



byron
writers
festival

Annual Report 2018

Story  Board



Australian Government

Catalyst—Australian Arts and Culture Fund

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The Year at a Glance

We reached over **8612** kids

We visited **70** schools

We ran **122** workshops

61 masterclasses

4 holiday programs

4 Festival workshops

4 regional tours

& published **3** anthologies

Introduction

The idea of StoryBoard was born in 2014, when Dave Eggers – US author, storyteller, publisher and radical ambassador for kids' creativity – visited Sydney and spoke about his work on youth literacy in the inspiring organisation 826 Valencia in San Francisco. 826 Valencia has inspired others across the world – creative writing centres hidden behind the Pirate Supply Store in San Francisco, the Bigfoot Research Institute in Boston, the Time Travel Mart in Los Angeles and the Martian Embassy in Sydney. Behind these quirky shopfronts, kids delight in writing and publishing their work – while becoming more literate, creative and empowered.

At our 2014 visioning day, Byron Writers Festival board and staff supported the idea of starting our own creative writing program for young people – but with a difference. We decided to take our program on the road to reach the far flung schools in our region. We created the StoryBoard bus – a mobile artwork personifying the creative 'weirdness' that make this approach work so well. The bus takes our storytellers and tutors directly to schools to run free creative writing workshops.

On indicators including social competence, communication skills and general knowledge, Northern Rivers kids scored lower than other parts of NSW. In some parts of the Northern Rivers as many as 1 in 3 children live below the poverty line, but research shows if these kids are 'language rich', their opportunities to flourish increase.

Since 2016, StoryBoard has reached some 17,000 young people across the Northern Rivers region with author talks, hands on writing workshops, and masterclasses. Feedback from students, teachers and parents has been enthusiastic. Lives have been changed.

In 2018 we deepened our connections with young people by putting more resources into repeat engagements with focus schools and masterclass programs, allowing ongoing work with students who are keen to explore creative writing.

We produced (or helped produce), a podcast series, individual picture books, three anthologies and two collaborative novels with masterclass students.

We ran four regional tours reaching as far as RA3 outer regional areas such as Bonalbo, Smithtown, Tenterfield and Glenn Innes.

We started an important activity – helping our local teachers and librarians with professional development activities designed to improve their skills in teaching creative writing. We are keen to expand this part of the program.

As well as reaching more than 8600 students, we reached over 500 teachers, parents, friends, volunteers and other attendees at school presentations, masterclass book launches, festival workshops. We also hosted two year ten work experience students – one who has attended the Lismore Masterclass since 2015, and one from the Byron Masterclass.

Using innovation to encourage active literacy among children isn't just about entertainment. It is a game changer, through which kids move out of disadvantage and win educations, jobs, and careers. Our aim is to foster creativity and literacy in thousands of Northern NSW kids for years to come, creating the next generation of readers and writers – young people who are excited about literature, literacy and creative expression, and who are empowered with tools that help them create their futures.

Storyboard Chair, Jesse Blackadder



The Year in Pictures





School Visits



School visits remained at the heart of StoryBoard’s activity in 2018. 70 visits included 54 one-off school visits and 16 repeat Focus School visits. We worked with students from 60 primary schools and 17 high schools altogether, some of them in a combined setting.

A typical visit involved the StoryBoard bus, transporting the author and one or two volunteer tutors. At most schools, the visiting authors also gave presentations for groups of between 20 and 600 students. Our authors shared their worlds – what it’s like to be a creator, what inspires them, and where ideas come from.

Authors then ran creative writing workshops (45-180 minutes) in which kids wrote their own stories. Some workshops were held in classrooms, but wherever possible we took students outside, in and around the StoryBoard bus, with our teepees. The outdoor workshop setting creates a relaxed environment for students to engage with their ideas without the structures and expectations of the classroom.

Regional Tours

The Northern Rivers district has 143 primary schools, 25 secondary schools, 22 combined schools and 4 special schools. Around 100 of these schools lie within an 80km radius of Byron Bay – reachable as a day trip in the StoryBoard Bus. StoryBoard runs a number of annual tours to reach those schools beyond a day trip (over 2 hours each way). Our Tours take an Author/Illustrator team on the road so we can access as many schools and therefore students as possible within a few days.

In 2018 StoryBoard expanded its reach with 4 Regional Tours including:

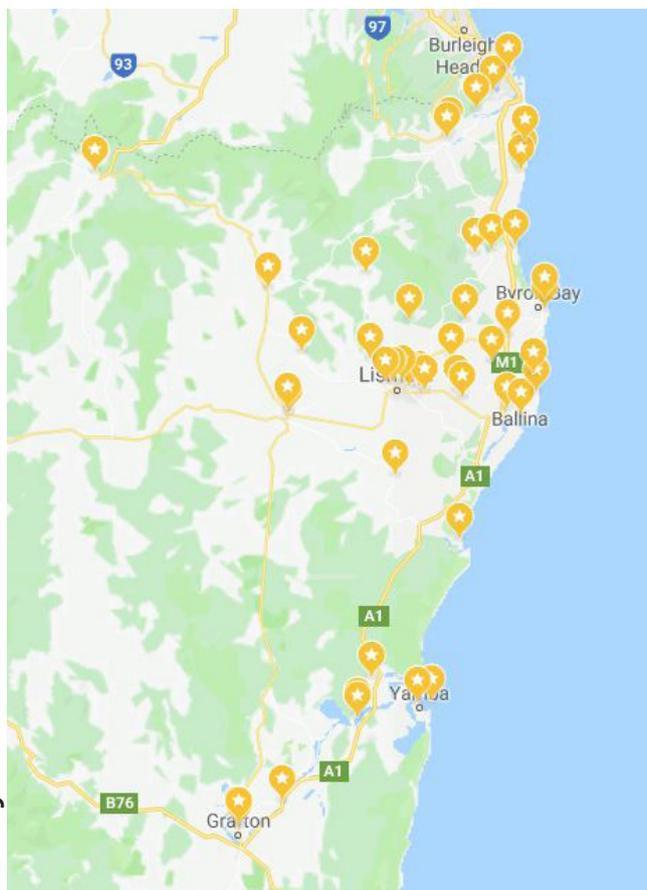
Plunge Festival Tour to Grafton in April 2018 with Jesse Blackadder, Samantha Turnbull, Zanni Louise, Zachary Jane, and StoryBoard team Gabby Le Brun and Marianne Bragge delivered workshops to Yamba Public School, Westlawn Public School (at Grafton Library), South Grafton Public School, St James Catholic Primary School and Maclean High School.

Kempsey Regional Tour in May 2018 with visiting Illustrator Tony Flowers and Author, Belinda Murrell with StoryBoard Team Marianne Bragge and Ash Cassell delivered workshops to West Kempsey Public School (at Kempsey Library), Crescent Head Public School, Kempsey High School and Smithtown Public School.

