



The Knowledge Tree

FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK



Aahhh ... autumn: the season between summer and winter, where nights are cool and the smell of chimney wood-smoke lingers in the air.

Have you ever driven the New England Highway at this time of the year and seen the great drifts of yellow leaves blowing across the roads and paddocks, and the poplar trees bare-branched against the sky? *Seasons of mist and mellow fruitfulness*, as Keats wrote in his poem "To Autumn". Well, I could go on waxing lyrical about this time of the year – my favourite – but I think you get the message.

Welcome to our "fall" (as they say in America) edition of *The Knowledge Tree*. Here at Lifestyle Learning Direct we're offering a great Autumn Special on our recently updated Version 3.0 Fashion Design and Dressmaking course, and what

better way to spend those crisp nights than experimenting with your very own fashion designs and creations. Check out our offer on page 3 of this newsletter.

A growing percentage of our students are electing to use the assignment emailing option, which really speeds up assignment turnaround times. And if you haven't already done so, why not take advantage of our Students' Resource Room? This is available to all students whether enrolled in mail, CD-ROM or online courses, so simply call our Student Services Department for your registration code.

And lastly, congratulations to those students, both past and present, who have written to tell us about their successes in their chosen fields of study, and look out for Fleur McDonald's latest novel *Blue Skies* in the bookstores from April.

Best wishes,

Robyn Lee Hunt

Em@iling Assignments

Want to dramatically reduce your assignment turnaround times, save postage and complete your course faster?

Many students don't realise they can submit their assignments via email, and a simple click of a button can have your work winging its way through cyberspace instead of traveling by regular "snail" mail. However, if you wish to use this submission option, the following procedures will simplify the process.

- Assignments must be saved as Word® documents (.doc file extensions) and submitted as a single file. Any graphics must be included in the file and not sent separately.
- Submit only one assignment at a time and wait for its return before emailing the next.
- For clarification purposes, the email subject heading **MUST** include your student ID, course name and assignment number.
- Editing & Proofreading assignments can only be emailed if the attachment is a clear scanned copy and can be easily read.

When our Student Services Department receives your emailed assignment, it is directly forwarded to your tutor for marking, circumventing possible postal delays. A reply is also emailed to you, confirming our receipt of your assignment.

Students who elect to submit their assignments electronically, also receive additional modules of their course in this format, along with the return of their marked assignments.

If you would like to submit your assignments by email, simply send them as file attachments to info@lifestylelearningdirect.com.

Please note: for practical purposes, assignments for some of the design courses (such as fashion, garden and interior) are unsuitable for emailing. If you are unsure of the requirements, please contact our Student Services Department.



The Knowledge Tree subscription form

To receive our quarterly newsletter by mail, please fill in your details and return to Lifestyle Learning Direct, along with your payment.

Name: _____ Student #: _____

Address: _____

Telephone: () _____ Email: _____

I wish to pay \$10 for my annual subscription by:

Cheque* Money Order* (*payable to Lifestyle Learning Direct) Credit Card

Credit Card Type: VISA MASTERCARD

Card No.:

Card Holder's Name: _____

Signature: _____ Expiry Date: / /

Please return this completed subscription form to the school. Alternatively, if paying by credit card you may fax this form to 07 5630 6195 (Australia) or 0800 775 050 (New Zealand).

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Lifestyle Learning Direct would like to congratulate the following students who have had success in their chosen field of study.

Aussie mum and LLD student **Christina Descoueyte**, who has recently moved to Normandy in France, had a 3-page article – “A Year in Normandy” – published in *French Provincial*. Complete with photos and recipes, the article describes Christina’s garden, her culinary habits, her friends and her life in general. Well done, Christina!

Comprehensive Writing student **Leah Pallaris** had her article “The Human Trap” accepted for publication in the autumn edition (#49) of *Footprints*, a Christian magazine. Also, one of her poems “Time or Money” appeared in the *Herald Sun Stuff* magazine. Her son submitted the poem and Leah was rewarded with a DVD for her contribution. Keep up the good writing, Leah!

Professional Editing & Proofreading student **Maxine Pringle**, who recently completed her course, had some additional professional experience recently when an acquaintance asked her to help him prepare a manuscript to submit to a publisher. Maxine wrote to say that the work was “badly formatted, in small print and full of errors of every kind, but it gave me an excellent opportunity to have a go at editing for ‘real’. Two edits later, he submitted the manuscript and it was accepted. He was rapt and so was I.” Next time she says she will charge for her time. ☺

Isabel McCallum, who we wrote about in a previous Brag Board as a member of the Older Women’s Network, has been encouraging women in the NSW Shoalhaven region to record their childhood WWII memories. Thanks to three seminars and a massive amount of local publicity, she now has thirty-eight stories for publication and a sympathetic local printer has offered a reasonable deal. Thanks, Isabel, for taking the time to encourage these stories, which will now be preserved for posterity.

Readers’ Digest has accepted an article written by **Sandra Walsh** in their “Kindness to Strangers” section. Sandra wrote to say this was her first submission to that magazine, and her success has spurred her on to both finish her course and start submitting more of her work to other publications.

