



**Welcome to Week 15 for 2023 at The
Lighthouse Toowoomba.**

Did you know it's National Volunteer week? How kismet that on Thursday 18 May we hosted the #TLCforTRC 2023 Charity Expo - Share, Give Grow.

You may remember that in 2020 (somehow!) we ran a similar event introducing charities and social enterprises, and this year we did it all over again!

25 charities and not-for-profits and social enterprises had representatives share their stories with a live audience! The audience heard about their organisation, what their organisation has to GIVE the community (beyond their target clients) and what their organisation NEEDS from the community! Scroll down to read more about the Charity Expo and see some snaps of our fabulous exhibitors.

In other news we have had visits from past authors, workshops galore and more giving back

through the Community Hubs at Darling Heights and Harlaxton.



#TLCforTRC Charity Expo

The 2023 #TLCforTRC Charity was truly a resounding success and terrific to see our greater community of volunteers coming together to champion the wonderful courses they are part of.

Participants Included: QSEC, Vinnies Youth, Hope Horizons, 2nd Shot / Base Services, Sunrise Way, Voice of Victims - Toowoomba Advocacy, Queenslanders with a Disability Network, Eva's Place, Australian Red Cross Lifeblood, Blush Cancer Care, Momentum Mental Health, Word

Fest, St John Ambulance (there is no s!), TASC National, The Toowoomba Hospital Foundation, The Toowoomba Hospital Foundation Museum, Adapt Mentorship, Community Orchard Dr Alex Horn Park, Women + Change, Outdoor Gallery, Toowoomba Horse Riding for the Disabled, Hope for our Children, Inclusion Access, The Heritage Foundation and The Lighthouse Toowoomba's charitable backer: The Child Writes Fund.

Each organisation had 5 minutes in front of the fabulous Intertwined backdrop to talk about their purpose, their practice and encourage support!

#TLCforTRC is a Facebook group with over 7.7k members, started by Kirstie Smolenski and Emma Mactaggart in April 2020 as the Covid Pandemic showed its ferocity. The impact on the community and businesses wasn't fully realised for another three years, but we are all still reeling from its impacts. The groups focus is positive shout-outs recognising the incredible tenacity of our local businesses, and for community members to source the best for them via word-of-mouth recommendation.

The Charity Expo was such a resounding success that it will become an annual event on the Toowoomba community calendar!



Hello Baby We're Back!

The Hello Baby Calendar is coming back in 2024!

Open to participants aged 8 and under.

Children are asked to do an **A4 LANDSCAPE drawing** of examples from one of the categories of the '5 Ways to Wellbeing' strategies to improve psychological and emotional welfare:

- *Connect*
- *Be active*
- *Keep learning*
- *Be aware*
- *Help others*

The winning 13 participants will be chosen by a panel of impartial judges, and they will receive the glory of featuring in the calendar and receive a copy of their own!

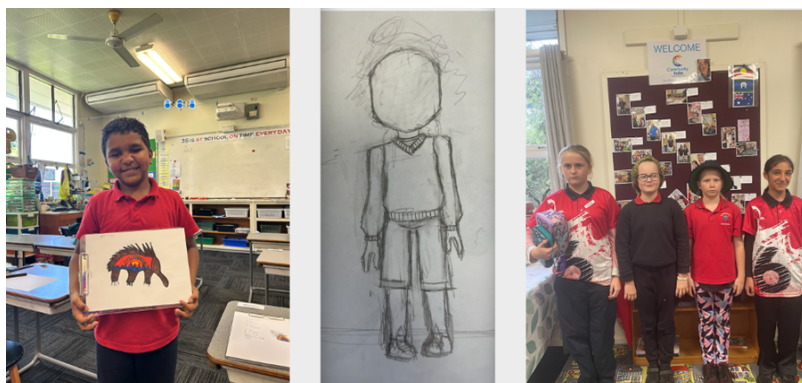
Entries close July 31. This is the perfect winter school holiday activity for kindergarten and early primary aged children.

Watch this space and our facebook page for further details.



A child author comes full circle

We had a lovely visit from one of the Child Writes authors this week, Melanie Berry nee Melanie Kaye. Melanie wrote *The Curse of the Banshee's Comb* when she was 10 year old and popped back in to see us this week at The Lighthouse as she stumbled upon us through Flexi Schools in her uni placement. It was lovely to see Melanie again and have her sign our 'Famous People' chart, which incidentally was created by another CW author!



FKG and Create A Book Program

A huge thank you to the FKG Group who have generously committed to funding an entire 'create a book' program with the students at Harlaxton State School.

The funding includes the workshops where students learn to how write and illustrate a children's picture book and then the physical printing of 1000 copies which the Harlaxton students will gift to their peers in the community.

This is a wonderful example of business educators, makers and creators coming together to make a legacy opportunity for the community.

