

Subject: Newsletter The Beacon #46

Date: Monday, 1 April 2024 at 4:45:15 pm Australian Eastern Standard Time

From: The Lighthouse Toowoomba

To: Emma Mactaggart

Special Easter Edition!



CULTURAL KALEIDOSCOPE

YOU ADD THE COLOUR!



*The Write Gallery
2-30 April 2024
Tues - Sat 10am to 3pm*

This event is proudly supported by the Toowoomba Regional Council and the Celebrating Multicultural Queensland Program through the Department of Children, Youth Justice and Multicultural Affairs



**Welcome to (the very beginning of!)
Week 11 for 2024 at The Lighthouse
Toowoomba**

Wet weather to start the school

holidays (when is hot chocolate made out of easter eggs not the salve for abandoning a camping trip!) and here we are coming up with a fabulous exhibition in The Write Gallery with loads of activities for children and adults alike...

We are channeling our inner-GOMA which has been so much fun to organise, all with the generous support of the Toowoomba Regional Council, and the Celebrating Multicultural Queensland Program through the Department of Children, Youth Justice and Multicultural Affairs.

Cultural Kaleidoscope features eight of our favourite children's picture books from right here in south east Queensland, plus we have a host of other wonderful authors bringing their incredible books and workshops to you. This all starts with gusto tomorrow, so we are bouncing in earlier than usual with this edition of the newsletter, so you have a fabulous list of events in-hand for the school holidays!

It is always good to remind ourselves as much as others to celebrate our past successes and share more about Kat Lynn's wonderful March exhibition 'Empowering Women', AND at the same time, its important to get excited about having a palette of painters showing their work in our very first Seasonal Art Market in May, as well as celebrating our local writers as they share 'local and live' at The Empire for the Sydney Writers Festival's 'Live and

Local' program.

What's not to love in Autumn as the region focuses on the arts...



The poster features a central yellow banner with a decorative border of blue, red, and orange shapes. At the top, the title 'Cultural Kaleidoscope Exhibition' is written in a serif font, with '2-28 April 2024' and '10am to 3pm Tuesday to Saturday' below it. The main heading 'What's On!' is in a large, bold, orange font. The schedule is listed for Wednesday 3rd, Thursday 4th & Friday 5th, and Saturday 6th, each with an author-in-residence and reading times. Small line drawings of people and animals are interspersed throughout the text. At the bottom, there is a small text block about support and logos for Toowoomba Region and Queensland.

Cultural Kaleidoscope Exhibition
2-28 April 2024
10am to 3pm Tuesday to Saturday

What's On!

Wednesday 3rd
Author-in-Residence Lee FullARTon
Reading on the hour!
11am, 12noon, 1pm, and 2pm

Thursday 4th & Friday 5th
Author-in-Residence Irena Kobald
Reading on the hour!
11am, 12noon, 1pm, and 2pm

Saturday 6th
Author-in-Residence Megan Carige
Reading on the hour!
11am, 12noon, 1pm, and 2pm

plus FREE activities for kids

This event is proudly supported by the Toowoomba Regional Council and the Celebrating Multicultural Queensland Program through the Department of Children, Youth Justice and Multicultural Affairs

CULTURAL KALEIDOSCOPE EXHIBITION

From Tuesday to Saturday in the first week of the holidays (2-6 April), Authors Megan Carige, Irena Kobald, and Lee FullARTon will be in the Write Gallery as Authors-in-Residence!

There will be activities set up at stations around the gallery themed around each author and their book and there will be hourly readings by the authors of their very own works!

The fabulous books featured in the Cultural Kaleidoscope are Megan Carige's *Koli*, Irena Kobald's *Two Blankets*, Zewlan Moore's *Nothing Alike*, Lee FullARTon's *Mr Chipper and the Woodblock of Bagru*, Sandhya Parappukkran's *The Boy Who Tried to Shrink His Name* and *Amma's Sari* and also the Child Writes authored books *Wiimali* and *Akilah's Necklace*.

The Write Gallery will be open from **10am – 3pm** and *Wednesday through to Saturday 3-6 April*, the Authors-in-Residence program is as follows:

- **Wednesday 3 April** – Lee FullARTon's showcasing her book *Mr Chipper and the Woodblock of Bagru*, *plus reading on the hour: 11am, 12noon, 1pm, and 2pm*
- **Thursday 4 April and Friday 5 April** – Irena Kobald's showcasing her book *Two Blankets*, *plus reading on the hour: 11am, 12noon, 1pm, and 2pm*
- **Saturday 6 April** – Megan Carige showcasing her book *Koli*, *plus reading on the hour: 11am, 12noon, 1pm, and 2pm*

There will also be a thought-provoking Living Library where Community Leader's will be available for a wonderfully interactive session for all those 'you can't ask that!' questions. This promises to be a true kaleidoscope into multicultural ways of thinking and living!

