

The Centre
for Children's Literature

BOOK LINKS QLD INC.

2021- 2022 Report

Mission

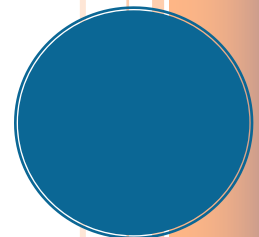
Link people and groups throughout the community with stories and experiences to build literacy and learning; so as to enrich lives.

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.

Jenny Stubbs, President

8/10/2022



Book Links Qld Inc.

2021- 2022 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



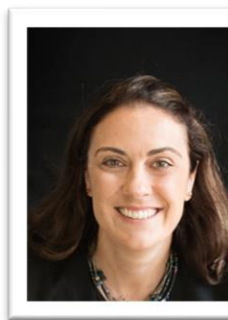
Jenny Stubbs
President



Danielle Freeland
Vice-President



Tyrion Perkins
Treasurer



Kayt Duncan
Secretary

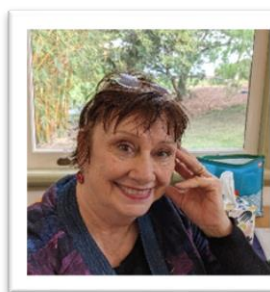


Marie Fletcher
Membership
Secretary

Coordinators



Maria Parenti
Newsletter



Mia Macrossan
StoryLinks
Coordinator



Yvonne Mes
Write Links
Team



Sandhya Parappukkaran
Write Links Team



Rebecca Sheraton
Write Links Team



Zewlan Moor
Write Links Team

Responsible Persons

Jenny Stubbs

Dr Andrew King

Rachel Nolan

Dr Cherri Ryan

A MESSAGE FROM OUR PATRON

In 2022, Her Excellency the Honourable Dr Jeannette Young AC PSM, Governor of Queensland became the Patron of Book Links.



GOVERNOR OF QUEENSLAND

Message from the Governor

It is my great pleasure as Governor of Queensland, to provide this message of support for Book Links Qld Inc.

What could be more important than ensuring our children have access to, and are encouraged to read, books and other forms of literature?

I am proud to be the Patron of this wonderful organisation, which seeks to enrich the lives of Queenslanders young and old through literacy and learning.

Whether in paper, digital, audio or braille form, books offer us all something very personal and very special, be it knowledge, entertainment, inspiration, advice, encouragement or escape – the kind that doesn't require an expensive plane ticket.

Books are also a way of connecting us with people of the past, present and, judging by the enduring popularity of our sci-fi storytellers, perhaps even the future. They also open up other worlds, be they cultural, geographical, mythical or magical.

And, of course, they give us a way to connect with our own inner lives. Not enjoying school or just having a bad day? Perhaps the stories of Oliver Twist, Hansel and Gretel, Mowgli or Harry Potter, or perhaps even the Diary of a Wimpy Kid, can bring a little perspective, especially when life experience is short supply.

But linking people with literature is no small a challenge in today's fast-changing world, where the digital revolution has given us, and particularly our children, so many other ways to spend our time.

While embracing new technology is vital, so too is the need to nurture communities where young people are exposed to literature, and where their imagination, and innate artistry and creativity are valued.

Book Links does just that, while encouraging all forms of storytelling and shared literary experiences, from writing and illustration to book critiquing, conferences, festivals and even some (friendly) competitions.

Thank you, Book Links, for all that you offer our young people and the wider community.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Jeannette Young'.

Her Excellency the Honourable Dr Jeannette Young AC PSM
Governor of Queensland

A MESSAGE FROM OUR VICE PATRON JACKIE FRENCH

Every year a miracle occurs: Book Links keeps going, like a sun in a dark universe, whose rays illuminate those who love books for young people, or write books for young people, or need books for young people, so they can find each other. Sun like, too, Book Links provides the energy for books to be written, books to be celebrated, books to be read by exactly the young people who need those books, so that the love of books for young people can grow.



There are many organisations that have similar ideals across the world. Some are funded by rich philanthropists, like Dolly Parton or Bill Gates. Book Links has no such wealthy sponsor, though if any potential billionaire philanthropists are reading this, you'll be welcomed with open arms, a cup of tea, a biscuit and possibly a lamington, as many signed copies of member's books as you can carry, and a long list of possible projects that will transform the lives of young people for many generations. In the phrase I use so often 'A book can change a child's life. A book can change the world.'

