

Subject: Newsletter The Beacon #29 - Warm you souls with what is and has been happening at 126 Margaret St!

Date: Friday, 30 June 2023 at 9:50:32 am Australian Eastern Standard Time

From: The Lighthouse Toowoomba

To: Emma Mactaggart



Welcome to Week 21 for 2023 at The Lighthouse Toowoomba.

Ahhhhh. We can hear your sigh of relief still from here! No lunch boxes, and no school timetables at the moment as everyone nestles into the school holidays.

Speaking of nesting... Terese Eglington's 'Birds of a Feather' exhibition has been taken flight and finished on Saturday 24th June, but not before entertaining children from Our Lady of the Southern Cross Dalby, St Monica's Oakey, Mater Dei Toowoomba, Flexi School and Centennial Heights High School. The greater majority of the children and the adults visiting gave the exhibition

a glorious 10 out of 10!

But don't take you fly off right now - read on to discover more about the launch of the 2023 Hello Baby Competition, the first youth writers festival 'Words Speak Louder' and as always, opportunities upcoming for all age groups.



Thank you Marisa Ballinger (pictured above) for sketching the settings the illustrations for 'Wiimali', bringing them to life for the First Nations authors from Harlaxton. Marisa is talented Ngiyampaa and Wiradjuri woman, artisan and weaver, and now firm friend of The Lighthouse.

Marisa is one of the directors on the board of The First Nations Arts and Culture Collective, and will join 8 other artists to create an exhibition to celebrate NAIDOC week. It is AWESOME to be able to announce that each day there will be a FREE artist talk at 11am - a remarkable opportunity to hear from elders.



'Wiimali'

FKG Group Book Workshops

A review by Jeramy Skeels (Year 10 St Mary's College)

Wiimali is a writing project undertaken by students at Harlaxton State School and supported by The Lighthouse Toowoomba. Thanks to the collective efforts of everyone involved, the FKG book Wiimali has been progressing smoothly, offering readers a unique perspective on the themes of connection to country and Aboriginal ancestry.

The book explores the bond between a young and timid Aboriginal boy and the native wildlife that resides around his home. Together, they face the challenge of extinguishing a bushfire ignited by a freak summer lightning storm. This narrative exemplifies the connection between humanity and the land.

The children involved in the project possess remarkable and idiosyncratic qualities. They are bright-minded, attentive, and quick to spot any flaws or imperfections in the story or page designs. Each child brings a unique talent to the table, whether it be drawing, interpersonal skills, or a sharp wit.

On Monday, a small group of girls collaborated by reviewing the latest draft of the book and identifying any minor blemishes or imperfections. They also dedicated time to planning the illustrations for each page, deciding whether they should be single- or double-page drawings, and discussing the positioning and poses of the characters in each scene.

On Thursday, the two groups of boys and girls came together, providing an opportunity for everyone to view the completed drafts of the illustrations. They deliberated on the type of acknowledgment to country and references they wished to include on the initial pages of the book. Additionally, they began crafting individual blurbs for the back cover, which will later be combined to form the final product.

The workshop has ignited the children's creative imaginations and fostered an environment of fun and mutual learning. Moreover, it has expanded their literary skills while fostering closer bonds and facilitating the formation of enduring friendships among the students.

Birds of a Feather has flown the coop...





Jeremy also flocked to the exhibition sharing the following insight:

As a part of the Lighthouse Toowoomba’s latest exhibition in the Write Gallery—Birds of a Feather —fifty students and six teachers from the schools Our Lady of Lourdes and St Monica’s Primary School came and partook in an afternoon of creativity and fun within a tranquil and relaxed environment.

To kick off the post meridiem activities, the students listened to a reading of the book *Benny the Bin Chicken* written and illustrated by local artist and author Terese Eglington. They were then given the opportunity to admire the wide range of Terese’s spectacular artworks all centred around natural Australian bird species. Finally, to top it all off the school children participated in an inventive undertaking where they were required to build a sculpture of a bird out of bits of rubbish and junk, just as Benny the Bin Chicken built sculptures out of trash at the end of the story to help protect his home from being destroyed.

This activity helped to fuel the children’s imaginations resulting in a sensational array of

innovative and artistic statuary that was afterwards put on display for all of those who came to the exhibition to see.



Using podcast parlance - 'It's in the can...!'

The first podcast in the series from Samah and Rawah (students from Centennial Heights High School) was laid down, after months of preparation and guidance from mentor David Iliffe. David has gifted his time and expertise to the project.

The team took a moment to visit Terese, and forever the girls will remember the ubiquitous 'bin chicken' as being strongly associated to this momentous achievement, something that indeed appealed to both!



