AUSTRALIAN CHILDREN'S LAUREATE PROJECT

2014-15

AUSTRALIAN CHILDREN'S LAUREATE PROJECT

Project Background

The Australian Children's Literature Alliance (ACLA) is a national not-for-profit and independent organisation. Its vision is to enrich children's lives through the power of story. It does this through the appointment every two years of a Laureate who is chosen for his/her outstanding contribution to Australian children's literature.

The broad nature of the 'Alliance' means that the Laureate program taps into a vast range of networks nationwide – from public libraries to government and independent schools; from children's book organisations, author and illustrator associations to Australian publishing and bookselling circles; from industry bodies to community-based organisations; and to literary festivals, performing arts companies and arts funding bodies.

The Laureate's message 'reading changes lives' reaches out to all Australians regardless of their location – the rich and poor, the advantaged and disadvantaged, the rural and city-based. It touches adults and children alike, and it reflects and inspires the hopes and aspirations of our nation.

Jackie French accepting her Award as the Second Australian Children's Laureate by Playschool host Rhys Muldoon at the National Library of Australia, Canberra, 27 November 2013.

The Second Laureate

Jackie French is the Australian Children's Laureate for 2014 and 2015, following the inspirational work of Inaugural Laureates Alison Lester and Boori Monty Pryor. Jackie has been awarded this prestigious honour for her outstanding contribution to children's literature. During her two-year appointment she will act as a national and international ambassador for reading.

Jackie's writing career spans 25 years. Her books have been translated into 36 languages and won more than 60 literary and children's choice awards in Australia and overseas. She is an historian, an ecologist and a passionate advocate for children with learning difficulties and the need for trained teacher librarians and learning and support staff in schools. She writes columns for the *Canberra Times*, the Australian *Women's Weekly*, *Earth Garden Magazine*, *Australian Wellbeing* and *Gardening Australia*. Her high profile ensures that she receives up to 10 requests per week for interviews with various media outlets and is invited to attend major events all around Australia.

During her term as Laureate, French has vowed:

- to fight for the right for every child to be guided to the books they need, and the books they love, in schools, in libraries and in a safe place they can call a home.
- to show that a book and a story are the most powerful forces we have. ('A book will save a life. I know because they saved mine').
- to encourage wider support, both in person and financially, of literacy and library projects for young people.
- to have the children's literature industry seen as a vital part of Australia's economy representing 35% of the overall Australian book market or $350 million per year in sales ('not just nice people writing nice books about whiskery wombats and dirty dinosaurs').

And who could be better to champion these causes than Ms French, a self-confessed dyslexic, who had extreme difficulties with spelling, but conversely discovered the joy of reading books in the school library and telling stories to her enthralled class mates.

Jackie French, the Australian Children's Laureate for 2014 - 2015.

The Australian Children's Laureate: enriching the lives of young Australians through the power of story

AUSTRALIAN CHILDREN'S LAUREATE – OUR SUPPORTERS

During the first three years of the position there has been enormous goodwill for ACLA and the Laureate program within the nationwide networks and partnerships that ACLA has built up.

The inaugural Laureates' program with Alison Lester and Boori Monty Pryor reached an estimated 18,000 children and their families, and spent 86 days on the road visiting over 100 locations working with a broad range of touring partners.

Jackie has fully embraced her role as the Second Laureate already having touched the lives of 20,000 children and families, at over 70 festivals and events during her first year as Laureate. She has also engaged in extensive media exposure to expand the reach of the Laureate program and message to an even wider audience. Particularly through her project 'Share a Story' with the message that there is a 'magic book' for every child. The 'Share a Story' calendar will be launched in January 2015.

In 2014 ACLA was also successful in securing ROCCO (Register of Cultural Organisations) status making the organisation eligible for tax deductible donations.

Jackie French giving a powerful acceptance speech at the National Gallery of Australia, 27 November.

Major Funding Bodies 2014/2015

Australian Government | Australia Council for the Arts | Copyright Agency Cultural Fund | Bolinda audio | Borrow Box | The Literature Centre | AISWA Association of Independent Schools of Western Australia (Inc)

The Laureate Support Team

Patron Noni Hazlehurst

EXECUTIVE BOARD

ACLA's executive board represents leaders in Australian children's publishing; publishers, academics, creators, State Librarians and education experts.

