

The HU4K Focus

Hands Up Kids
READING VOLUNTEERS



Newsletter 2/2024

Hello and welcome to the second *Focus* newsletter for 2024. A warm welcome to all new volunteers too.

We have had three informative Volunteer Network Events (VNE) already. One in Bunbury on the 15th April, another held in Busselton on the 22nd April, and the third held in Margaret River on the 30th April. All events were well attended by interested volunteers.

The engaging and important topic of “structured literacy” was presented at the VNE’s. Judith Chitty presented for Bunbury, Deputy Principal, Sherina Renton presented for Margaret River and Deputy Principal from Rapids Landing Primary presented for Margaret River.

The *Focus* newsletter is packed with a range of information; summary of articles; jokes; facts and Spotlight On. We hope you enjoy it.

Take-away from the VNE’s

- ♦ Structured literacy is a combination of phonics (sounding out words) and explicit teaching instruction.
- ♦ Support student learning with sounding out words.
- ♦ Ask the student to sound out a word then;
- ♦ Blend the sounds together.
- ♦ If the student is still stuck, say the word and move on.
- ♦ Give the student ownership of their reading by allowing them to hold the book.
- ♦ Show interest in the book the student is reading.



Busselton VNE: Busselton Primary Principal, Jeremy Shepherd (3rd from left) and Deputy Principal, Sherina Renton (3rd from right) and volunteers.

A Wagon of Support

As reported ABC online: an Australian east coast teacher aide has implemented a fantastic program to bring together shy, quiet and isolated children.

While on playground duty in the usual bustling breaks, the assistant noticed over a period of time that the same children, who were quiet and shy sat alone during the playground break.

The teacher aid came up with a fantastic idea, that was supported by the school community. That was to bring out a wagon of games and craft activities to engage and bring together isolated children.

So now each break time the *Wellbeing Wagon* is rolled out. It brings together those children that may not be fitting in socially and allows them to have contact and make friends. The Teacher Aide uses the wagon as a way to talk about feelings and social skills.

https://www.abc.net.au/news/2024-05-25/lonely-schoolchildren-get-help-from-wellbeing-wagon/103874002?utm_campaign=abc_news_web&utm_content=link&utm_medium=content_shared&utm_source=abc_news_web



The person who invented the comma, colon, and full stop punctuation marks was a librarian of Alexandria called Aristophanes. Circa 3rd Century BCE



Focus asked Laurel Eaton our “Spotlight Questions” for this newsletter. Laurel volunteers in the pre-primary at Adam Road Primary School. We thank Laurel very much for joining in the fun and sharing her responses with us.:

How long have you been a HU4K volunteer? **9 years, I think.**

What do you like most about being a volunteer? **It keeps me in touch with young children and their development as readers**

Where did you grow up? **I grew up in Collie.**

What was your favourite childhood book? **I was a child during the 2nd world war So books were an unnecessary expense. The first book I remember having as my own was *Rosemary in Rhymeland*, bought for me by my grandmother.**

What is your favourite comfort food? **A Tim tam.**

What are you reading right now? ***The Godmothers* by Monica McInerney.**

If you were stranded on a desert island, what would you take with you? **A fly swat as well as reading material and a big packet of jelly babies . Timtams would melt.**

Any tips or advice for new HU4K volunteers? **Enjoy the freshness of little children especially if you are placed in pre-primary.I loved it.**

Inspiration Story

A recent article reported in ABC Coffs Coast of an inspirational nine-year-old child who lives with sight impairment. The child has an inflammatory eye disease resulting in seeing shadows in his vision.

The child was deemed to be falling behind in his reading and schoolwork affecting his confidence. Along with medical intervention, a local literacy program who have a group of dedicated volunteers, reached out to the child inviting him to join their group.

He now reads picture books to groups of preschool aged children and it has boosted his confidence enormously.

This is a heartwarming story of a community coming together to support one another. I think the literacy group that reached out to the child sounded a bit like our *Hands Up 4 Kids* group.



Books to your door

The first bookmobile in the world was launched in 1857 in Great Britain. It was a horse-drawn wagon created to “diffuse good literature among the rural population”.

The first bookmobile in Australia was operated by the Heidelberg Library in the City of Melbourne in 1954.

Bookmobiles have a rich history worldwide, serving communities via bicycles, carts, motor vehicles and even animals like donkeys, horses and camels.

LIBRARIES

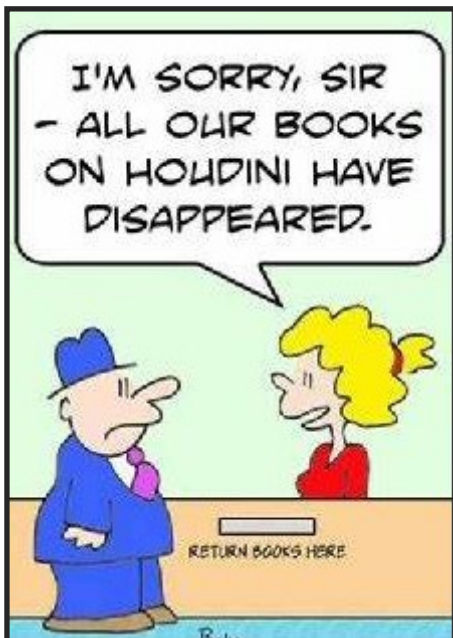
YOU DON'T NEED ANY
MONEY, BECAUSE YOU
AREN'T GOING TO BUY
ANYTHING.

