



# STARLINK

Issue 56

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## Youth Field Xpress and an Apology!

In the last issue of Starlink, I had sourced 5 items from Youth Field Xpress, but in final production had accidentally omitted acknowledging Anne Hugo as the author and editor of Youth Field Xpress.

In this issue of Starlink I would therefore like to express publicly my sincere apology to Anne for using her work without due acknowledgement.

I also want to recommend Youth Field Xpress highly to Starlink readers. It's a wonderful source of the latest news, information and developments in the youth field.

I have promoted this great e-newsletter many times in the past in Starlink and it's time I did so again. Anne does a fantastic job of producing it! ☺

To subscribe to Youth Field Xpress send a blank email to [YFX-on@mail-list.com](mailto:YFX-on@mail-list.com)

## HumourAerobics

Sue James and Chris Bennett can offer HumourAerobics as a presentation, a workshop or an extended program.

HumourAerobics will show you effective ways of energizing your mind and body to achieve a healthier work environment and lifestyle.

Have fun while learning the power of laughter, language and movement to enhance your own performance and wellbeing as well as that of others.

Ideal for all ages and fitness levels (gentle movement).

Also ideal for conferences. An hour of HumourAerobics was very well received at the DE&T Southern Metropolitan Region Principal Class Conference in Geelong recently!

After the Geelong conference, Chris reflected on what he calls the *Principal Principle* :

*It was good to see the principals unwind and have fun and learn the value humour can add to one's wellbeing.*

*.... it reaffirmed my belief that the number one principal principle should be to have fun.*

*And why not?*

*The workload that principals (and teachers) have can be overwhelming at times and a sense of humour can be the difference between burnout and keeping your passion for your job.*

*So if you are losing your sense of humour or you have had a humour bypass then all is not lost.*

*Just have a good laugh!*

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## National Center for School Engagement

<http://www.truancy prevention.org>

Three useful checklists/tools are available in PDF format to download from this site:

- Joint Efforts to Improve School Attendance
- 10 Things A School Can do to Improve School Attendance
- How Can A School Achieve High Levels of Parental and Community Involvement

## Diversity Health Institute Clearinghouse

<http://www.dhi.gov.au/clearinghouse/index.htm>

The Diversity Health Institute Clearinghouse is a central access point for Australian multicultural health services, resources, research, training, and events ... Its aim is to bring together the myriad of work conducted in the area nationally.

*Cultural competence, refugee health, nutrition, sexual health, drugs and alcohol, mental health, ageing, and disability are just some of the issues encompassed by the Clearinghouse's brief. Priority listing is given to information that is relevant to a wide range of people, is publicly accessible, and produced by reputable organisations or individuals.*

*As an information gateway, the DHI Clearinghouse helps minimise duplication of effort.*

*Consumers, researchers, and healthcare providers alike no longer have to look in a multitude of places to find information on multicultural health.*

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## Children with Emotional Disorders in the Juvenile Justice System

<http://www.nmha.org/children/justjuv/>

This US based web page provides links to a range of resources, including several fact sheets and reports. For example, the following reports/articles are well worth reading and applicable in the Australian context:

- *Mental Health Treatment for Youth in the Juvenile Justice System: A Compendium of Promising Practices.* (2004) National Mental Health Association
- *Checking up on Juvenile Justice Facilities: A Best Practice Guide*

The following document provides information to parents/caregivers that is specific to the US juvenile justice system, but could be a useful resource for Australian service providers thinking of producing a similar resource for families: *When Your Child is Behind Bars: A Family Guide to Surviving the Juvenile Justice System.*



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## Centre for Community Enterprise

<http://www.cedworks.com/index.html>

This Canadian organisation has two very useful resources free to download from their website. Adaptable for the Australian context, these would be great additions to your library!

### The Community Resilience Manual

Based on work and research the Centre has been conducting since 1998, this manual outlines a framework of 4 dimensions of community resilience and 23 characteristics. It is divided into two sections:

- A guide to a 4-step approach for strengthening community resilience.
- A series of data collection tools and formats that residents can use to develop a Portrait of Community Resilience and set priorities for local action.

### Tools & Techniques for Community Recovery & Renewal

A catalogue of over 60 specific methods that communities have used to enhance their economic and social well-being, as well as people and publications to tap for further guidance. The intent is to provide a ready resource for citizens that are trying to strengthen or revitalize the economy of their town, neighbourhood, or region.