- Ron Gorman (WA) ACLA Chair, Association of Independent Schools of WA (AISWA)
- Michael Budnow (VIC), ACLA Treasurer, Financial Analyst
- Robyn Sheahan-Bright (QLD), ACLA deputy Chair/ Secretary, Justified Text Writing and Publishing Consultancy services
- Ann James (VIC), ACLA Creative Director and Founding member, Australian Society of Authors / Books Illustrated
- Laurine Croasdale (NSW) Australian Society of Authors, Literature Live
- Kim Kane (VIC), Children's Book Author and strategist
- Briony Lewis (VIC) Commercial Lawyer, Penguin/Random House Australia

STATE SUB-COMMITTEES

In 2013-2104, to support the executive board, ACLA has successfully adapted the model of the SA ACLA Planning Committee to develop parallel support teams in ACT, QLD, TAS, WA, and VIC (see organisational chart). These are based on the strength and success of the ACLA program established in SA with its dynamic and innovative partnerships. The Board draws upon the skills and expertise of these experienced committee members for advice on fundings, events and partnerships to best suit each individual Laureate program.

New members of the committees are recruited through the alliances established with arts organisations and festival/event co-ordinators nationally. Members for the VIC committee are selected on a 'demand for skill sets' to support the project management team. Through successful tours to Alice Springs in 2013 and Darwin in 2014 we are in the process of establishing a committee in NT.

PROJECT MANAGEMENT

For the past three years the administration of the Laureate project has been ably managed by Project Manager Justine Alltimes. In February 2013 ACLA extended the working hours of the Project Officer from two days to three days and business consultant, Geri Barr, joined ACLA's team as co-Project Manager. Both are working one day each on a paid basis and one day between them on a voluntary basis until further funding is secured, with the ultimate goal being a five days a week paid position to expand and develop the program's reach.

CONSULTANTS

During 2014 ACLA engaged business consultant, John Morrison, from Victoria to provide services in relation to developing the organisation's vision and long term strategies and goals.

2014/2015 FUNDING BODIES

The following generous funding bodies have enabled the 2014-15 Laureate to bring thousands of children into the circle of story: the Australia Council for the Arts; Bolinda Audio/Borrow Box; Copyright Agency Cultural Fund; the Australian Society of Authors, the Association of Independent Schools of Western Australia, the Children's Book Council of Australia National Conference, the ALEA Conference and The Literature Centre.

2014/2015 IN-KIND SUPPORT

In-kind support is given by volunteer board members, Books Illustrated, the Children's Book Council of Australia, the Children's Publishing Committee of the Australian Publishers' Association, The National Library of Australia and HarperCollins Australia. Many local groups and organisations have also partnered with ACLA all over Australia to coordinate the touring program.

PROJECT AIMS

The aim of the Children's Laureate Project is to create a better Australia through increasing literacy for young people, the disadvantaged and Indigenous communities. Children Australia-wide are participating in a wide variety of events, functions and workshops and online projects directly aimed at developing reading and literacy skills, enhancing a love of literature and establishing the worth and importance of becoming a writer or illustrator.

The Laureate also acts as an advocate for those working in the children's book industry and education system, promoting and thanking the creators, teacher-librarians, teachers and publishers who work tirelessly to support children in their development as readers.

2014 PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

Public Events — Touring Program

To date, Jackie French has spent 50 days touring the country from Sydney to the Snowy Mountains (NSW), from Castlemaine/Loddon Prison (VIC), to Darwin (NT), participating in public events aimed at children and families particularly those who are not already committed to reading, and with an emphasis on regional and remote communities. Jackie has also participated in industry conferences, literature festivals and an international tour to New Zealand.

HIGHLIGHTS

In March, Jackie participated in **the Better Beginnings Program** at the State Library of WA followed by a key note speech at **All Saints Storylines Festival,** involving students from thirteen different schools around Perth.

In early May, Jackie visited eight schools surrounding Adelaide in partnership with **Literary Australia** reaching over 4000 kids with her message to find 'the magic book'.

Jackie was the Guest Speaker at the **CBCA National Conference** Dinner held in the atmospheric Australian War Memorial in May with a captivated audience for her **'It's Just a Story'** speech. Her talk was followed by a performance of Morris Gleitzman's *Loyal Creature* stage adaptation. Following the conference, Jackie invited 70 teacher-librarians to visit her home in the Araluen valley, a deep valley on the edge of the Deua wilderness area, where she revealed the inspirations behind many of her stories.

In July, as part of the **Anticipating new territories: building strong minds, places and futures ALEA conference** in Darwin, Jackie gave a key note speech and joint presentation with former Laureate Alison Lester exploring the role of an ambassador for reading. The tour included public family-focused events at the local bookshop and Northern Territory Library as well as a moving visit to the Bladin Alternative Place of Detention (APOD) with thirty detained children.

Public Events — Major Book Events

HIGHLIGHTS

In May 2014, Jackie was a panel speaker at the **Sydney Writers Festival** event 'Stranger than Fiction? Historical Memory and the Past' presented by the History Council of NSW.

