



CAIRNS
Libraries

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A Lifestyle Experience!

2012

Reading Champions



**National
Year of
Reading
2012**

Reading Champions

National Year of Reading 2012

Cairns Libraries are actively participating in the National Year of Reading campaign in 2012. As part of the celebrations we invited a number of noted local identities to join us as Reading Champions.

Our Reading Champions are using their unique positions in the region to promote and celebrate the role of reading and libraries in the community.

In addition, many of our Reading Champions will be participating in library branch activities including workshops, story times, and community chats as well as taking part in a multimedia advertising campaign on local radio and television.



Our Reading Champions are passionate about their love of reading and libraries and welcome the opportunity to share this love with you.



Marita Cheng

Young Australian of the Year 2012



Growing up, Marita was one of the biggest bookworms you could find. She spent all her holidays reading book after book and entered the MS Read-a-thon every year. After going to university she stopped reading as many books, but still reads blogs, Wikipedia and Time magazines all the time. She thinks reading is important because once you know how to read you can teach yourself so many things.

Her favourite books are the Harry Potter series - absolutely loves it! Jane Austen's Pride and Prejudice and the biography of Steve Jobs.

She also likes the Penguin Classics. She grew up reading Teen Power - this got her into reading when she was 9, The Famous Five, Fearless, The Baby-sitter's Club and just any book that she could find!

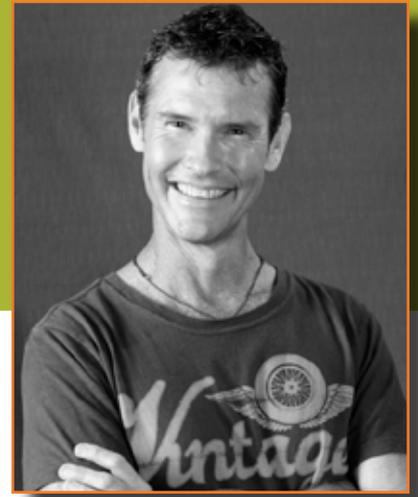
"I really liked reading when I was growing up and I just read as many fiction books as I could. I really enjoyed reading because it let me imagine a world that was different from my own and it let me learn from the rest of the world."

"Growing up, I went to dance parties in the 19th century, fought baddies in Central Park, and solved crimes all over England. I got to learn about political leaders, national events in other countries and how people cope with cold climates - all from the safety and comfort of Cairns, while nestled in a soft seat, with a book in my hands."



Shawn Brack

Teacher and Actor



Shawn is recognisable from his appearances in numerous Cairns Little Theatre and Cairns Choral Society productions and local television commercials.

Shawn has also worked in primary and secondary schools as well as in outdoor recreation centres. He loves to spend time with his wonderful family and, in the little time he has left, busies himself with triathlon training and some writing.

Shawn has written in numerous formats including scripts for young children, pantomimes and stories for teens. Currently he is looking forward to the publication of his first book for children.

Shawn loves to read every day. He is a huge fan of Clive Cussler, Dean Koontz, Stephen King and J K Rowling.

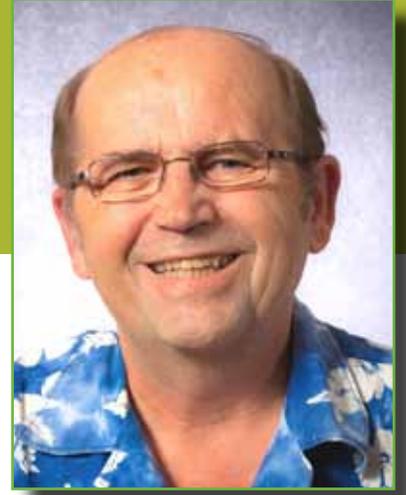
“Reading has always been an integral part of my life. As an actor, it always excites me to take what someone has written and bring it to life. And it’s the same when you read a book...you are transported (in your mind) to another time, another world, as another person. There are no boundaries to the imagination and books are the doorway. Acting is about reading what the script writer has imagined your character to be and then sharing that vision with the audience...it’s a buzz! I love being able to express myself through the books I read too. Books can take you on an emotional rollercoaster ride...I JUST LOVE IT!”



Shawn with Trudie and Deirdre at the National Year of Reading Launch (above) and as the special guest reader at Smithfield Library’s National Simultaneous Storytime 2012 (left).