In the second week of the holidays on

Tuesday 9th April we will be holding a special event to acknowledge the full celebration of cultural Kaleidoscope - *A celebratory afternoon tea!* Members from across the community will gather to applaud the diversity of the region we live in, and there will be a special live reading of Irena's book *Two Blankets*, a heart-warming tale of a child adapting to cultural displacement through kindness and friendship.

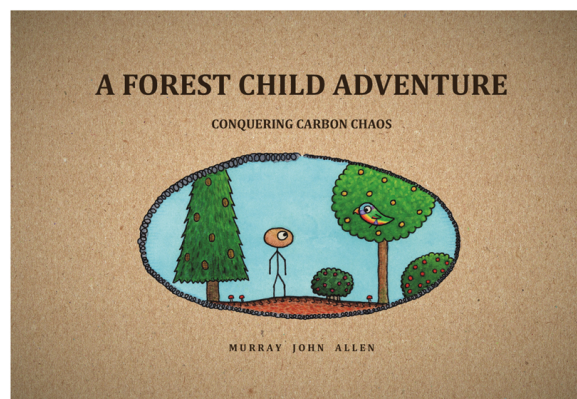
Register your attendance for *The Celebratory Afternoon Tea* [here](#).

WEDNESDAY 10th - Author, illustrator and musician Murray Allen shares his book 'A Forest Child Adventure' 10am to 12noon

THURSDAY 11th - Author Jane Palmer shares her new book 'The Great Animal Rescue'

FRIDAY 12th - Miss Emm's Workshops begin - a fun-filled workshop for a parent / carer and a child, together as a dynamic duo, making notebooks special 10:30am to 12:30pm

CULTURAL KALEIDOSCOPE



FREE SCHOOL HOLIDAY EVENT

Wednesday 10th April

10am to 12noon

10AM TO 12NOON

One day some smoke floats into the forest and pollutes a cloud.
So, the forest child sets out to extinguish the source.
However, the journey is long and leads to something unexpected,
something unimaginable: industrial civilisation!
Welcome to a world of potential, where delightful drawings and powerful poetry
combine to tell a story of discovery, loss, hope and rejuvenation.
Inspired by the sounds of Murray's Japanese flute and travels abroad, this is an
adventure that has been years in the making.

FREE EVENT, NO BOOKINGS REQUIRED



This event is proudly supported by the Toowoomba Regional Council and the
Celebrating Multicultural Queensland Program through the Department of Children,
Youth Justice and Multicultural Affairs



Cultural Kaleidoscope Living Library Event

Featuring author Jane Palmer for
Living Library Q&A Session!

11th April

Session 1 at 11am

Session 2 at 1pm



For anyone who has ever been intrigued by animals from Africa...
ask the questions you've always wanted answered!



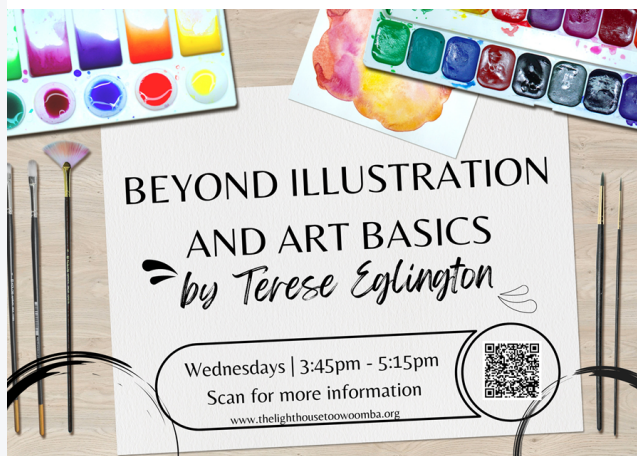
"My name is Jane, but you can call me Amai Palmer (Amai is "mother" in Shona) This is what my grandchildren call me. I am originally from Zimbabwe, now living in Australia, a "Zozi" as we term it. My father was heavily involved in Operation Noah; a rescue mission of over 6000 animals back in the late 1950s. It's an important story that I am concerned will be lost, and I can't wait to share more about it with you. I am passionate about passing on the stories of animal conservation and Zimbabwean history to the next generation."

