



*Reading is the key that opens doors to many good things in life. Reading shaped my dreams, and more reading helped me make my dreams come true.*

**- Ruth Bader Ginsberg**

## **In partnership with the National Education Summit**

This virtual conference will be a fitting end to a year in which we have celebrated sixty years of the School Library Association of Victoria. We also celebrate the extraordinary ability of school libraries to be responsive and flexible during a year when school libraries have undoubtedly demonstrated their worth.

Featuring special guests, researchers, creators and school library practitioners, this conference will explore big picture ideas and examples of best practice in light of the powerful way school libraries foster a reading culture.

## **A note on the platform for this conference**

SLAV is very excited to partner with the National Education Summit to deliver our annual November conference virtually!

The virtual platform we are using allows us to deliver a live, real-time, collaborative experience as close to face-to-face as you can get! It will be so much more than a webinar, allowing for lots of interaction, sharing, and live discussion. It will be a chance to meet with other teacher-librarians and library professionals, networking and speaking to each other, hearing from other passionate educators willing to share ideas with you. We'll have a virtual tea break and lunch, vendor demonstrations, spotlight presentations, virtual drinks and the virtual exhibition to visit, where prizes will be on offer (via gamification), just like our real trade displays. To preview the platform, how to get around and the features [click here](#)

**The Virtual Trade Exhibition offers exciting possibilities for our trade colleagues. If interested please contact our National Education Summit partners - Sam Palermo 0402 053 309 or [sam@iecgroup.com.au](mailto:sam@iecgroup.com.au)**

## **Conference Program**

<b>8.30am</b>	<b>Trade Exhibition</b>
<b>9.30am</b>	<b>Welcome</b> Di Ruffles, SLAV President
<b>9.45am</b>	<b>Keynote Address: The Power of Reading</b> Ursula Dubosarsky, Australian Children's Laureate
<b>10.30am</b>	<b>Morning Tea, Trade Exhibition</b>
<b>11.00am</b>	<b>SLAV Awards</b>
<b>11.30am</b>	<b>Concurrent Sessions</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● <b>Zombies, falling off cliffs, and much more! Story-based learning as a pedagogical approach</b> Chelsea Quake</li><li>● <b>First Nations' oral histories: The power of listening – Our Land, Our Stories</b> Sally Lawrence</li><li>● <b>Agents for change – The Stella Sparks Program</b> Lenny Robinson</li><li>● <b>Caroline Chisholm Catholic College reading program – doing things differently to make a big change</b> Hope Do and Gabrielle Douglas</li></ul>

- 12.00pm**                    **Featured Speakers**  
George Ivanoff in Conversation with Adrian Beck
- 12.30pm**                    **Lunch, Trade Exhibition**
- 1.30pm**                    **Featured Speakers**  
Imagining the Teen Reader: YA Publishing and Bookselling  
Professor Katya Johanson and Research Fellow Bronwyn Reddan  
Discovering a “Good Read”: Cultural Pathways to Reading for Australian Teens Project
- 2.00pm**                    **Concurrent Sessions**
- **Personal geographies on the page- how lived experience informs the writing process**  
Dr Cath Moore
  - **Rewarding reading**  
Karin Gilbert, Rosalie Austin and Monica Williams
  - **Diverse representation in speculative fiction**  
Erin Wamala
  - ***Tim & Tigon* – A tale of adventure and friendship on the Trail Of Genghis Khan**  
Tim Cope
- 2.38pm**                    **Concurrent Sessions**
- **The evolution of a reading program**  
Suzanne Flavin and Pauline White
  - **Read in order to live**  
Lynda Santolin
  - **School library digital platforms: Supporting powerful reading**  
Trish Trchala
  - ***The End of the World Is Bigger Than Love* – or is it?**  
Davina Bell
- 3.10pm**                    **Featured Speakers**  
Saroo Brierley and Sue Brierley in Conversation with Kristin Gill
- 3.40pm**                    **Conference Close**

## Keynote Address

### The Power of Reading

Ursula Dubosarsky



**Ursula Dubosarsky** was born in Sydney and wanted to be a writer from the age of six. She is the author of over 60 books for children and young adults and has won several national prizes, including the NSW, Victorian, South Australian and Queensland Premier's Literary Awards. Her work is published internationally and widely translated and she has been nominated for both the Hans Christian Andersen and Astrid Lindgren international awards for children's literature. She is the current Australian Children's Laureate.

