

Book Links QLD Inc.
2017- 2018
ANNUAL REPORT

Annual Report



WRITELINKS
CREATING KIDS' & YA BOOKS



The Centre
for Children's Literature



2017-2018



StoryLinks
Children's Books Reviewed

Book Links (QLD) Inc.
c/o Queensland Writers Centre
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South Brisbane Q 4101
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OUR MISSION

Link people and groups throughout the community with stories and experiences to build literacy and learning; so as to enrich lives.

OUR VISION

Using the power of story to influence culture and community.

OUR OBJECTIVES

- **Establish and grow vibrant spaces** (fixed, flexible, and online) to nurture communities where children and young adults are exposed to literature; stimulated to be imaginative and artistic; and where stories and their creators are valued.
- **Support networking, events, learning, and an appreciation of story** for children and young adults throughout the community.
- **Promote authors, illustrators and storytellers** for children and young people.

OUR HISTORY

In 2004, the Queensland Branch of the Children's Book Council of Australia celebrated its 50th anniversary. During that year members were keen to develop commemorative projects to celebrate this key milestone, whilst furthering the aims of the CBCA in Queensland in some distinct way.

A small group of dedicated and passionate lovers of children's literature took this opportunity to explore the possibility of establishing a Children's Literature Centre in Queensland.

The outcome was that it would be more effective initially, to establish a presence through the provision of a range of activities aimed primarily at school age children and others who have a strong interest in children's literature; namely librarians, parents, teachers, students and researchers before embarking on an actual physical centre.

The long journey of red tape and discussions began and finally Book Links emerged and was registered as an Incorporated Association in February 2006.

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OUR PEOPLE

Patron

Jackie French AM

Committee Members

Name	Position	
Yvonne Mes	President	2017-2018
Jenny Stubbs	Vice-President	2017-2018
Leslee-Anne Hewson	Minutes Secretary	2017-2018
Andrew King	Treasurer	2017-2018
Tyrion Perkins	Membership Secretary	2017-2018

Name	Position
Jenny Stubbs	Responsible Person
Dr Andrew King	Responsible Person
Rachel Nolan	Responsible Person
Dr Cherri Ryan	Responsible Person

Volunteers

Name	Position	
Maria Parenti-Baldy	Media	2017-2018
Mia Macrossan	Story Links Coordinator	2017-2018
Yvonne Mes	Write Links Coordinator	2017-2018



