



Welcome to Week 17! The days continue to march on and here we are almost in July! Planning content for this newsletter is genuinely a deeply relished opportunity to stop, just for a moment, and celebrate everything the previous fortnight represented, and what the future looks like. We only have the equivalent of one full time employee keeping the ship afloat, and everything else we do is because our community support is quite simply phenomenal. Some of our memorable mentions include:

- Four fabulous volunteer Twinkle Club readers are now on board (Thank you Yvonne, Jo, Charlotte and Bridget).
- Every office and nook is rented throughout the site to lovely tenants, and we will introduce them over the coming weeks! (This also means we can pay our rates!)
- Volunteers are also supporting us manning The Write Gallery on the weekends; writing grants; word-smithing our press releases and

newsletter; keeping up with policies and procedures, and planning programming.



Library For All

On the 9th of June we were treated to a visit from Dr Julie Owens and Anneke from [Library for All](#), coming all the way from Broome and Darwin respectively. Their first stop was a visit to the students Years 4,5 and 6 at Rockville State School as part of our partnership with the school. The students were read 'The Dreaded Net' which is an Aboriginal authored/illustrated book, and one of over 400 made available for free to children worldwide. Dr Julie spoke of the meaning of country, storytelling and shared her advice on the process of creating an interesting story to share. The engaged children broke into small groups and busily started jotting down stories of their own to share with their peers. The results were wonderful, Rockville State School certainly has some compelling and talented storytellers in their midst.

“At Library For All, we believe knowledge should be accessible to all, equally. This is why we create inclusive digital-first libraries. Our stories allow children to read in languages they understand and feature characters children can relate to.”

Library For All have started the ‘Our Yarning’ Project. [Our Yarning](#) will be a free, digital library of culturally relevant education resources created by and for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. With Dr Julie as the Cultural Advisor, you can imagine why we were so excited to welcome her from sunny Broome to Toowoomba on what was perhaps one of our coldest winter days!

Then in the evening Library for All held a writing workshop with educators to create culturally appropriate and age relevant stories for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children. You don’t need a vivid imagination to know how cold they found the weather; but fortunately our big hearts and passion for supporting organisations create books warmed their souls! For children to embrace literature, it is important they ‘see themselves’ in books, and Library For All have the goal of creating 500 books in 5 years by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander storytellers. Julie’s full-time job is as a ‘story gatherer’ and she was thrilled to meet our own local raconteurs Uncle Wayne Fossey-Johnson, and the Red Sand Sisters, amongst others.



Water Workshop # Two

Thank you to the wonderful artists and writers who attended the Water Workshop on Saturday the 18th of June. Your wonderful work will be displayed in July during the Water One World : Two Stories Exhibition. It was amazing to brainstorm what water means to each of us, and I want to give a sneak preview of what the amazing Piper wrote in response to her rainbow drawing:

“The water comes from clouds; rain makes a beautiful piece of art called the rainbow. The rainbow makes me happy; the rain makes me relaxed. The rain goes tap, tap, tap like its dancing.”

We can't wait to see you all in July at The Write Gallery, hopefully at our live events with the children in Tehran on Sunday 10th July 3:30pm or Saturday 16th 3:30pm.



Gifts from Burunggum Country

I still find it difficult to conceive the enormity of these gifts. Reid and Kristian Rose have given us (on permanent loan) Reid's grandfathers ceremonial spear, a didgeridoo, a yam stick, and a children's toy. To be on Burunggum Country and celebrating the storytellers from the Jarowair, Gaibal and Western Wakka Wakka peoples, whilst learning about the language, the culture, the ceremonies, and the Indigenous way of thinking, is an incredible privilege. One of my life goals is to be part of a project creating a children's book in local language – and now that I have said it out aloud, I'd better get cracking! Kristian – to you and your family, thank you for your generosity. X

Emma



Donations

Lyn White and Tracey Walten have donated some incredible paintings to spruce up our spaces. Our workshops often use visual clues as the beginning of our writing and the inspiration, curiosity, and sense of play that these two ladies have gifted us is the ripple that will turn into a wave! Thank you so much for your generosity. You have put a smile on the face of everyone who has encountered them



Carers Gateway Wellways

Congratulations to the students who took part in the Wellways 'It's Character Building' workshops. Over the course of the program, we have made characters, played dress ups, wrote stories, and on our final day made a zine. We have been constantly overwhelmed and excited by all the creativity and talent these students possess. Thank you Cr Tim McMahon for visiting and 'officiating' as certificates were awarded.