Other similar organisations have major corporate or government backing. While Book Links does have fabulous, enthusiastic and generous sponsors, and sometimes government grants for its projects, its existence doesn't depend on one major sponsor or government budget. Instead, it is exactly what its name says – book 'links', a wide, diverse network of people who play large or small but vital roles in the growing number of Book Links projects.

As I write this, the lights of small and even large theatre companies are going out. Book shops are closing, because of erratic supply lines or lack of staff, the loss of browsing customers or simply exhaustion. Publishing and selling books face continual challenges, from the supply of paper to a shortage of experienced editors, as well as the loss of markets: fewer purchases from struggling school libraries, fewer book shops, as well as continual transport difficulties involved in getting books from where they are printed or stored to where they are needed.

Australia has faced two pandemic years where most face-to-face public events have been cancelled, curtailed or flooded out. Everyone is tired, doing either far too much or crabbed and confined and able to do far less than they'd like. I don't know anyone who hasn't faced loss and tragedy in the last three years. If anyone has had an uneventful three years, filled with nothing but joy and energy and time to do all the things they love, please put your hand up now. No? I didn't think so.

Book Links' members and supporters are drawn from the most exhausted sections of our society: those who love kids, work with them or for them, teachers, parents, librarians, writers, publishers, librarians, teacher librarians – an endangered species even before the

pandemic, the precariousness of their jobs even further exacerbated by the growing loss of teachers who still love their work and the kids, but can no longer face the daily challenges of being asked to do too much, from devising an online learning system overnight to giving up even more precious hours to bureaucratic paperwork. (If any Minister for Education is reading this, could you possibly devise a system where teachers mostly teach, and teacher librarians are allowed to perform their magic, instead of being seconded to other roles, and provide clerical assistants instead to do the paperwork? And could any principal whose school spends more on sports and the oval than on the library and literacy please email me, so we can have a productive discussion about your priorities?)

In other words, in a decade where programmes are mostly going backwards, Book Links keeps growing, adding new projects, new sponsors, new membership, its projects both face to face and virtual, and the virtual ones reaching around Australia and across the world.

There is, perhaps, a reason for this. Years ago, I met an elderly Holocaust survivor, in constant pain and ill health, who had suffered one of the worst of human tragedies only three weeks before, and yet had arrived to speak to hundreds of young people. I tried to offer sympathy and admiration. She took my hand. 'Darling,' she said, 'This is what keeps me living.'

We are all tired, overworked, and tragedy has at least stroked our hair even if not been a close companion the last three years. But giving to others- especially to young people – is one of the most fulfilling gifts possible. Maybe that is where the miracle of Book Links' energy, growing success and reach and number of extraordinary projects comes from.

Book Links has not just survived but thrived. Book Links truly links us, and every year, keeps giving more.

Jackie French

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

The impact of floods and COVID-19 restrictions has meant the continued delivery of our programs as a mix of hybrid, ZOOM and in-person methods. It also led to the postponement of Books Links StoryArts Brisbane Conference from mid-October 2021 to late October 2022. Our provision of opportunities for children is still hampered by issues with new policies on working with children as well as access to venues in the first half of 2022.

We purchased equipment to enable us to make all meetings and selected events in the future hybrid and we were able to have some face-to-face events with *Romancing the Stars* on the Gold Coast and another wonderfully successful exhibition at the Richard Randall Art Studio at the Mt Coot-tha Botanic Gardens. The delivery of hybrid events has resulted in continued membership coming from other states.

I'd like to thank Yvonne Mes for the great work she has done in coordinating Write Links since it began in 2013 with ten years of dedication. Yvonne stepped back from this role in the middle of 2022 and a team of Sandhya Parappukkaran, Zewlan Moor and Rebecca Sheraton have picked up the baton to keep it running.

JENNY STUBBS

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

Big Lit Quiz

27 November 2021



The Big Lit Quiz was held at Moreton Bay College with Mia Macrossan as Quizmaster. We raised \$400 to donate to the Australian Children's Laureate Foundation. Representatives from CBCA and SCBWI joined Book Links members at this annual event to raise funds for key charitable organisations that promote Australian children's literature nationally and internationally.