Harald Falge, OAM

Harald's House

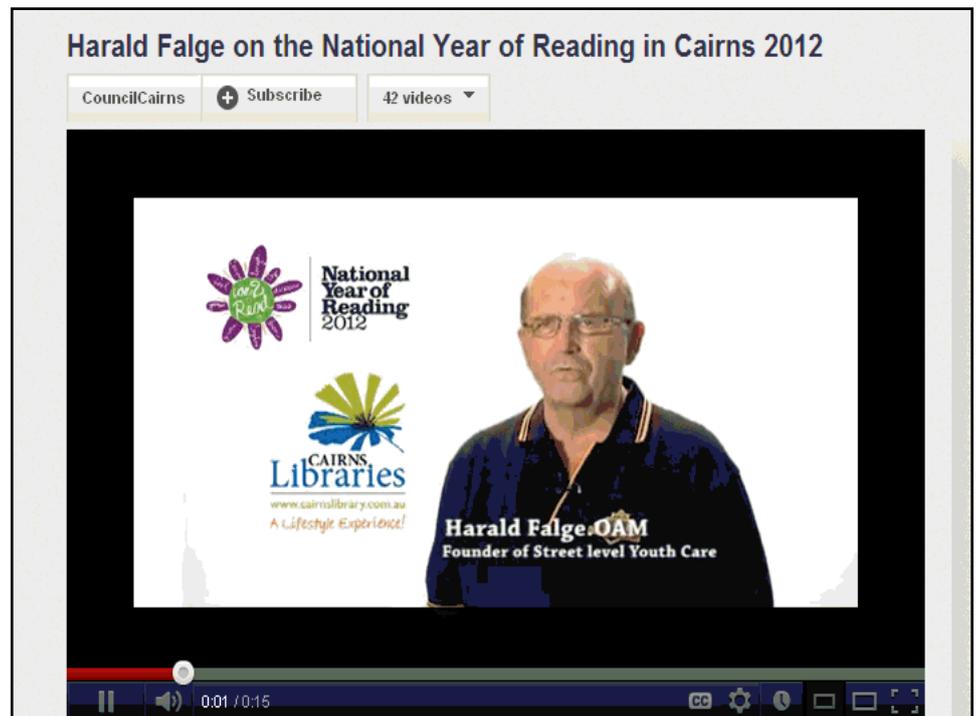


German born Harald moved to Australia in 1969, graduated from Chiropractic College in 1974, then moved to Cairns in 1979. From 1987 to 1991 Harald was Youth Director at the Cairns Baptist Church and in 1991 he founded Street Level Youth Care which he has coordinated since 1991.

Harald has received many awards for his community works including Citizen of the Century, Paul Harris Fellowship, Cairns Citizen of the Year, Centenary Medal and OAM in 2008. He was nominated twice for Australian Citizen of the Year. Harald formed the Harald's House Committee in 2005.

As an Elder of the Cairns Baptist Church his interests include preaching at churches around Cairns and district, establishing a home for homeless young people, social justice and standing up for those who can't stand up for themselves.

“With reading comes knowledge and knowledge opens doors.”



Deirdre Ford, AM



“The question: “What are you reading?” would be the most often asked question of me during my lifetime. I well remember my trips on the tram to our local library and the fascination of the “sights and smells” of the books, dark oak wooden shelves etc. To answer this question today, it is Jack Kennedy - Elusive Hero by Chris Matthews. A few weeks ago it was The Mad Galahs by our local legend and hero George Mansford. Libraries have always been important and special to me and I look forward to my role as a Champion in our local library.”



Deirdre has served five terms as a councillor in Cairns. She was also a Member of the Library Board of Queensland and championed library services throughout this period and beyond.

Rosemary Iloste

Author & Community Development worker



Rosemary recently launched her memoir, *For the Love of Kids - Rosemary's Babies* which chronicles her experiences as a mother and foster mother.

Her interests include gardening, doll collecting, reading, writing, dressmaking, travel, photographing sunsets, and being a member of Cairns Trinity Bay Lions Club.

Rosemary loves to read biographies and autobiographies as well as books about travelling and other countries. She also enjoys corresponding via the Internet with people from all over the world. This has allowed her to develop wonderful friendships.

Overall, Rosemary's love of kids has been the driving force and a major component in her personal and professional life.

“To support children to reach their potential, I am a strong advocate of reading. I believe literacy is the cornerstone of any study or career. Parents should not only read to children regularly but should also be good role models for their children and allow the children to witness them reading, learning and discussing what they read.”



