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**2017 Theme – Collaborating beyond the school walls – engaging students, teachers,  
parents and the community**

***.Primary School Libraries: vibrant, multifunctional spaces***  
***A SLAV Conference for ALL working in Primary School Libraries***

**Monday May 29<sup>th</sup> 8.45 am – 3.15 pm**  
**Graduate House, 220 Leicester Street, Carlton**

## Introduction

We know that “a Library is not a luxury, but one of the necessities of life” however in Victorian Primary Schools competing budgetary, space and timetabling demands are impacting on the delivery of library services.

In reality the Library could be the Centre of the School, creating a whole school culture of reading, literacy, enquiry and research which supports teaching and learning for successful student outcomes.



The Learning Centre at Taylors Hill Primary School

An ideal School Library would have:

- a Librarian/staff member who works in the library regularly
- a budget for the library so there are finances to provide a wide range of new resources
- a welcoming feel with rugs, soft seating, a warm atmosphere and displays
- staff to support students when they choose books, and be able to encourage reading for pleasure
- a computerised library management system for students for issuing, , tracking reading
- Library helpers to keep the library tidy and to help other pupils choose a book to read (see [Pupil librarians](#))
- Interactive activities in the library, with quizzes, competitions, book weeks and more
- Easy student access to the library, e.g. with their class, at lunchtime, after school and allow time for browsing and book selection. (do not rush them)

At the conference we will explore and share skills so that participants can work with Principals and the School Leadership team to achieve some if not all of the outcomes listed above.

This Conference, designed for **ALL** working in Primary School Libraries, aims to provide support and guidelines around a variety of topics, including writing a budget, sourcing materials/resources and promoting library programs.

We will share ideas on activities, programs and promoting the school library and valuing yourself as a Library person. Through sharing experiences we will look forward to building the knowledge, skills and confidence of all working in Primary School Libraries.

## **Primary School Libraries: vibrant, multifunctional spaces**

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### **Program**

8.45 am **Welcome and Opening Address - SLAV President**

9.00 am **Inaugural Primary School Leaders Award Presentation**

9.15 am **Keynote Presentation - Building and Supporting a Primary School Library** - Danielle Stella Principal and Maria Sartori Library Technicians- Taylors Hill Primary

9.45 am **Session 1 Creating a Library**

- Starting from Scratch
- Renovating

**10.15 am Morning Tea**

10.45 am **Session 2 - Library Q&A Panel**

- So you are new to the Library. Advice for new library staff
- How to engage in the curriculum for Library staff that aren't teachers
- Library Management Systems;
- Parent Involvement;
- Beg, bot and borrow,

11.45 am **Session 3 Budgets and Acquisitions**

- Budgets - Developing and managing a budget, common expenditure items, (stationary supplies, equipment failures), resources to support the curriculum.
- Acquisitions - Where to purchase books/supplies , good/bad service recommendations, tips for getting the most out of your budget

12.15 pm **Session 4 – What is a great Primary School Library? – “Brainstorming ” Facilitated by Cindy Tschernitz**

- We ask the following questions.
- What is the Ideal model of a Primary School Library – identity, features, concept?
- What is essential?
- What would you do if you had more time?
- What can be achieved in a day, two days, 3 days or more
- What staffing would be ideal?

**12.45 pm Lunch**

1.30 pm **Session 5 – In Conversation with Belinda Murrell chaired by Kristin Gill**

An insight into writing books for young readers. Kristin and Belinda will discuss the 'art of writing' – from inspiration to finished product and the rollercoaster ride in between.

