

QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

Professor Caroline Bowen



Dr Caroline Bowen is a Speech-Language Pathologist, an Honorary Associate in Linguistics at Macquarie University (Sydney), a Certified Practising Member of Speech Pathology Australia and a Fellow of the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association. With qualifications in speech pathology, speech and drama, and family therapy, and a doctorate in clinical linguistics, her workload comprises a happy mix of clinical practice, presenting continuing professional development (CPD/CEU) events in the area of children's speech sound disorders, research and writing. She presents internationally in the area of children's speech sound disorders and through cyberspace as a website owner and moderator of the nearly 7,000-strong phonological therapy discussion group. An expert on Lionel Logue, she has consulted on a play and two books about Logue.

If someone wrote a biography about you, what would the title be?

Speechwoman.

What's your favourite weekend activity?

Chatting over lunch with my husband in a favourite restaurant in the heart of Sydney on a Sunday afternoon.

What would you do if you weren't afraid to?

Load the washing machine without sorting whites from coloureds.

If you could be or do anything else - what would you be?

Now you're asking! Anything? I want a personal chair in speech sound disorders at a university with no research funding hassles, and I want it NOW!

What was your favourite toy (or game) as a child, and why?

Meccano.
Why not?

What are you most proud of?

Not "what", "who". Personally, my family; professionally, my colleagues everywhere; publicly, those who actively oppose the war in Iraq; patriotically, Australia and New Zealand; privately, my husband, Don.

What do you like most about your job? What do you like least?

Teaching and learning with SLT colleagues worldwide: Australia, Canada, Hong Kong, Ireland, Malaysia, New Zealand, Philippines, Portugal, Singapore, UK, USA... where next, I wonder?
Packing a bag for cold weather with a 20Kg limit.

Where is your favourite place to visit?

Botanic Gardens anywhere.

When you graduated what were your ambitions for your career?

I wanted to work as a clinician and not be "promoted" into an administrative role, to pursue further study and research, and to be active in our professional association, Speech Pathology Australia.

Do you have any wise words for new graduates?

No, but Joan Rosenthal who really is wise, writes about resilience in the workplace and a three-element survival kit. Here's a taste: "The final item in my survival kit is an understanding that the development of expertise is a two-way street. There is an obligation to share such wisdom as we have acquired, and to learn from what others can contribute. Consider how you can do this. It may be by mentorship, by sharing with colleagues, by brainstorming over clinical problems, by writing, by teaching. It may also be by asking questions, by expressing ignorance, by acknowledging feelings of uncertainty and need for support." Rosenthal, 2009.

REFERENCE

Rosenthal, J. B. (2009). Key components of a survival kit: Theory, evidence and experience. In C. Bowen, Children's speech sound disorders. Oxford: Wiley-Blackwell, pp. 346-366.

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