Rosemary Iloste at the launch of her book, *For the love of kids*, 2011

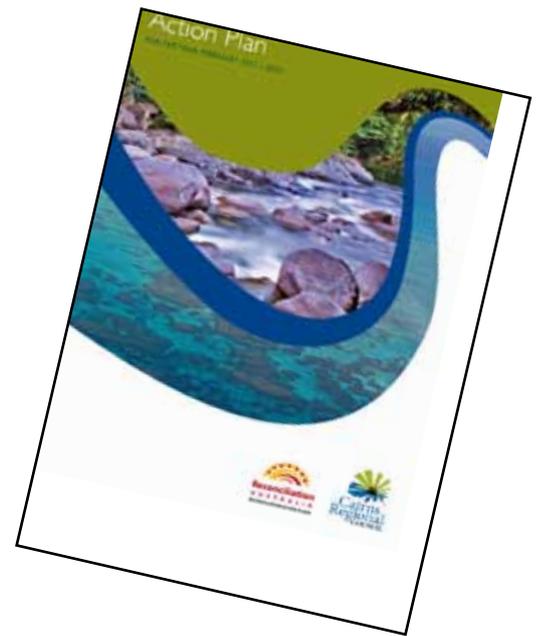
Brendan Leishman

Indigenous Special Projects Officer CRC



Brendan, who is originally from a small coastal community on the Central Queensland coast near Rockhampton, is proud of his Indigenous and Scottish heritage. Aboriginal/South Sea islander people from his home community have always been a strong inspiration to him, especially within his own family. His Aunty was the first Indigenous woman elected to local government in the early 1970's.

After finishing his studies Brendan began a number of rewarding roles which have provided many opportunities to visit and work in many Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities. This has given him an appreciation of the common and unique issues, challenges and aspirations of these communities. In his most recent role Brendan is responsible for coordinating the development of the Council's Reconciliation Action Plan or RAP. The RAP is about helping to close the gap on social and economic disadvantage faced by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people through the everyday delivery of Council services.



“Reading gives people access to information to empower and make personal and community change; to escape from reality and visit other times, places and worlds. Reading is like seeing the world through different eyes; sometimes making sense... sometimes not.”

Carol Libke

President Tropical Writers Group



Carol holds a journalism degree and helps edit and proofread the works of other regional writers. Carol's published works include *Our Club: the 50-year history of the Ellis Beach Surf Lifesaving Club*, short stories in five Tropical Writers anthologies and a play that has been short-listed for the Short & Sweet Festivals in Brisbane and Sydney.

She is passionate about encouraging young people to enjoy reading in order to become good writers. She believes implicitly that to be a good writer it is imperative to learn to become an avid reader. Carol is currently adding works to her personal anthology, learning French, and collating material for a new project.

"I credit my love of reading as the vehicle that has enabled me to till the soil of my mind, to create new form and life from the seeds of what has been read."



Sharon Molloy

Radio Presenter

ABC Far North



Sharon Molloy presents the Saturday Breakfast program at ABC Far North but admits her greatest passion in life is reading.

Sharon devotes the first hour of her Saturday breakfast program to books; interviewing an author each week as well as featuring book reviews from a local bookshop proprietor and a representative of Cairns Libraries.

For many years Sharon has been involved with a reading support program at her children's school.

Sharon reads voraciously and recalls how much she missed reading when her three children were young and she didn't have time for reading for herself.

"I believe any child can become engaged through good story telling. I enjoy working with school children who are still developing their reading skills."

Northern Pride Rugby League



The Northern Pride Rugby League Club is Far North Queensland's own Intrust Super Cup Side.

Formed in 2007, the club has had great success in providing a pathway for talented young North Queenslanders to develop as athletes and as individuals.

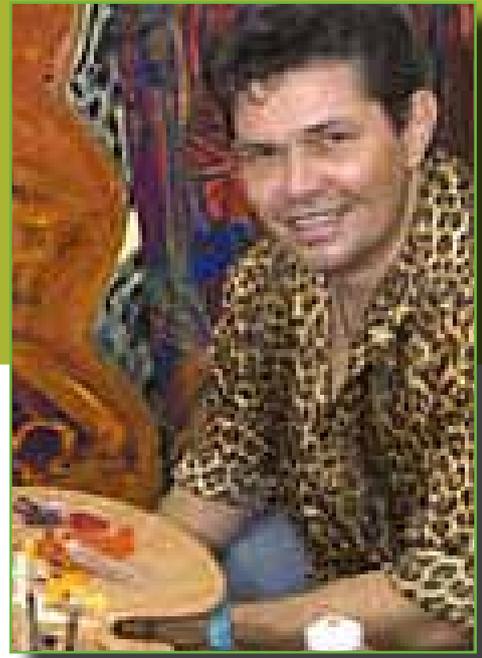
Having won the Intrust Super Cup Premiership in 2010 the club and its players are working hard on the training paddock to bring the silverware back to Cairns this year.

