

**Subject:** Newsletter The Beacon #39

**Date:** Saturday, 18 November 2023 at 6:45:41 pm Australian Eastern Standard Time

**From:** The Lighthouse Toowoomba

**To:** Emma Mactaggart

Colourful and Creative



**Welcome to Week 43 for 2023 at The Lighthouse Toowoomba.** and here we are racing towards the end of 2023.

Just as we are wrapping up on lots of wonderful things that are almost out the door, planning is in full swing for more exciting things in 2024!

There is still time to visit and see Mr Chippa and his friends from Bagru, Tuesday - Saturday 10am to 3pm, plus there is still one very special workshop running next Saturday,

We have delivered hundreds and hundreds of books to Mercy Services, Manor House, Eva's Place, and Rockville State School so children can

travel widely during this coming summer holidays. Your donations of preloved books are always so gratefully received, and if you wanted to buy a christmas present for The Lighthouse - we would LOVE to purchase more library bags (they are \$4each!) to bundle up books to give them to children.

And to see what we have achieved - well, you have to get all the way to the end of this edition to see. You helped, you continue to help, and truly, we say it every fortnight - we can't do this without the incredible support from you all x





[BOOK LINKS](#) and [The Lighthouse](#)  
**Toowoomba** proudly present:

## Mr Chippa and the Woodblock Carvers of Bagru

by author and illustrator Lee FullARTon

Already we have had a wonderful dose of visitors and school groups to Lee FullARTon's exhibition 'Mr Chippa', featuring the wood block carvings from the artisans in Bagru. The first Saturday session for adults with Sandhya Parappukaran and Lee was a delightful experience. Success is measured in different ways, and given the participants made absolutely no attempt to move as the workshop drew to a close and were still happily working with their newly-minted skills for at least an hour afterwards says it all really!

Today the space is humming with a number of families enjoying the Family Workshop. Spending time creating with your own creations in such a magical setting is truly a special opportunity!

**Adult workshop with Lee FullARTon and  
Catherine Parker**

Date: Saturday 25 November 2023 @ 5:30-7:00 PM

Link: [Workshop with Lee FullARTon and Catherine Parker Tickets, The Write Gallery, The Lighthouse, Toowoomba | TryBooking Australia](#)

Cost: Book Links Members \$20 Non-Member \$25  
Book Early Limited places.

And would you like a signed copy of Lee's book?  
Easy to organise now, perfect for the lovely creatives in your world for Christmas! Use the QR code below.