Lucky us, lucky you! Miss Emm's workshops start on Friday 12 April, 10:30am to 12:30pm. Come along to the Cultural Kaleidoscope exhibition at The Write Gallery and join in on our free art activity!

Designed for kids aged 7 to 12, your child will be able to design and create their very own notebook cover and take home their creation at the end of the workshop. Bookings are essential so make sure you get in quick!



Workshops galore!



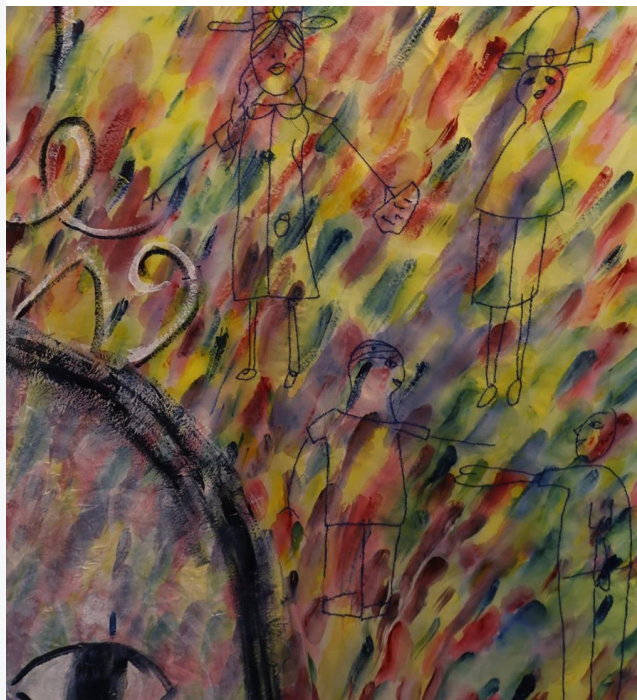
Terese is back in Term 2. [Places are limited](#), so dive in, head-first. To quote one of the students last term, '*I wish I could do art everyday*' (We agree with this wish completely!)

Do you have a child in your orbit aged between 9 and 13 who may be interested in illustrations?

Art skills and illustration techniques designed to build confidence in drawing and designing characters for

illustrations in story books, advertising and many facets of our daily lives. With step-by-step guidance and exploration of drawing techniques, illustration and character design will be so much easier and enjoyable.

Workshops start on Wednesday 17 April 3:45-5:15pm and run for 7 weeks until Wednesday 29 May 2024.



Made TO Move

Workshop 20th April 10 am – 2pm

“Made to Move” is an exciting new idea for Toowoomba region’s aspiring young visual artists working with artist and art teacher, Nadine Reynolds.

Nadine Reynolds is an Art Teacher and artist. Her current work “Affect/Effect” exhibition is currently at Toowoomba Regional Council’s Rosalie Gallery in Goombungee (March 6th – 28th). Her

responsive, kinetic work features contemporary stitching embedded in traditional painting and is about the effect we have on each other.

The Workshop will be held At “The Write Gallery” The Lighthouse Toowoomba on 20 April between 10am-2pm.

Cost \$25 (Scholarships available for financial hardship. No questions asked.)

20 Junior artists will have the opportunity to work with Nadine to create work for the “Made to Move” exhibition in the Write gallery at The Lighthouse in November This year. [Apply here today.](#)



Counting down the days to Georgia Harper’s book launch on

Saturday 20 April

6:00pm in The Write Gallery

Limited places available by invite only.

Please send invite EOIs to georgiaharperbooks@gmail.com



Science + Sorcery Club + Access to Mentoring.

For aspiring writers aged 13-17. Create unique characters and wildly imaginative settings to make your story ideas come alive, particularly for those interested in science fiction and fantasy. Learn how to create and evolve your unique characters and wildly imaginative settings to make your story ideas come alive, particularly for those interested in science fiction and fantasy. These genres give us a chance to imagine stories, alternatives, speculate on the impossible, or simply ask: what if? Untangle your ideas to create great backdrops for stories, homes for heroes and villains, or exciting settings for role playing games, like Dungeons & Dragons.