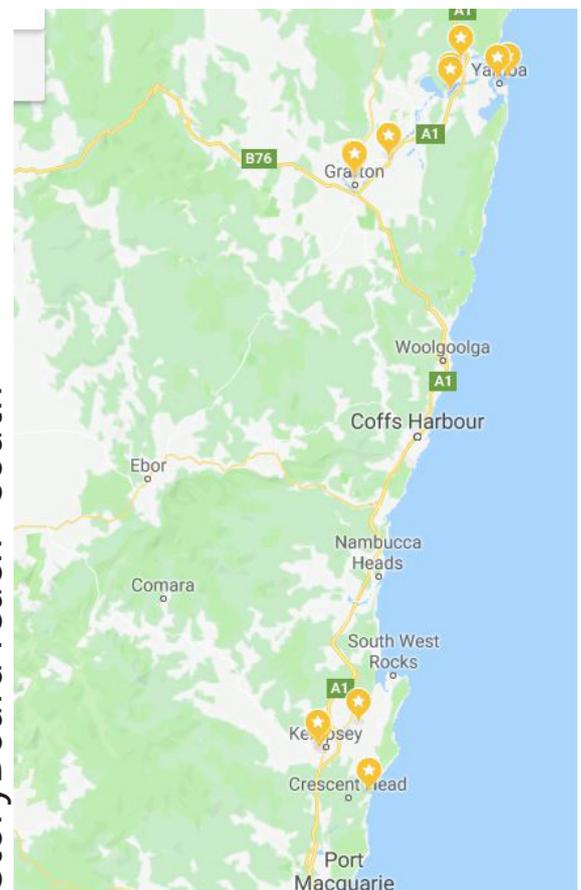
Ulmarra Mini Tour: June 2018 with visiting Author Deborah Abela to Ulmarra Public School.

Storyboard ‘Writers on the Road Road’ Tour: July/August 2018: Slam Poet Jesse Oliver, Author and Tour Manager Zachary Jane, Authors Sarah Armstrong, Karl Gislason and Ben Hobson delivered workshops to students at Kyogle High School, Bonalbo Central School, and Alstonville High School.

Storyboard reach - north



Storyboard reach - south



Focus Schools

Following the success of our increased activities in “focus schools” in 2017, we continued to develop these in-depth engagements in 2018. Selected schools received repeat visits with extended workshops throughout the year by the same author to:

- build rapport and trust with the author and within the group
- enable skill progression over an extended period
- deepen their engagement with the creative writing process
- increase their confidence and ability to collaborate
- In some cases, draft, write, edit and submit a short story for publication

The following schools participated in our Focus School Program 2018:

- **Casino Public School:** 30 students from stage 3 worked with Zanni Louise (four half day workshops)
- **Emmanuel Anglican College:** 180 students from years 7, 8 and 9 worked with Tristan Bancks (3 full days)
- **The Rivers Secondary College:** 20 students worked with Jesse Blackadder over four half day workshops
- **The Rivers Primary Schools Network*:** 25 students worked with Zanni Louise over four half day workshops
- **A combined group of 15 Rivers Primary and Secondary School students*** worked with Illustrator Misa Alexander for an additional half day workshop

*StoryBoard was approached by English teacher and author Polly Jude to collaborate in a publishing project drawing participants from all three campuses of The Rivers Secondary College and 33 primary schools in the Lismore region. This culminated in the publication of the Anthology Rivers Brainstorm which was launched publicly in December 2018.

Community Workshops

Storyboard delivered stand alone creative writing workshops, through three holiday programs: Writing Safari with Tristan Bancks, My Life and Other Stuff I Made Up with Tristan Bancks and a workshop with Brunswick Picture House. Tristan Bancks also ran a Writing Safari at Bangalow Heritage House as part of the annual Friends of the Library Mobile Library Event. StoryBoard also collaborated with the Playground Festival at The Quad at Lismore where Zanni Louise and Illustrator Michelle Dawson ran workshops.



Byron Writers Festival was enlivened with four StoryBoard workshops as part of the Festival Kids Big Day Out. These included Story Sleuthing with Tristan Bancks, Book Making with Zanni Louise, Podcasting with Samantha Turnbull, and Illustration and Story with Misa Alexander and Erin Knutt.



Masterclasses

In 2018 StoryBoard expanded its Masterclass program, running fortnightly creative writing classes in Lismore, Ballina and weekly classes in Byron Bay.

The Lismore Young Writers Master Class has been running since 2015 (pre-dating StoryBoard). Ages range from 9-19 and the group is run by Jesse Blackadder and Sarah Armstrong. Students work on fiction and non-fiction, collaboratively and individually. Writing exercises and sharing work – plus pizza and the occasional lollies – were regular parts of the 1.5 hour format. In 2018 the group produced two publications – an anthology of short works, and Heist – a collaborative novel about a fictional art robbery at the new Lismore Art Gallery (which hosted the launch). See page 19 for more details.

Ballina Masterclass participants aged 10 to 16yrs were prolific with their publications. In Term one and two the group produced picture books with Zanni Louise. Over five sessions the writers planned, developed, drafted, workshopped and illustrated highly original stories. They then launched them in front of family, friends and the press.

In Term three Author and ABC Journalist, Samantha Turnbull worked with the group to create their own podcast series. Across a series of five workshops, each participant developed a podcast idea, wrote a series of episodes and presented and produced them to broadcast quality. Podcast recordings can be listened to on the StoryBoard Soundcloud account:

<https://soundcloud.com/user-454137088>.

In Term 4 the Ballina group worked with Author Zanni Louise over six workshops during In My Bones historical stories project. They explored new ways to write by experimenting with form including; chronological history, historical fiction, diary entries, letters, poems, collage and fantasy. In My Bones was launched with an interactive installation to family and friends which included inspiration for their story, objects or photographs representing their character, setting, time and place and a reading of their book.

The Byron Bay Masterclass – an intensive weekly program with a competitive application process – was run by Tristan Bancks and Siboney Duff and assisted by volunteer tutor Ashleigh Cassel. Its participants produced P.O.V., a collaborative crime novel about a fictional bank robbery in Byron Bay. See page 20 for more details.

Authors & Presenters

One of the things that makes StoryBoard unique is that our workshops are run by professional storytellers – authors, illustrators and performers – supported by volunteer tutors. Kids are not only inspired to write – they get to see that creating stories is a profession.

Storyboard provides professionally paid employment (with rates and benefits in line with Australian Society of Authors rates) to local authors. We help them build more sustainable careers and connect with their audiences, without having to travel to capital cities. We also provide visiting authors with professional opportunities to connect to regional audiences.



Misa Alexander teaching illustration in the StoryBoard outdoor pop-up classroom



Lucas performing his cultural show at Dunoon Public School

Extension of the StoryBoard Program to Teachers and Educators:



Sarah Armstrong at the teacher development workshop.

In June 2018 we hosted the Getting Kids Writing professional development workshop facilitated by Deborah Abela for teachers and librarians. This was accessed ten local teachers and two local librarians and our core StoryBoard Author Team.

In October 2018 Program Manager Gabby Le Brun presented and facilitated a workshop at Writing the Future, the Primary English Teachers Association of Australia's Professional Learning Intensive and Showcase.