Romancing the Stars

Sunshine Coast 12 November 2021

Brisbane 10 & 24 March 2022 | Gold Coast 10 May 2022

2022 was the eleventh year of Romancing the Stars in Queensland. We were able to deliver the Sunshine Coast event at Immanuel Lutheran College in November 2021 before reverting back to online in March for the Brisbane event, due to the uncertainty over covid.

The Gold Coast event was held in May, but numbers were low, again due to covid.

The atmosphere at Coomera Anglican College was wonderful with exhibitions of illustration on display.



By using ZOOM for the **Brisbane Romancing the Stars** event, we were able to include authors from regional Queensland with Kat Apel joining us from Mount Tom and Trudie Trewin from Cairns. The online format also allowed people to join in from outside Brisbane. We ran it as two separate Zoom events with one covering picture book creators and one for junior fiction to YA.

This event allows the audience to discover what books our authors and illustrators had been creating for children and young adults in the past year.



Yvonne Mes - MC



Narelle Oliver Lecture

26 May 2022

The Narelle Oliver Lecture was held at St Aidan's Anglican College. It was such a pleasure to be able to meet in person as enthusiastic lovers of children's literature to listen to the knowledgeable Dr Robyn Sheahan-Bright. We were all amazed at how she was able to cover the whole alphabet with examples of books that demonstrated a range of contemporary responses to social issues in children's literature, and how social activism is reflected in texts by both Australian and international authors. They ranged from A is for Activism through B is for Black Lives Matter, F is for Feminism (& Feisty Girls), R is for Refugee Crisis, W is for War to Z is for Zeitgeist. The list is published on the StoryLinks website.





Story Art

A Book Links Exhibition

Story Art Exhibition

6-12 June 2022

The exhibition was held at the Richard Randall Gallery from 6 – 12 June, curated by Sarah Custance and Mia Macrossan.

The aim of this annual exhibition is to raise awareness of the quality of children's book illustration, to support the artists on show, and to sell their books and artwork. A secondary aim is to promote the work of Book Links and StoryLinks.

The artists were:

- Caroline Magerl – *Piano Fingers, Maya and Cat* etc - a very popular artist. This was a repeat invitation.
- Lucia Masciullo – *The Imagineer, Olive, Come Down Cat* - a repeat invitation.
- Nicola Hooper – *The Cow That Swam Out to Sea* - This was her first time exhibiting with StoryArts. Her work generated a lot of interest.
- Sue Wright – sculptor. Her pieces generated a lot of praise and sold well.

Close to 600 attended the exhibition with most coming on Monday, Friday, Saturday and Sunday.

We continued our partnership with *Where the Wild Things Are* bookshop who supplied us with titles by the artists to sell on commission.

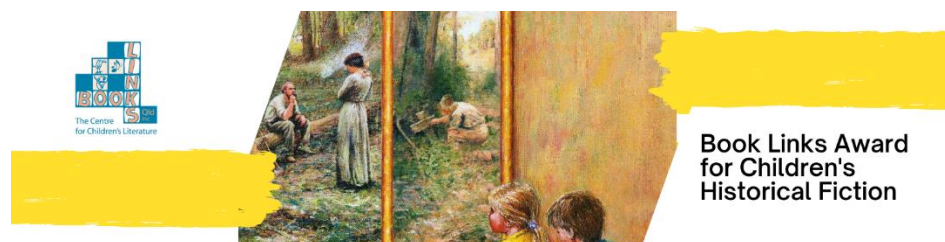
OUR CURRENT PROJECTS

Book Links Mentorship 2021

In its third year, the Book Links (Qld) Mentorship competition has again attracted excellent submissions. Picture books entered included those with environmental themes, family stories, animal stories, challenges to gender stereotypes and stories about character development. Inventive writing styles and the use of rhyme and rhythm were notable. Junior fiction submitted included mystery, adventure and fantasies. Once again, the writers were willing to stretch the boundaries of format to arrive at something distinctive, sometimes using metafictional techniques.

At the conclusion of the 2021 AGM Dr Robyn Sheahan-Bright announced the winner of the Book Links Mentorship. The winner was Kirsten Ealand for *Periweather Pemberton* and *In the Wild*. Robyn offered a second prize of a manuscript consultation to Louis Decrevel for *Out-of-this-world Things I Saw in Strangerwood*.

History awards



The Book Links Award for Children's Historical Fiction was originally conceived as a biennial award but changed to an annual award with the timeline brought forward in 2022. This means we have two winners in the 2021-2022 period.

