

Subject: Newsletter The Beacon #40

Date: Friday, 1 December 2023 at 5:25:27 pm Australian Eastern Standard Time

From: The Lighthouse Toowoomba

To: Emma Mactaggart

It's a wrap - what a year!



Welcome to Week 45 for 2023 at The Lighthouse Toowoomba and this, our last big newsletter for the year!

Santa is demanding our attention, and there is that thrill in the air that always comes from the school year drawing to a close. It is more than 'no more lunch boxes, no more homework'.

The thrill also comes from everything we have to celebrate - community, connections, creativity - and this is always evident greatest in our children, especially when we glance back to the beginning of the year and see how much they have blossomed and grown.

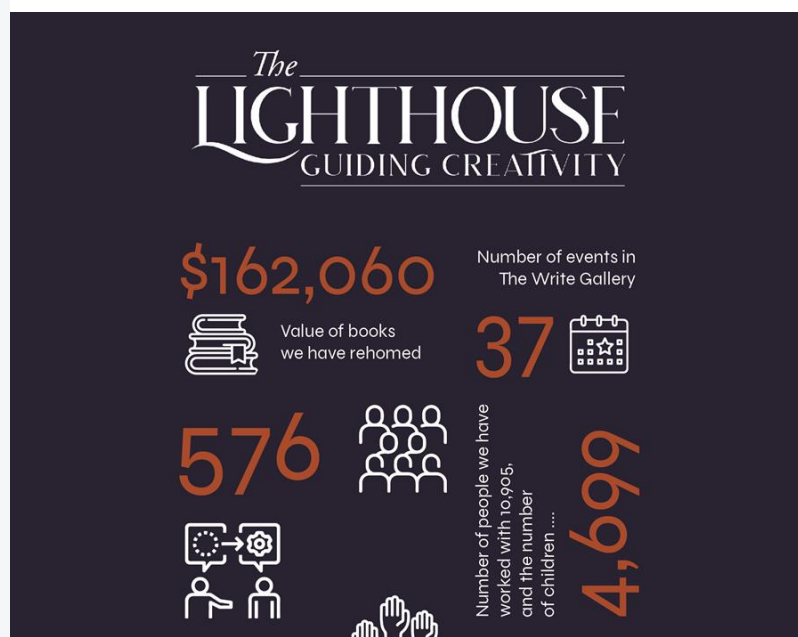
The biggest news EVER is we are now included on the Register of Cultural Organisations. 'So...?' you may well ask!

This means we have our own DGR status, and we can give you a tax-deductible receipt for every donation over \$2. It is immensely satisfying to have our work recognised in this way, and we will be actively fundraising now to ensure we can really make a difference beyond 2024.

Before we go nutty though and make changes to our website and all the admin that is required, we have to acknowledge the support of the Foundation for Regional and Rural Renewal who held us in a community account for the last six years. This has meant donors could receive a receipt for donations. We wouldn't be here today without this support.

And we won't be here in 2025 without your support! Today we launch our first proper fundraiser - an online auction - more details below.

As for 2024 - you will see lots of updates about this in the next newsletter - for now, we need to get back to celebrating an epic year.



