



Library Officer Day 2022

# TOGETHER TOWARDS TOMORROW

Presented by



Professional Journal of the  
WA School Library Association  
Vol. 12, No. 2  
Dec 2022 / Jan 2023

Welcome to our final edition for 2022 and we can't wait to bring you more jam packed *ic3* journals in 2023.

We are so proud to publish this issue and showcase the wonderful Library Officer Day in September held at the State Library of WA. We had so much fun organising this day, presenting and networking with you all. We received such positive feedback about the day that it will now feature as an annual event on the WASLA calendar.

Please enjoy the interview with the talented James Foley as well as the WASLA Awards Day and many more feature articles.

Thank you for all your contributions and your passion for school libraries. We would not have an issue without your contributions and ideas. It is greatly appreciated.

If you have any queries, suggestions or wish to submit an article for future editions of *ic3*, you are welcome to email Tina or myself at [ic3editor@wasla.asn.au](mailto:ic3editor@wasla.asn.au)

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**Tina Russo**  
*ic3* co-editors

James Foley interview images courtesy of  
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**Submissions, advertising and subscription enquiries should be directed to the Editor.**

**Panel of Referees:** The following people have agreed to act as referees for *ic3*'s peer review process (see the WASLA website for more information):

- Rebecca Murray
- Natasha Georgiou

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## From the President's desk

Kaya, bonjour, nǎn hǎo, g'day, guten tag!

Welcome to issue 2 of our fabulous journal and as we journey closer to the end of 2022, we should take a moment to reflect on the amazing accomplishments of the WASLA Committee.

Our Term One workshop with Megan Daley, our Term Two Award ceremony with our inaugural patron Dr Margaret Merga and our Term Three Library Officer Day at the State Library have all been first class learning opportunities for our members and non-members. Our upcoming AGM and Birds of a Feather event look to be another fine opportunity to network and learn from our peers.

WASLA has had some significant accomplishments so far this year, the largest being an agreement with the State Library of Western Australia to hold our annual Library Officer Day at the venue with their sponsorship of the event for the next three years. With feedback from attendees of the recent event, the organising committee are already working on the 2023 event. Keep an eye on our webstie, WASLANet, on our social media channels and in the journal for details.

Secondly, WASLA has added to their Memorandum of Understanding with School Library Association of Victoria (SLAV) for the members of each Association to attend the online professional learning events at member's prices. I am aware that many WASLA members have taken advantage of this and participated in many events organised by SLAV. I hope that our schools and students have benefited from the time spent in attending additional professional learning opportunities offered by SLAV.

Our collaboration with other Australian school library associations, under the auspice of the School Library Coalition, jointly funds the *Students Need School Libraries* campaign. A major initiative to come out the campaign was the launch of the inaugural Australian School Library Day during Book Week. Congratulations to Holly Godfree and the team and we are proud to support the initiative moving forward. The School Library Coalition also continues to advocate for appropriate resourcing of school libraries at a national level and further initiatives will be announced in due course. Please follow our social media accounts and those of the *Students Need School Libraries* campaign to be kept in the loop.

As an organisation, we are extremely proud of the wonderful work our members do every day and our annual awards are an opportunity to showcase the achievements of our members from all around the State. Nominations for the 2023 awards will open late Term Four and we encourage members to nominate for Teacher Librarian of the Year, Library Technician of the Year, Library Officer of the Year and School Library of the Year. We are also pleased to announce a new award category of School Librarian of the Year in 2023. For more details and the appropriate forms please visit the website later this year.

Once again, I hope you can grab a cuppa and find a moment or two to sit and enjoy this edition of the journal – another extravaganza from Helen and Tina!

Happy reading!

**Rebecca Murray**  
**WASLA President**

## 2022 WASLA Award recipients

### Elena Preiato

Library Technician of the Year Award



Elena Preiato is an iCentre Library Technician at La Salle College.

Elena has a Diploma of Library and Information Services from the Central Metropolitan College of TAFE and has worked in school libraries since 2001. Elena is celebrating 20 years of working at La Salle College where she started as a Library Officer in 2002, and in 2009 her position was upgraded to a Library Technician.

Elena is an innovative and hardworking La Salle College staff member who is known for her kindness, her conscientiousness and motivation, her ability to meet her students' needs, and her ability to promote great reading material to students.

Elena is a valued and integral member of the La Salle College library where she maintains the library management system, administers Clickview for the school community, liaises with suppliers, and accessions and completes unique cataloguing for new resources. Elena has curated information pathfinders as requested by teachers on topics such as WB Yeats, Childcare, and the Vatican.

Elena assists with library information sessions for staff and students. She has demonstrated the use and features of the library webpage, and library equipment. She also supports staff and students with troubleshooting IT and other technology related issues. Elena is proactive in anticipating and developing systems that enhance the library experience for College members.

Elena has participated in wider school events such as coordinating the La Salle College Presentation Night and organising ticket sales for College productions. She created a decade-by-decade timeline of La Salle College's history for College Open days and anniversaries, accompanied with decade-by-decade historical displays. Elena assisted author Dr Ken Spillman with archival research for his book on the history of ACC Sports. In 2013 Elena contributed design ideas for the refurbishment and upgrade of the iCentre.

Elena is a very versatile Library Technician and has had experience with numerous library management systems including Comsoft, Innopac, Alice, Aims, eLibrary, and AccessIt.

Elena is a worthy winner of the 2022 School Library Awards Library Technician of the Year.

Congratulations Elena!



### Helen Cullinane

Library Officer of the Year Award

Helen Cullinane is the library officer at Kent Street Senior High School.

Having commenced working in primary school libraries and progressed to libraries with associations to TAFE, University and the Department of Education, Helen is seen by her school as an asset. She has Certificates 3 and 4 in Library and Information as well as Training and Assessment.

She is considered innovative and her ideas are implemented in operating procedures in her library. She has spent many years working in the library at Kent Street Senior High School and has participated in upgrades and invests time in engaging students and encouraging interaction. As such, the library is a welcoming space where students with diverse cultural needs are accommodated.

She creates displays using technology and has an imaginative way with materials which engage students. She manages the library's Instagram account and promotes all resources and events via this popular social media app.

She uses suggestions and conversations with staff and students to help expand the library collection. These resources are ordered, purchased, catalogued and weeded as part of her duties; as are all aspects of circulation. Circulation desk duties also comprise Login and Password assistance for staff and students; including DAM, SEQTA and OLNA online accounts.

Her knowledge allows her to trouble shoot various issues and she is not afraid to seek assistance from others to help resolve issues to a most satisfactory level.

It is for these reasons that Helen Cullinane is a most worthy recipient of the 2022 WASLA School Library Officer of the Year Award.

Congratulations Helen!



## Lorinda Gersbach

Teacher Librarian of the Year Award



WASLA Teacher Librarian of the Year Award is presented to Lorinda Gersbach.

Lorinda is the Teacher Librarian at Kennedy Baptist College and is an experienced educator. Lorinda has taught English for more than 16 years, held a Head of English position for eight years, and is currently in her seventh year serving as a teacher librarian.

Lorinda's expertise in the field of Teacher Librarianship is diverse. Lorinda has exceptional knowledge of literacy, including traditional, information and digital.

This has come from her many years as an English Teacher before expanding her skill set and knowledge by successfully completing her Masters of Education (Teacher Librarianship) at Charles Sturt University. She achieved this whilst working at Kennedy Baptist College and putting what she has learnt into practice within a dynamic and bustling school library environment. Lorinda is an extraordinary team player who collaborates with staff, and this is so beneficial to support students in their learning.

Her knowledge of young adult literature is exceptional. This combined with her knowledge of how to engage students with innovative reading programs and game-based learning strategies has enhanced the success of the Years 7 to 10 reading programs at Kennedy Baptist College. Lorinda is constantly thinking of fun and innovative ways to foster the love of reading and inspiring the students who visit the library as well promoting creativity, critical thinking and independence.

Lorinda is worthy of this award as she is hardworking, dedicated, passionate and a great role model who holds the best interests of the students and staff at heart.

Congratulations Lorinda!

## Dr Margaret Merga

Patron of the Association Award

Dr Margaret Merga was the keynote speaker at the Awards and was also welcomed as the inaugural WASLA Patron.



## Book Reviews

by Helen Tomazin



### Group Hug! A Collective Noun Safari

Written and illustrated by Andy Fackrell

ISBN 9781922696007(PB)  
9781925804997 (HB)

A Flamboyance of Flamingos.  
A Troop of Orangutans.  
A Bloat of Hippos.

