

An illustration of a desk setup. In the center is a computer monitor displaying the text 'Conference November 25'. To the left of the monitor is a yellow lightbulb hanging from a black cord. Below the monitor is a stack of colorful books (yellow, blue, pink, green) and a pencil holder with several pencils. To the right of the monitor is another stack of books. In the foreground, a black silhouette of a person's head and hands is shown typing on a white keyboard. The background is a dark grey rectangle. Decorative elements include green leaves and brown acorns on the left and top right, and yellow fan-shaped flowers on the bottom left.

**Conference  
November 25**

# **SCHOOL LIBRARIES**

POWERING READERS

**MCEC**

**Melbourne Convention & Entertainment Centre  
South Wharf, Melbourne**

This conference will engage with the various ways in which school libraries offer opportunities for students to see themselves as readers, and to better understand themselves and the world around them through literature. How we engage young people in reading, and how we build a school-wide reading culture will be explored as we consider how we can support readers to succeed and power into a brighter future.

## **Conference Program**

**8.30am Registration, Tea & Coffee**

**9.00am Welcome:** - *Di Ruffles*, President, SLAV

**9.05am Keynote Address: A Plus or D Minus? What do Australian Teens think of their School Libraries?** - *Dr Bronwyn Reddan, Professor Andrew Singleton, and Anne-Marie May* (Deakin University)

**9.50am SLAV Awards Presentation**

**10.15am Morning Tea & Trade Exhibition**

**10.50 You Matter – Sue Hindle**

**11.00am Concurrent Sessions**

- 1. Creating Lifelong Readers - How DEAR Reshapes Student Perception - *Rebecca Nettleton & Kaitlyn Woods***
- 2. Big Summer Read: Statewide summer reading challenge for children - *Angela Savage & Christine Vandor***
- 3. Shelftalkers: Student Voice - *Tye Cattnach* with *Lynn Swannell & Chloe Powell***

**11.45am In Conversation - *Chloe Hooper & Sally Rippin* in conversation with *Kristin Gill***

**12.30pm Lunch & Trade Exhibition**

**1.20pm You Matter – Sue Hindle**

**1.30pm Empowering Youth with Sustainable Literature - *Dr Kasey Garrison***  
&

**2.10pm Concurrent Sessions**

- 1. A Data Deep Dive - *Chani Hawksworth***
- 2. Lead the creation and promotion of a strong reading culture across your school - *Tracey Ferguson***
- 3. Blak & Bright Literary Festival: using Blak Literature in the Classroom - *Jane Harrison & Bethany Macdonald***

**2.55pm Far Out! Imagining the Future - *Dr Lili Wilkinson***

**3.30pm Conference Close**

## KEYNOTE

### **A Plus or D Minus? What do Australian Teens think of their School Libraries?**

**Dr Bronwyn Reddan, Professor Andrew Singleton & Anne-Marie May (Deakin University)**

This presentation examines initial findings from a national survey of secondary school students. An aim of our Australian Research Council Linkage Project 'Discovering a good read: Pathways to reading for Australian teens' is to provide evidence to aid practitioners as they design strategies to address the decline in library use and recreational reading by Australian teenagers.

Today, we preview our data on teenagers' reading tastes and practices, with a focus on:

- How much do secondary school students read for pleasure? When do they start reading less?
- How do they find books?
- How they rate genres and titles?
- What do they say about their experiences of school libraries?
- How much does age, gender and social influences affect these experiences?

**Andrew Singleton** (PhD, Monash) is Professor of Sociology and Social Research in the School of Social Sciences and Humanities at Deakin University, Australia. His research interests include teenagers, survey methods, sampling, religious change, youth religion, personal belief, and alternative religions. Singleton has published extensively in these areas both nationally and internationally. He is the author of *Religion, Culture and*

*Society: A Global Approach*, co-author (with Anna Halafoff, Mary Lou Rasmussen and Gary Bouma) of *Freedoms, Faiths and Futures: Teenage Australians on Religion, Sexuality, and Diversity*, and co-author (with Michael Mason and Ruth Webber) of *The Spirit of Generation Y: Young People's Spirituality in a Changing Australia*.

**Bronwyn Reddan** (PhD, University of Melbourne) is a Research Fellow on the ARC linkage project 'Discovering a "Good Read": Pathways to Reading for Australian Teens'. Her research examines the social and emotional dimensions of literary cultures, with a particular interest in women's writing, fairy tales, and strategies of authorship and translation. She is the author of *Love, Power, and Gender in Seventeenth-Century French Fairy Tales* (University of Nebraska Press, 2020).

