



The Centre
for Children's Literature

BOOK LINKS QLD INC.

2020- 2021 Report

Mission

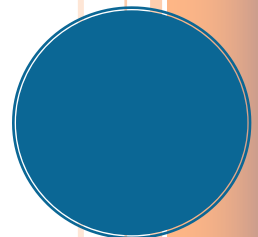
Link people and groups throughout the community with stories and experiences to build literacy and learning; so as to enrich lives.

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 emerging and established authors, illustrators and storytellers** for children and young people.

Jenny Stubbs, President

9/10/2021



Book Links Qld Inc.

2020- 2021 Report

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.

Book Links was registered as an Incorporated Association in February 2006. Book Links QLD Inc. is registered with the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission (ACNC) and has Deductible Gift Recipient (DGR) Status. In 2017 a Symposium was held to examine literature-based centres for children in other states and to reignite support for a literature centre for children in Queensland.

Book Links administers two sub-groups, Write Links and StoryLinks.

Write Links was formed in April 2013 in response to a need to encourage and assist writers embarking on writing for children. Members network, share information, motivate and support each other in working towards achieving personal writing goals. Write Links coordinates several critique groups: picture books, junior fiction and young adult fiction.

StoryLinks is a children's book review site which was established in March 2018. It publishes Book reviews, reading lists on a range of topics, interviews and runs short story writing competitions for children and adults.



OUR PEOPLE

Executive



Jenny Stubbs
President



Danielle
Freeland
Vice-President



Tyrion Perkins
Treasurer



Kayt Duncan
Secretary



Marie
Fletcher
Membership
Secretary

Coordinators



Maria Parenti
Newsletter and
Social Media



Mia Macrossan
StoryLinks Coordinator



Yvonne Mes
Write Links Coordinator

Responsible Persons

Jenny Stubbs

Dr Andrew King

Rachel Nolan

Dr Cherri Ryan

A MESSAGE FROM OUR PATRON JACKIE FRENCH

Today we had an earthquake, with a chance of snow on the ridges that are still black echidna quills from the bushfires two years and four floods ago, and I write this in lockdown during the pandemic. But today I have also taken part in a Malaysian debate about how to spread the love of books among young people and their parents. It is a hard time, and a magnificent time, as those who do what they can create small and large miracles across our planet.



Books Links, of course, is among the magnificent, moving across Australia and the world this year. Thanks to zoom and its companions hands to help and networks of friendship can cross any distance. This year, the second of repeated lockdowns for so many communities, bringing books and a passion for books has never been as important. A few weeks ago, I volunteered to read to a school for Australian Reading Hour. By next morning 364 schools had sent in a request. Among the uncounted I've managed so far there have been isolated schools where the students literally bounced with excitement, having never thought to meet an author before- or realised they might become one. Other communities were heartbreaking, with whole families in lockdown gathered for a break in the routine, babies on laps, teenagers lurking 'just passing'. Some schools admitted attendance had been down to 10% - but went up to 98% if there was a story.

Early in the pandemic I discovered 'streaming', after 50 years with no tv. To my surprise I discovered greatness where I least expected it, but far less profundity or truly satisfying escapism than in a single 'long list' for a literary award. Kids need books, not screen time, books to laugh at, to travel the world, to meet and understand new people, where because they must imagine the world within a book, they are part of it. Kids need books to make them realise they need more books, and more still, for all the reasons kids have needed books before, but, just now, to connect them to the world when they are 'locked down' literally, or by the fear of the dangers of the world.

So this is a plea, to the Book Links community. Please read books to kids. Volunteer a zoom half hour, once a day, to any school who knows they need it, or persuade schools that don't yet realise what a vital role simply reading to kids can be. As well, of course, as continuing to do what Book Links has always done so magnificently and is now doing even more widely and profoundly, linking us all, and linking us to books.

Jackie French

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

COVID-19 restrictions have meant a continued use of online delivery of our programs, while the introduction of new policy around risks to children and young people as well as not being able to run face-to-face events have impacted on our programs for young people.

We were fortunate in Queensland to be able to still run some face-to-face events for adults including the postponed 2020 Narelle Oliver Lecture with Ursula Dubosarsky, a Romancing the Stars event on the Gold Coast and a wonderfully successful exhibition at the Richard Randall Art Studio at the Mt Coot-tha Botanic Gardens.

Other events were delivered via ZOOM. Once again, our reach extended both into regional areas and across the globe with good attendance at events and new membership coming from interstate.

JENNY STUBBS

Successes

Points to note from our strategic plan.

