

Subject: Newsletter The Beacon #43

Date: Friday, 23 February 2024 at 9:46:04 pm Australian Eastern Standard Time

From: The Lighthouse Toowoomba

To: Emma Mactaggart

You don't often get email from hello@thelighthouse.toowoomba.org. [Learn why this is important](#)

2024 - The year already is
getting better by the
moment...



Welcome to Week 5 for 2024 at The Lighthouse Toowoomba

B'kiiirk! Yesterday at 2:22pm on the 22/2/2022+2 🤔 this hen house turned 2! 🎉 So today marks the first day of The Lighthouse's THIRD year in operation! We can't quite believe it either, but in the words of our illustrious first mate Emily we are certainly *laying* the foundations of what is to come!

Like any two-year-old we are busy being over excited, over stimulated, overwhelmed, over enthusiastic, over enthralled and generally overall kicking goals and having a glorious time.

To all our supporters, volunteers, champions, allies, cheerleaders, family and friends –we hope you know how appreciated you are, we think the absolute world of you all and are so very very thankful for your support. We couldn't have done it without you and trust that you haven't been too *henpecked* in the process!

To help us *get cracking* on planning the *eggs-traordinary* things we have coming in our third year we had a wonderful planning session with our Lighthouse supporter and friend, Jess Ritchie. Jess is also celebrating a second birthday - it has been two years since she launched her award winning book 'Clarity to Make Your Mark'. If you haven't read it yet, it is a 'must read' as it truly helps focus the busy creative mind to find clarity. Congratulations on all your success Jess!

As per usual it has been a *flap* of activity here the past fortnight with much to share. Read below and see if you can spot more poultry puns! 🐔





This week Emma had the opportunity share Matt Ottley's exhibition with David Janetski MP Toowoomba South, and articulate our ambitions for The Lighthouse in our third year and beyond! It was great to discuss our plans with David

and see how state government can collaborate and work with us in championing children's literacy. We hope our ideas really *beaked* his interest!



Empowering Women! Up Next at The Write Gallery

Visual Conversations is 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 of all walks of life together.

The portraits are each supported with the artist's reflection - an insight into the emotional and mental processes experienced when photographing such raw and profound emotion.

Kat Lynn's EMPOWERING WOMEN

will be at The Write Gallery in March.
It's not to be missed!

As always at The Lighthouse, this is an event for schools to be involved in with FREE school visits. Check if these dates work for you and your students:

<https://calendly.com/thelighthouseoowoomba/empoweringwomenexhibition>

SPECIAL EVENT
WEDNESDAY 28TH FEBRUARY 2024, 5:30PM



'It's heart-breaking and heart making. Just beautiful.'
Ed Le Brocq, ABC presenter

The Tree of Ecstasy and Unbearable Sadness

The SOUND of PICTURE BOOKS

\$15

FILM SCREENING | EXHIBITION VIEWING AND Q&A WITH MATT OTTLEY

The Tree of Ecstasy and Unbearable Sadness is a groundbreaking, large-scale multi-modal project weaving together the worlds of literature, music and visual art in the poignant story of one boy's journey into mental illness. A lifetime in the making and five years in the creating, this astonishing work by award-winning artist/author/composer Matt Ottley is a magnum opus in every conceivable way.

THE STRAND CINEMA, 163 MARGARET ST, TOOWOOMBA

BOOKINGS ESSENTIAL WWW.THELIGHHOUSETOOWOOMBA.ORG/THE-WRITE-GALLERY

This project was made possible by the Australian Government's Regional Arts Fund, provided through Regional Arts Australia, administered in Queensland by Flying Arts Alliance.

Following the success of the first screening don't forget that this coming **WEDNESDAY 28th FEBRUARY** at 5:30pm there will be a second screening of the film at The Strand Cinema, followed by a short performance and Q&A at **The Write Gallery.**

Don't miss the last chance to see Matt's incredible work on the big screen in Toowoomba. [BOOK NOW!](#)

Matt and Tina will also be in the gallery on *Thursday 29th February* for your last chance to meet the artist and have your book signed!

This project was made possible by the Australian Government's Regional Arts Fund, provided through Regional Arts Australia, administered in Queensland by Flying Arts Alliance.



SCHOOL GROUPS VISITING...

Below is just a glimpse into the exploration undertaken by students from Toowoomba Anglican School, Flexi School, and Oakey State High School.

