



## Montessori Three R's:

*Responsibility, Resourcefulness, Resilience*

# 2019 MONTESSORI EARLY CHILDHOOD CONFERENCE



Saturday & Sunday, 16 & 17 March 2019  
QT Gold Coast, 7 Staghorn Avenue, Surfers Paradise QLD 4217



## SCHEDULE

### SATURDAY 16 MARCH 2019

8:00am – 8:45am	Registration & Exhibitors
8:45am – 9:00am	Conference Welcome – <a href="#">Christine Harrison</a>
9:00am – 10:00am	<b>What is Resilience? – <a href="#">Laura Flores Shaw</a></b> Resilience is a big buzzword in education, but what does it really mean? And why is it such a hot topic for educators? This talk discusses the resilience research and examines how the use of this term can either help or adversely affect children. It also examines how the qualities of responsibility and resourcefulness contribute to developing resilience in children.
10:00am – 11:00am	<b>Inclusive Practice in the Early Childhood Classroom: Whose 'Responsibility' is it? – <a href="#">Karen Watson</a></b> The inclusion of children with disabilities in mainstream early childhood classrooms is a policy and practice that has gained universal support in recent decades. Exploring ways to include the diagnosed child by assisting teachers with 'special' knowledge and strategies, has been a major focus for inclusive education research. How inclusive is this approach? Adopting an alternative post-structural perspective, this presentation asks questions about the power of often taken for granted knowledge and its effects on inclusiveness in the classroom. It scrutinises the operations of the 'normal', turning attention towards the 'already included' children, and the role they play as stakeholders in inclusive and exclusive processes. How do young children come to know about and negotiate difference? At times confronting, the research presented challenges us as educators to rethink practice-as-usual.
11:00am – 11:30am	Morning Tea
11:30am – 12:30pm	<b>How the Montessori Approach Grows Anti-Fragile Adults – <a href="#">Carol Potts</a></b> Education is not primarily about knowledge; education should be an aid to life. In this keynote, Carol explains that for the Montessori teacher, the 'Three Rs' are not merely buzzwords but are seamlessly woven throughout the Montessori approach and integral to the child's own continuing growth.
12:30pm – 1:30pm	Lunch





## SCHEDULE

### SATURDAY 16 MARCH 2019 – CONTINUED

1:30pm – 2:15pm

#### Building Resilience Throughout Your Service – [Rita Johnston](#)

We all want children to grow into happy and healthy adults. Research in neurobiology tells us that toxic stress during early childhood undermines long term resilience. So how can early childhood services and schools support children in building resilience? In this presentation we will look at how your educational setting can support children, educators and families to grow their resilience and have better life outcomes. We will look at what you already do that builds resilience and what else you might do into the future.

2:15pm – 3:15pm

#### Montessori and the 3 R's: Responsibility, Resourcefulness, Resilience – [Cathy Swan](#)

Montessori education has many ways in which it differs from conventional education. Three concepts unique to us play on the conventional way of saying children need the 3 R's – reading, writing and 'rithmetic. While we agree that these are necessary components to early childhood education, we also revere a different set of R's: responsibility, resourcefulness and resilience. How does responsibility lead children to be resourceful? When a child is resourceful, what occurs to create a child who is resilient? Cathy will discuss these ideas and more in her lively keynote.

3:15pm – 3:45pm

Afternoon tea

3:45pm – 4:45pm

#### Positive Pathways in Supporting a Montessori Community – [Carmel Ellis](#), [Joanne Bosel](#), [Vicki McKinnon](#)

Join these experienced and knowledgeable women who own and manage three of the largest Montessori services in the Brisbane area. Take this opportunity to address any of your ideas, challenges or concerns surrounding working within the Montessori and Early Childhood sector, with Carmel, Jo and Vicki.

4:45pm – 5:00pm

#### Raffle Draw and Closing – [Christine Harrison](#)

5:00pm – 6:30pm+

**Conference Reception Calypso Party** - Join us on the Calypso Terrace to unwind and network with drinks and canapes. Dance into the evening with a live DJ.







