



Book Links (QLD) Inc

...Celebrating story with young people

Edition 6, 2010

June/July

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:

As this is the second newsletter for the year, it means we are halfway through 2010. One wonders where the last six months have gone but looking back through my diary, the days and weeks have been dotted with meetings which present opportunities to promote Book Links to the uninformed.

Our partnership in *A State of Writing* has allowed Book Links to access a much broader audience. The mere presence of the group in the Qld Writers Centre area of the State Library has given us a higher profile. We have been represented at all of the State of Writing lunch meetings which climaxed on 9th June with the official signing of the ASW Guiding Principles and the launch of the interactive website. Jenny Sharp has been the driving force behind this and after some frustrating moments has managed to upload Book Links profile and some news items. Check out the website www.astateofwriting.org.au. It is still early days but as each partner becomes more familiar with the site it will become the vibrant heart of the writing and reading community of Queensland. So far there are 19 organizations who have joined and there are more to sign up. We would like our members to send any comments or items of interest to Jenny Sharp (newsletter editor and ASW website manager) dustjack-et1965@yahoo.com.au as she is constantly wanting currents news. This website is managed by SLQ so it provides an opportunity to freely publicize our activities and those of our members to the world.

Because of this partnership we were invited to the launch of the Benjamin Andrew Footpath

Library on 1st June in the boardroom of Clayton Utz Lawyers. This library was first established in Sydney, followed by Melbourne and now in Brisbane www.footpathlibrary.org New books are donated, shelved for free in storage facilities, packed in containers by volunteers on a regular basis and delivered free by a courier company to the homeless, hostels and shelters. It was heartwarming to listen to the stories told and has inspired us to hold a book drive later in the year to help this worthwhile organization. Watch this space!

Our Travelling Suitcase project has not progressed at all. There has been no word from the Gambling Community Benefit Fund yet and the outcome of the Arts Qld application won't be known until the end of August. If these applications are not successful we will have to look to private enterprise. So much work and commitment has been put into this project, letting it go is not an option.

Our annual Book Gig at the Brisbane Writers Festival will be performed by drama students from Indooroopilly State High School in September. The book chosen is *Mosquito Advertising: The Parfizz Pitch* by Brisbane author Kate Hunter. This is the first novel for Kate and features 5 adventurous and proactive teenagers who set out to prevent the local soft drink factory being swallowed up by a corporate giant.

Thanks to the marketing prowess of Narelle Oliver and Jenny Sharp, Book Links will soon have its own banner, brochure and business

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cards to help publicize our activities. This is in addition to the ASW banner which we are able to borrow for any events. The ASW banner was displayed at the Book Links stand at Government House on Queensland Day and was a topic of conversation. It will be displayed again at the Brisbane Catholic Education Teacher Librarian Professional Development Day in July and no doubt will again raise lots of questions.

As president of Book Links I am very proud of what we have achieved in the last four years. This is due to the dedication and commitment of our talented members and I encourage all of you to become actively involved in this great organization. Everyone has something to offer so why not bring your talents to one of our relaxed meetings in the future?

Beth



The A State Of Writing Banner at Qld Day.



Bernadette Franzoni, Book Resource Manager speaking with Beth at the opening of the Benjamin Andrew Footpath Library in Brisbane.



Sarah Garnett, the driving force behind the Footpath Library.



Louise speaking with a volunteer at the opening.



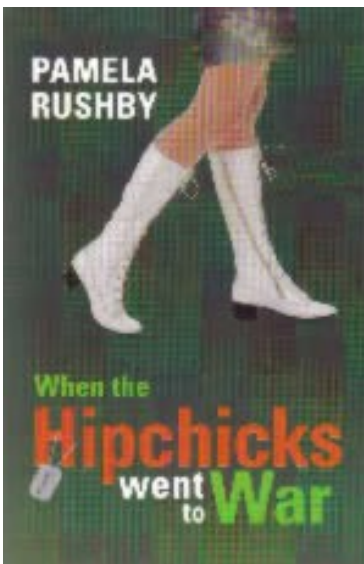
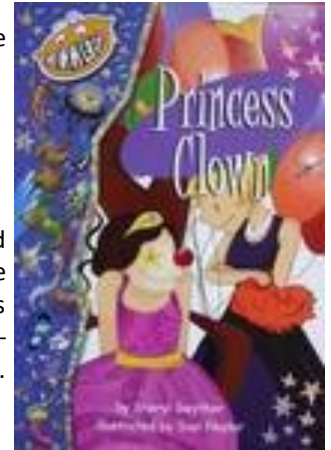
Jenny, Narelle and Peter with Chris Cheng who popped in to say hello and talk about children's literacy and his visit to Singapore at the last Book Links meeting.

Welcome to New Members:

Book Links welcomes *Sheryl Gwyther* as its newest member. More information about Sheryl can be found at <http://sherylgwyther.wordpress.com>

Member Achievements:

Congratulations to Sheryl also on the publication of her newest book which has just been released with Blake Publishing. It's called *Princess Clown* and is a full-colour illustrated chapter book, suitable for 7-8 year olds. It's one of Blake's Giggles Blue series for 2010 and I think kids will love reading this book as it snaps along with humour and with its theme of *follow your dream whatever the odds* - although for Princess Belle, this passion almost ends in disaster. The illustrations are by Sian Naylor.



