



**Welcome to Week 33 for 2023 at The
Lighthouse Toowoomba.**

Spring is HERE! It's Carnival time and we are as happy as lambs (not clams...because really who has verified the contentment of clams?)

In the words of the late Robin Williams "Spring is nature's way of saying 'Let's Party!'" and the seasonal celebrations have begun at The Lighthouse Toowoomba.

The magnificent Secret Life of Seedpods exhibition was unveiled last Thursday 21st August to a colourful crowd of art enthusiasts with 105 people in attendance! In our hero photo for this edition, L to R: Dr Tarn McLean (Sep 22) Chelsea Baker (Sep 23) and Anna Battle (Sep 24) - how lucky are we to have such remarkably talented women in our community!

Chelsea's incredible vision and execution was lauded by all in attendance and The Secret Life of Seedpods had over 300 people through the Write Gallery in the first 14 hours!

We have been preparing for our foray into The Carnival Parade on Saturday 16 September and took possession of our cracking vehicle this week!

Watch this space for a look at our whimsical wheels...

In other happenings we have had the last days for our Term 3 workshops, some creative events with local kindergartens and schools and we announced the winners of our HELLO BABY 2023 Competition.

Please note we will be taking a small break over the September School Holidays with The Lighthouse Toowoomba closed but ALL ARE WELCOME at The Write Gallery to see Chelsea's stunning seedpods up close!



Secret Life of Seedpods

Exhibition Review by Sandy Pottinger

Timing is everything and the Write Gallery at The Lighthouse Complex has managed an impressive coup by hosting “The Secret Life of Seedpods,” an exhibition by Chelsea Baker that coincides with the celebration of the iconic Carnival of Flowers.

When the American biologist and writer, Janine Benyus, who popularized the term, ‘biomimicry’ said: “Deep inside, we still have a longing to be reconnected with the nature that shaped our

imagination," she could have been channelling Chelsea Baker. Chelsea is an unapologetic collector and hoarder of nature's detritus. Many examples in her archive of specimens are the cones and seed pods from the numerous varieties of the banksia plant. Inspiration comes from discarded husks that hold a primal memory of trees that are able to survive bushfires and floods and scatter their seeds far and wide.

Tabletops of raw materials including gumnuts, firewheel tree pods, eucalyptus leaves, and the banksias, give viewers an insight into the magical metamorphosis that the artist has wrought. But Chelsea is not just the cosmetician breathing new life into the discarded and forsaken remnants of former lives. She is a co-conspirator, nature's collaborator, and humbly in awe of the intricate and complicated designs that have inspired interpretation through biomimicry.

Chelsea upholsters nooks and crannies in painted detail that shines like satin embroidery. Empty orifices that once held seeds are now resplendent miniature secret caverns. Drab, dried exteriors are given makeovers that glow like the carapaces of exotic beetles. The shapes of the objects have not been altered but rather enhanced by colourful punctuation. Droplets of colour flow in a rhythmic embrace of the natural curves, protuberances, and scaly surfaces. The delicacy and focus, the restrained concentration that builds the multi-hued surfaces become a meditation, a spiritual wakening that pays homage to the original statements of nature by offering them reincarnation as artwork.

The spacious gallery encourages appreciation of the exhibition's overall concept as well as inviting the closeup intimacy demanded by the small, resplendent treasures. A shelving unit with pigeonholes offers a formal geometrical grid in which to display the random, yet precise symmetry of the embellished objects. Strategic plinths

present more examples and allow them to be seen from different angles. On the walls are open and limited edition prints of seed pod arrangements. Some have neutral backgrounds that enhance the subtle decoration of the pods, while others are on more vibrant backgrounds that tend to compete with the sometimes neon intensity of the many accumulated colours. The prints are produced under the Hello Chelsart signature suggesting a more commercial avenue which seems almost at odds with the very personal transformation of the natural vegetation. However, the wall art happily integrates with the more sculptural pieces to create a coherent and comprehensive body of work.

A further feature is a blackened room with ultraviolet lighting in which suspended pods like magic lanterns glow with an almost phosphorescent aura.