The club works with the nationally award winning, **Take Pride Program** to deliver education, health and wellbeing, sporting pathway and employment development initiatives across Far North Queensland.

“All of the clubs players are passionate about reading and look forward to visiting a Cairns Library and sharing their love of reading with the community.”

Arone Meeks

Visual Artist



Arone Raymond Meeks is one of Australia's leading visual artists. Descended from the Kuku Midiji people of Laura in Cape York Far North Queensland, Arone grew up in Cairns with his grandparents. As a young boy he listened closely as his grandfather passed on his traditional cultural knowledge. Art had already begun to influence Arone's life and he vividly remembers these stories and the impact of living close to country as he played with colour and different mediums.

As a young man Arone studied art at the Queensland Institute of Technology in Brisbane and then at the Kogarah College of Art and the City Art Institute in Sydney. Since the early 1980's his paintings, drawings, sculpture and prints have been widely exhibited and his work is held in public and private collections in Australia and overseas. His commissions include civic sculptures, design work and murals. Arone is passionate about nurturing emerging artists and is proud to have mentored many young Indigenous creators.

Arone is an award-winning author and illustrator of several children's books. In 1992 the first edition of *Enora and the Black Crane* (Ashton Scholastic 1991) was awarded the Ezra Jack Keats UNICEF International Children's Book Award and was shortlisted for the CBCA Children's Book of the Year Award for Picture Books.

“Reading for me is very much like starting a painting. You start with the smells/sounds and general overall excitement which this new book has installed for you. The promise of an adventure, that you sometimes feel, no one, has ever taken! Being a visual person, I am usually attracted to books by their cover! And of course, if someone has said “You must read this”...It’s wonderful!

I love the way words begin to paint the landscape, then the tone of the day/night, year/time, the characters, as each descriptive word creates a vision of what they might look like, see, feel and hear.

But mostly, I love the way books open my mind and heart and maybe see things for the first time.

My most favourite books are the one I can’t wait to get back to, these books are the ones, that have a magical world waiting for me to return to so as I may continue my journey into this “living” story.”



Harald Falge and Arone at the champions briefing for National Year of Reading 2012.

Donna-Maree O'Connor

Deputy Institute Director TNQ TAFE

Donna-Maree is responsible for the educational training across the Institute, which covers an area from Cardwell in the south, the Gulf of Carpentaria in the west and the Torres Strait in the north.

She has worked in the community sector, operated her own consultancy business, and worked in a range of government departments, including Education, Health, Justice, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Policy Development, and Local Government. Her qualifications are in Education and Management. She has a Masters Degree in Gender Studies.



Donna-Maree and Ron Todd at City Library for the launch of National Year of Reading 2012.



“Reading is important to me and I am grateful that my family have always loved to read. My daughter has just finished university and my son has just completed his first year at university, and they are both avid readers. I read to them as young children and now they recommend books to me. Holidays are synonymous with reading for fun, rather than for information and knowledge and books are often the first thing packed when travelling. This year I have started a “Wall of Hands” to raise funds to improve literacy levels for Indigenous children because I know that literacy and reading are so integral to success, knowledge and pleasure. You can escape, be free or discover a whole new world from reading.”

Helene Young

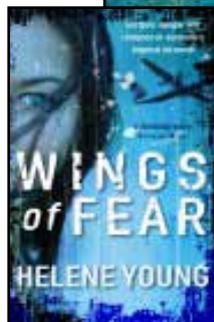
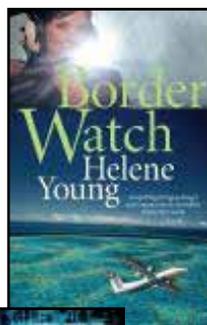
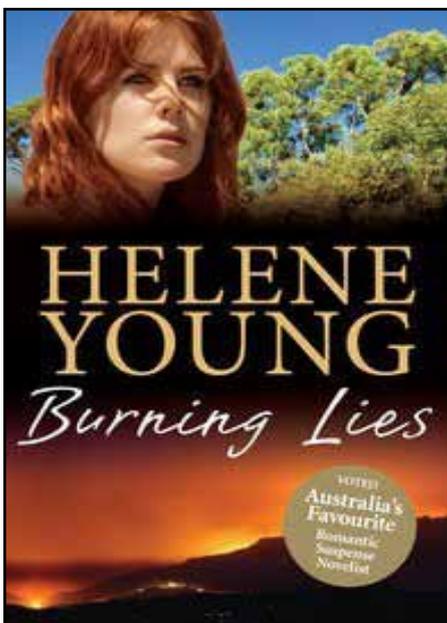
Author



As a young child Helene thought everyone read books and invented stories. When she was growing up in East Brisbane her father wrote stories for her and her two older siblings. Consequently she thought everyone read books and invented stories. Starting school and realising this was not the case was a rude shock. However, she discovered English was her favourite subject and Enid Blyton Mysteries her favourite stories.

