



Book Links (QLD) Inc

...Celebrating story with young people

Edition 7, 2010

September

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 for September newsletter

Rest assured, time has not stood still since you received the last newsletter. The last few months have been extremely busy with many events and meetings to attend. Like most people, my thoughts are now gearing up towards Christmas and the holidays ahead, but a very important event takes place before then for Book Links. Our AGM will be held on 23rd October at 2pm in the State Library. The official proceedings will be followed by afternoon tea, a talk by Sheryl Gwyther and Peter Taylor, then a 2011 planning session. I hope many of you will come along to this and put forward your thoughts and ideas.

The member organizations of *A State of Writing* are growing. It was wonderful to see so many representatives of each group present at the official launch of ASW during the recent Brisbane Writers Festival. The guest speakers for this event were Jessica Rudd and Jessica Watson. There had previously been a 'soft' launch of ASW where all organizations signed the official agreement. Every month *A State of Writing* lunch/meeting is held, hosted by one of the partners. In July, Book Links, CBCA (Qld) Branch and Queensland Poetry Festival combined to host the lunch in the Learning Place of the QWC.

The Brisbane Writers Festival, held recently in the State Library, was an exciting week of all things literary. Book Links again featured in the Word Play program with two Book Gigs. The novel chosen this year was *Mosquito Advertising: The Parfizz Pitch* by first time Brisbane author, Kate Hunter.

The actors were drama students from Indooroopilly State High School who pitched their own interpretation and response to the novel. Now that Book Links has a pop-up banner, we proudly displayed it at both performances.

On 21st August, Ms Quentin Bryce, Governor-General of Australia, announced the CBCA Book of the Year awards in the prestigious Customs House. I was fortunate to be invited to represent Book Links. It was so exciting to applaud loudly when Narelle Oliver's *Fox and Fine Feathers* was announced as an Honour Book in the Picture Book category, and then the applause grew louder when Gregory Rogers' *The Hero of Little Street* won the Picture Book of the Year award. These two local Brisbane illustrators are great supporters of Book Links.

The Book Links website has a new look and a blog link so please take the time to browse www.booklinks.org.au. One of our newer members Sheryl Gwyther has set up a Facebook site for Book Links. This method of connecting with people is very popular and obviously used by many literary organizations. Sheryl will be maintaining this site.

The application for funding for *Travelling Suitcases* to Arts Queensland was successful and the committee is elated. There is a downside though as we were not successful in the first or second round of offers from the Gambling Community Benefit Fund and we need the

President's Report	1
Member Achievements	3
Peter Taylor	3
Michael Bauer	3
What's Happening with ...	
The Travelling Suitcases	4
Undercover Stories	4
Special Events	
Dimity - CYA Conference	5
Narelle Oliver - CLIC WAM	5
Narelle - TCO	6
Sheryl Gwyther— book launch	6
Thank you to our sponsors	6
Request to members	7
Links	7

extra dollars to get the project off the ground. We will have to now look for funding from another source.

There have been a number of book launches and author talks recently. Book Links partnered with the Brisbane and Brisbane East teacher librarian network to host an afternoon tea and talk by Gabrielle Wang on 6th September. Gabrielle was a very intriguing and inspiring speaker whose latest adult novel *Little Paradise*, is a wonderful story of her mother and father. See the book trailer on www.gabriellewang.com. Chris Bongers launched Michael Gerard Bauer's latest novel *Just a Dog* at the Black Cat Bookshop in Paddington. What a great night that was complete with a cake in the shape of Mr Mosely (the dog) and 'paw' instead of 'cup' cakes for the guests. Sheryl's new book *Charlie and the Red Hot Chili Pepper* will be launched in the same venue in October.

This will be my last president's report for the newsletters as I am stepping down from the position to allow someone with fresh ideas to take over. The Christmas edition will be written by the new president. I have thoroughly enjoyed establishing Book Links and watching it grow to be a recognized name in literary circles. But, rest assured, I will still be very involved and passionate about our philosophy and our goal of establishing a children's literature centre in Queensland. Our youngest generation deserves that.

