

Newsletter

August 2017

A Maze of Story Inc

Explore . Imagine . Write .

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Hello everyone. My goodness how 2017 is powering on, but I am happy to say so is A Maze of Story.

Amazing Dinners for an Amazing Bus

Establishing a mobile creative writing hub, an Amazing Story Bus is still our aim, and the Board and Committee members are working hard towards accomplishing this innovative idea. Throughout the rest of the year and 2018 we will be running a-number-of activities and first off the rank is the Amazing Dinner Series.

We will be sending all members an invitation to host a dinner, morning or afternoon tea, cocktail gathering, barbeque etc. If you decide that you would like to host an event, AMoS will provide you with a package containing information about our organisation, a collection of our children's stories and placemats. Our wonderful placemats were designed by an AMoS committee member, Adelheid Stelter. The AMoS Amazing Dinner host will be raising funds for the Amazing Story Bus by asking their guests to donate a requested amount or an open amount of dollars.

The invitation to host an amazing dinner can also be found on our website.

Feedback from tutors:

"Being a Tutor for AMoS is an easy way to give and receive inspiration. What I enjoy most about being a Tutor is sitting with two children and giving them permission to use their curiosity and imagination, free from the fears that they have already acquired within the school system - the fear of not getting "it" right and the fear of spelling or grammatical errors."

"I enjoy the whole experience of being a Tutor, it has added another dimension to my life, and I look forward to hearing about the children's reactions when they are presented with their books."

Volunteer Tutors

Another eight volunteer tutors have joined our team of tutors, bringing the number up to 99. Which sounds a lot but we need many more wonderful volunteers. AMoS is aiming to double, triple our Volunteer Tutor list over the next eighteen months. Committing to a 5-week workshop can prove difficult. Please don't let your busy lives deter you from volunteering. We would be happy to have you waiting on our list and willing to tutor sometime when you are available for 5 consecutive weeks.

If there is anyone out there who would like to become a tutor, or if you know someone who you think would be an excellent tutor, please contact Gae Oaten: gae@amazeofstory.org.au or go to our website: www.amazeofstory.org.au



Membership

Membership fees are due shortly. Anyone who would like to pay their fees or support us by becoming a member can now join via the website, using PayPal.

www.amazeofstory.org.au

2017 Creative writing workshops

Three schools, Southwell, Camboon and Noranda Primary have each completed 5-week workshops in 2017. All 36 children and their Principals were delighted to receive their anthology of 12 stories. Not only do these books go into the respective school libraries, they are also registered at the State library. The children find this information, AWESOME. A Creative Writing Workshop is currently running at Ashfield Primary, and the last workshop for the year will commence at Highgate Primary in 4th term.

Book Week Workshops

Highgate Primary also approached AMoS in July to run six morning Creative Writing Workshops during Book Week for over 200 children, from grades 4, 5 and 6. AMoS was delighted to be invited, and coming up with a format for that many children was an exciting challenge. It took 3 Story-Weavers and 14 Volunteer Tutors to get the workshops off the ground, a big thank you to all. The feedback from teachers and Kelly Trusso, the organising teacher, has been rewarding. A Maze of Story will receive \$5.00 per child from Highgate PS, which will go towards funding the 'Amazing Story Bus'.

Funding & Marketing Committee

AMoS is looking for candidates for our Funding Committee. If you feel you have good organising skills and a creative mind we would love you to join us. Time commitment: The committee meets every 6 or 7 weeks at 6pm, in offices at Mount Pleasant. Some time would be spent on the preliminary setting up of events and those in progress. I Look forward to hearing from interested members.

Office space

I am happy to announce that AMoS now has an office two-days a week, Monday and Tuesday, at Centre for Stories, 100 Aberdeen Street, Northbridge. The Director, Caroline Wood, offered AMoS a very generous contract, which includes an office and the occasional use of Centre for Stories' meeting rooms. Having an office gives me a space to meet with people, and a place to work with our placement student. On behalf of the Board I wish to thank Caroline.

Farewells

Two valued Board Members **Jackie Poolman** and **Cliff Gillam** have retired from the Board. Both Jackie and Cliff have been with us from the inception of A Maze of Story, and I am sad to be losing them.

Jackie Poolman has been a dedicated Board member in her secretarial role and as a creative writing Tutor, she has tutored at 6 schools. We wish her well. Her resignation has come about due to illness.

Not only has Cliff Gillam retired from the AMoS Board he has retired from the Education Department. He will be making Albany his home, and we wish him the very best in his new home and any new enterprise he seeks.

Jackie and Cliff, the A Maze of Story team thanks you both sincerely for all have done and the skills you have brought to the Board.

Placement student

We have acquired a placement student from UWA, Faculty of Arts, Business Law and Education. Cameron Flint is currently studying for a Master of Marketing and will be with us for a year. His contract terminates 7th August 2018. During his time with AMoS, Cameron will be working to improve our website and marketing strategies, assist with the logistics for our planned crowd-funding event, early next year. Currently Cameron is tutoring at the Ashfield PS Creative Writing Workshop. Once the workshop is completed, he will give feedback on his experience. Look out for it on AMoS's face-book, I, for one, will be looking forward to reading his comments.

On behalf of the Board, I thank you for your continued support and participation in our not-for-profit creative writing organisation for children from 8 to 12 years-old.

Gae Oaten, Founder and Chairperson.