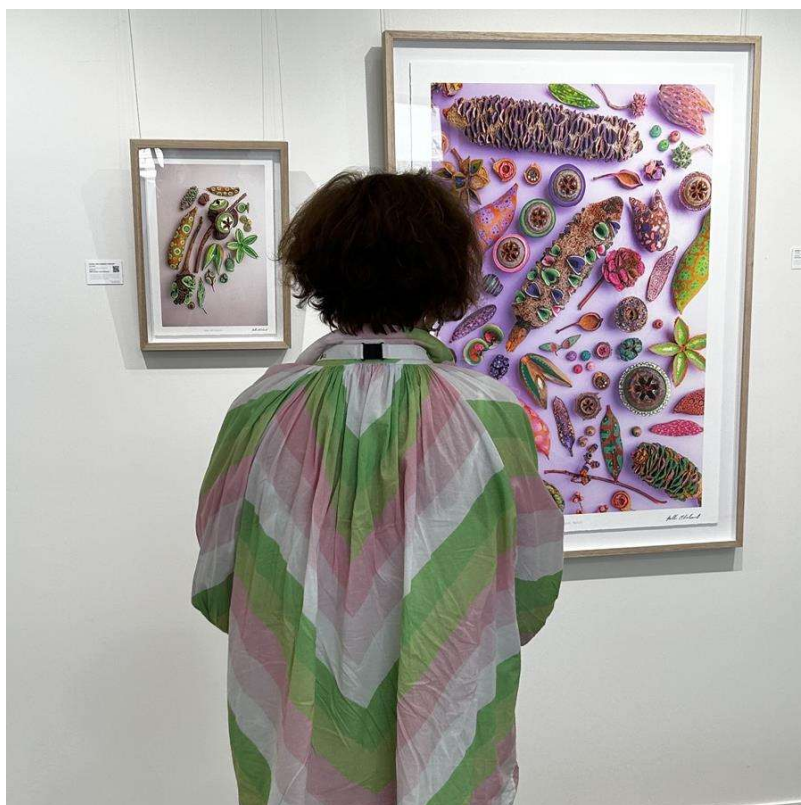
The exhibition is fascinating. Chelsea Baker's meticulous painting becomes adornment that enhances, translates, and honours the refined designs of nature.

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



In Sync with the Seedpods

When you are completely on trend with the exhibition! We have had visitors from near and far to The Write Gallery and we have been thrilled with how many attendees have embraced the Spring spirit and worn outfits of vivid colour and punchy prints. Some of our visitors were so matchy-matchy that they could have been walking adaptations of Chelsea's art!





Grammar in the Gallery

On Friday 1st September Toowoomba Grammar School preppies joined Annie Flamsteed in The Write Gallery to read books and make crowns inspired by the art surrounding them.

The best inspiration comes from those who create for us. There was colour, design and style in all the crowns for the TGS visit and it was something else to witness the glee the boys experienced as they unlocked their inner-creative!



A special Saturday morning

Last Saturday 2nd September we had some little friends from the Chiselhurst Kindergarten community, along with their parents, come along for a VIP morning amongst The Secret Life of Seedpods. They too were inspired by the wonder and colour of Chelsea's art and created their own pieces to take home and enjoy!







That's a wrap! Term 3's After School Workshops

Flip Flop Finale

Sarah Bradbury wrapped up her fabulous Flip Flop writing and editing workshops this week for Term 3. There were a few faces missing for the last class but the gorgeous grins of those present show what a success Sarah's teachings were. Firm friendships were made, and it will be exciting to see what this gaggle of writers create in future. Thank you Sarah!

Kirby Krackles Clearing Out

We have loved watching Dan and his proteges create and explore the medium of manga and comics. It was the first time we have run these workshops and they were a resounding success. We are hoping to be bringing this back in Term 1 2024. Thank you Dan!

World Building Bumps Beyond

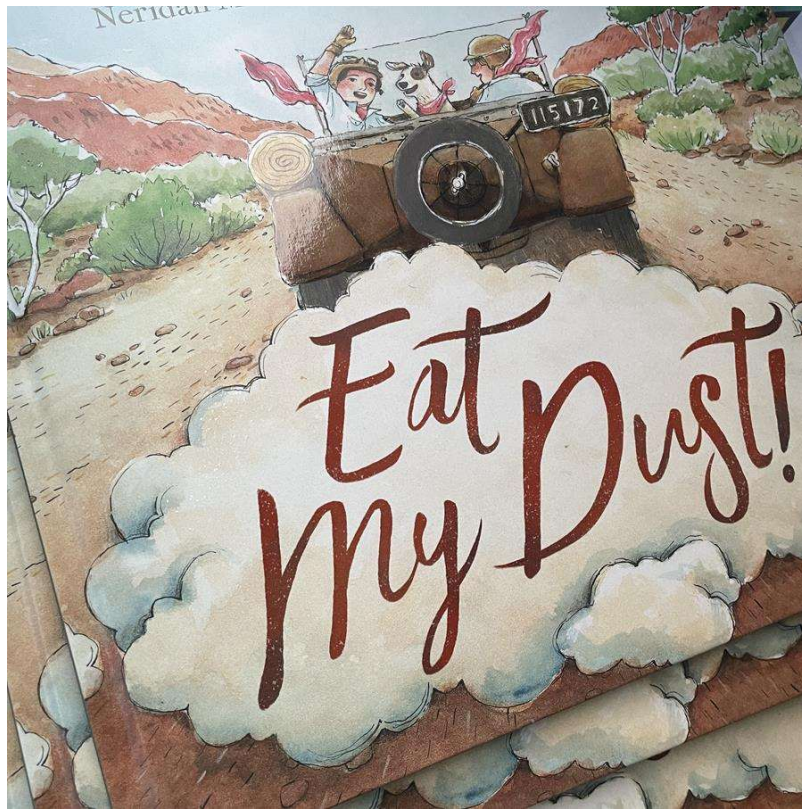
Tim has created the most spectacular world in and of itself with this gang of aspiring writers. Hope to see everyone in Term 4.