1. *Redevelop and maintain the website* – The three websites are being well maintained and continually reviewed: Book Links, Write Links and Story Links.
2. *Develop and implement a marketing plan for Book Links products, programs and events* -. Trybooking and Facebook Events work well to market events. A list of key people and organisations has been developed through which information can be disseminated.
3. *Generate financial and in-kind support* – We received a grant from Arts Qld for the StoryArts Brisbane Conference to be held over to 2022. Venues were provided for free by schools hosting Romancing the Stars events and included a generous donation from one.
4. *Develop and promote products and resources* – We continue to provide resources such as ReadUp! Online, links to resources for children on reading and writing and resource lists developed by Story Links. Travelling Suitcases continue to be lent to schools at a reduced rate due to covid.
5. *Research and lobby for a children's centre based on story* – We continue to look for opportunities to promote the concept of a center.
6. *Up-skill Book Links committee members* – Members gained professional development via Write Links sessions. Our President attended the Australian Children's Laureate Summit on the Gold Coast.

7. *Identify and promote Book Links specialist advisory services* – We continue to field questions relating to Children's Literature that come to us from QWC, CBCA National and general queries via email.

8. *Maintain and enhance mutually beneficial partnerships* – Read Up! program in partnership with Moreton Region Libraries is in the process of being updated. Partners' events are promoted via the calendar and newsletter. We partnered with Brisbane Square Library to deliver events with Ursula Dubosarsky.

9. *Develop and implement a Book Links promotional plan* – needs reviewing.

10. *Maintain and expand the Book Links calendar of programs and events* – Events presented as per annual calendar. Write Links continues to provide a vehicle for engaging with and supporting emerging authors and illustrators. Online calendar is maintained.

11. *Develop, implement, and maintain a Strategic Plan* – Strategic plan is being maintained.

Promoted emerging and established authors, illustrators and storytellers for children and young people



Australia Reads

1-12 November 2020



Book Links ran multiple events for Australia Reads in November 2020. During the campaign we ran ten free events with fifteen authors and illustrators online and had audiences from Singapore, WA, SA, Vic, NSW and Qld. Nine of the events were recorded and added to our events recordings page on our website. Most of the events were aimed at children and some included children as presenters. The first event was the announcement of the StoryLinks short story competition for children with Maria Parenti reading the shortlisted entries.

Big Lit Quiz

28 November 2020

The Big Lit Quiz held on Saturday 28 November was the first Book Links event held face-to-face since covid-19 restrictions came in. Held at the Bardon Bowls Club, it was wonderful to see people catching up after such a long time. It was a popular event with Yvonne Mes as quizmaster. We raised \$650 to donate to IBBY.



Children's Choice awards Summit

13 February 2021

The Children's Choice Awards Summit received great feedback from participants from Singapore and nearly all states and territories. The session provided information about children's choice awards in each state and territory and included a guest speaker from Singapore.



Meet the Author – Katrina Nannestad

18 February 2021

Katrina Nannestad took part in a Q&A style conversation with Mia Macrossan our StoryLinks coordinator about *We are Wolves*. This helped to promote the Book Links Award for Children's Historical Fiction. The session was recorded and linked on Books Links and StoryLinks websites.

Romancing the Stars

Regional Queensland 11 March

This was the tenth year of Romancing the Stars in Queensland and instead of the usual Brisbane event in March, we took advantage of the ZOOM technology to focus on regional Queensland and picture books creators. We used the same structure as the online Sunshine Coast event in 2020 to have twelve book authors and illustrators participating, with eight of the twelve being part of the State Library of Qld Books for Little Queenslanders program. Authors included Kathryn Apel (pictured) from a rural area near Bundaberg, to Qld author Sally Scudamore joining us from the UK.



The structure worked well allowing an audience of fifty-two including participants from overseas, to discover what books our local and other guest authors and illustrators had been creating for children and young adults in the past year.



Narelle Oliver Lecture

20 May 2021

The Narelle Oliver Lecture with Ursula Dubosarsky was a wonderful event with 97 booked but an estimated 80 people attending at St Aidan's Anglican Girls School.

Book sales were provided by one of our supporting bookshops A Lot of Books.

Robyn Sheahan-Bright, in her introductions, reminded us about the contributions made by Narelle Oliver and why we named this lecture in her honour.

Australia's Children's Laureate Ursula Dubosarsky talked about the importance of reading and how she encourages children to join their local library. Her passionate lecture was well received by all. Near the end she showed a short video of the laureates from other countries sending greetings.

In partnership with Brisbane Square Libraries some Books Links members participated in a writing workshop with Ursula on the Thursday.



Romancing the Stars

Gold Coast 8 June

Romancing the Stars Gold Coast was held for the first time at Coomera Anglican College with the support of Kerry Brown and her team. It was designed to have sixteen authors and illustrators plus Yvonne Mes as MC. This was the first time a number of presenters pulled out of an event due to illness, but a very successful evening was held with fourteen stars. The format changed to suit the venue which was beautifully decorated and catered for by the Coomera Anglican College Staff.

