

Subject: Newsletter The Beacon #57 Spring!

Date: Friday, 6 September 2024 at 5:22:58 pm Australian Eastern Standard Time

From: The Lighthouse Toowoomba

To: The Lighthouse Toowoomba



**Welcome to Week 31 for 2024 at
The Lighthouse Toowoomba**

**Cast your eyes on the summary of
this edition's content:**

***The Shiny Happy Art + Ideas Show**

***Schools visiting**

***Donations Donations Donations**

***Darling Heights | Harlaxton |
Rockville - Special Projects**

***Motamo 2025**

***Matt Ottley and Tina Wilson are
back in October!**

***Made to Move in November**

*Hello world, here's a song that we're
singin'*

Come on, get happy

*A whole lotta lovin' is what we'll be
bringin'*

We'll make you happy!

Like a David Cassidy ditty the feeling of HAPPY is palpable at The Lighthouse as we welcome you our 57th edition of The Beacon! Shiny Happy Art has emanated it's joyful vibe across the whole building!

Anna Battle's glorious exhibition opened last Sunday 1 September on the most perfect Spring day! There was a buzz in The Write Gallery as a crowd of people gathered to see the wonderful talents of Anna through her artwork and incredible art themed items on display and available for purchase!

Shiny Happy Art has been a year in the making and it is a must see exhibition celebrating flowers, Toowoomba and all the shiny and happy things!

The past fortnight has also had us out and about doing what makes us truly happy - visiting schools and continuing to encourage and develop literacy in children!

We have graciously received many more book donations from our supporters and Glenda our wonderful volunteer has been busy sorting, bundling and readying them to send out to children in the community

Matt Otley and Tina Wilson are joining us again in October with The Sound of Picture Books Exhibition and Performances. Don't miss these powerful performances. Head to our website to [book](#) your spot!



joie de vivre in The Write Gallery as Shiny Happy Art Opens!

If it was at all possible to teleport you to this opening event, you too would feel the genuine happiness and joy that is Anna's exhibition and show. 88 guests celebrated on Sunday 1st of September, and there was a 'spring' in everyone's step, especially with the official launch of the Turkey Smugglers!

Anna Battle is officially in and amongst it at The Write Gallery. Anna's Shiny Happy Art and Ideas show is truly a behemoth of brightness with something for everyone in SEPTEMBER. Some of the events include:

URBAN SKETCHING

SCRIBBLESESH IN THE GALLERY

FRIDAY FLOWERS

Head to our website www.thelighthouse.toowoomba.org or even better, straight to [Anna's website](#) for more information on each of the events for all the juicy details! We are so excited for all the happy shininess. Yes there is a great deal happening all around Toowoomba, so don't miss out!



Happy Shiny Art in Review

by Sandy Pottinger

Shiny Happy Art and Ideas Show A

visual extravaganza by Anna Battle
The Write Gallery 1-30 September
2024. The Write Gallery is a large and
inclusive space that seamlessly
transmogrifies to accommodate every
exhibition and the creative vision of
each artist. Anna Battle's Shiny Happy
Art and Ideas Show is big. It is
colourful. It is exuberant. It is a
celebration. It fills the space but with
room to manoeuvre and take time to
appreciate the variety and the
versatility of this remarkable artist.

The exhibition is a joyous welcome to
spring and also a well-timed tribute to
Toowoomba's Carnival of Flowers in its
seventy-fifth year. Anna Battle is a local
artist with a profound involvement in
the community. Through the business
extension of her practice, "Shiny Happy
Art", Anna offers an array of
possibilities that range from illustration,
graphics, design, painting
commissions, and on-line classes. Her
belief in the creative spirit has
encouraged many hesitant potential
artists to gain confidence, and "have a
go". It was the German artist, Joseph
Beuys, who famously said: "Everyone
is an artist...everyone has the potential
to create, and potentially change
society"¹. For Beuys the term "artist"
went beyond the obvious, he saw it as
symbolizing the essence of being
human. He believed that we all have
the capacity to shape our lives and the
world around us, that life itself should
be an artwork.

It is a brief that could be said to drive

and guide Anna Battle's journey of creativity. In the 'shop section' there are tea towels, hand painted cheese bells-many decorated as homages to artists such as Whiteley, Frida Kahlo, Matisse, and Margaret Preston. There are record albums by Flamingo Blonde with the cover design by Anna. Puzzles, mouse mats, post cards, and beanies also vie for position. The exhibition marks the launch of a new Anna Battle line of personalized merchandise: Turkey Smugglers, loose, comfy, and roomy board shorts decorated with clever scrub turkey motifs. An art vending machine adds novelty and interest with its selection of gift cards, pens, water brushes, bookmarks, and gingerbread men.