## SCHEDULE

### SUNDAY 17 MARCH 2019

8:30am – 9:00am

Exhibitors

Delegates select to attend one workshop from Session 1 and one workshop from Session 2:

#### SESSION 1

9:00am - 10:30am

##### **WORKSHOP 1: Walking the Talk: Fostering the Three R's within Ourselves** – [Laura Flores Shaw](#)

We have expectations of our students, but do we have those same expectations of ourselves? Can we claim to be truly walking-the-talk? This workshop asks participants to dig deep while also providing concrete strategies for fostering the three R's—responsibility, resourcefulness, and resilience—in ourselves and each other.

##### **WORKSHOP 2: The 3 R's: Resourcefulness, Responsibility and Resilience** – [Cathy Swan](#)

How does responsibility lead children to be resourceful? When a child is resourceful, what occurs to create a child who is resilient? What can the adults in the environment do to support this evolution of the child? Cathy will explore this further by examining each principle and inspire the group to discuss some examples of each. She will further discuss ways to use a prepared environment to facilitate growth in each of these areas.

##### **WORKSHOP 3: Discovering the Foundations for Wellbeing** – [Rita Johnston](#)

In this workshop Rita will share the National Education Initiative for wellbeing framework as a model for a whole of service / school approach to mental health and wellbeing. This evidence-based framework is easy to implement and can build resilience and improve wellbeing for everyone in your setting; children, families, educators and teachers.

10:30am – 11:00am

Morning Tea & Exhibitors

#### SESSION 2:

11:00am – 12:30pm

##### **WORKSHOP 1: Responsibility, Resourcefulness & Resilience: A Continuum of Increasing Independence** – [Carol Potts](#)

Right from their very first day, the Montessori child is encouraged to take responsibility for her classroom; to make (and reflect upon) her own independent choices; to endure success and failure, and to learn the lessons from both. The Montessori pedagogy, participants will explore during this interactive workshop, offers the child the 'Keys to Life', to making learning a lifetime pursuit. For the Montessorian, the aim is not just a resilient child, but an anti-fragile adult: "the resilient resists shock and stays the same; the anti-fragile gets better."

##### **WORKSHOP 2: A Montessori Perspective on Leadership** – [Karen Bennetts](#)

Quality Area 7 of ACECQA's National Quality Standard addresses Governance and Leadership. Effective leaders establish the values and direction for the service's continuous improvement. A Montessori perspective on leadership is a helpful guide to ensuring our work is scientifically and philosophically authentic. This workshop offers some practical tips to help you bring better leadership to your centre or classroom.

##### **WORKSHOP 3: Troubling Inclusive Practices: Examining Multiple Perspectives of Disability in the Classroom** – [Karen Watson](#)

This workshop will explore alternative ways of understanding disability in the classroom. Turning attention away from the individualising perspectives of the medical model of disability and its problematic effects, the session will offer participants different sociological views about disability, able-bodied perspectives, and a view that interrogates how the power of the 'normal' operates and is re/produced. The workshops will provide teachers with 'real life' scenarios that make visible the unchallenged way that we engage with disability in the classroom and its impact on inclusiveness.

## VENUE DETAILS



### CONFERENCE RECEPTION

Come and play with us on the Calypso Terrace to celebrate this year's conference and the balmy nights of the twinkling Gold Coast. We'll party under the stars with music, food and fun after the first day of the conference on Saturday from 5:00pm.

Included in the price of the event are complimentary drinks and canapes until 6:30pm (thereafter you can buy your own drinks and food from Stingray). We'll keep the DJ rocking so you can party on the dancefloor until 10:00pm.

**Make sure you tick the option box when you register for the catering numbers.**



### ACCOMMODATION

Delegates are to book their own accommodation by contacting the hotel reservations department on 07 5584 1200 or [reservations\\_qtgoldcoast@evt.com](mailto:reservations_qtgoldcoast@evt.com) and advise that they are part of the Montessori conference for the discounted rates below. Note that they are not holding any room blocks so early bookings are recommended.

- \$179 Mountain River View
- \$209 Ocean View
- \$309 King Suite
- Discounted Breakfast Rate \$25pp





## DURING YOUR STAY



### QT IN-HOUSE OPTIONS

The QT Gold Coast offers a contemporary living mixture of nostalgic surfer space that is a chic meets Miami swim catwalk. Custom furniture, graphica and pops of bold colour are some of the unmissable highlights of the design inspired by the 1950's and 60's with Eames-era chairs, artist crafted feature walls and photographic ceiling mosaics of the Gold Coast through the ages. The QT Resort experience begins as soon as guests arrive with a concierge and hostess greeting them in quirky, retro outfits. Service is always attentive, combining an upbeat American vibe teamed with a touch of Aussie sincerity.