Supporting bookshop *Under the Greenwood Tree Bookshop & Artspace* from Mt Tamborine, provided a pop-up-bookshop. Tristan Bancks and Lucia Masciullo launched their new books and illustrators had artwork for sale. The College donated \$700 to support Book Links projects.

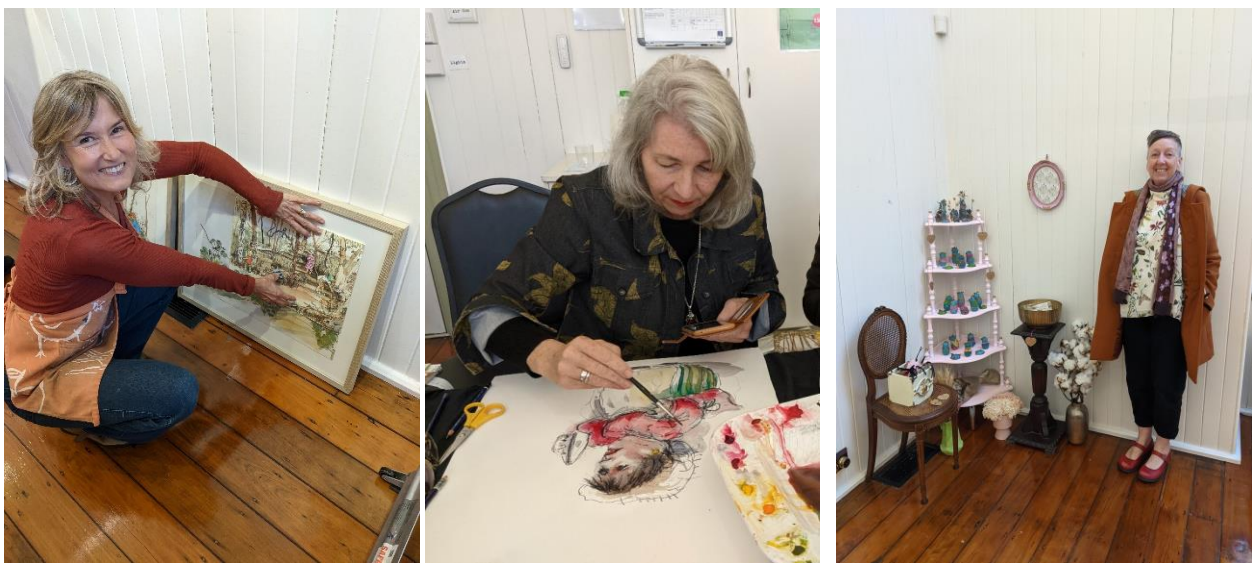


Exhibition

21 – 27 June 2021

Understory – An Adventure into the Art of Illustration Exhibition was held 21 – 27 June at the Richard Randall Gallery Mt Coot-tha Botanic Gardens with artists Caroline Magerl, Sue Wright and Megan Forward. It was a huge success with 537 people passing through the gallery across the week and sales for the artists amounting to \$7886. **Where the Wild Things Are** supplied the books and we sold 100 books worth \$1724. That's approaching \$10,000 in total. Astonishing!!

With the Write Links Group meeting at the Garden's Café for lunch and a meeting, the numbers on the Saturday hit a record high of 175 with many members dropping in to visit, view and buy. It was wonderful to see other local book creators dropping in from the first day where Sheryl Gwyther used her skills in helping to set it all up, to Lucia Masciullo, Anil Tortop and Peter Taylor visiting on the Saturday.



Supported networking, events, learning, and an appreciation of story for children and young adults throughout the community.

Young Writers Workshop

14 March

Due to COVID-19 restrictions we ran only one writing workshop via ZOOM. In *Let's talk Dialogue* with Christine Bongers, children were shown how to create characters, show relationships and bring their stories to life through sparkling, authentic dialogue. Because online sessions don't attract as many children as face-to-face events, we decided not to run any further events until new 'working with children procedures' had been updated.



The National Simultaneous Storytime

20 May 2021

This was planned in partnership with Brisbane Square Libraries as part of Ursula's visit to Queensland.

Ursula provided a wonderful session with a group of young children reading the book for National Simultaneous Storytime *Give me some Space!* by Philip Bunting and an added interactive session of her new picture book *The March of the Ants* with children acting out the story.

OUR CURRENT PROJECTS

Book Links Mentorship

The 2020 mentorship was announced at the AGM and the winner was Benjamin Marshall from Tasmania. As well as the 12-hour mentorship, Robyn Sheahan Bright also offered a four-hour manuscript consultation for picture book writer/illustrator Fiona West. Twenty-five entries were received so the fact that seven were shortlisted reflects the high quality of the entries this year.

