



Book Links (QLD) Inc

...Celebrating story with young people

Edition 5, 2010

April

Our Mission is to celebrate, promote, and provide education in relation to visual, written and spoken literacy in picture books, children’s and young people’s novels, poetry and other genres.

Inside this issue:

President’s Report

Welcome to our first newsletter for 2010 coming to you from our new home in the State Library of Queensland. This new space is being shared with the Queensland Writers Centre, The Queensland branch of the Children’s Book Council of Australia and the Queensland Poetry Festival. We moved in here on 10th February and have held two management meetings here already. We feel very special in this prestigious space. It is very exciting to see Book Links (Qld) Inc. on the State of Writing banner on display in the State Library. These banners are available for display at any of our events.

The groups which form A State of Writing have been meeting regularly and the future looks very exciting for all those involved. The organisations include publishers, authors, universities, speaker agencies, Arts Qld, Brisbane Writers Festival, OWC, Old Poetry Festival, CBCA (Qld) and of course Book Links. This list does not exclude other groups joining in the future. ASW website is being devel-

oped which has links to all partners. A blurb about Book Links along with the logo and web address has been forwarded to the developer. A training day is to be held for all partners to become familiar with using it. All groups are expected to upload some news on a regular basis eg. events and developments. The site will go live to the world on 22nd April. ASW coordinator has suggested purchasing some advertising materials to hand out to interested people to publicise this unique group.

OWC recently celebrated their 20th birthday party by holding a cocktail party on the Queensland Terrace at SLO and I was there to represent Book Links. I had quite a long conversation with the Premier which resulted in a follow-up meeting with her senior policy advisor. I was actually pushing the CBCA barrow but I took the opportunity of promoting Book Links as well. Even if nothing eventuates from this meeting the Premier and her advisor are now aware that Book Links exists.

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Jenny Stubbs, Ms Anna Bligh, Beth Green, Kate Eltham.

Shirley, Beth and Jenny

Jenny Stubbs and I spent one Saturday recently applying to the Gambling Commission to fund a portion of the Travelling Suitcases project. After a meeting with Theodora Le Souquet, chair of QWC, it was decided to split the funding sources as the project is looking bigger than we originally conceived. Following that meeting, Kate Eltham, Jenny Stubbs and I met with Vera Ding, Director, Theatre, Writing & New Media for Arts Qld. It was a positive way to publicise the project and get some direction. A funding application to Arts Qld will be submitted by the end of April.

Jenny Sharp is working with Kerri McDonald to update the Book Links website. Jenny is keen to add a blog which she will regularly update. A State of Writing logo will have to be added and some information about the concept of A State of Writing. Jenny has also organised for new generic business cards to be printed. When they arrive you are welcome to ask for some to distribute to any interested parties.

Congratulations to these talented Book Links committee members:

- Louise Phillips, our treasurer, on her appointment as lecturer in Early Childhood and Literacy Education at the Springfield campus of the University of Southern Qld.
- Jenny Stubbs, our ideas girl, on receiving the QWC Johnno Award. Jenny has been recognised for her commitment to literacy and engagement through reading and writing particularly in Queensland's south-west rural and regional communities.
- To Jenny Sharp, our newsletter editor, who has been offered a May Gibbs Fellowship in Melbourne later this year.

Book Links is very fortunate to have these talented people committed to our goals.

How can we fail with all this talent on board? 2010 is looking exciting and challenging. We hope all our members and friends will be with us all the way.

Beth.