**Anne-Marie May** (MA, Monash; M. Inf. Mgt., RMIT) has a background that includes librarian work in academic and public libraries, as well as ten years in the retail book trade industry. Her longstanding interests include reading for pleasure, reader advisory practices, and collection development. Her PhD project is focussed on the role that booksellers and librarians play in promoting recreational reading for adolescents. Using a case study of an inner Melbourne network of school libraries, public libraries and bookstores the research will explore the ways these intermediaries interact and work to connect young people to local stories and book culture.

## FEATURED ADDRESSES

### Empowering Youth with Sustainable Literature

#### Dr Kasey Garrison (Charles Sturt University)

Environmental Sustainability is a cause our students strongly support as evidenced through their active participation in federal election protests earlier this year and the School Strike for Climate Change. In the school library, we can empower youth by integrating titles with sustainability topics into our teaching. This presentation shares some recent and relevant books that align well with the curriculum and also makes connections to key ideas within the Sustainability Cross-Curriculum Priority.

**Dr Kasey Garrison** is a Senior Lecturer in the School of Information and Communication Studies at Charles Sturt, supporting students as the Children's Librarianship Specialisation Coordinator and instructor in the Master of Education-Teacher Librarianship. Her research focuses on social justice in the school library including how issues like gender, race, sustainability, and mental health are developed and portrayed in youth literature. Before becoming an academic, Kasey was a primary school educator and teacher librarian in the United States.

### Far out! Imagining The Future with Lili Wilkinson



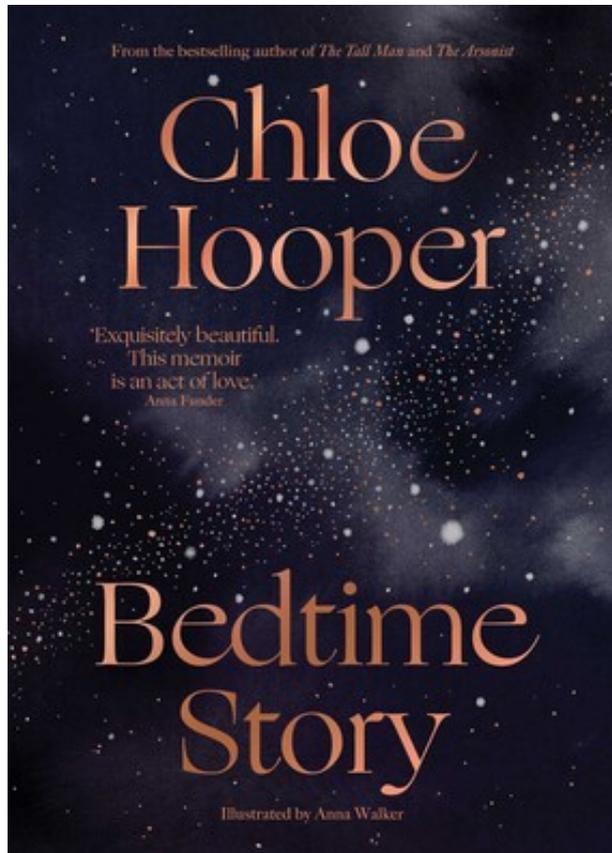
Imagining the Future is the New Fiction strand of Future You ([www.futureyouaustralia.com](http://www.futureyouaustralia.com)), a major government initiative designed to get middle years children excited about working in STEM. Science and creativity combine in this exciting new program which features interlinked narratives in text and dramatized podcast form, illustration, a nationwide creative writing and graphic art competition, and teaching resources to integrate the program into the school library or classroom.

**Dr Lili Wilkinson** is one of Australia's leading writers for children and young adults. Author of seventeen books, Lili also founded Inside a Dog and the Inky Awards at the State Library of Victoria.