The 2021 mentorship has also attracted 25 submissions. The shortlist has been published on the website with the winner to be announced at the 2021 AGM.



The Book Links Award for Children's Historical Fiction was inaugurated in 2020 with the twofold aim of increasing the profile of Book Links and of throwing light on an area of children's fiction that didn't receive that many awards.

Research indicated that historical fiction was a suitable field, and the award was duly established as a biennial award with prize money of \$1000. It was decided to run the award over two years as we thought there may not be enough titles published but sixty titles is a substantial field for an award. The \$25 entry fee for these books covered the prize money.

Three experienced judges of children's literature agreed to judge the entries. Sue Wright, Margie McKay-Lowndes and Mia Macrossan (chair) read all the books and chose 18 titles for the longlist announced 1 May, 6 for the shortlist announced 19 May and one winner to be announced 16 October.

Award stickers for longlist, shortlist and winner have been designed and the digital images provided for free to the publishers.



The 2021 Shortlist showcase six brilliant books that excel at developing an understanding and appreciation of history in children.



The longlist and shortlist were publicised on Book Links and StoryLinks websites, FB and Instagram as well as Book Links media. The shortlisted titles have been reviewed on StoryLinks. The authors have been contacted with some interview questions for publication on StoryLinks leading up to the announcement by Jackie French 16 October.



Read Up

ReadUp is a library loyalty scheme for library members originally designed for public libraries but made available via Book Links for any to use. Children earn certificates for visiting the library. These have been created by award winning Queensland children's book illustrators. More certificates have been added to the collection. The resources were developed by Moreton Bay Region Libraries and have been made available online via the Book Links website to all libraries through our partnership.



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 works. Activities to use in the classroom and in public libraries are included to extend Literature and Arts learning.

Only two cases were sent out this year and two from last year are still at their initial borrowers because of difficulties in accessing the office and issues with COVID-19 safety.

Membership

Many thanks to Membership Secretary Marie Fletcher 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. Membership remains stable.

2020 membership as at 10 Oct:	2021 membership as at 9 Oct:
121 Personal members	130 Personal members
11 Family members	5 Family members
6 Corporate members	7 Corporate members

Other than Qld, members are from the following states and territories:

8 NSW, 4 Vic, 1 Tas, 1 SA, 1 ACT

The following bookshops provide discounts for Book Links members: A Lot of Books - Ipswich, Books@Stones, Riverbend Books, The Book Warehouse, Little Gnome Bookshop, The Library Shop (SLQ) - Brisbane and added in 2020, Big B Books - Gold Coast, Under the Greenwood Tree - Mount Tamborine, The Little Book Nook – Palmwoods and a new bookshop has joined us, Scrumptious Reads.

OTHER

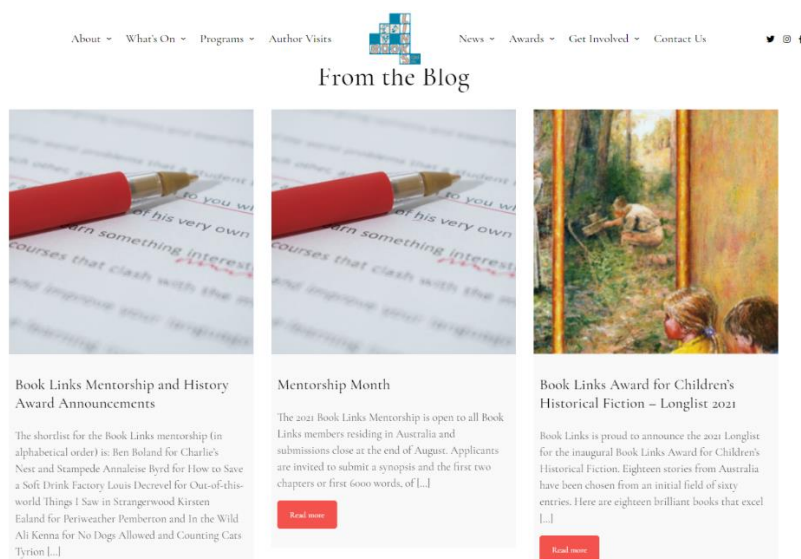
Partnerships and Strategic links

Due to the COVID-19 issues, there have been few opportunities for partnering in 2021. There has been limited access to our office and limits on numbers in meeting rooms continue.

Book Links continues to cross promote events with the Queensland Writers Centre, The Children's Book Council of Australia Qld Branch, the Society of Children's Book Writers and Illustrators and other like organisations.

The main partnership in 2021 was with Brisbane City Council to deliver two events with Ursula Dubosarsky during her visit for the Book Links Narelle Oliver Lecture.