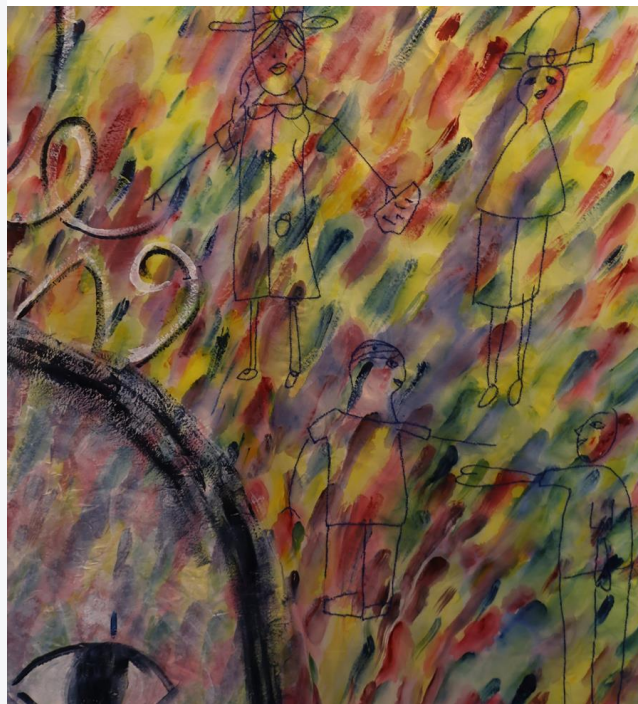
To create opportunities for the children in our community to access 'cultural capital' is incredible important to us, and it is only possible because of support of artists such as Matt Ottley and Tina Wilson. Together they have created this remarkable exhibition and we will forever sing their praises.

Thank you Matt and Tina x



DATE CLAIMERS...
(well, more like advanced

notice!)



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.

We are looking for those aged 6 – 16 years for whom Art is their passion.

We are looking for children who have ideas.

We are looking for children who think creatively and can’t stop making things.

We are looking for children who have a strong aesthetic sense and would like to improve their skills.

We will be experimenting using a variety of media, working through a guided process to develop ideas in the participants’ choices of drawing, painting, printmaking, construction, and

collage. As the workshop follows an artistic process the young artists will have a degree of control over their decision making. They will be free to start with prescribed activities and to branch out to follow their own ideas as real artists do. Nadine will be working to help guide their work and to provide help with solutions to visual problems.

We will be ...

1. Using a choice of primaries to develop our own palette.
2. Creating a dynamic background.
3. Using pen to find our 'line.'
4. Creating a crown.
5. Printing/collaging or drawing a portrait. Please email hello@thelighthouseoowoomba.org for more information and for an application form.

In Conversation with Fabulous Creatives



Surrounded by the fascinating photographs of sensational women at The Write Gallery's exhibition by Foodie Shots and Sonny and Kat photographer, Kat Lynn, who has generously shared the space with Word Fest Toowoomba for words from

other strong women, we invite you to an irresistible evening of conversations.

- Where: The Write Gallery (behind The Lighthouse Toowoomba 126 Margaret Street)
- When: Friday, 15 March 6:15pm - 8:00pm
- Who: Nationally recognised authors Michael Burge and Suzanne Leal, Artist Anna Battle, Poet Antonia Hildebrand
- Why: A Word Fest Toowoomba Creative Arts event to bring new and different Word-based events to the community.

Tickets: \$36 Available

on www.wordfesttoowoomba.com.au



Writing for Expression - Narrative Therapy
Darling Heights State School



www.TheLighthouseToowoomba.org



Standing ovation in support of Steve Martin from the Tasmania branch of the CBCA. He has decided enough is enough... the message about reading needs to be simpler, as simple as veges every day, and slip slop slap for sun safety.

Read aloud to your child EVERY day.

And we get it - you may not be able to, so look out for others who can help, like our Twinkles volunteers, grandparents, librarians at school... You may not have books at home, so pop in and pick up a collection for FREE from our One-Way Library. You might not know how to read aloud, come and visit and we can show you how much fun it can be. And truly, if you are worried you are 'not good enough' to keep them engaged,

promise, hand-on-heart, little ones love the time with you.

Together we can do this - ensuring the children in our community are read to EVERY day.

It takes a village people, a village!



HELLO CLUB!

Homework | Education | Literacy |
Learning | Outcomes

*Free access to LITERACY FOR KIDS
here at The Lighthouse.*

Attendees will be able to work through the program from Levels 3 to 15 at their own pace, with the guidance and support from our fabulous volunteers.

We have 10 subscriptions to 10 tablets, and for 8 weeks, 10 children aged between 7 and 15 can come to The Lighthouse Toowoomba on Monday afternoons to work through the program.

Literacy For Kids is an online interactive program making it fun for kids to learn to read and write. LFK aligns with the Australian curriculum and provides every teacher with powerful analytics to support students on their learning journey.

With more than 1400 activities featuring video, music and imagery, LFK is the ideal classroom program that captures interest and supports student learning.