After completing her Comprehensive Writing course in 2007, **Claudia Bouma** was disappointed that none of her articles had been accepted for publication. However, she didn’t give up and her first travel article has been accepted for the March 2010 issue of *Camper Trailer Touring* magazine. Moreover, the editor liked Claudia’s work so much that he has asked her to submit one article each month. Claudia, this goes to show

that success isn’t always immediate, but perseverance and good writing can win out in the end!

For two years **Margaret Frost**, one of our Comprehensive Writing students, researched the life of convict Joseph Frost, who was transported to Australia. She submitted a story on his life, titled “The Fortunate Life of a Convict” to Catchfire Press, for their *People of the Valley* anthology, which was launched in November 2009. Research really does pay off!

Fleur McDonald, whose first novel *Red Dust* was released last May, has been editing her next novel – *Blue Skies* – which is due on the bookshelves in April. Keep your eyes out for this talented Aussie writer who hails from a property in the WA Esperance region. Read more about Fleur in this quarter’s “Stories to Inspire” section.

STUDENTS’ RESOURCE ROOM

As a student of Lifestyle Learning Direct you are eligible for free membership to our Student Resource Room, which provides students with the following tools:

- ❖ **ACS Online Library:** gain access to extra research material (supplied by our affiliate ACS) grouped under a variety of subject classifications, which may be useful for additional learning. Students are also able to submit their own articles.
- ❖ **Student Directory:** students can load in their details to allow contact from other students from our affiliate schools, as well as our own, or contact other registered students in the same course/subject matter.
- ❖ **Resizing Tool:** students will be able to resize images to use with their assignments.
- ❖ **Students Seeking Employment:** students can add their details to the noticeboard so prospective employers are able to access and contact students. This, of course, does not guarantee a job but it may help in the process of searching for one.

To gain access to the Student Resource Room, you will need a registration code from the school and, if you are not an online student, you will also need a login name and password. You will then be able to access the Student Resource Room via the link on our website, www.lifestylelearningdirect.com, by clicking on the Students tab and registering as a user. Simply contact our Student Services Department for your registration code.

CERTIFICATES



Congratulations to the following Lifestyle Learning Direct students who were awarded Certificates of Completion during the three months prior to 31 January 2010. If your certificate was issued after this date, your name will appear in the next edition of this newsletter.

Beauty Therapy

Rachel Weale

Comprehensive Writing

Adrian Romagnano
Carolyn Sturiale
Charlotte Hilary Corden
Christina Descoueyte
Dale Furse
Davy Toh Sing Hian
Denice Martin
Dorothy Pheasant
Gary Sexton
Graeme A Morgan
Michael Delaney
Michelle Drury
Rosalind Brenner
Rosanna White
Roxanne Sutherland
William John Allender

Counselling Skills I

Maree Steele

Crime, Mystery & Suspense

Heather Trussell

Fashion Design & Dressmaking

Alana Johnson
Bernadette Hobbs
Carolyn Morris
Karen Bellamy
Naomi McDonald
Nicole Jackson

Feng Shui

Yolanda Joyce

Garden Design & Landscaping

Claire Laverly
Georgina Marriott
Nicole Jones

Homeopathy

Debie Reader

Interior Design & Decoration

Eloise Brennan-Tucker

Life Coaching

Jenny Middleton
Kerri Lethborg

Life Coaching Skills Online

Rose Conlan

Massage

Andy Grabow
Narelle Mills
Tania Ngaropo

Novel Writing

Beryl Annette Peake
Zeala Greenwood

Professional Editing & Proofreading

Aimee Heal
Angela Pickering
Anita Stoward
Ann-Marie Ford
Barbara Stewart
Bhadra Reid
Camille Nelson
Carolyn Burnett
Debbie Smith
Denise Jenny Hower
Edna N A Okorley
Elaine J MacKintosh
Elizabeth Leatherbarrow
Gemma Brown
Georgia Mantis
Gladys Murphy

Reflexology

Irwan Tjahjadi
Jenny Andersen

Joanne Paix
Julie Potts
Julie Susan
Katherine Boyes
Katie Hovenden
Kerre Harris
Kimberley Morland
Leanne Baldwin
Lisa Wallis
Margaret Armitage
Margaret Stewart
Marie Griffiths
Maxine Pringle
Melanie Buljan
Meredith Taylor
Moya Healey
Patricia Riley
Pauline Ramsay
Ranjani Silva
Sandra Butler
Sarah Fischer
Satya Prasad
Sharyn Zrna
Suzanne Orchard

Professional Editing & Proofreading Advanced

Sara Trotter

Scriptwriting

Susan Warner
Toni Hamill

Short Story Writing

Larnie Picton
Helen Poole
Kathryn Willmington

Sports Nutrition & Fitness

Nicole Deacon

Technical Writing

Kristine Dunn

Writing for Children

Jie Chen
Josie Farrar
Kathryn Parker
Melinda Jefferson

Young Writers

Rebecca Gillies





Re-igniting the Passion

In disbelief I read and re-read the letter I received from Lifestyle Learning Direct, advising me that my course was expiring in January 2010. Had it truly been nearly four years since I first enrolled in the Writing for Children course? What had happened to my initial burst of enthusiasm and my goal to finish my course? I scratched my head in amazement as I looked unhappily at the letter.



