



Welcome to the 66th edition of The Beacon

We're bursting with excitement for the doors to swing open again! Everything kicks off in **Week Two of the term (February)** with the return of **Write Monday**, plus art classes, writing workshops, events for the big kids, and so much more.

The idea of 126 Margaret Street being a place where children can experience community cohesion as they are safe, their imaginations ignited, and opportunities abound is something to be quite clucky about.

We are busting for the doors to open again, with everything really kicking off in Week Two of the term (or February for Write Monday), as well as art classes, writing workshops, events for big kids, and much, much more.

If you happened to drive past, you will have (hopefully!) noticed our very bright sparkly clean building, and our soon to be festooned flagpole. A great deal has been happening whilst everyone

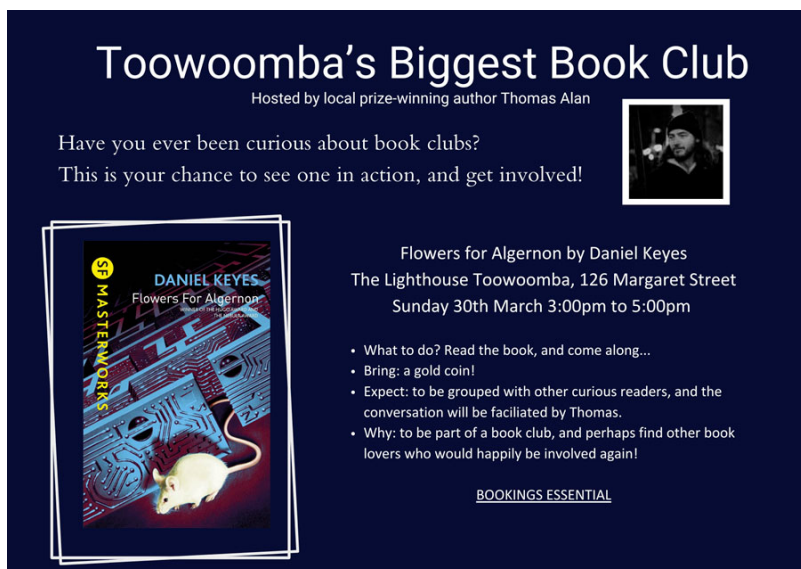
has been in summer mode, and we can't wait to share more with you.

The fireworks, cheers and confetti cannons in this edition are for Jane Williamson who will be helping us with our One-Way Library, the Twinkles Program, and the Explorers Emporium.

Oh - and as for the digital sign (hence the ad about the ad below!) - it is available for **any** business. Whilst you promote your business you also support the local Bombers AFL team AND we get to use it too in exchange for the car space. Win, win, win... or in relevant parlance, cheep, cheap, cheep!




Cheep As!
advertise here \$16 per day
or negotiate for long term
AND SUPPORT
THE BOMBERS AFL TEAM
0458 330 708



Toowoomba's Biggest Book Club
Hosted by local prize-winning author Thomas Alan

Have you ever been curious about book clubs?
This is your chance to see one in action, and get involved!



Flowers for Algernon by Daniel Keyes
The Lighthouse Toowoomba, 126 Margaret Street
Sunday 30th March 3:00pm to 5:00pm

- What to do? Read the book, and come along...
- Bring: a gold coin!
- Expect: to be grouped with other curious readers, and the conversation will be facilitated by Thomas.
- Why: to be part of a book club, and perhaps find other book lovers who would happily be involved again!

BOOKINGS ESSENTIAL

If we say straight up that everything we do seems to revolve around reading, then it completely makes sense to have a book club! Superstar author and prize-winning short story writer Thomas

Alan suggested the 'Toowoomba's Biggest Book Club' event and will play host.

Even though it is not until the end of March, we had to tell you straight away so you can get a copy of the book, read it, and book to join us.

[Please book directly via this link](#)

Host: Thomas Alan

Book: Flowers by Algernon by Daniel Keys

The idea of a book club is to challenge yourself to read outside of your comfort zone (aka - always reading the same genres!), then to think about your response to the book so you can share your thoughts with others. This can also be an opportunity to meet like-minded people.

Who knows - Toowoomba' Biggest Book Club may become the proud origin of a whole slew of new book clubs in the community!



The Festival of Small Schools

The Lighthouse Toowoomba called on the community to make 2024 Christmas a special one for small schools in the Toowoomba region, by supporting our Festival of Small Schools 2025 initiative.

This campaign is a first-of-its-kind event for the Darling Downs and has a wonderful snowball effect for literacy in the community. Funds raised will be used to organise author visits during Terms One and Two.