You will be travelling on a safari around the world with the "animal-loving" city child Wilbur and his best animal friends. You will be thrilled and excited as they uncover the fascination of animal collective nouns.

While on his regular walk around the zoo, Wilbur is transported into the wonder of the wild – including The Serengeti, the Arctic, The Andes, The Australian Outback – to encounter life within his favourite animal groups. His friends are having so much fun and are entertained with his cheerful fact-filled rhymes as well

touching on the problems caused by the changing climate to this present day.

A beautifully illustrated work of art and a playfully written book educating children on environmental issues.

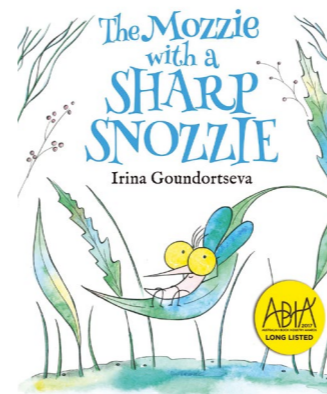
Children will love when they find that each page has an explosion of colour and rhyme, lots of animal information as well as finding out the funny side of the English language.

This book supports The Lion's Share, a fund backed by the United Nation's Development Programme – its mentor David Attenborough – and its work protecting our most vulnerable wildlife groups.

<https://www.undp.org/news/australian-made-and-lions-share-fund-partner-mobilize-business-support-biodiversity>

Enjoy this wonderful, fun, and powerful book inspired by the author Andy Fackrell's safari across the Serengeti and creating a short film in South Africa to aid in the fight against animal poaching.

**Teacher Notes:** <https://fordstreetpublishing.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/12/Group-Hug-Teachers-Notes-1.pdf>



### The Mozzie with a Sharp Snozzie

By Irina Goundortseva

ISBN 9781922615534  
Published by: Big Sky Publishing

This is a story of a mosquito who wanted to be a butterfly.

Everyone admired and loved the beautiful butterflies that gathered around the pond. There was one mozzie that admired them the most.

One day this very brave mozzie gained some courage and asked if he could flutter and fly around with them. He wanted to be part of this beautiful group of butterflies. In fact, he wanted to be a butterfly. He was so intrigued and inspired by these wonderful and colourful creations.

But something sad and extraordinary happened that day. The butterflies did not think the mozzie was good enough to be a part of their group because they were beautiful, and the mozzie was ugly and boring.

Just imagine how this mozzie felt, but he did not give up. He decided to be creative and made himself beautiful too. He was excited and relieved to be fluttering with the beautiful butterflies.

But this did not last long as suddenly the world was covered in darkness. They were confused and did not know what was happening, but the mozzie managed to save the day. After this the butterflies wanted to hang around with the mozzie and loved his company.

This is a beautiful and engaging story with a soft but powerful message. A great read aloud story that will encourage discussion.

Children will feel empathy and compassion for the mozzie and it is a fun way of learning emotional intelligence.

The illustrations are beautiful, colourful and funny too. Children will love this story and have a sense that being different is OK and being yourself is important.

Enjoy.

**ABIA 2017 Australian Book Industry Awards Long Listed**



## Scholarship Winners Library Officer Day 2022

**Andrea Anderson**  
Scholarship Winner - Library Officer Day 2022

My name is Andrea Anderson, and I was lucky enough to be awarded the country scholarship to attend the WASLA Library Officer Day on Monday 12 September 2022 at the State Library in Perth, WA.

I work at Carnarvon Christian School, in Carnarvon, which is around 1000km north of Perth. I have worked here for fourteen years as an Education Assistant, with a mixture of classroom duties, MultiLit and the running of our library. I have run the library for four years and have loved every minute of it.

When the first 'teaser' email came about the Library Officer Day, I immediately knew that this was something I wanted to go to. The email talked about the presentation of a 'survival guide to running a school library by yourself' and I straight away thought "Wow, there are others out there who are struggling too. I must meet them!"

Yay! I got to go, and I am so glad I did.

The first keynote presentation was about copyright. This presentation was an eye-opener. I must admit, when creating displays and undertaking other tasks for my library and the teachers in my school, I had never considered the issue of copyright. I had never heard of Creative Commons, and am still not sure how to use it, but now that I know it's there, I can explore it a bit further when I am next asked to make something for our staff.

During a lovely morning tea, there was plenty to look at, with book displays and ladies to talk to from all kinds of educational bookstores. The trade fair was terrific, and very useful. I was not

aware of any of these places, as our library has only used Scholastic Standing Orders for our book purchases. I plan to explore these other options further next year.

It was time for the "survival guide". Wow! Definitely wish this was longer! I had so many questions! Ms Tomazin talked about where she finds stuff for her displays, getting kids in to help in the library, and parent and volunteer help. This presentation was fast paced and full of energy and gave me plenty of ideas for how to approach my library with fresh eyes and a clean slate.

Next, we split into different groups for an LMS session. This was a bit confusing for me, as I do not use any of these programs. I attended the AccessIt session, and learnt a few things I hadn't known, such as that AccessIt has an app for mobiles.

After a tasty lunch, and some more chatting, we went to our final session. I chose to attend the book art, hoping to pick up some ideas for my book discards. It did not disappoint. I have finally made my first book art, a vase. My Year 5/6 and 3/4 classes are now making Christmas trees and stars out of my discards, which is much better than just tossing them in the bin.

All in all, it was a very interesting day, and I am so glad I went. I met lots of lovely ladies and learnt so much about libraries and how to make my library a much more interesting place.

**Andrea Anderson**  
Education Assistant  
Carnarvon Christian School

## Mary Anne D'Souza

Scholarship Winner - Library Officer Day 2022



After years of working as a teacher, I decided to deviate from a teaching role and completed the Diploma of Library Information and Services in December 2021. I feel extremely fortunate to have been offered a position in my chosen field by the start of the 2022 school year.

A new career and a new workplace can be overwhelming - for me, I should say. I overcame this feeling with the guidance of my extremely supportive librarian Belynda, who encouraged me to set realistic expectations of what I could accomplish within the working hours available to me. I gradually settled in, and became aware of my anxiety turning to excitement as each success and my 'try until success' (I do not like to use the word failure) proved to be a valuable learning experience for me. I allowed myself to become knowledgeable about all aspects of the job through sources that were available to me and steadily began contributing meaningfully to my work.

It was fortuitous for me that the Library officer Day 2022 was scheduled for September. I was by now into Term 3 of the school year and at a stage where I felt reasonably settled in my position. Anxiety was giving way to confidence, and I was eagerly searching out professional learning opportunities to build on the skills required to enhance my work.

I am so grateful to WASLA for this well-organised event and for providing a wide choice of break-out sessions. The SLWA venue was a brilliant choice with the added advantage of the location being easily accessible by public transport.

The keynote presentation on "Copyright for Library Officers: Using Text and Images in Schools" by Alison Davis, from the National Copyright Unit was an excellent refresher. It was also a stark reminder that Copyright Law is automatic and as library staff, we are responsible not only for sourcing relevant information but also providing advice and educating library users on copyright obligations. While understanding Copyright Law can be intense, Alison reassured us that The National Copyright Unit (NCU) is always available to provide support to schools. Besides being available on phone, the Smartcopying website (<https://smartcopying.edu.au/>) provides a wealth of information specifically pertaining to educational institutions through

information sheets, copyright guidelines and FAQs.

The session titled "Survival Guide – Running a School Library on your own" presented by Helen Tomazin was exceptional. Helen's presentation was inspiring. There was never a dull moment with Helen exuberantly imparting information to her audience on topics such as budget, weeding, collection management and development to name a few. In addition, we received a 36-page printed (very precious to me) document which also served as a visual guide to the workings of her library. For those who missed out on this session, I would highly recommend they obtain a copy of this document. It is packed with links beneficial to library staff along with Helen's very own tips and tricks for managing a busy library - all so very generously shared!

My last session for the day on Book art could not have had a better time slot. The items on display reflected the painstaking skills required to produce such pieces of beauty from recycled books. This hands-on learning session on book art presented by Tina Russo was fascinating. After a big morning of audio and visual learning, Tina with quick wit and humour provided her audience the opportunity for kinesthetic learning in a very enjoyable and relaxed setting. We learned from each other, and self-corrected our mistakes under Tina's professional guidance. The afternoon was a perfect example of the phenomenon that time flies when one is having fun!