THE LIGHTHOUSE TOOWOOMBA

Twinkles Book Club

We are having a little break, recharging our batteries and will happily resume in Term III starting Wednesday 13th July

Wednesdays and Fridays from 9:30am to 10:30am to read and play together.

IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS PLEASE EMAIL HELLO@THELIGHTHOUSE200WOOMBA.ORG

The Lighthouse Toowoomba | Guiding Creativity | 126 Margaret Street Toowoomba CBD

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Twinkles Book Club...

(Not only did Jeramy lead the reading (pictured below), he was asked to write about it, and responded to the challenge with aplomb!)

The Twinkles Book Club a program run by The Lighthouse Toowoomba is based around reading books to toddlers and their caretakers. It provides

somewhere safe and peaceful for toddlers to use to learn, explore and allow their curiosity to take flight. Reading to toddlers can be an integral factor in the children's development. Storytelling can help toddlers learn about and identify sounds, words, and language. Additionally, it can also help to stimulate their imaginations, expand their social skills and vocabulary, and allow them to learn more about the world which they live in. This allows parents and their children to strengthen their bonds. The club also permits the young children to meet other people and more children that are their age, further broadening their social skills and helping to coax them into coming out of their shells.



and we thank you Jeramy!

Weren't we the lucky ducks! Jeramy spent a week with us for work experience from St Mary's College. Timing is everything, and he happened on a week when all the staff were away, and with a merry gang of volunteers, he kept The Lighthouse afloat. He truly proved to be invaluable, and it is no exaggeration to suggest we wouldn't have made it through the week without him.

Jeremy is also a Scout leader, and delivered some lego kits we had on-hand from Good360 (see below), honouring the hard work his little team had put in over the term.



The First Nations Arts + Culture Collective

NAIDOC week will be recognised and celebrated by an exhibition in The Write Gallery by First Nations artists OFFICIALLY OPENS on Sunday 2nd July, and continues with a market day on Saturday 8th July.

The Write Gallery is open each day 10am to 3pm, and Monday to Friday, there will be an ARTIST TALK by one of the featured artists.

Have seen a glimpse of the stunning array of art to be exhibited, you don't want to miss this one - and truly, the week will fly, so mark it in your diary now!

FIRST NATIONS
ARTS+CULTURE COLLECTIVE
ABORIGINAL CORPORATION
PRESENTS...

NAIDOC WEEK

OFFICIAL OPENING SUNDAY

2ND JULY 2023

2:00PM TO 4:00PM

THE WRITE GALLERY

126 MARGARET STREET TOOWOOMBA

MARKET DAY SATURDAY 8TH JULY



Heads down, tails up!

Thank you to Wendy again from the Flexi School for another class visit, this time to the exhibition 'Birds of a Feather' We love that you are just a leisurely stroll away, and we are so grateful for your ongoing enthusiasm and incredible support as you say YES to every invitation to get your students involved in our free workshops!



**ART EXHIBITION
15-23
July, 2023**

The journey
OF AN
ART THERAPIST

FREE ENTRY
Open 10am - 3pm daily
The Write Gallery, 126 Margaret Street, Toowoomba



The
LIGHTHOUSE
GUIDING CREATIVITY


momentum

Special opportunities just keep flowing as we continue with our remarkable collaborations with organisations in our community who continually strive to make a difference. This time it's [Momentum Mental Health](#) hosting an exhibition 'The Journey of an Art Therapist' AND free community art therapy classes (all welcome, no bookings, just float on in!)



Words DO Speak Louder!

A rousingly huge round of applause for Matilda Banks for organising her first youth writers festival, successfully engaging a gaggle of galant writers with workshops by these legends (who all donated their time!) Thomas Alan, Claire Christian and Amber Manteufel.

Matilda did work experience at The Lighthouse, and rose to challenge of creating a youth writers festival. It is not your normal holiday plan, but all the attendees were very grateful for the opportunity to attend.



Thomas
Alan



Claire
Christian



Amber
Manteufel

KOALA CARTE

You know we were so sad to see Emerge close. Now it is time to dust off those tears and get ready to welcome a new business on site at 126 Margaret Street! Bomi and Steve are opening their second location for KOALA CARTE....

Soft opening TODAY 10am to 3pm

(This could well be the last time you see the Coke decal on the side of the building! The cutest of branding coming very soon!)



Workshops - last places available!

With only three places for the comic and manga classes, and five for world building, book now to

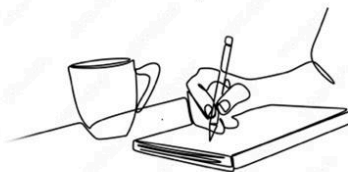
avoid disappointment.

(Click the images below for direct links!)