Commenting on the process, Lighthouse employee Tash, who has been attending the program with Emma, said:

This term Emma has been leading a group of students at Harlaxton primary school to create their own book. This diverse group has kids who are passionate and amazingly talented at writing and drawing. Seeing their creative sides come out over the weeks has been an amazing experience to be apart of.



Hub book donations for Mothers Day

Box of signed copies of 'Where is the True Ewe' were hand-delivered by illustrator and educator Mary-Kate Thomson to Darling Heights State School.

Thanks to Ricky Adams – Coordinator extraordinaire of the Darling Heights State School + Newtown State School 'Community Hub'.

These hubs (there is one at Harlaxton too!) are incredibly receptive and open to contributions from the wider community as their role is bridging the divide between school and community, acknowledging it really does 'take a village'.

<https://www.facebook.com/DarlingHeightsHub/>



Flexi School Paint a Plate Workshop

Flexi School held a paint a plate workshop in The Write Gallery. It was a great group bonding activity where creativity was fostered against the backdrop of Intertwined.

If you would like to host a workshop in our gallery space please get in touch!

hello@thelighthouseooomba.org Intertwined enters its last week, being deinstalled on the 26th of May.



Upstanding Education with Donaldson Law

Emma recently attended the launch of the Upstanding-education program with Brisbane based writer and producer Hannah Kinder and Adair Donaldson from Donaldson Law. Adam Welsh shared his remarkable story of resilience

and defiance having been a child experiencing domestic violence.

It is terrific to see businesses getting involved in the life education of our schools, local businesses, and the broader community.

Curious? @Upstanding_education (Instagram)



Thrive Workshops with TAS

The shoe is on the other foot! Writing prompts can come in the form of absolutely anything and this week TAS students from the Thrive Options were inspired by a shoe!

TAS has taken advantage of The Lighthouse spaces and our customisable workshops to offer a literary component of their Thrive Options program

If you would like to look at customisable workshops for your school or other student organisations please get in touch

hello@thelighthousewoomba.org



Making New Friends at Miss Miiller

Our workshop series continue to grow in popularity and Miss Miiller is making more friends at The Lighthouse this term and connecting our younger people too!

Not only are the participants learning the art of storytelling and the importance of creative process but they are making new mates along the way too.

We love hearing the laughter from the group and seeing the smiles that bound down the stairs at 5pm on a Wednesday!

Next term, Miss Miiller will have fees associated with her workshops. More information about this soon.



Serious business with Zines

Zines workshop – This week in our zines class it was serious(ly fun) business as we got down to the pointy end of creating Zines!

This workshop has unlocked so much creativity for each participant as they create a mini publication about their area of passion. We look forward to sharing their fun and fabulous topics in the coming weeks!

Dates For Your Diary!



Birds of a Feather Exhibition

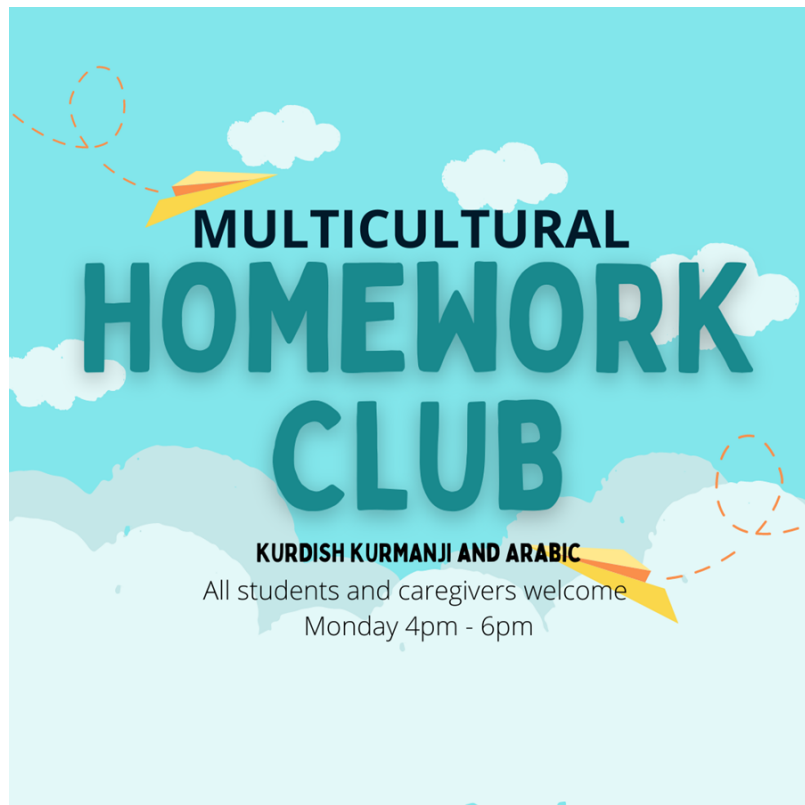
Benny Bin Chicken and his feathered friends are gathering at The Write Gallery for an exciting exhibition of the inspiration behind Benny's curious character and other birdlife we encounter in our lives. The fascinating individual personalities of these significantly symbolic creatures are captured in a variety of art media to enhance our appreciation of the bird culture.