### Featured Speakers

#### Terry Denton in Conversation with Adrian Beck



**George Ivanoff** is a Melbourne author who's written more than 100 books for kids and teens, including the interactive You Choose series, the RFDS adventures and the Other Worlds series.

As a child, George loved reading interactive books, where he got to make decisions about the direction of the story. He has had more fun plotting and writing the You Choose books than pretty much anything else. And writing the RFDS adventures has opened his eyes to the amazing work done by the Royal Flying Doctor Service. With Other Worlds George has ventured into the realms of science fiction and fantasy, two of his favourite genres, in order to tell stories about ordinary kids facing extraordinary circumstances.

George's books and stories have been shortlisted for numerous awards and he is thrilled that You Choose: The Treasure of Dead Man's Cove won the 2015 YABBA for Fiction for Younger Readers.

**Adrian Beck** was born in Hobart, Tasmania but is not related to Princess Mary. (As far as he knows). He is passionate about raising childhood literacy levels across the country and is a fierce supporter of the endangered teacher-librarian species. Adrian writes funny, action-packed adventure stories for kids. He is the author of the best-selling *Alien Zoo* series and the co-author of the best-selling kids' series *Kick it to Nick*, with AFL Hall of Fame inductee Shane Crawford. Adrian has also written *Stuff Happens – Dale*, which tells the story of a redhead who gets teased once too often and plots revenge and his most recently released series follows the hilarious adventures of *Derek Dool* who thinks he's supercool! All of Adrian's stories are fun to read – even for kids who struggle to get interested in books.



#### Imagining the Teen Reader: YA Publishing and Bookselling

##### Professor Katya Johanson and Research Fellow Bronwyn Reddan

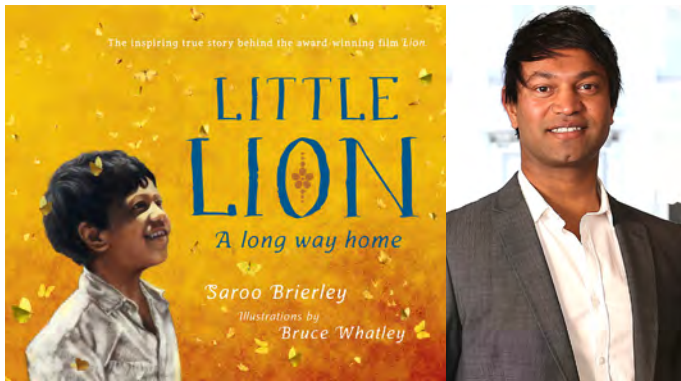
How does Australia's book publishing industry understand teenage readers? As part of an ARC-funded project that investigates the different cultural pathways that teenagers take into reading for leisure, we interviewed approx. 30 publishing staff, literary agents and booksellers to better understand what they know or believe about how young people encounter books – and how this knowledge shapes their decisions. This presentation offers insight into how publishing, marketing and stocking decisions are made, and where the challenges lie for the book industry lie in getting the 'right book' into the right teenage hands.

**Katya Johanson** is Professor in Audience Research in the School of Communication and Creative Arts at Deakin, with a background in publishing and research for the creative industries. She is a Chief Investigator on the "Discovering a "Good Read": Cultural Pathways to Reading for Australian Teens".