## IN CONVERSATION

### Chloe Hooper & Sally Rippin in conversation with Kristin Gill

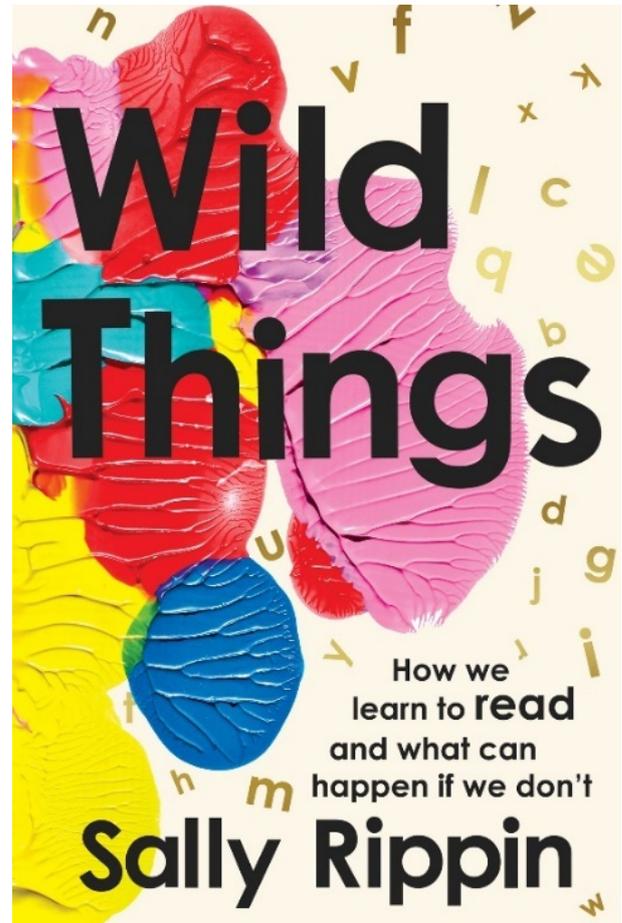
During some of the most difficult times of our lives, we have turned to stories for comfort, support and direction.



What happens when you look to fairytales and traditional children's literature to find the answers on delivering profoundly sad news to children or making sense of a life-changing diagnosis on behalf of your child?

Kristin Gill will explore these questions with two of Australia's most significant writers - one of books for adults and the other for children - in a session that will move and inspire you ...and quite possibly send you back to the bookshelves to re-read your favourite bedtime stories.

**Chloe Hooper's** most recent book is the bestselling *The Arsonist: A Mind on Fire*. *The Tall Man: Death and Life on Palm Island* won the Victorian, New South Wales, West Australian and Queensland Premiers' Literary Awards, as well as the John Button Prize for Political Writing, and a Ned Kelly Award for crime writing.



She is also the author of two acclaimed novels, *A Child's Book of True Crime* and *The Engagement*. She lives in Melbourne with her partner and her two sons.

**Sally Rippin** is one of Australia's best-selling and most-loved children's authors. She has written over 50 books for children and young adults, and her mantle holds numerous awards for her writing. Best known for her Billie B Brown and Hey Jack!, and Polly and Buster series, Sally loves to write stories with heart, as well as

characters that resonate with children, parents and teachers alike.

**Kristin Gill** has worked across all sectors of the publishing industry - sales, marketing and publishing - for more than 30 years and was most recently, the Publishing Manager (Young Readers) at Penguin Random House Australia. Prior to her career in publishing, she was a teacher of music and English in the secondary school sector.

Kristin is now co-owner of Northern Books, where she works as a publishing consultant and manager of literary events for writers, readers, and schools across Victoria. Kristin is the Ambassador Manager for the Indigenous Literacy Foundation - an organisation she has been actively involved in since it was founded in 2012.

## SLAV AWARDS

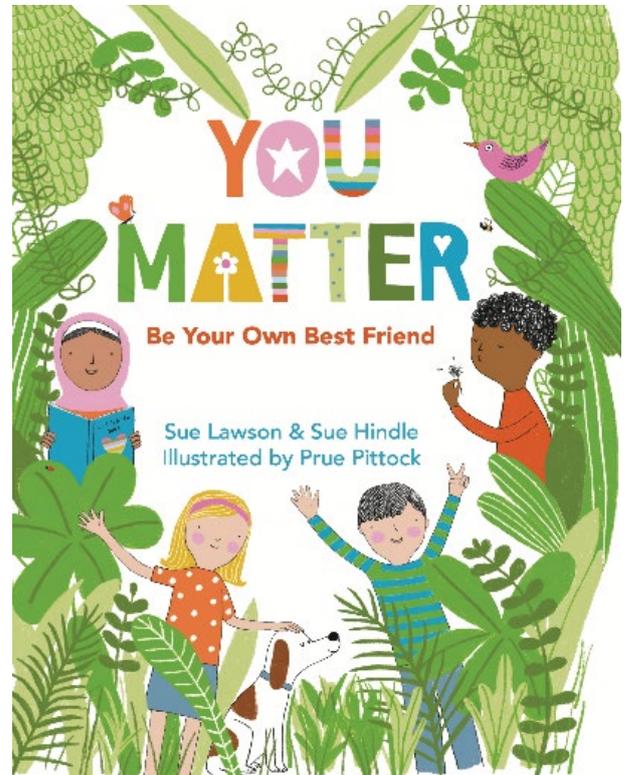
The School Library Association awards for 2022 will be presented in the following categories:

