

Newsletter

June - November 2016

A Maze of Story Inc

Explore . Imagine . Write .

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It has been a very busy year for the A Maze of Story Board, committee members, the art auction sub-committee members, story-weavers and tutors.

Our goal for 2017

Although we didn't achieve this in 2016, as we had desired, we hope to double the number of Creative Writing Workshops conducted in 2017, so that more children are reached.

Sausage sizzle

A Sausage Sizzle was held at Bunnings Morley with the assistance of many willing hands. It was hard work but good fun. A lot of onions were chopped, and \$1,600 was raised.

Volunteer workshop

On the 5th of November, A Maze of Story held another Volunteer Creative Writing Tutor workshop. Fifteen people attended and I am happy to say twelve signed up to be tutors. This brings our list of tutors to sixty four. We have another thirteen waiting to join our February 2017 Workshop. By the end of 2017 we hope to bring our list up to or over a hundred.



Our second AGM

The second AGM for A Maze of Story was held on the 9th November. This year was a business only meeting.

The minutes of the meeting are available to paid members on request, as is the financial report and audit statement

Grants

The Funding & Marketing sub-committee has been busy with grant submissions and we have been successful with one: The Commonwealth Bank. Their Community Grants Program presented us with a \$5,000:00 cheque in July 2016.

The committee will also be submitting grant applications to the City of Perth and City of Vincent in February 2017, and there will be others throughout the year.

Call for volunteers

As always, we again appeal for more volunteers to help us achieve our aim of taking AMoS into more schools in 2017. Please consider signing up or spread the word amongst your friends to help us increase our numbers so that we are able to run twice as many workshops every term.

However, it's not just tutors we need, there are many other opportunities available at not-for-profit organisations like A Maze of Story, such as a Facebook & Twitter contributor, volunteer coordinator.

We are also looking for short articles and essays about the importance of fostering creativity in general and creative writing in particular in our children. If you feel you have something to say about this, or you come across something existing that fits the bill, please email gae@amazeofstory.org.au for possible inclusion on our website.

Program evaluation

The evaluation of A Maze of Story is a work in progress. We have been collecting feedback from the students who participate in the workshops, and have now begun interviewing the school coordinators about their impression and experience of the workshops. This will become a regular part of the feedback process.

We are also planning to develop a short questionnaire for tutors.

All these elements will help to make our program evaluation more robust.

Intern Katie McAllister

During the last semester of 2016 an intern from the McCusker Centre for Citizenship, promoted by the University of Western Australia, joined A Maze of Story.

Our intern, Katie McAllister, a UWA student has worked behind the scenes helping to sort out our program information and automate some of the processes.

This system will make it much easier when writing grant applications.

Katie has also tutored on one of our Creative Writing Workshops.

A Maze of Story thanks Katie for all she has accomplished, and for her interest and support.

A Maze of Story will be applying for second intern to commence an internship with us in 2017.

We look forward to the experience of working again with another dynamic and skilled student.

Art auction

The promised Art Auction was brought into fruition on the 9th October 2017. It was an amazing and awesome afternoon and we thank the many people who made it such a success:

- The art auction sub-committee,
- The artists and private persons who donated artworks,
- The 14 secondary school art students who each chose a story of one of our young writers to illustrate and donate to the auction,
- The Centre for Stories who generously allowed us the use of their facilities for the auction,
- Captain Cook Cruises and Rambla on Swan Restaurant who generously donated prizes,
- Photographer, Abigail Harman for photographing the artworks, and
- Ron Farris for being the MC and Auctioneer.

Thanks also to Peter Collier MLC, Minister for Education who generously gave his time to open the Art Auction, and stayed on longer than he intended.

The Mayor of Vincent, John Carey I am happy to say, joined us and purchased three artworks.

In total, forty-four artworks were donated and all were sold. We raised \$10,500.

Thank you everyone.

2017 fundraising events

The Funding & Marketing Committee has a number of other interesting fund raising events planned for next year. We will share them with you in early 2017.

Thanks to David Broadfoot

A valued Funding & Marketing sub-committee member – David Broadfoot – has retired after two and a half years during which time we held the sausage sizzle and the art auction. Thanks to David for all his hard work.

Seasons greetings

On behalf of the Board, I wish you all a very happy Christmas, relaxed summer holidays and a wonderful New Year. We look forward to your continued support and participation in 2017.

Gae Oaten, Founder and Chairperson.