

From Wisdom to Ways: Enhancing Student Well-Being - Speakers Biographies



Eddie Woo

Head Teacher Mathematics Cherrybrook Technology High School and 2018 Australian Local Hero Award recipient

Mr Eddie Woo is the head mathematics teacher at Cherrybrook Technology High School, the largest secondary school in NSW, and is known for his innovation and dynamism in the classroom. In 2012, Mr Woo started posting videos online for a student who was sick with cancer and missing a lot of school. Before long, his videos found an audience across the country and beyond. [Wootube](#) now boasts more than 250,000 subscribers and has attracted more than fifteen million views worldwide – and counting. Mr Woo's unique and caring approach to teaching is breaking the misconception that mathematics is an inaccessible and difficult subject.

Outside his high school classroom, Mr Woo is a proud father of three and a volunteer facilitator with the [University of Sydney's Widening Participation and Outreach program](#), where he has personally guided and motivated more than 1,400 students from disadvantaged backgrounds.

Mr Woo was the winner of the 2015 Premier's Prize for Innovation in Science and Mathematics in NSW; the [2016 ChooseMATHS Teacher Excellence Award](#); the [2017 Sydney University Alumni Award: Outstanding Achievements for Young Alumni](#); [2017 Commonwealth Bank Teaching Fellowship](#); [2018 NSW Australia's Local Hero](#); and a top 10 finalist in the [2018 Global Teacher Prize](#).

Mr Woo is well known across Australia as an advocate for teachers and the importance of teaching. He has written for, and been featured in, the specialist teaching press as well as in national and international media. He is currently writing a book on the beauty and usefulness of mathematics in layman's terms.



Associate Professor Mathew A. White

Program Director, Master of Education, School of Education, Faculty of Arts, The University of Adelaide

Associate Professor Mathew A. White PhD is a researcher and lecturer in the School of Education at The University of Adelaide. He is also a Principal Fellow and Associate Professor in Melbourne Graduate School of Education at The University of Melbourne and an Affiliate of the Wellbeing Institute at Cambridge University. Mathew's interests include character education, leadership, wellbeing, and strategy. He has published three books on these issues: Evidence-based approaches to Positive Education: Implementing a Strategic Framework For Well-being in Schools, Future Directions in Wellbeing: Education, Organizations, and Policy published by Springer and Theology Encountering Positive Psychology published by Wipf and Stock. Before his appointment to the University of Adelaide, Mathew taught English and French in secondary schools for over 20 years and has significant executive leadership experience in schools. Mathew is an Australian representative for the International Positive Education Network (IPEN), twice elected Chair and Secretary of the South Australian Chapter of the Positive Education Schools Association (PESA-SA). He is a Fellow of the Australian College of Educators. In 2017 the Australian Council for Educational Leaders (ACEL), conferred two awards on Mathew; the ACEL National Leadership Award and the ACEL South Australian Leadership Medal.



Dr Victoria Rawlings

Academic Fellow, School of Education and Social Work, University of Sydney

Victoria Rawlings is an Academic Fellow at the University of Sydney. Her research and teaching focuses on Education, with attention on the ways that gender and sexuality play a role in school environments including in moments of violence. She also focuses on the life worlds of young people and how these are impacted by schooling, gender and sexuality. Prior to her appointment at the University of Sydney, she was a Senior Research Associate at Lancaster University in the UK, researching the reasons why LGBTQ youth have higher rates of self-harm and suicidal feelings than heterosexual or cisgender youth.

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Dr Michelle Tye

*Research Fellow, Black Dog Institute,
University of New South Wales*

Michelle is a National Health and Medical Research Council early career fellow and the research Deputy Director of LifeSpan, Australia's largest suicide prevention trial. Her key research interests include suicide prevention, early prevention of mental health and related harms, and the use of digital technology in the prevention of mental illness. She leads a program of research which seeks to embed universal early prevention programs for mental health in the primary school system, and improve the reach of, and access to, prevention for at risk young people using web-based and smartphone platforms.

Dr Tye completed her PhD at the National Drug and Alcohol Research Centre, UNSW, in 2015. Prior to this, she spent 10 years working as a senior research officer on projects that examined harms related to drug dependence across the life course. Post-PhD, she worked as a Postdoctoral research fellow in the Centre for Research Excellence for Suicide Prevention developing a systems approach to suicide prevention.



Dr Aliza Werner-Seidler,

*Research Fellow & Clinical Psychologist,
Black Dog Institute*

Aliza Werner-Seidler is a New South Wales early career fellow and clinical psychologist. Her research interests include the prevention and treatment of depression and anxiety in young people, the use of e-health technology to improve the reach and uptake of psychological interventions, and the role of poor sleep in depression. She also leads a program of research which investigates ways to facilitate the implementation of evidence-based mental health programs within the school system.

