote our Kindergartens. She is also exploring ways of linking the services in remote areas together with others around the state for professional development opportunities.

**Anne Grant: Curriculum Consultant for C&K’s Centres for Innovation project**  
**“Theory into Practice in Creating Indoor Environments”**

If environments are the “third teacher,” what can we expect from them? Imagine having a third teacher who was unsupportive, distracting, didn’t allow children to engage with them, was outdated, untidy, overdressed and boring! The luxury of having a third teacher available in the room is the dream of every educator – one who didn’t take days off, who was always there, always involved and responded to everything you and the children demanded of them – ready and “en” abling. Theory into practice in creating indoor environments – an insight into the “why” before the “how” and “what.”

Anne Grant has had the great pleasure of working with children, families, and like-minded individuals for over 30 years in the fields of education, the arts, design and hospitality. She is currently working with C&K’s “C4I Project.” She has worked as teacher & director in kindergartens, long day care, primary and secondary education. She was an events organiser, restaurant owner and still designs and writes for professional theatre. She has never stopped playing and believes joy and passion coupled with reflective thought and courage should inform all aspects of one’s life – professional and private.

**WORKSHOPS SESSION TWO: SATURDAY 3.30 - 5.00pm**

**Anne Grant: Curriculum Consultant for C&K’s Centres for Innovation project**  
**“Theory into Practice in Creating Outdoor Environments”**

If environments are the “third teacher,” what can we expect from them? Imagine having a third teacher who was unsupportive, distracting, didn’t allow children to engage with them, was outdated, untidy, overdressed and boring! The luxury of having a third teacher available in the room is the dream of every educator – one who didn’t take days off, who was always there, always involved and responded to everything you and the children demanded of them – ready and “en” abling. Theory into practice in creating outdoor environments – an insight into the “why” before the “how” and “what.”

**Barb Powell: Occupational Therapist**

**“THINK, TALK, PLAY” – Using imaginative play to develop language and cognitive ability in young children**

This interactive workshop is based on the “Learn to Play” framework developed by Occupational Therapist, Karen Stagnitti. It includes an overview of imaginative play development, and how this relates to language and cognition. Participants will gain practical experience in formally observing and assessing the quality of play, as well as developing strategies and programs to assist individual children.

Barbara Powell is a Paediatric Occupational Therapist who runs a private practice in the Cairns region. She has over 15 years experience with providing Occupational Therapy services to children both in Australia and in the UK. Her career has included working with Education and The Royal Blind Foundation. She has also taught modules in the Disability Work subjects at TAFE – FNQ and is guest lecturer for the JCU Occupational Therapy undergraduates program. Her special interest areas include: Play, Autism Spectrum Disorders, Behaviour Support, Managing of Toileting and Incontinence, and Rehabilitation and Management of Neurological Disorders.

***Will Jones: C&K Early Education and Care Consultant***  
**“Beyond Cultural Diversity”**

“It’s okay. We don’t have any Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander children. We don’t have any refugees. We don’t even have any Jehovah’s Witnesses. So we don’t need to ‘do’ culture or have a cultural program. After all, we don’t want to be tokenistic do we?” This interactive workshop will explore cultural inclusion in all socio-cultural contexts. It calls upon participants to reflect on their own socio-cultural settings. The aim of this workshop is to affirm and inspire everyone to create a truly authentic culture of leadership in their services using a truly inclusive cultural framework.

Will PA Jones has taught P-7 and lectured at TAFE. She is presently a C&K Early Education and Care Consultant for Far North Queensland and Indigenous Services. Will is passionate about character education and behaviour guidance.

***Gwenyth Beale: C&K Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Unit Resource EC Librarian***  
**“Creating great-looking documents, presentations and web pages”**

(Repeated multi-media / ICT workshop) See previous page for details. **Participants will need to bring their own laptops. There will be a limited number of laptops available for use.**

**WORKSHOPS SESSION THREE: SUNDAY 9.45 – 11.15am**

***Eva deVries: MASTER CLASS***

**“Young Children’s Numeracy Learning: Oral language, mathematical representations and engagement.”**

Eva will be presenting a **Master Class** after her Keynote on Sunday in the Trinity Esplanade Room. This hands-on workshop will look at a range of mathematical experiences for young children. These activities are inclusive for all learners and are engaging, exciting and rewarding for mathematical learning.

***Kylie Giordimaina: Speech-language Pathologist***

**“Speech, Oral Language & Phonological Awareness”**

The aim of the presentation is to provide participants with information regarding speech, oral language and phonological awareness development in preschool and early primary children. Practical strategies and activities will be discussed to support these areas of development within the kindergarten and early primary school environments.

Kylie Giordimaina has worked as a Speech-Language Pathologist for the past 12 years. She spent the first 8 years of her career working for Catholic Education in Melbourne and last 4 years working for Education Queensland as a Senior Speech-Language Pathologist, and part-time in Private Practice. Kylie has specialised in the areas of speech, oral language, phonological awareness and literacy.