Andrew King, Leslee-Anne Hewson, Tyrion Perkins
Jenny Stubbs, Yvonne Mes



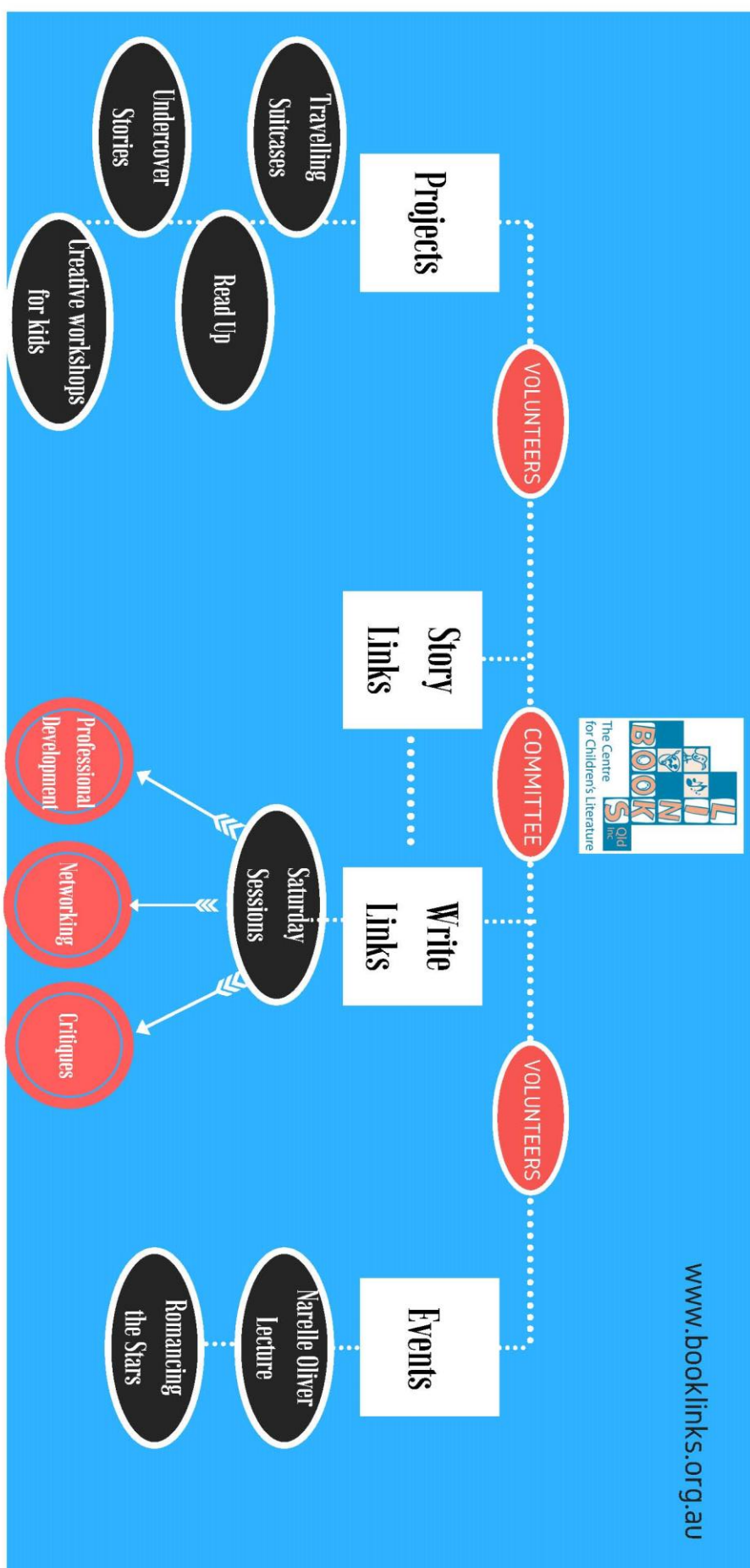
Mia Macrossan



Maria Parenti-Baldehy

STRUCTURE & MANAGEMENT

Book Links QLD Inc. was registered as an Incorporated Association in February 2006, is registered with the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission (ACNC) and has Deductible Gift Recipient (DGR) Status.



Principles

- Not-for-profit
- Access and inclusion for children birth to young adult
- Sustainability for children's literature creators
- Sustainability and integrity of the organisation's operations
- Innovation in reaching our goals
- Collaboration in line with our Vision

Access and Equity:

Inclusive of CALD, socio-economic backgrounds, abilities and areas (Qld urban, regional and remote)

Partners and Collaborators:

IBBY, SCBWI, QWC, CBCA Qld, SLQ, SPELD, ITLN, Children's Laureate program, BIG, QUT, May Gibbs Trust, Book Sellers, Publishers, Schools, Community, Moreton Bay Regional Library, Early Childhood Centres.

Who:

Volunteer Committee
Volunteers

Influencers:

Families, Librarians, Teacher Librarians, Volunteers, patron—Jackie French, children's literature advocates.

Where:

Desk and rooms QWC
Schools
Other venues
Working towards a permanent physical place

Funding:

DGR Status
Fee for Service
Philanthropic
Funding bodies
Merchandise

VISION

Using the power of story to influence culture and community.

www.booklinks.org.au

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

This year has seen a continuation of the events and projects from the past years, cementing these events as part of the established children's literature events in the Brisbane and Queensland community.

Our events and projects connect children and literature lovers with the latest in children's literature and supports creators of children's literature. This year has seen some new developments with the creation of Story Links, at the start of the year, Story Links is a children's book review site reviewing children's literature for 0 to 100 year olds, including picture books, junior fiction, information books, and YA books.

August saw the inaugural Write Links mini-conference, a day of master classes for children's book creators.