Jackie participated in **The Bendigo Writers Festival August 2014** where, in conversation with Children's Literature expert Sarah Mayor Cox, she spoke to an audience of over 500 kids about her career as a children's author, campaigner and now the second Australian Children's Laureate.

In August 2014 Jackie rocked **Shakespeare All Over** at the **Melbourne Writers Festival** with Tony Thompson, Jenny Lovell and Amelia Bishop as Juliet. A large crowd also turned out for her event with Nicolas Brasch at the Museum of Australian Democracy at Eureka (M.A.D.E), Ballarat.

Jackie French with 'Shakespeare All Over' panellists. Tony Thompson, Jenny Lovell and Amelia Bishop as Juliet (MWF). Tuesday 26 August.

Meet with VIPs and attend special one-off events

HIGHLIGHTS

Jackie was a guest of honour at the WORD Christchurch Writers and Readers Festival, and Storylines Festival Auckland.

Since early 2013 ACLA has been in correspondence with New Zealand's children's book industry highlighting the benefits of starting their own Laureate Award. During her trip Jackie was able to exchange knowledge by offering first hand experience of the power of the Laureate position as well as learn from Storyline's inspiring festival program. On the Laureate blog she writes:

"Storylines is magnificent. [It's] full of the glory of story writers, story tellers, story singers, story dancers right across NZ sharing their brilliance with kiwi kids. And the kids are sharing their stories too." - Jackie French, Laureate blog.

"NZ needs a Children's Laureate to thank all the extraordinary people doing so much for NZ kids! @WORDChCh @StorylinesNZ" - Jackie French on Twitter.

Alison Winter, Teacher Librarian, St Peter's Boys School, SA:
[Jackie] captivated the boys right from the outset, asking them who could speak in Wombat? This set the scene for a memorable presentation, which kept the boys entertained, engaged and challenged…

Jane Jolley, SA author and Teacher Librarian:
It was an absolute privilege to spend time with Jackie and experience her warm heartedness and generosity in opening up her home and garden to us. She is an inspiration and a worthy Australian Children's Laureate 2014-2015.

Jackie French: in response to her visit to the Snowy Mountain Writers Festival:
Once again I am moved almost beyond words by how much work and dedication is given so freely and with so much love to create these events.

A full list of the 2014 Touring Program is available from: office.acla@gmail.com on request.

AUSTRALIAN CHILDREN'S LAUREATE REGIONAL AND REMOTE TOURING

Feedback from Laureate events shows the impact of activities outside of the major cities has enormous potential. We see the bush telegraph in action, with new and prospective partners sharing their excitement about Laureate activities across Australia. **Working with multiple partners for each tour has proven highly successful in building strong regional networks; with organisations staying engaged in the Laureate program beyond their own event and requesting former Laureates for participation in future events.**

In her first year as Laureate Jackie has participated in 40 regional and remote events across nearly all states, from the Snowy Mountains Writers Festival, Jindabyne in NSW; Mantle Conference Newcastle, NSW; a Regional Schools tour in QLD, to many online events in partnership with literary festival programs and our Video Conference partner Electroboard.

Jackie with visitors at the Snowy Mountains Writers Festival , 19 April 2014

Regional and Remote Events

HIGHLIGHTS - LODDON PRISON, CASTLEMAINE

A high impact regional event from Jackie's touring program was her visit to **Loddon prison, Castlemaine, 7 August**. This event was organised as an outreach program by Castlemaine Children's Literature Festival to engage fathers in reading with their kids. Laureate Project Manger, Geri Barr, writes about her experience of accompanying Jackie:

Jackie spoke about her father and how she deals with dyslexia to the 14 men who came to listen. While chatting around the tea urn after Jackie's talk, one of the men returned with a friend who had not attended the talk. He was introduced as having dyslexia, which launched a very interesting discussion between Jackie and the man: 'I can't read or write, I can't even spell my daughters name.' 'That's ok', said Jackie, 'just draw the first letter and use that'. 'But I can't sit with her and read to her.' 'That's ok,' said Jackie, 'can she read?' 'Yes', said the man. 'Then have her read to you,' replied Jackie. 'But I can't sit still long enough for her to do that, I have to move around.' 'Ah!' said Jackie, 'You're a "kinesthetic learner", that's fine, just move around while you listen to the story and explain to your daughter this is the best way for dad to listen.'

The man's face, at each reply from Jackie, slowly changed from desolate to hope. It's these stories that urge us all to share the power of story.

Photos at the end of the visit, show Jackie turning her back in solidarity with the men, if they couldn't show their faces in the photo, neither would she!