Bookings for Opening Night Friday 9 June
5:30pm:

[drct-](#)

thelighthouse.toowoomba.prod.supporterhub.net

Birds of a Feather
An exhibition of beautiful bird art by
The Author and the Artist ~ Terese Eglington
The Write Gallery
126 Margaret Street Toowoomba
Join Benny Bin Chicken and his feathered friends for
the official opening on
Friday 9 June 2023 from 5:30 - 7:00pm
Exhibition continues until 25 June 2023
See the inspiration behind Benny the Bin Chicken's curious character
and other birdlife we encounter in our daily lives.



The saying 'It takes a village to raise a child' could never ring more true to us. We are here to help support our multicultural Toowoomba community by offering a homework club to all who speak Kurdish Kurmanji and Arabic.

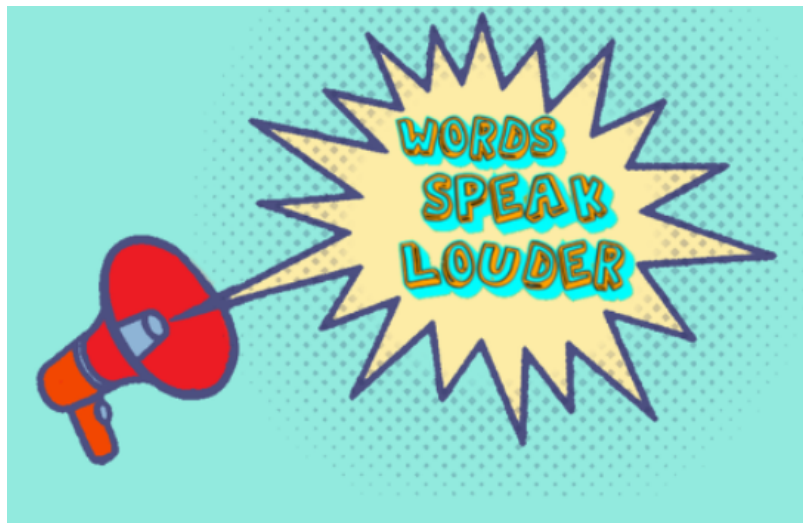
All students and caregivers are welcome to attend.

When: Term 2 commencing from Monday 17 April

Time: 4pm - 6pm

Register at

<https://www.thelighthousestoowoomba.org/items/multiculture-homework-club>



Words Speak Louder - Youth Writers Festival

Dear aspiring young authors of Toowoomba, on **Wednesday the 28th of June** the Lighthouse will be facilitating Words Speak Louder, a youth writers festival for anyone looking to sit in on workshops run by some incredible authors. A massive thanks to both YA novelist Claire Christian, and short story writer, Thomas Alan for both helping bring this event to life!

Stay tuned for updates and information about the event on the Lighthouse's website and facebook page!

If you have any questions, or would like to be involved please email Matilda Banks at tildarose08@outlook.com

And if you would like to get to know these amazing authors and their work you can find their websites at:

Claire Christian: <https://www.claireandpearl.com/>

Thomas Alan: <https://www.bythomasalan.com/>



Word Fest Toowoomba's Festival Literary Lunch!

Join us in kicking off the 2023 Festival with our Literary Lunch where we will be joined by local author Nikki Mottram, author of the outstanding crime novel *Crows Nest*. Upon arrival, you will receive a welcome drink, and the opportunity to buy raffle tickets for the chance to win the displayed quilt. We will also be a number of games between lunch and the author session, including a literary quiz.

Date: Thursday, 1 Jun

Time: 12:00 pm – 2:00 pm AEST at

Location: Toowoomba Masonic Centre

58 Neil Street

Toowoomba City QLD 4350



Thank you!

Thank you to the delightful Bronwyn Jones for coming along the Lighthouse to watch Mary-Kate Thomson and [Emma Mactaggart](#) for their Facebook live reading of *Where is The True Ewe*, and then picking up books to gift to the mums with babies in your intensive care nursery!



And Another Thank you!

Thank you Sunrise for bringing Mindy - the beautiful and write coffee van - to the Write Gallery and to Clifford Goulson for sponsoring Mindy!



Happy Birthday Morty!

Our staff went from 50:50 young people to adults to 25:75 adults overnight as our lovely admin assistant turned 18! Happy Birthday Morty!

Twinkles Book Club

Every Wednesday and Friday wonderful volunteers share the joy of reading to the communities youngest future leaders at Twinkles Book Club!

There is no need to book, just pop in anytime between 9:30am and 10:30am.

We would like to say a big thankyou to husband and wife Carmen and Bernie for volunteering last Friday!

And if you would like to volunteer as a reader please email hello@thelighthousewoomba.org



We would love to hear your stories or reviews!

We know we live in a community of creative people. If you have any news or items, you think we may be interested in please send them through to media@thelighthousewoomba.org We love contributions from our community.





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.

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