Here is an overview of the year:

BOOK LINKS EVENTS

Big Lit Quiz

26th of November

Modelled on the Kids' Lit Quiz in which children around the world compete for first place as experts in children's books, Book Links hosted the Big Lit Quiz. It was an opportunity for organisations that contribute to children's literature in and around Brisbane to celebrate the end of a fabulous literary year.

Members from the Children's Book Council Australia (Queensland), Society of Children's Book Writers and Illustrators (Queensland), The May Gibbs Children's Literature Trust, Write Links and Book Links came together to compete and were kept in line by author and quiz master extra-extraordinaire Brian Falkner.

Money raised went to the Australian Children's Laureate Program.



Romancing the Stars

23rd of February and the 1st of March

This was the seventh year of Romancing the Stars in Queensland. This year Romancing the Stars was held on the Sunshine Coast in partnership with Voices on the Coast and in Brisbane. During these events children's literature enthusiasts such as teachers, librarians, book creators, parents and more met with Queensland children's authors and illustrators who shared their latest books, the stories behind their stories and insights into what it is like to create stories for children.

Romancing the Stars Sunshine Coast was held in partnership with Voices on the Coast and took place on Friday February 23, 2018 at Sunshine Coast, Buderim Immanuel Lutheran College Library. 50 tickets were sold and the following 16 authors and illustrators presented as the stars: Taryn Bashford, Peter Carnavas, Shona Innes, Emily Larkin, Prue Mason, Sue McPherson, Emma Middleton, Lynette Noni, Maryanne O'Flynn, Robyn Osborne, David Rudkin, Tash Turgoose, Ross Watkins, Samantha Wheeler, Jenny Woolsey, Richard Yaxley.



Romancing the Stars - Sunshine Coast

Romancing the Stars Brisbane was held on Thursday March 1, 2018 at Ambrose Treacy College, Brisbane. 50 tickets were sold and the following 21 authors and illustrators presented as the stars: Allison Rushby, Isobelle Carmody, James Moloney, Jane Smith, Alison and Nicholas Lochel, Paula Weston, Taryn Bashford, Steph Bowe, Jenny Woolsey, Samantha Turnbull, Jacqui Halpin, Katrin Dreiling, Lance Balchin, Shannon Horsfall, T.M. Clark, Lachlan Creagh, Lucia Masciullo, Kathy Hoopmann, Anil Tortop, Andrew King



Illustrators Katrin Dreiling, Lucia Masciullo, Anil Tortop and Peter Allert

Writing Workshops for Children

Samantha Wheeler

4th of March

Author Samantha Wheeler held a writing workshop for children from 8 to 12 years old at the State Library Queensland. Twentyfive tickets were sold, each ticket included an autographed copy of *Turtle Trackers*, Samantha's latest book.



Brian Falkner
6th of October

Author Brian Falkner held a masterclass in writing science fiction for children 10-15 years old during Fun Palace 2018, which was held at the State Library of Qld. The masterclass was presented by Book Links in partnership with the State Library of Queensland. Twenty children attended the workshop.



A Morning with Our Patron Jackie French
19th of May

Our patron, Jackie French, offered to do a presentation 'Writing History, Researching History and the Thrill of Finding Secrets!' at the State Library. Fifty people attended, each ticket was a donation to fund the children's workshop with Brian Falkner.