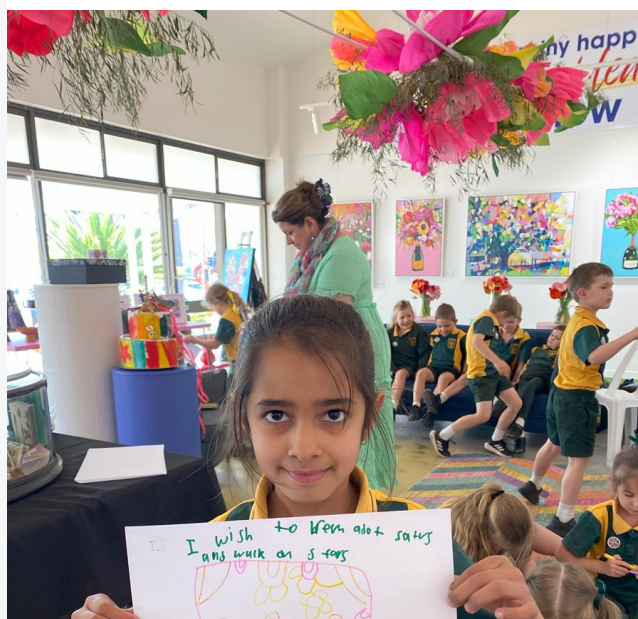
An Instagram throne invites patrons to pause to take a happy memory portrait, while the western end of the gallery is resplendent with the lively pattern designed by Anna for the wallpaper company, Milton and King. The walls pursue the floral theme with flower and tabletop still life paintings of vibrant colours in dramatic compositions. The celebration of good times and happy associations bursts in bouquets from a series 'top drop' champagne bottles. A landscape, wildlife studies, and four abstracts in bright swatches of colour attest to the artist's diverse interests.

However, arguably the most rewarding part of this exhibition is contained in the central display case. Here we have a series of the artist's notebooks, snippets of paper with quick sketches,

journals that document captured moments, drawings, and small watercolour studies. Tellingly, they define the true artist, the keen observation, visual stories, experiences witnessed, recorded, and savoured. The spontaneity, honesty, the sense of exploration and discovery are tangible elements that will hopefully encourage the artist to allow a little time to paint purely for herself. Anna Battle's exhibition is a bright, cheerful, and alluring experience of colour, harmony, incentive, and opportunity that invites further participation offered through a series of structured workshops.

Sandy Pottinger is a local artist and writer. She is a retired lecturer in Visual Arts, University of Southern Queensland, and wrote the Toowoomba Chronicle's art review column "Around the Galleries" for twenty-five years

Curious to know more? <http://www.annabattleart.com/ab-artiststatement>

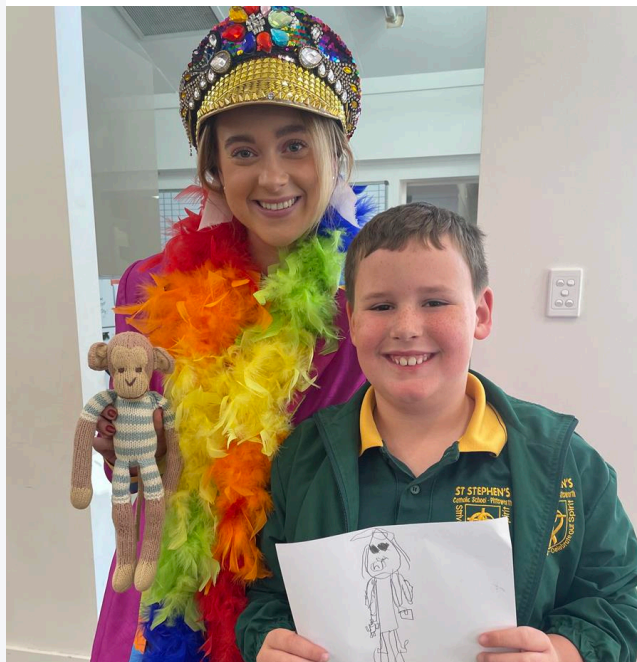




Shiny and Happy St Stephen's!

The gallery was filled with the sounds of excitement and wonder at the Prep and Grade One classes from St Stephen's Primary, Pittsworth, immersed themselves in Shiny Happy Art + Ideas. That is 56 children and 6 supporting adults joining us - and truly, this is our very, very favourite event.