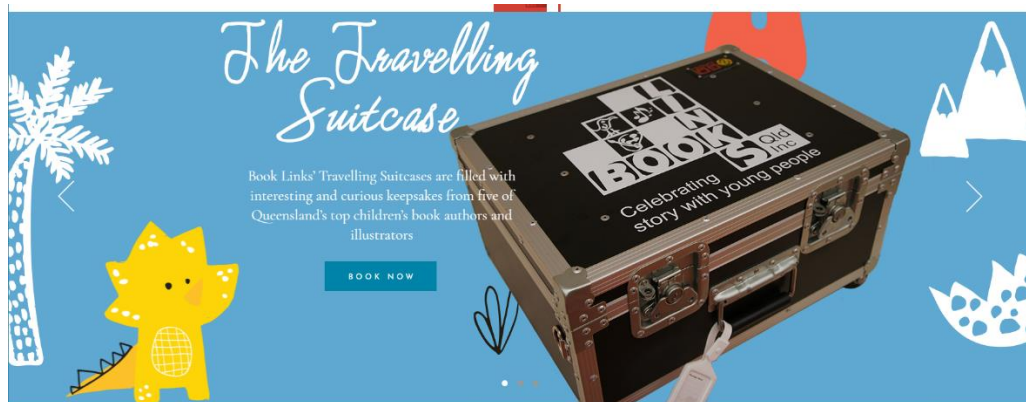
The judges for 2021 were Sue Wright, Margie McKay-Lowndes and Mia Macrossan (chair) with Zewlan Moor added for 2022. The 2021 winner, Katrina Nannestad's *We Are Wolves*, was announced 16 October during an online session with Jackie French.

The 2022 longlist and shortlist were fewer in number due to the move to an annual award. There were twenty-six books entered, a longlist of eight and shortlist of four. These books excel at developing an understanding and appreciation of history in children. The shortlisted titles have been reviewed on StoryLinks and authors' interviews published.

The 2022 winner Wendy Orr's *Cuckoo's Flight* was announced 27 July via ZOOM with all shortlisted authors and judges attending and taking part in a Q&A.



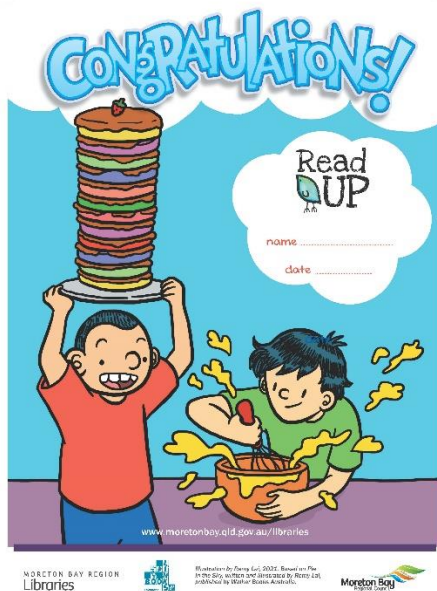
Travelling Suitcases



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.

Distribution of cases continued to be an issue in 2022 with floods closing access for the first part of the year and ongoing parking issues. The cases were not promoted. Only one case has gone out this year, however Megan Daley did promote them via a podcast in September.

Read Up



ReadUp is a library loyalty scheme for library members originally designed for public libraries but made available via Book Links for anyone to use.

Children earn certificates for visiting the library. These have been created by award winning Queensland children's book illustrators.

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.

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.

2021 membership as of 9 October:	2022 membership as of 8 October:
130 Personal members	158 Personal members
5 Family members	9 Family members
7 Corporate members	7 Corporate members

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, Big B Books - Gold Coast, Under the Greenwood Tree - Mount Tamborine, The Little Book Nook – Palmwoods and Scrumptious Reads.



Book Links Mentorship

Entry for Mentorship extended

The entry date for the Book Links Mentorship has been extended to 17 September. Applicants are invited to submit a synopsis and the first two chapters or first 6000 words of a work of fiction for either junior or YA [...]



Caroline Magerl Exhibition

Author/Illustrator Caroline Magerl will be in residence at 'The Lighthouse' Toowoomba throughout October with an exhibition of illustrations and developmental drawings showing how Pizzo Fingers was created. Alongside the artwork, panels of words showing the roughs for the book will [...]



