

Gifted Online

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Networking with the Online Gifted Community




A workshop with **Mary St George** of **Gifted Online**

<http://ultranet.giftededucation.org.nz>
A service of **The Gifted Education Centre**.

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Who is this workshop for?



- Parents, professionals and other people over 12 who would like to network with the wider gifted advocacy community online.
- Beginnerish social networkers who would like to be shown how in person.

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Stocktake




- Who has a portable computing device here (including smartphones)?
- Who is successfully using the Wi-Fi already?
- Who has a Facebook account?
- Who has a Twitter account?
- Who is under 13 years of age?

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We're in a rude rush!




Twitter [#gtchat](#) begins at noon, on "Exploring: When Multi-Talented Gifted Burnout".

- Please let's get people ready to participate first, and handle introductions and personal learning needs after that.

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Sequence

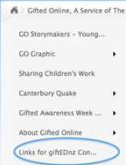


- Prepare for Twitter [#gtchat](#).
- Talk priorities.
- Visit Facebook and view other networks according to your needs.
- [#gtchat](#) at noon.
- Continue to explore other needs, if greater, during [#gtchat](#).

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Access links you'll need




- Please sit with someone who can get online.
- Type <http://ultranet.giftededucation.org.nz> into your browser.
- Choose the bottom link on the left.

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Accessing Twitter




- Go to <http://twitter.com/>.
- Create an account if you are brave.
- Log on to one of our accounts if less confident:
learner001
learner002
learner003

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Creating a Twitter Account




- You will be prompted to respond to an email confirming that you intended to create an account.
- Your "real name" can just be your first name. **Twitter is very public.** Your username is called for later.
- You will be able to log in and experiment a little before you need to click the link in the email.

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Twitter is Imperfect




- It's not you, new accounts are just weird.
- The odd tweet will always go missing, just like the odd comment in real life going unheard.
- Find new people in this room by typing twitter.com/username.

New users are **not** usually searchable.

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Twitter Chat Applications




- To follow an organised, fast moving chat, Twitter's usual interface is not the best tool.
- We will use [Tweetchat](#) for #gtchat.
- [Tweetdeck](#) can follow several chats or searches at once.
- The best tool changes, but you'll hear about the new best tool on Twitter.

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Twitter #gtchat




- Has just restarted after a break, so shouldn't be too busy today.
- Usually follows Q & A format – type **q1** at the beginning of your answer to q1.
- RT posts you like because not everyone will see them.
- Acknowledge sources (**via**).
- They can't hear us – ask for help.
- More info at <http://txgifted.org/gtchat>.

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During Twitter Chat




- Become confident – ask any questions.
- Chat usually lasts an hour, but we can spend some of that time on discussing related needs (or other social media).
- *What brought you here?*
- *What is your passion in giftedness?*
- *How can distance communication support you as an advocate for the gifted?*

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Evaluating Twitter




- *What's the point?*
- *How do you add value to a 140 character tweet?*
- *What's frustrating?*
- *Pros and cons of organised chat vs. casual searching and interaction.*
- *Was there a spark?*

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Strike Sparks!




He knew that if he wanted to show his talents to best advantage, he needed to strike sparks off other people to fan the flames of warmth and exuberance in his heart. On his own he was frosty, no use to himself at all, like a match left lying in its box. • Stefan Zweig, 1881-1942.

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What are your priorities?




- Once we are set up with Twitter, we will look at Facebook. Before and during Twitter chat, we can look at any of the following:

TKI	NZAGC forum
Blogs and blog tour	Linked In
VLN	Google+
Flickr photoquotes	Skype
Second Life	

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Facebook




- Some people like [Facebook](#) and dislike [Twitter](#), or vice versa.
- Lengthier communication than Twitter allows is positive for many.
- Many Facebook users have expressed concerns about [privacy issues](#). Take steps to make things private, and then act as if they weren't.
- There are [many gifted pages and groups](#) within Facebook.

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Your Choice




- Create an account if you choose to do so. You are likely to need email access.
- Add friends from within the room.
- Like pages and join groups.
- Try my groups to see what a [group with a chat](#) and [without](#) are like. Feel free to leave the groups after the session.

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Facebook Questions




- Does a public page or a "contained" group invite your style of communication?
- Which posts seemed helpful, welcoming and informative?
- Are you looking for lots of links or friendly conversation?
- Did you spot tensions or undercurrents?
- Would you feel comfortable leaving a group, unfriending, or blocking?

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Skype




- Allows multidirectional voice chat and exchange of text and links for free.
- Video chat is possible, but only free one-on-one.
- I use Skype for some online tutorials each Gifted Awareness Week.
- Download from <http://www.skype.com/>

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Video Chat




- Video chat requires high connection speeds.
- Both in Skype and in Webinars, the video often travels over New Zealand networks at the expense of the sound quality.
- There are many digital divides, not just one. Don't let the connection speed digital divide get in the way of supportive collaboration.

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Te Kete Ipurangi



- Has an [active email network](#) you can join within the [Gifted and Talented community](#).
- You can view the [archives](#) online to decide whether you'd like to join.
- View recorded [webinars](#) on giftedness, and perhaps join future events.
- Lots of high quality information, and more being added.

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NZAGC Forum



- I'm just checking you know about [this wonderful forum](#).
- Probably New Zealand's first online network for the gifted advocacy community.
- You can post anonymously.
- Members who have supplied email addresses get email digests of recent posts.

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Blogs and the Blog Tour




- I host a [blog tour](#) for Gifted Awareness Week.
- I'm sure you all have lots to offer!
- The comments in a concerted blogging drive are very social.
- Please share gifted blogs you write or discover via other social media.
- If you blog erratically, consider shared or networked blogs.

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Linked In




- Networks around professional relationships more than social ones.
- Has some active gifted groups.
- Beware the process for finding friends on [Linked In](#). It is very easy to invite all your e-mail contacts by mistake. I had already been warned when I did this!
- "Recommendations" can be useful for your Curriculum Vitae.
- Membership can result in job offers.

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Virtual Learning Network




CC-BY Cea

- The [VLN](#) is a New Zealand education network.
- [GiftEDnz](#) have a group within the VLN.
- Emails notify you of activity, but all have the same subject line.
- Much of [the giftEDnz group's](#) material is visible without joining the network.

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Google+




- The initial rush to join [Google+](#) hasn't been sustained.
- You can make your own circle of gifted contacts to whom you share all your gifted news.
- People can collaborate to create identical circles and form a group.
- To the best of my knowledge, you cannot form a searchable group as yet.

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Flickr




- [Flickr](#) is an image sharing site with facilities for groups and discussion.
- Inspired by the [Purpose/ed group](#), I created the [Gifted Education Photoquotes group](#).
- Images should all be [CC licensed](#) so they can be used for advocacy.
- Please contribute before Gifted Awareness Week if you are able.
- Xtra users have free pro membership.

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Second Life




- [Second Life](#) is a virtual world of 3D graphics. A download and a [learning curve](#) are involved.
- Text and voice communication are possible. Slide shows can be presented.
- Roya Klingner organises monthly [gifted education meetings](#).
- FAST connections are required.

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Contact



<http://ultranet.giftededucation.org.nz>
Mary St George.

mail4mary@xtra.co.nz
@MaryStGeorge