**Bronwyn Reddan** is a Research Fellow on the ARC project "Discovering a "Good Read": Cultural Pathways

to Reading for Australian Teens'. Her research examines social and cultural histories of emotion and literature, with a particular focus on fairy tales and women's writing.

### **Saroo Brierley and Sue Brierley in Conversation with Kristin Gill**



**Saroo Brierley** was born in Khandwa, Madhya Pradesh, India. In 1986, when he was aged only five, he lost all contact with his family when he became lost and was separated from his older brother at a train station in India. He never saw his brother again. Not knowing the name of his family or where he was from, he survived for weeks on the streets of Calcutta, before being taken into an orphanage and adopted by a family in Australia. He grew up with his new parents in Hobart, Tasmania for the next 25 years. Saroo's virtual odyssey of his homeland and search for his hometown and his mother made headlines across the world in 2012. His full story is recounted in his internationally bestselling autobiography, *A Long Way Home*, young readers' edition *Lion: A Long Way Home* and picture book *Little Lion: A Long Way Home* which is illustrated by Bruce Whatley. The film *Lion*, based on his autobiography, was released in November 2016 and nominated for four Golden Globe and six Academy Awards, and won many other international awards. The film stars Nicole Kidman, Dev Patel and David Wenham. Since publication his books continue to be bestsellers and have been published in multiple overseas territories.



**Sue Brierley** was made known globally by the 2017 Oscar nominated film *Lion* as the Australian adoptive mother of Indian-born Saroo. The child of refugees from Hungary and Poland, Sue grew up in Tasmania in difficult times with little support in an isolating environment before moving to a property where her

father could start a business. As an adult, she married her husband John and after 16 years of marriage they adopted a child named Saroo from India. In 2012 their world changed completely when Saroo found his birth mother in India, making global headlines. Sue embraced this as an opportunity to share her life and family choices with the world after Saroo wrote his best-selling story, *A Long Way Home* later inspiring the film *Lion*. Sue's story, *Lioness* will be published in November 2020.

**Kristin Gill** is the Publishing Manager - Young Readers, at Penguin Random House, she works with the publishing, sales and marketing teams to maximise opportunities for their books and authors. She has worked in the publishing industry - across Trade and Educational publishing- for more than 30 years.

### **Concurrent Sessions**

#### **Zombies, falling off cliffs, and much more! Story-based learning as a pedagogical approach**

##### **Chelsea Quake**

In this session, you will be introduced to the concept of story-based learning as a pedagogical approach and engagement strategy. Real-world examples of 'storified' units of work will be shown (Years 7 – 9), along with the digital material that was created to support the units. Student feedback will also be shared.

The examples discussed will fall into the following learning areas:

- Year 8 STEAM
- Year 7 Digital Technologies
- Year 9 Humanities (social engineering and urban planning focus)

Of special note, is the Zombie Apocalypse weekly story instalment unit for Year 8 STEAM. It will all make sense in the session!

**Chelsea Quake** is the teacher-librarian and Head of Libraries at Sandringham College (7 - 12), a public secondary school in Sandringham, Victoria. Chelsea began her career as a librarian in Universities 10 years ago. She moved into school libraries in 2013, and after witnessing first-hand, the immense potential for school libraries to enrich and even change young people's lives, she decided to stay put in schools for good! Nowadays, Chelsea is focused on driving digital and information literacy across all Year levels and ensuring that the school library maintains a critical presence inside the curriculum.

#### **First Nations' oral histories: The power of listening – Our Land, Our Stories**

##### **Sally Lawrence**

*Our Land, Our Stories* is a landmark series from AIATSIS and Nelson Cengage. This series represents a collection of First Nations voices, sharing knowledge

about their Culture, People, Country and Place and is supported by never before seen archival footage, photos and recordings from the AIATSIS archives. *Our Land, Our Stories* has been carefully curated to represent many different Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities in both urban, rural and remote settings throughout Australia and ensures contemporary voices, issues and topics are explored in depth from the perspective of First Nations' peoples. This will build cultural capability within all that connect with these rich and vibrant stories as we seek to mature as a Nation and move towards becoming better informed and aware of the diversity that exists within the worlds' oldest living cultures. *Our Land, Our Stories* Teacher Learning Resources supports Educators to facilitate learning in culturally appropriate ways using AITSL endorsed pedagogical practices rigorously aligned to the Australian Curriculum and all Key Learning areas.