HIGHLIGHTS - SUCCESSFUL PARTNERSHIPS

Another successful partnership developed in 2014 was between ACLA and Woodend Regional Library. After a meeting at the CBCA National Conference we instigated a regional library pilot program. Woodend Library, Goldfields, would trial setting up Children's Laureate displays and reading areas at town festivals to inspire and connect with local families who have an strong relationship with the library.

Lulu Cockram, Woodend Library Manager, created a Laureate themed reading area with: a Laureate banner; posters; information panels; inspiring quotes and a display of books by Australian and International Laureates. Lulu and other library staff acting as Laureate ambassadors using the reading area to engage families with our vision: reading changes lives!

Regional and Remote Touring Program 2015

- South Australian regional tour with Mount Gambier Library;
- Byron Bay Writers Festival and regional public events;
- 'Everyone Can Read' - regional Tasmanian Tour, with possible the Museum of Old and New Art (MONA);
- CARE Schools regional tour in Western Australia in partnership with the Association of Independent Schools of WA (AISWA).

'Stories tell us who we are. They teach us empathy so we understand who others are. They give us the power to imagine and create the future.' - Jackie French

Public Campaign

The current and former Laureates work to share their enthusiasm and publicly campaign to inspire children and young adults to become avid readers.

The advantage of having a single Laureate for the second term is that it will allow the general public to focus on the role of the Laureate, which in turn will help to raise the profile and the value of the Laureate's contribution to Australian children's literature in our society.

A special **Laureate promotional kit** is sent out to every venue that holds a Laureate event or promotion across Australia.The official Laureate banner is also positioned behind Jackie at all events to increase brand awareness and recognition of our major funders.

ACLA sends out 8 **Newsletters** per year to **over 1500 Laureate supporters** showcasing: projects, recent tour highlights and upcoming events. Jackie is dedicated to keeping the **Laureate blog** and **twitter** up-to-date, with regular posts and feedback from events as well as celebrating industry awards and news.

Jackie is also very interested in exploring the potential of **short films and video conferencing** and our *YouTube* channel has proven particularly popular, reflecting a medium that young people respond to immediately.

Advocacy - Share a Story

Jackie's project for her two-year term as Australian Children's Laureate is 'Share a Story'. As well as encouraging children to find their 'magic book' we will launch her 'Share a Story' calendar in 2015.

'There are a million ways to share a story,' Jackie says. 'To read to a child on your lap; to have a child read to you while you cook dinner; to read to the dog when it has to go to the vet to calm it (or you!) down; to join a storytelling session at your library. You can also tell your grandchildren what life was like when you were young over the phone or Skype or read to thousands of people via video conferencing."

ACLA has created a **Share a Story wikispace** with information about ways to get involved for families, libraries and schools: **shareastoryproject.wikispace.**

In 2015 Jackie will launch her **Share a Story Calendar** with a new way to share a story being revealed on the blog each month to tie in with Jackie's touring program. The themes will include:

Jan: Slurp a Story; **Feb**: Hunt a Story; **Mar**: Navigate a Story; **April**: History is a Story; **May**: Read the World a Story; **June**: Hear/See/Feel a Story; **July**: Grow a Story **Aug**: Celebrate a Story; **Sept**: Swap a Story; **Oct**: Draw a Story; **Nov**: Sing/Rhyme a Story; **Dec**: Give a Story.

PR and Media

The Laureate Award and the touring program have received substantial and diverse media coverage nationwide since the launch in December 2011. With Jackie's long-standing relationship with the media she has published 100 articles, 52 blog posts, since her appointment.

In 2014-15 publicist, Amanda Diaz, from **HarperCollins Australia** supports the Laureate team to distribute media releases via their broader media channels.

A focus of our ongoing media is to engender discussion around the importance of reading, books and creativity in the lives of children, with a targeted campaign in regional and remote areas. ACLA looks to establish an official relationship with regional ABC Radio for the 2015 touring program.

Substantial **international media** coverage was achieved as a result of Jackie's Laureate tour in New Zealand including two TV interviews and numerous print articles and radio coverage.

http://www.childrenslaureate.org.au/

Website and Social Media

Developed and managed by ACLA, the Children's Laureate website is directed particularly at children; it promotes and reflects the Laureates' activities and projects, and celebrates reading and books. An up-to-date and inspirational experience for visitors, it's proving popular: an introductory film made about Jackie as Laureate has been viewed over 1000 times and shared widely.

With links to all major media coverage, our dedicated YouTube, Twitter, Pinterest and Facebook pages, we are greatly extending the Laureates' reach and audience – spaces where the Laureates can 'meet' children they can't visit in person. We have found Twitter to be an excellent platform to engage with national and international industry professionals and Facebook invaluable for building a community of creators and teacher-librarian supporters.