2.15 pm **Session 6 – Sharing Experiences : Library Programs – Led by Lee Hodge and Susan O'Malley**

- Makerspaces
- Book Fairs
- Premier's Reading Challenge,
- Book Week
- Promotion

3.00 pm **Session 7 - What is SLAV and how can it support you?**

3.10 pm **Reflection: Best thing you do in your Library - Sharing experiences and activities**

3.20 pm **Conference Close - Join us for Networking Drinks with Colleagues**

## **Presenters**

**Danielle Stella – Principal Taylors Hill Primary School (with the Leadership Team) - Recipient of the SLAV Inaugural Primary School Leaders Award.**

Danielle Stella, is the foundation Principal of Taylors Hill Primary School. Danielle started her teaching career in 1995 and quickly moved into various school leadership positions. She has spent the last 18 years in the Principal Class, including being the principal of two school over the past 11 years. Danielle has a Master of School Leadership and has an unwavering focus on academic excellence and the provision of a wide range of opportunities to develop the skills, interests and knowledge of all children in her care. Her philosophy is based around each student performing at their personal best in all areas of the curriculum. She is committed to maximizing the learning growth of every child at her school and key to supporting that growth has been the establishment of an outstanding Library, not as a single room but as a conduit to learning across the school effectively engaging the students in reading, digital literacy, critical thinking and research.

**Maria Sartori – Taylors Hill Primary School** Maria is an Education Support Officer for the Department of Education who has worked as a Library Technician at Taylors Hill Primary School for the past 6 years. During a career break to care for her young family that Maria gained her first experience in library management, two tubs of books for the North West Multiple Birth Club. Unknown even to herself this was just the beginning. After qualifying as an Integration Aide, Maria moved into the public education sector, a rewarding experience but not the right fit. Maria then applied for the position of Library Assistant at Aberfeldie Primary School, where she commenced her training under Paula Coningsby, an experienced technician both in the education and commercial sectors. The seed of learning grew and Maria commenced off campus Diploma studies at Victoria University. She then took the opportunity when it arose to apply at Taylors Hill Primary a new school only 18 months old with a Learning Centre ready to grow.

**Haifa Atatreh – Islamic College of Melbourne** Haifa's journey started at TAFE (Diploma of Library and Information services) and quickly went onto a Bachelor of Education (Prep to Year 12). She started working in the university library for her first job as a Student and Lead Rover while studying. She loved it so much she wanted a job that would combine the two. In 2010, she began teaching and in 2013 she moved to the Islamic College of Melbourne where she is now the teacher librarian.

Currently Haifa assists students from Prep to Year 11 (approximately 950 students) and all 100 staff as well as studying for a Masters of Education (Teacher Librarianship). When she started at the college in 2013 she took up the herculean task of teaching Year 4s AND setting up their school library. She started from scratch and having had little knowledge in setting up libraries, Haifa started building a network (school libraries and public libraries across Victoria) of people she could gain knowledge from. Along the way she has catalogued around 25,000 books and resources for her school library. And yes, they are still going.

## **Presenters cont.**

**Sallie McCleery - Wales Street Primary School** commenced her professional life in the 1980s working in Special libraries including ICI Australia and BHP and qualifying as a Librarian. Sallie helped at the Canterbury Area Toy Library and the local Kindergarten Picture Story book collection when her children were young and then arrived at Wales Street Primary School as an emergency Integration Aide in 1998. Since then Sallie has been a “Jack of many trades” at the school in various emergency/part-time/full-time rolls including integration, administration, first aid and Library technician roles Sallie is currently full-time with a split of .8 Library Technician and .2 Support in the Grade 5/6 area of a school that has grown to over 605 students almost doubling in recent years.

**Anne Walsh – PLC** After 13 years as a Library Teacher, Anne attained her Master of Education (Teacher Librarianship) in 2012 and starting working at PLC Junior School Library. Previously Anne has taught across every level of the primary school, in five countries and the independent, government and catholic systems. Anne has the depth and experience to teach in a school with a varied student population such as PLC.

**Cindy Tschernitz** – has been the Executive Officer for the School Library Association of Victoria since 2011 and will be leaving this role at the end of May 2017. Whilst at SLAV she has seen changes in education funding and priorities which has of course impacted on the role and management of School Libraries. This has caused a change in the makeup of SLAV Members and Cindy has worked closely with SLAV Branches to encourage all who work in School Libraries to attend SLAV events and become actively involve in the Association. In the School Library space, Cindy is particularly interested in helping Primary Schools ensure that their Library is effective and adds value to student learning irrespective of the size of the library or staffing levels.