- The SLAV John Ward Award
- The SLAV Research Fellowship
- The SLAV School Leaders Award
- The SLAV Primary School Leaders Award
- The SLAV Innovators Grant
- The Penny Geoghegan Award

## You Matter

### Sue Hindle

To welcome us back from our breaks, wellbeing expert and healer, Sue Hindle will guide us through centering and grounding techniques.



**Sue Hindle** has spent 25 years researching and practicing wellness, energy, and sound healing. She runs workshops for all ages and offers school visits to support and nurture staff and students.

A talented singer and music teacher - works in schools and kindergartens fostering enjoyment and love of singing and music. She also holds private music lessons. Her uplifting CD, *I Can't Stand Still*, has been embraced by both children and adults alike.

***One must always be careful of books and what is inside them, for words have the power to change us.***

**Cassandra Clare, Author**

## CONCURRENT SESSIONS

### Creating Lifelong Readers - How DEAR Reshapes Student Perception

**Rebecca Nettleton & Kaitlyn Woods**

Now in its 4th year, the DEAR Challenge, or *Drop Everything and Read*, is Mater Christi's annual Year 7 reading challenge. Through integration with our wider reading program, the Learning Commons works to foster reading habits early in each student's academic journey while reshaping their understanding of reading as a hobby. Encouraged to set personal goals for the challenge and to compete as a class group, students log their reading minutes each week for 7 weeks - whether it's 10 minutes or 100 minutes a day! Through this session we will share our strategies for implementing a successful reading program, keeping students engaged, and involving the whole school community.

**Rebecca Nettleton** works as a Teacher-Librarian in the Learning Commons at Mater Christi College in Belgrave. She has over ten years' experience working in both tertiary and secondary education. Rebecca has a passion for cultivating reading as a safe space for growth and exploration and building school communities through vibrant literacy programs.

**Kaitlyn Woods** is the Library Technician in the Learning Commons at Mater Christi College. She is passionate about student engagement, STEM integration with library services, and building exciting library programs. Kaitlyn is in her final year of the Bachelor of Information Studies at Charles Sturt University, grounding her wide practical knowledge with theory.

## A Data Deep Dive

**Chani Hawksworth**

Your library management system contains a plethora of data that you can analyse to:

- Increase your book loans,
- Determine purchasing priorities,
- Discover your most popular/underperforming titles and genres,
- Plan your library layout and
- Assess the overall engagement of your school community with your library space, resources, and collections.

Come along to this session and learn to harvest your data to identify the strengths and weaknesses of your library services. Your data can be translated into displays, sharable infographics, reports and can consequently be used to justify requests for increased resourcing. FYI – you don't need a head for numbers to enjoy this session, just a curiosity to unpack the stories behind your library data.

**Chani Hawksworth** took up a position as Information Specialist at Geelong's Sacred Heart College in 2022. She spent the previous decade managing the library at Bellarine Secondary College. She has a background in secondary teaching - Humanities, English and VCAL, as well as extensive experience in retail and marketing. Her passions include using and analysing data to drive library improvements, as well as applying skills of visual merchandising to create vivid and evocative displays designed to maximise collection usage and engagement.

## Lead the Creation and Promotion of a Strong Reading Culture Across Your School

### Tracey Ferguson

As educationalists at the forefront of change in our information rich world, teacher librarians are ideally placed to be leaders within their school context. As a leader, how do I create a vision and build the capacity of my team? This session will provide you with practical strategies and a toolkit to empower you to become an instructional leader in creating and promoting a strong reading culture across your school.

**Tracey Ferguson** starting in a country school as a LOTE teacher, she then had the opportunity to work in private schools in the city before establishing herself as a teacher librarian across secondary colleges in Melbourne's Eastern suburbs. Tracey worked as Head of Library at Emerald Secondary College for over 10 years and was given the opportunity to become an instructional coach and later a literacy learning specialist. She has worked in this capacity for the past 5 years at Officer Secondary College, heading up a whole school literacy program and currently working as Director of English.