We are so proud and happy to announce (cue more confetti cannons) you've helped us raise \$3299 to date!

It is awesome to think that Ramsay State School, Back Plains State School, Brookstead State School, Greenmount State School, and Emu Creek State School have already signed up to happily have an author visit.

Now for the other 12 tiny schools in the region...

[Donate Today](#)

It's this weekend...



Each year at the Toowoomba Australia Day Award Celebrations an Australian Flag from Parliament House is presented to a local group or organisation who has made a significant contribution to the Toowoomba Region and Community.

We are thrilled, chuffed, and humbled to share that The Lighthouse is to be recognised at the celebrations, and we will be very proud flag bearers for 2025.

The Australia Day Awards Ceremony will be held on Sunday 26 January. THANK YOU in

advance to all of our lovely Lighthouse supporters
who are able to join us to celebrate.



Say HELLO Jane!

Jane Williamson has extensive experience as a special event manager/project manager developing and supporting First Nations and diverse multicultural community group projects for a myriad of high profile and community arts and cultural festivals, special events, conferences and seminars.

Jane is highly motivated and enthusiastic with a diverse set of skills including an adaptive leadership style applied to community cultural development practices motivated by building community capacity from an arts and cultural, educational, social and economic perspective, identifying and supporting opportunities for diverse community cohorts, cultural groups and marginalised community members.

During the past few years Jane has built a large network in Toowoomba and surrounds, collaborating with a myriad of services to create a monthly interagency meeting, assisting sector professionals and community members to navigate and provide warm, friendly support to

further strengthen families and young people and unite the Darling Downs district.

Jane is very, very excited to now be joining The Lighthouse team as Project Manager expanding on programs to improve children's literacy in our region.



A HUGE SHOUT-OUT...

First of all to Matt from [Hosed Building and Gutter](#). Matt and his team gave all the buildings a much needed scrub but it was the gift of an internal window clean for our gallery space that made our little hearts race.

The whole site is sparkling and we thought we couldn't be happier... until we also had a chance to meet Lucas from [Vue Digital](#) who creates content for Matt. Both generous, thoughtful, diligent operators.

THANK YOU!

(PS - It was certainly no small task cleaning those internal windows given they held the exhibition for Colour My World so over 150 individual drawings in chalk pen!!!)



Whilst we are being so upbeat about our favourite people today, a big cheery shoutout to Stephen at Clarke Rubber. Stephen was so amazingly patient as Emma ummmmed and ahhhhed about a possible solution for display for our little shop. He graciously lent into the idea of our very limited budget, unlimited imagination, and was very very kind!

WHAT'S ON? There is a LOT on AND THERE IS STILL TIME TO BOOK!

Wanted!

The
LIGHTHOUSE
GUIDING CREATIVITY

12 aspiring writers
(going into Year 4, 5, or 6)
for a FREE 3 hour intensive
workshop to explore the plot line
'Overcoming the Monster'

SATURDAY 1ST FEBRUARY
9AM TO 12NOON

bookings essential

126 Margaret Street
Toowoomba CBD



Emma will lead a three hour boot-camp-esque writers workshop for aspiring writers who are going into Year 4, 5, or 6. Learn the fundamentals of the plot line 'Overcoming the Monster' | Be more courageous with your writing | Editing 101.

It is the intention to start the young writer on a writing adventure which will result in a submission to The Lighthouse's first anthology 'Overcoming The Monster' at the end of Term One!

[Bookings essential](#)

SCIENCE AND SORCERY CLUB

THURSDAY 6 FEB TO 27 MAR, 2025



A study of science and sorcery

Below are William Zietsch's reflections on the benefits of the Science and Sorcery club as he attended the workshops in 2024.