LET US KNOW IF YOU HAVE A PRIMARY SCHOOL AGED STUDENT WHO NEEDS TO REENGAGE WITH BOOKS... THIS COULD JUST BE WHAT THEY ARE LOOKING FOR.

(Yes, we are shouting because it is really is a fabulous opportunity!)

Thank you again to our volunteers Sue Reynolds, Darcy Meagher, and to translator Jo from Range Allied Health. To say we couldn't do this without you is an understatement!





SCIENCE & SORCERY CLUB

WORLD BUILDING INSPIRING ASPIRING WRITERS

THURSDAYS TERM 1 2024 5PM-6:30
\$120 PER TERM INCLUDING ACCESS TO MENTORING SESSIONS

Create unique characters and wildly imaginative settings to make your story ideas come alive, particularly for those interested in science fiction and fantasy.

www.thelighthouse-toowoomba.org



Science + Sorcery Club

Tim Hunter is a qualified editor, has published his first novel AND spent all of last year facilitating the World Building workshops. Now, for 2024 he has devised a really clever version of workshops whereby the Science + Sorcery Club is open to all for only \$120 per term and as the young aspiring writers develop their manuscripts, they can option mentoring sessions for FREE. This is a generous and thoughtful format, and is best

suitable to secondary school students.

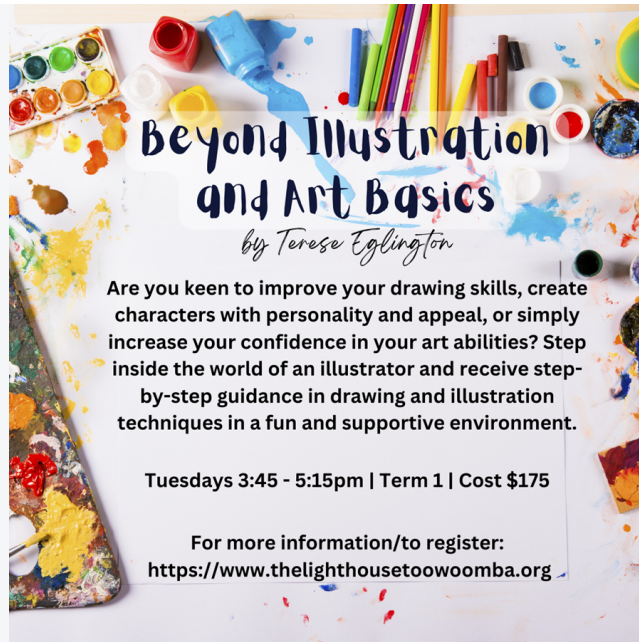
Students will be guided in creating unique characters and wildly imaginative settings to make story ideas come alive, particularly for those interested in science fiction and fantasy. These genres give us a chance to imagine stories, alternatives, speculate on the impossible, or simply ask: what if? Untangle the 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 Sorcery + Science' 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.

Interested? [Book directly to secure your spot!](#)

'Science + Sorcery' Writers Club starts on Thursday 1st February, 5:00 to 6:30pm, for 8 weeks (until Thursday 21st March) with mentoring available 3:30pm to 4:30pm on the same day as Club!

The cost is \$120 per person per term and includes access to the FREE mentoring sessions.



Beyond Illustration and Art Basics

by Terese Eglington

Are you keen to improve your drawing skills, create characters with personality and appeal, or simply increase your confidence in your art abilities? Step inside the world of an illustrator and receive step-by-step guidance in drawing and illustration techniques in a fun and supportive environment.

Tuesdays 3:45 - 5:15pm | Term 1 | Cost \$175

For more information/to register:
<https://www.thelighthouseoowoomba.org>

Don't be deterred by the start date, nor the term fees! Terese has kept this class open and so will sort fees based on the weeks remaining.

Truly, if you have a little artist in-house, these classes are magical. We overheard one student ask if Terese was available on 'all the others days of the week too please'!





FREE WORKSHOP FOR ONE LUCKY CLASS...

Author Suzanne Leal is here in Toowoomba and will be sharing all with the young authors from Toowoomba Anglican School on Friday 18th March. Lucky ducks, ahem, we mean, what lucky little chickens!





A flock of fabulous helpers!

Enormous thank you to the wonderful women from Inner Wheel Toowoomba. They spent an entire morning last week packing books for us and we are so very grateful.

Part of our egg-citing TWINKLES program is our outreach, with our stunningly gracious volunteers head to schools. Ambitiously, we would like bundles of book-book-books to be heading out with them, so if you have an spare hour, we need your help.

And celebrating Safia who has been wonderful keeping The Write Gallery open each morning this entire week. We are grateful for her thoughtfulness and gentleness - the perfect response to such a powerful exhibition.



EMPOWERING WOMEN
VISUAL CONVERSATIONS
ART PORTRAITS
SUNDAY 10TH AND 17TH OF MARCH!