Dr Werner-Seidler completed her Masters in Clinical Psychology and PhD at the School of Psychology, UNSW in 2012. She completed postdoctoral training as an Investigator Scientist at the Medical Research Council's Cognition and Brain Sciences Unit at the University of Cambridge (UK; 2012-2014), where she was involved in developing novel clinical interventions for depression.



Jeannette James,

*National Advisor- Service Development,
headspace in schools*

Jeannette James is the National Advisor- Service Development for headspace in schools with qualifications in education and mental health. She is currently working in collaboration with beyondblue and Early Childhood Australia on the new Mental Health National Education Initiative launching across Australia 1st November. Jeannette's interests include connection, belonging, leadership, character education and wellbeing. Jeannette has enjoyed 20 plus years as a Secondary Educator with further experience as a Partnership Broker as part of the National Partnership on Youth Attainment and Transitions program.

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Shaun Nemorin

School Liaison Program Team Leader,
NSW Service for the Treatment and
Rehabilitation of Torture and Torture
Survivors (STARTTS)

Shaun Nemorin is the Team Leader of STARTTS' School Liaison Program and has been employed in various roles within the NSW Service for the Treatment and Rehabilitation of Torture and Trauma Survivors. He has extensive experience in school settings as an individual and group counsellor and managed a psychophysical intervention program for newly arrived refugee and asylum seeker students impacted by trauma across Western Sydney. He is passionate about the needs of young people and leads a team who work in partnership with Schools across NSW to better outcomes for refugee learners.

Prior to returning to Australia 4 years ago, Shaun was employed with the United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR) in managing community services, child protection, education in emergencies and refugee resettlement in conflict and post conflict areas worldwide. Between 2007 and 2014 he served in the Regional office in Beijing covering the People's Republic of China, Mongolia and Hong Kong, The war in Northern Mali on the border with Burkina Faso, Nepal, the Bangladesh and Myanmar border during the Rohingya crisis, and the Great Lakes operation with refugees from Eastern DRC in Burundi.

Shaun holds a Bachelors degree in Psychology coupled with postgraduate qualifications in Peace Studies, International Development and Immigration Law.



Jocelyn Brewer

*Registered Psychologist, Teacher and
founder of Digital Nutrition™*

Jocelyn is a Sydney-based psychologist with 15 years' experience in public schools as both a teacher and counsellor.

She is part of Australia's first formal Cyberpsychology Research Group (CRG) at the University of Sydney where she is completing a Masters research on the relationship between parenting styles and young people's smartphone habits.

She created Digital Nutrition in 2013 as a positive framework for addressing digital wellbeing issues.



**Marianne Fernandes, Sallwa Hourani,
Donna Gurka**

*Back on Track, The Sydney Children's
Hospital Network (Westmead)*

The 'Back on Track' (BoT) program is a strategic health-education partnership committed to keeping school-aged children with cancer connected to their learning, their peers and their school community from the time of diagnosis through to recovery and return to school. BoT is part of The Sydney Children's Hospital Network and is represented by a team of four expert teachers: Marianne Fernandes, Sallwa Hourani, Donna Gurka and Trisha Donovan.

Marianne Fernandes is a Science teacher with Chemistry and Biology as her speciality. Having taught at The Children's Hospital, Marianne worked closely with Back on Track since its inception and has worked tirelessly to advance the program. Marianne is currently completing her PhD on support for siblings of children with chronic health conditions. As conductor of Il Celebrate, Marianne is also a passionate musician.

Sallwa Hourani is a Mathematics and Visual Art teacher, whose expertise in advanced math is complemented by a successful art practice with a number of prizes and commissions for her paintings and sculptures. Sallwa's teaching experience has extended to Central Australia where her passion for adventure has taken her to the Simpson Desert as a Cameleer.

Donna is a highly experienced Learning Support teacher from the Catholic Education System having been Head Teacher within the Parramatta Diocese for many years. Donna is an expert on policies and procedures and educational support strategies for children with disabilities and/or illness. Donna also manages and performs in a touring Dance Troupe.

Trisha has many years of experience teaching children from Kindergarten to Year 6, as well as six years as a member of the school executive. She is interested in the use of technology to engage students in learning. Trisha attends 'Google for Education' conferences regularly and implements the skills acquired when working with children at the hospital. She has completed post graduate studies in the area of Gifted Education and worked in various schools as the coordinator of Gifted Education.



Trisha Donovan

*Back on Track, Sydney Children's Hospital
Network (Randwick)*