Book Links is looking forward to a new partnership with The Lighthouse currently being established by Emma Mactaggart in Toowoomba. We have been gifted a permanent office within the centre, access to administration staff, as well as use of a gallery and a workshop area. This enables us to establish a presence in regional Queensland. The Lighthouse Youth Writing Centre will be the first of its kind in regional Australia, following the success of the Story Factory in Sydney, and the 100 Story Building in Melbourne.



Website, Social Media and Newsletter

The current Book Links website has been edited throughout the year to support children and schools during COVID-19 with links to many resources. The new websites for Book Links, Write Links and Story Links are being well maintained.

Our **newsletter** has been issued regularly after each meeting, edited by Maria Parenti. This year the number of subscribers increased from 316 to 343. Ten newsletters were sent to subscribers via MailChimp, and two special edition newsletters were sent to children who attended previous workshops or entered competitions, providing them with information about the online workshop and writing competitions.

The new **Book Links website** has had 10,663 users in the past 12 months with 13,899 sessions and 24,169 page views. 72% from Australia and 10% from the United States. China, Canada, India, Singapore, UK, and Brazil make up the rest of the viewers. In the top ten most viewed pages are the homepage, children's writing competitions, BSAB, fun stuff for your writers, awards, event bookings, Mentorship and membership. Most referrals came from Facebook but an interesting number came from a feature news article from artshub about the new award.

The Book Links **Facebook** page has grown this year from 1,198 followers in October 2020 to 1,635 with a steady increase all year. The greatest reach was in the months of February (Short Story Competition announced) and June (Romancing the Stars Gold Coast) as well as much activity October-November 2020. Most of our audience is from Australia mainly from Brisbane, Melbourne and Sydney and 90% female.

Book Links **Instagram** has increased from 493 to 561 followers.

The Future

The continued impact of COVID-19 restrictions has resulted in more interstate people joining and participating via ZOOM online sessions. As the restrictions are lifted, we will continue using ZOOM or livestreaming as a way of reaching out to our regional and interstate members and integrate it into face-to-face events wherever possible.

As well as our regular annual events, we are planning another exhibition of illustrators at the **Richard Randall Art Studio**, Mt Coot-tha Gardens in June 2022 and continuing with the **BSAB** conference re-scheduled to be held in October 2022.

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

Book Links is looking forward to a new partnership with **The Lighthouse** currently being established by Emma Mactaggart in Toowoomba. We have been gifted a permanent office within the centre, access to administration staff, as well as use of a gallery and a workshop area. This enables us to establish a presence in regional Queensland.

Book Links will consider making the **Award for Historical Fiction** an annual award.

Thanks

I would like to acknowledge and thank all members of the management committee for their dedication and hard work: Danielle Freeland (Vice-President), Yvonne Mes (Write Links Coordinator), Kayt Duncan (Secretary), Tyrion Perkins (Treasurer and Travelling Suitcases coordinator), Marie Fletcher (Membership Secretary), Mia Macrossan (Story Links Coordinator, Awards Committee), Maria Parenti (Newsletter Editor).

Special thanks also to the judges for the history award Mia Macrossan, Margie McKay-Lowndes and Sue Wright and also to Mia for managing the adult short story writing competition and Margie for managing the children's story writing competition.

Thanks go to Dimity Powell, Trish Buckley, Mia Macrossan and Margie McKay-Lowndes for donating books to be used as prizes for Big Lit Quiz and other events.

Jenny Stubbs

President Book Links QLD Inc



STORY LINKS REPORT

StoryLinks continued to fulfil its mission with 634 items posted onto the page.

- to review children's books for parents and teachers
- to provide lists of reading resources for parents and teachers
- to disseminate relevant children's books news
- to support creators of children's books

Developments this year:

- Anna Byrd became our media manager and posted news and reviews to Facebook and Instagram every week. This has markedly increased our interactions with our community. I am very grateful for her generosity and expertise. Here is her report:

StoryLinks social media stats...

Facebook followers: 666

Instagram followers: 494

Instagram followers are increasing at a faster rate than Facebook followers. For example, in the last month, we gained 5 followers on Facebook and 22 on Instagram. However, we currently have more engagement overall on Facebook, as all of our website content is reposted there compared to only some of our reviews being featured on Instagram. (Note: Due to the time involved in creating the Canva images required for the Instagram posts, I am now posting one review to Instagram every 5-7 days rather than posting every single review.)

In the last month, we had 132 post engagements over 22 posts on Facebook (this number includes 29 link clicks; i.e. people who actually clicked through to the full review etc) and 90 post interactions over 5 posts on Instagram (this number includes 8 website taps; i.e. people who were presumably looking for the full review). We continue to have authors and illustrators reach out to us via Facebook and Instagram to thank us for our review of their book. Some also share our review on their own social media.