Member Achievements:

Special congratulations to these wonderful Book Links members and supporters who were short listed in the recently announced Children's Book council's Book of the Year awards:

- *Narelle Oliver for Fox and Fine Feathers*
- *John and Stella Denalis for Schumann and the Shoeman*
- *Gregory Rogers for The Hero of Little Street*

Dimity's Chapters : Dimity in a Nutshell

- Born: Townsville, Queensland.
- Grew Up: Adelaide, South Australia.
- Spent Childhood: Under peach tree in backyard consuming words. Yearned to be a banana bender again and a vet.
- Qualified with: A Business Diploma & Scholarship in Hospitality Management.
- Succeeded at: Returning to Queensland, excelling in selling overpriced activities to visitors to the Whitsundays before roaming all over Europe, the Atlantic and the Caribbean (survived even worse winters in London).
- Credits include: Finding a husband in Corfu and dragging him back to Queensland.
- Unintentional, trouble-free homebirth of first child (for which husband still inexplicably takes full credit).
- Surviving life with a four-year-old daughter, a sooky border collie, a bunch of nagging chooks and not enough water to keep the vegies alive.
- Being Director of Marketing for my own Houseboat Holiday Company on the Gold Coast.
- Writing Highlights: - Successfully completed Professional Children's Writing Course with Cengage Education March 2008.
- Published Short Stories with NSW The School Magazine April 2008.
- Numerous other publications in magazines + advertising copy.

I have been writing since I could manage the pencil grip but I think I was reading before that. Throughout that gaping period of leaving the nest of education, maturing and chasing dreams, writing seeped its way into my life daily; diary entries from chilly foreign train platforms, ideas scribbled on the back of serviettes whilst on watch through the BVIS, mundane emails to longsuffering friends and family about sick husbands, firstborns. Not life altering stuff. Just tiny pieces of fluff, which I always hoped one day, I could twist into a marvellous, jaw dropping tapestry.

It wasn't until after I completed my children's writing course and the NSW The School Magazine unexpectedly accepted my first submission that I felt I was well on the way with this writing lark. Having forsaken all other career paths (except motherhood) in the pursuit of writing, it gladden me no end to see my words in print and know with certainty that somewhere, some child might be reading them and marvelling over them in ways I did under that peach tree years ago.

Since then I have been spiralling sensationally through the mediocrity of a million rejections. Well not quite a million but it's been a long time between 'whoo hoos' and 'oh dears'. And yet I am willed on to continue: by the absolute conviction that writing for children is the best kind of magic one can conjure up and share. A belief made certain by associations like Book Links and the committed authors and illustrators within.

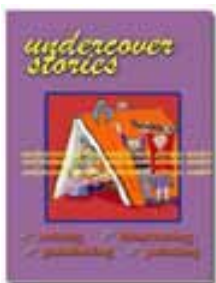
Who knows what my next chapter will reveal...



What's Happening With ...

The Travelling Suitcases

The project has been moving along steadily and we are now waiting on funding approval. One application has been sent and a second will be completed very soon. With the support of the OWC we are now looking at a bigger picture but the concept and the contents of the suitcase are basically as originally conceived. Once approval for funding has come through it will be all systems go.



Undercover Stories

This DVD which showcases the creative writing and illustrating techniques of five prominent Queensland children's and young adult book creators is still available. It can be purchased via the Book Links website www.booklinks.org.au for \$27.50 including postage and handling.

Special Events ...

Words In The Wet Literature Festival—Darwin February, 2010.

From the 15th to the 19th of February this year I had the great good fortune to be part of Darwin's inaugural Words in the Wet Literature Festival.

The festival was organised by Nita Jonsberg on behalf of the English Teachers' Association of the Northern Territory. The purpose of the festival was to make writers of YA fiction available to middle and senior schools in the Darwin area (and one school in Alice Springs).

As well as being an English teacher at Darwin's Casuarina Senior College, Nita Jonsberg is also the wife of the amazing Barry Jonsberg (*The Whole Business with Kiffo and the Pitbull*, *Dreamrider*, *Cassie*). Joining Barry and myself for the festival were wonderful writers and inspirational speakers Scot Gardner (*Burning Eddy*, *White Ute Dreaming*, *The Legend of Kevin the Plumber*) and Simon Higgins (*Moon Shadow series*, *Tomodachi*, *Thunderfish*).

