

Celebrate READING National Conference

27 October - 28 October 2017

The Inside Story on Quality Australian
Literature for Children



The
Literature
Centre

PRESENTING AUTHORS

Jeannie Baker (NSW)
Leigh Hobbs (VIC)
Anna Fienberg (NSW)
Mark Wilson (VIC)

Gus Gordon (NSW)
Meg McKinlay (WA)
Kyle Hughes-Odgers (WA)
Deborah Abela (NSW)

PROGRAMME SESSION DETAILS

Keynote: Capturing the Child's Imagination by Leigh Hobbs

Australian Children's Laureate, Leigh Hobbs, discusses his own rather wild imagination in conjunction with the wonderful world of children's logic. He knows he can connect with children; it's not about restricting them. For Leigh, it's all about the pleasure of creation.

Keynote: My Journey in Picture Books by Jeannie Baker

Jeannie Baker's keynote will be a privileged insight into this extraordinarily gifted creator's 42 year (and counting) picture book career. Her work is recognised internationally by her intricate and elaborate mixed media collages. Jeannie will talk about the development of her work, her wordless picture books and her books focusing on society and the environment. She will focus in particular on her latest work, *Circle*.

Why War Themed Books for Children? by Mark Wilson

Mark will reference his own work as he asks four important questions. Do we need war themed books for children? How should we depict the horrors of war, and are there any constraints? Importantly, what could we possibly hope are the outcomes for children reading stories about war? With ANZAC day more popular than ever in schools, teachers and librarians may find some answers here as they ask themselves the same questions.

Image and Text: Inspiration and Influence

with Meg McKinlay, Kyle Hughes-Odgers, Mark Wilson and Jeannie Baker

That gem of an idea - where did it come from? Discover the inspiration and influences that shape the work of our panellists and how they negotiate the sometimes tricky line between influence and imitation. They'll also discuss the interplay between the visual and the text - from that very first creative spark all the way through to the reading experience. While the text may come 'first' in a linear sense, illustrations carry parts of the narrative in a way words alone cannot, adding a new dimension in a way which can become integral to the story.

Shhh! On Writing 'Quiet' Books by Meg McKinlay

In today's fast-paced world, we're often told attention spans are shrinking, young readers need stories with the highest possible stakes and the tension ratcheting up and up with every irresistible page turn. In this landscape, is there still room for the 'quiet' book, which privileges emotion over explosion, a slow burn over fast-paced action? Meg says yes, definitely, and perhaps even *especially* in this landscape. Though she says it very quietly, of course, because she just can't help herself.

Through Whose Eyes? with Leigh Hobbs, Meg McKinlay and Jeannie Baker

There is no one event, no particular set of experiences and conditions that can be drawn upon to universally define the childhood experience. However, there are books that have universal appeal. Books that children will pick up again and again irrespective of the child's background or socio economic status. In this panel, we examine this phenomenon, and consider the role children's books have in shaping our perceptions and understanding of childhood.

Publishing Secrets with ALL Presenters

This session has become a Celebrate Reading National Conference tradition. Publishing Secrets is a chance for delegates to hear about the real stories of the publishing world. Witty, enthralling and secretive, this session will have you on the edge of your seat.



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and there's more...

What I Wish for Every Child with ALL Presenters

Every child is special, their needs and wants vary. Yet, at the same time, there is still a collective group of desires for our children. From the sentimental to the humorous, in this session, each presenter will take the stage and explore what they truly wish for every child.

Ordered Chaos by Kyle Hughes-Odgers

Kyle has had a very different journey to most. When he was younger he started with street art, moving into exhibitions, formal public art projects, to travelling around the world and working on books. Kyle's work is narrative based and he will discuss and explore these ideas across various scales and mediums.

**The Power and Value of Humour in Children's Literature
with Gus Gordon and Leigh Hobbs**

Humour is such an important element in children's literature. Engaging and efficaciously charming the reader into the narrative, it works a form of magic. It's also a large reason why children pick up books in the first place. Gus and Leigh explain why they choose humour to communicate with children and advocate its power and value being more frequently acknowledged.

Fictionally Enhanced - A Reading, Writing Life by Anna Fienberg

Anna will discuss the intimate relationship between reading and writing, the solace and thrill that both provide, and the discovery of the secret self along the way. She'll refer to her own writing processes and influences, and explore the power of characters to shape the imagination, nourish empathy, and guide our lives.

Where Books Can Take Us

with Anna Fienberg, Mark Wilson, Gus Gordon and Deborah Abela

From adventurous chickens to girls with swords, a convict child and a boy who arrives on a swan, our panellists will take you to the thrilling worlds children explore with reading. What do children learn on their travels? Can reading be a superpower? And most importantly, how do we create passionate and empathetic readers?

Dissecting Story in the Picture Book Process by Gus Gordon

How words do the walking and pictures do the talking. Words and pictures work together to tell story in fascinating ways. Gus speaks about this process and specifically how each component can help and at the same time hinder the other.

The Journey Across the Page

with Kyle Hughes-Odgers, Anna Fienberg and Deborah Abela

A book may tell a story, but what is the story behind a book? Where did the idea come from, how did the characters develop and what ideas were killed off along the way. Kyle, Anna and Deborah will each explore how one of their books came to be and what is really the story behind the story?

Turning Facts into Fascinating Fiction by Deborah Abela

Teresa: A New Australian was inspired by Deborah's father, who was born in a cave in Malta during heavy bombing raids of WW2. After the war, her father's family, along with a million others, sailed to Australia, a country in the grip of the White Australia Policy. Many migrants were treated with fear and suspicion. We are now living through the largest movement of people since that time, arriving as post-war migrants did, with very little except a desperate will to create a new life.

Living and Writing on the Road with ALL Presenters

As long as the Celebrate Reading National Conference has existed, it has ended with Living and Writing on the Road. Delegates will have one more chance to listen to all the presenters as they divulge the humorous, ridiculous and fascinating stories of what it is really like to be living and writing (or illustrating!) on the road.

PLUS five *illustrator in action* sessions, books and art for sale, and prizes galore!

Gates open 8am. Sessions 9am to 5pm each day. Sundowners 5pm to 6pm.

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**Due to circumstances beyond our control, Conference presenters may be subject to change. Printed August 2017.*