From imagining their own cakes filled with wonder (and at times the Eiffel Tower) with Anna, to joining Emma in Mashed Theatre's space where they did a character building workshop with Emma using her book *Lily Fabourama Glamourama* – suffice it to say, everyone had a great time.





Yarimas helps at Homework Club - and Colour My World

Yarimas is helping us as an intern for a Scanlon Foundation funded project 'Colour My World'. She has been practicing setting up workshops encouraging children to do a drawing of 'something they love'. The images will be converted to an out-line drawing for a colour-in book.

**Children of ALL AGES are invited to
drop in to our**

**Open House 'Colour My World' at
The Lighthouse**

**Tuesday 25th and Wednesday 26th
September**

**10am to 12noon and draw
'something they love'.**

Each entry will go into the draw for prize – there are five prizes to be won.



Thank you Darcy!

Whilst we are talking about young people in our community, Darcy Meagher has clocked up over 35 hours volunteering for Homework Club, and this is even more admirable when you consider he is in Year 12 *and* there is a great deal of study to be done! Darcy is a maths wizard, is heading to uni next year, and we have loved having him with us. We wish him every success in the future.



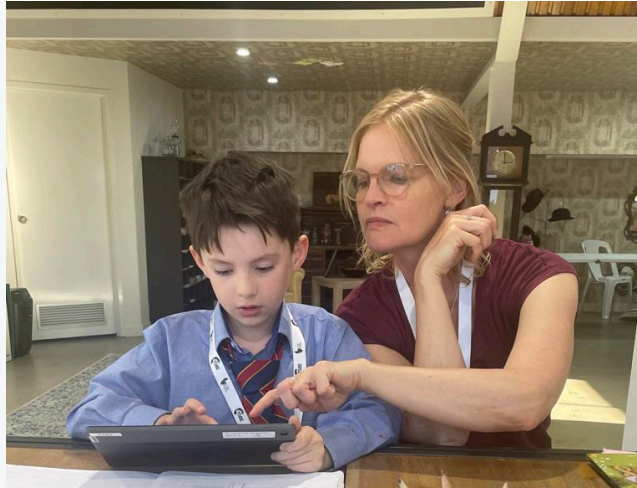
Thank you to 'our' Glennie Girls!

But wait, there are MORE REMARKABLE young people - thank you to the wonderful team from The Glennie School – Olivia, Ally, (and Izabella) The girls brought sunshine and joy with them each week, and we have to say, we all did a very happy dance in the office when they confirmed they are back for Term 4. Already we can't imagine Homework Club without them!



And thank you Heidi!

Thank you Heidi for stepping into Emma's shoes to lead Homework Club for a couple of weeks. Whilst homework club is about just that – supporting children with their homework – there are also group activities, the children use tablets to access Literacy For Kids program, and memory games.



Motamo Biennale Livres D'enfants is with Emma Mactaggart.

September 4 at 6:30 PM · 🌐

It's back to school! Working preparing for the upcoming biennial! We'll start with our Australian friends in Toowoomba whose drawings and texts we've just received.

Here's the material to make new books.

🌐 [See original](#) · [Rate this translation](#)



MOTAMO, Biennale internationale du livre d'enfants

Motamo will show again in 2025, and happily, for the third time, we have created a body of work to contribute to the exhibition FABULANIMO.

Children here in Toowoomba made work under the expertise of artist Terese Eglington and wrote copy with Emma Mactaggart, and this is sent to Belgium. At a school in Belgium, students make lino cut templates from the drawings, another group render the illustrations, and then they make hand-

made books. Children from all over the world participate, and we are so proud to represent Australia! If you are at all curious, [follow their facebook page](#) and truly, if you are in Belgium in 2025, promise you will visit on our behalf!



FROM 5 APRIL TO 25 MAY 2025 - LA LOUVIÈRE - BELGIUM

MOTAMO biennial theme

FABULANIMO

Welcome to Australia's most unique team writing competition

The annual *Write a Book in a Day* competition gives participants the chance to collaborate and flex their creativity, as well as compete for tons of prizes, and help make a difference to the lives of kids with cancer.

Teams of between 5 and 10 participants choose any day between 1 May and 30 September to write and illustrate an entire book. Each team will be given unique parameters for their story for their chosen writing day, ensuring that no one gets a head start!

Teams are encouraged to fundraise during the competition, with entry fees and all money raised going directly to The Kids' Cancer Project to support vital childhood cancer research. Every book submitted will also be made available for free to kids in hospitals around Australia.