**PREORDER YOUR  
SIGNED COPY  
TODAY!**

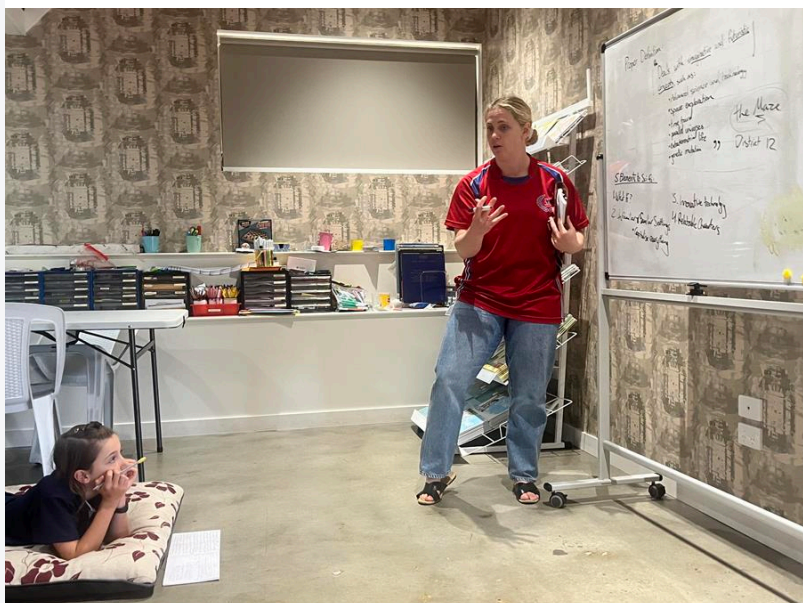


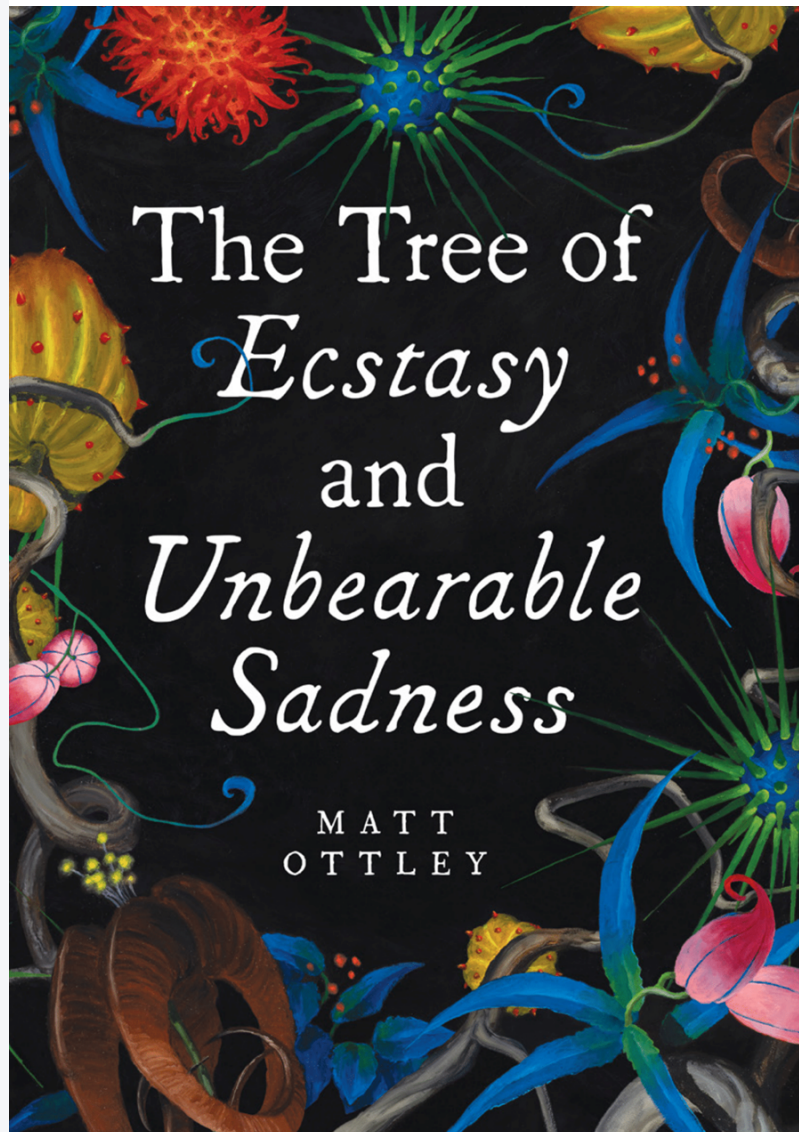


## FLIP FLOP and WORLD BUILDING

If you ever have a chance to see 'writers' in action, it would be even better if you could hear the 'whirring' of their minds! Our workshops - lead by Tim Hunter, and Sarah Bradbury - are drawing to a close, and we know there is a strong contingent of local writers in the making leaving here this term. Our superpower is providing the time and space for creativity to shine, all with the support of immeasurably talented tutors and workshop facilitators.

Tim, Sarah - THANK YOU.





**MATT OTTLEY** is Australia's Illustrator nominee for the Hans Christian Anderson Award. The last winner was Robert Ingpen in 1986! This exciting news follows his success having just won the WORLD FANTASY AWARD.

Why do we share this you may ask? (and please know that I am trying desperately to remain professional and composed and rational, when I really want to be bounding around squealing with excitement!)

Matt, together with his talented, generous, thoughtful wife Tina Wilson, is bringing his exhibition 'The Tree of Ecstasy and Unbearable Sadness' to Toowoomba in February next year for

its Australian premier!

Curious to know more? [click here](#) to see an excerpt from the 50 minute film created for the intermodal work, The Tree of Ecstasy and Unbearable Sadness by artist/writer/composer Matt Ottley. The music was performed by the Brno Philharmonic Orchestra and the Czech Philharmonic Choir of Brno conducted by Mikel Toms with solo tenor Ben Reynolds. Narration by Tina Wilson.

Pen ready then? For your diary....

