

# GATEWAYS FESTIVALS

## MEET OUR CANBERRA PRESENTERS

**Alison Brennan** is originally from the UK. She has an honours' degree in Biology and is a qualified secondary science teacher with many years teaching experience. Alison has had many leading teacher roles and has been a Year 11 Assistant Head and a Co-Ordinator for Gifted and Talented Science programs. Alison is passionate about science education and is excited to share her love of learning through G.A.T.E.WAYS. Alison has four children of her own, from Kinder to Year 8.

**Allen Dickson** is an educator with a passion for ensuring learning is innovative, practical and enjoyable. For nearly 20 years he has specialised in the fields of Drama, English and Maths, and uses his diverse range of unique skills to initiate change in classroom practice. Allen runs his own educational consultancy, RethinkPD.

**Angela Fattore** has been teaching primary school children for several years in both Melbourne and Canberra. She studied at the University of Canberra and was a club leader at the Canberra Brainwaves Club. Angela has many passions including music (piano), dance and of course science! She loves science experiments in particular chemical science! She has a particular interest in gifted education and plans to undertake a Master of Education in the near future.

**Bobbie O'Brien** completed her undergraduate Bachelor of Arts/ Bachelor of Science degrees at the University of Melbourne in 2006. In 2007, she completed an honours' degree in the Developmental Epigenetics Laboratory at Murdoch Children's Research Institute. Bobbie is also a qualified primary school teacher. She is passionate about science and education and enjoys combining these passions with G.A.T.E.WAYS.

**Kim Edwards** teaches English literature and creative writing to university and high school students, and drama and theatre skills to both adults and kids all over Melbourne. She has run book clubs and cabarets, performed Shakespeare and written sonnets, dabbled in Dickens and is best buddies with the Brontës, and while she loves a ripping good yarn, she is still convinced everything we get to read and write in our lives is always a thrilling new adventure!

**Carla Maxwell** is an art, design technology and robotics teacher who has a Master of Information Technology in education degree. Her art background has also allowed her to develop a unique perspective on teaching in a creative and integrated way. Carla loves planning activities that are fun, hands-on and experience-based, underpinned by strong mathematical and scientific principles.

**Joy Garratt** is an experienced teacher who has worked across many settings and age groups. She loves children to be really involved in their learning so nothing like a few mysteries and problems to be solved in order to engage students (especially when the mystery might take them to New York, Paris, London or to the Land of Fairy-tales). Creating an environment that promotes curiosity, investigative thinking and innovation is important to Joy.

**Kevin Taylor** is the owner and founder of the World of Robotics. He has been running robotic workshops for over 20 years and has presented numerous GATEWAYS programs during that time. Kevin is a founding member of Robo Cup Australia and in 2002 took an enthusiastic team of roboticists to represent Australia at Fukuoka Japan. Nothing delights Kevin more than observing how students rise to a challenge when given the opportunity to demonstrate their capabilities

**Meg Pini** has significant experience within the education sector. Having spent many years working with children of all ages, Meg has developed a resume that illustrates her fervour for teaching. She is ardently striving for opportunities to discover, learn and create. Meg has a BAppSc(AppPhys), GDipEd and is currently completing her MEd. An experienced teacher of senior mathematics and physics, Meg has a passion for science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) education.

**Rachel Holkner** worked with G.A.T.E.WAYS for over eight years bringing exciting and stimulating workshops to life with her enthusiasm for wild imaginative play and the infinite ways in which words can be used to communicate. Rachel works in both the primary and secondary sectors improving literacy and writing.

**Ruth Evans** is a caring, enthusiastic and experienced primary school teacher with a diploma in publishing and communications and a master's degree in Inclusive and Special Education, specialising in Gifted and Talented Education. Ruth enjoys cooking, knitting and reading stories with her twin daughters. She can't wait for the festivals – they are going to be so much fun!

**Sanjin Dedic** is a teacher and a robotics engineer with a background in product development. His main passion in life is presenting abstract maths, robotics and programming with minimal academic jargon and in a way that can be embraced and understood by everyone, especially primary school students.

**Stephanie Axon** has been a secondary school teacher for many years and has a passion for education. Her dynamic, hands-on workshops provide many opportunities to encourage and foster the enquiring minds of children. She loves all things Science and relishes the opportunity to share her enthusiasm and love of learning with children.

**Suzie Thomas** has worked in the professional theatre world for over twenty years. She trained as an actor at the Atlantic Theatre School in New York and founded her own theatre company in Melbourne in 2001. After many years heading the Education and Families program at Melbourne Theatre Company, she is now a freelance theatre director and teaching artist and loves sharing the wonders of all things dramatic with young people.

**Tim Byrne** enjoys all areas of science. Science is a way of looking at the world and trying to figure out what's going on, so every day brings another challenge to look further, deeper or differently. He likes to share his passion for science with anyone who will take the time.