

**Subject:** FW: The Beacon #15 The Lighthouse Toowoomba Newsletter

**Date:** Saturday, 29 October 2022 at 12:14:36 pm Australian Eastern Standard Time

**From:** The Lighthouse Toowoomba

On Friday, 14 October 2022, 01:59:29 pm AEST, The Lighthouse Toowoomba  
<hello@thelighthouse.toowoomba.org> wrote:



Welcome to Week 32 at The Lighthouse Toowoomba.

Week two of term four and we are off with a bang! Once again there have been so many happenings in the spaces of 126 Margaret St.

BookLinks' latest exhibition 'Piano Fingers' by Caroline Magerl, a truly beautiful art show, opened last Friday 7 October at The Write Gallery. The exhibition runs until the end of the month and there have been fabulous flow on activities running all week.

We were thrilled to have the actual physical product of our Hello Baby Calendar hot off the press and into our little artist hands this week at the Calendar Launch as part of Mental Health month! We can't wait to see it out in the community when it is gifted to new mums at The Toowoomba Hospital from November.



## "Piano Fingers" an exhibition review by Sandy Pottinger

The Lighthouse Toowoomba's Write Gallery is a hub of creativity. Its stated brief "to make imagination a destination, curiosity a way of life, and play an essential to understanding" could not be better exemplified than in the gallery's current exhibition. "Piano Fingers" shares the journey of exploration leading to the publication of an eponymous children's book.

Caroline Magerl is the internationally acclaimed author, artist, an illustrator whose latest book "Piano Fingers" was launched earlier this year in London. Caroline was at the opening of her exhibition here in Toowoomba. Her gentle modesty, her desire to turn her passion for art and literature into a shared experience added a further dimension to her compelling illustrations.

The works on show range from quick thumb nail sketches and notations of colour, memory glimpses of interiors with their pools and auras of light, to larger works that are illustrative, certainly, but carry a loose painterly and interpretive quality in the softly diffused backgrounds. There is a quirky wonderland sense of magic and suspended reality seen especially in works that feature Gus, the ghost cat-mentor, old as eternity, who lives in the piano. His expressions are judgmental, encouraging, and amused-sometimes bored and sometimes joyous. Bea, the piano student who longs to play like an angel, is serious, a little uncertain, but totally determined.

The illustrations with their careful attention to space, lighting, the placement of objects, and the occasionally skewed perspective create images that seem to breathe and reverberate: sound grabs from a secret coda that swells, weaves and swirls into the cacophony of emotions that is the silent music of the soul.

The exhibition is a visual delight, it is a story about a story, it is also a voyage of discovery that lays out the process of turning imagery into language, drawing the conceptual strings into a complex cat's cradle that appears disarmingly simple.





## Hello Baby We're Ready to Hang!

On Monday 10 October we launched the official printed Hello Baby Calendar at an afternoon tea coinciding with Mental Health Week.

Toowoomba Hospital Foundation CEO Alison Kennedy and Artist Caroline Margerl along with Emma Mactaggart presented the little artist's (whose work is featured in the calendar) with their very own copy.

There were beaming smiles all around as Alison commented on the joy of the collaboration, and what a valuable resource the calendar will be to the new mothers at The Toowoomba Hospital - where it will be distributed.

A huge thankyou to all those who participated and Queensland Community Foundation for making the project entirely possible.

We hope this will be an enduring project within the community.





## Momentum Health Workshops

Contributing to QLD Mental Health Week and creating awareness about techniques and activities to support your mental health, [Momentum Mental Health](#) has been running a series of workshops in The Rabbit Hole for the community.

The workshops were a fantastic opportunity for individuals to dip into a degustation of practices that are evidenced based to buoy mental health.

From art therapy, painting, music, yoga, zine making and creative writing - there was so much on offer to harness the power of creativity in therapy.

Momentum Health are the leading community mental health champion in The Darling Downs with real engagement at a local level and it was wonderful to see their incredible work in action.





## School visit from Toowoomba Grammar

A gaggle of Toowoomba Grammar grade one students joined Caroline Magerl in The Write Gallery for a gallery tour of The Piano Fingers exhibition and live book reading. Then with classical music being played as inspiration for creation, they took to the floor with chalk and drew some of their own fabulous illustrations!

It was terrific to host another local school in the space and watch imaginations run wild.



## Flexischool Students Inspired Through Illustration

Flexischool students were also lucky enough to experience the 'Magerl Magic' during a Watercolour Masterclass led by Caroline.

Caroline inspired the children with her own story of leaving school at a young age and being self-taught in painting, drawing and creative writing.

It was wonderful to see this group of Year 10 students unlocking their creative talent and expressing themselves through art.