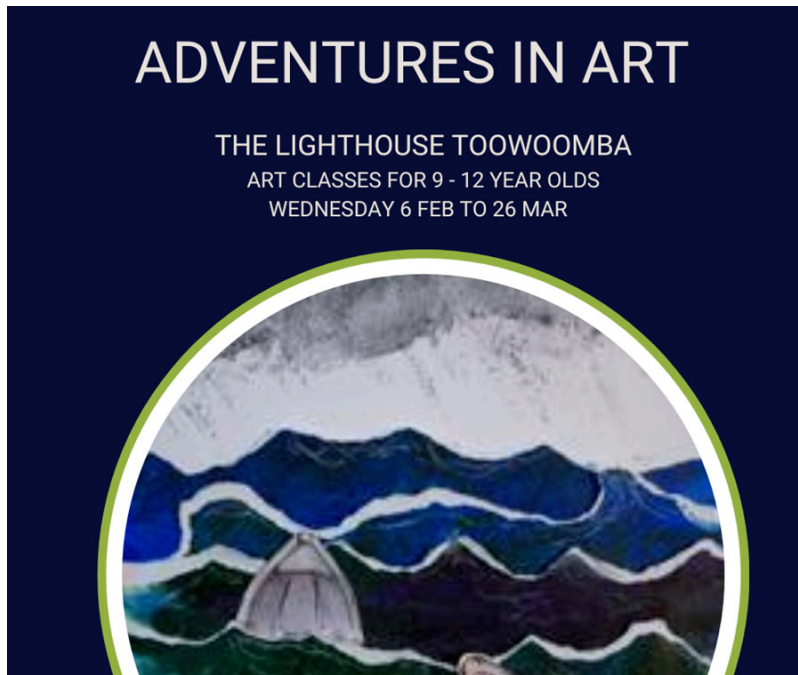
The Science and Sorcery club is a spectacular gathering of aspiring writers, getting together to exchange writing ideas, get inspiration, and generally have fun. The club is very social, but as a current participant there I can assure you that everyone is very accepting of whoever might join. It will never take more than three lessons to be good friends with others, even if your more on the socially anxious side, the club will get you out of your shell, and the supervisor is really friendly and has many a story to tell, but overall the club is a good way to socialise and make friends with others.

The benefits of the Science and Sorcery club might include:

- *Socialising and making friends*
- *Getting writing ideas from other's experiences*
- *Having fun*
- *Sharing writing ideas, inspirations and unloading stress from the day to a group of relatable, and accepting people*

These benefits all positively affect a participant's mental and social health, so it would be almost completely beneficial to attend. If the club was a movie, I'd rate it a 5/5, but the club is not a movie, so I can only highly recommend attendance. The people are accepting and social, the supervisor is friendly and good-natured, and overall, you'll have tons of fun and make plenty of friends, all these and countless more reasons are why it would be beneficial to your mental health.

You can now sign up for Science and Sorcery
in Term 1 2025!



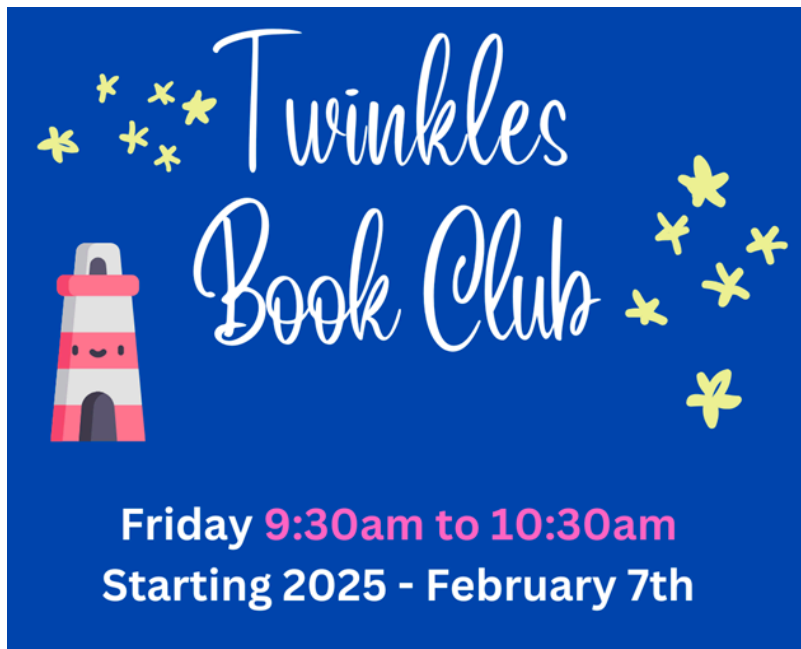
Are you aged 9-13 and interested in art?

Let's explore story setting and illustration ideas using a variety of art media and activities to encourage creativity. Term 1 workshops are designed to help children further utilise their art skills in drawing, and painting, and explore mixed media as an illustrative style.

8 weeks...

- Wednesday 5th February 3:45-5:15pm until Wednesday 26th March 2025.
- Full Term Fees: **\$200 and includes 8 full comprehensive** 1.5hr workshops and ALL materials.

[Sign up for Adventures in Art in Term 1, 2025](#)



Gosh - no wonder we can't sit still! It is great to share that Helen Brownlie is our in-house Twinkle Book Club volunteer for Term 1, so you can say 'YES' to that lovely routine of bringing in your toddler. No bookings are required.

