

Subject: Newsletter The Beacon #61 Still in the game!

Date: Friday, 1 November 2024 at 5:14:53 pm Australian Eastern Standard Time

From: The Lighthouse Toowoomba

To: Emma Mactaggart



Welcome to Week 39 for 2024 at The Lighthouse Toowoomba

As always in The Beacon there is so much to share with you, it has been a fortnight of highs and lows. The highs are entirely possible because of your enduring support, so let's start with the good news!

* We had the most remarkable experience for the launch of the Parliamentary Friends of Children's Literacy in Canberra, realising the possibility of what could be when we all unite to a common cause.

* Any minute now we expect a delivery of 4,000 locally

printed books created by children, to be gifted to children, taking our three-year total of 14,218 books rehomed. That's right you read correctly - a delivery of 4000! We can hardly believe it! Already today the authors from Year 6 St Saviour's had a chance to 'unbox' their book Maverick, and sign copies (above) ready for the launch on Monday.

* So we invite you to drop in any time after the 11th November to pick up copies of those new books for the little ones in your world 😊 Think of how lovely it would be to share unique locally made Christmas gifts!

Now for the not so good news – we were not successful with our big Federal grant application which included your generous and thoughtful letter of support. We are doing everything the government asks of us in the grant outcomes, yet the sticking point is the eligible funding, hence missing the assessment criteria. This grant will pay for plasterers, painters, electricians, and builders, but not for the sheer man-power required to keep the doors open for us to provide the workshops, events, opportunities, mentoring, books, and support that we do.

You know, along with you, we were incredibly optimistic about this grant given our intended three year trial has indeed yielded a truly relevant shovel ready, low risk plan AND the grant application stated 'we may also

approve other activities which are linked to the objectives of the program’.

But we are not ones to despair...but rather ask ourselves 'Where to from here?'

And that's where you come in!

We are asking all of you to spread the word, to wax lyrically about what The Lighthouse does and what The Lighthouse means to you. Talk to your network about the importance of our work, and ultimately the importance of us being able to keep our doors open!

If you are feeling strongly about this, please send us a testimonial, a 'what The Lighthouse means to you' via email to emma@thelighthousetoowoomba.org

And from our end, we will continue to do everything we can to ensure opportunities for children in our region, doing everything we can to ensure they read, write, and create with confidence, and we will continue to also submit grant applications at state, local, and private foundation levels. We have until the end of June 2025 to secure significant funding, and promise you, not a second is to be wasted!

With only 61 days left of this year AND enthusiasm for planning for even half of 2025 we are **STILL IN THE GAME!**



Thank you Matt and Tina!

Last Saturday 26 October was the wrap up of Matt Ottley's wonderful exhibition The Sound of Picture Books. Matt and fellow musician Bernie ended thing on a wonderful note with a recital in the gallery.

We are incredibly grateful to Matt and his partner Tina for their generosity over the past few weeks. The reaction to everything they have shared - from The Sound of Picture Books Exhibition, The Shape of Music performance and the incredibly engaging workshops with local schools - has been met with much awe and enthusiasm. With HUNDREDS sharing this experience, we know you will join us imploring them both to come back again in 2025.



The Lighthouse's own community gallery is proving to be one of our favourite spaces. With over 59 workshops and events held in the space to-date, school groups big and small, are always welcome. The Sound of Picture Book was shared with 7 schools in those short couple of weeks the exhibition was in situ, and we never tire of how much everyone loves the experience.



One of the many magical moments in Matt's workshops is the creation of a truly unique painting! This one (below) was for the cohort at [Maridahdi Primary](#)



This project is supported by the Queensland Government through Arts Queensland. It was also made possible by the Australian Government Regional Arts Fund, which supports the arts in regional and remote Australia.



Made to Move

The next exhibition in The Write Gallery, Made to Move, opens on Saturday 16th November at 4:00pm with a very special event, and more information will be shared in our next newsletter!

