


## ASPIA Newsletter – March 2019

 Our next **ASPIA partner support group meeting** (in Burwood, Sydney) will be Saturday 2 March 2019, and our **Presenter** for this meeting will be **Dr Nola Norris** (Dip Teach, Bed, Med, PhD) who is a long-time ASPIA Member, our Web Developer since 2005, and our in-house Educator.

**Topic: How and why people with Asperger Syndrome think differently: Executive Functions and the Asperger Sense of time.**

Nola is an educator whose driving passion is for AS partners to learn the truth about the neurological condition of Asperger's so that they can understand and better manage the reality of what happens within their own relationships. By developing stronger conceptual understanding, partners can apply this knowledge to make the best decisions for their situation.

As a result of her husband's diagnosis in 2005 Nola undertook PhD research to investigate the lived experience of gifted adults on the autism spectrum. To answer the question 'What's it like to be autistic?' it seemed obvious to ask adults on the spectrum with the ability to articulate their experience (although this is difficult for many) but at that time there were very few researchers taking this approach. Most research was *on* people with autism, not *with* people with autism.

Nola's in-depth case studies with five gifted adults with autism as participants led to the development of a way of explaining and understanding Asperger's in order to help partners understand the reality of their partner's experience. Her own need to learn about the reality of AS in order to interpret the daily events within her marriage has translated to educating partners, parents, teachers and adults on the spectrum.

Please join us from 1.30pm for a 2.00pm start.

**ASPIA meeting location:** Club Burwood at 97 Burwood Road, Burwood (Sydney) (corner George Street)

**Who can attend:** Partners and family members seeking support from the non-Asperger perspective.

**Cost:** \$10 for non-members, \$5 for members (membership is \$55 per year and includes several benefits including borrowing books from the library and being part of a private facebook group.)

**Parking:** The cheapest and closest parking is directly behind the Club in **John Street**. Wilson car park - \$5.

**Lunch Club:** Bistro area from 12 noon for those who'd like to chat over lunch before the meeting.

**Dinner:** Staying back afterwards for a drink or dinner has become popular.

### ASPIA's Meeting Dates for 2019

February 2	March 2	April 6	May 4	June 1	July 6
August 3	September 7	October 5	November 2	December 7	No mtg January

All enquiries: please email ASPIA [info@aspia.org.au](mailto:info@aspia.org.au)

(Newsletter compiled by Carol Grigg OAM, President of ASPIA Inc)