All members of the 'Science & Sorcery' Writers Club are welcome to access Tim's mentoring sessions FREE. These sessions are held on the same day as Club, 3:30pm to 4:30pm. Students are welcome to use a hot desk to write more after the mentoring session and then attend Club 5:00pm to 6:30pm.

'Science + Sorcery' Writers Club

starts on Thursday 25 April, 5:00 to 6:30pm, for 8 weeks (until Thursday 13th June)



It's a wrap...



Empowering Women!

What a triumph! Not only with regards to the celebration of 6 remarkable women who are towering giants in our community, but also celebrating the numerous events that were held in the space over the month AND the 461 visitors who experienced Kat's first exhibition.

Visual Conversations was a photography exhibition highlighting the courage, strength, and determination of women in our local community, with the goal of sharing stories of resilience and inspiring other women to find their inner voice. Everyone has a story to tell,

and it is the tapestry of these stories that make up our communities. Our stories have the power to transform our thinking and bring people from all walks of life together.

Thank you Kat for being such a gracious artist, and trusting The Write Gallery as the space for your first (and now resoundingly successful!) exhibition.

Below: Always loving having the Year 10 art students from Flexi School visiting.



“Empowering Women: Visual Conversations”

An exhibition of photography by Kat Lynn

The Write Gallery 8-28 March 2024.

“Most subjects are, just by virtue of being photographed, touched with pathos....to take a photograph is to participate in another person’s mortality, vulnerability, mutability” 1.

So wrote the American writer, and

philosopher, Susan Sontag, in her iconic treatise, *“On Photography”*.

The current exhibition at the Write Gallery, “Empowering Women: Visual Conversations,” is an impressive presentation of photographic portraits by local artist Kat Lynn. Appropriately it opened on 8th March, International Women’s Day, and is the epitome of the depth and meaning of Sontag’s words.

The genre of portraiture has a long and respected history that includes the delicate Fayum funeral images from the first and second centuries AD, Leonardo da Vinci’s enigmatic Renaissance portraiture, and Lucien Freud’s brutal honesty. With the advent of photography and artists such as Julia Margaret Cameron, Yousuf Karsh, and Annie Leibovitz, portraiture continued to traverse the territories of identity, recognition, power, position, and respect as well as fashion, notoriety, propaganda, and the narcissism of the ubiquitous selfie.

Portraiture has become much more than the depiction of the appearance of an individual. It engenders an element of trust between the artist and the sitter that becomes something of a collaboration in which the relationship between the two is an intrinsic part of the portrait. The combination of context and intention are significant in drawing out, and subtly capturing traces of the inner person, the complex emotions that are shaped by thought and feeling.

Photography, with its innate combination of art, science, and technology is an eloquent vehicle of expression. Kat Lynn has tamed the medium to embrace a series of discrete narratives that are, however, united in their intimations of strength, resilience, acknowledgement, humour, and courage. Bec, Carmel, Chris, Gay, Jen, and Shelley are six women who are survivors - the veterans and victors of life's battlefield of lived experience. Their stories are moving and heroic, but while the rather intrusive QR Codes encourage a more in-depth communication, in this era of diminished attention spans, the information overload is a challenge even to concentrated attention. A small didactic panel that briefly introduces each woman would offer an immediate bridge in the artist, subject, and viewer relationship.

The central space of the Write Gallery is punctuated by huge photographs of each woman. These banners of honour create a dramatic context that leads the viewer through to the wall of smaller images. This series of photographs is salon hung in rhythmic clusters that engage the viewer in a visual dialogue that is almost audible.

Kat Lynn has used her lighting in a painterly way that enhances, emphasizes, softens, and highlights facial details as well as articulating and interpreting pose and body language.

Although the artist has designed a

particular setting, the black entrance curtain, the floor logo, and the text inclusion, are actually unnecessary embellishments in an exhibition that is starkly dramatic and whose powerful black and white images make a bold and profoundly strong stand-alone statement of artistic integrity.

Sandy Pottinger, March 2024

Sandy Pottinger is a Toowoomba based artist and writer. She is a former photographer and retired lecturer in Visual Arts from the University of Southern Queensland. She was the art critic for the Toowoomba Chronicle, writing the Around the Galleries column for twenty-five years.

1 Sontag, S., *On Photography*, 1977, Dell Publishing, New York, p. 15.

May 2024...

Gosh, it is fast approaching, and we just HAVE to get these dates and events in front of you, as we know you will love being

involved.



