

A SCHOOL LIBRARY ASSOCIATION OF VICTORIA FULL DAY CONFERENCE



REAL LIBRARIES:
READING THE WORLD

NOV
23

MARVEL STADIUM, DOCKLANDS
COST: \$280 FOR MEMBERS (NON-MEMBERS \$380)

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*Even the most misfitting child
Who's chanced upon the library's worth,
Sits with the genius of the Earth
And turns the key to the whole world.*

- Ted Hughes, July 1997



Introduction

This conference explores the role of the school library in engaging and developing young people as readers. It considers how our students read their own world through literature and, through this, better understand themselves and their place in their own community. It also explores how literature can develop an understanding of the wider world, giving readers diverse experiences that

deepen their understanding of a world beyond their own experience.

School libraries create, foster and enable this reading experience and, consequently, play a vital role in the development of literate, empathetic and knowledgeable young people.

Conference Program

- 8.30am Registration, Tea and Coffee**
- 9.00am Welcome: Di Ruffles**
President, SLAV
- Opening Address: Erica Wagner**
Reading the World
- 9.30am Keynote address: Dr Margaret Kristin Merga**
Supporting Reading Engagement: Myths, Strategies and Plans
- 10.15am Fiona Wood and Cath Crowley in conversation with Emily Gale**
- 10.45am Morning Tea**
- 11.15am Concurrent sessions**
- 12.10pm SLAV Awards Presentation**
- 12.30pm Lunch**
- 1.15pm Featured address: Hugh Gundlach VATE**
Library, Literature and Literacy: Collaboration with English Faculty
- 2.00pm Concurrent sessions**
- 2.50pm Organisation Showcase**
- **Vision Australia: Sarah Bloedorn**
Children's & Youth Services Librarian
Commercial & National Services
 - **LMERC: Jenny Peck**
Librarian
- 3.15pm Storytime with Patrick Guest**
- 3.30pm Conference close**

Opening Address

Reading the World

- Erica Wagner

Drawing on thirty years of working with writers and illustrators on books for children and young adults with the aim of publishing work that will 'stand the test of time', Erica explores how the ideas in books she has been intimately involved with have travelled over the years – including those that have become iconic, like Melina Marchetta's *Looking for Alibrandi*; those that broke new ground, like Sonya Hartnett's *Sleeping Dogs*; re-imagined classics, like Nicki Greenberg's *Hamlet* and *The Great Gatsby*; those that challenged ways of seeing our culture, like Boori Monty Pryor and Meme McDonald's *Maybe Tomorrow*; as well as the many new voices shining a light on what matters today, like Scot Gardner's *Changing Gear*, Dianne Touchell's *Forgetting Foster* and Ambelin and Ezekiel Kwaymullina's *Catching Teller Crow*.

Erica Wagner has worked as an editor and publisher for 30 years, at Penguin Australia, Duffy & Snellgrove and Allen & Unwin, nurturing the careers of many well-known Australian authors and illustrators, including 2016/17 Children's Laureate Leigh Hobbs, and recent CBCA award-winners Trace Balla, Johanna Bell and Dion Beasley. In 1999 she was awarded the Beatrice Davis Editorial Fellowship, the first children's book editor to receive this honour. In 2017 she was the recipient of the Dromkeen Medal for outstanding achievement in the creation of Australian children's and young adult literature. Erica is currently Executive Publisher, Books for Children & Young Adults at Australia's leading independent publishing house, Allen & Unwin. She is also co-director of the micro-publishing house Twelve Panels Press, which specialises in long-form graphic novels, and has her own active arts practice (www.ericawagner.com.au).

Keynote Presentation

Supporting Reading Engagement: Myths, Strategies and Plans

- Dr Margaret Kristin Merga

Supporting reading engagement in primary and secondary schools can be challenging due to competing priorities for time, resourcing limitations and a range of other factors influencing pedagogical choices and the whole school cultural identity. However, reading engagement is crucial to improve our schools' stagnant literacy outcomes, as well as supporting students' acquisition of broader academic, social and vocational goals. Advocates such as school library educators need to bring a strong and current research-derived knowledge base to schools to promote a supportive reading culture. Drawing on this robust research base can help schools to avoid making decisions dictated by popular myths that proliferate in the reading engagement space.