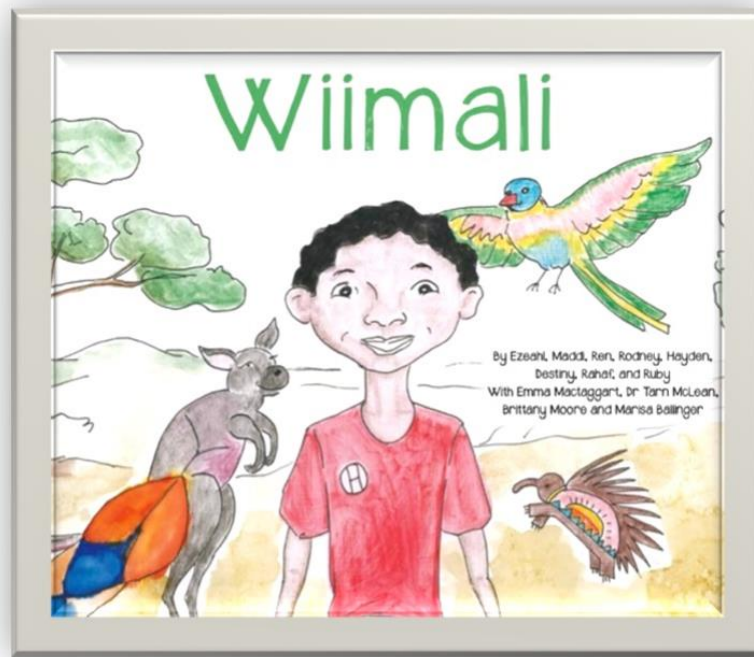
The Strand Cinema **THURSDAY 1ST FEBRUARY 5:00pm for 5:30pm** screening of the film, followed by official opening of his exhibition at The Write Gallery! You can [BOOK NOW!](#)

Matt and Tina's drive is to de-stigmatise mental illness, to increase empathy and compassion for anyone in a dark place, and to open our hearts to goodwill of others. With free teacher resources available, a stunningly beautiful homage to benefactors with the Silipo Variations, and intentional multi-modal work, this is not to be missed.

This is entirely due to an introduction by Jenny Stubbs, Chair of Book Links! (It is our successful and ongoing partnership with Book Links - The Centre for Children's Literature that makes things like this possible.)

The exhibition will be open until the 29th

February.



## Wiimali - an update!

We did it... 1000 copies\* of the books are 'out there' in the hands of little ones! Taking completely full advantage of our admin assistant's newly found freedom as a driver, boxes and boxes and boxes have been delivered to schools. It is remarkable to share The FKG Group loved being involved and we are plotting and planning another book with another school in 2024. Given the enormity of the project, it is such an immensely powerful opportunity for the children involved, so watch this space for updates.

(Okay, \* DISCLAIMER... so there is one box left here just in case, so if you have missed out and you pop in, we can still share one with you!)

## Roaring towards 2024...



## Dates for your diary!




## What CHARACTERS!

A little introspection right now is a valuable way to spend your time. Terese wrangled her students to then represent themselves on canvas - a daunting, challenging project, one that yielded great outcomes as you can see.

Thank you Terese.

[Bookings are now open for 2024](#)



 Liked by zewlanmoor and 50 others  
**sandhya\_librarybagbooks** Photo of the day - snapped posing for a selfie with champions Lee FullARTon & Jenny Stubbs!

Our 'Creating Rangoli Workshop' today was so much fun! The participants channeled the writing and rangoli instruction into their own creativity, and they made beautiful concertina books imbued with motifs and words from special memories. Swipe to see some of the artwork that emerged.

It was an honour to be a part of this! Thanks  
[@leelee\\_fullarton](#) & [@jenny.stubbs.90](#)  


I'm so grateful for spaces like The Lighthouse Toowoomba [@thelighthousetoowoomba](#) and awesome people like Emma Mactaggart without which such community creative endeavors would not be possible. (It was wonderful to hang out with you today!! [@emma\\_mactaggart](#) )

The exhibition is ongoing with one more adult workshop, next weekend. Check out [@booklinksqldinc](#) website for more details.

[#Mrchippathewoodblockcarverofbagru](#)

#communitycreatives  
#thelighthousetoowoomba #localartists



Thank you...

Essential to our planning is lots of opportunities for schools to bring students to the Lighthouse and visit The Write Gallery.

Thank you Toowoomba East State School, Toowoomba Anglican School, Centenary Heights High School, Flexi School and St Saviours for sharing November's exhibition 'Mr Chippa' with your students.



## Calling artists of all ages!

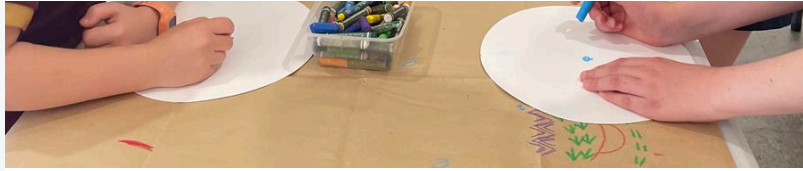
It's WORKING! The Winter Art Market is fully booked, Summer has been bumped for Matt Ottley's exhibition, and we are taking bookings for the Autumn Market in May. If you, or someone you adore, is BUSTING for an opportunity to sell their work, this could well be exactly what they are looking for.

Basically, once a quarter we are hosting an art market for 20 days, with 10 artists, and each is allocated a portion of wall space in The Write Gallery, and there is no commission charged on sales.