Also congratulations to Pamela Rushby whose young adult novel, *When the Hipchicks Went to War* (Hachette 2009) has been awarded the Ethel Turner Prize for young people's literature in the New South Wales Premier's Literary Awards 2010.

The book is about young women who went to Vietnam as entertainers during the Vietnam War. Some of them were only sixteen years old ...

The book began as a prize-winning short story in the One Book Many Brisbanes short story competition and was then developed into a novel. Research was undertaken at the Australian War Memorial resource centre in Canberra, with the assistance of a May Gibbs Children's Literature Trust Creative Time Residency.

Pam also travelled to Vietnam and visited many of the old Australian sites there.

An offer has been received to option the novel for a film.



Dimity's Chapters Continued:

A couple of weekends ago I did attend all day seminars at the **third Gold Coast Literati Festival down at Robina, Gold Coast**. It was an exciting and info packed day with a variety of seminars to suit all budding writers, literary enthusiasts and people with a fondness for children's lit although several genres were represented. Authors, industry professionals and illustrators from the ilk of Belinda Jeffery, Frances Whiting and Robyn Sheahan-Bright provided a sparkling collection of antidotes and insightful tips with humility and often great humour; enough to keep this little black duck's flame to write and succeed still alight.

Richard Newsome's, author of "Billionaire's Curse" and winner of the inaugural Text Prize, advice rang most persistently in my ears: *The most useful tool a writer can have in their tool box is Arse Glue. Just apply then sit down and Write!*

Also congratulations go to Dimity who has just had one of her aphorisms about Happiness accepted into the catalogues of Sydney based company Story Bag. Story Bag are a unique medium combining Ads with the Art of literature. Once chosen by an advertising company my piece will be feature on such mediums as coffee cups, sandwich bags, wine bags, enviro bags and the like throughout cafes and other distributors in Sydney. They use short stories, sayings, text, poems and so on to engage the consumer while selling the product in a similar fashion to Poems on the Underground in London and literature bags used in Germany. Although Dimity's main interest and genre is writing for children, this is an interesting chance for her to explore yet another avenue for exposure.

What's Happening With ...

The Travelling Suitcases

Book Links has just been notified that the funding application submitted to the Gambling Fund for the Travelling Suitcases has been unsuccessful. With the support of the QWC 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 from other avenues, it will be all systems go.



Undercover Stories



Undercover Stories is a DVD which showcases the creative writing and illustrating techniques of five prominent Queensland children's and young adult book creators. It has been selling steadily across Australia and can still be purchased via the Book Links website www.booklinks.org.au for \$27.50 including postage and handling.

Special Events:

GOOD NEWS: A LITERATURE STRAND IN THE NEW NATIONAL CURRICULUM!

(But don't forget about the teacher-librarians who are essential for implementing it!)

Queensland Studies Authority invited authors Narelle Oliver and Mark Svendsen to speak at their flagship 2010 conference "Shared Vision: An Australian Curriculum P-12". The conference was attended by approximately 2000 delegates at the Brisbane Convention Centre, 28-30 April. (keynote speakers included Dr. Peter Hill, Dr Edward De Bono, and Li Cunxin.)

Narelle was invited to speak for one hour within a five-hour long focus session (attended by about 300 delegates) "Teaching an Australian English and history curriculum: Primary perspectives" which she shared with Dr Cheryl Sim (Senior Lecturer, School of Education and Professional Studies, Griffith University) and an ACARA curriculum officer who outlined the new curriculum. Her brief was to address the new literature strand of the national curriculum along the lines of how writers engage readers in a distinctive personal, cultural, social, and aesthetic experience.

Narelle took this invitation as an opportunity to examine the "literature strand" of the new national curriculum for years 4 – 7 and analyse how the study of written and visual texts of picture books, using some of her own as specific examples, meet the curriculum objectives in this strand for each year level.

Her address began with a welcoming of the new literature strand, but also a warning : for this strand to be effectively implemented, appropriate government bodies must ensure the presence and training of fully-qualified literature-oriented teacher-librarians in primary schools. (this was met with a hearty round of applause and cheers by a good number of the 300 delegates!)

For a summary of the objectives of the literature strand in the new national curriculum for years 4-7 (as summarised by Narelle) and her ideas on how study of various aspects of her picture books address these objectives please go to Narelle's website, www.narelleoliver.com then to "resources", and then to a downloadable PDF titled "New National Curriculum: Literature Strand".

Queensland Day Celebrations

Queensland Day was celebrated on June 6 this year and once again Book Links set up a stall at Government House. Beth, Coralie, Jenny, Glen, and Michael spent time there and promoted Book Links throughout the day. The State of Writing Banner created much interest, inviting many questions from passers by.



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

Sheryl Gwyther

<http://sherylgwyther.wordpress.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

Ipswich Festival of Children's Literature

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

A State of Writing

www.astateofwriting.org.au