Of course, it's a competition first and foremost! All books submitted will be

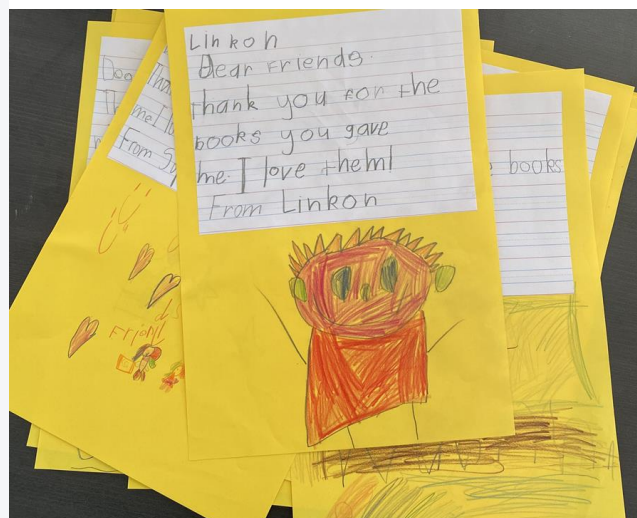
judged by our talented team of judges, and there are [prizes](#) on offer throughout the competition. Winners of the 'Best Overall Book' and 'Best Illustrations' prizes will be chosen from each state as well as nationally at the end of the competition.

Key dates:

Registration is open now!

Choose a writing date from 1 June to 30 September

Fundraising for the purpose of awards and prizes runs from 1 May to 30 September



Letters from Vale View

We received a bundle of thank you letters from the Vale View Prep class thanking us for the book packs. We also received a book donation back from one of the families this week- full circle moment of mutual happiness



Sydney Writers Festival Workshop Feedback

We have had some wonderful feedback from the Sydney Writer's Festival free workshops, including this from Gordon Clarke, who attended Georgia Harper's workshop 'Character Development':

"I think the initiative of promoting these type of classes by the Lighthouse is to be commended. Having tried to get some type of writing groups going in the Toowoomba region a few years ago, I think this centre which brings these different groups together under one roof is exemplary. I hope this continues into the future so that people who haven't yet considered a writing career, regardless of age, will have a great resource like the Lighthouse to give them the kickstart they need."

We are so grateful to all the authors for giving up their time for these workshops. There is only left to go with

Nola Passmore on 2 November.

Scroll down for more details!



The next Write Links

meeting will follow the Book Links AGM and will be held at The Lighthouse Toowoomba, 126 Margaret Street on Saturday 5 October. The Book Links AGM will be held first, starting at 12.00. We will then have the Write Links networking session over lunch from 1pm.

At 2pm we have been invited to attend a special one-hour performance with award-winning artist/composer Matt Ottley. He will be performing *How to Make a Bird* from his Sound of Picture Books series with a live orchestral group in The Write Gallery at The Lighthouse showcasing his unique composition technique of turning images into music and music into images. This will be the first live

performance of Matt's Sound of Picture Books initiative in Queensland.

PLEASE BOOK AT YOUR EARLIEST CONVENIENCE

The Lighthouse is proud to present internationally acclaimed artist, author and composer Matt Ottley's multi-modal initiative, The SOUND of PICTURE BOOKS.

This premiere exhibition features original artworks from many of Matt's celebrated picture books, along with sketches, scores, live musical performances and workshops. Discover the boundless possibilities of music, art and literature.

EXHIBITION DATES
FRIDAY 4 - SAT 26 OCTOBER
OPEN TUES-SAT 10am - 3pm

EXHIBITION/BOOK LAUNCH
SAT 5 OCTOBER 3:30-4:30pm, 'Stickboy'
by Rebecca Young and Matt Ottley

ALL AGE LIVE PERFORMANCES
FRIDAY 4 OCTOBER 1-2pm
SAT 5 OCTOBER 12-1pm & 2-3pm

THE SHAPE OF MUSIC CONCERT
THURS 10 OCTOBER 7-8:30pm
The Armitage, Toowoomba

The Write Gallery, part of The Lighthouse, 126 Margaret St, Toowoomba



Bookings for performances are essential
www.thelighthouse.toowoomba.org/whats-on
This project is supported by the Queensland Government through Arts Queensland.