The Library Officer Day was an intensive but valuable learning experience for me. It gave me an opportunity to meet and make connections with people that I can follow up and learn from during my professional journey. I left the event very inspired by the rich experiences the day had brought for me. I am so thankful to my principal who gave me the day from work to attend the Library Officer Day and the opportunity to grow!

**Mary Anne D'Souza**  
Library Officer  
West Coast Steiner School  
Nollamara



Alison Davis, National Copyright Unit



# TOGETHER TOWARDS TOMORROW

## Library Officer Day 2022 Highlights

The inaugural Library Officer Day was held in September 2022. WASLA was privileged to be able to host the event at the State Library of WA. It was the perfect venue to host a kaleidoscope of topics and activities.

The day started off with our keynote speaker, Alison Davis from the National Copyright Unit. She spoke in-depth on using text and images in schools. There was an abundance of positive feedback on her hour long presentation.

Attendees were spoilt for choice when it came to the two breakout sessions that covered eight different topics. A mix of fun and information, catering for both primary and secondary schools.

An impressive feat of the day were the five Library Management System (LMS) sessions. Hosted by school library officers and technician, their only brief being 'talk on how you use the library system at your school'. They did very well considering some had never stood in front of an audience before. We applaud each one of our LMS presenters for taking the courageous step of standing up in front of their peers. Well done.

Pictured are some highlights of the day. Stay tuned for the announcement of the 2023 Library Officer Day.



Aiden Rhodes. Quick library games



Rebecca Murray and Alison Davis



Tina Russo, MC



Tina Russo and Yvonne Smillie, Smartsuite presentation



WASLA's Executive Officer Barbara Lippiatt with Rebecca Murray, President



Kate Akerman, State Library of WA



Helen Tomazin, event organiser



Heather Hoffman, East Narrogin Primary School, Oliver presentation



Glynis O'Neill Christ Church Grammar, Oliver presentation



Rebecca Murray



John Hughes State Library tour



Geoff Booth State Library tour



Melissa Pettit Department of Education



Book Art session



Rachel Bradley Scholastic presentation

# SAVE THE DATE



## Library Officer Day 2023 State Library of WA

Presented by WASLA INC



Anne-Marie Musca, organiser, who happened to bump into an old friend on the day



One of many prize winners



Kate Akerman, State Library of WA with Rebecca Murray



## CBCA Book of the Year Awards: WA Winners Exhibition

by Sue Wyche

An exhibition opened recently at the City of Perth Library showcases the West Australian winners of the CBCA Book of the Year Awards (BOYA). Over the past few years, the West Australian Branch members have gathered a full complement of CBCA BOYA winners' books which are used for display at their various events and now this exhibition is bringing some of that collection to the wider public. Gail Spiers and Jan Nicholls have been instrumental in putting the exhibition together which includes in addition to the display of winning books, artefacts, biographical information and a digital slideshow on the enormous video wall in the library's foyer.

The very first Award in 1946 was won by West Australian Leslie Rees for *The Story of Karrawingi the Emu*, a salute to our unique wildlife. This was followed a few years later in 1954 with *Australian Legendary Tales, stories of the Euahlayi people of North-Western NSW*, collected by K. L. Parker, edited by Henrietta Drake-Brockman and illustrated by Elizabeth Durack. These works are steeped in Australian culture and its natural wonders and reflect the tropes of Australian publishing at the time. As the books showcased at the library range from 1946 up to 2022 the exhibition is a stark snapshot of trends in publishing, both in the physical attributes of the book and in the changes in subject matter.

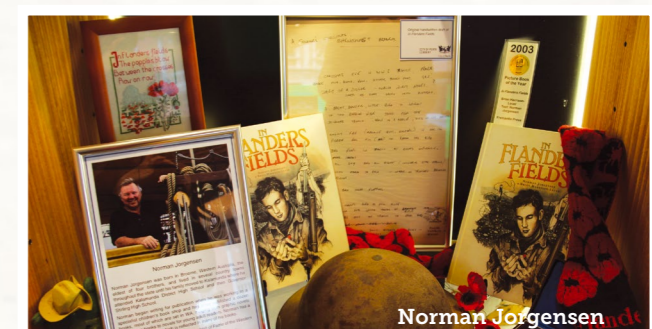
## Feature Article

Over the following decades, West Australian creators have won in most categories of the Awards. Jan Ormerod, won Picture Book of the Year in 1982 with *Sunshine*. This work without written text, is focused on the child in a domestic setting. Jan won again in the Early Childhood category in 2014 with *The Swap*, illustrated by Andrew Joyner and in 2011 with *Maudie and the Bear*, illustrated by Freya Blackwood. In 1998, Elaine Forrestal's issues-based work, *Someone Like Me* which focused on bullying won the Younger Readers' category. Twenty years later in 2018, Bren MacDibble's work *How to Bee*, an 'issues' book of its day, this time climate change, was the winner in that same category.

In 1999, Shaun Tan won Picture Book of the Year with *The Rabbits*. This work, written by John Marsden is a searing tale of colonization made more powerful by Tan's surreal illustrations. Tan's signature talent was recognized in the Picture Book category again in 2007 with *The Arrival*, in 2014 with *Rules of Summer* and in 2019 with *Cicada*. In 2009 his *Tales from Outer Suburbia* which features fifteen short illustrated stories based on Tan's memories of growing up in suburban Perth won the Older Readers' category.

Local creators have continued to shine in the Picture Book category with winners in 2003, *In Flanders Fields* illustrated by Brian Harrison-Lever and text by Norman Jorgensen, and in 2021 *How to Make a Bird* with Matt Otley's illustrations and Meg McKinlay's text. In 2021 Davina Bell became the state's second winner (so far) in the Older Readers' category with *The End of the World is Bigger Than Love*. In that same bumper year of firsts, *No! Never!*, by Libby Hathorn and Lisa Hathorn-Jarman, illustrated by Mel Pearce, won in the Early Childhood category. The most recent winner in 2022 is *A Glasshouse of Stars* by Shirley Marr in the Younger Readers' category.

The exhibition, which ran until the end of October was worthy of attention not just because it was a visual feast of local talent, but it was also a fascinating historical insight into how our writers reflect so tellingly the societal concerns and issues of the time. It was as much a sociological history as it was one of publishing trends reflecting the interests and concerns of readers. Some of these books are out of print and the exhibition was an opportunity to promote the works and their successful West Australian creators. [▶](#)





# Reflections on Inaugural Australian School Library Day

by Holly Godfree

We are delighted with the outcome of the first Australian School Library Day on 24 August - especially since the school library community had relatively short notice that it was happening! Thank you to all the school library staff who marked the day and who shared about it on social media. The biggest national-level excitement of the day had to be when our #ASLD2022 reached Number 10 trending in Australia during our Twitterstorm. What a rush! If you are not on Twitter, it might just be worth it to join for #ASLD2023!

So many organisations and individuals joined in to show their support and amplify the message that Students Need School Libraries: CBCA, all the School Library Coalition associations, AEU Federal, SCIS, Softlink, NSWTF, and many, many more.

And, YES! If you are wondering, this will be an annual event on the Wednesday of Book Week. So, mark your 2023 calendars, and get your wheels turning.

The primary campaign goal for #ASLD2023 will refine the focus of the day to shine a light on the wide range of activities and services that school libraries provide. It is a day that complements (not replicates) traditional Book Week activities. Australian School Libraries Day is about celebrating and highlighting all the things your school library staff do (whilst the attention of the community is already turned in your direction for Book Week).

But, for now, let's bask in the good feelings of a successful new national campaign event. Well done, all involved!

### Social Media Addicts Needed!

OK, that heading is poking a bit of fun, but if you are active on social media and have a bit of time to throw to this national advocacy endeavour, we would love to hear from you. Hajnalka Molloy and Sue Johnston (our social media team leaders) are seeking new members of the team. Many hands make light work, and this is what we're looking for:

- Two people from each state and territory to repost and share Students Need School Library content to state and local groups
- Creatives who can create visual memes from school library related research
- Instagram users who can boost our content
- Snapchat and TikTok fans who can help SNSL get started

Please reach out to [snsldcampaign@gmail.com](mailto:snsldcampaign@gmail.com) if you are keen or if you have suggestions or comments.

### Planning for Term 1 2023

Yes, it will be here before we know it. Here are a few things to add to your To Do list for after the summer holidays.