During the week we covered nine schools and a quite few kilometres with each author presenting around four sessions a day. The week also included an evening cocktail party and author panel held at the NT Library in Darwin's beautiful Parliament House. On the final Friday Simon and Scot spoke at a school in Alice Springs while Barry and I had the opportunity to do a live broadcast to remote communities from the NT Open Education Centre on the subject of creative writing.

The whole week was a great success and an unforgettable experience for both myself and my wife Adriana. Much thanks goes to Nita Jonsberg for her wonderful organisation; to Nita and Barry for their limitless hospitality (and delicious food!) and to my fellow presenters Barry, Scot and Simon (as well as Simon's wife Annie) for their friendship, support and good-humoured insanity.

The plan is for the Words in the Wet Literature Festival to be held again next year and then every two years after. I have no doubt it will go from strength to strength.

Michael Gerard Bauer



Scot Gardener, Simon Higgins, Barry Jonsberg,
Michael Gerard Bauer at the Festival.

Clare McFadden's Book Launch.—The Flying Orchestra

The Flying Orchestra blew into town with a flourish at the launch of Clare McFadden's picture book of the same title.



It was the first event held by Book Links at their new home at the State Library of Queensland. Needless to say, music was ever present on the night. On arrival, guests enjoyed food and wine, viewed Clare's original artwork from the book and were entertained by the beautiful playing of Leo McFadden on his classical guitar.

The book was launched by Clare's friend and colleague Denise O'Connor. Clare wrote and illustrated *The Flying Orchestra* and it is her first book. It is clearly set in Brisbane, as there are many recognisable places depicted but the theme, music being in everything we do, is truly universal. Denise spoke about the beautiful and rhythmic language ...*the ocean sparkles and glitters in the sun*; and the music expressing our every emotion, like hearing... *a symphony at the airport for a traveller coming home*. There are several recognisable Brisbane landmarks, and Denise went on to highlight the lyricism and wittiness depicted in the illustrations where

Clare has replaced the Daphne Mayo pediment sculptors on City Hall of Brisbane's pioneers with *The Flying Orchestra*.

Clare responded in the only way she could...by telling a story. She shared how when holidaying in the US she attended a Christmas concert by the Boston Pops Orchestra and the experience at the concert inspired her to create *The Flying Orchestra*.

The reading of the book was particularly special. As Clare read each page, a selected piece of music was played appropriate to the emotion expressed... *a violin solo when someone misses the train*; or *a sonata for a sad moment at a birthday party and joyous music when a baby is born*.

It was a delightful and heart warming evening. Many thanks and hearty congratulation to Book Links committee for organising such an entertaining and enjoyable evening and to Clare McFadden on her enchanting book.



Thank you to our sponsors

Book Links would like to thank the following sponsors for continued support:

Arts Queensland

Brisbane City Council

Regional Arts Fund

Request to Members

Could all members advise if they would like the Book Links newsletter sent to them either electronically or by post? This can be done by emailing Jenny at dustjacket1965@yahoo.com.au and it will be noted on your membership form.

Member Links

James Moloney

www.jamesmoloney.com.au

Narelle Oliver

www.narelleoliver.com

Mark Svendsen

www.marksvendsen.com

Louise Phillips

www.louptales.com

Stephen Axelsen

www.stephenaxelsen.net

Jenny Sharp

www.myworldofwords.com

<http://whispersandwhiskers.wordpress.com>

Peter Taylor

www.writing-for-children.com

If any members would like to add their website to Member Links please email Jenny at

dustjacket1965@yahoo.com.au

Other links

CBCA Children's Book Council Australia

www.cbca.org.au

BWF Brisbane Writers Festival

www.bwf.com.au

QWC Queensland Writers Centre

www.qwc.asn.au

ASA Australian Society Authors

www.asauthors.org

Gregory Rogers

www.gregoryrogers.com

Daryll Bellingham

www.storytell.com.au

Jackie French

www.jackiefrench.com

Ipswich Festival of Children's Literature

<http://www.learningplace.com.au/deliver/content.asp?pid=7628>