



The days are flying as we sail into Week 14 at The Lighthouse Toowoomba. We continue to forge new relationships in the community and are being welcomed with open arms!

There have been some wonderful visitors through our doors recently including Lee Faulkner who visited The Lighthouse Toowoomba to read “The Family Tree” for National Simultaneous Storytime.

We facilitated a Carers Gateway [Wellways](#) for young writers and Jess Ritchie led a 'Your Future In Words' workshop for a group of teenagers in conjunction with Emerge Cafe.

The Lighthouse also created a program to compliment Sydney Writers Festival ‘Live + Local’ at the Empire Theatre and despite the weather good feedback was received.



Word Fest: Words From The Past

On the 21st May, Shirley Chambers launched her book *Words From the Past* in the Rabbit Hole surrounded by friends and family. *Words From the Past* is a collection of historical vignettes about writers with connections to the Darling Downs. The book showcases a range of national treasures like Steele Rudd and Bruce Dawes, to lesser known yet enthralling writers such as Dorothy Cottrell and George Essex Evans. The book has been published as part of the celebrations surrounding Word Fest Toowoomba and will be available at the festival in the first weekend of June.

Visit [Word Fest](#) for more information.



Make Your Mark: Your Future In Words

The wonderful Jess Ritchie Author of Make your Mark led a “Your Future in Words” workshop at The Lighthouse for Emerge Cafe - A social enterprise cafe employing youth who need a helping hand.

The workshop was a resounding success and uncovered a budding author, a hockey superstar, healer, comedian, and a nurturer amongst the participants.

Jess commented 'I was so proud of the work that each young woman achieved and dared to dream big - with many admitting they've never allowed themselves to even think about it and were hesitant about even showing up...but they did. It was powerful work and I was so grateful I could help in a small way.'

We in turn are grateful to Jess for giving her time and expertise to such a positive initiative. [#makeyourmark](#)



We Will Be Back

The Lighthouse created a program to compliment Sydney Writers Festival 'Live + Local' at the Empire Theatre. With 90 avid readers attending sessions over the two days, despite the diabolical rain, and it was a remarkable opportunity for local writers to practice the art of performance and conversation with a live audience. We are already talking about the event next year and welcome any suggestions.

From the Empire...

'Just wanted to touch base and see how things went for you over the weekend. We were pleased with the event despite the unrelenting rain. The little feedback gathered was good. We had great traction and interest in the lead up to the event but I suspect the weather kept more than a few indoors! Would love to get your feedback in anticipation of another event next year!'



National Simultaneous Storytime

Thank you so very much to Triple M's local presenter Lee Faulkner for visiting The Lighthouse Toowoomba to read "The Family Tree" for National Simultaneous Storytime.

This event is held annually by the Australian Library and Information Association. Every year a picture book, written and illustrated by Australians is read simultaneously in libraries, schools, kindergartens, childcare centres, homes and more around Australia.

The stars aligned when Lee happened to walk into The Lighthouse Toowoomba right on cue and so graciously agreed to read.

[The Australian Library and Information Association](#)



One Story : Two Worlds

Catherine Parker guided a group of young artists through the process of creating images for an upcoming exhibition. The tempo of the workshop was peaceful, informative, generous and expansive as Catherine shared her wisdom and experience gained over two years having worked on a water-themed exhibition 'Urban Calm' just shown at the [Side Gallery in Brisbane](#).

The work created for Water – One Story : Two Worlds will be on exhibition in The Write Gallery in July, with work from Iranian children!



Thank you Monique!

Monique Correy's luscious exhibition Holiday comes to an end today when the paintings will go to their new homes. Carefully curated by the beautiful minds of Aaron Bourne and Michael Valdal it was wonderful to see the show hanging together, noting the beautiful washes of colour from deep blue to buoyant pinks. There was also all the added beauty of children's chalk drawings which have elevated the floor from dull to delightful!



Momentum Mental Health

Library For All

Calling Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander story tellers - educators, youth workers, early childhood workers, social workers, university students, writers, librarians - to write a children's books with us.

THURSDAY 9th June 4pm to 8pm

email: emma@thelighthousetoowoomba.org for more information

(We can send you a copy of the flyer, it's a bit hard to see this version here!)

OUR YARNING - CHILDREN'S BOOK WRITING WORKSHOP

Calling Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander story tellers – educators, youth workers, early childhood workers, social workers, university students, writers, librarians – to write a children's books with us.

Library For All is creating a collection of 500 mirror books for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children. These mirror books reflect the lived experience of the reader, and that is why all books in the [Our Yarning](#) collection are authored by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

Your voice as an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander person can add to this unique collection. You are invited to write a story that could become a popular book and help support children learn to love reading and improve literacy in a more encouraging and culturally positive way.

You will be supported through the workshop and do not need any creative writing skills or experience, just a willingness to share your stories.

Workshops will be led by Library For All's Cultural Advisor Dr Julie Owen, a Nurrunga Ngarrindjeri woman from South Australia living in Broome with experience in health, education and community development across the top end for over 30 years.

Date: Thursday 9 June
Time: 4pm – 8pm
Location: The Lighthouse, 126 Margaret St, Toowoomba
Cost: FREE. Light refreshments and dinner provided

Email emma@thelighthouse.toowoomba.org to register your interest to attend a workshop.
For more information about Our Yarning email: julie.owen@libraryforall.org.



Twinkles Book Club



Welcome to our reading club for young readers and their parents. All babies, toddlers, and preschoolers are welcome to join us!

Our little lights and parents meet on Wednesdays and Fridays from 9am to 10am to read and play together.

IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS PLEASE EMAIL HELLO@THELIGHTHOUSE.TOOWOOMBA.ORG

The Lighthouse Toowoomba | Guiding Creativity | 126 Margaret Street Toowoomba CBD



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



Camerata Visit

Superb; enigmatic; sensational; hauntingly beautiful; spiritual; uplifting... shall I go on! The performance 'Four Seasons Reimagined' by classical music group Camerata on Wednesday 26th May was simply mind-blowing for me. I cried when I debriefed with the organisation's new Chair Dr Pamela Greet as we talked after the performance, for we shared we were both bereft of music, and certainly live performances, as children growing up in the bush! To learn that one of their aspirational goals is to have a mobile team of performers creating a production piece specifically for children and taking it on the road to regional Australia captured my attention and we will certainly turn ourselves inside out at The Lighthouse to do our bit to facilitate this. In the meantime, to have hosted Michael Sterzinger, Executive Director, and Jonny Ng, Education Manager to tour The Lighthouse and then for Jonny to play an impromptu piece whilst in The Write Gallery, inspired by Monique Correy's exhibition 'Holiday' whilst considering the installation from Rockville State School P-1 children, and the chalk drawings from Chiselhurst C&K and St Thomas Moore Primary School students was simply humbling.

Our plan for free wildly inventive literacy-based workshops for children who need them from The Lighthouse does indeed work!

X Emma

Camerata



To make the truly generous contribution to this remarkable community we wish to make, it is only possible with the support of volunteers. THANK YOU to Mia Rogers for your support in the workshops, reception team Jen Perrignon and Bessi-Jo Zischke; Fiona Bryce who is wrangling our social media and communications; John Randall who is assisting us with grants; Jodie Gordon, Bridget Kings, and readers Yvonne Blakeney, Jo Kelly and Charlotte Grigg for supporting the Twinkles Book Club. We are on a roll!



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@thelighthousetoowoomba.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@thelighthousetoowoomba.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@thelighthousetoowoomba.org

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