BUT EVERY SINGLE
TIME YOU VISIT, YOU
WILL GO HOME WITH
SOMETHING NEW.



The benefits of school libraries for students:

- ◆ Positive attitudes towards reading and books
- ◆ Helps to spark creativity and foster curiosity.
- ◆ A place of inclusivity regardless of age, ability or cultural background.
- ◆ Refuge from the bigger school environment.
- ◆ Place of comfort and safety.
- ◆ Fosters a sense of belonging.
- ◆ Encourages ‘learner agency’, giving students ability to choose their own reading.
- ◆ Teaches students how to research.
- ◆ Students learn about the digital environment and how to evaluate appropriate material.



Book Theft

The largest theft of books by an individual, as measured by the combined value of the books stolen, was carried out between 1967 and 1978 by Danish academic Frede Møller-Kristensen. He stole books from the Royal Danish Library, where he was Head Librarian in the Oriental Department. Møller-Kristensen was never caught and continued to work at the library until his retirement in 2000. The theft was equivalent of AUD\$55,805,356-00!



The smallest book in the Welsh National Library is 'Old King Cole'. It measures 1mm x 1mm and the pages can only be turned with a needle.



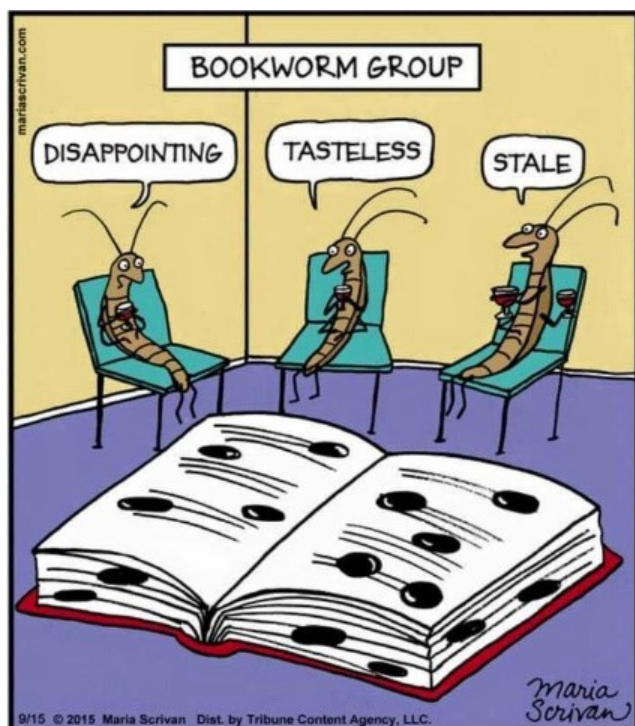
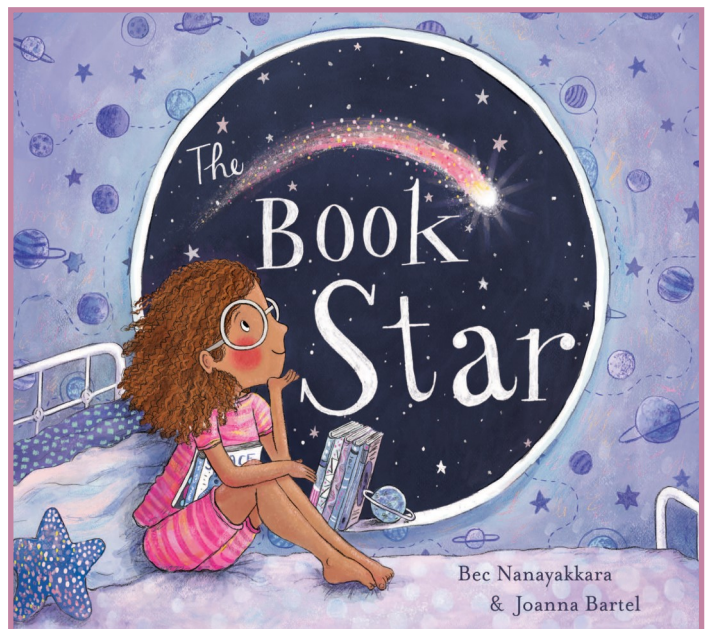
Why does an elephant use her trunk as a bookmark? Then she NOSE where to stopped reading!

NEW BOOK RELEASE

The Book Star by Bec Nanayakkara and Joanna Bartel, published 25th June 2024, Affirm Press.

A stunning story about finding what makes you feel happy and staying true to yourself. *The Book Star* is about Grace who loves books and also outer space. When it comes to Book Week, Grace has wonderful space-themed ideas for the book party. This is a book about staying true to yourself, your ideas and feeling confident in your decisions. An early STEM book with positive connotations for girls. Vivid illustrations by illustrator Joanna Bartel. Perfect for children age 4-8. Available at your favourite book store.

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Astrid Lindgren Memorial Award 2024

The Indigenous Literacy Foundation has won the 2024 Astrid Lindgren Memorial Award, worth five million Swedish kroner (AUD\$710,000). The winner was announced live from Stockholm, Sweden and at the Bologna Children's Book Fair on 9th April, 2024. This is a global award given annually to a person or organisation for their outstanding contribution to children's and young adult literature, and is the largest award of its kind in the world. There were 245 candidates from 68 countries. Winning it is tremendous recognition especially in Australia, a country far from Sweden.