Plumage in Paint Popping Out

Some wonderful artwork at the end of Terese Eglington's Illustration Workshops! Students have

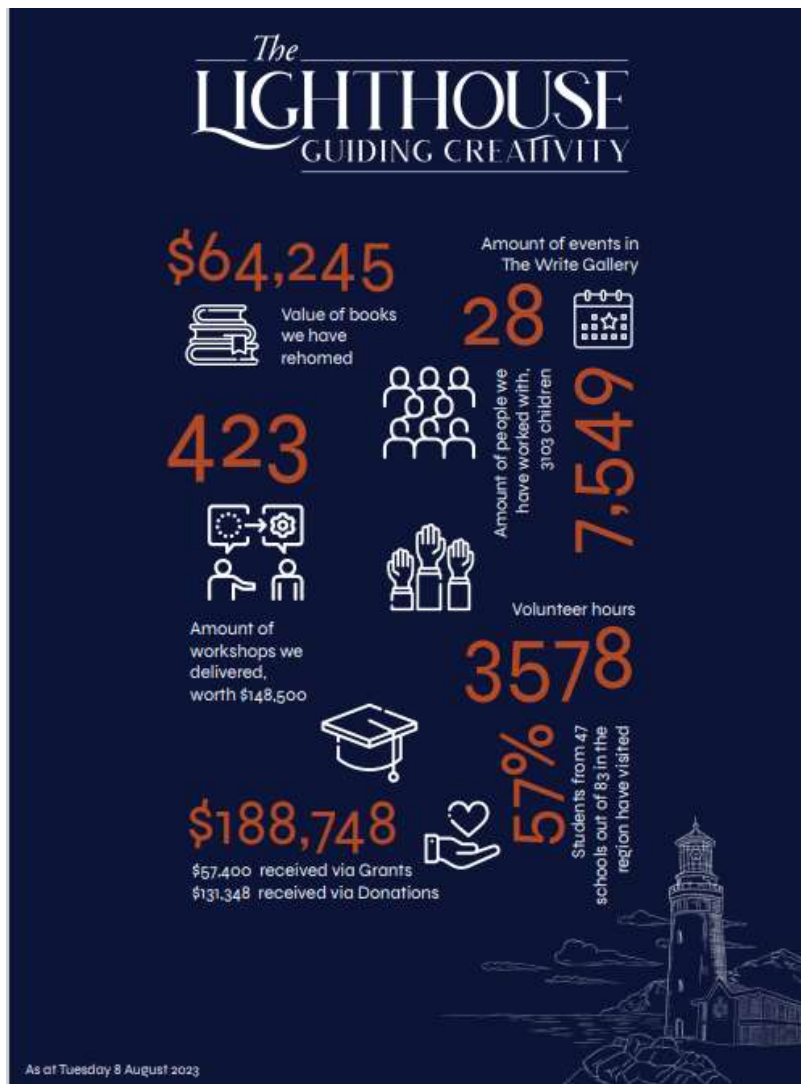
learnt so much throughout the term and we are so excited Terese will return in Term 4.





Sneak Peek

Here is a cheeky sneaky glimpse of our June 2024 exhibition "Eat My Dust" with illustrator Lucia Muscillo... We recommend this book to you as it is a true story about the incredible adventure of two women who drove across Australia in the 1920's! You know Emily ADORES dressing up, so keep an eye out for 1920s clothing from op shops between now and then, and you'll have a 'flappingly' fantastic outfit for opening night!



We love words but these numbers tell our story

A little snapshot (as of August) of some of the super statistics behind The Lighthouse Toowoomba. We are pretty proud of this infographic! No more words necessary other than THANK YOU as you were truly part of the equation!



