


CECWA's News

a newsletter for the conductive education community in Western Australia

More growth and additions to our CE community ...update from President Lois

CECWA AGM 14 Oct!

CECWA Annual General Meeting (AGM) –
Nominations included current executives only, therefore no vote will be conducted on the evening, but **All parents/caregivers encouraged to attend – please assist your charity in achieving goals to support the existing CE programs in WA.** 7.30pm Thursday 14th October at Carson Street Independent Public School (CSIPS). 

Greetings CE community!

At the end of last term we had cause to celebrate a new arrival in our midst. On behalf of CECWA, and its members, I offer hearty congratulations to Natalie and Wayne Fitzpatrick on the safe arrival of their beautiful daughter, Emily (see page 5 for story and photos).

We have also had other causes to celebrate. After delays with visa processing and WACOT registration, we are happy to announce the arrival of Anna Kocsis, our newest Teacher Conductor (see page 6). Anna arrived in early September and is a very welcome addition to our wonderful CE team. A big welcome is extended to Anna from the entire CE community.

As the Department of Education does not offer relocation expenses to personnel they recruit from abroad, CECWA continues to fund packages that make relocation to Perth a much more appealing proposition. Anecdotal evidence seems to suggest that these packages have enhanced our success in hiring TCs from the Northern hemisphere.

During July, we were fortunate to have the delightful Laura Twomey, an Education Assistant from the UK, join us for work experience. During the four weeks that Laura was here, she was kindly hosted by several of our families. Our thanks go to Nikki and Sue Gay and Louise-Soulsby-King, Katie, Kellie and Eric Wild, Harrison, Linda, Jeremy and Ruby Pierce, Isla, Leah and Anthony Blair, and Marion Tetlow for volunteering to host Laura and making her time in Perth so enjoyable. Laura hopes to return in her long break next year. However, this time she will be visiting old friends.

We have finally had news that the long-awaited Department of Education evaluation of the CE Early Intervention 0-4 Program is to be undertaken during the next three months. CECWA began negotiating with the 'Department' in April 2009 and it has taken this long for the study parameters to be set and for tenders to be accepted. The process is going to be rather abbreviated with the report being due by November.



Laura Twomey, Harrison, Linda and Ruby Pierce at Kings Park

Families who have children who are accessing, or who have participated in, the Early Intervention Program (EIP) have been invited to attend a forum at Carson Street Independent Public School (CSIPS) at 9:30am on Wednesday 13 October. Crèche facilities are available at Bluegum. ~ To register your interest, contact the evaluation team leader Marnie Kennedy on (08) 9228- 8089 or marnie@milesmorgan.com.au

I would encourage all parents who fit these categories to attend, for you all have success stories that the researchers need to hear. Without your positive input, ongoing growth funding for this vital program remains in a precarious state.

As we head into a new term, the Fundraising team is already gearing up for their big November event at Castledare (see page 3). I look forward to seeing you all enjoying yourselves at Castledare which is always a fantastic family fun day.

 **Lois Hall, CECWA president**
lois.hall1@optusnet.com.au

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News Update - what's been happening

Share your family's perspectives on CE ...

CE families will be represented with an oral presentation on "CE: Our Way of Life, CECWA Family Perspectives" at the upcoming CE Congress in Hong Kong, 5-9 December 2011, and we are excited to invite all interested families to participate in developing a video to be shown as part of this presentation!

The content of the presentation will include a short video showcasing the life and times of our CE families with children accessing CE in WA, and how we make CE our way of life – the "shared success stories" of our families.

To create this video, the authors of the presentation (Charmaine White, Lydia Gallant and Kellie Wild) would like to talk with a range of CE families at Carson Street School so that the presentation can reflect broad perspectives of our CE families in WA – families associated with CECWA.

When? Friday 22 October (Wk 2, Term 4)

Where? In your child's CE classroom

If unable to attend video shoot, please send your own family's perspectives for inclusion in the presentation! We would love to hear from you. Please contact:

☐ Charmaine White
cwhite1@westnet.com.au

The CE great morning tea

– spreading the word with friends and families

words by Marian Tetlow *

A Conductive Education Morning Tea was held as a way of broadening awareness and interest in our community.

Laura Jones, WA's first Teacher Conductor was invited to speak to a group of friends and family of CECWA Committee member Marian Tetlow's, to share her knowledge and expertise about Conductive Education recently.

The Morning Tea was a relaxed but informative and interactive time where, as Laura would share her knowledge, questions were asked and answered about the effectiveness and benefits of CE.