## Quirky Lecture Series

Listeners on Facebook live were treated to a wonderfully quirky interview with the lady of the hour - Caroline Magerl - and Tristan James, a professional Elvis impersonator! The link between the two was their shared passion for music, creativity and carving your own unconventional path! Caroline's wonderful story was brought to life by Tristan in a delightful conversation. If you missed The Quirky Lecture you can still catch it on our Facebook page.

Dates For Your Diary:

# FREE WORKSHOP

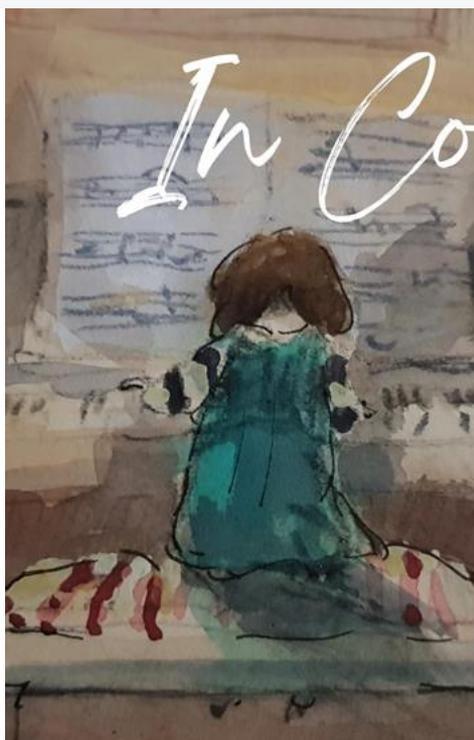
3:30pm to 4:30pm

TUESDAY 18TH OCTOBER

Build an instrument and  
then PLAY with the  
Queensland Chamber Orchestra!



## CAMERATA FOR CHILDREN



## *In Conversation*

Nette Hilton

CBCA Judge, artist, and author with artist,  
illustrator, and author  
Caroline Magerl

In conversation as the final event celebrating the  
Book Links Exhibition 'Piano Fingers'

SUNDAY, 30TH OF OCTOBER

11AM

THE WRITE GALLERY

# WONDERFUL WAND WORKSHOP



JOIN US TO MAKE MAGIC WANDS AND WEAVE MAGIC WORDS. PARTICIPANTS WILL BE ABLE TO DESIGN AND BUILD THEIR OWN WAND OUT OF CRAFT MATERIALS AS WELL AS PLAYING WORD GAMES.

WORKSHOP IS SUITABLE FOR 8 TO 10 YEAR OLDS.

SATURDAY, 12TH OF NOVEMBER  
10:30AM TO 12:30PM

REGISTER ONLINE AT  
[HTTPS://WWW.THELIGHTHOUSE.TOOWOOMBA.ORG/](https://www.thelighthouse.toowoomba.org/)

## 'Orchestra of Wilderness'

An exhibition of paintings by:

# Frida Forsberg

Official Opening:

Friday 4th of November 2022

6.00pm - 9.00pm

Exhibiting from November 4- 13

10 am to 4 pm

(Closed Mondays & Saturday 12)

THE WRITE GALLERY

126 MARGARET STREET, TOOWOOMBA

[facebook.com/FridaForsbergArtwork](https://www.facebook.com/FridaForsbergArtwork)



# STORY COMPETITION!

Prizes to  
be won!

## Category One (Ages up to 10yrs Old)

Please submit a picture and a short story responding to the prompt *Orchestra of Wilderness!*

Unleash your wild side.

## Category Two (Ages 10 to 15yrs old)

A short story responding to the prompt *Orchestra of Wilderness!*

Entries can be fiction, non-fiction, or poetry and are between 100 - 1000 words long.

Submit to [hello@thelighthousewoomba.org](mailto:hello@thelighthousewoomba.org) by the 5th of November

## And just one more thing...

Make sure you take the time to pop in to our one-way library over the next few months while you can, as our hours over the summer holidays are going to significantly reduce while we get our ducks in a row for 2023.





## Thank you!

An enormous thank you to Wadzi for donating her time and knowledge to our first ever adult Creative101 Series workshop. 'Fashion Drawing For Beginners' was an evening of great fun, with a wonderful group of people trying their hand at a new skill.

We are so very appreciative to Wadzi and to the attendees whose ticket sales go towards funding one of our wildly creative literacy workshops for children. Please keep an eye out on our website for the next fabulous adult workshop coming up.





## We've Still Got Merch!

The Lighthouse merchandise range is growing - just in time for spring! We now have our very own flower presses for sale so you can preserve your posies and create some floral fabulousness.

We've also added Shadow Puppets and Notebooks to our offering. So pop in and say hello and pick yourself up some goodies! The fresh mountain air is flying out the door...

We now have posters too. Get your Christmas shopping started with us!

### 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 9am and 10am



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 [media@thelighthousewoomba.org](mailto:media@thelighthousewoomba.org)



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](mailto:hello@thelighthousewoomba.org)

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