You become the masterpiece.
ONLY 14 exclusive sessions available
Immersed in the exhibition to fuel your creativity.

Your session includes
makeup artist,
bubbles,
20x30inch fine art print.

\$499



Emma Mactaggart

February 18 at 9:35 PM · 🌐

Super chuffed to share these, especially as I didn't originally comprehend the enormity of commitment when Kat asked for help! [Kat Lynn](#) is such a brilliantly talented photographer and was wanting to test how far she could push an art portrait before she launched her first exhibition 'Empowering Women' opening 8th March.

Imagine then how daunting it was when I realised there is no-where to hide in this style of photography! I had to trust the process and truly let go. Kat patiently, gently, beautifully articulated what she wanted as she nuanced the poses, until she created these. She wanted them to tell a story, and I truly believe she succeeded.





The Lighthouse
GUIDING CREATIVITY



EMPOWERING WOMEN
VISUAL CONVERSATIONS

SETTING HEALTHY PERSONAL BOUNDARIES

Register to attend this free 45min session



Setting Healthy
Personal Boundaries

Register your interest now at:

admin@momentummentalhealth.com.au

Thursday 14th of March from 11am

The Lighthouse ~ The Write Gallery

126 Margaret Street

*Healthy personal boundaries are the limits you place around your time,
emotions, body, and mental health to stay resilient, solid and content with
who you are.*

In-Person

DREAM BOARD WORKSHOP

9th March 2024

@tenthousanddreams.com.au

**Join us on Saturday March 9 for a
Dream Board Workshop, run by Terri
Adams-Munn from Ten Thousand
Dreams.**

Why make a Dream Board? It is well documented that writing out your goals and dreams increases the likelihood of achieving them, but being able to also SEE your goals and dreams multiplies that effect.

The process I lead you through while

you create your Dream Board helps you engage more fully in the journey from fantasy to reality.

The more engaged you are, the easier it becomes to stay focused through the process of turning those dreams into reality.

After all, we think in pictures. When someone says 'yellow car', an image pops into your head rather than just the words (unless you see the word Spotto!). A Dream Board takes advantage of that process and puts your dreams in front of you on a board so you can bring them into reality and actually live them.



Join our Life Drawing Workshop for a hands-on experience! Learn to sketch real-life models and enhance your

drawing skills. Perfect for beginners and enthusiasts alike, our sessions provide practical tips and a fun relaxed environment where creativity flows freely.

We have a wide range of materials for you to play with and explore different styles and techniques. You can also bring your favourite tools if you wish. This workshop will offer multiple costumed poses and possibilities as Katy & Alex takes you on a journey of celebration of form, space and movement.

[Book Now](#)



NATIONAL CENTRE for
**AUSTRALIAN
CHILDREN'S
LITERATURE** Inc

Celebrating 50 years
11 - 15 March 2024

SPECIAL EVENT
Soundbath & Reiki
SAT 16 MAR 3.00-5.00PM
at THE WRITE GALLERY of THE LIGHTHOUSE
126 MARGARET ST TOOWOOMBA

hosted by
BLOOM COLLECTIVE
HOLISTIC

Thank you...



Thank you to one of our lovely former volunteers Bessie who *uneggspectedly* brought us cake to celebrate our second birthday! Bessie's cake was so fresh out of the oven it was too hot to hold! Bessie is as sweet as the cake she's holding and we truly appreciated her baked goodness!



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
- bring a reader
- give a book

Contact us at
hello@thelighthousetoowooba.org.au



The Write Gallery - The Lighthouse Toowoomba
126 Margaret Street, Toowoomba CBD

3- 23 May 2024

exhibitions : workshops : functions : exhibitions : workshops : functions : exhibitions : workshops : functions

Australian Library and Information Association

SCHOLASTIC

LIAN

NATIONAL SIMULTANEOUS STORYTIME

AURA PARKER
*BOWERBIRD
BLUES*

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

Gosh... there's even a cheeky peek at something very wonderful for September... Shiny Happy Ideas Show... Curious?

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!**



Helping to erase Racism

Inclusivity is at the very heart of what we do at The Lighthouse and we were disheartened to hear that of the increasing reporting of incidents of racism in schools.

In response, the Queensland Human Rights Commission (QHRC) has developed a survey to capture the experiences of racism from school students. They are looking for the views of people between the age of 13 to 20 years old who have experienced racism and/or have witnessed racism during their school years.

This information will assist the development of a resource to assist students to identify, manage and report racism in the school context. QHRC are also developing a resource to support teachers and principals to manage racist behaviours at school.

We encourage our Lighthouse families and supporters to take the time to

complete the [survey](#) and also share this survey amongst your networks!

The survey will close on 10 March 2024.

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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