Made to Move is the brainchild of Nadine Reynolds. Nadine first started capturing the images children made in her artwork in "Sewing the Seeds of Love" emulating her daughters' early drawings.

In "Made to Move" she has worked with 15 young artists to create artworks which capture a moment in time, honouring this stage of their lives. Nadine says she has learned as much from these artists as from the more 'famous' works. "I am so excited to be working with The Lighthouse to promote children's creativity and literacy in Toowoomba. I have been teaching for over 35 years and I can't think of a better way to give back to the community which has looked after me."

Why "Made to move?"

"Well, the artworks are silk. They move as you walk past them. Children are always on the move. I love that they are dynamic."

Made to Move will be sharing some behind the scenes pictures and stories for you on their facebook page [Painting](#)

the Idea of you and over on Instagram
(this_art_is_made_to_move).



And the Made to Move Fundraiser

Nadine is planning a night for adults to experience some of the fun. The Workshop with Wine (WWW) is a preview of the exhibitions, will take place on 13th November from 7pm – 9 pm as a fundraiser for the Lighthouse.

Attendees will make and take home their own silk scarf or silk pocket square

All materials (silk, paint etc provided)
RSVP directly
to nadinereynolds@icloud.com for
more information.





Sam Lloyd visits Haden AND Mater Dei

Thanks to the generosity of Inner Wheel, accomplished author Dr. Sam Lloyd was able to visit 2 schools in our region this week. She met with the Grade 5 and 6 students at Mater Dei and the entire student body of Haden State School, which has just 13 children in total. Each student at Haden State School also received a bundle of books from our community's donated collection. Meredith Thompson, the librarian at Mater Dei, shared her feedback:

“We had a great visit with Dr. Sam this afternoon and learned so much about fire, pollination, and their vital roles in preserving and maintaining our natural bushlands and animal habitats. Thank you to The Lighthouse for this opportunity, and a big thank you to Inner Wheel for their generosity.”

This program brought valuable insights to students and enriched their understanding of our local environment.





Author Visit to Ramsay School

42 children – author visit AND book packs delivered – that’s 210 preloved books on their way to new homes. Jane Palmer (above) recently visited Ramsay State School and met with students from Prep to Grade 6.

Jane’s FREE author visit originated via the Sydney Writers Festival ‘Live and Local’ event we organised with The Empire, funded by Toowoomba Regional Council, and was a very generous gift from her!

Commenting on her time with the students, Jane said 'They were engaging and enquiring. The votes of thanks were very special. The children were delighted with there books, evidenced by the excited chatter and then the quiet as they disappeared into a book.'



Book Launches, Book Launches and MORE Book Launches!

Next week we have not one, not two, BUT THREE book launches going on!

On **4 November** we are proud to launch of 'Maverick', a wonderfully collaborative children's book recognising the importance of sun protection and being sun safe in the outdoors.

Maverick is the story of a group of childhood friends who are entering into the Invitational Melanoma Awareness Championship competition. The competition is the quest of a never-to-be-repeated mission, to tame the Great Jungle to Sea Putt Putt course! And they must navigate it on a hot day under the might of the Australian Sun.

An updated version of 'Melanie and Me' is available as well, FREE by donation, and is perfectly pitched for the little ones in your world.

On **7 November** we will be launching Superhero a wonderful, home-grown tale created right here in Toowoomba!

Written and illustrated by 19 Year 4 students from Rockville State School, Superhero takes the reader on a stroll through Rockville State School with a superhero.

And on **9 November** we warmly invite you to the [launch of Colour My World](#), a joyful children's colouring book produced by The Lighthouse in Toowoomba. The book was created with funding from the Queensland Government, and it was a youth-driven initiative aimed at promoting cross-cultural understanding and community cohesion.



Motamo!