Imaginato

The Write Gallery was pleased to gift the space to Momentum Mental Health for their exhibition *Imaginato* that opened on the 14th of June. This amazing installation of works from artists at Momentum Mental Health were result of art therapy. Every artist who contributed should be incredibly proud of the calibre of work they have produced and the range of mediums is delightful and astounding. From delicate koi fish gently swimming under lily pads to giraffes blowing bubble gum there is something for everyone! And the best news, many of the works are on sale! If your office needs a splash of colour why not wander down to The Write Gallery to have a look and maybe take home something glorious from an artist in our community.

A special thank you is due to the lovely Sarah Hazelhurst, the art therapist at Momentum Mental Health. Sarah is unyielding and inspirational in her commitment to providing arts opportunities for everyone. Her depth of understanding of multiple disciplines is hard fought and yet she has been so generous with her expertise and time. So thank you to Sarah for working so hard to bring about this exhibition and for shouldering incredible pressure even while completing her postgraduate studies!

Thank you also to our lovely little artists who enjoyed the *Imaginato* Kids Workshop on Tuesday evening. One day we hope to finish that story about the lonely warrior inspired by the paintings!

The exhibition is open until the 8th of July.

Momentum Mental Health

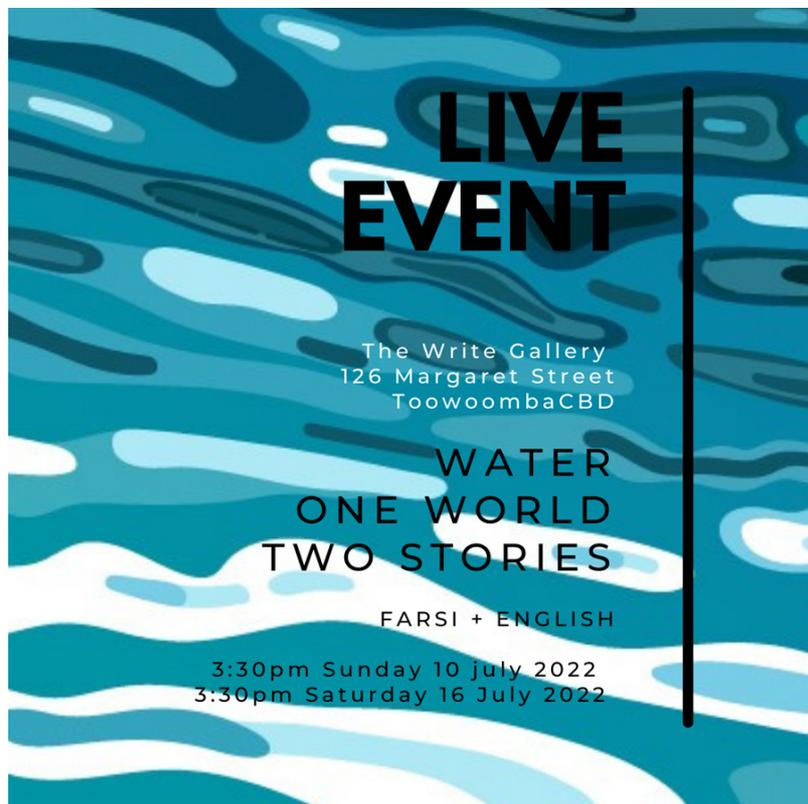
Water One World: Two Stories

You are invited!

We have a remarkable opportunity to bring together the voices of children from Australia and Iran – and specifically, Toowoomba and Tehran, to discover two stories – children’s picture books and art created in response to the theme ‘water’. Zahra Kibiri has a similar publishing business to Emma Mactaggart, where they both publish books written and illustrated for children by children. A selection of their books have been translated into both English and Persian, and these books will be displayed digitally. With The Write Gallery now very much in use, there was an incredible opportunity to show work created by children in Tehran created originally for the Water Festival, and we have held workshops with celebrated local artist Catherine Parker, and with our own Gallery Director Bronte Geitz, for children in Toowoomba to create art based on the theme too!