Dr. Margaret Kristin Merga is a Senior Lecturer at Curtin University in Western Australia. Her research explores the social and environmental influences on literacy acquisition and the position of reading and books in the contemporary world. Her research findings in literacy explore the role that teachers, librarians and parents can play in supporting children, teenagers and adults to become life-long readers. She has written a substantial body of peer-reviewed research papers in this area, and she has led a range of mixed-methods research projects exploring these issues in local, national and international contexts. She is the author of the upcoming book *Reading Engagement for Teens and Tweens: What Would Make Them Read More?* for Libraries Unlimited in the USA.

Featured Address

Library, Literature and Literacy: Collaboration with English Faculty

- Hugh Gundlach

The relationship between teacher librarians and teachers can be so much stronger than an occasional visit for wide reading. Drawing on the research and activities of the Victorian Association for the Teaching of English, this session will outline some initiatives and ideas for ways to strengthen the connection between faculties and the library, and to engage students both in their learning and reading for pleasure.

Hugh Gundlach is the Education Officer for the Victorian Association for the Teaching of English (VATE), a professional body established to promote the interests of English education. VATE's members include teachers in government, Catholic and independent schools, as well as tertiary educators and pre-service teachers. Hugh has taught in the secondary and tertiary education sectors for the last 12 years, and currently teaches in the Melbourne Graduate School of Education.

Featured Address

Fiona Wood and Cath Crowley in conversation with Emily Gale

Fiona Wood is the author of *Six Impossible Things*, *Wildlife* and *Cloudwish*. *Six Impossible Things* was shortlisted for the CBCA Book of the Year, Older Readers in 2011. *Wildlife* won the CBCA award in 2014. *Cloudwish* won the CBCA award and the Indie Book Award for YA fiction in 2016. Both titles were shortlisted for numerous other awards. All three books are published internationally and are Junior Library Guild Selections in the US.

Take Three Girls, co-written with Cath Crowley and Simone Howell, has been shortlisted for the 2018 Indie, ABIA and Gold Inky and recently won the Older Readers category of the 2018 CBCA awards. Before writing YA fiction, Fiona worked as a screenwriter. She lives in Melbourne.

Cath Crowley has been writing fiction for young adults since 2004. Her novels include *Take Three Girls* (co-written with Fiona Wood and Simmone Howell), *Words in Deep Blue*, *Graffiti Moon*, *Chasing Charlie Duskin* (*A Little Wanting Song*) and the *Gracie Faltrain* trilogy.

Crowley's awards include The Prime Minister's Literary Award for Young Adult Fiction (2011, 2017), The Ethel Turner Prize for Young Adult Literature (2011), Winner of the Indie Book Awards (2017), YALSA Best Fiction for Young Adults List (2013), Cooperative Children's Book Centre (CCBC) Recommended Book, The Queensland Literary Award for Young Adult Fiction (2017), Honour Book CBCA (2011, 2017) and the Gold Inky Award (2017).

Emily Gale has been involved in the children's book industry for twenty years: the first decade in London as an editor and freelance writer, and the latter in Melbourne as a reader and literary agent and a children's book buyer. She spent several happy years at Melbourne's award-winning bookstore, Readings, during which time she was instrumental in establishing its Children's Book Prize.

Emily's writing includes *Eliza Bloom's Diary* (2014), a duology for younger readers which has been published in several languages, as well as four novels for teenagers: *Girl, Aloud* (2009), *Steal My Sunshine* (2013) and *The Other Side of Summer* (2016) and its companion novel, *I Am Out with Lanterns* (2018). In 2017, *The Other Side of Summer* was shortlisted for the Victorian Premier's Literary Awards (Writing for Young Adults) and the Aurealis Awards (Best Young Adult Novel).

Patrick Guest was raised in the Melbourne beachside suburb of Seaford. Even as a child, Patrick was writing stories, starring in his own *Powerful Patrick* series: a major hit with his Mum, Dad and rabbit Snowball.

Confusion, insecurity and his desire to be Michael J Fox took Patrick down the corporate path. After gaining a commerce degree, followed by a stint with a big mining company, Patrick realised that he was possibly the world's worst accountant. A dramatic change saw Patrick go back to study physiotherapy and, in 2000, he landed his dream job at the Sydney Olympics.