Beth



Beth with Jessica Rudd



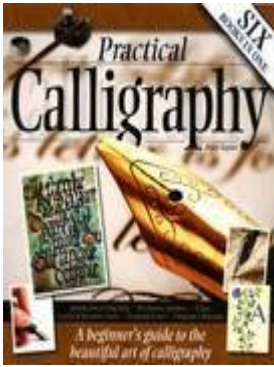
Beth signing ASW document



Kate Hunter (2nd left) and Louise from Book Links (far right) with the drama students from Indooroopilly State High School after their Book Gig Performance

Member Achievements:

Congratulations to Peter Taylor – ‘Practical Calligraphy’ has been released.



'Practical Calligraphy', published by Hinkler Books, was released in August in Australia and Malaysia. It's a 192 page guide for children aged about 10 and older, and adults, and gives instruction from the 'never having held a pen before' level to advanced techniques - simple, fun and complex alphabets; a brief history of writing, how to make a pen from a bamboo cane; decorating letters with flourishes and using illumination techniques; designing letters for yourself; using calligraphy; design and layout of pages; letters in 3D ...and much more. The colour pictures on the section dividers show previously unseen works from some of the world's most acclaimed calligraphers - including Donald Jackson, 'The Queens' Scribe'.

Also congratulations to Peter who received a surprise email in his www.writing-for-children.com website. A Professor of Physiology at a Detroit Medical School was asking for permission to use the kangaroo template, related to his picture book '*Kangaroo's Visitor Gets a Surprise*', which children use to make a stand-up model kangaroo from a sheet of thin card. A team of adult scientists have tried it and want permission for it to accompany a paper, explaining how kangaroos breathe, that will be published in 'Advances in Physiology Education' Journal of the American Physiological Society.

Congratulations to Michael Gerard Bauer who was invited to the 2010 WHITE RAVENS CHILDREN'S LITERATURE FESTIVAL - MUNICH

In July this year I was very fortunate and amazed to be invited to Munich to take part in the White Ravens International Children's Literature Festival. The Festival was held at International Youth Library (www.ijb.de) which is housed in beautiful Blutenberg Castle, built in the 13th century.

The International Youth Library was established after the Second World War by a remarkable woman called Jella Lepman. Lepman decided that what German's war ravaged children needed was 'to see a world of the imagination, beyond their landscape of bombed-out buildings and military vehicles'. With the support of people like Eleanor Roosevelt she began collecting books from all corners of the world.

Today the IYL in Munich is home to over 500,000 children's books in 130 languages. It also features a research library, a children's lending library, runs training courses and seminars for adults, and houses museums and exhibitions dedicated to children's writers and illustrators. One of the exhibitions underway while I was there was a wonderful display of Shaun Tan's books and original artwork.

The Festival itself ran from July 20 – 25 and featured around a dozen children's writers and illustrators from Germany and around the world including Argentina, France, Kenya, the USA (John Green – *Paper Towns*, *Looking For Alaska*) and one very lucky Australian.

During my time at the Festival I presented author sessions, took part in panel discussions (with the help of talented and hard working translators) and gave talks at two schools in Augsburg and Eichstatt outside Munich. My final session on the Saturday night was a concert based around my book *Ishmael and the Return of the Dugongs*. As well as a discussion of the novel, there were selected readings in German by Jens Wawrczeck the man responsible for the popular German Audio of the book and a fantastic live performance by the German band 'Gone Fishin'. They played the nine songs I had written for the novel as part of the story of Ishmael's father's old 80s band *The Dugongs*. The highlight of the Festival for me - and one of the highlights of my life – was getting to play and sing on stage with the band. I always wanted to be in a rock band; I never imagined I'd have to go to Germany to do it!

The week at the White Ravens Festival was a magical experience for me and my wife Adrie. We met so many friendly and beautiful people including the wonderful German publishers of my books and had the chance to share in a really joyous celebration of books and stories.



Michael with the official banner

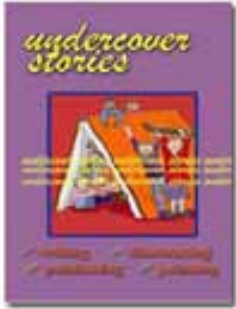


Blutenberg Castle

What's Happening With ...