#### Stingray

For those arriving on the Friday before the conference, we invite you to visit the Stingray bar and lounge. Stingray mixes industrial chic with splashes of pop art to create a Californian style oasis. Settle in to comfy couches to be tempted by a cocktail, or groove to a mix of pop, soul and Latin beats with the resident DJ.

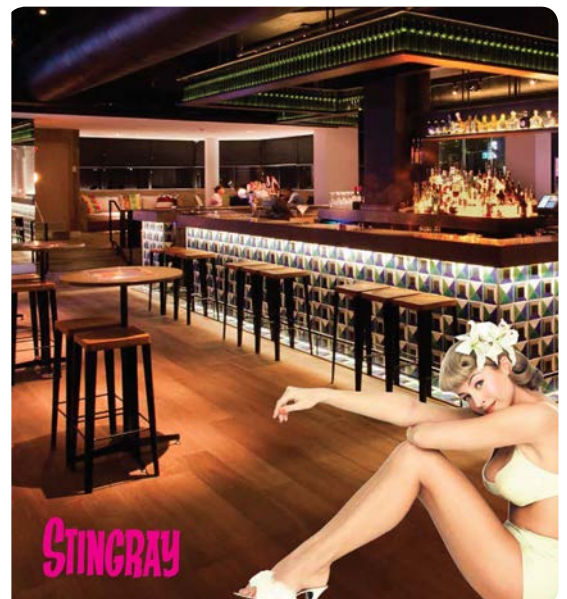


#### Bazaar

Bazaar re-creates a traditional marketplace with a unique twist and offers a mosaic of dishes to choose from. Many are made to order whilst others are ready for your perusing pleasure. Vibrant salads, slow-roasted meats, juicy seafood, Asian wok and dumpling station and the most expansive spread of sweet treats on the Coast. Open daily for breakfast and dinner (bookings recommended 07 5584 1238). Bazaar Brunch on Sundays.

#### Yamagen

Experience the hustle and bustle of innovative izakaya dining with kushiyaki, market fresh sushi and sashimi and cutting-edge cocktails. From the boisterous Bar, Japanese share plates and the highly-curated Chef-led Omakase experience, Yamagen is a sensory uppercut that blends old school Japanese culinary tradition with new school chef invention. Open Tuesday to Saturday evenings and lunch on Friday, with bookings recommended 07 5584 1200.



## SPEAKERS



**Dr. KAREN BENNETTS** has been involved in the Australian Montessori community for 25 years. She is a qualified state primary and secondary teacher, with Montessori qualifications in early childhood, primary and secondary education. Karen has mostly taught children of primary age and was the founding principal of a Montessori school for ten years. She was Senior Advisor, Schools at Montessori Australia for 4 years. Karen recently completed her PhD with a thesis entitled 'The Montessori Leader' and is currently working on publishing her research. She is a graduate of the Company Directors Course at the Australian Institute of Company Directors and has 15 years of governance experience in education. Karen is currently a director at Plenty Valley International Montessori School in Melbourne and is also a member of AMI's Global Research Group. In 2016, Karen was the recipient of a State Fellowship Award from the Australian Council of Educational Leaders for her contribution to the education sector.



**JOANNE BOSEL** has worked within the Early Childhood sector for the last 20 years in the United Kingdom and Australia. She holds a Montessori Diploma, as well as Graduate Diploma's and Training Certificates, and has worked extensively in mainstream Early Childhood services, Montessori settings, and private schools. Jo's varied and extensive industry experience has provided her with the knowledge and capability to initiate and develop settings from inception, to establishment and operations of services. More recently, she has successfully developed and delivered the Avenues Montessori Children's House in Brisbane. Joanne also has a passion for establishing and connecting communities associated with the Children's House and seeking new ways to support sustainability within the early childhood sector.