You wouldn't happen to be heading to Belgium would you...

Motamo is getting closer, and we can't believe our luck that a handful of children will have their work exhibited in a book created just for the Biennale.

If you think you may actually indeed be in the area, please please PLEASE consider visiting on our behalf. It would be our pleasure to introduce you to the Festival Director and we are sure you will be the VIP's you deserve to be.



EIGHTH INTERNATIONAL CHILDREN'S BOOK BIENNIAL

The Centre de la Gravure et de l'Image Imprimée (CGII) will be hosting the international children's book biennial «MOTAMO». The theme chosen for this eighth edition is «FABULANIMO». The exhibition will be on view from Saturday 5 April to Sunday 18 May 2025 during the museum's opening hours. The exhibition will open on 6 April, the first Sunday of the month.

BOOKS CAN BE SENT IN FROM NOW UNTIL 4 APRIL 2025.

ATHÉNÉE PROVINCIAL DE LA LOUVIÈRE - 28 boulevard du Tivoli - 7100 LA LOUVIÈRE - BELGIQUE
OR CENTRE DE LA GRAVURE ET DE L'IMAGE IMPRIMÉE - 10 rue des Amours - 7100 LA LOUVIÈRE - BELGIQUE

FOR ALL INFORMATION : +32 (0)475 81 42 90 - aregnier@raeditions.net



Volunteers - wanted, needed,
adored!

If you have an hour spare each week, or a superpower looking to be unleashed in 2025, please consider us.

DESCRIPTIONS:

- Regular readers for Twinkles Outreach
 - Read to groups of children in a school setting
 - Time: 1 hour per week for 8 weeks in the school term
 - Blue Card required
- Gallery Supervisors
 - Staff the gallery
 - Time: 2 hour blocks during exhibitions
- The One-Way Library
 - Regularly popping in to 'sticker' books, or deliver books
 - Time: 1 to 2 hours per week
- Apple for the Teacher...
 - We constantly hear of children who are struggling with their reading, and the family cannot afford a tutor... Reach out and let us know if you have time so we can organise to support a little one who needs a boost!
- Merchandise Creators | Arty Crafty People Wanted
 - to help with making 'stuff' for our quirky shop The Explorers Emporium
 - Time: as much or as little as you would like to share!

For more information, please email:

hello@thelighthousewoomba.org



We need your help! Please consider liking our Read to Lead campaign, as we need enough to start getting noticed. Even sharing it wildly would be awesome.

The idea is to keep everyone inspired to read to their children every day!

[https://www.instagram.com/readtolead_?
igsh=emVybdNneTZ2ZjVi](https://www.instagram.com/readtolead_?igsh=emVybdNneTZ2ZjVi)



Grab your picnic blanket and a hamper and get ready for chilled weekends with great tunes, warm weather and good times.



FREE LIVE MUSIC

DATE	WHERE	TIME	BAND
SATURDAY 1 FEB 2025	Pioneer Park, Clifton	4pm - 7pm	Lodi
SATURDAY 8 FEB 2025	Rocky Creek Hall, Rocky Creek	4pm - 7pm	Aussie and the Menace
SATURDAY 15 FEB 2025	Queensland State Rose Garden, Newtown	4pm - 7pm	Elizabeth Rae
SATURDAY 22 FEB 2025	Haden Public Hall, Haden	4pm - 7pm	Then That

Visit www.tr.qld.gov.au/summertunes for more information.

Correct at time of printing. Outdoor events are subject to weather conditions.