Number of workshops we delivered, worth \$201,600

Volunteer gifted hours

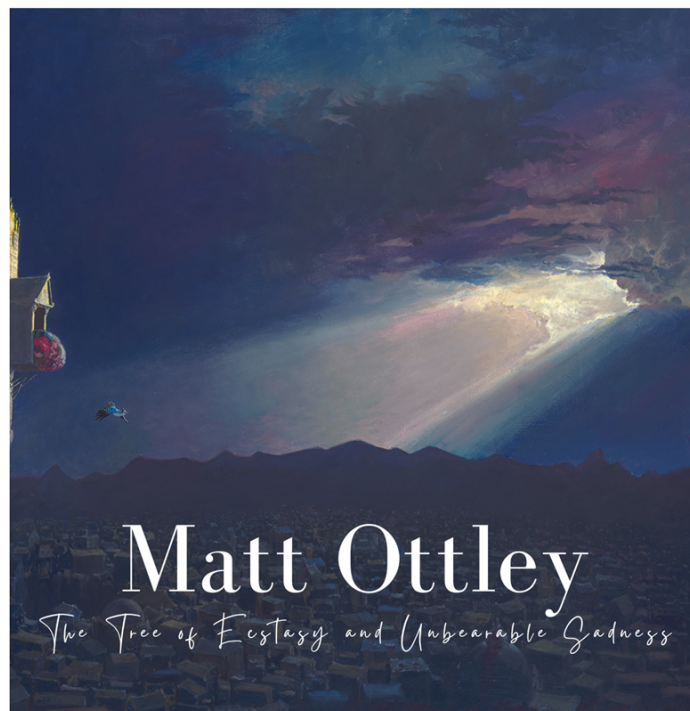
4293.6

Value of volunteer hours

\$323,771

64% At least one student from 63 schools out of 83 in the region have visited

As at Wednesday 23 November 2023



Matt Ottley

The Tree of Ecstasy and Unbearable Sadness

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

1- 29 February 2024

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

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 we are still pinching ourselves... 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.

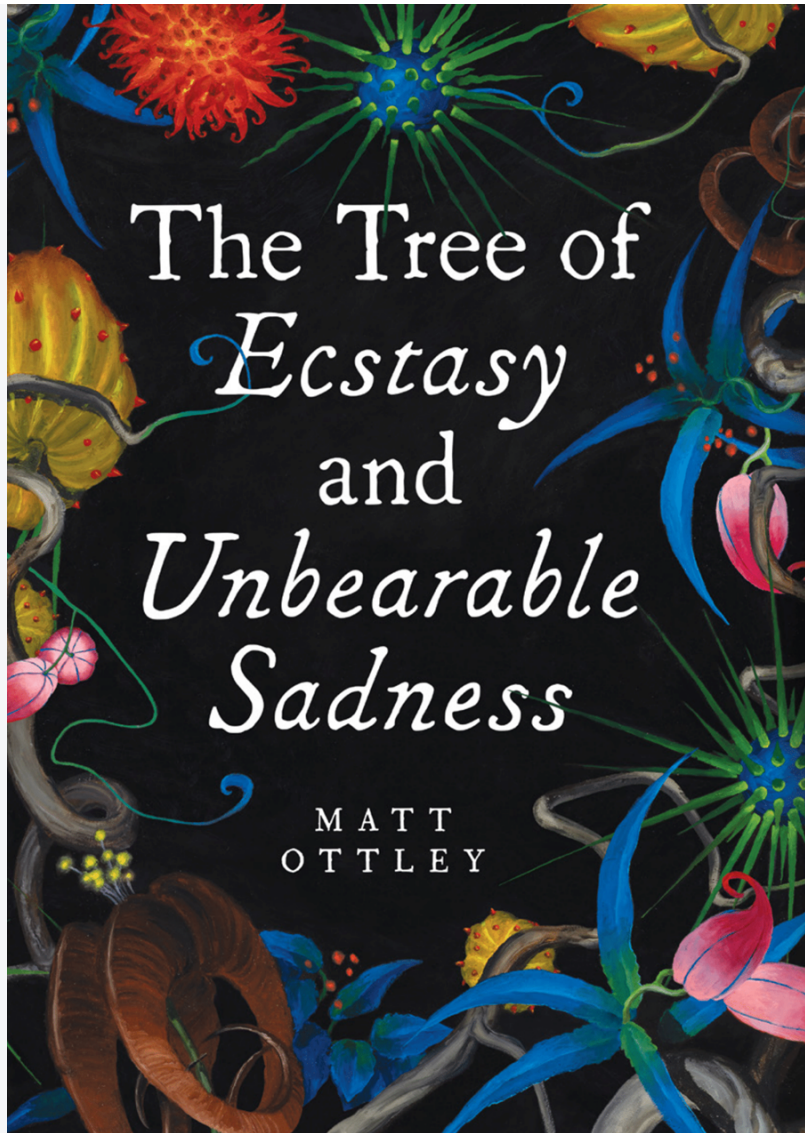
Pen ready then? For your diary....

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.

The exhibition will be open until the 29th February.

We have made contact with every secondary school in Toowoomba and will be offering students in class groups to visit the exhibition in dedicated times throughout February. The booking link for this will be released on 22nd January 2024.



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

Mr Chippa and the Woodblock

Carvers of Bagru

We glance across at the now empty gallery, astounded at the thought of having had hundreds of children in the space in November. Thank you again 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.