- The year has again shown steady growth in audience with some changes in response to feedback. The most popular items on the website that generate the most traffic are the book reviews, Short Story competitions and the Reading lists. The reviews on the Home Page receive the most coverage overall but not so much individually. Grateful thanks to all the reviewers and contributors to StoryLinks.

- The Adult short story competition had 43 entries. Many thanks to Sarah Custance who was co-judge this year. The Children's short story competition had about 149. Many thanks to Margaret McKay Lowndes who has coordinated and judged the competition this year.
- The StoryLinks Gallery Exhibition at Mt Coot-tha was very successful again this year. While coordinated by StoryLinks and staffed by Last Tuesday book club members and reviewers it was presented under the banner of Book Links this year and will now continue as an annual Book Links event.
- Young reviewers now have a page of questions to help them. This has generated a few reviews but not many. It probably needs more promotion.
- Book Hooks which are short reviews with page suggestions, from the IDTL network, has just started so difficult to assess how popular it may be.
- Our reviewers varied in number throughout the year. Many grateful thanks to all those who took the time to write thoughtful reviews. We aim for an average of three published reviews each week which we achieved. Often we have more items.

The site has grown and now needs *at least* ten to twelve hours work a week to maintain, update, write material, create, and edit lists, interview authors, promote children's book activities. This work could easily expand to a full-time position with promotion, creating new material and maintaining the site.

It has the potential to become a useful and respected voice in the children's book world.

Plans for 2022

- Find an assistant editor
- Continue to review children's books. I will review about 3 titles a week and publish any others that are suitable
- Continue with the short story competitions
- Publish reading lists but concentrate more on including ones from other sources – linking is part of our stated mission.
- Do author/illustrator interviews whenever feasible

Thank you to everyone who has supported StoryLinks. It has been a pleasure to work with you.

Mia Macrossan 2021



WRITE LINKS REPORT

The year 2021 was again impacted by Covid-19 restrictions. But like last year, we responded to this by offering our meetings online via Zoom. Write Links is still growing and still going strong.

Attendance has been higher than in previous years, again most likely because of the change from our physical location to having meetings online, which allows members who live further away or find it challenging to make it to our physical location to attend.

Attendance this year varied between 40 to 60 members per meeting. As usual, we continue with a steady core of regular members and with a regular influx of new members most months.

The online meetings have gone smoothly and according to our usual schedule:

- 1-hour professional development
- 1-hour networking
- 2-hour critique groups.

The critique groups continued meeting using the online platform in their usual small groups through the use of separate Zoom rooms.

I would like to thank our critique group facilitators for their dedication to organising monthly critique sessions:

- Sandhya Parappukkaran–Picture Book Critique Group
- Karen Tyrrell–Junior Fiction Critique Group
- Pym Schaare–YA Critique Group
- Justine Lawson–Illustrator Critique Group

A big thank you to the Write Links website support team:
Sandhya Parappukkaran, Fiona West and Valerie Miller.

Also, thanks to Rebecca Sheraton for her support in admitting new members to the FB group.

And, of course, many thanks to Jenny Stubbs and the rest of the Book Links Committee for all their support in matters big and small in relation to Write Links.

We have new merchandise this year, our Write Links book bag at \$15.00.

We have sold 15 bags. This should pick up as we return to in-person meetings.



Our Facebook group has gained 52 new members over the past year, which brings us to 299 Facebook members. As ZOOM has opened us up to a wider audience, there have been requests to join from beyond QLD. This has positive and negative implications. A wider audience means more support for children's authors and illustrators and an increase in recognition and profile of Book Links and Write Links, but it may also dilute meaningful engagements between members. It is hard to gauge why people join our FB group, (even though we have our questions as part of the process) when they don't meet face to face as there are several Australian FB groups for children's picture book authors and illustrators already in existence. We will continue monitoring this development as Write Links' aim is to respond to the needs of our members.

There have been many success stories among Write Links members. With members launching their debut books or successive books. Seeing Write Links members supporting each other during book launches shows how supportive members are of each other.

Our presentations this year were as usual based on members' feedback and requests:

- Oct 3 – Creative Activation and Collective Wisdom via ZOOM (69)
- Nov 7 – Mark Wilson, writing and illustrating picture books via ZOOM(64)
- Feb 6 – Verse Novels with Lorraine Marwood via ZOOM (62)
- March 6 – Collective Wisdom, Metafiction with Yvonne Mes via ZOOM (41)
- March 27 - Creative Activation and Collective Wisdom via ZOOM (45)
- May 1 – Preparing for Writing Conferences with Yvonne Mes via ZOOM (41)
- June 5 - Creative Activation and Collective Wisdom via ZOOM (44)
- June 26 – Inspired by Nature with Zewlan Moor and Justine Lawson IN PERSON at Mount Cootha Botanical Gardens (42)
- July 31 – CYA debrief (42)
- 4 September – Writing Narrative Nonfiction with Claire Saxby via ZOOM (92)



We held only 1 in person meeting this year due to continuing COVID concerns and limits on the amount of people able to meet at the State Library. This meeting also saw the celebration of our seventh year as a group.

