



ASLA 2020 Literacy Research Summit

'Capturing research to enable literacy leaders to transform the culture of schools'

Introducing Our Presenters

The Summit will highlight Dr Margaret Merga as our Keynote Speaker and Patron and the latest research into literacy in schools. The Summit will bring together experienced School Library Practitioners, School Leaders and Literary Experts from across Australia.

Keynote Speaker



Dr Margaret Kristin Merga

Literacy Expert, Academic and Senior Lecturer

Edith Cowan University, Western Australia

Patron of the Australian School Library Association

Dr. Margaret Kristin Merga is a Senior Lecturer at Edith Cowan University in Western Australia. Her research explores the social and environmental influences on literacy engagement and acquisition and the position of reading and books in the contemporary world. Her research findings in literacy explore the role that librarians, teachers and parents can play in supporting young people to become life-long readers. She has published a substantial body of peer-reviewed research papers in this area, and she has led a range of mixed-methods research projects exploring these issues in local, national and international contexts. She is the author of two recent (2019) books on reading engagement and libraries, and co-author of a recent book on conducting quantitative research in education.

Keynote Presentation: School libraries enhancing reading engagement and literacy performance

School libraries are essential resources for building student literacy. Students with greater access to school libraries do better in literacy testing, and access to libraries is more strongly related to students' reading engagement than factors such as age and gender. Reading engagement supports students' literacy attainment and has also been related to wellbeing. In this keynote, we explore factors that influence reading engagement, and discuss how librarians can implement and measure the efficacy of literacy-supportive practices in their schools. We explore recent findings about struggling literacy learners beyond the early years, identifying innovative ways that qualified library staff can work with teachers and school leadership to enhance the literacy outcomes for our most vulnerable students. Attending this keynote can support you to promote your school library as integral to the literacy advancement of your school.

School Library Practitioners

Our Literacy Practitioners have been influenced by the research of Dr Margaret Merga and have adopted innovative ideas in their schools to raise literacy levels.



Gabrielle Mace- Head of Library and Information Services
Queenwood School, New South Wales

Building a Reader for Life: A sustained silent reading (SSR) program for K-11

Currently the Head of Library and Information Services at Queenwood School since 2015. Prior to taking the role at Queenwood, Gabrielle worked as Head Librarian at Pittwater House for several years. As the Head of the Queenwood Literacy Committee (QLiteracy) Gabrielle is leading a team focused a number of key literacy initiatives and developing strategies to enhance students reading and literacy engagement across K – 11.



Claire Gibson- Librarian
St. Joseph's College, Victoria

Fostering reading engagement in secondary students

Amid the complexity of information about what would make children and young adults read more, Claire is researching the answer from a communication perspective. Communication has been her life's work, beginning with tertiary studies and progressing through careers as a journalist, communications teacher, communications officer, communications manager, author and librarian. Claire is currently Librarian at St. Joseph's College, Echuca. St. Joseph's is a secondary college of almost 1,000 students Years 7 – 12. In 2017 Claire and English teacher at St. Joseph's, Ms Corinda Grant, devised an innovative reading programme for Years 7-9 called Reading Room. This program is now in its third year. In 2018 Claire began her MEd. (research) under Dr. Margaret Merga through Edith Cowan University, Perth. Claire is researching "Verbal and non-verbal communicative approaches used by Reading Teachers to foster student reading for pleasure in secondary school classes".



Tracey Grice- Teacher Librarian
Tatchilla Lutheran College, South Australia

Collaborate, innovate, educate

As well as working part-time as a Teacher Librarian at Tatchilla Lutheran College, Tracey also works as a university lecturer, tutor and independent literacy consultant. She works with schools, assisting them to develop and implement whole school change in reading practice. For school students and librarians, she hosts author and illustrator events. Tracey also facilitates classroom labsites to assist teachers to develop their craft of teaching reading. Tracey is the creator of the Writers Read Podcast, which helps teachers, librarians and students get THAT book in their hands – the one that launches or broadens their life as a reader.