The Travelling Suitcases

As Beth indicated in her report, Book Links has been successful in gaining funding for the Travelling Suitcases through Arts Queensland. However, we still need to source more funding for the project to run successfully. We are now looking at a bigger picture but the concept and the contents of the suitcase are as originally conceived. Thank you also to Anita Heiss for her interest and support in this project. It is something that will and can benefit many children in years to come.



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

Dimity's CYA Adventure!

Dimity spent an absolutely stimulating and worthwhile day at the CYA Children's Writing Conference on Sat 4th September, 2010. As part of the Brisbane Writer's Festival it showcased not only some well know talent in the field of children's literacy but also a wealth of fresh up - and - coming success stories.

The wonderful people of CYA organised and ran a tight and well thought out day jam packed with information sessions, seminars and workshops. Honestly except for when I was in the toilet by myself, every moment of the day was spent productively meeting new writers and illustrators, chatting with authors or attending book launches.

The day began with the announcement of the winners of the annual CYA writers and illustrators competition. We then launched full steam into many enjoyable hours of seminars and workshops either expanding on our knowledge or improving on what we already know. Throughout the day many of us would surreptitiously slink away from whatever workshop we were in to attend a 15 minute Pitch to the Editor session.

This proved an invaluable face to face opportunity which I too undertook with the lovely Sophia Whitfield from New Frontier Publishing. And while I did not walk away with a signed contract, I felt the whole experience helped to nudge me a little closer to my goal of getting my work 'out there'.

One of the highlights of the day was hearing the success stories from attendees of conferences past. Each of their stories although all very different resounded with the underlying message of the day which was to ***never ever give up!*** And I shall try not to. Because in the words of Kate Forsyth, "Writing is not something you have to get right the first time like a brain surgeon."

This event is not only a wonderful platform from which to meet others in our industry and improve our craft but it keeps the fire of enthusiasm in our bellies alight.

A note from the Vice-President, Narelle Oliver, who has spent much of last term travelling and talking about herself and her work!

A highlight of my speaking commitments last term would have to be the two children's literature festivals I attended. Both are relatively new festivals, but both were exciting to be part of. Most authors and illustrators I know relish the chance to be part of festivals - the combined energy and interest of other creators, plus teacher-librarians, librarians, children, and any other literature lovers makes up more than the sum of the parts. It is a chance for authors and illustrators to connect and re-connect with each other and close friendships are often forged - in what can be a more lonely life when one is actually slogging away quietly trying to draw a fox jumping, or whatever.

The two festivals about which I speak are:

CLIC - a natty acronym you would have to agree - for *Children's Literature in the Centre* (based in Alice Springs); and

WAM - another natty acronym - standing for *Write Around the Murray* (based in Albury)

CLIC is biennial and I think this might have been its second occurrence (this year) in its history. I had heard many warm reports about it from the likes of Leigh Hobbs and Ann James... so I knew I was in for a treat. The setting of Alice Springs is hard to beat. The festival itself is based at the Araluen Centre which houses the main art gallery and craft gallery, and is beside the museum. To be located here, I was in my element. I was able to take some groups of students to the adjacent museum for drawing sessions using the museum specimens. The students were most excited to see a desert-based inland Nightjar (like the one in my book, Fox and Fine Feathers but a little more reddish in colour to match the desert rocks and sand no doubt) In the gallery are the most wonderful contemporary indigenous artworks as well as a whole section devoted to Albert Namitjira and some relatives who also painted those scenes so beautifully. The craft gallery is also amazing - and my visa card had a real workout. I have a fine collection of earrings which sport the inland colours. Other authors in attendance were: Brian Falkner (NZ) (a wise and interesting writer), Anita Heiss (who gave me election updates via text through the night from her room next door!), Leonie Norrington (who has inspired me to take up knitting groovy things, including socks), Archie Fusillo (the funniest and cleverest MC at a dinner one could hope for), Andrew Plant (Mr. Bean impersonator and scientist extraordinaire), Pamela Lofts (with her gorgeous exhibition of Koala Lou originals) and Kaye Kessing who has had a most interesting life - including cooking and eating roadkills gourmet style in the NT.