During our networking sessions, we shared our writing successes, challenges and aspirations.

We also used this opportunity to prepare for and debrief after conferences and offered support and encouragement where needed.

We have customised the new Write Links website to be consistent with Book Links. The new website link is: <https://writelinks.booklinks.org.au/>

Looking ahead to next year:

Write Links will continue in a similar format next year and plan to support emerging and established creators of children's literature in Brisbane and further afield with the support of Book Links through critique sessions, networking sessions and access to professional development sessions whether in person, online or a hybrid of the two.

Yvonne Mes
Write Links Coordinator



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

Jackie French
Children's Book Council Australia - Qld
Queensland Writers Centre
State Library of Queensland
Voices on the Coast
Somerset Storyfest
Brisbane City Council Libraries
Moreton Bay Region Libraries
The Lighthouse
Local Book Shops

Book Links

Treasurer's report - by Tyrion Perkins

End of Financial Year 1/7/2020 - 30/6/2021

Book Links QLD - Account Summary - 30/06/2021

Summary for the Year Ending June 2021			
Account	Balance (30/6/2021)	Balance (01/07/2020)	Change (YTD YEJ21)
Main	\$13,003.35	\$12,914.98	\$88.37
Donations	\$3,978.58	\$2,803.24	\$1,175.34
Investment	\$5,602.04	\$5,573.80	\$28.24
Trybooking	\$6,295.32	\$1,935.31	\$4,360.01
Paypal	\$25.00	\$0.00	\$25.00
Cash	\$60.00	\$296.80	-\$236.80
Totals	\$28,964.29	\$23,524.13	\$5,440.16

From Spreadsheet (This is to check that amounts entered into the spreadsheet are correct.)

Transactions	Main	Donations	Investment	Trybooking	Paypal	Cash Box	Total
June 2021	0.00	0.00	0.00	1252.85	0.00	0.00	1252.85
total for year	13003.35	3978.58	5602.04	6295.94	25.00	60.00	28964.91
Amount out from totals, above:	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.62	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.62

The total for Trybooking is still 62 cents out – this originated from Trybooking which showed totals that differed by .63 in August 2020, and one cent less in June 2021. Thus the total for the income and expenses sheet is out by 62 cents, giving a total of \$5440.78 instead of \$544.16 which is what is actually in our accounts. I have put this in the Income and Expenses list as "Trybooking error," under in the heading, "operational".

We made a profit of \$5,440.16 for the year.

However, when we take out the money coming in for BSAB21 which will be held in the next financial year ($5440.16 - 7868.91 = -2428.75$), it is actually a loss of \$2428.75.

This can be explained by our decision to update the websites of Book Links, Write Links, and Story Links, which cost \$5872.92. This sort of expense does not happen each year, and if we hadn't paid for it this year, we would have made a profit of \$3444.17, which is a reasonable amount considering the reduced amount of activities and workshops due to the COVID pandemic.

Income and Expenses 01/07/2019 – 30/06/2020

Items	Income	Expense	Grand Total
BSAB21	10240.00	-2371.09	7868.91
Flights		-2250.55	-2250.55
Qld Arts Grant	5420.00		5420.00
Book Links StoryArts Bris 2021 – Saturday bookings	1990.00	-49.75	1940.25
Sunday workshops – bookings	700.00	-17.54	682.46
Publisher/agent feedback - bookings	2130.00	-53.25	2076.75
Competitions	2001.00	-886.83	1114.17
Book Links Mentorship 2020	511.00	-9.50	501.50
Award for Children's Historical Fiction 2021	1475.00	-476.95	998.05
Children's short story competition prize		-100.00	-100.00
Membership renewal prize		-50.00	-50.00
Short Story Competition		-250.00	-250.00
Book Links Mentorship 2021	15.00	-0.38	14.62