In his own time, Patrick continued his passion for writing: poems for retiring colleagues, love letters to his wife Lisa, epic emails of adventures abroad and stories gathered from the confessional plinth. And then: a flood. His first son Noah was born, followed by Reuben and Grace. He'd found his life calling and, with that, the next half of his career, as a story teller.

Concurrent Sessions

11.15am – 12.10pm

"Let's Establish a Reading Culture in our College..."

Claire Gibson and Corinda Grant

Windows and Mirrors: LGBTQIA+ Visibility and Representation in Contemporary Australian YA

Nell Day in conversation with Alison Evans, Jordi Kerr and Jessica Walton

Image is Everything: Using Canva to Create Slick Promotional Materials for Your Library

Sue Osborne

Mother Tongue: What We Can Learn about Language Collections from Singaporean School Libraries

Karys McEwen

2.00pm – 2.50pm

Young Australia Best Book Awards, The Power of Student Choice

David Linke and Michelle Nye

Senior School Reading Classes: Supporting Teen Readers

Julie Purcell

Tackling the Tough Questions

Aunty Fay Muir and Sue Lawson

What Authors want School Librarians to Know

Matt Larkin in conversation with Erin Wamala

Concurrent Session Descriptions

"Let's Establish a Reading Culture in our College..."

- **Claire Gibson and Corinda Grant**

This is a trip down the track of establishing a reading culture in a secondary college of 1,100 students, starting with a good idea and talking about what the steps toward achievement of that goal look like at this stage. This presentation is about the evolution of an idea and the structure of a program that is still very much a work in progress.

Claire Gibson started her career as a journalist after studying a triple major in Communications, Public Relations and Professional Writing (Journalism) in Canberra. Her career highlights have been as a TAFE teacher, communications manager in both private enterprise and Local Government, and Library

Supervisor, before becoming librarian at St Joseph's College, Echuca, in January 2017. Claire is the author of two books - *Bes*, *The Best of Two Worlds: The Life Story of Besley Murray* and *Pioneers, Progress and Politics, The Centenary of the Wakool Shire Council 1906-2006*.

Corinda Grant is a senior English teacher at St Joseph's College, Echuca where she has been teaching for the last seven years after completing a Bachelor of Education and Bachelor of Arts in Canada. She is currently completing a Master of Education (Contemporary Literacies) and coordinates the Reading Room Program at her school.

Windows and Mirrors: LGBTQIA+ Visibility and Representation in Contemporary Australian YA

- Nell Day in conversation with Alison Evans, Jordi Kerr and Jessica Walton

Librarians working with young people understand the power of fiction to both foster empathy with the perspectives of others and catalyse reflection on their own identities and experiences as they find their place in the world. This holds particularly true for stories that represent diverse sexualities and gender identities. Authors Alison Evans, Jordi Kerr and Jessica Walton talk with teacher librarian Nell Day about LGBTQIA+ stories in the current Australian young adult fiction landscape.

Nell Day is a teacher librarian working at The University High School in Parkville. Her career in education has taken her from teaching Latin and French in the leafy inner north, to working on literacy programs in WA's Great Sandy Desert, but her main passion is for books, reading and indoctrinating young minds about the transformational power of literature. Nell is particularly interested in building a diverse and inclusive collection and ensuring equity of access for all library patrons. Her top bookish podcast recommendations are the New York Public Library's *The Librarian Is In* and Book Riot's *Hey YA*.

Alison Evans is the author of *Ida*, a YA book about parallel universes. Their next book, *Highway Bodies*, due for release in 2019, is a story set in a zombie apocalypse where queer teens have to rely upon each other to survive.

Jordi Kerr is a freelance writer and youth literature advocate. Their thoughts about books have appeared in such places as *Archer*, *Books+Publishing*, and *Crikey*, and their YA short story '*Sheer Fortune*' has been published in the *Meet Me at the Intersection* anthology. Currently a support worker for LGBTI+ young people, Jordi previously worked at the Centre for Youth Literature, helping young adults engage with books, stories, and writing.

