

StoryFACTORY

Annual Report 2017-2018



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"IF YOU ARE A STORY FACTORY GIRL OR BOY YOU NEVER GIVE UP ON YOUR DREAMS." " "

"THE WORKSHOP WAS SO FUN AND HELPED ME LEARN MORE ABOUT STORIES AND HOW TO TELL MY STORY." " "



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Meet Vivian



Vivian grew up in Cabramatta and participated in Story Factory's Year of the Novella program in 2017. After a competitive bidding war, *The Coconut Children*, the full-length novel she wrote in that program, was bought for commercial publication in 2020 by Penguin Random House Australia.

The Novella Project has changed the way I do things.

It has somehow given me the courage to test my own boundaries and overcome the very things I always told myself were impossible. If you told me a year ago that I would soon write a 93,000 word story that I'm actually proud of, that I'd learn to have faith in the good of people again, that I'd be this senselessly happy all of the time, then I'd probably laugh in your face.

But this is exactly what The Novella Project has done for me.

Working on our novellas has taught us to listen to our own voices and trust that there's value in what we have to say. It taught us that stories can change the world, one person at a time. It taught us that stories can change the world, and the world begins with us.

Vivian Pham
Author of *The Coconut Children*

Following this success, Vivian was invited to attend the inaugural International Congress of Youth Voices in San Francisco in August 2018, a three-day event bringing together 100 of the smartest, most interesting young people from around the world. She was one of a handful of delegates asked to speak at the only public event of the Congress. Vivian gave a rousing speech reflecting on her position in colonial history, her privilege and her responsibilities. She received a standing ovation, and was followed on stage by renowned Nigerian writer and feminist, Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie, who hugged Vivian and called her an inspiration.

Vivian called the whole experience "life changing."



From the Executive Director



It's hard to believe that at this time last year, our Parramatta centre was still a dream. A not too distant dream, but a dream all the same.

With the doors now wide open and our storytellers excitedly lighting the spark of creativity for thousands of marginalised young people right across the Greater Sydney region, it's in awe - and, perhaps, with a small sigh of relief - that we take a moment to reflect on how far we've come.

In the last year, the breadth of our programs has grown significantly. While we continue to run programs around Redfern and inner Sydney, more than half are now delivered in Western Sydney, everywhere from Campbelltown to Bankstown to Mount Druitt. To reflect this diversity, we've dropped the 'Sydney' from our name and are just 'Story Factory,' with a new look and website to boot.

Much more importantly, this growth has allowed us to work with some of the most marginalised young people in our city. These are the kids we believe can most benefit from our programs. Why? Because these are the kids whose voices are too often unheard.

All our programs are designed to equip young people with the tools and confidence to tell their own stories.

In the last year, we've helped young people experiencing mental illness to write about zombie sports stars. We've encouraged high school girls in Liverpool to collectively write the biography of the oldest woman in Western Sydney. A group of year 10 boys in Canterbury explored what 'Macbeth' might sound like if Shakespeare had written it in slam poetry.

These programs might sound very different, but they all do the same thing. They boost literacy. They allow young

people to explore their creativity. They lift confidence and engagement at school.

Most crucially, they help young people find their voice. We see, over and over again, how transformative this can be.

All too often, stories are told *about* the young people we work with, stories of disadvantage and lost opportunity. What better way to change this than to help these young people tell their *own* stories: stories of wild imagination and unfettered possibility. Stories of hope.

Thank you for being part of this work. I look forward to sharing with you all the excitement and challenges that the next year will bring. And, of course, the many weird, wild, and wonderful stories we are privileged to unearth.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Cath Keenan'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large loop at the end.

Dr Cath Keenan
Executive Director & Co-founder

From the President of the Board



When I first joined the board of Story Factory, back in 2011, we had no premises and a single staff member: Cath. She worked three days a week.