Winner of the 2022 Book Links Award for Children's Historical Fiction is...

Cuckoo's High by Wendy Orr has won the 2022 Book Links Award for Children's Historical Fiction. The win was announced at an online event attended by all the shortlisted authors, Miranda Burton.

Website, Social Media and Newsletter

The current Book Links website has been edited throughout the year.

Our newsletter has been issued regularly after each meeting, edited by Maria Parenti. This year the number of subscribers increased from 316 to 395.

Ten newsletters were sent to subscribers via MailChimp and three special edition newsletters were sent to children and families providing them with relevant.

Since the 2021 AGM, there have been 8,632 website users with 21,065 page views. This is a decrease in numbers from 2020-2021 when we had 10,663 users and 24,169 page views.

The ten most viewed Book Links website pages were the home page 3924, children's writing competitions 3570, BSAB bookings 1547, BSAB about 1226, awards 545, BSAB program 537, author visits 518, BSAB what you need to know 503, Awards 2022 465 and What's on bookings page 385. Author visits was a new page added to the website.

The Book Links Facebook page has had some growth, with followers increasing from 1,198 to 1,824. Page reach was 8,983. The greatest page reach was 12 Nov – 985 and 6 June - 693.

Book Links Instagram has 647 followers up from 561 in 2021.

OTHER

Partnerships and Strategic links

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

Several members attended StoryArts Festival Ipswich as volunteers during school sessions and as participants at the weekend conference. These volunteers are vital to the running of the Ipswich festival.

Book Links is looking forward to developing our partnership with **The Lighthouse Toowoomba**. Book Links members attended the launch 22.02.22 and set up in the new Book Links office space. Caroline Magerl attended to do some preliminary planning for her exhibition. Following on from the Caroline Magerl Piano Fingers exhibition in October 2022, we will be planning an exhibition for November 2023.



The Future

As the restrictions have lifted, and Book Links has acquired equipment to deliver events in hybrid formats, we will continue using ZOOM 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 to expand on exhibitions of illustrators in both the **Richard Randall Art Studio**, Mt Coot-tha Gardens in June 2023 and **The Lighthouse Toowoomba** November 2023.

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

Book Links is looking forward to developing further out partnership with **The Lighthouse Toowoomba**.

Thanks

I would like to acknowledge and thank all members of the management committee for their dedication and hard work: Danielle Freeland (Vice-President and BSAB Coordinator), Kayt Duncan (Secretary), Tyrion Perkins (Treasurer and Travelling Suitcases coordinator), Marie Fletcher (Membership Secretary), Yvonne Mes (Write Links Coordinator - outgoing), Sandhya Parappukkaran, Zewlan Moor and Rebecca Sheraton (new Write Links Team), 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, Sue Wright and Zewlan Moor, Sarah Custance for curating the Story Art Exhibition, Lara Cain Gray for managing the Mentorship program, Mia Macrossan for managing the adult short story writing competition and Margie McKay-Lowndes 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

Our aim is to provide interesting and stimulating reviews of children's literature, to encourage writers of children's literature and to provide resources for parents and teachers.

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 same as last year: **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.

Facebook- report from Anna Byrd who manages this aspect of StoryLinks. I am beyond grateful that she does this time-consuming job.

We are still steadily growing our follower numbers on both Facebook (673) and Instagram (831). Individual Facebook posts of reviews only tend to get a couple of likes, but Instagram posts (though less frequent as they are the more time-consuming posts to create) tend to get 20+ likes. The latest post got 40! This is likely due to hashtag use and may not lead to many people actually clicking through to read the full reviews, but it still helps promote the books we review and build a following that will be ready and waiting should we be able to ramp up our Instagram posting again in the future. No of followers 450 up from 265.

Facebook stats show we've reached 336 people in the past month with 21 posts. Instagram stats show we've reached 362 accounts in the past month with 1 post. 😊 ("Reached" in this context will mean people who saw it, not just people who "liked" it.)

Instagram stats show that, in the past month, 127 people visited our Instagram profile and 6 clicked through to the website. Not bad since I only posted once! For some reason we keep steadily gaining Instagram followers even when I haven't posted for weeks. We gain one or two new followers most days.

The **adult short story competition** had 43 entries and the winner was *The Pop Girls* by Meredith Downes.