Those that came expressed later that they had enjoyed this experience and had found it very interesting, including comments such as:

"One of the most interesting points ...that Laura shared was that every child has the potential to learn and gain in independence regardless of their disability."

"That part of the philosophy of CE is that all children have the right to go to school and be taught at their level, rather than be treated as a patient that needs to recover, all children are regarded as having potential to learn, grow and develop independence."

"The children's own efforts at attempting tasks are highly valued and praised. So that a piece of artwork, for example, that has scribbles over it, is highly valued because it was completed by a child, independently and unassisted but supported by an adult"

It is hoped that as we continue to talk to our family and friends about how our children are benefiting from CE that perhaps further activities like this one could be arranged; where an expert in CE is invited to talk and share with our friends, to further broaden awareness and increase general knowledge of Conductive Education in the wider community.

* Marian is Teagan O'Sullivan's grandmother, and an active participant on CECWA's committee and fundraising team. ☐



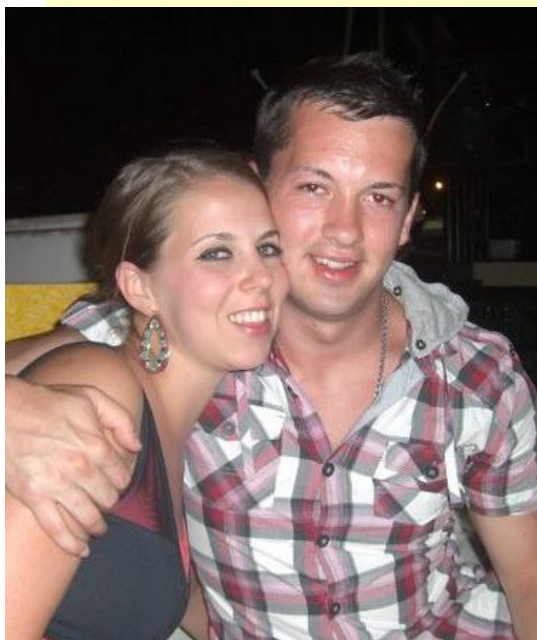
If any other families would like to hold a CE coffee morning to extend the understanding that their wider family and friends have of CE, please don't hesitate to get in touch with Laura via email laurajones.conductor@hotmail.com

CECWA Calendar

- ☐ Tuesday 12th October:
Back to school, Term 4
- ☐ Wednesday 13th October:
CE EIP evaluation FORUM at CSIPS
- ☐ Thursday 14th October:
CECWA Annual General Meeting
- ☐ Sunday 14th November 2010
Castledare Family Fun Day
- ☐ Thursday 25th November:
pre- CE Congress evening
- ☐ Friday 16th December:
school's out for summer!
- ☐ Saturday 16th April 2011:
The Dinner for Dreams

Team n^ews

what's been happening...
and what will happen



Anna Kocsis, teacher-conductor,
with boyfriend Danny

Anna!


– welcoming our new teacher-conductor

CECWA is thrilled to announce that the CE team at Carson Street Independent Public School (CSIPS) has been boosted once again – for the third time in just under a year – by the arrival of ANOTHER teacher-conductor!

Anna Kocsis trained as a conductor at the National Institute of Conductive Education qualifying in 2008 and went on to gain her teaching qualifications in 2009 and joined the CE team at CSIPS at the start of September this year.

Anna says she is settling in well and taking in Aussie life. She is enjoying working in the Parent and Child groups and learning new things every day.

A warm WA welcome to you Anna, and to your partner Danny, from the whole CE community.

In order to attract new teacher-conductors to provide Conductive Education for more children, CECWA has worked to raise funds for the provision of staff relocation packages and continued development courses, and continues to support the CE program at CPIS through donations of specialised equipment with funds provided through its fundraising efforts. 

Conductive Education Centre of WA

 CECWA 8th Annual Family Fun Day

CASTLEDARE MINIATURE RAILWAY ~ Castledare Place, Wilson

Sunday 14th November 2010, 11am-3pm

Activities on the day will include TWO bouncy Castles (1 will be for special needs kids), face painters, Faerie Cara (roaming entertainer), an animal nursery, raffles, and unlimited train rides.

– sorry, no door sales – tickets must be purchased beforehand

ADULTS
\$10

FREE Sausage Sizzle

KIDS
\$5

To purchase tickets & for more information
Contact: Katrina 0402 505 767



ENCLOSED SHOES MUST BE WORN ON TRAIN RIDES

Thank You for your support!

www.conductivedwa.com.au

Photo news


Team CECWA Striders!