‘Stunning work! It was wonderful to hear about your experiences, and processes around making the artworks, book, and puppets. Very inspiring! Thank you for sharing it all with us.’ Jane and Rosie

“Chip-tastic” exhibition! What wonderful dedication to your story. Looking forward to the next book. You’re a cool creative creature!

‘Amazingly outstanding! Thank you so much for the exquisite talent and beauty’. Paula and Mike

‘Absolutely stunning! Very creative’

‘Mind-boggling’

‘A riot of colour – awesome!’

‘This was just amazing!’

Lee (pictured below) smiled like this THE ENTIRE MONTH! We smiled like this the entire month too!



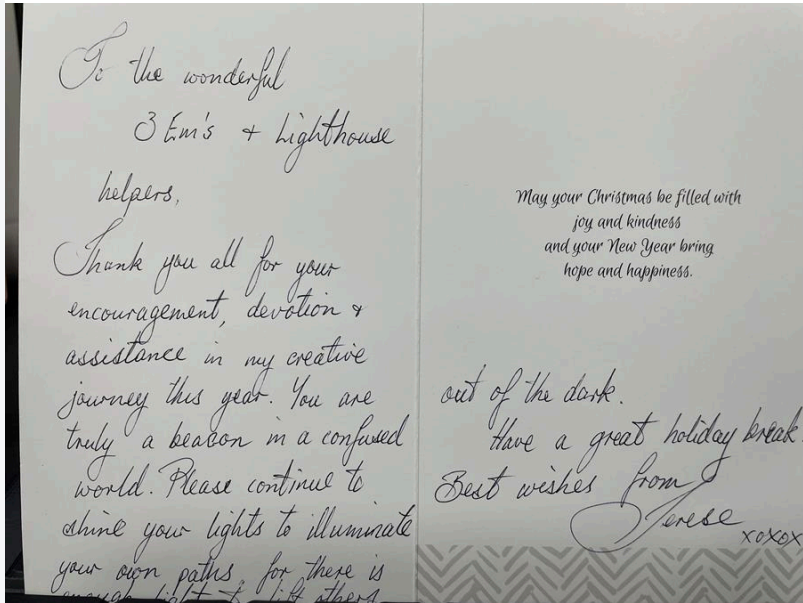
Thank you Terese!

Firstly for sharing this gorgeous concertina book - we had to share it with Lee! It is a little book with a lot of heritage! Local author and artist Terese Eglington was incredibly inspired by the rangoli workshop by Lee, and created this book about Christmas.

Then Terese popped into our office with FRESH APPLE PIE. Yes, yes, we are all about literacy, but this was too glorious not to share. Terese delivered a freshly made apple pie today with a stunningly beautiful Christmas card (with one of her paintings featured!).

Honestly, we have to show you these things because otherwise, no-one would believe this is what our working week is always like.





THE LIGHTHOUSE

Give Literacy a Sporting Chance

What's more Australian than supporting our kids & your favourite team at the same time. All funds go to providing childrens literacy workshops throughout 2024.

ONLINE AUCTION: LINK BELOW

ENDS 5PM AEST 26TH JANUARY 2024



This is our first in-house fundraiser! We have been gifted six really interesting sporting memorabilia - wallabies jerseys, a special one from the Sharks, and a treasure featuring Susie O'Neill, Pat Cash, John Eales! Bidding needs to be ferocious so we

can start the year with a bang and have another person working in the office! At the moment, we run this crazy ship with only 1.3 staff and we can see the need to do more.

Use the QR code or [click here](#) to go directly to the auction

You can see the framed preloved auction items in our windows at The Lighthouse - 126 Margaret Street. Heaps of parking on-site, so you can ponder all you need.

THANK YOU IN ADVANCE X

Got your diary handy?

Writer's Workshop Highfields

10 February 2024
Highfields Cultural
Centre 8:30 - 4:30
Pre-booking
essential

Email
heather@heatherreyburn
for bookings and further
details.



Heather Reyburn is a regular at the Write Friday sessions here at The Lighthouse, and she is a prolific and talented local writer. Heather has organised an event for aspiring writers at Highfields focusing on industry 'do's and don'ts' - featuring conversations about setting up a business as an indie author, editing, audio books, social media and AI, and marketing.



