

A SCHOOL LIBRARY ASSOCIATION OF VICTORIA FULL DAY CONFERENCE



INSPIRING LEARNERS, BUILDING CONNECTIONS
- THE PRIMARY SCHOOL LIBRARY

MAY

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VICTORIA UNIVERSITY
CITY CONFERENCE CENTRE LEVEL 12
300 FLINDERS STREET, MELBOURNE
COST: \$280 FOR MEMBERS (NON-MEMBERS \$380)



A child's life is like a piece of paper on which every person leaves a mark.

- Chinese Proverb

This conference will engage primary school library staff and offer inspiration on ways to provide a quality primary school library experience. The conference will explore connections of all kinds – between people, between programs - connecting ideas and practice.

The day will feature best practice examples of programs by current practitioners and a range of guest speakers and authors. In the United Nations Year of Indigenous Languages we will also explore support for the study of indigenous stories and culture.

Conference Program

8.30am	Registration
9.00am	Welcome: Dr Susan La Marca Executive Officer, SLAV
9.15am	Keynote Address: Dr Sue Wilson Building connections between librarians, teachers, students, texts and the real world: Relationships and conversations that empower and inspire
10.30am	Morning Tea and Trade Exhibition
11.00am	Concurrent sessions <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Raffaella Grasso, Shirley Chesterman, Marion George, Bialik College InBetweeners2. Susan Grieve, Tarneit P – 9 College Volunteers Can be your greatest Asset3. Anna Davidson, Carey Grammar School Building Connections through the Junior School Library Program – a Broad Overview4. Ruth Woolven, Kew Primary School The School Library as 'the Third Place'
11.45am	Featured address: Karen Williams, Executive Director, ILF Indigenous Literacy Foundation (ILF)
12.15pm	SLAV Primary School Leaders Award Presentation
12.30pm	Lunch, Trade Exhibition & Great Book Swap
1.30pm	Phillip Gwynne, author
2.00pm	Shelley Ware NAIDOC WEEK and Teaching Indigenous History and Culture in your classroom
2.30pm	Jarrold MacEachern Effective use of Digital Media Resources
2.50pm	Leanne Hall Readings Children's Book Prize
3.10pm	Connah Brecon, illustrator

Keynote

Building connections between librarians, teachers, students, texts and the real world: Relationships and conversations that empower and inspire

- Dr Sue Wilson

This keynote presentation shares insights into developing relationships that value the everyday literacies and experiences of individuals within library and school contexts. Connections that are empowering and inspiring can form between librarians, teachers, students, texts and the real world when we have effective conversations around a range of texts. The various research projects that this presentation draws upon have shown that relationships with and between students, when they discuss texts that are interesting and relevant to them and their day-to-day lives, are powerful. This kind of talk is all-important for understanding not only the texts and how they work, but also our own identities and our place in the real world. This includes, but is not limited to, the literacy learning outcomes that are expected of students at school. This presentation will share ideas around how library staff can develop connections that foster mutually rewarding relationships with teachers and students that inspire each stakeholder and allow links to grow between: one another; the texts we engage with; and, the ways in which we experience life within the diverse communities that we each operate within, at and beyond school.

Dr Sue Wilson was a primary teacher and ICT Coordinator before teaching and researching literacy education at Monash University. Her knowledge base centres upon the use of quality literature and the development of literate identities. Sue is interested in the ways that collegiate literacy discussions support connectedness, critical thinking, problem solving, and understandings of the world and one's place in it for learners of all ages. Sue values the engagement opportunities that she is able to foster through her work at Monash University, such as in her work with schools and community partners and in her research across international contexts.

Featured Address

Indigenous Literacy Foundation (ILF)

- Karen Williams Executive Director, ILF

Who is the ILF?

The Indigenous Literacy Foundation is a national book industry charity, which aims to reduce the disadvantage experienced by children in remote Indigenous communities across Australia, by lifting literacy levels and instilling a lifelong love of reading. This is achieved through three core programs: Book Supply, Book Buzz Programmes and Community Literacy Projects.

Presentations

Phillip Gwynne

Raised in rural South Australia, Phillip Gwynne has written books for kids, young readers, teenagers and adults as well as the screenplay for the feature film *Australian Rules*, which was based on his highly awarded first novel *Deadly Unna?* Considered a modern Australian classic *Deadly Unna?* is studied extensively at schools and universities within Australia and abroad and has sold over 250,000 copies.

Phillips new book, *The Lords of Melody* is an hilarious new novel for upper primary readers about the weird and wonderful things that can happen when you have music in your life - whether you want it or not!