It turns out there are never too many book launches.. we are also super excited to share a peek at the Motamo book, created by the artists in Terese Eglington's amazing weekly workshop. If, by any chance, you are in Belgium next year in April, please let us know so we can organise an invitation to the Motamo Biennale where the book will be exhibited.

THANK YOU - THANK YOU - THANK YOU

We have so much to celebrate - as always - at The Lighthouse for we function with the most remarkable support from the community.

So, standing ovations, celebrations, jubilations, as we say 'thank you'...



Books By The Car Load!

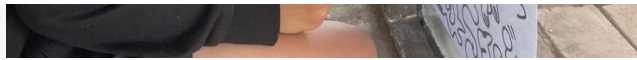
Thankyou so very much to the wonderful Toowoomba East State School Community for their car load of books kindly donated from their Fete overflow!

We are so grateful for this donation and are looking forward to bundling them up and sending them on to local schools to be read again and again!



Quinalow State School's books were on their way with the help of these two! How did we end up being so lucky as to keep meeting remarkable humans! If anyone is going anywhere near Thulimbah and Pozieres State Schools - their books are ready and waiting at the door...





Matt and Tina will notice their signage for The Sound of Picture Books was still on the window, their presence still felt in the gallery, and already we were setting up for Colour My World! THANK YOU to Sophia, Millie, and Sipan for happily labouring on transferring the children's drawings onto the glass for what will be our first GALLEY ALLEY exhibition! With the drawings on the inside, everyone will be invited to colour in the images on the external side. Clever eh! (Oh, and it works... the idea was tested during HOMEWORK Club)



'Colour My World' Book Launch

Saturday 9th November 2024

2:30pm to 3:30pm

(Official Launch 3:00pm)

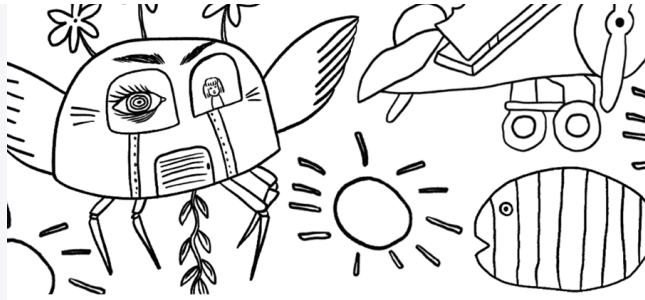
The Lighthouse Toowoomba
126 Margaret Street
Toowoomba

RSVP hello@thelighthousetoowoomba.org



Supported by





Shahzanan was practicing her speech for the Colour My World official opening. Public speaking is incredibly daunting, and her courage is even more applaudable given English is not her first language. It has been a wonderful experience for us all to work with Shahzanan and Yarimas as this wonderful book and exhibition has come together.

You are welcome to join us for cake to celebrate! Book in today via the link below:

<https://thelighthouse-toowoomba.supporterhub.net.au/events/colour-my-world-booklaunch>

This project is supported by the Queensland Government.

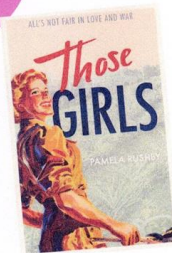


Queensland Government

LOUD SHOUT OUT TO THE AWESOME EVENTS COMING UP AT THE HIGHFIELDS LIBRARY...

Meet author

Pamela Rushby



Join award-winning author Pamela Rushby to hear about her latest book *Those Girls*.

When: Saturday 9th November 2024

Time: 10.30am (doors open at 10am)

Where: The Community Rooms,
Highfields Library

Light refreshments will be available before the event. Books will be available for purchase.