What students said...

I liked it because it made my mind stretch.

I learned about being in others peoples shoes.

I learned a lot and I was surrounded by people who enjoy writing like me.

I learned that a story has three parts and no story is wrong!

I liked that the author said 'If you have an amazing idea don't listen to me and go ahead and write it.'

You weren't, like, forced to write about a topic. You could just free-write without worrying.

I enjoyed expressing my feeling and having fun.

I learned that I wasn't terrible at writing.

Even in the short time I learned so much! I loved listening to everyone share their stories from the story mats.

For a good story you need to make lots of trouble.



it so fun it ~~atly~~ awesome
I want to do it all the
time ✨

I love The
Byron writers
Festival

I got to make
a crazy chicken
turtle.

THANK YOU
To Gabby,
Thanks so much for
organising every thing and
bringing every snacks every
week. Thank you heaps for
the free writers festival
tickets. Me and mum loved
it!
Thanks, Sam

Would you like to attend another workshop in the
yes
yes
yes
Definite



10. Anything else you'd like to tell us?
it was one of the ~~greatest~~ ^{greatest} things I ever
experie~~nced~~^{nced}

It really inspired me. It helped me let my
imagination go wild

What teachers said...

“

The students were begging to write for the rest of the day! Even the reluctant writers enthusiastically participated in the workshop. Tristan showed the class that writing can be fun and your own personal experiences can be used to stimulate ideas for writing.

– Natalia Vecchio, Byron Bay Public School

”

“

Rural students do not have the accessibility to many things city children take for granted. It was a delight and honour to have an author and illustrator come to our school. They inspired our students and put a face to the names that are on books they read.

– Wendy Vermeulen, Crescent Head Public School

”

“

The Story Bus & the peaceful surroundings helped present a relaxed environment for students to engage in their writing without feeling the confines of the classroom.

– Annie Korff, Byron Bay Public School

”

“ My school is located in a low socio-economic area and has an Aboriginal population of 16%. This year, with the support of the Byron Writers Festival’s StoryBoard program, I have been able to invite students from 33 primary schools and 3 secondary schools to participate in a year-long writing project.

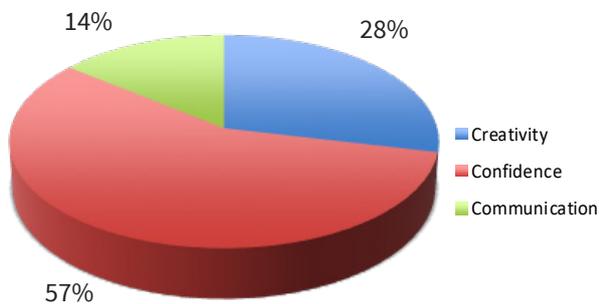
The free visits from the StoryBoard bus helped engage students and offered them a unique writing experience that they simply would not have had in a regular classroom. The free visits enabled access to a wider range of students including students from disadvantaged and underprivileged backgrounds.

- Polly Jude, Kadina High School

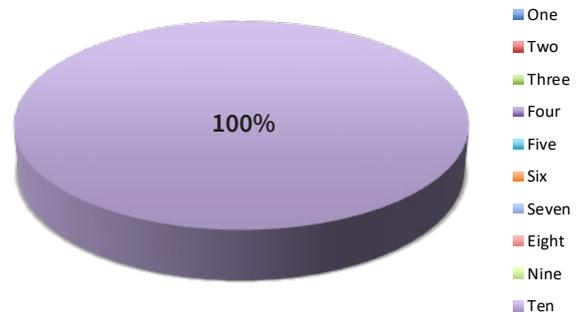
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What teachers thought...

During or post workshop, did you observe an increase in any of the participant’s creativity, confidence or communication?



Out of 10, how would you score the StoryBoard experience?



100% of respondents scored the StoryBoard experience 10 out of 10

What our Authors said...

“

I love teaching with Storyboard. I love the sense that I am contributing by supporting young people in their self expression, and by letting them know that their stories (and by extension, they) have value. I like showing them that it's possible to be a writer, that it's a worthwhile and achievable goal. And as a writer whose income is sporadic, I appreciate the income Storyboard provides.

-Sarah Armstrong, author

”

“

When kids see that illustrated StoryBoard bus roll into their school there is a palpable excitement around storytelling, reading and writing. When they meet an author and get to sit in teepees and write outdoors under the bus's awning and then check out the mini-library in the back, they are having a really positive experience around literacy. This is something that many of these kids will remember for a very long time, perhaps forever.

-Tristan Bancks, author

”

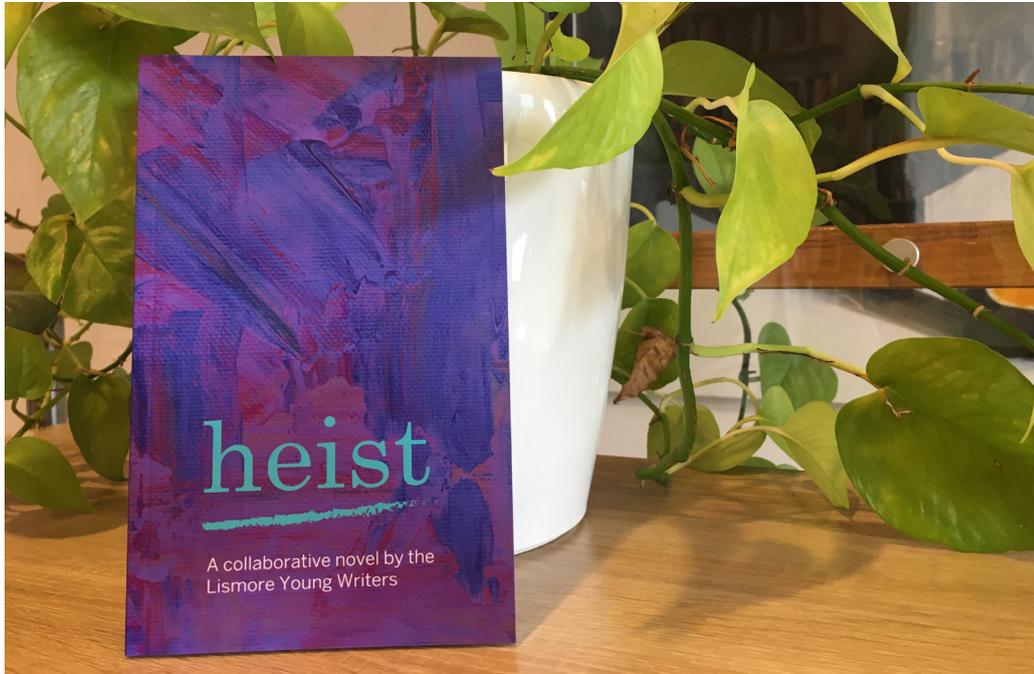
“

As a proud Indigenous artist I like to present dynamic musical storytelling experiences, showcasing dance, cultural diversity and my creative process. The StoryBoard program has been a great platform and supporter in my career as an author and performer.