**Sally Lawrence** is the lead author of the landmark series – *Our Land, Our Stories* from AIATSIS and Nelson Cengage. Sally made significant contributions to the Queensland Indigenous Education landscape, of significance, the work Sally has led and contributed to over the past 14 years with the Aboriginal community at Cherbourg and their Ration Shed Museum. Sally has been instrumental in writing National Curriculum aligned resources that support Elders and the community to embed their story within classrooms throughout Queensland. Her writing has received special commendation from the Minister for Education, the Honourable Kate Jones, for her work "The Boys from Barambah" - the Story of the Black Diggers from Cherbourg for the ANZAC 100 Commemorations.

#### **Agents for change – The Stella Sparks Program**

##### **Lenny Robinson**

Stella Sparks is a reading, writing and advocacy program for secondary school students, which supports generative connections between young people and contemporary Australian women and non-binary writers and writing. This is an opportunity to learn more about this program and how it can inspire young people to develop their own critical and creative voices and imagine a future not limited by gender.

**Lenny Robinson** is a former literature and philosophy teacher and is the current Schools Manager of the Stella Prize, a cultural change organisation that supports, elevates and celebrates writing by Australian women and non-binary writers.

#### **Caroline Chisholm Catholic College reading program – doing things differently to make a big change**

##### **Hope Do and Gabrielle Douglas**

When NAPLAN results were released in 2018, ACARA recognised the enormous improvement in Reading Literacy outcomes for students at Caroline Chisholm Catholic College. Those close to the College acknowledged that the Reading Program lead by the Library staff was crucial to this growth. So, what is this Reading Program? Why has it been so successful?

In this presentation we will discuss how the program was developed as a specific response to a unique situation and the elements of the College Reading Program that set it apart from others. We also consider how we have successfully adapted the Reading Program to the remote learning environment, and what aspects of the remote learning experience we will carry back to the in-person classroom.

**Hope Do** is currently the Information Services Coordinator at Caroline Chisholm College. She has been the Head of Learning Resources at Loyola College, a Catholic Secondary co-educational College in Watsonia from 2015- 2019. Hope started her life as a Maths teacher in 2002. She then returned to study completing a Master of Information Management at RMIT. Prior to joining Loyola in 2015, Hope spent a number of years as a teacher-librarian at St. Monica's College.

**Gabrielle Douglas** has been a teacher-librarian for longer than she cares to admit. She commenced working at Caroline Chisholm Catholic College in 2016. Developing the Reading Program and seeing the positive change in students' abilities and attitudes to reading has been a highlight of her career.

#### **Personal geographies on the page- how lived experience informs the writing process**

##### **Dr Cath Moore**



The narratives we offer one another both as readers and writers, inform cultural practices and help build communities. From an author's point of view Cath Moore talks about the places that reading has taken her, and how writing became an act of self-inquiry as she sought to redefine the value of her mixed-race heritage. Cath will discuss the geographies of her practice and how writing between prose, screen, academia and print media have invigorated her capacities as a storyteller and teacher. As a woman of colour, Cath also explores the concept of literary communion, and how the 'own voices' movement reaffirms the importance of reading as a space of solace and solidarity for students from diverse backgrounds.

Of Afro Caribbean heritage, **Dr Cath Moore** is an award-winning screenwriter, academic and freelance writer who works across print, screen and literary mediums. She teaches creative/screen writing at The University of Melbourne, VCA and RMIT and also work as a freelance

story developer. Cath's first novel *Metal Fish, Falling Snow* was released in July 2020.