- Share the 7 Signs Your Child Needs Their School Library pamphlet with new families
- Make an appointment to present to your school's parent group about why school libraries are important. Modify the PowerPoint on our Resources page to be tailored for your school
- Embed a film from our YouTube channel in your school's digital newsletter. There is a playlist called "What Parents Need to Know".



**Students Need School Libraries**  
What's happening in your child's school library?

### Holly Godfree

Students Need School Libraries Campaign Coordinator  
2019 Australian School Library Association Teacher Librarian of the Year



## James Foley

Award winning children's author & illustrator



### Hi James, tell us about yourself.

I write and illustrate children's books - I've been doing this since 2009, and I've made 18 books so far. I've worked on picture books, chapter books, anthologies and comic books/graphic novels. *Stellarphant* is my latest; it's a picture book about an elephant that wants to become an astronaut, and it was shortlisted for the CBCA Picture Book of the Year. I live in Perth with my wife, two kids and labrador.

### When did you first realise you wanted to be an author and illustrator and were there any influences in your work?

I don't remember there being a single moment where I made that decision; I've been writing and illustrating stories for as long as I can remember, and I knew I wanted to get a book published one day, but it didn't occur to me to make it my full-time job. I finally got my first book published in 2011: *The Last Viking*, written by my good mate Norman Jorgensen. That took off, and I started speaking at schools and festivals regularly, and it snowballed from there. By 2013 I made the leap to full time writing and illustrating, and I've been doing it ever since.

I read a lot of picture books and comics as a kid; my favourites were *Animalia* and *The Eleventh Hour* by Graeme Base, the *Calvin and Hobbes* comic strip by Bill Watterson, and the *Asterix* series by Goscinny and Uderzo. I also watched a lot of cartoons on TV - Looney Tunes and Inspector Gadget were on high rotation - and I devoured movies, too. So I soaked up an awful lot of visual storytelling when I was younger, which definitely helps me now when I'm putting together my own stories. Then when I was a teenager I encountered the work of fellow West Aussie Shaun Tan on display at the Literature Centre and it broke open my brain. Actually, seeing his artwork was probably when I first realised I really wanted to be a writer and illustrator too.





Every book has its own individual influences, too. E.g. *My Dead Bunny* was influenced by old black and white Universal Studios horror films from the 1930s, as well as modern zombie movies and TV shows. My latest book, *Stellarphant*, has a wide range of visual influences: everything from the film *Apollo 13*, to 1960s atomic/space age illustration, mid-century Soviet postage stamps, NASA astronaut photo portraits, and the work of picture book creators like Andy Joyner and Gus Gordon.

**How long does it take you to write and illustrate a book?**

I spent 19 months on my first book, *The Last Viking*, because I barely had a clue what I was doing. Nowadays it usually takes me 3 - 6 months to write and illustrate a picture book, and at least 6 months to make a graphic novel. If I'm illustrating someone else's chapter book then it might only take a few weeks.

It's not usually a neat, straightforward process; I'm usually working on a few things at once. I might start writing a story but it can take years for it to develop and finally click into place. I had the initial inspiration for *Stellarphant* in 2014, but the book wasn't published until late 2021.

**Do you enjoy writing and illustrating books and why?**

Of course, I love it! Part of the joy is the puzzle; each new story is a bundle of problems that need to be solved. I also love losing myself in the creative process and getting in the 'flow'. And the other joyful part comes when you get to share the finished story and hear back from readers who enjoyed it.

**What inspires you to write and where do you get your ideas from?**

My greatest inspiration is my mortgage. (Just joking ... it's probably my third-greatest inspiration.)

I think I'm basically addicted to the creative process now; it's a great feeling when the story finally clicks.

I have some days where I don't feel particularly inspired to sit at a desk and type or draw; I'd rather play with the kids or catch up on some movies. That's where deadlines (and bank managers) can be a wonderful inspiration.

Regarding ideas and where they come from; Mo Willems has a great viewpoint on this. He always says that ideas aren't something you get; they're something you grow. You start with the tiniest inkling of an idea - a seed, really - and it's not the whole story yet. But there's something there. This 'seed' might have been prompted by a funny thing someone said, or something you observed, or a random drawing in a sketchbook. And then you keep that seed safe, and you add this and that to find out what the seed needs to grow. And a bunch of things you add don't work, but that's okay - they just become fertiliser for the story (or even for the story growing in the next garden bed over, or a seed you haven't even planted yet). And you try some other things which make the seed shoot up, so you keep adding more. You give it love and attention. You prune it here and there. And eventually you get a full story.

Stories rarely ever show up fully formed; usually it is a long, slow process of development.

**What was your favourite book as a child?**

Apart from the ones I've already mentioned, the ones I remember most vividly are *Sunshine and Moonlight* by Jan Ormerod, the *Frog and Toad* books, *Amelia Bedelia*, *Louise Builds a Boat* by Louise Pfanner, and the *Spooner or Later* trilogy by Paul Jennings, Terry Denton and Ted Greenwood. I always loved strong visuals, humour and wordplay.

**What did you learn and discover when writing and illustrating books?**

I often do a bit of research for my books. I learned an awful lot about dung beetles for my graphic novel, *Dungzilla*, and read heaps about dinosaurs and evolution. I did months of research for *Stellarphant* - I learned about space travel technology but mostly about the true history of animals in space. I tracked down old Apollo mission reports, scientific journal studies and newspaper articles so that I could pull together a timeline of animal astronauts and put it in the back endpapers of *Stellarphant*. I found these animals' stories compelling - some were tragic, some were quite funny, and others were unbelievable. They're fun stories to share with schoolkids.

**What do you do when you are not writing and illustrating?**



Another part of the job is giving talks and workshops; I usually do a lot of work with schools, libraries, and festivals.

And there's so much admin! Nobody tells you that when you become a full-time author and illustrator.

But aside from work - my wife and I are kept busy by our young kids and the dog and general domesticity. We watch tv and movies and read books. We're pretty boring really, haha! When there's time I take the kayak out. I most definitely spend far too much time on social media.

**As a child, what did you want to be when you grew up?**

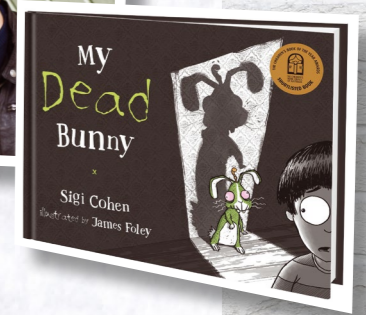
I wanted to be Inspector Gadget. Then I got into my dad's cartoon book collection, and I wanted to be a political cartoonist or a comic strip artist. I spent a lot of time in the school library so I also thought of being a librarian! I ended up studying a bit of journalism, graphic design and primary teaching, and although I didn't finish those degrees, I've ended up using all those skills as a children's writer and illustrator. I did complete a degree in Behavioural Science and had a day job with the Health Department for a while, which is where I met my wife.

**If you could choose a book character to be for a day, who would it be and why?**

Asterix. He's the little guy but he's clever and brave. Plus I want to know what it feels like to take Getafix's magic potion.

**We all love and are passionate about libraries. Did the library play a role in your life?**

Libraries have always been one of my favourite places; what's not to love? I had fantastic school libraries, and my siblings and I were regulars at our local public library. Excuse me while I get on my soapbox for a moment - I am forever frustrated to see this shift away from having teacher librarians and well stocked school libraries, to having a bank of computers and a part-time library officer. Every school should have a library at its heart, with a dedicated teacher librarian to inspire kids to love reading. Studies show that kids who enjoy reading for its own sake have better literacy levels; it even improves their maths. So if education departments truly wanted to lift those NAPLAN scores, they'd pay for more teacher librarians. Rant over :)



# Teacher sacked for reading bum book to students:

by Dr Simon Ryan

On March 1, 2022, Toby Price, an assistant principal at Gary Road Elementary School in New Byrum, Mississippi, faced a problem. The reader booked for a Zoom session for 240 grade two students hadn't shown up. So Price grabbed one of his favourite books, [I Need a New Butt](#), and began reading.

He was fired two days later.

In [Price's termination letter](#), Hinds County Schools Superintendent Delesicia Martin cited "unnecessary embarrassment, a lack of professionalism and impaired judgment" on Price's part. The superintendent was particularly disturbed by the word "fart", which he called "inappropriate".

However, the book, which features a character who sets out to find a replacement bum after he discovers his has a crack in it, is recommended for the same age group as Price's audience.