NAIDOC WEEK and Teaching Indigenous History and Culture in your classroom

- Shelley Ware

Shelley has written the National curriculum for this year's NAIDOC (National Aborigines and Islanders Day Observance Committee) week theme for the NAIDOC week committee and SBS Learn. This Year's NAIDOC week theme is 'Voice, Treaty, Truth. Let's work together for a shared future' and this year is the United Nations 'International Year of Indigenous Languages.' Shelley will walk through the primary resource she has written and talk about how to teach Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander culture and history with respect and confidence. She will also talk through another resource she has been a part of 'Our Land Our Stories' through Cengage Publishing.

Shelley Ware is a proud Yankunytjatjara and Wirangu Woman from South Australia, who currently lives in Melbourne. She has been a primary school teacher for 20 years working as a classroom teacher, specialist reading teacher and currently a Visual Arts Teacher. Shelley also worked for the past decade on the Marngrook Football Show as a radio and television presenter of AFL and AFLW. Shelley is an Indigenous Literacy Foundation ambassador. She has written books and teacher resources in the area of literacy and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander history and culture.

Effective use of Digital Media Resources in the Classroom

- Jarrod MacEachern

Gone are the days of the teacher wheeling out the AV trolley to play the feature film, then turning the lights back on 2 hours later while the students pick their heads up from their desks. The technology we use for playing video is now a seamless part of our lives, but how do we effectively deliver this to our students and where do teachers go to find safe, educational content that inspires our students.

It's a no-brainer that video is gaining popularity in classrooms to assist in reaching learning objectives. Video is engaging, it gives students a break from their

teachers, and offers a chance to hear from an authentic voice, such as an expert in their field. It suits learners of all types and at all levels, engaging a different part of their brain to trigger an emotional response to the world around us. Video learning isn't just a supplementary support, it's a core teaching and learning tool.

This session will give you an insight on how to make use of effective video resources to engage your students into the 21st century.

Jarrold MacEachern is a Primary trained teacher originally from Canada, currently working with ClickView to help schools across Australia implement effective technologies into the Classroom. Jarrold has been working with ClickView for three years and has assisted hundreds of schools adopt ClickView as a teaching and learning resource.

The Readings Children's Book Prize

- Leanne Hall

The Readings Children's Book Prize was established in 2014 and recognises the best new Australian books written for children aged 5 to 12. The Prize aims to raise the profile of debut and on-the-rise Australian authors that we believe could make an important contribution to the rich variety of Australian publishing. Every year, a shortlist of six titles is selected by a revolving panel of Readings staff.

The shortlist for the 2019 prize includes six titles that will appeal to a wide range of ages, and features thrilling exploits, as well as quiet stories that sensitively tackle themes of mental health, bullying, family dynamics, growing up, and facing the future. Author Zana Fraillon will join the judging panel to select the winner. The Prize is awarded to the book which we believe children will love best.

Leanne Hall is an author of young adult and children's fiction. Her debut novel, *This Is Shyness*, won the Text Prize for Children's and Young Adult Writing, and was followed by a sequel, *Queen of the Night*. Her novel for younger readers, *Iris and the Tiger*, won the Patricia Wrightson Prize for Children's Literature at the 2017 NSW Premier's Literary Awards. Leanne works as an online children's and YA specialist at the independent bookshop Readings.

Connah Brecon, originally from the UK, is an author-illustrator based in Victoria, Australia, where he lives with his wife and daughter and cat and plants. Connah has written and illustrated six picture books, and illustrated many more stories written by Australian authors. While it is true that dogs like books, Connah illustrates books mostly for people, some of whom happen to be temporarily short.

If he wasn't illustrating children's books, Connah would like to trade places with David Attenborough, although he would prefer a younger David if at all possible.

Concurrent Sessions

1. InBetweeners

- Raffaella Grasso, Shirley Chesterman, Marion George, Bialik College

"There's nothing to read!"

This repeated phrase by Bialik College students from Grades 5 and 6 warranted some serious thought on our part. Similarly, some Year 6s and 7s are keen to read from the Young Adult collection but aren't emotionally or linguistically ready. In 2017, the Bialik Library team embarked on creating a new collection to cater for those students who were in-between the Primary and Secondary collections. Aptly named "the InBetweeners", this session will share the journey so far, as well as plans for the future.