Book Links

Treasurer's report - by Tyrion Perkins

End of Financial Year 1/7/2020 - 30/6/2021

Donation to others	-650.00	-650.00	
Donation to IBBY	-650.00	-650.00	
Donations	1645.00	-422.16	1222.84
Donations	800.00		800.00
RTS Sunshine Coast online	337.00	-11.87	325.13
AGM 2020	184.00	-4.64	179.36
Romancing the Stars - Brisbane Online 2021	304.00	-7.67	296.33
Children’s workshops losses - Lucia Masciullo		-167.05	-167.05
Children’s workshops losses - Christine Bongers		-230.43	-230.43
Donations - Understory	20.00	-0.50	19.50
Events	2871.00	-3596.34	-725.34
Narelle Oliver Annual Lecture 2020/21	1135.00	-2234.03	-1099.03
AGM 2020		-220.00	-220.00
Big Lit Quiz	1237.00	-499.50	737.50
Q&A with Katrina Nannestad	295.00	-307.81	-12.81
Richard Randal Art Gallery		-135.00	-135.00
RST Gold Coast	204.00		204.00
Write Links Gardens meeting 26 June		-200.00	-200.00
Interest	28.24		28.24
NAB Investment account	28.24		28.24
Membership	3060.00	-90.15	2969.85
Membership 2020	490.00	-13.00	477.00
Membership 2021	2570.00	-77.15	2492.85
Merchandise	225.00	-494.69	-269.69
Tote bags	225.00	-494.69	-269.69
Operational expenses		-6871.28	-6871.28
Website		-14.95	-14.95
Stationery		-1.50	-1.50
Incorporated Association Fee		-57.60	-57.60
Website update		-5872.92	-5872.92
Insurance - Allianz		-650.00	-650.00
Rent		-273.69	-273.69
Trybooking miscalculation		-0.62	-0.62
Other		-90.90	-90.90
Other - flowers		-90.90	-90.90
Workshop	1907.48	-1064.12	843.36
Danny Parker Workshop	480.00	-12.39	467.61
Lucia Masciullo Young Illustrators workshop	362.05	-362.05	0
Children's workshop with Brian Falkner	190.00	-5.23	184.77
Write Links Workshop - Lorraine Marwood	555.00	-364.02	190.98
Childrens workshop - Christine Bongers	320.43	-320.43	0
Grand Total	21977.72	-16537.56	5440.16

Book Links

Treasurer's report - by Tyrion Perkins

End of Financial Year 1/7/2020 - 30/6/2021

Trading Profit & Loss Statement

This is from a comparison table from past years. Some things are listed differently from the list above, such as the grant taken out of Story Arts and put in with donations.

		YEJ2019	YEJ2020	YEJ2021	Difference from last yr
Income	Functions / Workshops	\$10,855.69	\$9,254.32	\$4,778.48	-\$4,475.84
	Grants & Donations	\$5,979.00	\$1,730.55	\$7,065.00	\$5,334.45
	Interest Received	\$106.98	\$84.42	\$28.24	-\$56.18
	Membership	\$3,250.00	\$2,940.00	\$3,060.00	\$120.00
	DVDs/merchandise	\$32.95	\$0.00	\$225.00	\$225.00
	Mentorship	\$121.00	\$198.00	\$2,001.00	\$1,803.00
	Conference (Story Arts Brisbane)	\$5,261.00	\$9,224.00	\$4,820.00	-\$4,404.00
	TOTAL INCOME	\$25,606.62	\$23,431.29	\$21,977.72	-\$1,453.57
Expenses	Advertising	-\$131.00	\$0.00	0	\$0.00
	Email, internet & website	-\$199.27	-\$306.87	-\$5,887.87	-\$5,581.00
	Functions & Travel	-\$9,028.55	-\$8,386.11	-\$4,660.46	\$3,725.65
	Gifts	-\$700.00	-\$734.90	-\$650.00	\$84.90
	Grants & Donations	\$0.00	-\$11.00	-\$422.16	-\$411.16
	Insurance	-\$825.00	-\$850.00	-\$650.00	\$200.00
	Membership	-\$100.15	-\$83.33	-\$90.15	-\$6.82
	Rent	-\$462.00	-\$938.90	-\$273.69	\$665.21
	Stationery Supplies	-\$12.99	\$0.00	-\$1.50	-\$1.50
	Travelling Suitcases & DVDs	\$0.00	-\$139.56	-\$494.69	-\$355.13
	Office of Fair Trading	-\$55.35	-\$56.60	-\$57.60	-\$1.00
	Write Links	\$0.00	-\$90.67	\$0.00	\$90.67
	Mentorship	-\$3.08	-\$1,160.04	-\$9.50	\$1,150.54
	Competitions	\$0.00	-\$450.00	-\$877.33	-\$427.33
	Conference (Story Arts Brisbane)	-\$1,656.72	-\$15,324.79	-\$2,371.09	\$12,953.70
	Other	0	0	-\$90.90	-\$90.90
	TOTAL EXPENSES	-\$13,174.11	-\$28,532.77	-\$16,537.56	\$11,995.21
	OPERATING PROFIT or LOSS	\$12,432.51	-\$5,101.48	\$5,440.16	\$10,542.26
		YEJ2019	YEJ2020	YEJ2021	Difference from last yr