The SOUND of PICTURE BOOKS

Exhibition & Performances

5 - 26 October 2024

Join us for the spectacular opening day of internationally renowned artist/author/composer Matt Ottley's **SOUND of PICTURE BOOKS** exhibition, featuring original artworks from many of Matt's celebrated picture books, along with sketches, scores, live musical performances and workshops.

Discover the boundless possibilities of music, art and literature!

EVENTS

SATURDAY 5th OCTOBER

ALL AGES LIVE MUSICAL PERFORMANCES

Watch the boundless possibilities of music and literature as Matt demonstrates his unique illustration and composition techniques. What does a picture sound like? What does a melody look like? See his magnificent children's book, 'How to Make a Bird', by author Meg McKinlay, come to life! Featuring award-winning artists Matt Ottley, narrator Tina Wilson, pianist Ayesha Gough, conductor Marco Bellasi & The Michael Haydn Orchestra.

[Click here to watch The Sound of Picture Books trailer.](#)

TIMES:

- [Session 1](#): 12-1pm
- [Session 2](#): 2-3pm

BOOKINGS: Bookings essential

Adults \$15, children FREE. Click on the session time links to book your ticket or visit

www.thelighthouse-toowoomba.org/whats-on

OFFICIAL EXHIBITION OPENING | BOOK LAUNCH

An opportunity to mingle with Matt Ottley and the Sound of Picture Books artistic team and to celebrate this premiere exhibition. The opening will include a special launch of 'Stickboy', the latest picture book by award-winning creators of 'Teacup', Rebecca Young & Matt Ottley. Both artists will be available for book signings.

TIME: 3:30-4:30pm

BOOKINGS: All welcome – FREE event (bookings not essential). [Please register your interest here.](#)

THURSDAY 10th OCTOBER

**THE SHAPE OF MUSIC CONCERT –
Ages 13+**

Discover the magic of live improved music and art with award-winning composer Matt Ottley and acclaimed pianist Ayesha Gough. This Queensland premiere concert explores creativity through Ottley's synaesthesia featuring violinist/conductor Marco Bellasi and special guests.

TIME: 7-8:30pm

VENUE: The Armitage, Toowoomba

BOOKINGS: Bookings essential through [The Empire Theatre via this link.](#)

SCHOOL VISITS | TOURS

TUESDAY 8th – WEDNESDAY 9th

OCTOBER

MEET THE ARTISTS

Matt Ottley and author/illustrator Tina Wilson are both available at the exhibition on Tuesday 8th and Wednesday 9th October for school tours/workshops. [Contact us at The Lighthouse](#) for queries or to make a booking.

OTHER TOURS

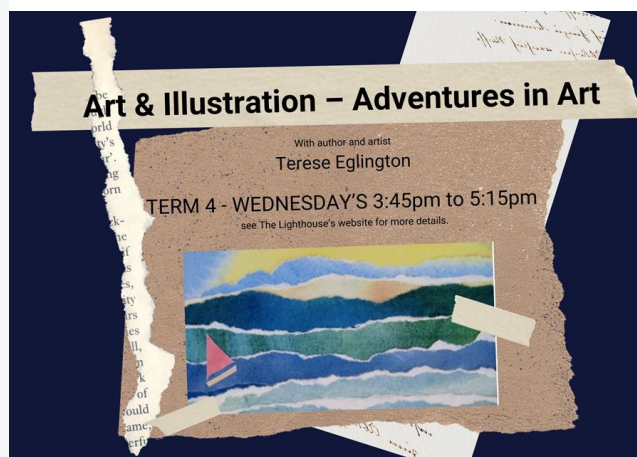
10th – 26th OCTOBER

For other tours and workshops at the exhibition please [contact us at The Lighthouse](#) to make a booking.

See you there!!

*This project is supported by the
Queensland Government*

AROUND THE GROUNDS IN TERM 3...



Workshops Update

Term 3 workshops are coming to a close and attendees are excited to put their new skills into practice! Term 4 is less than 4 weeks away and it has been stacked and sorted! On Monday's we will continue with Homework Club, and Nature Play on Tuesdays.

BOOKINGS ARE OPEN

for Wednesday: Art & Illustration –
Adventures in Art

With author and artist Terese Eglinton - Let's explore story setting and illustration ideas using a variety of art media and activities to encourage creativity. Term 4 workshops are designed to help children further utilise their art skills in drawing, and painting, and explore mixed media as an illustrative style. For those keen to extend their skills, students will be given the option of a 3-week term extension to focus on individual art projects.

There are two options - 7 week option
- \$175 or 10 week option - \$250

For more information, [click through
this link](#)

**THANK YOU - THANK
YOU - THANK YOU**



Purpa - thank you for the remarkable donation!