I don't think either of us imagined then that in seven years' time, there would be a **phenomenal team of 10 storytellers delivering creative writing workshops six days a week, to approximately 800 students a week, right across Sydney and Western Sydney, entirely free of charge.**

To date, we have taken **16,000+ enrolments** from marginalised young people, of whom:

- 22% Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander (ATSI)
- 40% from a language background other than English (LBOTE)
- 50% male
- 49% female

In the first half of 2018 alone, we had **2,232 student enrolments** across our Term One and Two programs. This is **70% of our total 2017 enrolments - achieved in only six months.**

Add to that one brand new writing centre opened in Parramatta, six new administrative and operational staff, several interns from all over the world, 1,095 active volunteers, a board of diverse talent and passionate commitment, and one soon-to-be-published brilliant young author from our 2017 Year of the Novella program, and you have us: the Story Factory.

Thank you to all of our staff for an amazing year.

Of course, these achievements simply would not be possible without the visionary support of our funders, donors, and supporters, or the unwavering commitment of our incredible volunteers. We - and the young people we work with - cannot thank you enough for your generosity, and your commitment to helping young people build a better future for themselves, and the generations to come.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'M Gonski', written on a light blue background.

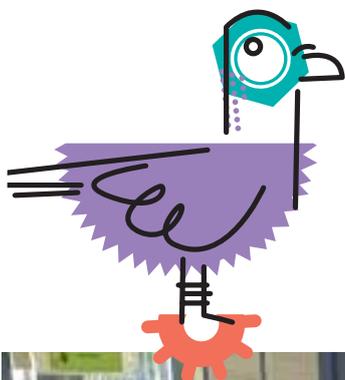
Michael Gonski
President, Story Factory Board of Directors

Our Year By The Numbers

2017-18 has been Story Factory's greatest - and busiest! – year to date. We've experienced massive growth in all areas of the organisation.

28 *partnerships with*
COMMUNITY ORGANISATIONS

65 *partnerships with*
SCHOOLS



5 **BIG PROJECTS**
delivered
Unmapping,
Photo Faction,
One For All, State of Mind
Western Sydney Primary
School Program



3,948

student enrolments in our creative writing programs

17,961

hours of creative writing by students during workshops



19% self-identified as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander ATSI

43% self-identified as coming from a language background other than English and/or Culturally and Linguistically Diverse LBOTE + CALD

381 new volunteers trained

1,095 total active volunteers

6 former students signed up to become volunteer tutors

6 new Staff Members

- Grants Manager
- Volunteer Coordinator Parramatta
- Administration Officer
- 3 x Storytellers (2 in Parramatta, 1 in Redfern)

1 new creative writing dream lab (open in Parramatta, October 2018)



Our Mission

Our mission is to enrich the lives of marginalised young people through creative writing and storytelling.

Why We Do What We Do

The impact of poor literacy is lifelong. A childhood spent in silence and anonymity as a result of critically underdeveloped reading and writing skills can cause irrevocable damage. Young people experiencing these difficulties often leave school early, drastically limiting their prospects and options for the future. Sadly, this often leads to detachment from, or a troubled relationship with, society.

This is the harsh reality for many young people marginalised by their cultural, linguistic, and socio-economic backgrounds. Unable to communicate their ideas, fears and needs effectively - and often unwilling to try, for fear of being immediately shut down - their voices remain unheard.

We want to see an Australia where all young people have the skills and confidence to tell their stories, and shape their future.

Our programs are delivered exclusively in schools and communities that have a Family Occupation and Education Index above 100, indicating significant socioeconomic disadvantage, and/or high populations of young people who are Indigenous or from non-English speaking backgrounds. These are the young people most likely to have poor literacy, and to leave school early, with significantly reduced life outcomes.



Strategy - The Next Chapter

To make this vision a reality, at the heart of our 2018-2020 Strategic Plan is a commitment to deepening our impacts for young people over the next three years.

We'll achieve this through:

- The integration of our existing and planned operations throughout Sydney and Western Sydney across our Redfern and Parramatta centres;
- Focusing on outreach through targeted, long-term high impact initiatives; and
- Facilitating sustainably scaled growth through tactical opportunities based on our success measurement frameworks.

We're focusing on targeted outreach initiatives of two main types to help grow and manage our reach and impact:

1. Big Projects

Big Projects run across multiple schools and communities and deliver an exciting and substantial public outcome, from a book to a play to a light installation. These programs often involve partnerships with leading creative organisations such as the Museum of Contemporary Art, Belvoir Theatre Company, and the Australian Centre for Photography.