- Lucas Proudfoot, author and performer

”

Anthologies



Heist

“In 2015, author Jesse Blackadder started teaching a regular class for young writers at Lismore library. In 2016 Byron Writers Festival adopted the writing masterclass into their Storyboard program.

Two years ago, Jesse Blackadder asked me to come on as a StoryBoard author and I was delighted to find a group of talented, dedicated and focused young writers aged 10 - 18. They are a writing teacher’s dream.

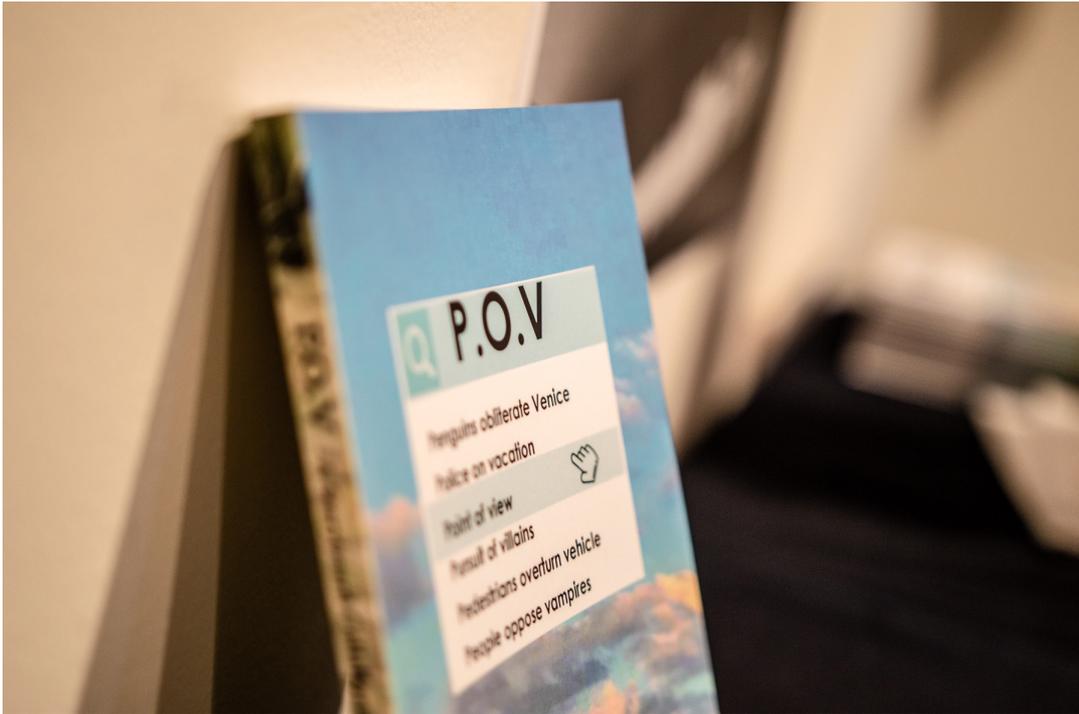
The group has produced several anthologies of their stories, but for this end-of-year publication, Jesse proposed a collaborative novel, where each writer would contribute a chapter (or two). She suggested the story be set at the Lismore Art Gallery, which we look onto from the library during classes.

Heist is the result of this collaboration. Each young writer brings their unique voice and perspective, which reminds us that around any one event - newsworthy or not – there are many differing experiences and points of view. There are people (and animals!) whose lives are touched but whose stories are rarely heard. The many perspectives on the one incident offer the reader a layered and rich narrative.

Before each writer chose their character, the group spent several weeks brainstorming the scenario and characters, and conducted a reconnaissance to the Art Gallery. While each writer had their own contribution to work on, they also had to consult with each other to make sure that the stories would interweave and connect.

This collaborative-book experiment has been a huge success, and a powerful demonstration of these young people’s development as writers. As readers, we are safe in the hands of the next generation of local storytellers.”

Sarah Armstrong



P.O.V.

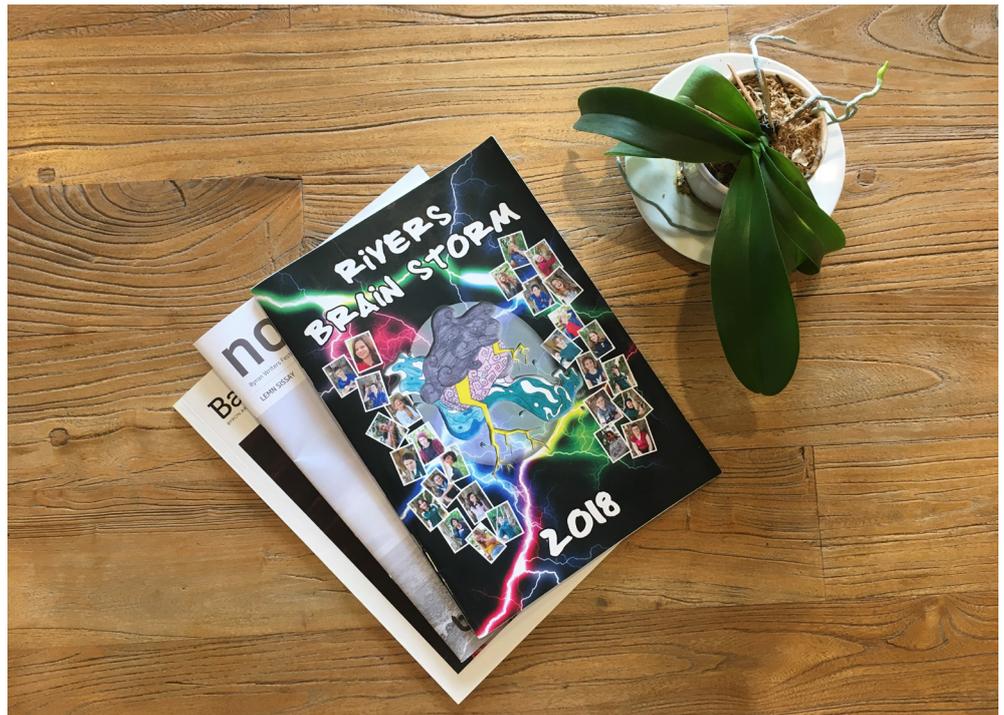
“Point of view? Police on vacation? Penguins obliterate Venice? The mind boggles...”

For us, P.O.V is a collaborative collection of Young Adult crime stories set in the regional town of Byron Bay. The stories, written by a group of local 11-16 year-olds at the StoryBoard Masterclass in Byron Bay, capture the place and its people and are connected by a central crime that flows through the narratives.

A group of fourteen teenagers were chosen through an application process to be part of the core group of creative collaborators. Writers Siboney Duff and Tristan Bancks and facilitators Gabby LeBrun and Ashleigh Cassell worked with the team on every aspect of the writing process from initial idea through freewriting, plotting, character development, drafting, editing, distribution and publicity. The group committed to one afternoon a week after school over two school terms plus additional time working on their stories between face-to-face sessions. They have showed great dedication through the many challenges that the writing process provides, pushing themselves into new territory as storytellers.