Brenda Clover
Teacher Librarian
Shenton College, Western Australia

Book Month: A strategy to foster reading engagement

Brenda has worked as a Teacher Librarian for 18 years. Brenda's professional experience has encompassed a range of roles in public and private schools, TAFE, local government and at Edith Cowan University. After completing her Masters in Information Services in 2009, Brenda was awarded 'WA Teacher Librarian of the Year' in 2011. Brenda is currently employed at Shenton College, which is a coeducational year 7-12 government school with over 2700 students. In her current role she caters for different learning needs including students with learning disabilities, those who are gifted, who are EAL/D, and Deaf and Hard of Hearing students. She loves her job as it allows her to continue her passion in assisting students to become lifelong learners, developing their information literacy skills and fostering a love of reading.

School Leaders

Our School Leaders hold key leadership roles and have led strategies in their schools to raise student literacy levels.



Marco Di Cesare- Principal

**Sarah Moss Holland- Learning Environment
and Pedagogy Leader**

Caroline Chisholm Catholic College, Victoria



Our Story: How and why we reinstalled our Library Services & improved our literacy results

Marco is Principal at Caroline Chisholm Catholic College, Braybrook in Melbourne's inner west. Marco took on the role in 2013 and leads a community of 1500 students across three campuses, supported by 180 teaching and support staff that bring students an engaged and supportive learning environment. Prior to taking on the role of Principal, Marco spent 19 years teaching in the Latrobe Valley and held many positions of leadership across many areas of College life. Marco considers himself a coach, mentor, guide, role model and school leader all rolled into one. A life-long-learner, Marco has a Bachelor of Business (Accounting), Graduate Diploma in Education (Sec.), Masters in Educational Policy (International), Executive MBA and is currently completing his Masters in Theology.



**Gareth Scott- Deputy Principal Teaching
and Learning**

Kerry Pope- Head of Library Services

Toongabbie Christian College



Engaging Students in Literacy by Transforming the Library: An exciting, intentional journey!

Gareth is the Deputy Principal Teaching and Learning at Toongabbie Christian College. He has worked in leadership roles in other schools including Head of English, Assistant Deputy Head and also Director of Studies. He has worked in Christian Schools, Anglican, Uniting and in a Jewish school. He is a life-long learner who aims to role model a love of learning to others. He has completed several postgraduate courses, one of which was a research thesis in middle leadership, and a soon to be completed, Master of Labour Law and Relations at The University of Sydney.

Kerry is a nationally certified Highly Accomplished Teacher Librarian with Professional Excellence Accreditation. In mid 2018 she was appointed Head of Library Services at Toongabbie Christian College in Sydney. She is currently Vice President of ASLA and has been an active member of the International Association of School Librarianship (IASL) since 2005. Kerry has presented at local, national and international conferences over many years and has been a Teacher and Teacher Librarian in State, Christian and Independent schools. Kerry is passionate about engaging students in reading and literacy. She is energised by new evidence-based initiatives in teaching and learning and enjoys sharing her knowledge, skills and experiences with colleagues across the world.



Mia Patterson - Deputy Principal

Shez Morris - Teacher Librarian

Highlands Christian College, Queensland



Leading Together: A Collaborative Approach to P-12 Literacy Strategies

Mia is the Deputy Principal of Highlands Christian College in Toowoomba, Queensland. She is experienced in various educational sectors, including state, independent, primary and secondary schools. In October, 2020, Mia was awarded the Queensland School Library Association “School Leader of the Year” award, for demonstrating exemplary and innovative support for the school library, the library staff, collaborative school library programmes, and including the Teacher Librarian in the school leadership team.

The Teacher Librarian at Highlands Christian College is Shez Morris. Shez was previously Teacher Librarian at a state secondary school, before undertaking further study and then taking a position at Highlands Library. After serving the students and staff of Highlands for five years, Shez was recently awarded “QSLA Teacher Librarian of the Year 2020.”