Examples of Big Projects we're currently running include Unmapping, a two-year collaboration with the MCA supported by The Balnaves Foundation, and One For All, a collaboration with Belvoir, supported by the Ian Potter Foundation and an anonymous benefactor.

2. School Residencies

School residencies are dedicated weekly programs delivered in the same school over a year-long period.

With independent studies consistently demonstrating that extended engagement in Story Factory programs has a profound impact on the children and young people involved, the necessity for longer, more comprehensive programs is clear.

Nearly half the students participating in our programs identify as having English as an additional language. Residencies offer them the opportunity to explore not

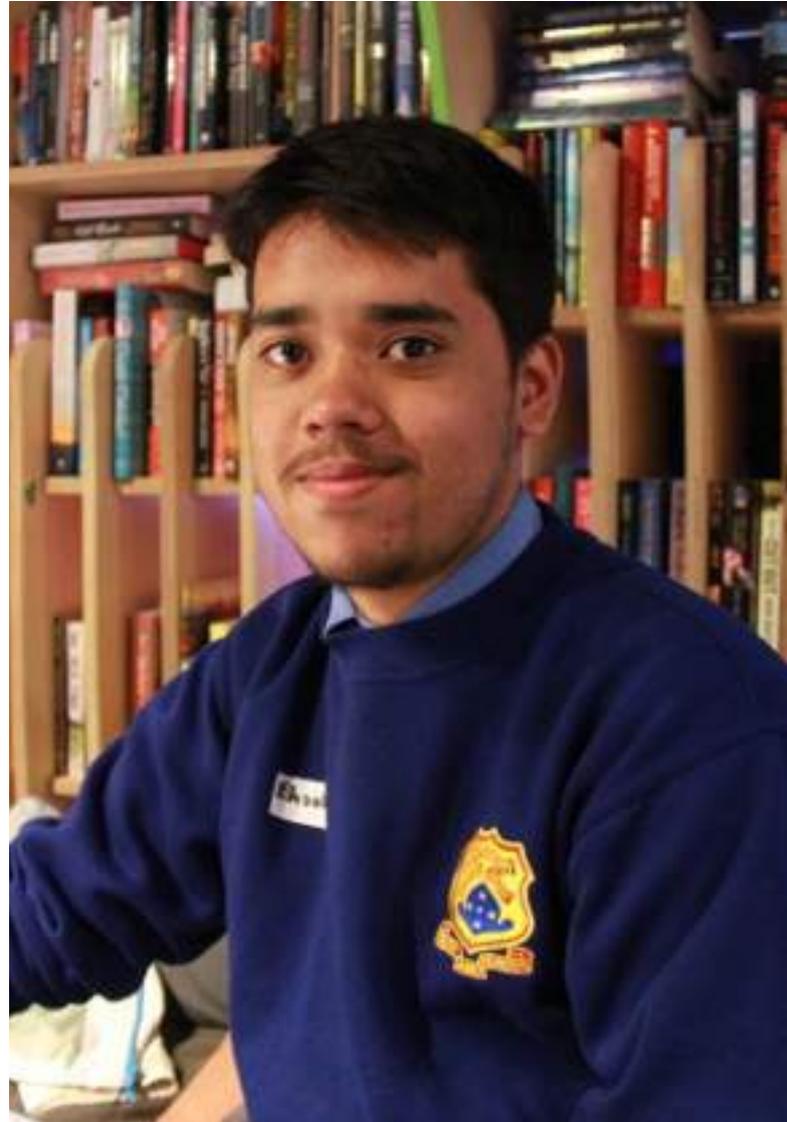
just a daunting new language, but also their complex identities in a safe, creative, encouraging and stable environment.

As a result of the new skills and confidence acquired, and their increased motivation to engage with learning, their ability to achieve positive academic outcomes - and improved life outcomes - is greatly increased.