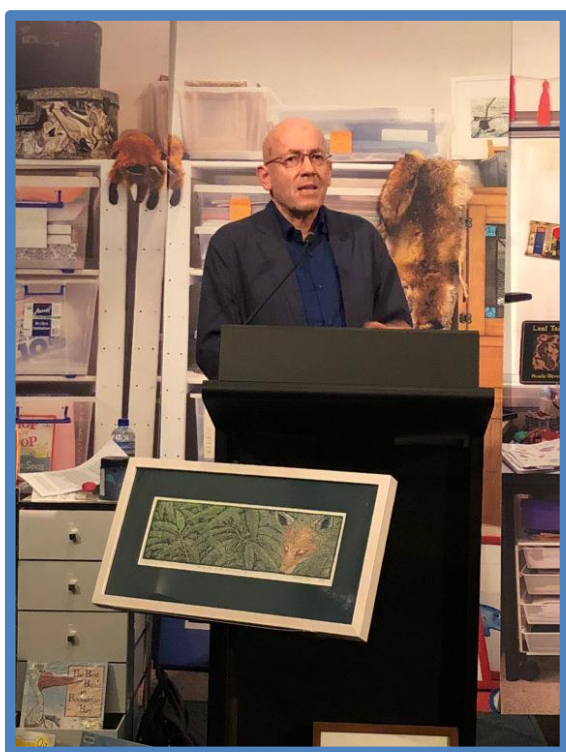
Jackie French

The Narelle Oliver Lecture with Australian Children's Laureate Morris Gleitzman 14th of June

This event was held with the support of St Aidan's Anglican Girls School and Megan Daley at St Aidan's Anglican Girls School. Seventy-eight tickets were sold.

The Annual Narelle Oliver Lecture aims to raise the profile of children's literature, to stimulate discussion and disseminate the results of current research on children's literature. This year's lecturer was Morris Gleitzman's and his lecture theme, 'young people need stories more than ever' was enthusiastically received.

The backdrop for this year's lecture was part of the Narelle Oliver Exhibition. The lecture was introduced by Megan Daley, teacher librarian and children's literature advocate.



Morris Gleitzman



Megan Daley

Book Week Celebrations 18th of August

Book Links Queensland partnered with The Children's Book Council Australia, Queensland Branch and the State Library of Queensland to create a day full of events for children and young people.

Book Week celebrations for children and YA took place at the State Library of Queensland on Southbank.

Children and young adults were able to select from many workshops and activities. Presenters included 018 CBCA shortlisted authors and illustrators: Charlie Archbold, Cath Crowley, Simmone Howell, Fiona Wood, Lisa Shanahan, Ronojoy Ghosh, Prue Mason, Christina Krebs, Peter Carnavas and Patrick Guest.

200 people attended.



YA Panel – State Library QLD



Peter Carnavas – Knowledge Walk

OUR CURRENT PROJECTS

Read Up

ReadUp is a library loyalty scheme for library members aged 8 and under. Every six library visits earns them one of five unique certificates created by award winning Queensland children's book illustrators, including Katherine Battersby, Lucia Masciullo, Giuseppe Poli and Benjamin Johnston. The resources were developed by Moreton Bay Region Libraries, and have been made available to libraries through a partnership with Book Links.

Travelling Suitcases

Book Links' *Travelling Suitcases* are filled with interesting and curious keepsakes from six of Queensland's top children's book authors and illustrators. They include their books; edited manuscripts and a DVD of the artists at work. Activities to use in the classroom and in public libraries are included to extend Literature and Arts learning. The *Travelling Suitcases* are of particular use to regional, rural and remote schools, and public libraries who have limited or no access to visiting authors and illustrators.

Twelve suitcases have toured this year, with most interest this year in the Narelle Oliver suitcase featuring at the Gladstone and Toowoomba Art Galleries as part of the Narelle Oliver Exhibition. Suitcases went to a mixture of primary and high schools and public libraries.

Membership

Many thanks to Membership Secretary Tyrion Perkins for keeping track of memberships this year and communicating with members. We continue to use Try Booking to accept memberships online and collect data on members.

2018 membership as at 12 Oct:

91 Personal members
7 Family members
5 Corporate members

compared to 2017 membership:

108 Ordinary members
4 Corporate members

Book Links continues to provide discounted offers for members from the following bookshops: A Lot of Books Ipswich, Books@Stones, Mad Hatter Bookshop, Riverbend Books, Rosetta Books Maleny, The Book Garden, The Book Warehouse and The Library Shop (SLQ), Brisbane.

OTHER

Strategic links

In October 2017 Book Links had a table in the Trade Fair at the **Future Libraries Conference**. A series of new flyers were designed to showcase our various projects and activities.

Donation Bunyip

Thanks to Lucy McGinley and her class of creatives, we now have our very own hungry donation Bunyip which can be found at Book Links and Write Links events.