ARTWORK BY INGRID BARTKOWIAK ©2024

SCHOOL LIBRARIES WINDOW TO THE WORLD

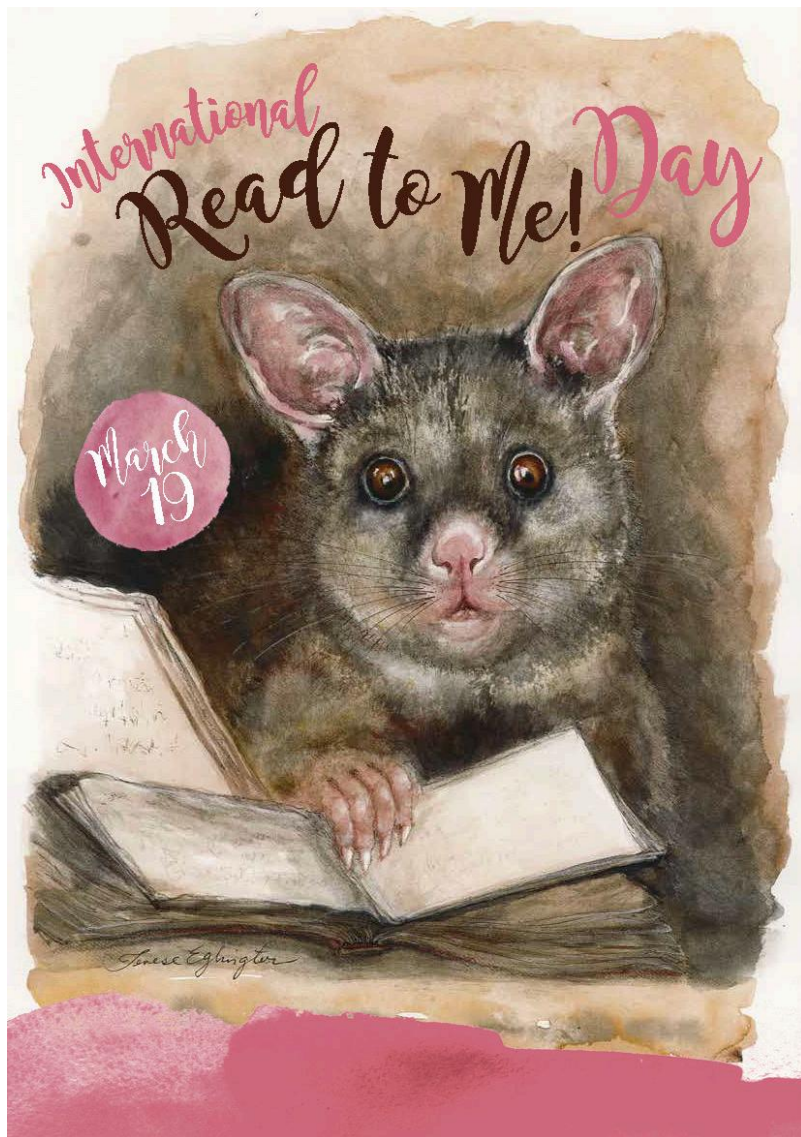
QUEENSLAND
SCHOOL LIBRARY
ASSOCIATION

Queensland School Library Week
February 10-14, 2025



Here's a thought...

if you go to the Bookfest and pick up a bundle of children's books to donate to us to give them to children in the region, then literally, everyone is a winner!



Say hello to our very own book possum!

Possum is a gift from Terese Eglington and will feature in this year's International Read to Me Day promotional posters.

This is the 10th year of this campaign, which has meant wonderful relationships with publishers, educators, passionate book lovers all over the world. Particularly mentionable is Lameck in Tanzania as the Founder of the Bright Hope Reading Initiative. If you are heading to Tanzania, let us know if you have a few kg's of luggage spare for books! He would also welcome, with his whole heart, any financial support as he grows this charity. We also loved our 'Water' Exhibition with Zahra and her students in Iran. It constantly elates us that children from ALL AROUND THE WORLD

love being read to! So the question is simply this... Who are you reading to tonight?



Authors adore Illustrators - and this is one of those lovely moments captured. Emma caught up with Brittany Moore during her visit to Toowoomba. Brittany handed over illustrations for Jamali (you saw a character study last edition, now another gentle insight with the image below as the book is coming together for CQUniversity) Brittany helps Emma with the collaborative projects with children in the region creating picture books (like Maverick, and Superhero) and this was a side project with Darling Heights Hub led by Dr Margaret Kettle. Busting to show you images... Brittany is super talented, but you will have to wait :)

DATE CLAIMERS (got your diary handy?)

Feb 14 - [International Book Giving Day](#).

March 19 - [International Read to Me Day](#).

March 19 - The launch of The Festival of Small Schools

May 14 - [Book Links Narelle Oliver Lecture](#), Brisbane

May 22-24 - Sydney Writers Festival 'Live and Local' at The Empire



One last thing...

It is a genuine privilege to start each day knowing we are turning ourselves inside out to help families help their children to read...

It is our non-negotiable, wanting to ensure every child in Australia reads, writes, and creates with confidence.

This goal informs everything we do at The Lighthouse, and in translating this goal into programs, projects, and publications, we have:

- A library inspiring parents to read to their children every day, fostering a love for stories, the joy of reading, and prioritising getting books into homes.
- A writers' centre empowering children to experience the impact of their own words, sparking a passion for expression and for writing.
- A gallery igniting children's curiosity and wonder by engaging them with cultural experiences, nurturing their imagination and their creativity.

Did you know...

The Lighthouse is supported by The Child Writes Fund Ltd and it is a **registered charity** and All donations over \$2 are tax deductible.



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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