Writer's Critique Circle

6:30 - 8:30pm
6th July
The Lighthouse,
Toowoomba



Constructive critique is an essential ingredient to grow as a writer.

This critique circle invites anyone working on a writing piece to submit an excerpt of their work for feedback and critique from fellow writers.

Any level and style of writing is welcome: fiction, non-fiction, theatre, poetry, screen play, story synopses, song lyrics - whatever! However, since some of our attendees will be high school students and below, keep that in mind when selecting what material to read.

Participants will be invited to read through the pieces ahead of time, come up with helpful critiques, and discuss them at the meet up.

Submit your writing for feedback (Readers) - Complete the jotform and upload your writing excerpt by 30 June

(<https://form.jotform.com/231517647843058>)



Write a Book in a Day

This is TRUE! We did indeed write a book in a day, accompanied by seven glorious illustrations.

These generous humans gave up a day of their school holidays to write and draw ALL DAY, and they all contributed to raising \$240 for [The Kids Cancer Project](#).

[Hear](#) what Mackenzie had to say, encouraging students from schools in Toowoomba to do the same! The sponsorship tally closes for

the purpose of awarding fundraising prizes at 9pm
AEST, Friday 30 September 2023

PLEASE... WE NEED TO KNOW!

Thank you to all the previous workshop participants who completed the Survey sent to your inbox. The responses really help us fine-tune what we are offering! It only takes 2 minutes, so if you have had a child attending workshops here at The Lighthouse and missed it, and would still like to be heard, here is the link:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/8XS95LH>

THANK YOU in advance...



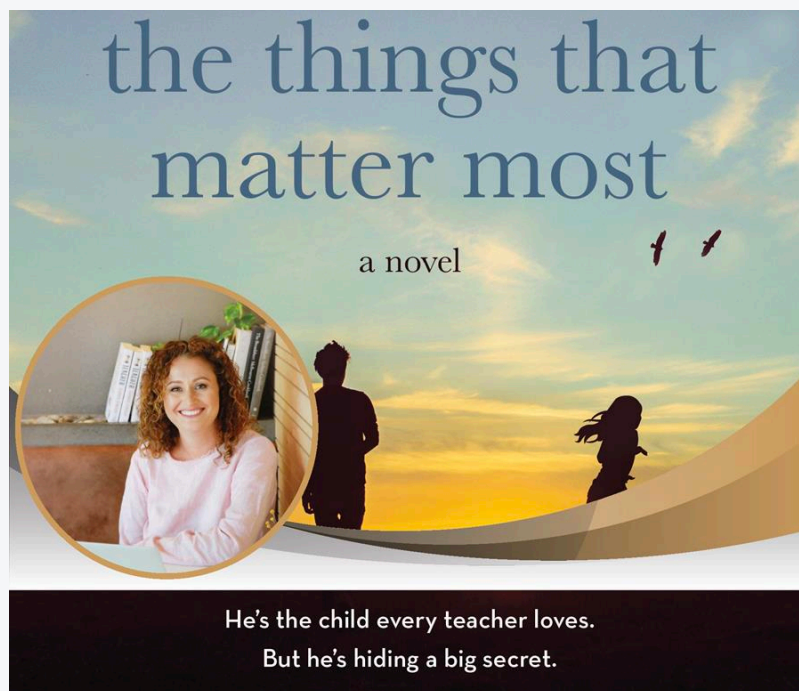
STOP PRESS...

(How exciting to be so beautifully rewarded as you get all the way to the end of another huge newsletter!)

THE HELLO BABY COMPETITION for children aged 8 and under is [OPEN TODAY](#). (Yes, we are shouting because it is sooooo much fun, the

perfect winter holiday activity, and a gorgeous opportunity for your little ones to have their art in 1. an exhibition, and 2. some will win the chance to be featured in the Hello Baby Calendar to be gifted to newborns at the Toowoomba Hospital.

This is made entirely possible by a grant from [The Queensland Charitable Foundation.](#)



CARRIE STROUD

GABBY SIKUUD BOOK LAUNCH

16 August 2023 **5:30PM** | The Write Gallery
In Conversation with Ellie McLiesh

THE LIGHTHOUSE TOOWOOMBA | \$15 TICKET
126 MARGARET STREET, TOOWOOMBA CITY, QLD

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The Lighthouse Toowoomba
126 Margaret Street, Toowoomba, 4350

We acknowledge the original Indigenous storytellers of the land on which we work and tell our stories. We respect the ongoing relationships with water, land, and story by the people of this place, their elders, their ancestors, and their emerging leaders. We acknowledge that sovereignty was never ceded.

If you wish to unsubscribe from our newsletter please use the button below or email us at hello@thelighthousetoowoomba.org

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