Today we received the most remarkable gift - all the proceeds from Emma's fire-side conversation with Purpa's founder Chris Black. Emma met Chris years ago when he was one of The Toowoomba Chamber of Commerce 'Future Leaders', and has always said that if Toowoomba was in the hands of people like Chris, it will be an incredible place to live! Chris made sure no stone unturned in the conversation, which we know is how Emma rolls anyway!



ACCESSIBILITY

Yay! Alyce! Thank you so much to Alyce Nelligan for taking time out of your very busy schedule today to visit Anna's exhibition and show. And THANK YOU again for the offer of a letter for support. We were so happy to hear The Write Gallery was truly accessible.

BOOK, BOOKS AND MORE BOOK DONATIONS

You keep delivering! The biggest thank you to our Lighthouse community for all

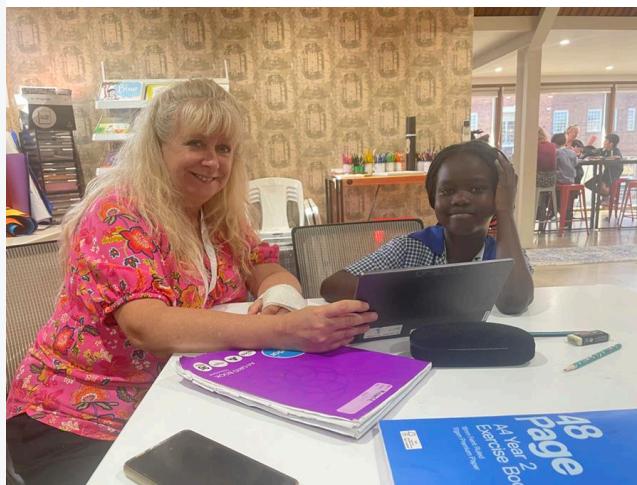
the book donations that we have received AGAIN over the past fortnight. Hundreds and hundreds of books have come through our door.

Thankyou to the Lilienstein, Silvester, Lucas and Howden family for your generous donations! We appreciate you.

The Lucas family actually donated books after their son received a bundle! He was so excited about his book gift he was inspired to package up his own preloved titles to bring them into The Lighthouse!

And we might have received hundreds but we could always do with thousands! We are working to make up bundles of books for more lucky ducks - this time for Yarraman State School.

Please keep the donations coming for as soon as we get them in we ship them out the door!



Welcome Colleen

Colleen popped in to enquire about Write Monday, and left with a gig as a

volunteer supporting teacher for Homework Club. We are super grateful for her time and expertise.



Thank you Sandy

We always celebrate a visit from Sandy. She is our number one supporter of our 'community gallery' with its intention of providing cultural capital in an exhilarating and engaging manner. As a truly gifted wordsmith, we adore her reviews of the exhibition and can't say THANK YOU loudly or often enough.



**What! Free Workshops?
Only one left?**

Our thanks again to the **Toowoomba Regional Council** for the grant for authors for the very successful Sydney Writers Festival 'Live and Local' program. One of the fabulous pluses of this grant was we asked every writer to share a workshop for us to gift to you, and we have ONE MORE LEFT for adults... Dive in, [book now](#), don't delay... this is a unique opportunity to top up your knowledge, hear from successful authors, learn more, more, and more! **True!**



Thank You
Toowoomba
Regional
Council

TOOWOOMBA
REGION

The Lighthouse Toowoomba
Saturday 2 November 2:00pm to 4:00pm
adults | writing workshop

Using Suspense Elements to Spice Up Any Fiction Genre!

When we hear the word 'suspense', we typically think of a book that involves danger, adventure, crime, mystery, plot twists, and a heroine running from a crazed killer. 'Suspense' is indeed a literary genre, but we can all learn how to use suspense elements to create compelling fiction regardless of genre. In this workshop, Nola Passmore will show you how to use these elements in your own writing so that your readers

keep turning pages.

Saturday 2 November at 2pm- [Book Here](#).



Coming in November - This Art Is Made to Move

This Art is Made to Move collaborative exhibition is coming to The Write Gallery in November. The brainchild of Nadine Reynolds, the exhibition preparation is stages - first silk paintings (informed by the student's work completed at the first workshop at The Lighthouse), followed by a fabulous social sewing circle by the fire.

Did you know...

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

Together we can do
what it takes to
ensure *every child in
Australia reads, writes,*

*and creates with
confidence.*

