



SLAV READING FORUM SERIES

Readers, Stories, Literacy

A forum for learning and discussion

Thursday May 13 2021

4.30 start to 6.00

ONLINE

Topic: LGBTQI Perspectives

Speakers

Carmel Byrne, Head of Library, Berwick Campus, Beaconhills College **Mirrors, Windows and Sliding Glass Doors**

I have entitled my presentation: *Mirrors, Windows and Sliding Glass Doors* to remind us of the wisdom of Dr Rudine Sims Bishop in her 1990 essay of the same title. What a rich metaphor! Literature provides a mirror so we see our life experience reflected back, a window so we can learn about those who are different to us and most importantly a sliding door so we can walk into the world of others and learn empathy.

I will outline:

- why for us in our Library (Independent Community School) creating a collection that attempts to be inclusive of all our students – whatever their ethnicity, religion, gender or sexuality – is of paramount importance
- how to select and promote LGBTQIA+ books
- how members of our GSA have been involved in how LGBTQIA+ titles are included in the collection

And share a list of some titles to consider for those wanting to add to their libraries.

Kresta Davis, Librarian, Geelong Grammar School's Fisher Library

Geelong Grammar School prides itself in being a loud and proud LGBTQIA+ school. Our **Stand Out** Libguide is sometimes the first port of call for students or teachers looking for accurate and trustworthy resources. It is important to have a safe space for students to explore and find the resources they require. This can be done either privately, as a student dips their toe cautiously into the topic; or as a group, learning more about themselves, friends or family in a classroom, small group, or even boarding house environment. The **Stand Out** Libguide supports the **Stand Out** student group. These are as multicultural and diverse as the rest of the students at Geelong Grammar School, having students from all over the world. It is essential that cultural and religious information such as Muslim, Indigenous, Greek and Asian Support Groups are available to cater to the specific needs of our students.



Tobias Madden

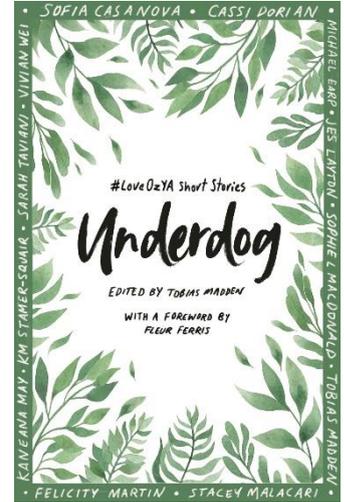
Tobias will consider publisher and editor considerations for selecting, highlighting, and empowering queer voices, and give an emerging gay author's perspective on the LGBTQI+ YA landscape.

Tobias Madden is originally from Ballarat, Tobias worked for ten years as a dancer, touring Australia and New Zealand with musicals such as *Mary Poppins*, *CATS*, *Singin' in the Rain* and *Guys and Dolls*. He now lives in Sydney with his husband, Daniel, and their Cavoodle, Ollie.

In 2019, Tobias edited and published *Underdog: #LoveOzYA Short Stories*, which featured his first published work, 'Variation'. Featuring a foreword by award-winning Australian novelist Fleur Ferris, *Underdog* celebrates the diverse, dynamic, and ever-changing nature of our nation's culture.

Tobias also co-wrote the cabaret show *Siblingship*, which played to sold-out audiences in Sydney, Melbourne and Canberra he is a passionate member of the #LoveOzYA and LGBTQ+ communities, and he currently works full time for a major independent publishing company.

Tobias's first novel *Anything but Fine* will be published by PRH in September.



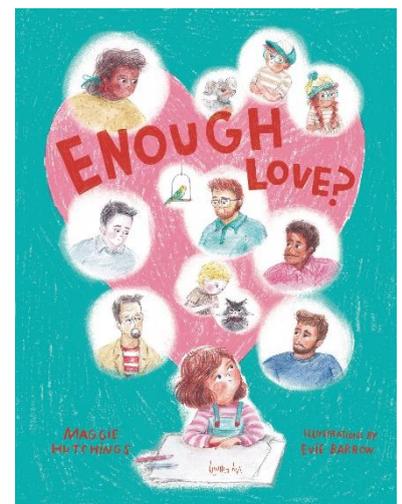
Special Guest Creators

Maggie Hutchings is a counsellor, family-dispute mediator, writer and artist. Maggie writes stories with heart and soul for children and adults that encourage kindness, hope and resilience. Her previous books include *Unicorn!*, *Mermaid!*, *Dragon! Your Birthday Was the BEST!* and *I Saw Pete and Pete Saw Me*.