Outside of SLAV Cindy is the Managing Director of Tell Me Now, a Research, Business Information and Consultancy Company and a Library Educator. With over 30 years experience in Libraries, Education, Not for Profit Associations and Business Information Cindy has worked across most Library sectors and all Education sectors( except Preschool). At the moment she is particularly interested in the Ethics and Globalisation of Librarianship which includes the distribution of “Fake News” and reverence for opinion over expertise and the impact this is having on Library work.

**Kristin Gill is the Head of Product – Children’s Books for Penguin Random House Australia** and has worked in the Australian book industry now for 30 years. She has previously worked as a secondary school music and English teacher and is passionate about ensuring all children in Australia have the same access to books and positive literacy outcomes through her work with the Indigenous Literacy Foundation.

**Belinda Murrell** is a bestselling, internationally published children’s author with a history of writing in her family that spans over 200 years. Her 29 books include The Sun Sword fantasy trilogy as well as the popular Lulu Bell series for younger readers. She is also known for her award-winning historical timeslip novels including *The River Charm*, *The Locket of Dreams*, *The Forgotten Pearl*, *The Ivory Rose* and *The Lost Sapphire*. Her latest series is called Pippa’s Island, about starting a new life on a tropical island, finding your courage and the best group of friends you could wish for. Her website is [www.belindamurrell.com.au](http://www.belindamurrell.com.au)

## Presenters cont.

**Jacqueline Griffeth - Mount Waverley Primary School** Jacqueline is the teacher librarian at Mount Waverley Primary School. She was a classroom teacher for five years at Mount Waverley, and the teacher librarian for the past 13 years. Prior to family leave in the early 90s Jacqueline was the teacher librarian at Coburg Primary school for 6 years, and also spent a year in the library at Coburg West before completing a Graduate Diploma in Librarianship at Melbourne State College. She stumbled across the occupation whilst on placement as a mature age primary teaching student, and feels very lucky to have done so. In 2016, Mount Waverley Primary School heard it's library was included in the Australia's Great School Libraries Campaign list of Great School Libraries.

**Ruth Woolven - Kew Primary School** Ruth is the Librarian at Kew Primary School in Melbourne. After working in a variety of jobs in computer companies, customer service and teaching swimming, Ruth started work at Kew PS in 2011 as a Library Assistant. Ruth was completing her course to qualify as a Library Technician. By 2013, Ruth was the remaining staff member in the Library. She completed her Master of Information Studies (Librarianship) in 2015 to fulfil her high school dream of being a Librarian. Ruth loves working in the library and being part of the reading journey with so many students.

**Susan O'Malley - St Paul's Anglican Grammar School** Susan is a Teacher Librarian with 20 years' experience in primary and secondary schools in government, independent and Catholic education systems and also some time in local libraries. She has also previously worked as a Library Technician. Passionate about giving all students access to a vibrant school library, Susan currently works at St Paul's Anglican Grammar School in Traralgon Campus, with students from 3 Year Old ELC to year 10. In addition to this role Susan is also the La Trobe Valley SLAV Branch Convener.

**Lee Hodge - Holy Spirit Community School** Lee is amazed and privileged to think that she has been in the business of 'Learning' for 34 years. (Had to check the numbers twice!) Twenty four of these years have been spent as a 'very full time part timer,' direct quote from a past principal. Classroom to various specialist roles, from Bachelor of Early Childhood/ Primary to a Masters in the Studies of Asia.

Lee is coming up to nine years as Teacher/ Librarian 3 days per week at Holy Spirit Community School, North Ringwood. During that time she has also worked one day per week in several other primary school libraries, in both the Catholic and State sectors, with the specific aim of building the profile of the library. Currently Lee is having a third stint on the Executive Committee for the Eastern Region Catholic Primary Library Network of which I am passionate about Professional Development for All, Networking and Promoting the Profession.