Social Media and Newsletter

Our newsletter has gone from strength to strength through the dedication of Maria Parenti-Baldehy who is also the unofficial Book Links photographer. This year Book Links went from 67 to 176 subscribers with an average of 55% opens and 14% click throughs which is above the industry average for non-profits. Ten newsletters were sent via MailChimp.

The Book Links website is going strong and engagement with the website increases during times of events.

The Book Links FaceBook page has grown from 776 page followers to 923 page followers over the reporting year.

We have not been as active across twitter this year, however the statistics show good engagement when active.

The Future

Book Links aims to continue its events and projects next year. I would like to acknowledge and thank all committee members for their dedication and hard work. Book Links keeps growing and evolving through the powerhouse that is Jenny Stubbs. As part of our commitment to our objectives I would like to see Book Links move forward in getting quality children's literature to children who may not have easy access to this.

Book Links aims to continue its current partnerships and works towards developing new collaborations with other like-minded organisations.

Yvonne Mes

President Book Links QLD Inc



StoryLinks
Children's Books Reviewed

STORY LINKS REPORT

The website Story Links, www.storylinksau.com, was established in January 2018 with the aim of becoming an authoritative review site for children's books and providing resources for those working in the children's books field. It works in partnership with Book Links and Write Links.

What we have achieved to date:

WEBPAGE

We have 90 posts, 16 pages,

No and type of books reviewed: 9 YA titles, 35 Picture Books, 1 Board Book, 2 Emerging Readers, 6 Extending Readers, 28 Independent Readers, 1 Information Book

No of Interviews published: 4 Kerry Neary; Cherri Ryan; James Moloney; Peter Carnavas

No of Recommended Reading Lists published 12: Body Image, Animal Rights, Fairy Tales retold older & younger, Refugees, Anzacs in Picture Books, Dystopian fiction, Ancient Origins, Ancient Egypt, Ancient Greece, Ancient Rome, Vikings.

No of followers: 211

FACEBOOK PAGE:

158 people like the page

159 followers

Most popular posts are : Body Image resource list (141), Kerry Neary Interview (112), Animal Rights resource list (86), Story Links Short Story competition (163), The very noisy baby reviewed by Maria PB (229), Peter Carnavas interview (331)

Readings of reviews average about 25 reaches.

COMMENT I am sure that we can improve greatly on these figures if we gain more technical and promotional knowledge of how all this works. From these figures the most popular items are the interviews and the reading lists with the occasional review sparking a bit of interest. What is most interesting is that the Short Story competition has sparked the most interest and response.

SHORT STORY COMPETITION

Story links is holding a short story competition. Stories (maximum of 1000 words) must be for children but written by someone over 18 years old.

The winner will be announced at the 2018 annual Christmas party, the Big Lit Quiz, in November/December. There is one prize of \$100 for the winner. The winner's story will be published in Story Links. Two other stories may be awarded Highly Commended.

Entries to date 19. This has been one of the most popular ways to get people to read/like the site.

Challenges ATM

- Consistent quality of book reviews
- Need some training in Wordpress and Facebook to use the media more efficiently.
- Need to promote the book reviews to get a wider readership

FUTURE

- Aim to build up more followers and likes and views on the webpage and the FB pages
- Do six interviews a year
- Do 12 reading lists a year
- Drop the authors and illustrators page as it is too time consuming to maintain
- Create a StoryPoem page where narrative poems are listed and shown
- Promote the Short Story competition – run it in the first half of each year and announce the winner at the annual Narelle Oliver Lecture. Have a small entry fee to pay for the prize money. Have first second and third prizes. Have a theme, maybe linked to CBCA book week theme or whatever the International Year of whatever it happens to be.
- Continue the book reviews.

My thanks to Yvonne Mes, Maria Parenti-Baldey and Dajo Finlayson for their help and support throughout the year.

Mia Macrossan

Story Links Coordinator



WRITE LINKS REPORT

WRITELINKS
CREATING KIDS' & YA BOOKS

This is our sixth year and Write Links has continued to actively support emerging and established children's writers and illustrators in and around Brisbane. Write Links aims to be responsive to the needs of our members and continues to change in respect of this.

Attendance at our monthly four-hour meetings at SLQ has been consistent and our membership has seen a small increase. There is a steady core of regular members of around 90, with an average of 25 people attending each meeting.