Objectives Framework

To monitor the success of our 2018-2020 Strategic Plan - and ensure the relevance and impact of our programs - we have identified seven core outcomes for our students. All our programs are carefully designed to target at least three of these benefits, with priorities determined by the needs of the young people participating in each.

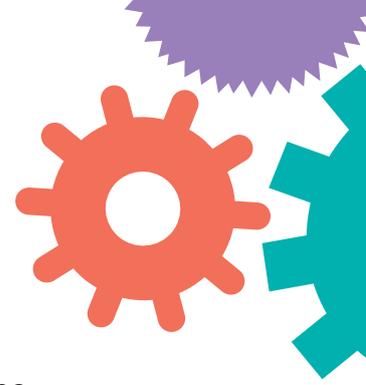
- **Increased enjoyment of writing and storytelling**
- **Creative and critical thinking**
- **Developing skills in writing and storytelling**
- **Confidence**
- **Engagement with learning**
- **Sense of belonging and community**



"I WROTE SO MUCH MY FINGER WAS DEAD AFTER EVERY STORY FACTORY LESSON!"

"LEARNING TO EXPRESS MY EMOTIONS THROUGH WORDS AND HEARING OTHERS DO THE SAME WAS SPECIAL."

Big Projects



Sometimes an idea is just too big, too crazy, too creative to be confined to one group of young people. Big Projects bring multiple schools and arts organisations together, resulting in a public outcome that all students can be proud of.

One For All: Collaborative Storytelling

A partnership with Belvoir, One for All brings together students from four Western Sydney high schools to collaboratively write a script with the support and guidance of our storytellers and experienced playwright and dramaturg Chris Dunstan. The project concludes in late 2018 with students performing a rehearsed reading of 'When The Leaves Fall', their terrific finished play, under lights at Belvoir.

4 SCHOOLS

Liverpool Boys High School
Ashcroft High School
Evans High School
Thomas Reddall High School

70+ STUDENTS

60+ HOURS

of scriptwriting
and theatre workshops

Photo Faction

In alternating workshops with Story Factory and Australian Centre for Photography, students create interactive stories, told through text and images. For this project we partnered with students at six high schools in 2017 and six more in 2018. Finished stories are published on the University of Sydney's A*Star website.

Western Sydney Primary School Program

We continued delivering in-depth workshop programs on-site in eight Western Sydney primary schools. Each term we were in two schools for one day a week, every week, working with up to 50 children in each school. We're working in the same schools for three years, through to December 2019.

Unmapping: Charting New Paths to Creativity

Continuing our partnership with the MCA, we're working with one Western Sydney high school and one primary school every six months. Visual artists including Rachel Buch and Katy Plummer unpack their creative process, and students respond in writing. Our artists create a brand new work, which is placed on site at Story Factory Redfern alongside student writing, for others to respond to in situ.

State of Mind

In October 2017 we published an anthology of over 100 stories, poems and memoirs, selected from pieces written by 800+ teenagers in workshops we ran across NSW in 2016. We launched this epic work by returning to 10 regional locations and celebrating in style in Fairfield. The finished book has become an invaluable classroom resource.





School Residencies

The longer the program, the deeper our impact. School residencies allow us to work with multiple groups of students weekly over the course of a year, and help develop a culture of writing across the school.

Typically we work with two class groups per term, sometimes seeing the same students more than once during the year. We work closely with teachers to co-design programs to complement curriculum and learning goals for each student.

In 2017-18, we delivered **10 school residencies** with primary schools and high schools from Campbelltown to Mount Druitt and everywhere in between across the Greater Sydney area. High schools included Canterbury Boys High School, Matraville Sports High School and Liverpool Girls High School. Primary schools included Plunkett Street Public School, Mount Pritchard East Public School and Shalvey Public School.

Changing The Narrative

Before we begin a residency there is always a 'getting to know you' phase. As with any good relationship we need to make sure we're confident that we can work together to achieve shared goals and establish good foundations.

The Mount Druitt community is committed to changing the narratives about where they live and creating positive futures for their children. In Term Four 2017 The Hive - Mount Druitt and Blacktown City Council invited us to take part in a groundbreaking project with students from Willmot Public School and Chifley College Shalvey Campus.

