



# FIRST AUSTRALIAN CHILDREN'S LAUREATE SUMMIT 2019

## Feedback Summary

### INTRODUCTION:

This summary of feedback from the inaugural Australian Children's Laureate Summit held on 28 February 2019 isolates goals, strategies and outcomes which, in combination, represent a 'manifesto' to be further advanced by the creation of the 'One Loud Voice' network.

### GOALS & STRATEGIES

#### A. EMBEDDING A READING CULTURE

*'The principles shared by the ILA recently on Children's Rights to Read may provide some theoretical underpinning of these points as well as an established platform on which new ideas could be built (why reinvent the wheel?)'* **Alyson Simpson, University of Sydney, NSW**

#### Jackie French group:

- 1 Mandate that every child has the right of access to a library stocked with the books they need, staffed by professionals, and open at appropriate times; print literature and literacy should be promoted as much as digital literacy.
- 2 Ensure that every school provides the same funds and time for developing literacy as they do for sport or for any other curriculum activity.
- 3 Advocate for public libraries to employ a specialist children's librarian (a campaign which could be promoted by a celebrity).

#### Alison Lester group:

- 1 Recognise the importance of cultural diversity (and hence cultural translations, bilingual books).
- 2 Embed reading across the school – and beyond ... way beyond.
- 3 Model reading by encouraging 'everyone' to read to 'everyone else'.

## **B. HARNESSING THE CREATIVE IMPULSE**

*'Strategies for achieving this are needed. The involvement of those in contact with children from birth through early childhood can achieve this aim. There are organisations in this field and their views are needed.'* **Belle Alderman, NCACL, ACT**

### **Leigh Hobbs group:**

- 1 Role play/dance/movement/drawing/writing/music/oral language/storytelling. They are all part of the creative impulse to engage with drama/play/exploration – and combinations of the above.
- 2 Facilitate creativity via a process of osmosis.
- 3 Celebrate freedom of thought and expression.
- 4 Encourage 'observing'.

### **Boori Monty Pryor group:**

- 1 Involve adults – teachers, community – through story with kids: 'Own the story/Know the story/Share the Story'.
- 2 Acknowledge that play is the job of children: Create the opportunity – time, space, tools, safe environment, in a manner which encourages playfulness.
- 3 Make time for fun and experimentation; recognise the value of everyone's contribution; be respectful of the audience; lose the pressure; work together in a collaborative way.

## **C. CRASHING THE BARRIERS**

*'I would include, as strategy, bringing perceived gatekeepers to become allies – rather than motivate them (that keeps them oppositional).'* **Michael Campbell, West Words, NSW**

### **Ron Gorman group:**

- 1 Put ourselves in the shoes of the people we hope to persuade and influence.
- 2 Use data and research to motivate gatekeepers to make lots of books available to kids.
- 3 Recognise barriers as opportunities.

### **Morris Gleitzman group:**

- 1 Overcome Barriers to literacy amongst children who are marginalised by a) leading busy lives, b) being ignored by social media, c) coming from low

socio/economic environments. Their needs should be met by having books donated to or made available to them.

2 Politicise our combined forces to encourage reading/books.

3 Advertise tangible benefits of reading as statement of belief. How can we encourage parents to value books in their lives? Non-English speakers = cultural context = need to address and engage.

#### **D. ONE LOUD VOICE**

*'The Australian Children's Laureate Foundation is the beating heart of a special community. Its board and workers and supporters, and its past and future laureates, are custodians of a vision shared by many other organisations, but free of the sometimes partisan responsibilities and adult-needs agendas many of these other organisations are tasked with.'* **Morris Gleitzman, Australian Children's Laureate 2018–9**

#### **Professor Robyn Ewing group:**

1 Utilise a collective body – like ACLF – to advance the goal of access to reading via a place on their website to upload all events with all groups represented.

2 Advocate for libraries and reading via political campaigns.

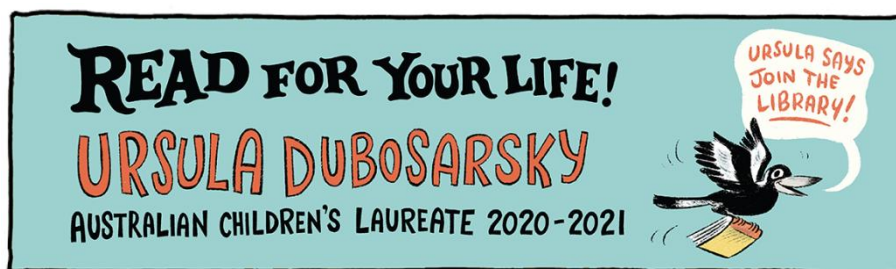
3 Develop a long term plan for the future – perhaps modelled on organisations such as the British Book Trust.