A team of 45 members crossed the finish line wearing CECWA Striders' t-shirts in Perth's 2010 City to Surf in both 4km and 12km categories on Sunday 29 August. The team spirit of our CE Community shone through like the sun shone that day and, although a few were exhausted and thirsty, smiles were seen from start to finish, where a welcoming group held aloft our Conductive Education Centre of Western Australia banner at the City Beach destination.

The very worthy efforts of our fundraisers raised over \$9,000 for CECWA, easily breaking the original \$5,000 target, with many of the team members collecting sponsorship on their own behalf, which contributed to the final ranking of CECWA Striders team as 6th highest fundraising team in this year's City to Surf event. A small article in *The Sunday Times* on the day assisted with acknowledgement and awareness of our cause as well, and can be viewed online at www.conductiveedwa.com.au under "news".

For those who were unable to be with us this year, these photos give a moment to absorb and enjoy part of the team's energy. The enthusiasm of participants on the day sparked talk of training for next year, with some eager to move from 4km to a longer distance!

Well done to all those involved and sincere thanks to sponsors, and the sponsors among us who supported friends and family.

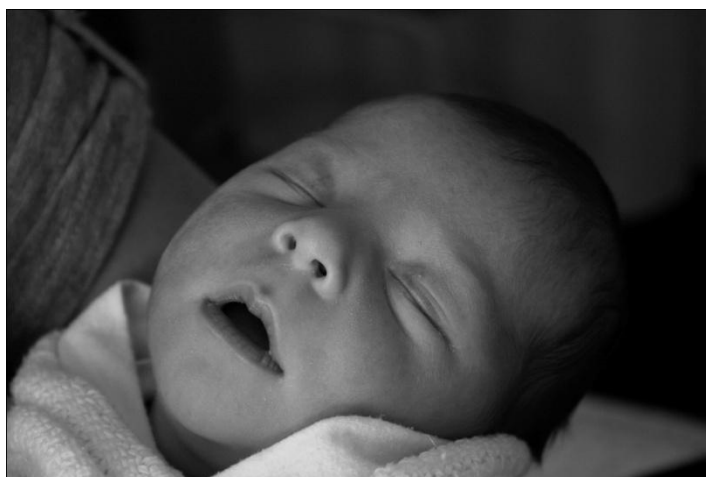
 Lydia Gallant
CECWA Striders team captain 2010



New CECWA recruit? - A bouncing baby girl

Many CE families will be keen to know an update on Teacher Conductor Natalie Fitzpatrick, now on maternity leave.

Natalie and husband Wayne were thrilled to welcome their beautiful baby girl Emily into the world on 18th August at 8.27am weighing 2.9 kilos. The whole family are doing wonderfully well and Natalie is loving her newest role of 'mummy' to add to her many skills and talents! We wish them all many congratulations, love and happiness at this special time from the whole CE community. 📧



Laura on leave

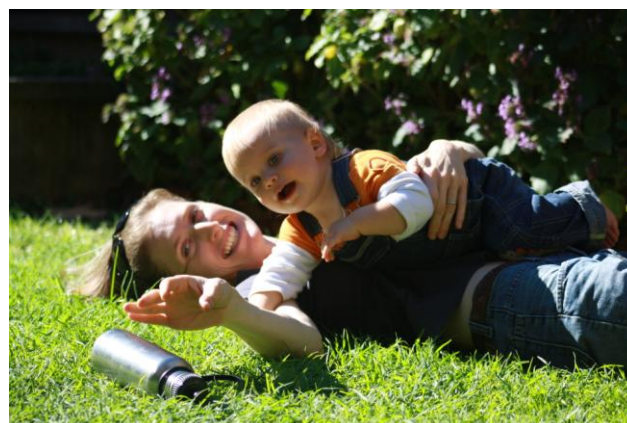
Teacher Conductor Laura Jones took extended leave following the birth of her son Alfie and has been relishing the last 18 months being a full time mummy. Whilst not carrying out any paid CE work, she has not abandoned the CE cause and has been busy with a number of projects to help spread the CE word further.