With the support of local translator Farzaneh Magzub we will host two live events where we can have conversations with the children in Iran...

Sunday 10th July at 3:30pm and Saturday 16th July at 3:30pm and we would love you to join us.



Collaboration!

Noun: 'the action of working with someone to produce something'

Synonyms: cooperation, alliance, partnership, participation, combination, association.

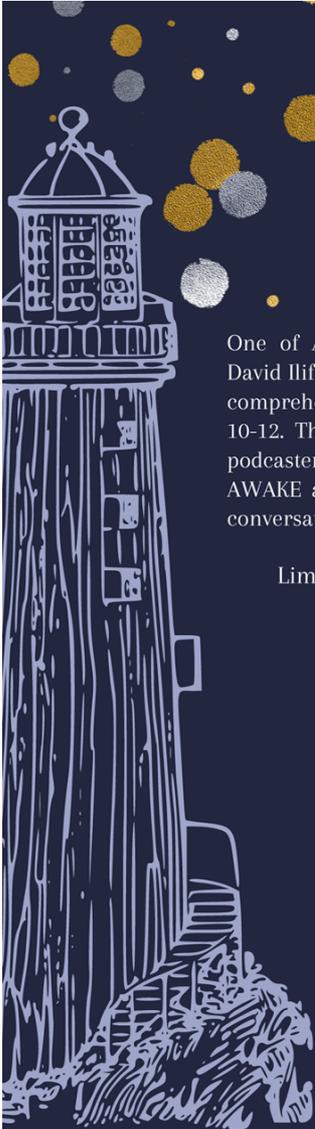
One of the core beliefs held by everyone at The Lighthouse Toowoomba is collaboration is the key to reaching our communities children and supporting them, as we continue working towards the mission that every child in Australia can read confidently. You may feel as though it is a leap from sharing workshop space with Growcom; or creating a workshop for Department of State Development; or spending time with our elected representatives from local, state, and federal, government. For us, every conversation we have strengthens the weave that is the support system for our communities' children as we discover opportunities to make a difference. The difference may be satellite workshops, delivering hundreds of books going to schools where children are on

'don't let them borrow' lists, or supporting other organisations such as Emerge who are turning themselves inside out to make a difference as well.

You will see us promoting the Toowoomba City Library reading sessions, the Heritage Foundation's book drive, giving the calendar created from the 'Hello Baby' competition to the Toowoomba Hospital Foundation, and celebrating a series of workshops created especially for Carers Gateway Wellways for children who identify as carers – all in the name of collaboration. And if you can see an opportunity to work with us on our quest, please reach out... we are always open to ideas!

Audio Alchemy

David is one of the esteemed team members from ABC Southern QLD radio and he is gifting us a workshop on **Tuesday 5th July** to teach future (tech!) leaders how to create a podcast. The grand plan is create a community of youth to support their own podcast 'Awake' where they ask of the wisdom of the past, seeking responses to their own questions. It is taking the idea of mentorship one more step beyond the individual and we know they will create a library of invaluable conversations. You can book via the QR code on the poster below.



AUDIO ALCHEMY

CURIOUS ABOUT PODCASTS?

DESIGN - PRODUCTION - PUBLICATION

One of ABC Southern QLD's most recognised voices David Iliffe will share his experience and knowledge in a comprehensive workshop designed for students Years 10-12. The goal is to then include you as a 'qualified podcaster' to our team to assist with the product of AWAKE a podcast with Toowoomba's future leaders in conversation with the wisdom of the past.

Limited places! Suitable for students Yrs 10-12

BYO laptop

Tuesday 5th July 2022
2:00 pm – 5:00 pm



The Lighthouse Toowoomba | Youth Writing Centre
126 Margaret Street
<https://www.thelighthousetoowoomba.org>

JODIE RIGBY'S Art Workshop will be a HOOOOOOOTT

Join us in the school holidays for Local artist and teacher Jodie Rigby hand a series of free painting workshops for children! The classes will take place in The Rabbit Hole and are open to children from Years 5, 6 or 7. Please use the QR Code on the poster below to secure a place.

I'VE GOT MY EYE
ON YOU!