We will be celebrating these artists at the Autumn Art Market, as they present their work for immediate sale. Yes, it is not an exhibition, so your favourite painting won't be on the wall for long. This is a market, so as a painting is purchased, it leaves with its proud new owner.

Think of traditional markets where stall holders have a table strewn with fabulous goods, well, in this case, the artists are 'wall holders'. There is no commission to the gallery so the prices of the work will reflect this.

The Lighthouse will be hosting a very special 'up-late' for designers, developers, and art collectors, on Friday 3rd May at 5pm, and if you are keen to be invited, please email emma@thelighthouseotoowoomba.org and let her know.

The Write Gallery is open every day 10am to 3pm from Friday 3rd to Thursday 23rd of May.



Sydney Writers Festival 'Live & Local' program
with The Empire + The Lighthouse Toowoomba
23 - 26 May 2024

*Collaboration, it really is our favourite
way of rolling...*

The Sydney Writers Festival beams in live events directly to The Empire, so you can sit in on the sessions 'live and local', and we are complimenting their program with our local authors live!

It would be one of our favourite and best examples of the strength to be gained in a community with collaborations, and this year we are all feeling even more excited because of grant from the Toowoomba Regional Council means we can actually pay the appearance fees AND the twist is the writers are all gifting us an hour for a workshop or a school visit for FREE as a thank you to The Lighthouse for organising this event, acknowledging the support of TRC.

This is definitely win, win, win, and did we mention you definitely 'win' because the Live + Local is FREE.

Teachers - please email

hello@thelighthousetoowoomba.org

if you want a free author visit! We have

three schools already indicating their interest, and allocation will be on a 'first-in-first-served' basis.

SYDNEY WRITERS FESTIVAL + **THE EMPIRE** + **The LIGHTHOUSE**
GUIDING CREATIVITY

Thursday 23 May

11am Author Sarah Todman in conversation with her mother, author Frances Harding, whose narrative non-fiction work *The Accidental Australians* explores the family saga of penniless Greek migrants Harry and Jimmy Coronos and the hotel empire they built in Western Queensland.

3pm Heather Reyburn leads a conversation 'from beginner to winner', in conversation with poet Janet Munro and writer educator Tanya Vessey

7pm Fantasy and other worlds become real if you spend enough time with them as an author! Join Tim Hunter and Nathan Taylor as they share insights into their own books, and how they help others see their words in print.

Friday 24 May

11am Considering a faith-based life from a writers perspective with Adele Jones, Nola Passmore, and Jessica Kate. What are the 'do's and don'ts' and quite simply, the 'non-negotiables' in this context. Dive deeper into the pages with this panel in-conversation.

3pm Tara Louise East digs deep with award-winning author of 'Buried Times Buried' Jane Smith as they discuss the vagaries of methodical research combined with the rich stories of the past.

Saturday 25 May

11am Multi-award winning author Jessica Ritchie catches up with the regions edgiest writers Nikki Mottram, Georgia Harper, and Sarah Todman, as they discuss their contemporary best sellers.

3pm Marrissa Thomas leads a conversation with Jill Metcalfe and Julianna Kelly, sharing how their characters came to life on the pages, and how they occupy their writers thinking even now.

Sunday 26 May

11am Rory Mathers checks in with Jane Palmer, Irena Kobald, Terese Eglington, and Megan Carige about children's picture books, and seriously kicking goals.

3pm Thomas Alan, Emma Mactaggart, and Kathleen Kelly wax lyrical about the highs and lows of a writerly life. Win some, loose some.

Sydney Writers Festival
'Live & Local' program
FREE AT THE EMPIRE
23 - 26 May 2024



Podcast 'Our World' LAUNCH

Friday 31 May at 5pm to 6pm...
Thanks to the remarkable gift from David Iliffe of the most comprehensive

workshops with our two young podcast stars, Rawah and Samah, an 8-part podcast will soon be released. The Centenary Heights State High School students they share their journey as refugees with a disability. 'Inspirational' can be an overused word, but when you gain an insight into how incredibly liberating the NDIS is for people with disabilities, there is much to learn.