Helene's moved on from the Five Find-Outers and Dog, but hasn't lost her love of suspense and intrigue. It was that passion for all things adventurous that saw her take to the air as a pilot in 1989. Twenty-two years later she's a Captain with Australia's largest regional airline and lives in North Queensland where her Australian Suspense stories are set.

Her first book, Wings of Fear, released in 2010, won the prestigious Romantic Book of the Year award 2011, and Favourite Romantic Suspense Novel 2010. Shattered Sky, the second book in her Border Watch Series, has been shortlisted for Favourite Romantic Suspense 2011. Her third book, Burning Lies, will be released in July, 2012.



"My day job as a captain with Australia's largest airline takes me places where I see literacy as a work in progress. I'm hoping National Year of Reading 2012 will bring many opportunities to those communities."

Kier Shorey

Radio Presenter

ABC Far North



In addition to being an obsessive reader, Kier also presents the Breakfast Show each weekday morning on ABC Far North.

Prior to returning to his home town and joining the ABC Kier was a successful Sydney-based screenwriter. Writing credits include the feature film *Blurred*, the short film *Stop*, which appeared in competition at the Cannes Film Festival, and television shows such as *Neighbours*, *Pirate Islands*, and *Crash Palace*.

For the past four years Kier has been City Library's special guest reader for National Simultaneous Storytime.

"My favourite book is probably The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy, but I like to pretend it's one with more pages, like War and Peace."



Kier reading *Feathers for Phoebe* at City Library, National Simultaneous Storytime 2011.



Kier reading at City Library's National Simultaneous Storytime 2009, 2010, 2012.

Yvette Salam

Indigenous Employment
Coordinator, CRC



Yvette has both Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander background. Her varied employment includes primary teaching, Indigenous Education Programs with DETYA, Centrelink - Indigenous Outreach & Community Services and Cairns TAFE - Student Support / Trainer - Cultural Awareness.

Yvette is an avid reader of books on personal development and inspiration, cooking, arts & crafts and indigenous cultures. Her favourite authors are Eckhart Tolle, Wayne D.Dwyer, Louise Hayes, Deepak Chopra and Helen Steiner Rice.

“At present I am reading ‘A 2nd Helping of Chicken Soup for the Soul’ (101 more ways to Open the Heart and Rekindle the Spirit by Jack Canfield, Mark Victor Hansen.”



Yvette hosting storytime at Gordonvale Library 2012.

Skytrans Cairns Taipans

Skytrans Cairns Taipans are affiliated with Cairns Regional Council. The Taipans staff and team are getting on board the National Year of Reading with Cairns Libraries to encourage youths and adults of all ages to get themselves into their local libraries and start reading a book.

Community and Operations Manager for the Skytrans Cairns Taipans Dwayne Vale commented on the importance of the team promoting the National Year of Reading.

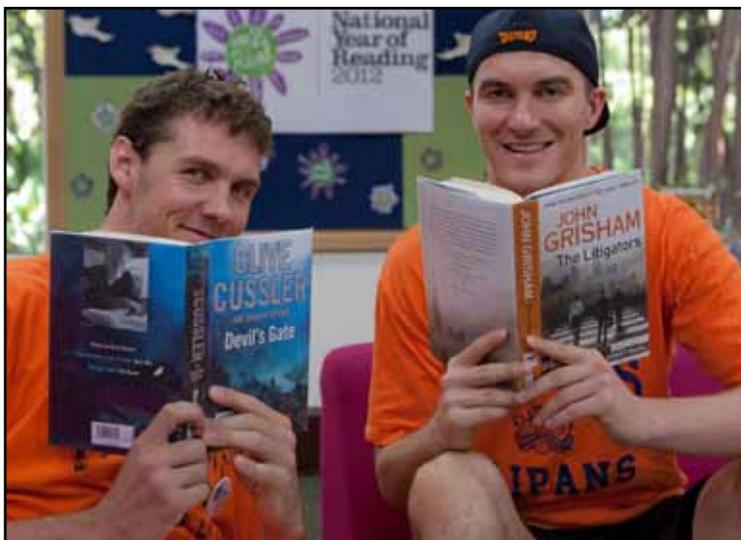
"I'm looking forward to being a part of the National Year of Reading and hope the Cairns community gets on board as well."