**A resilient community is one that takes intentional action to enhance the personal and collective capacity of its citizens and institutions to respond to and influence the course of social and economic change.**

## Pathways to Housing

<http://www.pathwaystohousing.org/>

Pathways to Housing is dedicated to providing mentally ill, homeless individuals who have been rejected by other housing agencies as "not housing-ready" with immediate, permanent housing and support services so they may achieve independence, community reintegration and long-term recovery.

Pathways to Housing was founded in 1992 to provide permanent homes, services and hope to New York City's mentally ill street-dwelling homeless. Since 1992, Pathways has housed 450 people, achieving an unprecedented 85% housing retention rate.

*Pathways to Housing provides immediate access to independent, permanent apartments and the support services needed to achieve independence and community reintegration to one of New York's most underserved and vulnerable populations: people who are both homeless and diagnosed with severe mental illness.*

*Pathways is the only program in New York that does not require psychiatric or substance abuse treatment before offering housing. The philosophy of housing first is*

*founded on the belief that housing is a basic human right and that all services should be offered with respect, compassion and in the spirit of hope and recovery.*



PATHWAYS TO HOUSING

## Fundraiser Winery Tours

Looking for a new fundraising idea or activity? Here's one that Melbourne (or Victorian?) Starlink readers in particular might like to check out!

<http://tinyurl.com/agssz>

I can personally recommend ECD Winery Tours, as I've been on two trips organised through the company. (Soon to be renamed Schoffered Tours because they are expanding to include sightseeing and golfing tours). You can be guaranteed great service and a fun experience! And, as you will see if you check out the web link above, these fundraising tours look great value for money – so why not raise money for your school, agency or a good cause at the same time?

To learn more, contact

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[ischoffer@ecdwinerytours.com.au](mailto:ischoffer@ecdwinerytours.com.au)

I will hasten to add I gain no advantage by recommending the fundraising winery tours! I just figured it might be something that may be of interest or benefit to Starlink readers, so I would pass the information along. If you DO happen to follow up the idea, I'd really love to hear from you about how it went!



Understanding how to play well  
is a path towards  
understanding how to live well.  
With this understanding, every  
game you play becomes an  
opportunity to develop your  
skills at living well. Every  
game. This is how the search  
for the Well-Played Game  
becomes a path to wholeness.  
A playful path, filled with  
things like fun and community,  
spontaneity and creativity,  
agility and light-heartedness.

Bernie de Koven  
*The Well Played Game*

## Dropping Out of School

Visit the following website for a US based report brief on the educational attainment of high school dropouts 8 years later, published in 2004 by the National Center for Educational Statistics.

<http://nces.ed.gov/pubsearch/pubsinfo.asp?pubid=2005026>

This issue brief examines the educational outcomes of students who were ever classified as high school dropouts by 8 years after when most of their 1988 cohort of 8th graders would have completed high school. Some students who drop out return a short time later to earn a diploma, some may pursue an alternative credential such as a General Educational Development (GED) certificate, and others may enroll in a postsecondary institution without having earned a high school credential. Using data on public and private school students from the National Education Longitudinal Study of 1988

(NELS:88), examines the educational attainment of the 21 percent of 1988 eighth-graders who had dropped out of high school at least once since eighth grade.

The paper concludes:

Overall, the results presented in this issue brief suggest that a majority of students who drop out of high school at least once go on to earn a high school diploma or alternative credential within several years (63 percent), and many enroll in a postsecondary institution (43 percent).

It's heartening to read these statistics – that dropping out of school is by no means the end of their educational experience for most of those students who leave early. If you are aware of a similar longitudinal study conducted in Australia, please send details to [starlink@suejames.com.au](mailto:starlink@suejames.com.au) and the information can be included in the next issue of Starlink.

## Victim Assistance Online

<http://www.vaonline.org/>

Victim Assistance Online is an information, research and networking resource for victim assistance specialists, professionals in related disciplines and all interested in the field of victimology. There are over 2000 reviewed links listed on this site, including key support and contact services for Australia.



**Mission statement of VAO:** *Believing that an informed community of service providers can better aid victims of crime and tragedy, Victim Assistance Online Resources seeks to provide victim assistance organizations, service providers and professionals in related fields with an on-line central directory of information and education resources related to their fields. We also seek to provide these groups with a variety of Internet communication mediums, so as to promote the free exchange and sharing of new ideas, learned experiences and peer support between both organizations and individuals.*

Hope for the best,  
with passion, conviction  
and faith. For when  
you do, you'll begin to  
see real, workable ways  
to get there.