If you would like to attend, please email hello@thelighthousewoomba.org



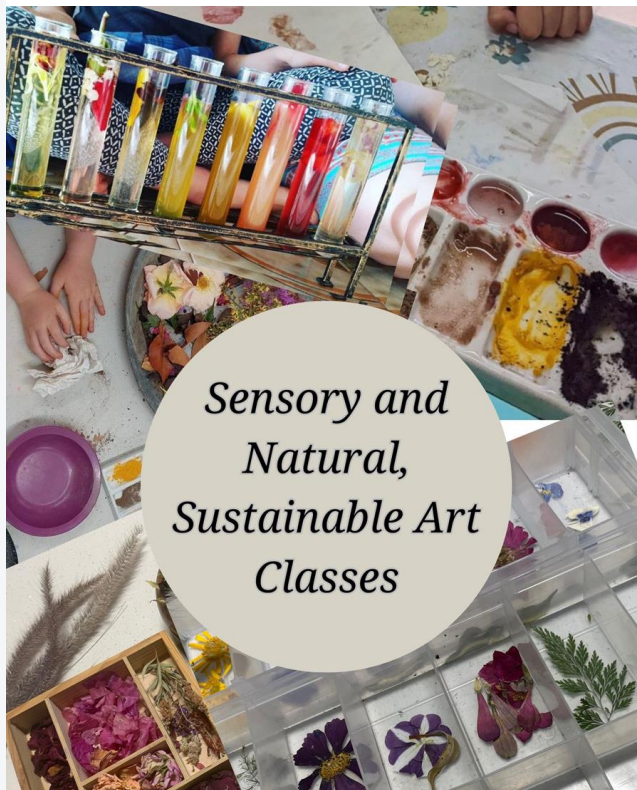
Twinkle, twinkle are you a star?

Our TWINKLES program is bound to get you feeling *clucky* (little people and picture books...🥰) so if you are looking for a wonderful opportunity to get involved we are always on the lookout for anybody who can:

- be a reader
- need a reader
- give a book

Contact us at hello@thelighthouseoooba.org.au

Below: This is what receiving books feels like! This bundle of preloved books has found the perfect reader.



*Sensory and
Natural,
Sustainable Art
Classes*



Bookings made, and more information sought from Leah 0415 968 579 All classes held on Tuesdays during the term, and are \$20 per session.

- 10:00am sensory play - 40min
- 11:30am sensory play - 40min
- 1:00pm Nature /sustainable Art Class - 1hr
- 2:00pm Nature/sustainable Art Class - 1hr
- 3:30pm Nature/sustainable Art Class - 1hr

Australian Library and Information Association SCHOLASTIC LIANZA

NATIONAL SIMULTANEOUS STORYTIME

AURA PARKER
*BOWERBIRD
BLUES*

SAVE THE DATE!
22 May 2024 • 12pm (AEST)
www.alia.org.au/nss #LibraryStorytime

shiny
happy
ideas
show

shiny happy art



1 - 30 SEPTEMBER 2024

THE WRITE GALLERY, TOOWOOMBA

Coming this Spring!

Petals! February is nearly done and at this rate Carnival will be upon us before we know it.

We are beyond excited for the exhibition we have locked in at The Write Gallery as part of the beloved Carnival! Local artist Anna Battle is bringing us her **absolutely glorious "The Shiny Happy Ideas Show"**

This vibrant and immersive art exhibition will be hosted in our very own The Write Gallery and will be a key stop on the Toowoomba Carnival of Flowers program. This month-long event showcases the colourful and uplifting works of local artist Anna Battle. Anna's artwork embodies a philosophy of embracing life's richness and finding joy in everyday moments. Through her bold use of colours, floral motifs, and expressive style, Anna invites viewers to explore themes of happiness, positivity, and mindfulness.

The exhibition offers a diverse range of art pieces, including paintings, sketches, and mixed-media works, all reflecting Anna's unique vision of a brighter and more vibrant world. Visitors to "The Shiny Happy Ideas Show" will have the opportunity to immerse themselves in Anna's artistic

universe, experiencing the transformative power of art to uplift spirits and inspire creativity.

We'll be singing from the rafters about this in coming edition of the Beacon, but **put a big fat flower around September in your diary because this even is guaranteed to put a SPRING in your step!**



Thank you ALE Clothing

...for saving our exhibition! That 3m inflated globe is sure to delight every child visiting in April, and we couldn't be more grateful.



One very last thing...

Did you know the The Child Writes Fund supports The Lighthouse! As a registered charity, and being included

on the Register of Cultural Organisations, a tax deductible receipt for donations can be issued, and the focus then can be doing all we can to ensure 'every child in Australia reads, writes, and creates with confidence'.



The Lighthouse Toowoomba
126 Margaret Street, Toowoomba, 4350

We acknowledge the First Nations 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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