In October last year, Laura delivered an Introduction to Conductive Education presentation at the national Angelman Syndrome Association's conference held here in Perth and as a result of this presentation was invited to be a guest lecturer at Edith Cowan University to provide an introduction to Conductive Education to fourth year teaching students. Laura completed this guest lectureship in Semester 1 this year, and the success and interest in CE has led to discussions regarding the potential for Laura to develop a course for teachers to study at post-graduate level in the field of Conductive Education which ECU would accredit. This is work in progress!

More recently, Laura was invited to submit an updated version of an article she had written on the Roles and Responsibilities of Teacher Conductors (which was previously published in the journal "Recent Advances in Conductive Education" in 2007) for republication in a book about CE pioneers to be launched by the Conductive Education Press at the upcoming CE World Congress in Hong Kong 5-8 December 2010, which Laura will attend as a presenter.

All these things, as well as joining CECWA striders for the City to Surf (with husband Adam and young son Alfie alongside); assisting Lydia Gallant with content for the new (soon to be launched) CECWA website and CECWA News! newsletter; and talking at Marian Tetlow's CE morning tea (see page 2 for story) have contributed to the continuation of exciting times for Laura in the CE Community! With so many exciting projects on the go Laura does not have firm plans to return to work before her son is two years old but is keeping her promise to help keep pushing CE forward in WA.

📧 [Laura Jones laurajones.conductor@hotmail.com](mailto:laurajones.conductor@hotmail.com)



Three teacher-conductors to represent WA at the Conductive Education World Congress 2010

CECWA is proud to report that all three teacher-conductors on the CECWA committee will attend the upcoming 7th World Congress on Conductive Education to be held in Hong Kong at the beginning of December 2010.

Laura Jones and Natalie Fitzpatrick, both on maternity leave, along with Shona Ballantyne will all make an oral presentation based on the abstracts they each successfully submitted to the CE Congress's organising committee earlier this year. Laura, who presented two papers at the 2007 6th World Congress on Conductive Education in Sweden, will speak about CE for young children with Angelman Syndrome; Natalie will present an update on the progress made through the collaboration between CECWA and the School since 2007, titled 'A success story: The collaboration between Carson


Street Independent Public School and the Conductive Education Centre of Western Australia Inc.'; and Shona will describe her work supporting students transitioning from a CE learning environment to mainstream schooling in her presentation 'Transitioning the student with Cerebral Palsy into a mainstream setting'.

The teacher-conductors plan to run through their presentations to the CECWA committee and any interested CECWA members at Carson Street School, Thursday 25 November (tbc – more details to follow) prior to attending the Congress. The CECWA Family Perspectives presentation will also be part of this pre- CE Congress evening.

Supporting WA's teacher-conductors to attend these international meetings of minds is an important part of CECWA's role to ensure that those planning, developing and leading the CE services here in WA for our children have



access to high quality professional learning specific to their unique training and qualifications. Furthermore, it ensures our CE leaders are able to build collaborative support networks within the global CE community, crucial to their ongoing professional development and the development of the services available here in WA.

We look forward to hearing both their presentations and their feedback following their experiences at the Congress. 

NEWS TIP:

Keep an eye online for the soon to be launched new face of www.conductiveedwa.com.au

Next issue: Summer 2010

Send submissions by 1 December 2010

Stories, ideas for stories to include in future issues, as well as photographs make this a more interesting read.

Please send feedback and suggestions to Media & Promotions team leader and CECWA News! editor:

 Lydia Gallant

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New venue for The Dinner for Dreams!




In 2011, The Dinner for Dreams will move to The Astral Ballroom at the Burswood, a more central location with many benefits such as a train stop, two accommodation options for those wishing to stay the night, and the opportunity to kick on for those wishing to after the event finishes!

Saturday April 16th 2011. Dress will be glamorous and tickets will be \$150 per head, although we will be offering early bird discount prices. More information regarding this event, including how to purchase your tickets, will follow shortly.

THIS IS YOUR CHANCE TO GET INVOLVED: CAN YOU HELP?

We have now commenced our campaign to collect donations for the evening. Are you, or someone you know, able to make a donation towards the event? We are seeking items for our main and silent auctions. Our donated items in the past have been very diverse. Any item no matter how big or small will be used! Gift vouchers, monetary donations or goods of any shape or size all gratefully received. There are plenty of promotional opportunities for a sponsor or donor's business at our event. This year we are aiming to sell 550 tickets. If you would like some letters to provide to businesses to request donations, or if you have any questions, please feel free to contact

Linda Pierce 0439 951 972 lpierce@live.com.au 

If we can all pull together and do a little, we can achieve a lot! Many thanks in anticipation everyone.