Jackie French on 3News, New Zealand, Friday 29 August

Many of Jackie's Laureate talks are being shared online including her Colin Simpson Memorial Lecture for the ASA annual meeting, Saturday 24 May 2014.

I am #Dyslexic, and dyslexic does NOT mean dumb! – Jackie French, accepting the @Ozlaureate award, 27 Nov '13.

This Dyslexia tweet from Jackie's announcement at the National Library ranked 7th most popular Australian Government tweet of the day – local, state and federal.

AUSTRALIAN CHILDREN'S LAUREATE – BUILDING ALLIANCES

MAJOR EVENT PARTNERS OVER ACLA'S FIRST THREE YEARS

Arts Organisations
Auslit: the Australian Literature Resource (QLD)
Australian Library and Information Association (ALIA)
Australian Literacy Educators' Association (ALEA)
Australian Society of Independent Schools (WA)
Australian War Memorial (ACT)
Big Draw Campaign (QLD)
Blacktown Arts Centre (NSW)
Books Illustrated (VIC)
Carclew Youth Arts Centre (SA)
Children's Literature Camp (QLD)
Deakin University (VIC)
Gladstone Art Gallery (QLD)
Indigeneous Literacy Foundation (ACT)
La Trobe University (VIC)
The Literature Centre (WA)
M.A.D.E (VIC)
Museum of Contemporary Art (NSW)
Museum of Old and New Art, MONA (TAS)
National Bookshop Day (VIC)
National Library of Australia (ACT)
National Simultaneous Storytime (ACT)
National Year of Reading (National)
NSW Local Government Aboriginal Network Conference (NSW)
Queensland Museum (QLD)
Royal Children's Hospital (VIC)
School Libraries Association of SA (SA)
School of Isolated and Distance Education (WA)
Taronga Zoo (QLD)
The Butter Factory (NSW)
The Light Factory – Gallery (VIC)
The Wilderness Society (TAS)
Townsville Museum (QLD)

City Festivals
Adelaide Writers Festival (SA)
All Saints Storylines Festival (WA)
Brisbane Writers Festival (QLD)
Children's Book Festival (VIC)
Melbourne Writers Festival (VIC)
Perth Writers Festival (WA)
Sydney Writers Festivals (NSW)

Regional Festivals
The Big Sky Festival (WA)
Come Out Festival (SA)
Communities for Children Festival (TAS)
From Reef to Rigger Festival - Curtis Coast Literary Carnivale (QLD)
Garma Festival (NT)
Ipswich Festival (QLD)
Mantle Conference (NSW)
Seachange Festival (VIC)
The Snowy Mountains Readers and Writers Festival (NSW)
Voices on the Coast (QLD)
Whitsunday Voices Youth Literature Festival (QLD) Conferences

Conferences
AATE and ALEA conference: Anticipating new Territories (NT)
AATE and ALEA conference: Brave New World (QLD)
Australasian Children's Literature Association for Research Conference, ACLAR (VIC)
Blackwords Symposium (NSW)
CBCA National Conference 2014 (ACT)
Colin Simpson Memorial Lecture (VIC)
EYES conference, Perth (WA)
NSW School Library Association Conference (NSW)
School Library Association Queensland Conference (QLD)

City Libraries
Better Beginnings
State Library of Victoria
City Library (VIC)
State Library of NSW
State Library of SA
State Library of WA

Regional Libraries
Alice Springs Public Library (NT)
Croydon Library (QLD)
Geelong Regional Libraries (VIC)
Glebe Library (NSW)
Gosford City Library (NSW)
Inverloch Library (VIC)
Kingston Library (TAS)
Midland Library (WA)
Mildura Regional Library (VIC)
Newcastle Region Library (NSW)
Normanton Library (QLD)
Woden Library (ACT)
Woodend Library (VIC)

Remote Schools
Academy of Sport, Health and Education – ASHE (VIC)
Boorolloola (NT)
Bruny Island District School (TAS)
Bunbury Senior School (WA)
Kulkarriya Community School (WA)
Mooroopna Secondary College (VIC)
Mornington Island State School (QLD)
Parkfield Primary School (WA)
Port Hedland and Newman (WA)
Rawa School, Pilbara Region (WA)
St. Therese's Primary (TAS)
Tjitjiku Inma Project (SA)
Yakanarra School, Kimberly Region (WA)
Windermere Primary School (TAS)