Ralph Marston



## Know Drama

Know Drama is a one-man business managed by Darron Davies in Tasmania, Australia. Darron is a trained and experienced teacher who has created Know Drama to provide teachers, trainers, students and general staff with a fresh approach to learning.

Darron offers professional development for teachers and trainers in Creative Teaching Methods: workshops, focus groups and onsite consultation. He also designs and writes training support materials.

### Getting to the Core in Training.

Getting to the core means that an idea comes to life. It is engaging for trainees. It is engaging for the trainer. Together trainees and the trainer can explore that idea. It can be connected to our daily lives. We can see the history of the idea as well as exploring how it might connect with a range of disciplines such as maths or science.

Any powerful idea has many expressions. Regardless of whether it is a metaphor or a fact trainees can explore how it came about and how that idea has impacted upon our culture. This is a great invita-

tion to transdisciplinary learning as trainees can find connections across learning areas. This encourages interest as trainees are encouraged to draw connections and translate ideas into other forms. Getting to the heart of a topic encourages one to ask fundamental questions.

Too often we go through life without seeing connections between subject areas. Science is separated from the arts in a false duality. Conceptual learning asks us to find core questions. It asks us to find links across disciplines. In an information overloaded society it compassionately encourages us to discover links. We are no longer burdened with facts and information. We see connections. The world is simpler, more holistic, more interdependent.

To the get to the heart of a topic means that trainees learn to ask questions. They develop key strategies that allow further ideas and synthesis to evolve. Getting to the heart means that we experience the fluidity of knowledge and in doing so become an active and creative participant. Knowledge is constructed. To learn is to do, and the trainee takes that learning well and truly beyond the walls of the training room.



The Creative Teaching Space magazine <http://www.knowdrama.com/ideas.html> is part game part curriculum exercise. It is an attempt to open learning. It is an invitation into a creative space where ideas fly, reform and reveal new possibilities.

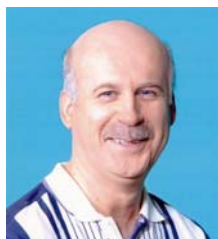
It is also a space where trainers or trainees can see new connections or reapply information to their settings. Above all the space is not definitive. It is just a place to reflect and find new training and learning possibilities. Part wacky, part poetic, it is an attempt to find new languages for trainer professional development, well and truly beyond the sometimes-limited language of academia.

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## Fish and Chooks



Here I am at C.B. Lifestyle Management world headquarters office reading an article on management training, the fishmongers way.

According to the article, a group of Washington fishmongers were so successful in their version of customer service that they formed their own training consultancy; offering management one hour sessions to join them at their Fish Market stall to learn how to throw fish and deal with customers.

They now have a highly rated video, 'Fish Throwers' and make more money from their management games than from selling fish.

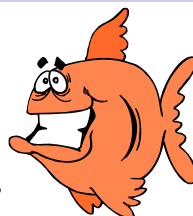
It's got me thinking. Why not jump on the fish wagon and convert an American programme into an Australian one? After all, don't we tend to follow the latest American training fad?

Hmm. Hang on a sec while I brainstorm for some Fish programmes that may work here in Australia.

Ah. Yes. Here we go.

How about these top ten?

- *How to Be a Happy Fish*
- *The Fish Myth*
- *Just About Everything a Fish Needs to Know*
- *How to Overcome Negative Fish in the Workplace*
- *How to Interview and Hire the Right Fish*
- *Motivating Fish in Today's Workplace*
- *13 Habits of Successful Fish*
- *How to Deal with Difficult Fish*
- *Empower Your Fish*
- *How to Become the Boss Fish*



Hmm. Enough of the fish. It's getting a bit on the nose.

What about chicken? Wasn't there an American motivational book on chicken soup? Perhaps I could convert it into an Australian training programme? These might work:

- *Here Chook Chook Chook: leadership skills for the smart chook*
- *Old Chook, Young Chook: keeping abreast of the generation gap*
- *How to Use Your Noodle: and make oodles of money*
- *Release Your Inner Chook: Pluck your way to success*
- *Super Chook: peak performance skills for chickens*

Ooh. My brain is starting to hurt. I think I will stick to what I know... Tai Chi.

### Chris Bennett

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