The **children's short story competition** was coordinated by Margaret McKay-Lowndes. The 2021 winner *Concealed* by Merryana Day was announced in November and the story, illustrated by Lachlan Creagh, was published on the StoryLinks website. The 2022 competition has had 195 entries and will be announced November 2022.

Author interviews I concentrated on the people on the History awards long and short lists and those shortlisted in the adult short story competition and they were well received.

My impression is that we are gradually developing a reputation for honest and reliable reviewing which is heartening, (hearsay from a TL and Fiona Stager who recommends us to her staff 😊)

I am happy to continue in the role of Managing Editor of the Reviews, the Adult short story competition and online Interviews. At the moment I also coordinate the Reading Resources but I am happy to hand that over to anyone who is interested in working with Dajo Finlayson. Dajo said she would do it, but time constraints have prevented her from producing a list on her own.

Overall, a successful year with steady growth in subscribers and reputation.

Mia Macrossan, September 2022



WRITE LINKS REPORT

The year 2022 was a resurrection from the Covid-19 restrictions of the past two years. This year we held more in person meetings and have sorted through the initial teething stages of hybrid meetings. Write Links is still growing and still going strong.

Attendance has been sturdy, similar to 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 20 to 45 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 extend a huge thank you to Yvonne Mes who stepped down from the role of Write Links Coordinator in June this year. A team has stepped in to take over her role — Rebecca Sheraton, Zewlan Moor and myself. It is a testament to Yvonne's hard work and dedication to Write Links these past 9 years that she seamlessly coordinated the group to perfection. The new team is surely finding its feet, and are appreciative of the help extended by Yvonne Mes, Danielle Freeland and Jenny Stubbs. I would like to thank my fellow team members Rebecca Sheraton and Zewlan Moor who have been outstanding in stepping up to the task.

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:

Sandhya Parappukkaran.

Also, thanks to Rebecca Sheraton and Zewlan Moor for their 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.

Our Facebook group has gained 39 new members over the past year, which brings us to 338 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:

Nov 6 – Introduction to writing and illustrating picture books by Sophie Beer IN PERSON. (30)
Dec 4 – Getting ready for a new writing year IN PERSON. (13)
Feb 5 – Peter Carnavas The in-between of writing ZOOM (47)
March 5 – Collective Wisdom via ZOOM (27)
March 27 - Creative Activation and Collective Wisdom via ZOOM (45)
April 30 – Creative activation Object writing with Yvonne Mes via HYBRID (26)
June 11 – Readers’ Theatre at Mount Coot-tha and writing activation by Sheri-Ann O’Shea IN PERSON (39)
July 2 – Personal development with Alison McLennan HYBRID (34)
July 30 – Getting to know the US market with the founders of Kidlit411 HYBRID (38)
Sept 3 – Pitch practice in time for Story Arts Brisbane via ZOOM (33)

We held 6 in person meetings this year and 3 of these were hybrid and there were 4 meetings which were only via ZOOM.

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.

Sandhya Parappukkaran

Write Links Coordination Team Member

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
 The Children's Book Council of Australia – Qld Branch
 Queensland Writers Centre
 State Library of Queensland
 Voices on the Coast
 Somerset Storyfest
 Moreton Bay Region Libraries
 The Lighthouse Toowoomba
 Local Book Shops
 Coomera Anglican College
 Moreton Bay College
 St Aidan's Anglican Girls' School

Successes

Points to note from our strategic plan.

1. *Redevelop and maintain the website* – The three websites continue to be well maintained and continually reviewed: Book Links, Write Links and Story Links. A new section on author visits has been added to the Book Links website.
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 is used to disseminate information about events and programs.
3. *Generate financial and in-kind support* – We have carried over the grant from Arts Qld for StoryArts Brisbane Conference 2022. Venues were provided for free by schools hosting Romancing the Stars and Big Lit Quiz events and included a donation from one host school.
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. We were restricted in lending the Travelling Suitcases in 2022 due to access issues to SLQ due to flooding events, followed by covid issues.
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. A proposal was sent to the Premier suggesting it would fir cultural tourism during the Olympics.

6. *Up-skill Book Links committee members* – Members gained professional development via Write Links sessions. Our president attended the CBCA national Conference in Canberra.

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 has been updated. Partners' events are promoted via the calendar and newsletter.

9. *Develop and implement a Book Links promotional plan* – New banners, brochures and bookmarks were designed.

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 requires updating for 2023 - 2025.