## Ban sets a dangerous precedent

Why – apart from depriving young children of entertainment – does this matter? Making decisions about who can access books on the basis of whether they offend the sensibilities of those in authority, rather than whether they're a good match for their target audience, sets a dangerous precedent.

Conservatives in the United States have recently focused on school boards as easy pressure points in the ongoing culture wars.

Late last year Rabih Abuismail, a member of the Spotsylvania County School Board in Virginia, proposed that books be not only be removed from school libraries, but also burned for good measure. In Florida, Governor Ron DeSantis supports a bill (colloquially known as the "Don't Say Gay Bill") which has this wording:

*Classroom instruction by school personnel or third parties on sexual orientation or gender identity may not occur in kindergarten through grade 3 or in a manner that is not age appropriate or developmentally appropriate for students in accordance with state standards.*

This joins with some dozens of other bills in state legislatures across the US which seek to repress discussion of gender, race or sexual identity. The terms are deliberately vague so that teachers can never know whether they're on safe ground.

In this kind of atmosphere, what chance does a good bum joke have?

## Breaking taboos and attracting reluctant readers

Bums have a foundational role in literature. Chaucer's *The Miller's Tale*, Shakespeare's frequent play on the word "ass" and Swift's scatological obsessions are part of this rich inheritance. In children's literature, bums have found a ready audience: children love to read about bodily functions. They know there is some level of taboo-breaking here and they love to break the rules.

So, books such as Stéphanie Blake's [Poo Bum](#), Dave Pilkey's [The Adventures of Super Diaper Baby](#), Mark Norman's [Funny Bums](#) and Kate Maye and Andrew Joyner's [The Bum Book](#), sell very well.



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And I'm not sure what the Mississippi school superintendent would make of Andy Griffith's international bestseller [The Day My Bum Went Psycho](#). Here, the protagonist, Zack Freeman, finds that his own bum is part of a global conspiracy to cause a methane eruption that could render everyone unconscious while the bums take the place of people's heads.

Griffiths, a former teacher, says he started writing humorous books as a way to engage reluctant readers. "Kids respond to humour. They are naturally playful with words and ideas. If you want a sure way to engage children, especially reluctant readers, then humour is necessary."

Michelle Jensen, former president of the School Library Association of NSW, agrees. "The book often needs to be funny, so that's probably why they like *Captain Underpants*."

## Irony, anxiety and why kids love bum books

Kids love bum books for reasons that are not immediately obvious, too. They know that use of words with light taboos will gain laughter and approval from peers. They learn that these words have a kind of power, and enjoy experimenting with this power.

When children call you a "poo poo" (knowing you are not, in fact, a "poo poo"), they are experimenting with irony, where they intentionally use the wrong word. They are showing that there's no natural connection between a word and a thing, an understanding that helps them to absorb picture books, where there is often a disjunction between the word and the illustration.

Adults joke about things that make us anxious. So do children, who often have concerns about toilet accidents and can use language to discharge some of this worry. These books can also be used to initiate conversations about bodily processes, showing that they should not be embarrassing and we do not always control them.

And "disgust", however it can be theorised, exerts a weird dynamic of attraction and repulsion on all of us. How else can you explain that there is a TV show called Dr. Pimple Popper?

## Teachers fired for sharing LGBTQ+ books

In the United States right now, we can also imagine Toby Price being fired for reading a book about a queer kid, or about racial history.

In late 2021, Glen Ellyn, Illinois, third grade teacher Lauren Crowe was suspended because her TikTok site showed the LGBTQ+ material she used in class. Crowe was subsequently reinstated, as Illinois laws support the teaching of LGBTQ+ perspectives. But the incident seems likely to discourage other teachers from using similar books.

In 2015 in North Carolina, teacher Omar Currie felt compelled to resign after he read a gay-themed fairytale to his third grade students and caused a controversy that culminated in a town hall meeting with 200 participants.

Queer books for younger readers have saved lives, as children and teens who struggle with their own developing identity increasingly see their challenges reflected in fiction and know they are not alone.

Bum books, for all their good points, aren't quite so noble.

But if they can ban the bum, they can ban anything – and that should worry us. [b](#)

## Editor's Note

For hyperlinks in this article, WASLA members can login and access the digital copy on the WASLA website: [www.wasla.asn.au](http://www.wasla.asn.au)



## Dr Simon Ryan

Associate Professor (Literature), Australian Catholic University

This article is by Dr Simon Ryan, Australian Catholic University and originally appeared in *The Conversation* <https://theconversation.com/teacher-sacked-for-reading-bum-book-to-students-the-latest-conservative-book-ban-179301>





Before



After

## The *myFUTURE* program at Aquinas College

By Jo Critch

Aquinas College implemented a Senior School Learning Framework in 2021 to meet increasing future learning and workplace demands. This commenced with the 2021 Year 11 cohort taking part in this new program. The program then expanded to include both the 2022 Year 11 and 12 cohorts. This Aquinas *myFUTURE* program is to support the boys in developing strong character traits and skill sets to successfully transition from school to TAFE or University, and to work. This program can also be seen as one of the initiatives that evolved from remote learning when it became evident that alternative learning and study skills are required to support such teaching and learning, and for the changes taking place in our universities.

As a result, the model that the College has adopted is a four-day face to face traditional learning program and one day of independent, online work, whereby the boys attend the College on this fifth day to work in a Study Hall setting and complete teacher produced vodcasts and the associated work. The space the College now provides allows for working independently as well as collaboratively and for teacher small group tutoring. The boys are also able to attend specialist support

classes or complete work in practical subjects within the school setting on this day. Another initiative of this program is for boys to choose to attend and take part in programs outside the school, for example studying a course at Notre Dame, attending TAFE, or working in the pre-apprenticeship arena. Guest speakers and off campus excursions can be accessed on this day, as well as the boys working on their service-learning program through supporting the Middle school sport program and Junior School mentoring.

As a result of *myFUTURE* a bigger facility to enable the Study Hall approach was required. The ex-Gymnasium/College Hall was seen as the answer and work commenced in 2021 to create a space that catered for the two year groups by 2022. The project was managed from within the College by wonderful maintenance staff working collaboratively with the Administration and the Library staff and like all 'Grand Designs' the outcome was realised – if a few weeks late – but it would not have been 'Grand' without a slight delay.

Aquinas College now has a facility that can seat 260 students in a Study Hall atmosphere, as

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well as four study rooms, a mezzanine floor level and a 'stage' area. This facility provides all the services and educational resources of the previous library. The building has been named Angelicvm after the Pontifical University in Rome that Saint Thomas Aquinas attended.

It was definitely difficult to say goodbye to the Redmond Learning Centre which was a custom built and renovated Library, but we have replicated what we had and more. The Middle School boys are also great users of Angelicvm as the increase in size allows teachers an alternative teaching space for lessons or small group work, as well as a learning area to bring classes or Tutor groups for reading and borrowing. Angelicvm can easily support four classes at any one time.

Angelicvm also provides great storage facilities, a very good-sized work room, a self-contained kitchen and a great photocopy room.

Furniture from the Redmond Learning Centre was relocated to Angelicvm but due to the need to accommodate the two year groups on a Friday and the increase in space, new furniture was also required.

Our new furniture was sourced from:

### Raeco

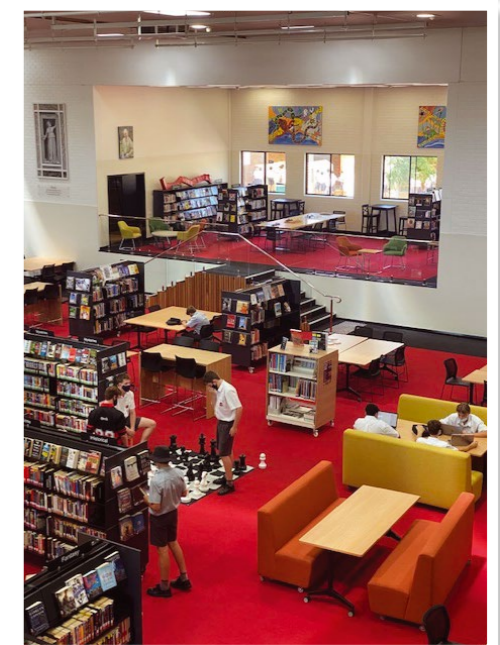
- High Stools
- Luca High Bench Chrome Base Chair
- Table chairs
- Luca Mesh Back Sled Chair
- Booths
- Aurora Lounge three- seater
- Warwick Beachcomber fabric – three colours
- Tub Chairs
- Pedro Sled Base Chair - Warwick Beachcomber fabric
- Teacher's desk Mobile Service Pod
- High Tables
- Victoria High Bench

### Sebel Furniture

- Tables
- Pirouette Nesting Tables

### Jo Critch

Director of Angelicvm, Aquinas College



## Feature Article



that I was still in retail but in a different genre (pardon the pun).