## Big Summer Read: Statewide Summer Reading Challenge for Children

### Dr Angela Savage & Christine Vandor

Starting in 2021, Public Libraries Victoria through its Children and Youth Services Special Interest Group (CYS SIG) is rolling out Big Summer Read, an annual statewide summer reading challenge for children. Angela and Christine will outline the rationale for the challenge and how it was put together, with a focus on the key elements of design and engagement. They will discuss the role of public libraries in implementation, and changes made in response to the evaluation of the first campaign. They will also suggest possibilities for SLAV members to partner with public libraries to support children and young people to read for pleasure over summer.

**Dr Angela Savage** is an award-winning author and CEO of Public Libraries Victoria. She has worked in international development, social policy and management of small non-profit organisations. Angela holds a PhD in Creative Writing. Her latest novel is *Mother of Pearl*.

**Christine Vandor** is the Team Leader for Children's and Youth Services at Maribyrnong Libraries in Melbourne's west. She is the current convenor for Public Libraries Victoria Children's and Youth Services Special Interest Group and project lead on the BIG Summer Read, Victoria's first state-wide summer reading program for children.

## Shelftalkers – Student Voice

**Tye Cattanch with Lynn Swannell & Chloe Powell**



What is Shelftalkers? How can you be involved? How can Shelftalkers be used to engage students and promote student voice in your library?

Tye Cattanch will be discussing the benefits of using Shelftalkers as a tool in your school library, available teacher resources and writing tips for students, with practitioners who have successfully used Shelftalkers with their own students. Tye will be joined by two school guests - Lynn Swannell and Chloe Powell both school library practitioners.

**Tye Cattanch** is the Libraries and Schools Specialist at Readings. She has enjoyed a long career in the Australian book industry, working across all facets of the industry. Tye has worked in publishing, school libraries and bookstores, primarily focused on ways in which to engage readers and assist teachers, librarians and library staff.

**Lynn Swannell** is the librarian at Mt Eliza Secondary College and the Secretary of SLAV Council, she is passionate about young people reading and fostering a love of learning within an enriched and inclusive environment.

**Chloe Powell** is Library Manager at Viewbank College. Developing reader

engagement is an important element of her role and this year she has introduced a 'Preview Book Club' where students select new books to read, discuss and review.

## Blak & Bright Literary Festival: using Blak Literature in the Classroom

**Jane Harrison & Bethany Macdonald**



Blak & Bright First Nations Literary Festival believes that Blak stories are for everyone, but how often is Blak literature taught in the classroom? In 2022, Blak & Bright joined forces with State Library Victoria to hold its first ever education day, where we connected with secondary students, teachers and teacher librarians. Through an open and honest discussion, we explored the importance of reading and teaching Blak literature, breaking down the barriers that hold some teachers and librarians back. You might be surprised by our findings.

**Jane Harrison** is descended from the Muruwari people and is a playwright and author. Her play *Stolen* played across Australia and internationally for seven years. *Rainbow's End* has had numerous productions and won the

2012 Drover Award and is on the Victorian English Curriculum 2023 -. *The Visitors* premiered at Sydney Festival in 2020 and won the Sydney Critics Award for Best New Australian Work. Her novel *Becoming Kirrali Lewis* won the 2014 Black & Write! Prize, and was shortlisted for the Prime Minister's Literary Awards and the Victorian Premier's Awards. Jane directed the Black & Bright First Nations Literary Festival in 2016, 2019 and 2022. She believes in the power of stories in strengthening cultural connection.

**Bethany Macdonald** has worked at State Library Victoria for 16 years, and the novelty of walking into the beautiful Dome Reading Room each day still has not worn off! Originally trained as a secondary teacher, she has worked in education, early literacy programs, and as part of the Vision 2020 Building Redevelopment. As Lead Programmer, Schools, she feels like she has returned to her roots creating programs and resources that help to share the library's fabulous collections and services with schools across Victoria.

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**Readings** is our bookseller for the event.  
MELBOURNE'S OWN SINCE 1969

## Trade Exhibition

Various school library suppliers and supporters will join us for a trade exhibition.

## Registration

SLAV Members - \$300.00  
Non - Members - \$450.00

<https://slav.wildapricot.org/event-4640931>

The School Library Association of Victoria acknowledges the support of the Department of Education and Training Victoria, through the Strategic Partnerships Program



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