Raffaella Grasso is a Primary Teacher who has worked in various teaching, leadership and mentor roles over the past 30 years. Raffaella is the current full time Primary Teacher Librarian /eLearning Facilitator for the Primary school Years 2-5 at Bialik College. Raffaella is currently undertaking the Master of Education (Teacher Librarianship) degree. Throughout her career she has worked closely with Primary classroom teachers to support and develop a love of reading and develop respectful and responsible use of technology in the Primary years.

Marion George is a trained Teacher Librarian with a background in Primary teacher librarianship who is currently focussed in the Middle School at Bialik College. She has a passion for YA literature and enjoys discussing the latest reads with her students and helping them to find their new favourite book. Marion is also an advocate for students being able to access literature about challenging topics in a safe space with age-appropriate content.

Shirley Chesterman has a Diploma of Early Childhood Education and a Library Technician degree. She worked overseas for several years at an International School in the Netherlands. She now works at Bialik College with special emphasis on library visual communication, is passionate about book fairs and big library projects.

2. Volunteers Can be Your Greatest Asset

- Susan Grieve

School Libraries are the heart of most schools and are a major focus for school strategic plans. Reading and community engagement are often at the centre of any strategic plan. However, due to budget constraints, this is often not well staffed.

This session will explore ways to reach these planning goals. This is not a "how to replace staff" approach but a way forward when faced with too many tasks and a situation that can seem overwhelming. Susan will show you how to build relationships with Principal team, school staff, and the wider school community, by building relationships with Library Volunteers.

The challenge of the school Library is how to effectively find the right balance between getting the jobs done and also being a well-resourced school Library that encourages an active reading culture, develops inquiry-based learning and curates resources to support curriculum and student learning.

Susan Grieve has been at Tarneit P-9 College since 2014 as the college library technician and is now the college library manager. Susan originally set up the junior school library whilst working part time from 30 to 35 hours per week and studying. She was the only Library staff member running the Tarneit P- College Library serving 86 classes weekly and assisting over 160 staff members. Today Susan works across two libraries on the same campus serving over 2000+ students and 190 teachers with a library assistant and a wonderful team of Volunteers

3. Building Connections through the Junior School Library Program – a Broad Overview

- Anna Davidson, Carey Grammar School

The library is the central hub of a school, with teacher librarians in a powerful position to build multi-faceted connections within the school and wider community. During this session, Anna will outline the ways in which Carey's Junior School Library program builds connections with a focus on the following aspects

- Connecting Students to the Collection
- Connecting Parents to our Programs
- Connecting to the Classroom Program
- Connecting to Community
- Connecting to the World

The session will also include opportunities for participants to share practical ways in which they build connections in their library programs.

Anna Davidson has had many years of experience as a primary teacher, both in Melbourne and internationally, before transitioning to her dream job as a Teacher Librarian. Currently, Anna is Head of Junior School Library at Carey Baptist Grammar School, where she loves inspiring children of all ages with the joy of literature through the vibrant library programs. Anna's role also encompasses e-learning and she enjoys supporting students and staff in using technology in creative ways.

4. The School Library as 'The third Place' - Ruth Woolven, Kew Primary School

In 1990, Ray Oldenburg coined the phrase 'the Third Place' in relation to the school library. The school library is not the classroom or the playground and therefore has a special role to play in the school community. What are the characteristics of 'the third place' and how can we use that framework in our planning and decisions? How does the primary school library support student learning and wellbeing particularly in the digital world?

Ruth Woolven is a librarian and has worked at Kew Primary School in the library for nearly 8 years. The role has grown from 1 day a week technical support to 5 days a week collaborating with classroom teachers in library lessons. Ruth is passionate about supporting students in their reading for pleasure selections and makerspace activities. Kew PS is a candidate school for the International Baccalaureate Primary Years Program (PYP) and Ruth is currently building the school collection to reflect the PYP goals.

Ruth is the primary school representative on the SLAV Council.

Indigenous Literacy Foundation – Great Book Swap This will take place during the lunch break

The Great Book Swap is a fantastic way to celebrate reading locally, and raise much-needed funds for remote communities. Schools, workplaces, libraries, universities, book clubs and all kinds of organisations can host one. The idea is to swap a favourite book in exchange for a gold coin donation.

Here's how it works:

- Delegates should bring a book for the GBS table - SLAV will set up a collection area for the *Great Book Swap* on the morning of the conference
- SLAV will create a display of the book and set a time (probably morning tea time and lunchtime) for everyone to browse for a book they would like to take in exchange for a gold coin donation.
- SLAV will then donate those funds to the ILF to help support their wonderful work around literacy development in remote Indigenous communities