In 2011, I secured a permanent teacher's aide position in a Townsville secondary school library. The difference between working in primary to secondary was really very different and I noticed that the older students didn't borrow as many books as the younger students. I also noticed that the secondary library wasn't as engaging. I started following the relevant curriculum for that term and turned the empty spaces in the library into learning walls. It was extremely rewarding as it drew student interest and increased borrowing tenfold.

I was very fortunate to have had strong role models and the opportunity of learning how to run a school library, from purchasing to cataloguing, shelving and displays. I really valued the guidance and leadership of the two teacher librarians I worked with. After 8 years, an opportunity to work as the TA entrusted with the management of the Kirwan State school library was advertised.

I felt confident that after 8 years I had the experience and knowledge to step out of my comfort zone and step up. I applied and proudly won this role. Well, after three and a half years at Kirwan Primary, I love it, every day.

I really enjoy creating an engaging environment for students that fosters a love of reading, creativity, innovation and excitement. I do this through displays, creating artworks and making the most of every space available. I enjoy matching the library environment to the relevant curriculum, so networking with teachers is important.

Organising and managing resources so students and teachers can have access to exactly what they want in a timely manner is a main priority. I recently designed a new system for teachers to access our decodable readers. Teachers love it. I am proud of this.

Day to day business of the library is a huge part of my role. Ordering, cataloguing, supporting students, supporting teachers, answering questions, covering books, maintaining resources, checking in, checkout, all must be done. It is busy but I love it.

Book week is my favourite time of year. Preparing the library in the relevant theme, seeing the students in their costumes, and bringing awareness to the importance of reading through the students to the parents is an opportunity that book week brings.



## Kirwan State School Book Week Display

by Patricia Kratzmann

My name is Patricia Kratzmann. I am an experienced teacher's aide who manages the library at Kirwan State School in Townsville.

I started working as a relief teacher's aide in 2010. Previously, I was in retail with a strong career spanning 20 years. Starting out as a teacher's aide, I was very fortunate to have had opportunities to work in libraries across primary schools in Townsville. I first started working at Kirwan State School. Never in my wildest dreams would I have realised that I was just about to embark on a career that, 12 years later, I thoroughly enjoy every day.

The teacher librarian at the time had just purchased a new set of Grug books and was very upset that the students weren't showing any interest in them. She turned to me and asked, "Are you artistic?". To which I replied, "Kind of". So she handed me a piece of cardboard, some colouring pencils and a Grug book and said, "Good. Draw a really big Grug, cut it out and contact it and we'll stick it on the wall and put a few books around it and we'll see how it goes."

After the lunch break a class came in and borrowed nearly the entire set of Grug books. Jackie turned to me and said, "That's better". It was in that exact moment that I realised

# Reading can take you anywhere

## A Principal's Point of View

By Nic Gaglia

Having been appointed Principal to Good Shepherd Catholic School Lockridge mid last year, it was evident that reading plays an important part in the lives of the students. The Premier's Reading Challenge provided our school with an extra motivational incentive for our students to read and widen their selection of reading material. Staff continually used the challenge to encourage students to read at home, which in turn increased the involvement of parents in their child's reading. When I announced to the students that Mrs. Tomazin (Library Technician) and I attended Parliament House and met the Honourable Mark McGowan MLA, Premier of Western Australia, the excitement from the students was exhilarating. We look forward to participating this year with the goal of having even more students sign up for the challenge.

### Nic Gaglia

Principal  
Good Shepherd Catholic School  
215 Morley Drive, Lockridge WA 6054

[www.gsl.wa.edu.au](http://www.gsl.wa.edu.au) | [www.facebook.com/GoodShepherdLockridge/](https://www.facebook.com/GoodShepherdLockridge/)



The 2022 Premier's Reading Challenge showed students from Kindergarten to Year 10 across WA that reading really can take you anywhere.

More than 28,000 students from 845 schools participated in the challenge, with students collectively reading and logging over 300,000 books.

Teacher librarians and school library staff were at the heart of the challenge, playing an active role in promoting books, setting up library displays and coordinating author visits – all with the aim of encouraging a love of reading amongst students.

To be in the running for end of year prizes, students needed to have read and logged over 12 books over the course of the challenge.

Fantastic prizes were awarded to students and schools. Student prize winners will soon be undertaking their own adventures, with a \$3,000 family travel voucher to use within WA thanks to the support of Tourism WA.

The six schools, whose students logged the most books according to school size, will enjoy a creative workshops prize with Awesome Arts WA.

We can't wait for this year to see students embrace a love of reading.



## Premier's Reading Challenge 2022 prize winners

### Schools

Category: 0 to 35 students  
**Traying Primary School**

Category 36 to 200 students  
**Southwell Primary School**

Category 201 to 400 students  
**Christmas Island District High School**

Category 401 to 600 students  
**Good Shepherd Catholic School Lockridge**

Category 601 to 1,000 plus students  
**Rostrata Primary School**

### Students

Category: Kindergarten to Year 2 - most books  
**Winner: Tabitha Thirunavakkarasu, Winthrop Primary School**

Category: Kindergarten to Year 2 - prize draw  
**Winner: Kyra Pravindh, Aspiri Primary School**

Category: Years 3 to 5 - most books  
**Winner: Mia Grey, Baynton West Primary School**

Category: Years 3 to 5 - prize draw  
**Winner: Frankie Williams, Richmond Primary School**

Category: Years 6 to 8 - most books  
**Winner: Aditi Sheth, Karrinyup Primary School**

Category: Years 6 to 8 - prize draw  
**Winner: Yilia Wang, Methodist Ladies College**

Category: Years 9 and 10 - most books  
**Winner: Kalyani Pamarthy Rao, Southern River College**

Category: Years 9 and 10 - prize draw  
**Winner: Arina Nosova, Churchlands Senior High School**

Reading can take you  
*anywhere*

## WASLA News

### PTCWA Award Citation 2022

Elena (Helen) Tomazin has been involved in school libraries since 2007 and gained her Library/Information Services Diploma in 2012. She currently works as the Library Technician at Good Shepherd Catholic School, Lockridge, and is Treasurer for the Western Australian School Library Association (WASLA). Since joining the committee in 2015, Helen has worked on the Awards Sub-Committee, the Professional Development Sub-Committee, conference organising committees and written many articles for our professional journal ic3. Currently, Helen is not only the Association's Treasurer but also the co-editor of ic3, sourcing content from across Western Australia and further afield. Helen has also been instrumental in coordinating WASLA's professional learning opportunity for school library officers by organising presenters, gift bags, sourcing prizes from local businesses, booking the venue and presenting two sessions. WASLA has joined forces with other school library associations across Australia to form the School Library Coalition, of which Helen is the current Treasurer. She is also active on social media, advocating for school libraries and the vital work they do every day.

Helen was awarded the prestigious WASLA Library Technician of the Year Award in 2016. This award recognises and honours an exceptional Library Technician in a school setting whose professional practice positively impacts the service provided by their school library in professional knowledge, professional practice and professional commitment. Helen remains a worthy recipient.

Another school library network that benefits from Helen's commitment is the CEWA School Library Community, part of Catholic Education WA. Helen is an active contributor and shares many best practices and resources with her colleagues.

Volunteering and advocating for school libraries has become an essential aspect of Helen's professional persona and this PTCWA Award celebrates her commitment to the Association and the profession.