International Events and Partners
Beijing Australian Writers' Week (Beijing)
Bologna Children's Book Fair (Italy)
Children's Book Ireland, Dublin (Ireland)
Nami Island (South Korea)
National Library of Ireland, Dublin (Ireland)
Storylines Festival, Auckland (New Zealand)
The Crescent Arts Centre, Belfast (Ireland)
Verbal Arts Centre, Derry (Ireland)
WORD Christchurch Writers and Readers Festival (New Zealand)

INTERNATIONAL IMPACT

'The post of Children's Laureate has proved invaluable as both a rallying point and a departure point. That's to say, it focuses thoughts about why literature matters for young people, and stimulates all manner of ways in which to prove this value. It deserves to be defended – and promoted – at all costs.' Andrew Motion (former Poet Laureate, UK)

The Laureate's connection with international counterparts is very exciting too; it demonstrates the global reach of the campaign; the general atmosphere and feeling at Bologna International Children's Book Fair in 2013 at the inaugural Laureate Summit offered ample evidence of this.

While the Australian Children's Laureate program is in its infancy, it is expected and hoped that over years the program each Laureate engages in will prove to have considerable cultural impact and influence on literacy and children's publishing.

More mature programs such as that in the UK have not only engaged thousands of children and adults with the joy of books, but have led to the development of a House of Illustration, raised the profile of public libraries, provided reference resources such as Dame Jacqueline Wilson's *Great Book to Read Aloud* (over 46,000 copies sold), launched a new book prize – the Roald Dahl Funny Prize – and raised money for children's charities.

UK statistics indicate that after the Laureateship of Anne Fine, public library loans of children's books increased from 24% to 28%. The 'discovery' of Michael Mopurgo's book *War Horse* during the term of his Laureateship generated countless jobs and profits in the theatrical and film sectors. Indeed, the UK newspaper The Independent commented:

'The position [of Children's Laureate] has become an indispensable part of British publishing. Want a spokesman on the Today programme …? Call the Children's Laureate. Need a voice to question the government's literacy drive when this seems to be at the expense of reading for pleasure? Look no further. The Children's Laureate is alive, kicking and here to stay'.

Jackie French will attend the second International Children's Laureate Summit in 2015.

Boori performing as a special guest at the Allen & Unwin 25th Anniversary Dinner, 2013

Capital Library, Beijing, hosts of the 'Hello! from Australia' exhibition (Alison's art in the background).

Alison and workshop attendees holding up their This is My Place postcards at Crescent Arts Centre, Belfast.

Bologna and the Irish Tour

In 2013 the Inaugural Laureates, Alison Lester and Boori Monty Pryor, were part of the first International Laureate Summit at Bologna Book Fair. Jackie French will attend the second Summit in 2015 with the support of the Australia Council for the Arts Literature Board.

After the first Summit the Laureates headed to Ireland in early April, courtesy of the **Northern Ireland Arts Council** and C**hildren's Books Ireland.**

The tour launch was celebrated at the **Crescent Arts Centre**, Belfast, passionately opened by Roisin McDonough, Chief Executive of the Arts Council Northern Ireland, followed by Junior Minister Jonathan Bell. Kids and families enjoyed an afternoon of creative Easter Monday story-themed workshops with the Australian Laureates.

Next stop Derry. After an early morning BBC radio interview they headed to the **Verbal Arts Centre**, Derry, for a Q&A with Irish TV celebrity host, **Joe Mahon**. Photographs from their tours across Australia including examples of kids' artwork left the audience in awe. Alison's Rodeo book projects in Borroloola were a particular surprise - most of the audience had no idea that rodeo existed in Australia.

Then Children's Books Ireland organised a *Laureates In Conversation* at the **National Library of Ireland, Dublin**. We heard about Niamh Sharkey's Monster Doodles with Kids, and how her hometown of Skerries made it a year of illustration, providing free studio space and artist residencies.

Damian Smyth, Head of Literature & Drama, Arts Council of Northern Ireland:
'Everyone they met was bowled over by the charisma of your Laureates and how they do so well at everything that was promised by Laureateship.'