"This is a great opportunity to be a part of a program that doesn't have a sporting influence"

"We understand that there is more to life than sport and we want to be able to be a part of something that is away from the court."

"Reading is obviously one of those things that you can't get through day to day processes without"

"I have a young family of my own, so I know how much fun reading to young kids can be."



Alex Loughton and Jeff Dowdell at the launch of National Year of Reading 2012.



skytrans

CAIRNS



Angela Toppin

Principal
Cairns State High School



From 1990, Angela Toppin, currently Principal, Cairns State High School, has been one of Far North Queensland's most innovative principals.

Her positions have included Deputy Principal and Principal at various high schools in the region, President of the local branch of Business Educators Association of Queensland, initiating the Business Liaison Association, Project Officer for Women in Management Project and establishing the Association of Women Educators in the Peninsula Region.

She has won a number of awards including the Leadership in Profession Award and is a Fellow of the Business Educators Association of Queensland.

Angela has focussed very heavily on community engagement with her School Community and in so doing has improved outcomes for her students in a variety of ways.

In 1993 she was awarded Corporate Woman of the Year through the Cairns Business Women's Club, a unique honour for a passionate educator!



Angela with two of her students from Cairns State High.

“For me reading is the foundation of everything we do. If you can read, you can do anything; reading is the building block of our society.”

“I see myself as someone who makes a difference for young people’. I am very passionate about expanding opportunities for students in rural and regional areas.”



Trudie Trewin

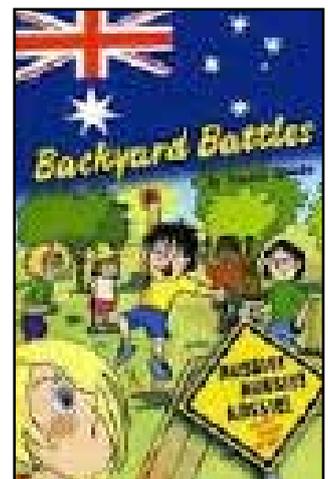
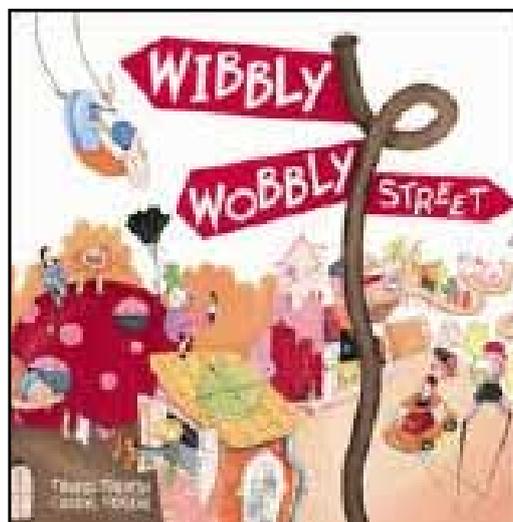
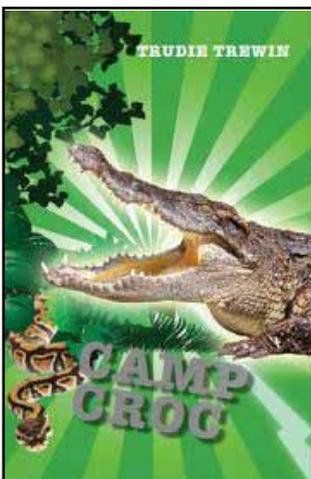
Author



Trudie Trewin is a Far North Queensland author of children's books, writing everything from picture books to mid-grade fiction. Her first picture book, *I've Lost My Kisses* became internationally successful. Her other book titles include *Camp Croc*, *Wibbly Wobbly Street*, *Backyard Battles* and *Stowaway*. *Calpepper's Place* is due for release soon.

She grew up on a farm in South Australia. She loved reading and loathed the cold weather, so she usually spent the winter months curled up inside with a good mystery or thriller. One frosty winter's day when she was twenty-five, she put her book down, jumped in her trusty car and headed north. A week later in Cairns the trusty car broke. She took this as a sign and decided to stay in the tropics. Now she can read stretched out by the pool instead of huddled inside.