#### **Libby Gleeson group:**

1 Harness prominent people to advocate story through various media to reach our children and young adults.

2 Invite individuals from key organisations to meet once a year and use a portal to combine resources.

3 Form a group of Australian key children's literature organisations to share information and have the group's meeting curated by a different key organisation at each meeting (to share the workload and give it new energy).



## **OUTCOMES:**

### **A. EMBEDDING A READING CULTURE**

- The Laureate (2020–21) has launched a national campaign to support public libraries and to encourage children to join.
- ACLF has continued to forge partnerships with the National Library and with each state library.
- Previous Laureates have ardently supported the campaign for trained teacher-librarians in every school.

### **B. HARNESSING THE CREATIVE IMPULSE**

- ACLF is broaching links with early educational organisations and campaigns such as NSW's First 2000 Days Framework; NFP organisation 1000 Days and the Qld government initiative, First 5 Forever.
- ACLF is tapping into university research into young children's creativity and its links with literacy.
- ACLF is creating creative resources (such as its Laureate Calendars and Activity Sheets), is planning to create more such resources, and to link via its new website to others.

### **C. CRASHING THE BARRIERS**

- ACLF has forged a partnership with Children's Advocates/Commissioners in each state beginning with the children's day held after the Summit 2019 at the Sydney Opera House. ACLF plans to canvas children's responses via this avenue and others.
- ACLF plans to work with researchers to ascertain children's needs more closely.
- ACLF has initiated meetings with federal government representatives to push its agenda.
- ACLF has regularly worked in remote Indigenous communities and with other marginalised groups, but advances still need to be made in developing literacy amongst diverse audiences in geographically diverse settings..

### **D. ONE LOUD VOICE**

- The Second Australian Children's Laureate Summit is being held at Somerset Storyfest 2020.
- The 'One Loud Voice' social media campaign will be launched at the Summit 2020.
- At the end of this Summit we would like to canvas ideas for what participants would like included in a Future Summit.

**REPRESENTATIVES OF ORGANISATIONS AT LAUREATE SUMMIT 2019**

Allen & Unwin  
 Ashfield Public School  
 Association of Independent Schools of Western  
 Australia, AISWA  
 Atlantis Beach Baptist College, WA  
 Australian Children's Laureate Foundation  
 Australian Publishers Association  
 ABC  
 Books Illustrated  
 Australian School Libraries Association [ASLA]  
 Blacktown Library  
 Book Links (Qld) Inc  
 Book Links, CBCA QLD, Ipswich District  
 Teacher-Librarian Network  
 Books in Homes Australia  
 Bunbury Cathedral Grammar School, WA  
 Busy Bookworms  
 Busy Izzy Pty Ltd  
 Camdenville Public School  
 Carey Baptist College, WA  
 CBCA Central Coast Sub Branch  
 Children's Book Council of Australia Northern  
 Sydney Sub Branch  
 Children's Book Council of Australia, NSW  
 Branch  
 Children's Book Council of Australia, Queensland  
 Branch  
 Children's Book Council of Australia, Victorian  
 Branch  
 Flinders Public School, NSW  
 Geraldton Grammar School, WA  
 HarperCollins Publishers Australia  
 IBBY Australia Inc., Australian Children's  
 Laureate Foundation  
 International Board on Books for Young People,  
 IBBY Australia Inc.  
 James Cook Boys High School  
 Kennedy Baptist College, WA  
 Korowal School, NSW  
 Leaning Tree Steiner School, WA  
 Libraries Tasmania  
 LittleScribe

Maitland City Library  
 Melbourne City of Literature  
 Melissa Faulkner Editorial Services  
 Monash University  
 National Centre for Australian Children's  
 Literature Inc.  
 Newcastle City Council  
 Nyngan High School  
 Omnibus Books  
 Paper Bird, Children's Books & Arts Fremantle  
 Parkes Shire Library  
 Penguin Random House Australia  
 Penrhos College, WA  
 Pinerolo, the Children's Book Cottage, CBCA  
 Pioneer Village School, WA  
 Presbyterian Ladies College, WA  
 School Magazine  
 Share Your Story, QLD  
 Society of Children's Book Writers and Illustrators  
 SCBWI [Australia east & New Zealand]  
 Somerset Storyfest  
 St Anthony's Catholic Primary School, Picton  
 St John the Baptist Catholic Primary School  
 State Library of NSW  
 State Library of Victoria  
 Story Box Library  
 Story Factory  
 Story House and Garden  
 Story Links  
 Storylines Children's Literature Charitable Trust  
 of New Zealand  
 Storytelling Unplugged  
 Sydney Writers' Festival  
 The Children's Bookshop, Beecroft  
 The Literary Edit  
 The Montessori School, Kingsley WA  
 University of Sydney  
 Victoria University [Sydney]  
 Walker Books Australia  
 Weekend Australian newspaper  
 Westwords  
 World Literacy Foundation