OVERVIEW, 2014 TOURING PROGRAM EVENTS

= Regional and Remote touring

EVENT TYPE	EVENT TITLE	DATE	AUDIENCE	STATE	LAUREATE
Video Conferencing	Writing History with Jackie French - via Electroboard	27 Feb14	100	NSW	Jackie French
Video Conferencing	Sharing Stories with OzLaureate Jackie French - via Electroboard	27 Feb14	75	NSW	Jackie French
Special event	Jackie French at the 50th Anniversary of the School Library Association	1-2 Mar 14	200	NSW	Jackie French
Literature Festival	Children's Book Festival at the Wheeler Centre Melbourne	23 Mar 14	Est. 15,000	VIC	Jackie French
Special event	Better Beginnings Program at the State Library of Western Australia	25 Mar 14	300+	WA	Jackie French
Literature Festival	All Saints Storylines Festival - Key Note Speech	26 Mar-14	400	WA	Jackie French
Theatre/Performance	Pete the Sheep opening: at the lend Lease Theatre Darling Harbour	29–Mar 14	400	NSW	Jackie French
Regional Literature Festival	Snowy Mountains Readers and Writers Festival - Jindabyne	19 April 14	600+	NSW	Jackie French
Industry Conference	Jackie French at SLASA (School Librarians Association of SA)	6 May 14	200	SA	Jackie French
Regional/remote school or library visit/talk/workshop	Adelaide Schools Tour	6-8 May 14	600+	SA	Jackie French
Regional Industry Conference	Mantle Conference, Newcastle: "School Libraries: Engaging The Nation"	09 May 14	150	NSW	Jackie French
Industry Conference	National Conference CBCA, National Treasures: Key Note Speech	16-18 May 14	400+	ACT	Jackie French
Regional Special Event	National Conference CBCA - Jackie French Open House	19 May 14	70+	ACT	Jackie French
City school or library Event	National Simultaneous Storytime	21 May 14	154	ACT	Jackie French
Awards Ceremony	SWF - Stranger than Fiction? Historical Memory and the Past, Panel	23 May 14	180	NSW	Jackie French
Special event	ASA Colin Simpson Memorial lecture	24 May 14	100	VIC	Jackie French

A full list of the 2014 Touring Program is available from: office.acla@gmail.com on request.

EVENT TYPE	EVENT TITLE	DATE	AUDIENCE	STATE	LAUREATE
Video Conferencing	ALIA Public Library Alliance - Public Library Leaders Online Forum	May 14	10	NSW	Jackie French
Regional/remote school or library visit/talk/workshop	CBCA QLD Regional Tour: Hervey Bay/Maryborough/Bundaberg	18-20 June 14	600+	QLD	Jackie French
Industry Conference	Australasian Children's Literature Association for Research (ACLAR) Conference: Key Note Speech	30 June 14	120	VIC	Jackie French
Regional Town Hall/Library event	Geelong West Town Hall: Jackie French on 'How to talk wombat'	1 July 14	300	VIC	Jackie French
Regional/remote school or library visit/talk/workshop	Visit to Girraween Primary School	9 July 14	70	NT	Jackie French
Regional Event	Visit to Bladin: Alternative Place of Detention (APOD) (Melaleuca Refugee Centre)	9 July 14	30	NT	Jackie French
Regional Literature Conference	ALEA Conference: aNTicipating new territories: building strong minds, places and futures	9-11 July 14	600	NT	Jackie French
Regional/remote school or library visit/talk/workshop	Northern Territory Library: Meet the Laureate Jackie French	11 July 14	53	NT	Jackie French
Regional Writers' Workshop	Northern Territory Writers' Centre: Jackie French Writers' Workshop	12 July 14	8	NT	Jackie French
Special Event	Laureates In Conversation: Jackie French and Alison Lester	17 July 14	80	NSW	Jackie French and Alison Lester
Regional Library Event	Laureate Reading Area at Woodend Festival	27 July 14	TBC	VIC	Jackie French
Regional Special Event	Visit to Loddon Prison/Castlemaine Literature Festival	7 Aug 14	20	VIC	Jackie French
Regional Literature Festival	Bendigo Writers Festival - Key Note Address	8-10 Aug 14	1000	VIC	Jackie French
Special Event	Lunch with winner of the 2013 'Laureate Celebration' Silent Auction	23 Aug 14	1	VIC	Jackie French
Special Regional Event	Melbourne Writers Festival: M.A.D.E: Australian Stories with Jackie French	24 Aug 14	TBC	VIC	Jackie French

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EVENT TYPE	EVENT TITLE	DATE	AUDIENCE	STATE	LAUREATE
International Literature Festival	WORD Christchurch Writers Festival: Australian Children's Laureate Jackie French	30 Aug 14	TBC	New Zealand	Jackie French
International Literature Festival	Storylines Festival, Auckland: Seminar Series	30 Aug 14	TBC	New Zealand	Jackie French
International Literature Festival	Storylines Festival, Auckland: Family Day	31 Aug 14	TBC	New Zealand	Jackie French
Literature Festival	Brisbane Writers Festival: Dancing with Dinosaurs and Wombats	3-5 Sept 14	TBC	QLD	Jackie French
Industry Conference	School Library Association of Victoria: Laureate video presentation on "Strength through Community - collegiality, diversity, vision."	21 Nov 14	TBC	VIC (VC)	Jackie French
Regional/remote school tour	The Literature Centre Tour: schools visits (mining towns) Pilbara	15-24 Nov 14	600+	WA	Jackie French
Special Event	Family Day for the Fremantle Literature Centre	23 Nov 14	TBC	WA	Jackie French