**CARMEL ELLIS** is the Manager/Director of the Indooroopilly Montessori Children's House (IMCH), a 168 place Long Day Care Centre in Brisbane, Queensland. Carmel ran her own business, Indooroopilly Montessori Pre-school Centre for over 20 years before selling and working for Edmund Rice Education Australia. Carmel worked in close consultation with a behaviour change specialist and was involved in the early writing of the internationally published "You Can Do It" Early Childhood Programme and the introduction into the Centre of a social/emotional guidance programme titled "Guided Choices". Carmel has ensured that the Centre encompasses an inclusion programme and she has been recognised personally as a winner of the ECIA Qld Chapter Quality Inclusive Practice Award in 2005, with staff at the Centre winning the team award for 2007.



**Dr. LAURA FLORES SHAW** is the lead editor, writer, and founder of White Paper Press, an education company focused on increasing the scientific knowledge of educators and parents. She received her doctorate from Johns Hopkins University School of Education, where she is also an adjunct professor, specializing in mind, brain, and teaching. She has previously worked as a family systems therapist in the public-school system, revived a failing Montessori school, then focused on advocating for educational and parenting frameworks. Dr. Shaw's current research focuses on exploration of pedagogical constructs and the alignment of the field of education with the research on sensorimotor development, as it is intertwined with the development of cognition and executive functions. Dr. Shaw writes, speaks, and consults internationally on education, brain development, parenting, and organisational behaviour.



**CHRISTINE HARRISON** has been involved in Montessori education since 1985. As well as having been Principal of the Canberra Montessori School, she was the founding Chair of Montessori Australia and was Chair of the Association of Independent Schools in the ACT and on the Board of the Independent Schools Council of Australia. Christine has been involved in policy development, compliance, student care, curriculum development and educational leadership in schools and has a background in mediation, conflict resolution, adult education and a particular interest in governance in community organisations. Christine is President and senior consultant for Montessori Australia and is a member of the Advisory Council of the Association Montessori Internationale (AMI).



## SPEAKERS



**RITA JOHNSTON** has worked in education for over 30 years. Originally a psychology graduate, Rita moved into primary education and then to Montessori early childhood education. Later, Rita completed a counselling qualification and worked in family support services. Currently she is an Early Childhood Australia consultant with beyondblue's National Education Initiative. Over the years Rita has enjoyed exploring a wide variety of early childhood philosophies and pedagogies and recognises the importance of social and emotional wellbeing for positive lifelong outcomes. She sees early childhood settings as having the potential to be profoundly therapeutic environments where children can develop their emotional intelligence, genuine self-worth and authentic self.



**VICKI MCKINNON** originally trained as a secondary teacher, teaching for 6 years before undertaking early childhood training as her family moved into the child care sector. Always believing that children learn best when intrinsically motivated, Vicki grappled with making the secondary education structure as flexible as possible, and then trying to decrease the haphazard nature of early childhood. In 2001-2002 the light bulb went on as she studied Montessori under Mrs Duyker. In the 22 years of work in the early childhood sector, Vicki has led centres in the Director position, provided consultancy to other services, designed and developed centres, worked at a strategic level with entities such as Childcare Queensland and made forays into the vocational training sector.



**CAROL POTTS** obtained her AMI 3-6 Diploma in 1995 at the Maria Montessori Institute in London. She holds a Bachelor Degree in Education and is an AMI 3-6 Trainer with over 25 years of fondly remembered years working with young children. She is a trustee of the Maria Montessori Education Foundation, the affiliated AMI training centre in Aotearoa, New Zealand. She is an AMI examiner and part-time mentor at Glendowie Montessori Preschool. Carol is the Director of Training for the current AMI 3-6 Diploma course in Auckland and runs AMI Assistant Certificate courses across Australia for the Australian Centre for Montessori Studies.