Eleanor Hughes - Principal

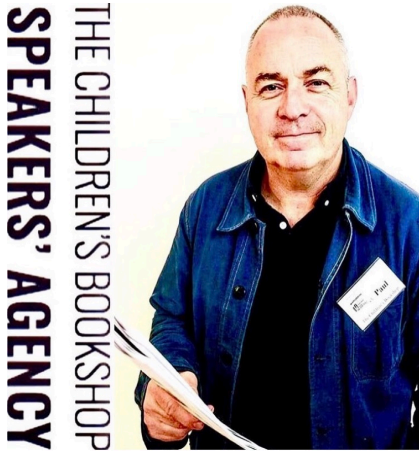
Joseph Banks Secondary College, Western Australia

Building Curious Learners

Eleanor was originally principal at Hampton Senior High School where she worked with the Senior Leadership Team to lead initiatives to raise student achievement across the school. From 2014, Eleanor has been the Foundation Principal for Joseph Banks Secondary College in Banksia Grove Western Australia, where she has established a school that is innovative, provides multiple opportunities for students to succeed and where the foundation has been laid for strong achievement into the future. Using a body of works based on current and contemporary research they have established a school that has at its core, a strong culture of curiosity. Our Discovery Centre (Library) is the hub of learning and literacy.

Our Literary Experts

Our Literary Experts have a wealth of knowledge and experience and will excite delegates about the latest literature for Children and Young Adults, inspired and encouraged by the authors who wrote them.



Paul Macdonald
The Children's Bookshop, Sydney

The Power of Reading

Paul is the owner of The Children's Bookshop (Speakers' Agency) in Sydney, Australia. He has a Master of Education, working almost 20 years as a teacher of Upper Primary and Secondary. He has won numerous awards in teaching such as a Quality Teacher Award and The Premiers English Scholarship. His interests include the development of literacy with a particular interest in reading for gifted children, Boys' Literacy and books for adolescents. Paul won the inaugural Maurice Saxby Award in 2012 for

his contributions to raising the profile of teen fiction. Paul Macdonald also was the winner of the 2016 Lady Cutler award for services to children's literature and literacy in Australia. Paul is a consultant working with numerous schools focusing on building reading cultures and he is currently completing his PhD focusing on Australian Young Adult literature.



Sean Williams
Author / Senior Lecturer
Flinders University, South Australia

Reading, a.k.a. the Subtle art of Learning by Osmosis

Sean is an award-winning, #1 New York Times-bestselling author of forty-nine novels and over one hundred and twenty short stories in numerous genres for adults, young adults and children. As well as his original fiction, he has contributed to shared universes such as Star Wars and Doctor Who, and collaborated most recently with Garth Nix. His 2019 novel Impossible Music was shortlisted for the Ethel Turner Prize for Young People's Literature (NSW Premier's Literary Awards) and listed as a Notable Book by the Children's Book Council of Australia.



Jennifer Jackson
Paper Bird Children's Books & Arts, Fremantle

Time to get amped - New literature in this brave new world

Jennifer is the Director/Follower of Paper Bird, a specialist children's bookshop and literature centre in Walyalup, Fremantle. A powerhouse of stories celebrated through a mind-boggling array of programs, including the Woylie Project for Noongar Aboriginal Storytellers, Paper Bird has established itself in less than 5 years as a leading children's literature hub. Jennifer is also a practicing Child Psychoanalytic Psychotherapist having worked in child mental health services for 20 years prior to opening the bookshop - it's a quirky mix – the bookshop has a clinic and art gallery upstairs, and writers studios behind – a bit like a surround sound system for emotional wellbeing.

Our Summit Literacy Panel

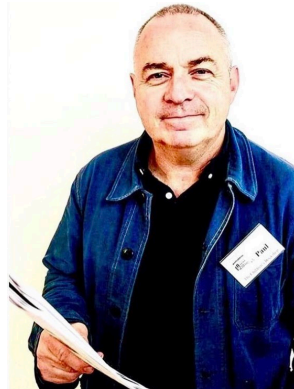
To capture thoughts and ideas that have been discussed throughout the day.



**Dr Kay Oddone – Inspiring Teacher Librarian and Academic
Panel Leader and Final Remarks**



Dr Margaret Merga



Paul Macdonald



Marco Di Cesare

Special Presentation from our GOLD Sponsor



Carolyn Hartley - SCIS Manager