P.O.V is a fusion of fact and fiction, capturing a moment in time specific to Byron Bay but relateable to young (and older) readers everywhere.”

Siboney Duff and Tristan Bancks



Brain Storm

“This whole anthology started as a crazy idea and it grew into Rivers Brain Storm, 2018!

As part of the Rivers Focus School visits, students from fifteen primary schools and all three Rivers high schools had the chance to work with acclaimed authors and illustrators across a number of weeks.



Illustration by Pepa Rogers from her story, *Storm*

Zanni Louise and Jesse Blackadder from StoryBoard worked with the students on a regular basis to develop an idea into a story. We worked on getting to know your character, developing a storyline, the craft of writing and overcoming obstacles to meet your writing goals. It has been fantastic to work with such a motivated and dedicated group of young writers and artists.

Once we had stories, we needed art! Local illustrator, Miša Alexander, came on board to help our kids find the heart of the story and gave them the skills and the confidence needed to present that on the page. Mr Greg Smith, Executive Principal of the Rivers Secondary College supported the project wholeheartedly from the very start. What a fabulous way to promote writing and literacy across our region! StoryBoard is a FANTASTIC program which offers school children unique and exceptional opportunities to meet local writers.”

Ms Polly Jude

English Teacher - The Rivers Secondary College-
Kadina High Campus Project Director

The StoryBoard team

Thanks to the hardworking StoryBoard Team of 2018:

Program Manager	Gabrielle (Gabby) Le Brun
Administrator	Emily Brugman
Project Advisors	Jesse Blackadder (Chair) & Lynda Hawryluk
Roadtrip Tour Manager	Zachary Jane
Bus Co-ordinator	Marianne (Maz) Bragge
Bus Maintenance	Peter Clark
Evaluation Research and Advisor	Kristy Theissling
Bus Drivers/Lead Tutors	Maz Bragge Andi Davey
Casual Bus Drivers/Volunteer Tutors	Jessica (JJ) O' Rourke Simon Winfield Katinka Smit Shel Sweeney Greg Hascka
School Volunteer Tutors:	Kelly Dodd Sharron Short Kate Benecke
Masterclass Volunteer Tutors	Margaret Arnot Ashleigh (Ash) Cassel Katinka Smit Julia Sidnell
Work Experience Students	Catie Corcoran Amelia Rogers

2018 Author Biographies

Regular StoryBoard Authors

Sarah Armstrong has written three novels. *Salt Rain* was published by Allen & Unwin in 2004 and shortlisted for the Miles Franklin Award, the Queensland Premier's Literary Prize and the Dobbie Literary Award. *Salt Rain* was published in the United States by MacAdam/Cage. *His Other House* was published in 2015 by Pan Macmillan and came out in Germany. Sarah's third novel *Promise* was published by Pan Macmillan in 2016 and came out in Germany and The Netherlands. Audible audiobooks produced *Promise* and *His Other House* in 2016. Previously, she was a journalist at the ABC, where she won a Walkley Award.

Tristan Bancks is a children's and teen author with a background in acting and filmmaking. His books include *Two Wolves* (recognised as an Honour Book in the 2015 Children's Book Council of Australia Book of the Year Awards, as well as winner of the YABBA and KOALA Children's Choice Awards), the *My Life* series (weird-funny-gross short stories featuring Tom Weekly) and *Mac Slater, Coolhunter*. His short films as writer and director have won a number of awards and have screened widely in festivals and on TV.

Jesse Blackadder, writer, teacher and performer, has entertained audiences aged four to 94 in Australia and internationally with her tales of writing, researching, and unusual creatures. Passionate about becoming a vet from childhood, she ended up becoming an author instead and has written a junior series about friendships between humans and animals. A fibreglass seeing eye dog sets sail for the frozen south in *Stay: The Last Dog* in Antarctica. A young rider tries to save a wild horse in danger in *Paruku The Desert Brumby*, and a city kid has to draw on all her courage to save a koala from a cyclone in *Dexter the Courageous Koala*. Jesse is also an international award-winning author of historical and contemporary fiction for adult readers. She recently spent 4 months in Antarctica after receiving the Australian Antarctic Arts Fellowship.

Jenni Cargill Strong is an award-winning Australian storyteller and enchantivist, who teaches and coaches storytelling. Her special interest is in teaching Storytelling for Changemakers. Jenni curates 'Stories in the Club', a monthly community concert in her hometown of Mullumbimby, near Byron Bay in Northern New South Wales, Australia. Jenni has recorded and self-published five award winning albums for children and adults under her label The Story Tree Company. Jenni is also a trained Secondary School Teacher specialising in English.

Siboney Duff is a qualified English teacher, with a Master of Philosophy (Creative Writing) from the University of Queensland. Siboney has worked as a writer, editor and manuscript assessor for over fifteen years. She has published hundreds of articles, created copy for countless clients, assessed and edited everything from memoir to non-fiction and fiction, written educational texts and course material for numerous publishers and organisations, mentored new and emerging writers, and run workshops and courses on all aspects of writing and editing. She will commence her PhD in Creative Writing through Curtin University in 2019.

Zacharey Jane's first novel *The Lifeboat* was published in 2008 by University Queensland Press. It was shortlisted for the Barbara Jefferis Award in 2009 and is published in three languages. In 2011, UQP published Zacharey's children's picture book, *Tobias Blow*, which was on the NSW Premier's Reading List. She has been Tour Manager for the Byron Writers Festival Road Trip since its inception in 2014.

Zanni Louise is a children's author based on North Coast NSW. Zanni's first book *Too Busy Sleeping*, illustrated by Anna Pignataro, was long-listed for the CBCA Book of the Year awards, 2016. Her second book, *Archie and the Bear*, with David Mackintosh, has appeared on bestseller lists. Zanni's books have sold to foreign territories, including the US, China, Korea, Germany, Slovenia and Denmark.

Lucas Proudfoot is a musician, a storyteller, a surfer and an educator. He has been spreading the word about the diversity and vibrancy of Indigenous cultures through his brilliant school program Circular Rhythm, treating around 200,000 children to his music and humour every year. These performances along with his childhood memories have led him to release his first book, in a series of six. The Proud Fooths adventure series for 5-to-12-year-olds showcases both Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island cultures and other remarkable indigenous cultures from around the world.

Samantha Turnbull is the author of The Anti-Princess Club series. She specialises in stories featuring strong girls. Sam's 'mama blog' is where she writes about her quest to convince her six-year-old daughter and four-year-old son that girls and boys can like the same stuff, most princesses are kind of boring, and self-worth should have nothing to do with what you see in the mirror. It's also where you'll find her musing about her life in general in beautiful Byron Bay. Sam is also a slam poet. Sam's 'real' job is multimedia journalist with the ABC.