Jessica Walton is a picture book author, teacher, parent, daughter of a trans parent, and proud queer, disabled woman. She wrote *Introducing Teddy: A Gentle Story About Gender and Friendship* to help explain gender identity in a simple, positive way to her kids.

Introducing Teddy began as a Kickstarter project, but has now been published in the United States, the United Kingdom and Australia by Bloomsbury. It has also been translated into nine other languages. Jess lives in Pakenham, Victoria, with her wife, kids and cat.

Image is Everything: Using Canva to Create Slick Promotional Materials for Your Library

- Sue Osborne

Sue's session will focus on how to create professional looking promotional materials such as flyers, posters, leaflets and bookmarks using the online publishing product, Canva. Participants should bring a laptop or iPad, and have an idea of what they might want to create – this will be hands on.

Sue Osborne is Head of Library Services at Haileybury Brighton. With over 30 years' experience in a wide range of library sectors, Sue has created more than her fair share of publicity and promotional materials. Sue is also current convenor of SLAV Metro South Branch, and currently coordinates the SLAV Mentor database.

Mother Tongue: What We Can Learn about Language Collections from Singaporean School Libraries

- Karys McEwen

As the 2017 recipient of the SLAV Research Fellowship, Karys McEwen travelled to Singapore to investigate the ways in which schools create dynamic resource hubs for their multilingual students. With four official languages and a high number of international schools, the country has a strong bilingual education policy and a multicultural approach. The school libraries in Singapore reflect this in their collections, programs and design.

With our increasingly diverse student cohorts in Australia, we can learn a lot from our Pacific neighbours in terms of building vibrant language collections, and inspiring worldly, eager students.

In this presentation, Karys will discuss her Singaporean library visits and share practical ideas on how to best develop collections in languages other than English. This research supports student engagement in their school library, encourages healthy and constructive conversation around diversity, and ultimately strengthens the academic successes and smooth transition of students who speak, or are learning to speak, languages other than English.

Karys McEwen is the Head of Library at Glen Eira College. She is an avid reader of young adult literature and is particularly passionate about the role libraries play in student wellbeing. Karys is the Vice President of the CBCA Victorian Branch, the Treasurer of SLAV, and is on the ALIA Children and Youth Services committee. She is also a writer and zine maker.

Senior School Reading Classes: Supporting Teen Readers

- Julie Purcell

In the journey to create lifelong readers, teacher librarians would all agree that reading for pleasure is critical. This session will explore some recent findings concerning middle years' students and our challenge to encourage them to read for pleasure within Senior School reading classes. It will consider how partnerships between the Library and English department can produce positive teaching and learning outcomes. The focus will be on ways to reinforce the relevance and importance of school libraries and reading classes, particularly within a crowded senior school curriculum. This session will be of particular interest to senior school teacher librarians wishing to build strong working relationships with their colleagues in English facilities. There will be opportunities to share ideas and strategies to build successful collegial relationships with English teachers.

Julie Purcell has worked as the Director of the Library at Ruyton Girls' School in Melbourne, since 2010. She began her working life as a classroom teacher before retraining in Information Management and Library Studies at RMIT. Before working within school libraries, she was employed within a university library and an IT company. She has a Bachelor of Education, a post-graduate degree in Information Management and Library Studies and a Master of Information Studies. In 2013 she was a contributing author in the Australian School Library Association Publication *E-books in learning: A beginner's guide*. In 2014 she was named a joint recipient of the School Library Association of Victoria's Innovator's Grant for the establishment of a shared ebook collection across two schools.

What Authors Want School Librarians to Know

- Matt Larkin and Erin Wamala

School librarians have long been the very best champions of authors and their work. Without authors we would have no books to press upon readers. Having an author visit to your school can be hugely beneficial for reading promotion and reaching students who may otherwise not be readers. But what do authors really want a librarian to know about their work? How does a new author prepare for that daunting task of talking to kids in schools and how can we, as teacher-librarians, best prepare our students to engage with the authors who visit. Join Erin Wamala and Mat Larkin in conversation as they explore how authors and school librarians can work together to give readers the best possible author-led experience.

Mat Larkin is the author of *The Orchard Underground*. I mean, he says he's a writer of exciting middle-grade adventure stories, but anyone could say that. He's been overheard telling people he crafts tales where the not-quite-ordinary meets the nearly-impossible, but if that's true, what wouldn't he make up?