Helen Tomazin & Rebecca Murray,  
WASLA President



Helen Tomazin & Nic Gaglia, Principal Good  
Shepherd Catholic School, Lockridge

20-26 August  
**Dreaming with eyes open...**



Carey Baptist College Harrisdale



John Septimus Roe Anglican Community School, Mirrabooka



Kent Street Senior High School

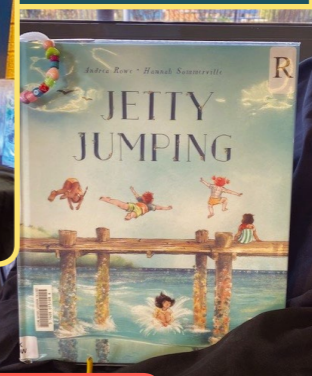
Foundation Christian School Greenfields



La Salle College Middle Swan



Holy Cross College Ellenbrook



Living Waters Lutheran College

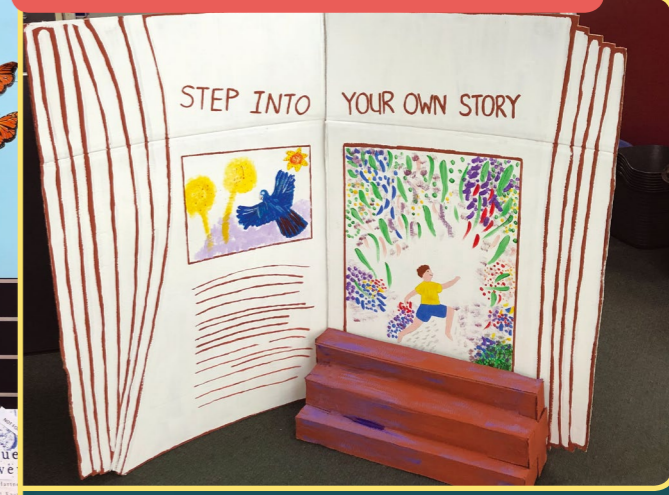
North Harrisdale Primary School



St Brigid's College Lesmurdie



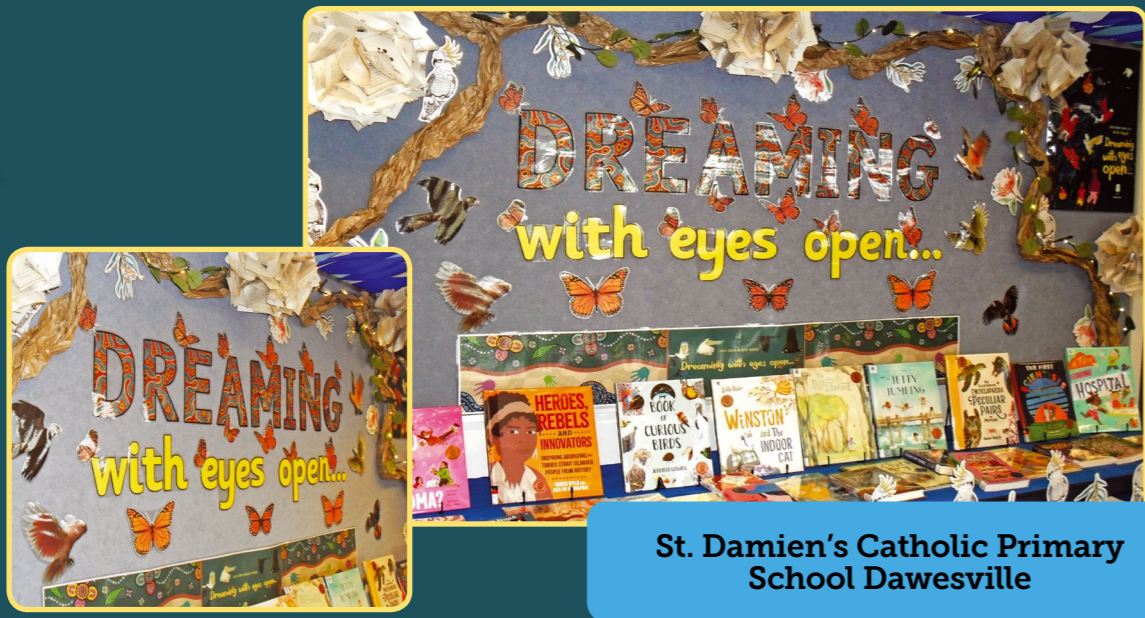
St Francis Xavier Primary School Geraldton



Penrhos College Como



St. Damien's Catholic Primary School Dawesville



ARTWORK BY JASMINE SEYMOUR | © THE CHILDREN'S BOOK COUNCIL OF AUSTRALIA



# Copyright Corner: End-of-Year School Events - 2022

The National Copyright Unit

The time of year has come when schools begin planning end-of-year events such as presentation evenings and Christmas concerts. In this article, we look at the ways schools can use music in their end-of-year events under the new [Schools Music Licence](#).

## Recording school events

Schools can make an audio or video recording of a **school event** where musical works are performed (for example a live performance by a school band), or where recorded music is played (for example as a backing track to a student dance performance).

These recordings can be shared with students, parents and guardians (the school community) by uploading them to the school website, a password protected school server, school intranet or **digital teaching environment** (DTE) and making this available to the school community for their private use.

Schools can also post recordings of school events, at which live or recorded music is being played or performed, on their official social media pages (for example Facebook and YouTube), for parents to view at home.

For information about how to label the recordings and for a full list of the ways schools can share recordings of their school events, see [Music Copyright Guide for Schools](#).

## Live streaming a school event

Schools can live stream their school events, via the school website, the school's official social media platforms (for example Facebook Live, YouTube), school App (for example Seesaw) or a video conferencing platform (for example Zoom).

What if the live stream/recording is blocked on social media?

If a school live streams a school event, which includes music, from its social media page, or posts a recording of the school event on its social media page, the post may still be blocked or muted by social media platforms.

If this happens, contact the [National Copyright Unit](#), or consider uploading to, or live streaming from, the school website or a video conferencing platform instead.

## End-of-year videos and presentations

Schools can incorporate recorded music (for example a track downloaded from Spotify) or a recording of a school performance (for example a school orchestra performing a piece of classical music) into another, unrelated work, such as an end-of-year video montage, provided it is for a **school purpose** (for example school events such as school formals, fairs or sports days).

The school can play these new recordings at school events, such as graduation ceremonies, or share them with the school community by uploading to a school website, password protected intranet or password protected DTE. For more ways to share these recordings, see [Music Copyright Guide for Schools](#).

Please note, a school cannot post these recordings on social media if it has incorporated a commercially available sound recording into the video or presentation.

## Student consents

Most schools obtain student consents forms at the time of enrolment, but make sure these cover your intended uses of recordings of student performances, particularly where these are shared on social media.

Additional information

The National Copyright Unit (NCU) is a specialised unit that provides copyright advice to all Australian government and non-government schools and TAFEs in Australia.

The purpose of this article is to provide a summary and general overview of selected copyright issues. It is not intended to be comprehensive, nor does it constitute legal advice. For copyright assistance and advice, please visit the [Smartcopying website](#) or contact us on (02) 7814 3855 and at [smartcopying@det.nsw.edu.au](mailto:smartcopying@det.nsw.edu.au).



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## Editor's Note

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## WEBSITE + APP REVIEWS

### ABORIGINAL & TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER MATHEMATICS ALLIANCE [atsima.com](http://atsima.com)

ATSIMA is an Indigenous-led charity that seeks to develop innovative techniques and resources to enhance the teaching of mathematics for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students. Content includes professional learning, resources, events and news.

SCIS no: 5389501

### ESAFETY COMMISSIONER

[australian.museum/learn/first-nations](http://australian.museum/learn/first-nations)  
Revised and updated, this valuable resource offers students, parents and teachers important information about the ever-changing topic of online safety. Matters covered include information on staying safe online during COVID-19, technology trends, protecting those most at risk, and toolkits for schools.

SCIS no: 1829638

### PUPPET PALS 2

[apps.apple.com/au/app/puppet-pals-2/id589141096](https://apps.apple.com/au/app/puppet-pals-2/id589141096)

Students using this app can develop their own puppet theatre. The app allows students to manipulate characters, devise settings, record plays, add voices and share with others. The app can also be used to enhance language skills, and to present instructional videos or reports. (Note: includes in-app purchases.)

SCIS no: 5389505

### AUSTRALIA OVER TIME

[australian.museum/learn/australia-over-time](http://australian.museum/learn/australia-over-time)

This website developed by the Australian Museum offers a comprehensive range of information and resources regarding the evolving Australian landscape, megafauna and other extinct animals, and palaeontology. It also promotes links to the museum's palaeontology and mineralogy collections.

SCIS no: 5389565

### GUIDE TO DEMOCRACY

[guidetodemocracy.ecq.qld.gov.au](http://guidetodemocracy.ecq.qld.gov.au)

*Guide to democracy* was developed to encourage students' critical thinking skills, enhance their knowledge of the key institutions of Australia's democratic government, and to assist them in becoming better-informed and active citizens. Explicit teaching modules are a feature.