Regular StoryBoard Illustrators

Miša Alexander is a mother of three boys, one of whom is on the Autism Spectrum. Inspired by the need for more inclusive schools and communities, she co-created and illustrated Fergus & Delilah, a children's book changing a generation's view on disabilities.

Miša is Canadian born, but has lived on the Northern Rivers of NSW since 1997. She has worked as graphic designer & illustrator for over 20 years in various studios around Australia as well as internationally for the United Nations as part of the Electoral Commission in East Timor & Afghanistan.

Michelle Dawson has been working as a professional artist since 1996 and has studied both in Australia and the UK. She has been shortlisted for many major art prizes including the Jacaranda Drawing Prize 2014, Portia Geach Art Award, (Highly Commended), The Bendigo Drawing Prize, The Wilson Art Award, The Northern River's Portrait Prize and the Waterhouse Natural History Art Prize. She has also illustrated 3 children's books and was shortlisted for the CBCA 2009 Crichton Award for Best New Illustrator.

Visiting Authors and Illustrators

Deborah Abela trained as a teacher and completed a BA (Comm) before producing and writing a children's TV show at Network Ten. Since then, she's written 25 books for children, including the Max Remy and Jasper Zammit series, Grimsdon and New City, her climate change novels. Teresa A New Australian, was inspired by her dad, who migrated to Australia after the devastation of WW2 and Wolfie An Unlikely Hero is her first picture book. The Stupendously Spectacular Spelling Bee is about a shy girl whose family encourage her to follow her dreams and the sequel, The Most Marvellous Spelling Bee Mystery, was written by popular demand. Awards include the Maurice Saxby Award, US IBBY award for Outstanding International Book and Best Book in Translation

Tony Flowers is a passionate illustrator with a love of the absurd and the silly. Tony and author Nick Falk are responsible for the 'Saurus Street', 'Billy is a Dragon', Samurai vs Ninja' and the 'How to...' series, which have received positive reviews from Speech Pathology Australia and educators of early and reluctant readers. The highly illustrated and engaging illustrations help children to continue to turn pages and continue to read. Tony has filled pages with vegetable smashing tyrannosaurus; fish slapping Samurai, time travelling triceratops, Young Shakespeare and kung-fu fighting worms. Not content with these creations, he has created armies of chickens, adventurous dragons, sneaky werewolves and dogs of all shapes and sizes. Tony is completing his PhD at the University of Canberra.

2018 Author Biographies

Belinda Murrell has worked as a travel journalist, technical writer, editor and public relations consultant. Belinda studied Children's Literature at Macquarie University. Belinda's books include the Sun Sword fantasy trilogy, Scottish timeslip tale *The Locket Of Dreams*, French Revolution timeslip tale *The Ruby Talisman*, Australian timeslip tales *The Ivory Rose* and *The Sequin Star*, and Australian historical tales *The Forgotten Pearl*, *The River Charm* and *The Lost Sapphire*. Belinda's Lulu Bell series for younger readers, about friends, family, animals, and growing up in a vet hospital has sold over 200,000 copies. Pippa's Island is Belinda's latest series. Belinda is also an author ambassador for Room to Read and Books in Homes.

Kári Gíslason is a writer and academic who lectures in Creative Writing at QUT. Kári was awarded a doctorate in 2003 for his thesis on medieval Icelandic literature. He is the author of *The Promise of Iceland* and *The Ash Burner*, and *Saga Land* (co-authored with Richard Fidler). As well as memoir and fiction, he also publishes scholarly articles, travel writing and reviews. *Saga Land* has won non-fiction book of the year at The Indies Awards. Kári lives in Brisbane

Ben Hobson lives in Brisbane. He currently teaches English and Music at Bribie Island State High School. In 2014 his novella, *If the Saddle Breaks My Spine*, was shortlisted for the Viva La Novella prize, run by Seizure. *To Become a Whale* is his first novel.

Jesse Oliver is the 2017 Australian Poetry Slam Co-Champion and a co-director of the National Young Writers Festival. (25 Words) Jesse launched his Rap/Poetry show *Star-Crossed Poetry* at Perth Fringe 2018. He's joined the Spoken Word Perth team, is jumping on an international tour and is publishing his first book.

Jesse uses spoken-word to discuss his lived experiences of homelessness, gender transition and mental illness. His favourite topics including dreams, aliens, and selfless love

Festival Authors:

Oliver Phommavanh is a Thai-Australian children's writer and comedian. His books include *Thai-riffic!*, *Con-nerd*, *Punchlines* and *The Other Christy*. His latest book is *Super Con-nerd* and the upcoming *Natural Born Leader/Loser*.

Jessica Roberts writes, draws and films stories. Andrew Hansen is a comedian, actor, musician, and member of comedy group *The Chaser*. *Bab Sharkey* and *The Animal Mummies: The Weird Beard* is their first book together.

Lian Tanner is the best-selling author of the children's fantasy adventure trilogy, *The Keepers*. Her latest novel is *Accidental Heroes (The Rogues #1)*.

Matt Stanton is a bestselling children's author and illustrator. His eagerly anticipated middle-grade book *Funny Kid for President* rocketed to #1 Australian kids' book in 2017.



Captivated, at Kids Big Day Out, 2018

Goals & Achievements

STORYBOARD PROGRAM REACH AND VISITS	Goal for visits	Actual visits	Goal for work-shops run	Actual work-shops run	Goal for children reached in work-shops (avg. 25)	Actual children reached in work-shops	Additional children reached in presentations	Total Children Reached
Term One school visits (includes focus school visits)	15	16	15	37	375	790	399	1189
Term Two school visits including focus	25	21	25	36	625	822	1677	2499
Term Three school visits (including focus schools)	25	23	25	39	625	1093	1835	2928
Term Four school visits	15	10	15	10	375	280	627	907
TOTALS	80	70	80	122	2000	2985	4538	7523
					Goal for children reached in master-classes (av. 10)			
Term One Masterclasses	10	11	10	11	100	167	0	167
Term Two Masterclasses	20	20	20	20	200	314	0	314
Term Three Masterclasses	20	22	20	22	200	306	0	306
Term Four Masterclasses	10	8	10	8	100	142	0	142
TOTAL MASTER CLASSES	60	61	60	61	600	929	0	929
School Holiday Workshops Term 1	2	2	2	2	30	35	0	35
School Holiday Workshops Term 2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
School Holiday Workshops Term 3	0	1	0	1	0	25	0	25
School Holiday Workshops Term 4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL SCHOOL HOLIDAY WORKSHOPS	2	3	2	3	30	60	0	60
Festival StoryBoard workshops	3	1	3	4	60	100	0	100
TOTAL FESTIVAL WORKSHOPS	3	1	3	4	60	100	0	100
TOTALS		135		190		4074	4538	8612

Working Budget & Expenditure

Storyboard has been generously supported by the Australian Government's Catalyst Program, NSW Government (Create NSW) as well as Byron Writers Festival.