National Year of Reading - now there's a brilliant idea! A whole year devoted to reading, I can't wait! (It's also 'National Year of Someone Who Comes and Does All Your Work for you' isn't it?!)"

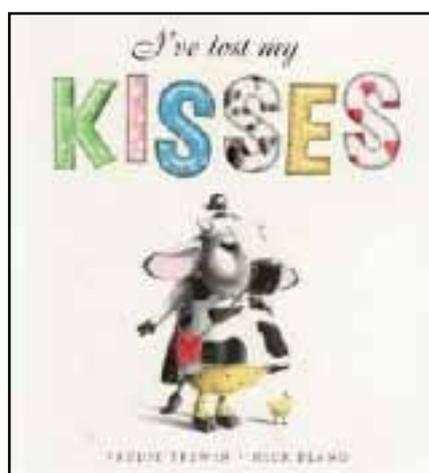
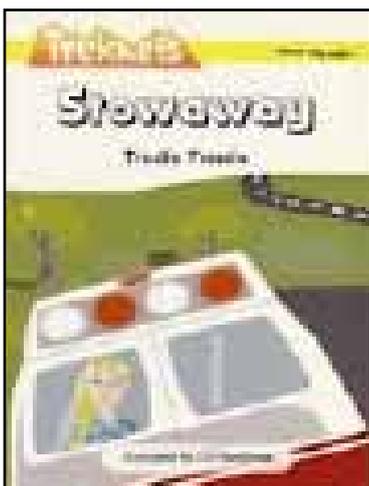


“When I was a kid, I was always allowed to stay up later if I was reading a book. For a kid that’s a no-brainer - anything to stay up later!! But it didn’t take long before I realised there was an added bonus... the stories.

I outsmarted kidnappers, solved mysteries in haunted castles, rescued animals from the clutches of evil scientists, chased down thieves and generally saved the world - all from bed. And that’s the best thing about reading - it gives you experiences that you just don’t get time for in real life. Want an adventure in space, but have to go to school tomorrow? Read Apollo 13!

I loved reading mysteries - Famous Five, Secret Seven, Trixie Beldon, Nancy Drew and Agatha Christie. Although the book that stands out most in my memory was not a mystery at all; it was the first book that made me cry - February Dragon by Colin Thiele (oh those poor burnt horses).

I still read books that make me cry, and laugh, and wonder, but mysteries and psychological thrillers remain my favourite stories. And when I’ve got my head in a good story, nothing else gets done until I’m finished! “





Janelle Williams

HOD, Visual Art, Trinity Bay State High School & Board
Member, Cairns Regional Gallery

“As a teacher and a lifelong learner, to me, reading helps unlock meaning.”

As an art teacher we encourage students to think conceptually and unlocking meaning in text helps students discover connections and meaning beyond the literal.”

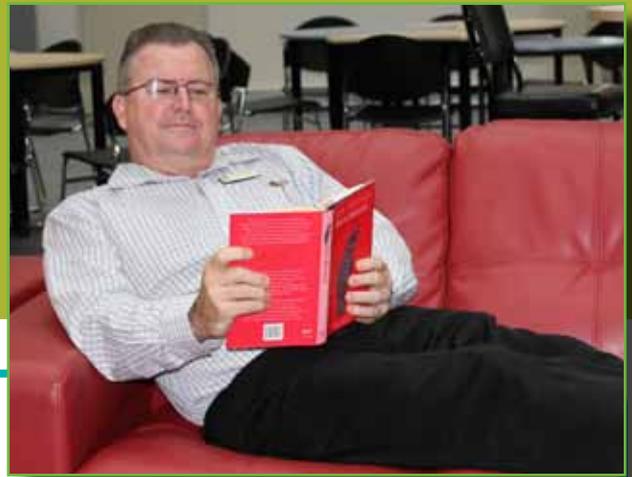
Janelle Williams has taught secondary Visual Arts and Film Television & New Media for 24 years. She has worked in semi-rural, rural and urban schools in Brisbane and Mackay and, for the past 18 years, has been Head of Department, Visual Art, at Trinity Bay State High School in Cairns.

Janelle is the QSA (Queensland Studies Authority) State Panel Chair for Visual Arts overseeing assessment and comparability of senior secondary art across the state. Locally, Janelle sits on the Board of the Cairns Regional Gallery.

Janelle has been highly commended in the Excellence by a Teacher category at the Australian Government National Awards for Quality Schooling for her extensive work in arts education. Her work was also recognised in 2010 when the Regional Excellence in Arts and Cultural Hubs (REACH) project which Janelle co-leads was awarded an Education Queensland State Showcase Award.