JOIN ARTIST AND
TEACHER JODIE RIGBY
FOR FREE PAINTING
WORKSHOPS

AND WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO
LEARN HOW TO PAINT?

THE ONLY CLUE WE ARE GOING TO SHARE
IS WE KNOW YOU WILL HAVE
A 'HOOT' OF A TIME!



Limited place | Suitable for children from Years 5 - 7

Please bring own waterbottle and lunch

Monday 27th June 10am to 3pm

Tuesday 28th June 10am to 3pm

Wednesday 29th June 10am to 3pm

Thursday 30th June. 10am to 3pm

The Lighthouse Toowoomba | 126, Margaret Street, Toowoomba CBD

It certainly is NOT just a box! The Write Gallery will be overflowing with boxes ready for a construction frenzy and if you want a little quiet time, we will be reading 'box' related books to any willing listeners. Free light school holiday entertainment with a purpose... to show a box is NOT just a box!

IT'S NOT JUST A BOX!

construction + reading

Catch the reading sessions at
10am | 11:30am | 12:30pm

MONDAY 4 JULY
TUESDAY 5 JULY
WEDNESDAY 6 JULY
THURSDAY 7 JULY

The Write Gallery
The Lighthouse Toowoomba
126 Margaret Street
www.thelighthouseotoowoomba.org

We've Got Merch!

The Lighthouse Toowoomba is now fully stocked with our own merchandise. Keep your tootsies warm with our Frostbite Proof Socks or stress less with our Chill Pills. Come and say hello to see the full range of goodies on offer!



STOP PRESS... SHARING THE LOVE...

The Heritage Bank Charitable Foundation are delighted to launch its first Community at Heart appeal, supporting Foundation charity partner the Australian Literacy and Numeracy Foundation and its Share-A-Book program. **You can donate quality books to your local Heritage Bank branch until Friday 8th July.**

Share-A-Book provides new and quality pre-loved books to Indigenous, refugee and marginalised communities in need of resources. Donated books are distributed to targeted regions across Australia such as Tennant Creek, Palm Island, Groote Eylandt, Kempsey, Wagga Wagga and many more.

Share-A-Book seeks to promote a non-intrusive method to introduce a variety of print materials into the child's world. In the short term, the child engages in literacy, but before that, the child is engaging in the concept of books and the presence of print. By introducing access to print earlier in a child's development, it is more likely that the child will be aware of and engage in print-based activities in the future.

If you don't have books to donate, but would still like to help, you can donate cash to the cause via the following

link: <https://www.givenow.com.au/cah2022>



We've got
literacy at *heart*

Proudly supporting The Australian
Literacy and Numeracy Foundation


Heritage Bank
Charitable Foundation

Community at heart.

Hello Baby

Drawing Competition

**JUST FOR UNDER 8'S!
\$500 IN PRIZES
5 categories!**

We are making a calendar for new babies when they arrive at The Toowoomba Hospital. The focus of this calendar is the 5 ways to wellbeing!

Show us what it looks like to be ACTIVE, or AWARE, or CONNECTED, or LEARNING or HELPING OTHERS

CLOSES THURSDAY 22nd JULY at 5:00pm



Use the QR Code
to get the entry form



The Lighthouse Toowoomba
126 Margaret Street
Toowoomba QLD. 4350



Thankyous

To make the truly generous contribution to this remarkable community we wish to make, it is only possible with the support of volunteers - thankyou again to all those who give their time.

We are just so grateful for all our Friends of The Lighthouse Toowoomba!



Did You Know...

We can create VIP events and programs just for you and the organisation or school you represent, that align with our existing exhibitions such as Holiday, or build collaborative experiences for your needs. Simply email hello@thelighthouseoowoomba.org to start the conversation.

We would love to hear your stories or reviews!

We know we live in a community of creative people. If you have any stories or reviews that you would like to share in our newsletter we would be thrilled to read them! We love short pieces that are appropriate for a general audience. Please submit them to bronte@thelighthouseoowoomba.org



The Lighthouse Toowoomba relies on love from the community to continue doing our good work. If you would like to donate please visit our website or follow the link below.

Make a donation today



The Lighthouse Toowoomba
126 Margaret Street, Toowoomba, 4350

All at The Lighthouse Toowoomba proudly 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 all the people of this place, the 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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