STORYBOARD INCOME SUMMARY ex-GST	2018
Income	
Catalyst	100,000
Catalyst carried over from 2017 for resources	900
Create NSW (3 year multi-year funding)	30,000
Byron Writers Festival cash funding	15,100
Byron Writers Festival in kind support (staff time, admin)	5,900
Byron Writers Festival 2016 and 2017 StoryBoard unexpended funds	22,946
*Book sales from Masterclass Publishing Projects	1482
Total	175,518

*All masterclass participants were given two free copies of their books; one for themselves and one for their school library. Additional copies were sold to offset the cost of printing the books in high quality format.

STORYBOARD EXPENDITURE SUMMARY ex-GST	Budget revised in July 2018	2018 Actual
Expenditure		
Author/presenter costs	69,800	67,935
Author airfares, accommodation and per diems	7000	7,594
Bus and workshop travel expenses (including repairs)	15,800	19,361
Storyboard resources (books, film, printing & consumables)	5900	5110
Author professional development day - annual	2400	0
Project salaries and admin (Create NSW and ByronWF cash component)	46,928	44,200
Project salaries and admin (ByronWF in-kind component)	5900	5900
Motor vehicle costs (petrol, insurance, green slip, rego, parking)	6630	5368
Teacher engagement (accredited workshop – develop and run)	1750	1150
Marketing and design	4600	5166
General contingency ¹	8810	0
Total expenditure	175,518	161,784
Income minus expenditure		+13,734*

DATE	AUTHOR	SCHOOL/LIBRARY
Wednesday 24 January	Tristan Bancks	Holiday Program: Writing Safari
Thursday 25 January	Tristan Bancks	Holiday Program: Writing Safari
Thursday 8 February	Sarah Armstrong	Lismore Library Masterclass
Wednesday 14 February	Zanni Louise	Ballina Library Masterclass
Thursday 22 February	Sarah Armstrong	Lismore Library Masterclass
Mon 26 - Wed 28 February	Tristan Bancks	EAC
Wednesday 28 February	Zanni Louise	Ballina Library Masterclass
Monday 5 March	Zanni Louise	Shearwater High School
Thursday 8 March	Sarah Armstrong	Lismore Library Masterclass
Monday 12 March	Zanni Louise	Casino Public School
Wednesday 14 March	Zanni Louise	Ballina Library Masterclass
Friday 16 March	Jesse Blackadder	Kadina High School
Tuesday 20 March	Jenni Cargill Strong	Fernleigh Public
Wednesday 21 March	Zanni Louise	Ballina Library Masterclass
Thursday 22 March	Jesse Blackadder	Lismore Library Masterclass
Monday 26 March	Lucas Proudfoot	Dunoon Public School
Tuesday 27 March	Lucas Proudfoot	Eltham Public
Wednesday 28 March	Lucas Proudfoot	Maclean Public School
Wednesday 28 March	Zanni Louise	Ballina Library Masterclass
Wednesday 4 April	Zanni Louise	Ballina Library Masterclass: final
Thursday 5 April	Rivers Group	Zanni Louise
Thursday 5 April	Sarah Armstrong	Lismore Library Masterclass
Wednesday 11 April	Zanni Louise, Samantha Turnbull, Jesse Blackadder	South Grafton Public afternoon workshops
Wednesday 11 April	Zanni Louise, Samantha Turnbull, Jesse Blackadder	Grafton Plunge - Library morning workshop: Westlawn and Yamba Public
Thursday 12 April	Jesse Blackadder and Zachary Jane	Maclean High School
Thursday 12 April	Zanni Louise and Samantha Turnbull	St James Yamba
Wednesday 2 May	Zanni Louise	Holy Family Primary School
Thursday 3 May	Zanni Louise	Terranora Public School
Thursday 3 May	Jesse Blackadder	Lismore Masterclass
Thursday 3 May	Tristan Bancks	Byron Library Collaborative Book Project
Tuesday 8 May	Jenni Cargill Strong	Fernleigh Public
Wednesday 9 May	Samantha Turnbull	Ballina Library Masterclass
Thursday 10 May	Sib Duff	Byron Library Collaborative Book Project
Monday 14 May	Belinda Murrell and Tony Flowers	Kempsey Library West Kempsey Public School
Tuesday 15 May	Belinda Murrell and Tony Flowers	Crescent Head Public School
Wednesday 16 May	Belinda Murrell and Tony Flowers	Kempsey High School
Thursday 17 May	Belinda Murrell and Tony Flowers	Smithtown Public School
Thursday 17 May	Sarah Armstrong	Lismore Masterclass
Thursday 17 May	Tristan Bancks	Byron Library Collaborative Book Project
Tuesday 22 May	Tristan Bancks	Byron Public School
Wednesday	Tristan Bancks	Evans River K-12
Wednesday	Samantha Turnbull	Ballina Library Masterclass
Thursday 24 May	Tristan Bancks	Jabiru Flexi School
Thursday 24 May	Tristan Bancks	Byron Library Collaborative Book Project
Friday 25 May	Lucas Proudfoot	Tumbulgum Public School
Friday 25 May	Jesse Blackadder	Kadina High School 2/4
Monday 28 May	Zanni Louise	Rivers Primary Schools visit 2/4
Tuesday 29 May	Zanni Louise	Manifold Public School

Wednesday 30 May	Tristan Bancks	Wollongbar Public School
Thursday 31 May	Tristan Bancks	Chatsworth Island Public School
Thursday 31 May	Tristan Bancks	Byron Library Collaborative Book Project
Thursday 31 May	Jesse Blackadder	Lismore Masterclass
Monday 4 June	Sarah Armstrong	Blue Hills Christian College (High School)
Monday, 4 June 2018	Tristan Bancks	Alstonville High School
Wednesday 6 June	Samantha Turnbull	Ballina Library Masterclass
Thursday 7 June	Sib Duff	Byron Library Collaborative Book Project
Tuesday 12 June	Deborah Abela	Author PD day
Wednesday 13 June	Deborah Abela	Ulmurra Public School
Thursday 14 June	Deborah Abela	St Finbarr's Primary School
Thursday 14 June	Tristan Bancks	Byron Library Collaborative Book Project
Thursday 14 June	Jesse Blackadder	Lismore Masterclass
Friday 15 June	Deborah Abela	Lennox Head Public School
Friday 15 June	Lucas Proudfoot	Murwillumbah East Public School
Wednesday 20 June	Samantha Turnbull	Ballina Library Masterclass
Thursday 21 June	Tristan Bancks	Byron Library Collaborative Book Project
Thursday 28 June	Sib Duff	Byron Library Collaborative Book Project
Thursday 28 June	Jesse Blackadder	Lismore Masterclass Launch
Wednesday 4 July	Samantha Turnbull	Ballina Library Masterclass
Thursday 5 July	Tristan	Byron Library Collaborative Book Project
Thursday 26 July	Sarah Armstrong	Lismore Masterclass
Thursday 26 July	Tristan Bancks	Byron Masterclasses
Friday 27 July	Jesse Oliver, Kari Gislason, Sarah Armstrong	Kyogle High
Friday 27 July	Zach Jane, Sarah Armstrong, Ben Hobson, Jesse Oliver & Kari Gislason	Kyogle Library
Saturday 28 July	Zach Jane, Sarah Armstrong, Ben Hobson, Jesse Oliver & Kari Gislason	Alstonville Plateau Bowls and Sports Club
Saturday 28 July	Zach Jane, Sarah Armstrong, Ben Hobson, Jesse Oliver & Kari Gislason	Casino School of Arts
Sunday 29 July	Zach Jane, Sarah Armstrong, Ben Hobson, Jesse Oliver & Kari Gislason	Tenterfield Sir Henry Parkes School of the Arts
Monday 30 July	Zach Jane, Sarah Armstrong, Ben Hobson, Jesse Oliver & Kari Gislason	Bonalbo Central School
Tuesday 31 July	Ben Hobson, Sarah Armstrong, Jesse	Alstonville High School
Tuesday 31 July	Oliver Phommavanh Jessica Roberts & Andrew Hansen	Lismore/Murwillumbah Primary School Days & Woodenbong Public School
Wednesday 1 August	Liane Tanner, Matt Stanton	Byron/Ballina Primary School Days
Thursday 2 August	Tristan Bancks	Byron Masterclasses
Thursday 2 August		Secondary Schools Day
Sunday 5 August	Zanni Louise, Tristan Bancks, Misa Alexander, Samantha Turnbull	Kids Big Day Out
Thursday 9 August	Jesse Blackadder	Lismore Masterclass
Thursday 9 August	Sib Duff	Byron Masterclasses
Thursday 16 August	Tristan Bancks	Byron Masterclass
Friday 17 August	Sarah Armstrong	Blue Hills College
Monday 20 August	Jesse Blackadder	Book Week Lismore South School
Tuesday 21 August	Jesse Blackadder	Book Week Lindisfarne Junior School
Wednesday 22 August	Jesse Blackadder	Book Week Nimbin Central School
Thursday 23 August 2018	Jesse Blackadder	Book Week Byron Public School