Four years ago, with motivation high and enthusiasm in abundance, and a seemingly endless expanse of a four-year time-frame to complete my course, 2010 had seemed a long way off. Maybe it was the leisure of having four years that had made my average of 1.25 assignments a year now appear so meagre in hindsight. Had I let other aspects of life stand in the way?

I felt the letter's personal admission of failure weigh heavily from the moment I read it. It said I could extend my course. 'No way!' I said to myself. 'I'm going to honour my original promise to myself.' I had three assignments left, and nine weeks in which to complete them. Reinigorated, I began focusing on achieving my goal.

I pinned the letter above my bed head so I would see it every night when I clambered into bed: a solid reminder and a prompt to complete what I had set out to do, and a ghostly cue that I was close to failure. It was a strong motivator.

So, you ask – did I achieve my goal or did I let myself down? Check out the list of certificate holders in this edition of the newsletter, and you'll see my name there. And while you're reading the list, realise that you also don't want to fall behind in your studies and lose your ultimate goal. Achieve that special dream that you had at the start of your course, too.

Many thanks Robyn and the team at LLD. My new goal is to complete three other writing courses and I'm surging ahead in terms of commitment and study activity.

Kathryn Parker

(As well as completing the Comprehensive Writing, Crime Writing and Writing for Children courses, Kathryn is also currently enrolled in our Scriptwriting, Editing and Proofreading and Journalism courses – Ed.)



Red Dust has been doing really well! I got my first royalty cheques recently, which was a real buzz! From the statement, it's sold over 20,000 copies since it was released last May. I'm told that's really good! I still have the occasional interview, but lately I've been head down, tail up on the final editing of *Blue Skies*, which is due out in April.

I wrote most of *Blue Skies* in three months (from about June 2009), and while I found it difficult to write while all the publicity for *Red Dust* was happening, I had a September 1 deadline! Anyway, I made it and the feedback from Allen & Unwin so far is that it's better than *Red Dust*.

I have plans for a third novel, but I'm just taking that one steady at this stage. I've got myself an agent and she's happy for me to write the whole MS before we submit it. That will be a new experience as *Red Dust* and *Blue Skies* were bought on the first three chapters. But I want to take a bit more time with *Purple Roads*.

Allen & Unwin took both *Red Dust* and *Blue Skies* to the Frankfurt Book Fair in 2009 and they're taking *Red Dust* to the London Book Fair early in 2010. I'm really hopeful about the London fair as the English seem to love anything Australian! Meanwhile, *Red Dust* is to be released in Germany in April and it has also been nominated for both the 2010 Nita B. Kibble and Barbara Jefferis Literary Awards!

No rain and very dry here! The season is closing in very quickly.

Best wishes

Fleur McDonald

(The Nita B. Kibble Literary Award is an annual award of \$25,000 for women writers of a fiction or non-fiction published book classifiable as "life writing". The Barbara Jefferis Literary Award is offered annually for "the best novel written by an Australian author that depicts women and girls in a positive way or otherwise empowers the status of women and girls in society". In 2010 this Award is valued at \$35,000. To read more about Fleur, her books and life on the land, check out <http://fleurmcdonald.com/> – Ed.)

NOTICEBOARD



Change of Address Notification

To ensure the details on your Certificate of Completion are accurate and we maintain contact with you, please let us know if you have any name or address changes, including email address.

Course Expiry

If your course expiration date is looming and you are unable to complete your studies by the nominated date, simply contact our friendly Student Services Department staff for course extension details.

Spam Filters

Some students are not receiving important emails from us, as their spam filters are blocking our contact. To avoid our emails going automatically into your "Junk" folder, please make sure you add Lifestyle Learning Direct's email address to your "Safe Sender" list, to avoid missing out on important correspondence.

Student Details

Don't forget to incorporate your name and student number on any correspondence or payments you send to Lifestyle Learning Direct, including the "Reference" section when completing a direct money deposit either over-the-counter at the bank or via the Internet.

Submission Deadline

The submission deadline for the next (June) issue of our newsletter is 30 April 2010. Please address all correspondence to The Editor, *The Knowledge Tree*, PO Box 6944, Gold Coast MC, Qld, 9726, or email editor@lifestylelearningdirect.com.

Newsletter Delivery

If you wish to receive a mailed copy of our next newsletter, don't forget to send your annual subscription, plus the completed form included in this newsletter.

Your News

Do you have a funny or interesting success story to share with us as a result of your course, or perhaps there's a special reason why you started your course in the first place? Tell us in approximately 300 words and we'll publish our favourites in the "Stories to Inspire" section in the next edition of *The Knowledge Tree*. We'll even include a photo if you'd like to send us one.