Mr Chippa Chopping Soon

All eyes are on spring at the moment, but for those of you looking ahead a tad, there are still workshops available for school groups during Lee FullARTton's exhibition 'Mr Chippa', featuring the wood block carvings from the artisans in Bagru. More information about the workshops is available upon request

hello@thelighthousewoomba.org

LEE FULLARTTON + BOOK LINKS

OFFICIAL OPENING
FRIDAY 3 NOVEMBER
5:30PM TO 7:00PM

THE WRITE GALLERY
126 MARGARET STREET TOOWOOMBA

EXHIBITION CONTINUES UNTIL
WEDNESDAY 29TH NOVEMBER 3:00PM

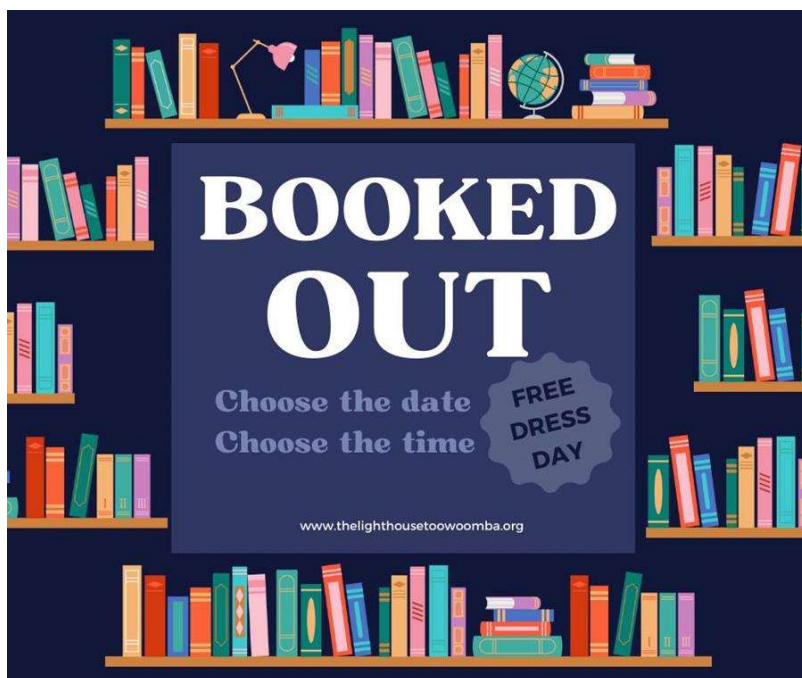
Mr Chippa

JOIN US AT THE
LIGHTHOUSE FOR...

WRITING FOR
EXPRESSION



The very clever Jade from Harley House Creative is running some workshops at The Lighthouse Toowoomba in October. From water colour brush lettering to watercolour mountainscapes, there's something for everyone. Make sure you jump online and secure your spot.



Free Dress Day at school - Raise money!

A donation started this malarky, and now we are so happy our first batch of library bags have arrived and we are ready to go! Here is a challenge for you... Please consider organising a free dress day at your school - or a PJ-day at your workplace - and asking everyone who participates for a gold coin donation. Think about being so

incredibly comfortable whilst helping us get books to children in our community!

Let us know if you want to help literacy in your loungewear by emailing us hello@thelighthousetoowoomba.org.au We can provide you with posters and marketing material to promote your Free Dress / PJ-day!



UPCOMING EVENTS

SEP	EVERY DAY!	THE SECRET LIFE OF SEEDPODS A stunning showcase of nature embellished with the gentle sensitivity of the artist, the Queen of Seedpods, Chelsea Baker. Open every day in September 10am to 3pm.
SEP	14	LUNCH TIME CREATIVES Feeling overwhelmed and missing your inner-creative? Pop in and meet artist Lily Halton, and join a FREE workshop. Home schoolers welcome.
SEP	30	SEEDPODS - THE WORKSHOP Join Chelsea Baker (Exhibition Artist) for a mindful painting session of Australian Seedpods using acrylic paint pen techniques. BOOKINGS ESSENTIAL

MORE INFORMATION
www.thelighthousetoowoomba.org
126 Margaret Street, Toowoomba CBD



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.