Thursday 23 August 2018	Sarah Armstrong	Lismore Masterclass
Thursday 23 August	Sib Duff	Byron Masterclasses
Friday 24 August	Jesse Blackadder	Book Week Kadina High School 3/4
Tuesday 28 August	Zanni Louise	Casino Public School visit 2/4
Wednesday 29 August	Zanni Louise	Ballina Masterclass
Thursday 30 August	Siboney Duff	Byron Masterclasses
Friday 31 August	Samantha Turnbull	St Joseph's Coraki
Monday 3 September	Zanni Louise	Rivers Primary Schools visit 3/4
Tuesday 4 September	Zanni Louise	lismore heights primary
Wednesday 5 September	Zanni Louise	Blakebrook Primary
Wednesday 5 September	Zanni Louise	Ballina Masterclass
Thursday 6 September	Jesse Blackadder	Lismore Masterclass
Thursday 6 September	Tristan Bancks	Byron Masterclasses
Monday 10 September	Jesse Blackadder	Holy Family Primary School
Tuesday 11 September	Samantha Turnbull	Newrybar Public School Book Week celebration
Wednesday 12 September	Zanni Louise	Ballina Masterclass
Thursday 13 September	Siboney Duff	Byron Masterclasses
Thursday 13 September	Misa Illustrator	Kadina focus school group
Thursday 13 September	Jesse Blackadder	Lismore Masterclass
Friday 14 September	Zanni Louise	Casino Public School Focus School visit
Monday 17 September	Zanni Louise	St Ambrose, Pottsville
Tuesday 18 September	Zanni Louise	St Joseph's Murwillumbah
Wednesday 19 Sept	Zanni Louise	St Johns Mullumbimby
Wednesday 19 Sept	Zanni Louise	Ballina Masterclass
Thursday 20 September	Tristan Bancks	Byron Masterclasses
Monday 24 September	Zanni Louise	Rivers Focus Schools visit 4/4
Wed 26 September	Zanni Louise	Ballina Masterclass
Thurs 27 September	Tristan Bancks and Siboney Duff	Byron Masterclasses FINAL
Wednesday 3 October	Tristan Bancks	Holiday Program Bruns Picture House
Saturday 6 October	Zanni Louise and Michelle Dawson	The Quad Playground festival
Monday 15 October	Zanni Louise	Focus School Casino visit 4
Tuesday 16 October	Jesse Blackadder	Final Focus School visit 4/4
Wednesday 17 October	Zanni Louise	Ballina Masterclass
Thursday 18 October	Siboney Duff	St Mary's Casino
Thursday 18 October	Sarah Armstrong	Lismore Masterclass
Tuesday 23 October	Tristan Bancks	Eureka Public School
Wednesday 24 October	Zanni Louise	Ballina Masterclass Launch
Thursday 1 November	Sarah Armstrong	Lismore Masterclass
Thursday 7 November	Sarah Armstrong	Lismore Masterclass
Monday 12 November	Lucas Proudfoot	Our Lady of Help Christian School South Lismore
Tuesday 13 November	Lucas Proudfoot	Evans River K-6 Primary campus
Wednesday 14 November	Lucas Proudfoot	Chatsworth Island Public School
Thursday 15 November	Sarah Armstrong	Lismore Masterclass
Monday 26 November	Lucas Proudfoot	Bogangar Public School
Tuesday 27 November	Tristan Bancks	Mullumbimby
Wednesday 28 November	Tristan Bancks	St Mary's Grafton
Thursday 29 November	Samantha Turnbull	Lismore Masterclass
Saturday 8 December	Tristan Bancks	Friends of the Library day at Heritage House Bangalow
Thursday 13 December	Sarah Armstrong	Lismore Masterclass final: Book launch

The Future

Since its small beginning in 2016, StoryBoard has gone from strength to strength. Each year we've exceeded our targets for the number of schools we've visited, the number of workshops we've run, and the children we have reached.

It's a testament to the achievements of StoryBoard that we've been able to raise funds from Create NSW, Country Arts Support Program NSW, and the Australian Government's Catalyst program to cover most of the costs – with Byron Writers Festival also making a substantial contribution in both cash and kind.

Our priorities for 2019 are to:

Deliver 120 events – 60 one off school visits, 20 focus school visits (5 schools, four visits each), 60 masterclasses, plus ad hoc holiday and festival workshops and mentorships within the budget.

Run two or three regional tours, further extending the reach of StoryBoard west, east, north and south from Byron Bay.

Reach at least 5000 young people across the northern rivers at least once with a high quality creative writing program delivered by a professional author or illustrator, either a large group presentation or a smaller group hands-on creative writing workshop.

Provide rewarding work and volunteer opportunities for our authors, staff and volunteers.

Run the program within its budget, and secure future funding for 2020 and beyond through grants, sponsorship, crowdfunding and/or philanthropy.

We continue our reflections on how to improve StoryBoard, deepen our connection with young people, and better understand the effects of our work. We are also exploring how we can work with teachers and educators to improve their abilities to teach creative writing.

These are exciting times for StoryBoard.



byron
writers
festival



Australian Government

Catalyst—Australian Arts and Culture Fund