Erin Wamala has for many years worked with children's books in both publishing and bookselling, advising teachers and librarians and putting books into the hands of readers. She has recently joined the fray as a teacher librarian at Trinity Grammar School.

Young Australia Best Book Awards: The Power of Student Choice

- David Linke and Michelle Nye

The Young Australians Best Book Awards (YABBA) were established in 1985 by a group of Victorians keen to see children engage in reading Australian books.

Run by a volunteer committee, our goal after all these years is still the same.

We seek to provide children with a voice within the general Australian children's book industry. The YABBA Awards encourage children to recommend recent Australian published books, read all the recommendations for their peers, rate them against all others and then, finally, reward the book they feel is best.

As a membership-based, non-for-profit organisation, we seek the support of schools and libraries across Victoria in providing the financial resources necessary for this vital work. All Victorian schools can become members of YABBA; to engage their students in reading Australian literature, become discerning readers and, finally, participate in the announcement of their choices.

Our final goal is that, whilst engaging children in this process, the wider children's book industry hears the voice of the very people they are writing for – the children! We facilitate this message delivery through the connection of authors and illustrators to the children via shortlist announcement and the annual awards ceremony

Michelle Nye was awarded the 2017 SLAV Innovators Grant and has been a member of the YABBA Council for 4 years. She is the teacher librarian and Discovery Centre Director at Hillcrest Christian College and loves all things books and reading. Michelle is a believer in the power of student voice and YABBA give our young reader exactly that! As a passionate educator, she has spent twenty-four years helping her students to develop an awareness of Australian authors and illustrators. Voting for YABBA and attending the annual Awards Ceremony gives authentic power to the students! The fact that children's choice book awards are so very valuable is evidenced in the growing numbers of nominations and votes!

David Linke has lead YABBA as Honorary President for 7 years. David has brought a strategic focus to YABBA's operations, focussing on membership development, program enhancement and communications with all stakeholders. In his commercial life, David is the Managing Director and CEO of EduGrowth, Australia's education technology and innovation peak body.

Tackling the Tough Questions

- Aunty Fay Muir and Sue Lawson

Many educators fear 'getting it wrong' when working on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island-related topics with students. What is the best way to lead students to a stronger understanding of and respect for Australia's indigenous people and culture?

Join Boon Wurrung Elder, Aunty Fay Muir and author Sue Lawson in this open and honest conversation about where to find relevant, respectful and accurate resources and how to use them in your library and school. There will be opportunities for questions, so bring along your greatest concerns and issues to discuss with Aunty Fay.

Aunty Fay Stewart-Muir is an Elder and Traditional Owner of Boon Wurrung Country. She is the senior

linguist at the Victorian Aboriginal Corporation for Languages in Melbourne. Fay is working with her own Boon Wurrung language, recording and putting language into the database for future and present generations. She presents language-related workshops to community members who are reclaiming their languages, as well as universities and TAFEs that are interested in understanding the many and challenging aspects of language reclamation. She also goes out to schools to educate the students about language and culture and to teach language. *Nganga* is her first children's book.

Sue Lawson writes books for children and young adults. She has won the Australian Family Therapists' Award for Children's Literature and was short-listed for the Prime Minister's Literary Awards and the Children's Book Council of Australia Book of the Year Awards.

Poster Gallery

Members are invited to submit a poster for display in our poster gallery.

Posters need to explore any aspect of the school library's role in reading. They can be about a reading program, an assessment task or book reflection activity, a digital program or competition. They might be about a book club, a literature festival or an author visit, or report on a survey or data you have collected – or anything else you think relevant!

The poster can be delivered in advance to us and we will ensure it is displayed in the conference poster gallery. Or, if you are attending, you can bring the poster on the day.

From 1pm to 1.15pm (end of the lunch break) those in attendance are asked to be in the gallery area, with their poster, to answer questions.

Posters must be no bigger than A1.
Make it informative and fun! There will be prizes!

Send us an email to book your poster space – slav@slav.org.au



Also in attendance:

Trade Exhibition

The Kids' Bookshop

Registration:

<http://bitly.com/2Odczq6>

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