Pamela Rushby is the author of over 250 books for children and young adults, as well as children's TV scripts, documentaries, short stories and freelance journalism. Pam has been an advertising copywriter, pre-school teacher, and producer of educational television, audio and multimedia. She has won many awards, including the NSW Premier's Ethel Turner Prize, nine CBCA Notable Books – and a bag of gold coins at a film festival in Iran! Pam believes the strangest, most riveting, heart-breaking, laugh-out-loud stories aren't fiction. They're real. They come from history. And she loves tripping over unusual incidents from history – and then writing about them. Her website is www.pamelarushby.com



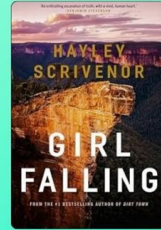
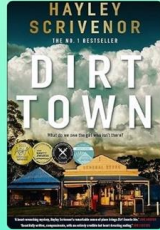
BOOKINGS ARE ESSENTIAL. SCAN THE QR CODE TO BOOK ONLINE.



(07) 4699 6519
www.tr.qld.gov.au/library



Meet Hayley Scrivenor Author



Join us at the Highfield's Library, 32 O'Brien Road,
Highfields.

10am, Monday 23rd December 2024

Bookings essential

(Contact Heather - 0413305513)

The Lighthouse Toowoomba ...

Curious to know what we do each day?
Here is our annual report - [LINK](#) Once
you open to our entry on the ACNC,
scroll down until you see the list of
DOCUMENTS. It will have the June
Impact Statement, so we can't but help
share an update!

 **8311**

Number of children involved
with programs and events
including adults = 19,779

 **77%**

Students from 65 of the 84 schools
in the region have been involved

 **654**

Number of children's workshops
(and including adults = 869,
estimated total value \$304,150)

59 

Total number of
exhibitions / events in
The Write Gallery

 **13,794**

Number of books we have rehomed
(estimated value \$206, 895)

 **\$485,771**

\$311,100 received via donations
\$174,671 received via grants

 **6180**

Volunteer hours

The
LIGHTHOUSE





Do you want to be our neighbour?

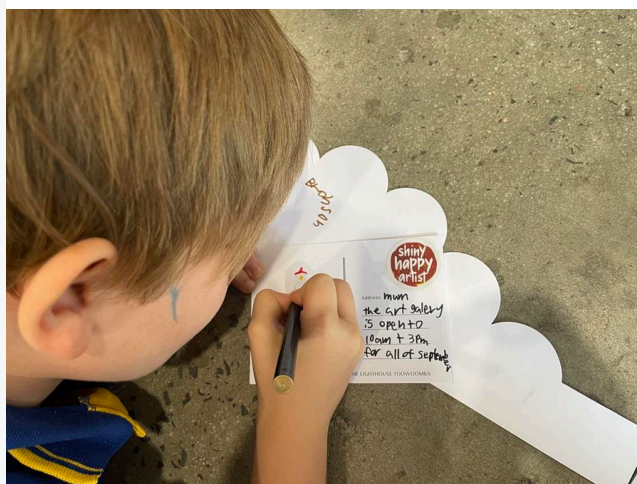
'The Den' has become available for rent.

Snapshot overview:

- **\$670 per month + GST**
- **Includes a carpark**
- **External door**
- **Heart of the CBD**
- **Minimum 3 month lease**

**Enquiries directly to
emily@thelighthousewoomba.org**

g



Just so you know, The Write Gallery is at the back, beside Koala Carte, at 126 Margaret Street. We have signage galore if you are approaching from either south on Hume or west on Margaret, but it definitely is a challenge to find it if coming in the opposite direction!

AROUND THE GROUNDS IN TERM 4...



Workshops Update

Why is it every week when we have a peek upstairs we want to down tools and join the in amazing art classes with Terese Eglington! Truly, watermelon, portraits, and canvases... this palette of young artists are having a ball, and we are really excited invite expressions of interest from you if you have a child

who would like to be involved next year. Yes, 2025. Time to start planning if you want to secure a place in this one!



Whilst Millie was so happy with her gifted box of art supplies, we are the lucky ones! Millie is working with us for a couple of weeks, as a collab with Adapt Mentorship. We may not give her back once Colour My World is installed!