Very happy to pop this under your noses! Emma constantly raves about Words Out West, and next year's program looks fabulous:

Books & Bubbles

With Wendy Harmer

Friday 8 March

Dalby Events Centre

6.30–10pm

From \$90, packages available

Hear Wendy's frank, fearless and funny reflection on her unlikely and enduring success story.

[Find out more...](#)

Festival Day

Saturday 9 March

Dalby Events Centre

9am—6pm

From \$115, packages available

Featuring kingpin true crime novelist Michael Robotham, Everyone In My Family Has Killed Someone's Benjamin Stevenson, and more, this is one Words Out West event you don't want to miss.

[Find out more...](#)



Splash Out Art Workshops with Terese Eglington

1. What a hoot!

‘What a hoot!’ workshop is designed for all ages. I will be sharing a variety of techniques in mixed media using paper and acrylics. I will guide you through a step-by-step process showing techniques and variations to create an individual, ready to hang inspirational artwork.

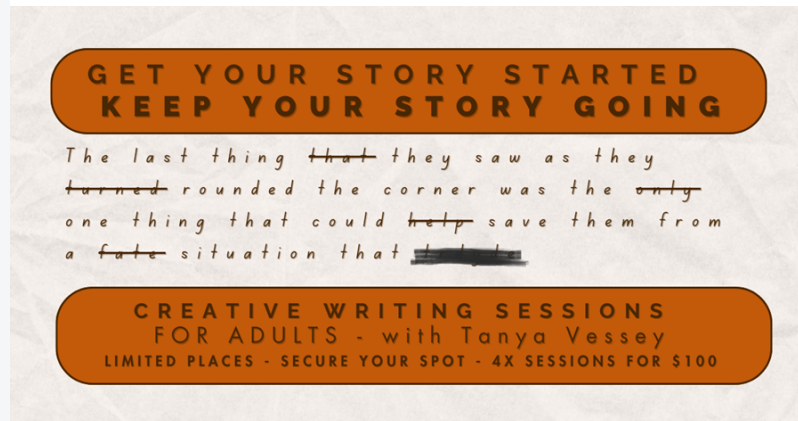
Materials will be provided including a canvas
Approximate cost: \$60 per person (\$5 discount for additional family members) Time: Approximately 3 hours (please bring a water bottle and snack)
NOTE: Drying time is needed between painting layers.

2. Underwater adventure

‘Underwater Adventure’ workshop is designed for all ages. I will be sharing a variety of techniques in mixed media using acrylics as a basis. Students will be guided through a step-by-step process shown techniques and variations to encourage individuality. The end result will be a take-home artwork ready to hang.

Materials will be provided including a canvas
Approximate cost: \$60 per person (\$5 discount for additional family members) Time: Approximately 3 hours (please bring a snack)

NOTE: Drying time is needed between painting layers.



Tanya Vessey has created this series of four workshops for aspiring adult writers to start the year as they mean to finish... WRITING! So... Get your story started – Keep your story going

Participants will learn how to tap into their creativity with writing activities, transform thoughts into action with story-telling elements across four sessions; identify the foundation of the creative process including strengths and areas for development; and address how to navigate writing challenges with a positive mindset and self-knowledge.

[Book directly with The Lighthouse](#)



an exhibition to inspire, empower and ignite



Author Suzanne Leal is here in Toowoomba and at The Lighthouse for an author talk for one very lucky school group on Monday 18th March. If a teacher is reading this and 'bags' the FREE session, please contact us asap hello@thelighthousetoowoomba.org. Note, pop 'Suzanne Leal' in the subject!

HELLO'S AND GOOD BYES!



Toda we celebrated Emma Mort's incredible transformation from shy school girl to a genuinely engaging and gorgeous human, and she is ready to fly! Our lovely volunteer Bernadette Carroll has been with Emma each week during the terms, reading at Harlaxton State School, and will miss her as much as we will.

'Morty' keeps threatening to volunteer, but now that she has 'signed' the author wall (she really truly is a published author as well!) there is nothing up our sleeves to keep her here!

Good luck with all you choose to do Morty x





Tim's World Building will be back! In 2024 it will morph into a double session, firstly with mentoring for the serious writers, and then 'Science and Sorcery Club'. Booking and payment details for the Club will be available in the New Year so keep an eye out for this wonderful opportunity.