Ron Todd

Director of Business Development
and Marketing
Tropical North Queensland
Institute of TAFE



“Reading has always been a chore for me. It’s a bit like going on a diet when you’ve put on those extra few pounds. You know that you need to do it, but it so easy not to bother. A few months ago my wife asked me to tape the movie The Kite Runner, which I did only to find it had sub titles. There is no way I would ever have watched it if it was left to me, however it was a great movie.

The same applies to The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo. Funnily enough I heard on TV this morning that Hollywood is making an English language version of it for the majority of US citizens who can’t read fast enough to understand the sub titles in the original.

“Today’s world is all about reading, in one form or another. I only wish someone had encouraged me more when I was younger.”

Innisfail born and bred, Ron’s career has taken him all over Queensland as an electrician, teacher, industry training consultant, workplace assessor, and trade faculty manager. His interests include rugby league. Even though he has never been an enthusiastic reader, he understands the importance of reading for life.



Ron with Donna-Maree and Shawn at City Library, launch of National Year of Reading 2012.



Reesa Sorin

Lecturer in Early Childhood
James Cook University

Dr Sorin is Senior Lecturer in Early Childhood Education and Arts Education at James Cook University. She grew up in Winnipeg, Canada, and lived in NSW before moving to Cairns in 2000. Her areas of research include multiliteracies in education, conceptualisations of childhood and emotional literacy in early childhood. She is a painter, photographer and writer.

“READING OPENS UP WORLDS – the “real” world of dealing with everyday life, such as reading bank statements, grocery lists, mail, street signs and recipes; the “intellectual” world of learning, such as text books, research articles, Shakespeare, poetry, magazines, instruction manuals; the “hypothetical” world of dreams, such as fantasy, science fiction, future predictions, philosophy; and the world of “multiple literacies”, such as visual literacy (symbols, paintings, sculpture), social and emotional literacy (feelings, interactions), computer literacy (Facebook, iTunes, Google) and physical literacy (dance, sport, movement).”



Henrietta Marrie

Adjunct Professor
James Cook University

Henrietta is a Gimuy Walabura Yidinji person, she went to school in Yarrabah. She has a Masters in Environmental and Local Government Law; Grad. Dip. of Arts (Indigenous Studies) and Teaching. Henrietta has worked for many years as an academic with over 30 publications to her credit on issues relating to the protection of Indigenous cultural heritage, intellectual property and the bushfood industry.



She took up a position in 1997 with the United Nations Secretariat for the Convention on Biological Diversity (SCBD). Henrietta is the first Indigenous person in Australia to be appointed to a full time professional position with a UN agency. She spent six years in Montreal, Canada working with the SCBD researching and drafting documents on issues relating to traditional knowledge, access to genetic resources and benefit sharing, protection of traditional knowledge as intellectual property, and the conservation and management of biological diversity.

In September 2003 she accepted a position as Program Manager for North Australia with The Christensen Fund, a California-based private philanthropic body which makes grants to Indigenous and local communities in a number of regions around the world. Through Henrietta, The Christensen Fund has made grants to some of Australia's leading Indigenous events, such as The Dreaming Festival, The Garma Festival, and the Cooktown Corroboree as part of the Queensland Music Festival 2005, and the Queensland Performing Arts Centre's production of Blow 'im. She has written grants in support of local Indigenous artists and exhibitions of their work at KickArts. Henrietta is working to establish a Traditional Knowledge Research Centre, as part of the United Nations University, to be based in northern Australia.

Henrietta continues to keep a close connection with her traditional Gimuy-Walabura clan country, the area south of the Barron River on which the City of Cairns now stands.

Bree James

Businesswoman

PAKMAG, Bopstars, PAKMarketing



Bree James is the creator and publisher of PAKMAG - Parents and Kids Magazine Cairns and Townsville, Bopstars - family entertainment business, and PAKMarketing Group - a marketing business specialising in women with children.

Recognised for her entrepreneurial skills, Bree has been awarded Young Entrepreneur of the Year, 2009 by the Cairns Business Women's Club and the Cairns Young Manager of the Year by the Australian Institute of Management.

With a background in events and promotions, Bree has considerable skill in coming up with creative marketing solutions for her clients. She is also mum to 3 year old son, Jordan and 6 month old, Sean.



Bree reading 'The Very Cranky Bear' at Earlville Library's National Simultaneous Storytime 2012.

Ian Lowth

General Manager

Community, Sport & Cultural Services, CRC



Awaiting biographical information.



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