Brunocorn Book Launch Brings Fun and Creativity to The Lighthouse!

The Lighthouse Toowoomba recently hosted the much-anticipated launch of Brunocorn, the latest picture book by beloved children's author Rory H. Mather. The event was a lively success, bringing together young readers and their families for an afternoon filled with fun, creativity, and storytelling.

Children were delighted as Rory read aloud from Brunocorn, bringing the story's magic to life with his engaging storytelling. After the reading, kids got hands-on with themed craft activities, creating their own colourful "Brunocorn" masterpieces to take home. Attendees also had the chance to purchase books from Dymocks Toowoomba and have them personally signed by Rory, making it a memorable experience for all.

A huge thank you to everyone who joined us to celebrate this special book launch—it was truly an afternoon to remember!

(And a hip-hip-hooray to Janelle, the franchisee at Dymocks, who always gifts her time supporting events like this. Weekends are precious, and we are grateful she is so happy to help us do what we do!)



WRITING WORKSHOPS FOR ADULTS

CREATIVE WRITING WORKSHOPS
Join Tanya Vessey @ The Lighthouse Toowoomba

- Character
- Setting
- Literary Devices
- Story Structure

Examine the what, who, where and how of story

Add to your creative writing toolkit over 4 sessions

4x Monday Sessions
November 11th, 18th, 25th
December 2nd
10AM-12PM

1x Session - \$70
4x Sessions - \$240
Spaces Limited

[Register here](#)
The Lighthouse Toowoomba
Writing For Expression

CREATIVE WRITING WORKSHOPS
Join Tanya Vessey @ The Lighthouse Toowoomba
3x Sessions ~ 10am to 12pm
Monday 14th, 21st and 28th of October

Story Foundation Sessions include:

- Establish your creative process.
- Planning with purpose.
- Identify themes.
- Develop imagery.

1x Session - \$70
3x Session - \$180
Spaces limited

[Register here](#)

Using Suspense Elements Writing Workshop



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



TOOWOOMBA
Lighthouse



*Tricky Writing:
four strategies
every fiction
writer needs.*

Dr Tara East

Writing Workshop

Start at 9:00am

9th
November
2024

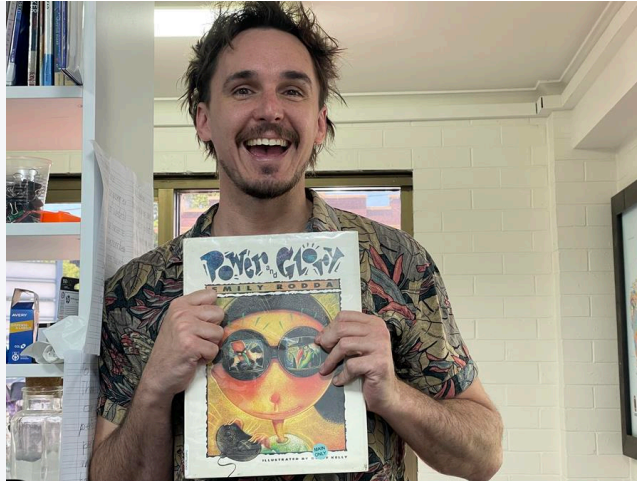
**book
today!**

Coming up in November...



One last thing...

Matt from Mashed happened to wax-lyrical about his favourite book he remembered from his childhood and how he wished he had a copy to share with his son. Well, VOILA! Happens to be a business in the USA who have out-of-print copies of books and this ex libris was in his hands in a flash care of a little bit of crafty googling. See, we really do know books are important!



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.*

This goal translates in everything we do here at The Lighthouse. Anna, pictured above, was celebrating Humphrey as an artist, as he gave us a 'pinkie promise' he would work towards opening his own exhibition one day so we could all go and be as happy as he was during his visit to The Shiny Happy Art + Ideas Show. Small things make a big difference!



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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