Thank you Tim for all you do. To have gifted your time and expertise this year has been incredible and we are all so grateful.



Flip : Flop! (Who thinks of these names!) Sarah wrangled this wonderful mob of writers all term. They worked so hard! Sometimes we had to check if they were still in the building as they would more often than not be settled into another round of writing and editing.

This from one of the mums:

'Thanks so much Sarah! My boys thoroughly enjoyed it. They did their writing exercises on days other than when they came in, and on the days we came in, they would be ready way in advance. Usually, I have to push them out the door. After the

classes they always had many positive comments and spoke about it several times between classes. They have learnt so much, and I have enjoyed seeing their writing skills developing during this term.'

Thank you Sarah! We really hope you can join us again in Term Two 2024.



SEASONAL ART MARKET

INTERESTED?

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...](#)



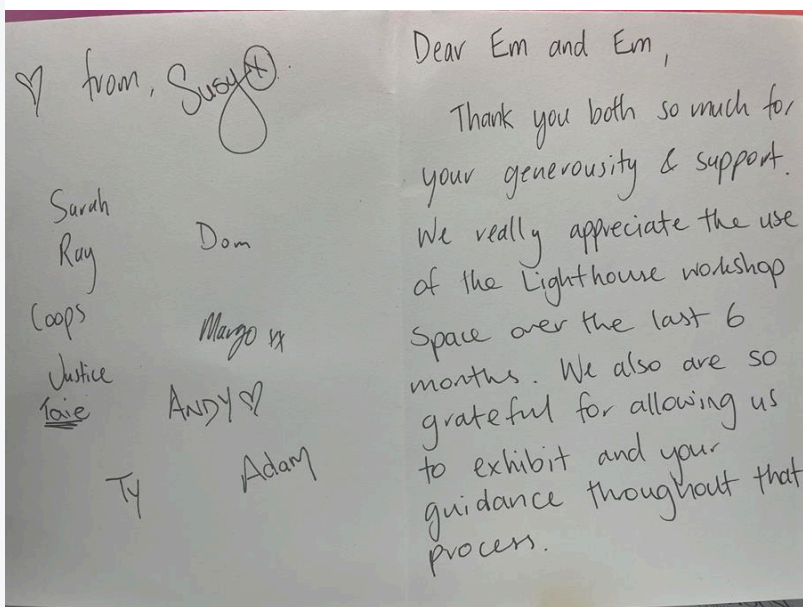
The Write Gallery - The Lighthouse Toowoomba
126 Margaret Street, Toowoomba CBD

3 - 23 May 2024

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



Yes! Hand made cards! Luckily for us Susy and Adam - ADAPT MENTORSHIP were here every Wednesday, and as Margot led art workshops, we reaped the benefits of seeing a group of young people flourish with the opportunity to tap into their inner-creative.



Just a few more things:



Asset Locksmiths AGAIN to the rescue! THANK YOU

You are invited!

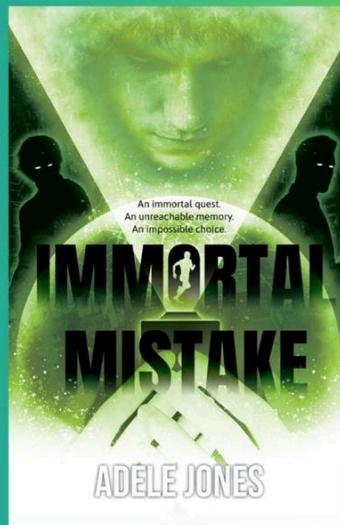
BOOK LAUNCH!

of

IMMORTAL MISTAKE

Time: 2:30pm to 4:30pm
When: 2nd December, 2023
Where: Savour this Eatery
Shop 5 Abbie Lane,
10522 New England Highway
Highfields, Queensland

Finger food provided ♦ Drinks can be purchased at venue



RSVP contact@adelejonesauthor.com

Adele Jones is a fabulously talented local author, with extensive and heartfelt reviews on Good Reads. If you haven't discovered her work yet, then this is the launch for you!

Young Alera's a scribe in the making

Tom Gillespie

Since she was able to hold a pen, Toowoomba eight-year-old Alera Wickenden has been compelled to write and draw stories.