All regularly attending members are financial Book Links members, with those attending less than two times not needing to be financial. We have 151 active members in our Facebook group. This group is kept small to maintain its focus of communication of members between meetings and sharing information and all members are vetted by admin before being approved.

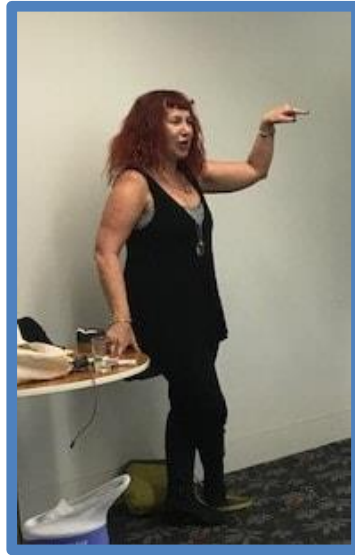
Requests to join Write Links come through the Write Links website, www.brisbanewritelinks.com, as well as direct requests through the Facebook group. Many new members learned about the group through word of mouth.

The growth of Write Links members as book creators since we have been running has been significant as evidenced by the many presentations delivered by some of our long-term members, books launched and new books published either through indie publishing, traditional publishers or a hybrid of these.

During our networking sessions, we have shared our writing successes, challenges and aspirations. We have also used this opportunity to prepare for and debrief after conferences and offered support and encouragement where needed.

We saw some new developments this year:

- Lucy McGinley has stepped up as our 'news editor' either creating content for our online blog articles or organising and putting up content by Write Links members.
- Write Links has its own Instagram page with the aim of raising the social media profile of Write Links members. The page has been set up and is being maintained by Ian Morrison. @WriteLinks
- We had our first event: the Write Links Mini Fest, a one day conference of master classes for children's authors and illustrators. This festival was organised by Charlotte Barkla and Hayley Jackson and took place on the 11th of August. Master classes were presented by Isobelle Carmody, Peter Carnavas and Dave Lowe. 25 tickets were sold. The event was well received.



Isobelle Carmody

- Many of our Write Links members are reviewing children's books for Story Links, providing Write Links members with new skills while increasing their author and social media platform.

Our website page views and unique visitors are comparable to last reporting period. Fifteen blog posts (under news) were written by several Write Links members.

Looking ahead to next year:

Write Links will continue in a similar format next year and plans to support emerging and established creators of children's literature in Brisbane and surrounding areas with the support of Book Links through critique sessions, networking sessions and access to professional development sessions.

Yvonne Mes

Write Links Coordinator

TREASURER'S REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

BOOK LINKS (QUEENSLAND) INC.

FINANCIAL REPORT (YEJ18)

Summary of Bank and Other Accounts

As at 30/06/2018 Book Links had \$16,193.09 in its bank accounts.

Summary for the Year (YEJ18)			
Account	Balance (30/06/2018)	Balance (01/07/2017)	Change (YEJ18)
Donations	\$1,766.70	\$1,436.00	\$330.70
Investment	\$5,382.40	\$5,273.62	\$108.78
Main	\$5,256.06	\$14,412.83	-\$9,156.77
Cash	\$0.00	\$125.00	-\$125.00
Paypal	\$108.04	\$108.04	\$0.00
TryBooking	\$3,679.89	\$5,005.30	-\$1,325.41
Totals	\$16,193.09	\$26,360.79	-\$10,167.70

Profit and Loss

The Profit and Loss Statement shows that income (\$12,382.77) was consistent with YEJ2016 and YEJ2015. Note that YEJ17 was unusually high because of the Regional Arts Development Fund (RADF) grant we received to assist with a Narelle Oliver Exhibition. However, YEJ18 expenditure (\$22,550.47) was relatively high as we spent the grant monies across both the 2017 and 2018 financial years.

Pleasingly, income from functions and workshops has remained relatively high and grown. Relatively speaking they outgrew expenses associated with functions and travel. Insurance reduced to more normal levels again; in proportion to our decreased income (no RADF grant).

BOOKLINKS (QUEENSLAND) INC.