SCIS no: 5389697

### JACKIE FRENCH

[www.jackiefrench.com](http://www.jackiefrench.com)

Billing herself as an 'Australian author, ecologist, historian, dyslexic, honorary wombat', Jackie French's website contains a myriad of material. Students and teachers can rummage through random facts about Jackie, tips for reading and writing, her published works, teachers' notes and a blog. There are links about wombats, her garden and recipes.

SCIS no: 5389613

### DISCOVER STEM LEARNING RESOURCES

[education.australiascience.tv](http://education.australiascience.tv)

The Royal Institution of Australia is 'dedicated to connecting people with the world of science'. The content of its website focuses on making available quality, free STEM resources aligned to the Australian Curriculum for Foundation-12 teachers and students.

SCIS no: 5389735

### OLOGY

[www.amnh.org/explore/ology](http://www.amnh.org/explore/ology)

This authoritative American Museum of Natural History website gives students the opportunity to delve into a diverse range of interesting science topics. From anthropology to zoology, each 'ology' offers games, videos, stories and hands-on activities for primary school students.

SCIS no: 5389628

### SCIENCEWORKS AT HOME

[museums.victoria.com.au/scienceworks/at-home](http://museums.victoria.com.au/scienceworks/at-home)

Students unable to visit Museum Victoria's Scienceworks can use this website to embark on virtual tours of exhibitions, listen to museum experts and undertake a variety of science-related activities. The curriculum-aligned resources are graded according to year levels.

SCIS no: 5389641

### TUNE IN

[www.tso.com.au/tune-in](http://www.tso.com.au/tune-in)

There are 48 standalone activities on this website that encourage student exploration of orchestral works from the Baroque, Classical and Romantic periods. Music written for children by living Australian composers is also featured. Each activity includes audio, video, background information and a quiz.

SCIS no: 5389685

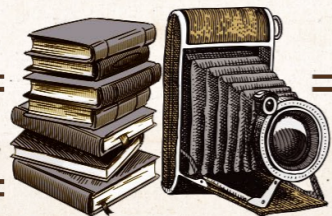


**Nigel Paull**

Teacher Librarian  
North Coast, NSW

*The websites and apps selected for review are often of a professional nature and should be initially viewed by teachers and library staff to determine suitability for students. The links and content of these sites are subject to change.*

# Sticking out of the Stacks



...at the State Library of Western Australia.

May Gibbs Postcards by Kate Ackerman

May Gibbs is best known for creating *Snugglepot and Cuddlepie*, one of the most famous and beloved children's books ever written in Australia. The first book of the series, *Tales of Snugglepot and Cuddlepie: their wonderful adventures* was published in 1918.

May Gibbs's interest in art was formed early in her life and fostered by her parents. Herbert William Gibbs was an artist in his own right. He worked as a newspaper cartoonist and as a drawing master for Perth High School, and later worked as a draftsman in the Lands and Survey Department. He was also one of the three founding members of the Wilgie Sketching Club, along with Bernard Woodward, (the first Director of the Western Australian Museum and Art Gallery), Henry Prinsep and George Temple Poole. The Wilgie Sketching Club encouraged young artists, including May Gibbs and continues today as The West Australian Society of Arts.

After her school career May went to London with her mother and continued her studies at Art School in Kensington. On returning to Perth, May contributed illustrations to publications such as *The West Australian* and *The Social Kodak*, initially under the pseudonym *Blob*. Her early political cartoons make

Gibbs one of, if not the, first Australian female caricaturists and political cartoonists.

The Social Kodak based in St George's Terrace, was a "women's periodical". The first edition was published in 1902 and can be accessed online from the State Library catalogue. The Social Kodak consisted of contributions by Western Australian women, including May Gibbs, and published articles deemed of interest to the women of Western Australia.

To quote the "editress",

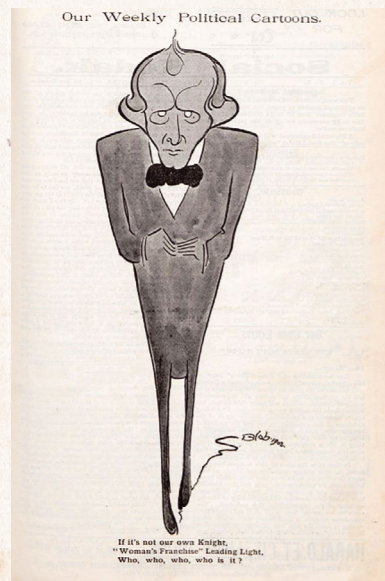
"...if (*The Social Kodak*) can in any way assist in the improvement or diversion of womankind it will not have taken its snapshots in vain."

In the illustration, *If it's not our own Knight*, May Gibbs portrays the 5th Premier of Western Australia, Sir Walter James. James is said to have led a reforming government, whose achievements included promoting free, compulsory, secular education and legalizing the union movement. James was a supporter of Federation and worked effectively for female suffrage as parliamentary spokesman for feminist groups in 1897 through to 1899.

Gibbs continued to enjoy success in having her work published and returned to London in 1909. In London she was commissioned as an illustrator and found a publisher for her first book. May promoted the cause of Women's Suffrage through feminist cartoons.

Due to health issues Gibbs returned to Australia in 1913, along with close friend Rene Heames and together they lived in a boarding house in Neutral Bay in Sydney. Gibbs's mother was purportedly disappointed that May hadn't returned to the West.

Early depictions of the gumnuts appeared in 1913. The characters were instantly popular, later appearing on magazine covers, bookmarks and postcards.



^The Social Kodak 14 August 1902



^Cover for Christmas Issue of the Western Mail 1906

# Sticking out of the Stacks



...at the State Library of Western Australia.

May Gibbs Postcards by Kate Ackerman



^ 5282B/6 The girls I left behind me



^ 5282B/7 We're still alive and kicking

The postcards reproduced here were designed to be sent to bolster the spirits of the Aussie soldiers serving in World War I. May created over 30 of these postcards during the war years.

"When the war came I did the Gumnut cards, because I wanted to do something for people to send to the soldiers..."

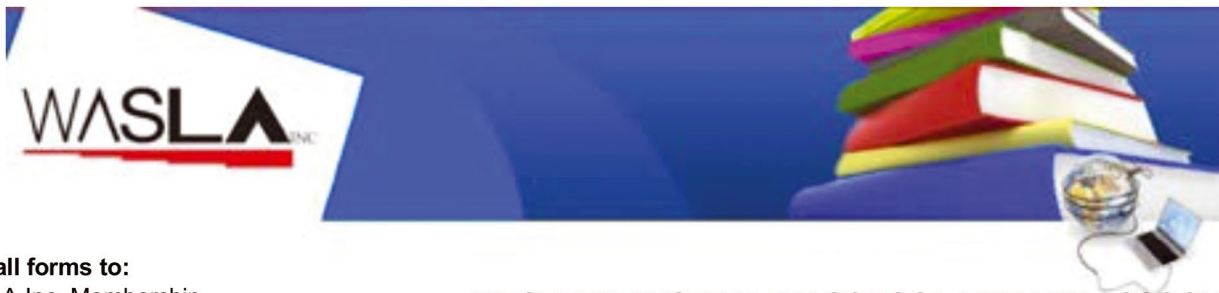
On a visit to Perth in 1919 May Gibbs met and later married Bertram James Ossoli Kelly, together they moved to Sydney and build the house, Nutcote where she lived and worked the rest of her life.

The first edition of *Snugglepot and Cuddlepie* (1918) sold 17,000 copies on its first release. In 1955, for her contribution to children's literature, Gibbs was awarded the MBE – Member of the British Empire (Before 1975 Australians received British honours). May Gibbs died on 27 November 1969 aged 92. In her will she left all her papers and copyright to the NSW Society for Crippled Children and the Spastic Centre of NSW. Her home *Nutcote* at Neutral Bay is a museum. The South Perth Historical Society also has a permanent exhibition on May Gibbs in recognition of the time spent there during her childhood, *The May Gibbs Museum and Local History Gallery*.

Gibbs's work has enjoyed long popularity and publication but more recently some publishers have made works that are 'inspired' by the work of May Gibbs but are the work of contemporary illustrators. Check your bookshelves for May Gibbs original works.

Sources:

Walsh, Maureen (1985), *'Mother of the Gumnuts: Her Life and Work'*, North Ryde, New South Wales.  
Gibbs, Cecilia May (1877-1969). (2008). In *Trove*. Retrieved July 28, 2022, from <https://nla.gov.au/nla.party-461654>



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