"She makes little books and gives them to friends and family – she has a vast imagination," her mother Melany said.

Now the aspiring author and Rangeville State School student has earned national recognition for her creativity, with her picture book winning an author's choice award at the Australian Mini-Writing Festival by educational writing organisation Littlescribe.

Alera's book *The Lost Dogs! Missing* was one of a dozen stories chosen by top children's book writers from the 35,000 entries in the festival, which encourages kids to become passionate about writing and drawing.

The 12-page book, which Alera wrote and illustrated, features three missing puppies, a police chase,



Rangeville State School year 2 student Alera Wickenden had her book *The Lost Dogs! Missing* selected out of 35,000 student efforts after a program by educational writing organisation Littlescribe. Picture: Kevin Farmer

also her teachers and family. "When she started at Rangeville State School, her teachers have re-enforced

(Littlescribe) is absolutely going to encourage her and her friends to write." Her story was chosen by

"The (Littlescribe) session I did about writing was about adventure stories (and) she had these characters and

tell she got a lot from the session – she's obviously put it all together from what she's learnt."

monkeys and even a portal. Ms Wickenden said Alera's passion for writing books had been fuelled not only by the LittleScribe program but

her passion for reading and writing," she said. "Just out of nowhere, she'll be in the car and then just start imagining things.

Newcastle-based children's author Katrina McKelvey, who said she was delighted by Alera's imagination and love of animals.

then she followed the beautiful conventions of narrative," Ms McKelvey said. "It had these lovely little elements, and I could

Alera won a prize pack featuring picture books and writing materials. To read Alera's book, head to the LittleScribe website.

Tom Gillespie! Great story! If you missed this, it was in The Chronicle, Friday 1 December. Our heartfelt congratulations to Alera, and big shout out to LittleScribe for offering such a wonderful opportunity for young writers to be recognised.

Illustration and Art Basics
by Terese Eglington

For more information/to register
TERM ONE 2024

THE LIGHTHOUSE WEEKLY

- MONDAY**
HELLO Club
with Literacy for Kids
3:30pm to 5:00pm
- TUESDAY**
Terese's
Illustration 101 Workshop
9 to 13 year olds
3:45pm to 5:15pm
- WEDNESDAY**
World Building
13 to 17 years old
5:00pm to 6:30pm
- The Write Gallery**
Monthly Exhibitions
- Term 4 Exhibitions**
school group bookings
by appointment
- FRIDAY**
Twinkles Book Club
especially for toddlers
9:30am to 10:30am
- WEDNESDAY**
Art!
ADAPT MENTORSHIP
1:00pm to 3:00pm
- TUESDAY**
Write Your Story!
9:30am to 11:30am
&
3:30pm to 5:00pm
- MONDAY**
GET YOUR STORY
STARTED!
5:00pm to 6:30pm
- FRIDAY**
Write Friday
Old Writers Centre
Adults
10:00am to 2:00pm
- MORE?**
Our fortnightly
newsletter has
EVERYTHING ->

Tired of being distracted working at home? Looking for a more collegiate atmosphere with other creatives? We have offices for rent in 2024. Super generously flexible terms, two even with car parks in the CBD.

Internal Nook Office



\$240 per month

FACILITIES

- Air-con
- 1 desk / 1 chair
- Overhead cupboards
- Access to Kitchenette
- This is not a keyed office

@thelighthousewoomba

Internal Double Office



\$680 per month

FACILITIES

- 8.5 m2
- Air-con
- 2 desks / 2 chairs
- Filing cabinet
- Overhead cupboards
- Access to Kitchenette
- Keyed office
- 1 CBD carpark

@thelighthousewoomba

Internal Single Office



\$380 per month

FACILITIES

- 4.6 m2
- Air-con
- 1 desk / 1 chair
- Filing cabinet
- Overhead cupboards
- Access to Kitchenette
- Keyed office
- 1 CBD carpark

@thelighthousewoomba



Fi! We see what you did there! Only two silly hats and the need for a photographer... aha, that's how you miss being caught looking like this!

Still, what a great way to end the year - with big smiles and much, much laughter. To you all, wishing you a safe, and fabulously glorious festive season, and we look forward to working with you to make this community a safe and inspiring space for children in 2024.



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@thelighthousestoowoomba.org