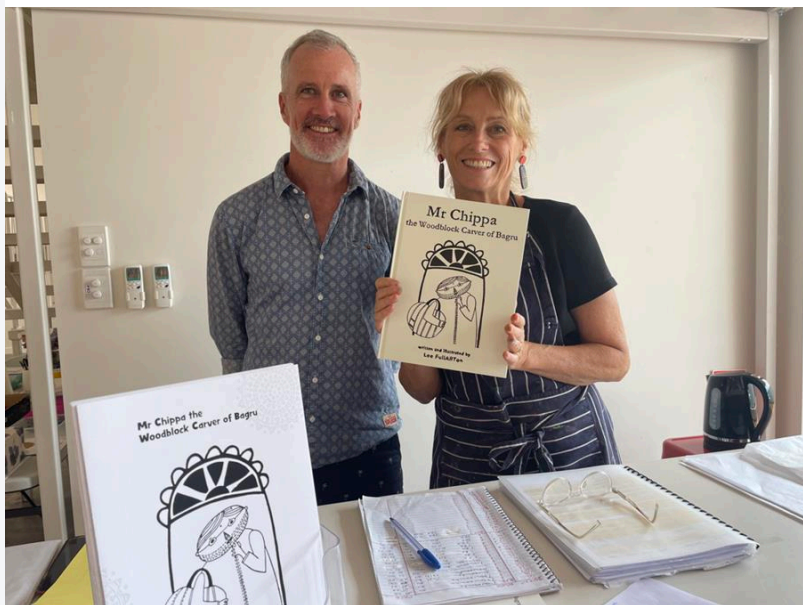
Art Teachers - just a thought... after seeing the remarkable success of the children involved with the Yalari art exhibition, consider booking a 'wall' for a group of students!

[There is a great deal of information to share, so click here to read on...](#)





Our clever talented Board of Directors are not often in the limelight, yet they work tirelessly behind the scenes. It is a pleasure to share a little of the spotlight with Dr Tarn McLean. Tarn launched her latest handbag range, inspired by a regional wine maker. Her work is captivating, and trust us when we say it is imbued with the same tangible energy that she brings to our meetings!



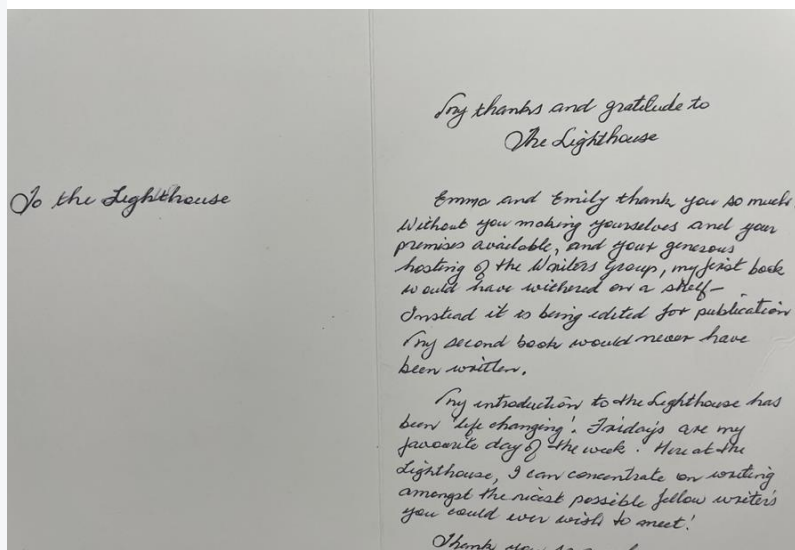
And thank you to our mighty band of incredible

volunteers who truly have enabled us to grow!  
Matt (pictured here helping Lee) Miki, Bernadette,  
Glenda, Wendy, Annie, Charlotte, Jo, Sophia -  
where would we be without you x

## Just one more thing:

Even as we emerge from our 'trial' period, testing this idea modelled on the inspirational work of all the members of The International Alliance of Youth Writers Centres, and drift towards becoming a Children's Centre for Creativity, we do indeed cater for adults. They are drawn to the energy here too! We also have lots of opportunities to share, for example, we will soon be calling out for EOI for local writers be part of the program for the Sydney Writers Festival 'Live and Local' with The Empire Theatres and The Lighthouse Toowoomba in May next year. In the meantime though, we are thrilled with the success of the QLD Writers Centre's 'Write Friday'. It means we donate the space, to the exclusion of other opportunities, and dedicate it to aspiring, emerging, and professional writers every Friday 10am to 2pm during the term.

Congratulations Daphne, and thank you for recognising our contribution. x





The Lighthouse Toowoomba  
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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@thelighthouse.toowoomba.org](mailto:hello@thelighthouse.toowoomba.org)