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OVERVIEW, JACKIE FRENCH 2015- PROGRAM OF EVENTS

= Regional and Remote touring

EVENT TYPE	EVENT TITLE	DATE	AUDIENCE	STATE	LAUREATE
Special event	Australian of the Year Awards - Jackie French Senior Australian of the Year	25 Jan15	Nation-wide	ACT	Jackie French
Laureate project	Share a Story Calendar 2015 Launched: February 'Hunt a Story'	2 Feb15	Online (5000+)	National	Jackie French
Media event	International Book Giving Day (Jackie French and ACLA via media)	14 Feb 15	Online	National	Jackie French
Laureate project	Share a Story Calendar Newsletter: March 'Navigate a Story'	2 March 15	Online (2000 +)	National	Jackie French
Media event	World Book Day (Jackie French and ACLA via media)	5 Mar 15	Online	National	Jackie French
International	Bologna Book Fair Private Laureate Conference	29 Mar 15	est. 30	Italy	Jackie French
International	Bologna Book Fair Private Laureate Conference for countries looking to start a Laureate program	30 Mar 15	est. 40	Italy	Jackie French
International	Bologna Book Fair International Laureate Summit - public event	31 Mar 15	800	Italy	Jackie French
International	Jackie French Presentation at the Australia Stand Party, Bologna Book Fair	1 April 15	200	Italy	Jackie French
Laureate project	Share a Story Calendar Newsletter: April 'History is a Story'	1 April 15	Online (2000 +)	National	Jackie French
Media event	100 Year Gallipoli Anniversary (Jackie French and ACLA via media)	25 April15	TBC	National	Jackie French
Industry Conference	Key Note Address: Teacher Librarian Professional Learning Community Conference	30 April 15	est. 300	NSW	Jackie French
Laureate project	Share a Story Calendar Newsletter: May 'Read the World a Story'	1 May 15	Online (2000 +)	National	Jackie French
Industry Conference	Key Note Address: Australian Conference for Editors, Indexers, and Publishing Professionals	6–9 May 15	est. 200	ACT	Jackie French
Industry Conference	Australian Booksellers Conference 2015: ACLA Stand TBC	17–18 May 15	200	VIC	ACLA
Regional/remote school or library visit/talk/workshop	National Simultaneous Storytime events with Mount Gambier Public Library	27–28 May 15	est. 500+	SA	Jackie French

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EVENT TYPE	EVENT TITLE	DATE	AUDIENCE	STATE	LAUREATE
Laureate project	Share a Story Calendar Newsletter: June 'Hear a Story! See a Story! Feel a Story'	1 June 15	Online (2000 +)	National	Jackie French
Regional Tour	Association of Independent Schools of Western Australia (AISWA) hosting Jackie French for a series of events with Curriculum and Reengagement in Education (CARE) Schools	20–26 June 15	2000	WA	Jackie French
Laureate project	Share a Story Calendar Newsletter: July 'Grow a Story'	1 July 15	Online (2000 +)	National	Jackie French
Regional Tour	Association of Independent Schools of Western Australia (AISWA) hosting Jackie French for a series of events in Kalgoorlie/CAPS Coolgardie.	27–29 July 15	2000	WA	Jackie French
Laureate project	Share a Story Calendar Newsletter: August 'Celebrate a Story'	3 August 15	Online (2000 +)	National	Jackie French
Regional Festival	Bryon Bay Writers' Festival	7–9 August 15	1500	NSW	Jackie French
Media event	National Bookshop Day (Jackie French and ACLA via media)	8 August 15	Online	WA	Jackie French
Media event	Children's Book Week (Jackie French and ACLA via media) events TBC	18–22 August 15	TBC	National	Jackie French
Laureate project	Share a Story Calendar Newsletter: September 'Swap a Story'	1 Sept 15	Online (2000 +)	National	Jackie French
Media event	Indigenous Literacy Day (Jackie French and ACLA via media)	2 Sept 15	Online	National	Jackie French
Laureate project	Share a Story Calendar Newsletter: October 'Draw a Story'	1 Oct15	Online (2000 +)	National	Jackie French
Special event	'Everyone can read' Tour with Museum of Old and New Art (**MONA**) and surrounding regional schools	14–15 Oct 15	2000	TAS	Jackie French
Laureate project	Share a Story Calendar Newsletter: November 'Sing a Story, Rhyme a Story '	2 Nov 15	Online (2000 +)	National	Jackie French
Special event	Thank you event for Jackie French	TBC	100	TBC	Jackie French

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