## Rewarding reading

### Karin Gilbert, Rosalie Austin and Monica Williams

What are the drivers for change around our wide reading programs in the pandemic context? Our decision to introduce a program called Reading Rewards was driven by three main factors:

- Remote learning - connection and collaboration - the virtual library.
- Systems - ease of access and management of data and managing student input.
- Student learning outcomes - maintaining momentum in our reading connections and our teacher librarian presence

Our session will focus on these main factors and look at questions about the program's implementation, such as the following:

- How was our core purpose enabled by this approach?
- What did this look like?
- How effective was it?
- What was the take up by students and staff?
- What were the issues we encountered?
- What alignment did this offer with our previous approach to wide reading and how did this work?

**Karin Gilbert** is the Leader of Library Services; **Rosalie Austin** is a teacher-librarian and **Monica Williams** is a Digital Literacies Specialist, all of these experienced professionals work at Sar of the Sea College, Brighton.

## Diverse representation in speculative fiction

### Erin Wamala

To truly diversify our library collections, we need to move away from "issues" books and promote stories that see diverse representation in all genres and settings. Diverse representation needs to be commonplace; it needs to reflect our communities and our every-day experiences. What does this look like in our imaginary narratives? What does it mean for speculative fiction?

We all need to see ourselves not as issues that need to be solved, but in fantasy worlds, in space, with magical or super-powers, saving the world or in any number of fictional settings.

In this session, Erin will present speculative fiction books that display a diverse range of characters and authors while also being popular with readers.

**Erin Wamala** has degrees in Education, Publishing and Teacher Librarianship. She spent many years presenting books to teachers and librarians as part of the Education

Marketing Department at Penguin Random House and has also worked as a Children's Specialist bookseller. Erin is currently a teacher-librarian at Trinity Grammar School.

## Tim & Tigon – A tale of adventure and friendship on the Trail of Genghis Khan

### Tim Cope



Inspired by the extraordinary life nomads still lead today, Tim Cope embarked on an epic journey: to ride 10 000km on horseback across the entire length of the Eurasian steppe, from Karakorum, the ancient capital of Mongolia, to the Danube River in Hungary. Along the way Tim met 'Tigon' – a young Kazakh dog that not only helped him overcome the many challenges he faced but would alter the course of his life forever. In words and images Tim Cope will share this epic tale that is the basis for his latest book *Tim & Tigon*.

**Tim Cope** is an adventurer, author and filmmaker who is passionate about inspiring young people to explore the world that exists beyond their doorstep. He has studied as a wilderness guide in the Finnish and Russian subarctic, ridden a bicycle across Russia to China and rowed a boat along the Yenisey River through Siberia to the Arctic Ocean. He is the author of *Off the Rails: Moscow to Beijing on Recumbent Bikes* (Penguin), *On the Trail of Genghis Khan: An Epic Journey Through the Land of the Nomads* (Bloomsbury). Tim's first young adult book is *Tim & Tigon: A Man. A Dog. An Epic Adventure in the Land of the Nomads*. (Pan Macmillan).

## The evolution of a reading program

### Suzanne Flavin and Pauline White

Most libraries do run reading programs. At Parkdale Secondary College we wanted to have reading accepted as something that all learning areas could be involved with so we set about lobbying, successfully, to have learning areas at 7 and 8 donate time so that the students could have weekly reading periods. It was from there that we recognised that we had no way of gauging if the students were successful in selecting books that suited their reading needs and how well they were understanding their reading. It was from this that we further evolved our reading program to include our reading conversations that we use to gauge enjoyment and understanding.

**Pauline White** has been a teacher-librarian for 38 years but actually only returned in a full-time capacity to librarianship 10 years ago. Pauline has taught English for 30 years and worked as a VCE assessor in English and the GAT.