What more could you hope for?

Organisers Celia Otley and Ruth Kessing could not have done more - and were at our beck and call. We had a lovely dinner at Ruth's property just out of town, too.

All the presenters found the students (which included many indigenous students) excited and receptive to the ideas talked about. I always find students' stories of animals they see so inspiring. I even found out, sadly, there were foxes around Alice.

Now, for WAM.

Part of my speaking commitments at WAM festival was an artist floor talk. The magnificent Albury Library Museum has a significant gallery space and a retrospective exhibition of my illustrations titled, "Bilbies to Boom-cha-chas, Frogmouths to Foxes: Illustrations from the Picture Books of Narelle Oliver 1989 - 2009" has been and is still on display there from 19 August until 10 October. Apart from this and talks to local school students, and then a weekend adult workshop in the gallery space, I also awarded prizes to the winners of the short story competition in association with the festival - a real privilege.

Other presenters there included Chris Masters - probably the most esteemed investigative journalist we have. He presented a dinner talk and was also on a panel with other journalists. All fascinating. Once again, all the presenters were well cared for and met interested and well-prepared students.

Organiser of this festival is the dynamic Robyne Young and for my exhibition: Caryn Giblin

I met another presenter - Jackie Passmore who is an author of cookbooks with Penguin. We may be working on a children's cook book together - me doing cute linocut prints of the foods (with little birds like the one in my book The Very Blue thingamajig, interacting with the food) - hopefully capitalising on the wave of interest in Junior Masterchef. That is just one of the creative outcomes which might be the result of this festival!

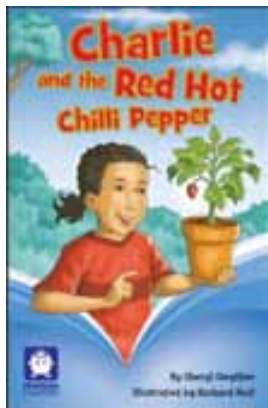
I will now say a very big thank you to the organisers of both festivals - a mammoth effort - but so very, very rewarding for many.

Narelle Oliver joins with Toowoomba Concert Orchestra

Toowoomba, 2 September, 2010 – Narelle Oliver will join with the Toowoomba Concert Orchestra (TCO) for a reading of her book *Fox and Fine Feathers*. The concert in conjunction with the Toowoomba City Library, will be held at the Concert Hall, University of Southern Queensland on Saturday 9 October at 2.30 pm. Conductor Matthew Henry said "The orchestra is very excited to be working with such a prominent author and illustrator as Narelle Oliver. Her books seem to come alive through the art work, which has helped in the partnering of *Fox and Fine Feathers* with excerpts from *L'Arlesienne Suites I and II* by Bizet. With a combination of music, story telling and some fun audience participation, this concert is one which I am sure all members of the audience will enjoy." *Fox and Fine Feathers* has recently won an Honour Book Award for the Children's Book Council of Australia, Picture Book of the Year for 2010. This free concert, designed specifically for the young is aimed at pre-school and lower primary aged children. Audience members are encouraged to participate in singing and dancing while learning about music and the orchestra through story and song. For more information please see the TCO website www.tco.org.au or email twmbaorchestra@y7mail.com. Please also see the attached flyer.

Sheryl Gwyther Book Launch - Charlie and the Red Hot Chilli Pepper

Eight-year-old Charlie loves chillies – the hotter the better. Her family refuses to touch them, but fortunately, she lives in the town that hosts the Flaming Hot Chilli Competition. With the help of her potted Habanero chilli, Charlie aims to win the hotly-contested competition. Her rival plans otherwise and the Habanero is the target.



Michael Gerard Bauer will launch Sheryl's latest book for younger readers, *Charlie and the Red Hot Chilli Pepper* at Black Cat Books on Friday, the 22nd October at 6.30pm.

Special invitation to Book Links members to join the celebration.

Be Hot like a Habanero! Wear a dash of red or yellow or green.

Friday 22nd October 2010 6.30pm

Black Cat Books & Cafe

179 Latrobe Terrace, Paddington

RSVP Ph 33678777 or email info@blackcatbooks.com.au

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 or to the Book Links website 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