***Helen Ramoutsaki:***

**“Storying the everyday: relating and reflecting children’s experiences.”**

Throughout our everyday life we all tell and listen to stories which entertain and teach us about people and the world around us. Storying the everyday gives a glimpse into the inner workings of stories. This interactive workshop encourages participants to look at how they can use oral storytelling to relate the common concerns of children’s everyday lives; to reflect behaviour and attitudes back to children and to introduce possibilities for change. The four key questions explore why we tell stories, what are some of the techniques that make stories work, how a blue print can be used to put stories together and what to do if you want to make up a story to fit a particular situation.

Helen Ramoutsaki served her storytelling apprenticeship at a young age, listening to her grandfather spin yarns about ordinary heroes doing extraordinary deeds, then telling her own versions to anyone who would listen. Since those early years she has been a regular oral storyteller in schools and kindergartens, at folk festivals and family events. As an educator, Helen experiences first hand the power of stories to reflect and transform the experience of everyday situations.

**Heidi Streiner: North Queensland Manager, C.S.I.R.O. Education**

**“Mini Beasts – Exploring the fascinating world of insects through hands-on activities.”**

A presentation of guided hands-on activities which explore insects’ similarities and differences to humans. Participants will be provided with resources to take back to their classrooms / centres.

Heidi Streiner spent 12 years as a marine scientist before branching into science education. She is a qualified teacher and has had 16 years experience working for CSIRO Education at the North Queensland Science Centre based in Townsville. She has been Manager of the Centre for the last 7 years.

**ABOUT ECTA:**

*ECTA Inc. - the Early Childhood Teachers Association Queensland [www.ecta.org.au](http://www.ecta.org.au)*

*ECTA Inc., the Early Childhood Teachers Association comprises Queensland registered teachers and others interested in the work of early childhood professionals committed to promoting early childhood education philosophy and the ongoing development of quality care and education for young children.*

*ECTA designs and implements programs that enhance the professional growth of early childhood professionals working in Queensland.*

*ECTA was created and is administered by members who teach in schools, kindergartens and childcare centres or are professionals working in the health, education and well-being of children under eight years of age.*

*ECTA programs are designed to enhance the professional growth of members and others working in services for children under eight years of age.*

*ECTA encourages the establishment of regional groups throughout the state to enhance networking among early childhood professionals.*

*ECTA encourages individuals and groups to identify and share with others what they are learning about good practices emerging within their work environment.*

**ABOUT C&K:**

[www.candk.asn.au](http://www.candk.asn.au)

*More than 100 years of practical experience, curriculum development and proven positive outcomes for children enables C&K to substantiate its claim of leadership in the early childhood sector.*

*C&K is a community based early childhood association with over 400 Department of Education and Training (DET) funded centres and child-related services for families with young children across the state.*

*We are the only statewide early childhood association with credentials of a standard high enough to be recognised and funded by DET.*

*C&K has established a proud tradition of advocating for children and providing a range of high quality services that reflect contemporary national and international early childhood research.*

*We have promoted the interests of young children and their families and provided community-based, early childhood services for over a century.*

*In 1907, C&K opened its first service in Fortitude Valley. It began as a day nursery for working women. By 1911, C&K was operating four such centres in Brisbane and had established the Kindergarten Teachers College to provide training for staff. The college grew and evolved to become the Queensland University of Technology School of Early Childhood Education.*

## Accommodation

There is accommodation available at Rydges Tradewinds (Phone 07 40530390) at a conference rate @ \$149 per room per night. Buffet breakfast on Saturday morning is @ \$15.00 at your cost. (Sunday breakfast is included in the Conference Registration).

Conference Registration includes food catering for all morning and afternoon teas, lunch on Saturday and hot buffet breakfast on Sunday. See Conference Registration Form for costs.

## How to Find Us

Rydges Tradewinds is located at 137 The Esplanade, Cairns (in between Minnie Street and Florence Street). There is off-street parking available on The Esplanade or near the Abbott Street entrance to Rydges Tradewinds.

Keynote and Guest Speaker sessions will be in the Trinity Esplanade Room. Workshops will be held in the Ellis, Clifton and Holloways Rooms and also the Trinity Esplanade Room. The Floor Plan of Rydges Tradewinds is on the last page.

## Conference Enquiries

Margaret Thwaite mmthwaite@hotmail.com  
Lynne Ireland mycol@ozemail.com.au  
Trudi Allen trudiallen@hotmail.com  
Leslie McClelland remote@ledanet.com.au  
Els Heijnes els.h@candk.asn.au

## Cancellations and Refunds

Written notification of a cancellation must be sent to:

ECTA Cairns Regional Group

P.O. Box 391 Gordonvale Qld. 4865

Fax:07 40563116 or email Trudi Allen at trudiallen@hotmail.com

A full refund, less \$30 to cover costs, will be given if the cancellation notification is received no later than 31<sup>st</sup> July 2009. No registration refunds will be given after this date. The registration may be transferred to another person. The Conference Organisers must be advised of the transfer in writing. All applications for a permitted refund will be processed after the conference.

## Disclaimer

The information in this brochure is correct at the time of publication. The organisers reserve the right to alter information should the situation arise. In the event of industrial dispute or other unforeseen circumstances, the Conference Organisers accept no responsibility for loss of monies incurred by delegates. Delegates should make their own arrangements with respect to personal insurance.

## Any problems on the day ?

Phone Margaret Thwaite 0438338319

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