Enough Love by Maggie Hutchings, illustrated by Evie Barrow (Affirm Press, publication date 29 June). A funny, memorable story about love and acceptance in a blended family.

*Willa had
one dad
one mum
one home
and a bird.
And that was enough.*



So, when Willa's parents split up, she's pretty sad. But at least they are still all hers. Until Dad meets Kevin and Willa's family starts to grow ... and keeps on growing. When will enough be enough? Or is there always room for more love?

Full of heart and bursting with warmth, **Enough Love** is the funny and moving new picture book from the creative team behind *I Saw Pete and Pete Saw Me*.



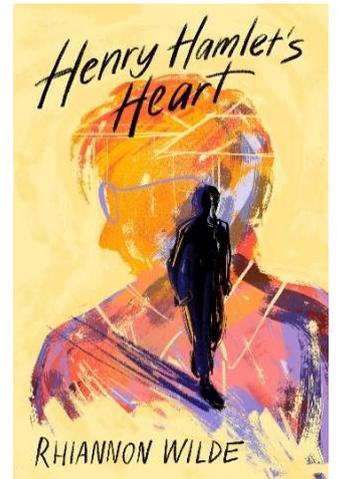
Rhiannon Wilde has been telling stories for as long as she can remember – inside her head, as well as through working as a journalist, terrible barista, and high school English teacher in Brisbane’s inner north. Rhiannon’s particular interests are caffeine, characters both real and imaginary, and the power of well-strung words to challenge and change us. Her second-person short story inspired by urban Brisbane, *You Deserve Nothing*, was longlisted for the Queensland Young Writer’s Award in 2014. *Henry Hamlet’s Heart* is her first novel it won the Queensland Literary Awards Glendower Award for an Emerging Queensland Writer in 2019.

***Henry Hamlet’s Heart* (UQP)**

Henry Hamlet doesn’t know what he wants after school ends. It’s his last semester of year twelve and all he’s sure of is his uncanny ability to make situations awkward. Luckily, he can always hide behind his enigmatic best friend, Len. They’ve been friends since forever, but where Len is mysterious, Henry is clumsy; where Len is a heart-throb, Henry is a neurotic mess. Somehow, it’s always worked.

That is, until Henry falls. Hard. For the last person he imagined.

From an exciting debut author comes this passionate story of growing up, letting go, and learning how to love.



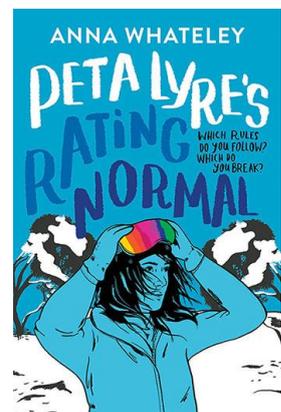
Anna Whateley lives in Brisbane with her husband, three children, two dogs, and two rescue guinea pigs. She has always worked in literature and education and holds a PhD in young adult fiction. Now, Anna is an 'own voices' author, proudly autistic, with ADHD and sensory processing disorder.

***Peta Lyre’s Rating Normal* (Allen & Unwin)**

At sixteen, neurodivergent Peta Lyre is the success story of social training. That is, until she finds herself on a school ski trip - and falling in love with the new girl. Peta will need to decide which rules to keep, and which rules to break.

'I'm Peta Lyre,' I mumble. Look people in the eye if you can, at least when you greet them. *I try, but it's hard when she is smiling so big, and leaning in.*

Peta Lyre is far from typical. The world she lives in isn't designed for the way her mind works, but when she follows her therapist's rules for 'normal' behaviour, she can *almost* fit in without attracting attention.



When a new girl, Sam, starts at school, Peta's carefully structured routines start to crack. But on the school ski trip, with romance blooming and a newfound confidence, she starts to wonder if maybe she can have a normal life after all.

THE KIDS' BOOKSHOP



10 Books in Ten Minutes: Books to Support LGBTQI Perspectives with Erin Wamala, Owner, The Kids Bookshop and Teacher Librarian.

Attendees will receive:

- A certificate of participation upon request
- Recording of the session
- Padlet of Resources

REGISTRATION

Individual Session

\$25 online session – SLAV Members

\$40 online session – Non-Members

All online registrations include recording

<https://slav.wildapricot.org/event-4122673>

For further details please contact the SLAV office
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