ABN61948979764

Trading Profit & Loss Statement

Financial Year 1st July 2017 to 30th June 2018

	YEJ2018	YEJ2017	YEJ2016	YEJ2015
Income				
Functions / Workshops	\$9,396.59	\$12,141.40	\$7,118.32	\$2,253.50
Grants & Donations	\$608.40	\$18,604.00	\$902.00	\$8,104.41
Interest Received	\$108.78	\$124.28	\$115.20	\$172.07
Membership	\$2,120.00	\$2,550.00	\$2,600.00	\$1,540.00
DVDs	\$149.00	\$291.00	\$120.50	\$106.50
TOTAL INCOME	\$12,382.77	\$33,710.68	\$10,856.02	\$12,176.48
Expenses				
Advertising	-\$121.15	-\$117.51	-\$184.00	-\$473.00
Auditor / Accounting fees	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Depreciation	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
General expenses	\$0.00	-\$1.40	-\$284.01	\$0.00
Email, internet & website	-\$54.95	\$0.00	-\$17.00	\$0.00
Functions & Travel	-\$5,227.54	-\$12,210.95	-\$4,524.18	-\$2,230.75
Gifts	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Grants & Donations	\$14,447.00	-\$4,208.78	\$-	\$-
Insurance	-\$795.00	-\$1,325.00	-\$690.00	-\$670.00
Membership	-\$95.00	-\$129.61	\$-	\$-
Postage / Post Box	\$0.00	\$0.00	-\$11.40	-\$135.75
Professional Development	\$0.00	-\$203.00	-\$107.00	\$0.00
Rent	-\$924.00	-\$924.00	-\$990.00	-\$882.00
Stationery Supplies	-\$559.78	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Travelling Suitcases & DVDs	-\$272.55	-\$81.72	-\$877.88	-\$7,461.03
Office of Fair Trading	-\$53.50	\$0.00	-\$49.95	-\$48.25
Write Links	\$0.00	-\$346.00	-\$170.37	-\$402.56
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$22,550.47	-\$19,547.97	-\$7,905.79	\$12,303.34
OPERATING PROFIT / (LOSS)	\$10,167.70	\$14,162.71	\$2,950.23	-\$126.86

Andrew King

Treasurer

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS & THANK YOU

Book Links QLD Inc. would like to thank our members, supporters, partners and the many volunteers that are involved in the planning of events and the continuation of our projects. Thank you for giving your time, resources and donations and your ongoing support to Book Links and Children's Literature.

Supporters and Partners

Children's Book Council Australia - Qld
Queensland Writers Centre
State Library of Queensland
St Aidan's Girls School
Voices on the Coast
Megan Daley
Moreton Bay Regional Libraries
Jackie French
Somerset Storyfest

HOW YOU CAN HELP

Become a member

The membership joining fee per calendar year is \$20 personal member, \$30 family membership with a scale of fees for corporate members depending on the size of the institution ranging from \$20 – \$100.

Meetings are usually held on the first Saturday of the month starting at 10:30 am at a meeting room in the State Library of Qld. The meetings are followed by Write Links (Brisbane's Group for Children's Writers and Illustrators) from 1:00pm until 5:00pm.

Membership fees are used to contribute towards the running costs of the organisation such as room rental and insurance.

Volunteer your time

<https://booklinks.org.au/get-involved/volunteer/>

Make a donation or leave a bequest

Queenslanders are fortunate to have many talented creators of young people's literature living in our wonderful state. A centre where young people can workshop with these authors, illustrators, and storytellers would provide a great educational and cultural experience for many.

To establish this creative centre, substantial financial assistance is needed. You could be part of this innovation by:

- Donating money

- Providing a building or space therein
- A bequest
- Sponsoring a program

Tax Deductible Gift Recipient Status

Book Links (QLD) Inc. is registered for DGR status (Deductible Gift Recipient Status). This means that any donation of \$2, or more, is a tax deductible donation.

A donation to Book Links (QLD) Inc. can help you with your tax bill, AND help us to achieve our goals, and develop more resources, such as Travelling Suitcases for more QLD, and Australian, authors and illustrators.