Tuesdays 3:30-5pm | Term 3 | Cost \$175

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



HOLIDAY WRITING WORKSHOP

Learn the secrets of writing great stories from an award-winning author

- 3 day writing camp for ages 9-14
- 1 day workshop for ages 7-10

Meet your presenter:

Brian Falkner
The award-winning author of 21 novels including Brainjack, Northwood, and the Katipo Joe series

"I loved meeting other young authors and learning awesome techniques that will help my writing."
Gabriella (14)

"It made writing easier for me and explained aspects of stories I didn't really understand."
Anna (12)

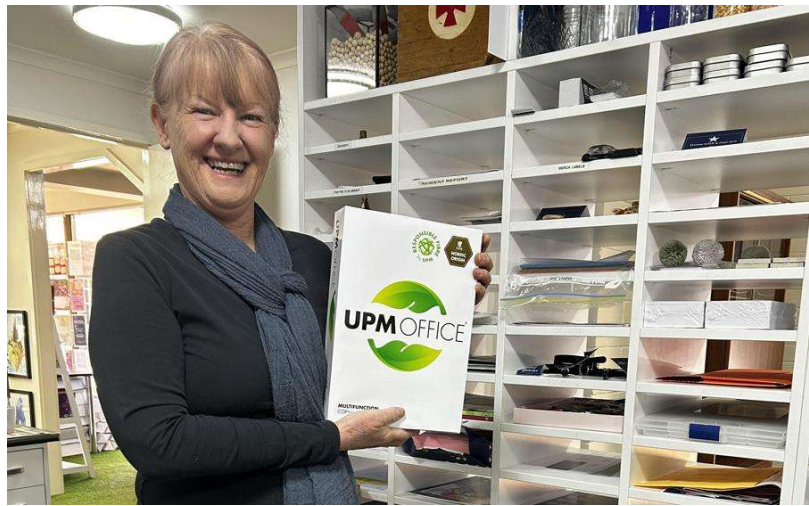
Andy Griffiths says...
"I wish this camp had been around when I was a young writer!"

WE'RE COVID SAFE

Where: The Lighthouse
126 Margaret Street
When: 19 Sep to 21 Sep 2023

WRITE like an AUTHOR

Register now at: [WriteLikeanAuthor.com](https://www.WriteLikeanAuthor.com)



Thank you

to the lovely Lily Halton, the curator of Lunchtime Creatives and local artist, for your donation of paper for our printing needs at The Lighthouse.



Volunteers

We have a dedicated band of volunteers who help us sort out and bundle books that have already been donated, and Readers who take our 'Twinkles Book Club' to schools. But our doors are always open to friendly, helpful faces! If you are inspired to volunteer at The Lighthouse, and you have a Blue Card, please contact us

hello@thelighthousetoowoomba.org or directly via our website application form:

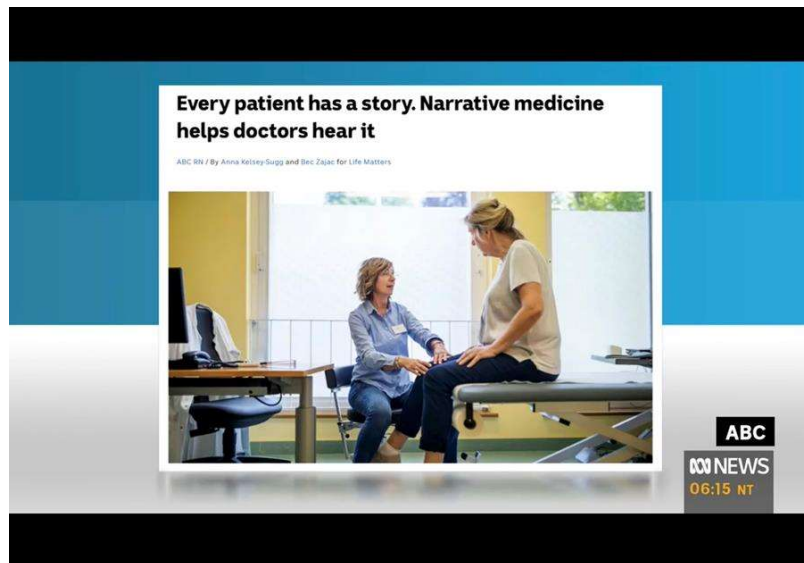
<https://www.thelighthousetoowoomba.org/volunteer>



Books for Bags

Our fabulous new library bags are out and about in The Lighthouse community! We are always in

need of more books to go in them. If you have any childrens books lying about and in need of some (new) love, please send them our way! We promise our bags will take good care of them.



One Last Thing

Literacy is the key to self advocacy - in all areas of life!

Narrative medicine is a method of consultation in which doctors hear their patients' experiences as a story. Put simply "The care unfolds in stories". Click here for an important perspective of literacy advocacy in the medical world.

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2023-09-06/narrative-medicine-impact-on-doctors-listening-and-empathy/102809200>



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.

If you wish to unsubscribe from our newsletter please use the button below or email us at hello@thelighthousewoomba.org

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