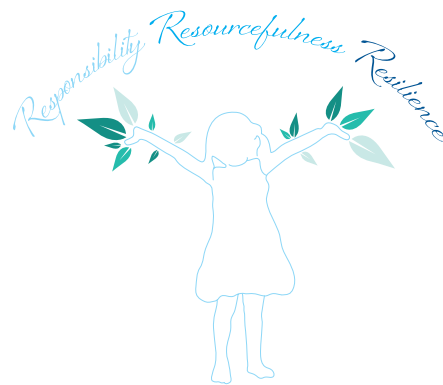
**CATHY SWAN** has been an Educator since 1976 and holds a BA in English, a BA in Psychology and Teacher Certification, an AMI Primary Teacher diploma and a Masters of Education. In 2004 Cathy obtained AMI Auxiliary Primary Teacher Trainer status. Cathy has held teaching and head of school positions, as a Course Assistant at the Montessori Institute Northwest while serving as the Administrator, as an Adjunct Professor of Early Childhood Education at Portland Community College, and as a Board member of several Montessori schools, and as a Consultant for teachers and administrators throughout the US, Australia, Thailand and China. Cathy has a total of 22 years in the classroom and 17 years in administration. She was the Head of School of Inner Sydney Montessori School in Sydney, Australia, and is currently Head of School of MSB in Portland, Oregon.



**Dr. KAREN WATSON** is a Lecturer in Early Childhood Education at the University of Newcastle, Australia. An early childhood teacher for 35 years, Karen has taught in early childhood settings, primary schools, TAFE, early intervention services and now in preservice teacher education. After completing a Masters degree in Special Education, her doctoral thesis examined how young children encounter and negotiate disability and difference in inclusive early childhood classrooms, and the role that unquestioned normative discourses play in producing inclusionary and also exclusionary practices. Karen's book from her thesis 'Inside the 'Inclusive' Early Childhood Classroom: The Power of the 'Normal' was published in 2017. She has published several journal articles and book chapters that attend to the uninterrupted effects of the 'normal' in the classroom.



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## REGISTRATION

ONLINE (PREFERRED):	MANUAL:
<a href="https://montessori.org.au/EC19">https://montessori.org.au/EC19</a> Ensure you are logged in with your affiliated school/centre to receive your subscriber discount on checkout. Option to pay by credit card or subscribers can be invoiced.	Complete the form below and email to: <a href="mailto:info@montessori.org.au">info@montessori.org.au</a> Ensure you receive an invoice/receipt to confirm booking

RATES:	Subscriber*	Non-Subscriber
EARLY BIRD-DISCOUNTED RATES (to 1 December 2018)-	\$490	\$655
STANDARD RATES (from 2 December 2018)	\$540	\$720

\*Discounted rates for Montessori Australia Individual Subscribers or Staff of Subscribing Schools/Centres.

<b>DELEGATE DETAILS:</b>			
Firstname:		Surname:	
School/Centre:			
Email:			
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<b>DIETARY REQUIREMENTS:</b>					
<input type="checkbox"/> Vegetarian	<input type="checkbox"/> Gluten Free	<input type="checkbox"/> Vegan	<input type="checkbox"/> Nut Allergy	<input type="checkbox"/> Dairy Free	<input type="checkbox"/> Seafood Allergy

<b>CONFERENCE RECEPTION:</b>	
<input type="checkbox"/> YES, I will be attending the reception party on Saturday	<input type="checkbox"/> NO, I won't be attending

<b>WORKSHOP PREFERENCES:</b>	
SESSION 1 (pick one option):	SESSION 2 (pick one option):
<input type="checkbox"/> Workshop 1: Fostering the 3 R's within Ourselves	<input type="checkbox"/> Workshop 1: Increasing Independence
<input type="checkbox"/> Workshop 2: The 3 R's	<input type="checkbox"/> Workshop 2: Montessori Leadership
<input type="checkbox"/> Workshop 3: Foundations for Wellbeing	<input type="checkbox"/> Workshop 3: Perspectives of Disability

<b>PAYMENT DETAILS:</b>	
<input type="checkbox"/> Invoice me personally	
<input type="checkbox"/> Invoice my school/centre	Email invoice to:
<input type="checkbox"/> Call me for my credit card details over the phone (MasterCard or Visa only)	
Payment is due within 14 days of invoice date. Early bird registrations are non refundable and must be paid before the deadline.	

Refer to our website for cancellation, refund and privacy policies. As a delegate at this event, your details may be forwarded to parties directly related to the conference, including sponsors and exhibitors. If you do not wish your details to be shared, please tick here: ☐  
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**REGISTRATIONS CLOSE FRIDAY 8 MARCH 2019:** A Late booking fee of \$20 applies thereafter, places permitting