**Suzanne Flavin** began her teaching career in 1984, just as the first computer classrooms were beginning to appear in our schools. Because of this she decided to study Information Management at RMIT, wanting to learn how to use technology. Suzanne then went into the world of business for a number of years before taking up a position, ten years ago, as a teacher-librarian at Parkdale Secondary College. The focus of her work has been bringing innovation to everything undertaken in the Library and working with Pauline to achieve better literacy outcomes for their students.

### Read in order to live

#### Lynda Santolin

*Read in order to live* (Gustave Flaubert)

Reading is our oxygen. In school libraries, we are in a privileged position of connecting our school communities to life-changing and life-long experiences of reading, literacy and learning. Lynda will unpack some key touchstones from her journey as a secondary school literacy and reading educator, particularly in this exciting 'blended' learning environment of digital and face-to-face learning. These touchstones include: Allies; Collective efficacy; Growth mindset; Parent agency; Promotion; Student voice. Lynda has extensively gathered resources (think of a magpie!) and will share evidence-based practice, focus action ideas, and creative thoughts for the secondary school library context today. A comprehensive list of resources/notes will be provided.

**Lynda Santolin** has been in Catholic education, predominantly secondary, for 38 years, including 16 years as a teacher-librarian. As a subject teacher (English, Humanities, Religious Education, Maths, Italian), Lynda taught from Years 6-9, and was the Literacy Co-ordinator in 2 schools. In recent years, Lynda has been on 3 school library teams, and loves the synergy and dynamic vitality of libraries and schools.

### School library digital platforms: Supporting powerful reading

#### Trish Trchala

We come to the school library for lessons, to borrow books, nurture a love of reading, encourage creativity, undertake Makerspace ideas and provide a comfortable and safe environment. But what happens beyond that? Many school libraries have fantastic digital platforms for students to embrace their love of books and reading outside of school hours. With 2020 and remote learning, I wanted to extend upon existing digital platforms, to create a collaborative, innovative and purposeful Library Learning Hub. The purpose of the Hub is to allow teachers, students and myself to present opportunities for reading. I did this by sharing books, book reviews, online resources, pen-pal program, STEAM activities, National Science Week, special school events and so

on. The Hub is to be dynamic. An avenue to deliver opportunities for student self-directed engagement. To consolidate their interests. A place of ideas and sharing. Everchanging and although digital, a familiar place that supports and nurtures the power of reading, books and learning.

**Trish Trchala** taught as a primary school teacher for 15 years. While on maternity leave, she set up a correspondence program for pre-schoolers called, 'My Letter Friends'. Trish then became a story time presenter and Library officer with Yarra Plenty Regional Library. During this time, she published a picture book called the *The Magnificent Climbing Tree* written by Trish Jowett. Combining her love of teaching and libraries she added to her Bachelor of Education with a Graduate Diploma of Information Management. Trish now works as a teacher-librarian and digital technology teacher at Xavier College Burke Hall Early Years and is working on her second picture book about a red panda.

### The End of the World Is Bigger Than Love – or is it?

#### Davina Bell



Join author Davina Bell for an exploration of how she drew on the books and events of the past to accidentally write a book that predicted the future. Davina will share the inspiration, research and influences that went into *The End of the World Is Bigger Than Love* – a YA novel set during a global pandemic in a world ripped apart by internet hatred. (It also features a talking whale.) She'll discuss how she went about creating a love song to literature, and how the lessons she learned from writing picture books impacted her work for an older audience.

**Davina Bell** is a writer for children of many ages, from babies up to teenagers. Her best-loved picture books include *All the Ways To Be Smart*, *Under the Love Umbrella* and *All of the Factors of Why I Love Tractors*. She writes junior fiction (*Lemonade Jones*), middle-grade (*Our Australian Girl*, *Corner Park Clubhouse*), and her debut YA novel, *The End of the World Is Bigger Than Love*, was released in June 2020. Davina is a publisher at Allen & Unwin, and in non-pandemic times, she speaks at schools and festivals around the country, sharing her love of books and ideas.