Seventy-two Willmot children had a big task - to attribute the aspects of their suburb that they liked least to an evil villain, and then create a superhero who would combat them with kindness, love, respect and resilience.

They were supported through this process by 11 Year 9 students from Chifley College Shalvey Campus, who became their tutors. The teenagers displayed some of the best tutoring we've seen, and the stories the children created were simply spectacular.

Everyone was deeply impressed with what our students achieved. It was clear to all that this relationship was going to work.

Because of the impact and success of this program, we are now delivering long-term residencies with both Willmot Public School and Chifley College Shalvey Campus, and are working with other schools in Mount Druitt too. We are now firmly established in this dynamic community-led drive for social change.

Special Programs and Partnerships

Term-Long Programs

A great introduction to creative writing with Story Factory, Term-Long Programs are a fantastic way for young people to build skills, confidence and create a substantial body of work over 6 to 8 weeks.

2,109 students from 42 schools participated in our Term-Long programs throughout 2017-18.

One-Off Workshops

In 2017-18, we delivered 45 one-off workshops for 27 schools and 18 community organisations, with a total of 1,127 student enrolments.

Digital Learning

- 1,405 students participated in workshops run in partnership with the Sydney Opera House connecting us wirelessly with students from close to 50 schools across the state.
- 494 students participated in 3 digital workshops run at the Powerhouse Museum in May, supported by the NSW Reconciliation Council.
- 911 students participated in 3 digital workshops run from the Sydney Opera House and the University of Sydney in August, November, and May.

Community

Over Term 4 2017 we ran a program for 28 young women supported by the Muslim Women Association in Bass Hill. In our Nurture Your Nature workshops they wrote personal stories that explored beliefs, encouraged self-discovery, and nurtured their aspirations.



Year of the Novella + Year of Poetry

In year-long poetry and novella programs, students create a collection of poetry, or commit to writing a 30,000+ word novella - both of which are then professionally published.

- 10 young authors completed the Year of the Novella 2017 program.
- 1 young writer from Cabramatta will have her 90,000+ word debut novel published by Penguin Random House.
- 21 burgeoning fiction writers working furiously in the Year of the Novella 2018 program to complete novellas for publication.
- 5 flourishing poets polishing their poems for Year of Poetry 2018.



Murals in Mount Pritchard

1 SCHOOL Mt Pritchard East Public School

1 TEAM of talented artists from Muralisto

4 blank building walls and a whole lot of paint

103 STUDENTS with thousands of ideas

2 larger-than-life murals showing their weird, wacky, wonderful original creations for all the world to see.



Garma Festival

Three days of poetry workshops + 200+ young people = One EPIC poem - 'Poetry of Place'. In August 2017, for the first time, we took part in the Youth Forum at the legendary Garma Festival in north-east Arnhem Land thanks to the support of the University of Sydney's Widening Participation and Outreach unit.

Youth At Risk

Through early intervention, we are helping young people who have engaged with the justice system or are at risk of homelessness develop a sense of self, explore their emotions, learn vital skills, and improve their chances of achieving positive life outcomes long-term. In 2017-18, we worked with

- Parramatta PCYC
- Youth Off The Streets
- WAYS Bondi
- Reiby Juvenile Justice System

Trauma and Mental Health

Through creative writing and arts-based programs, we're helping reduce the isolation felt by young people who have experienced trauma, and/or poor mental or physical health. This year we worked with young people at

- Rivendell
- Royal Far West
- Taronga Zoo's Burbangana program



"One student in Walker (the locked ward at Rivendell) has written three fantastic poems and recorded herself reading them. It might not seem like a lot, but for her it's a massive statement - this is who she is and she's willing to say it, willing to write it and let others read it. On the first day I went in there she was barely confident enough to look at me, now she's waiting for us to come back. I nearly tear up every time I see her."

Richard Short, Storyteller-in-Chief, Redfern



Teacher Professional Learning Workshops

Endorsed by the NSW Education Standards Authority, workshops provide tools for teachers to help students develop writing skills and promote creativity and critical thinking. Teachers tell us they love them and are using what they learn immediately in their classrooms.

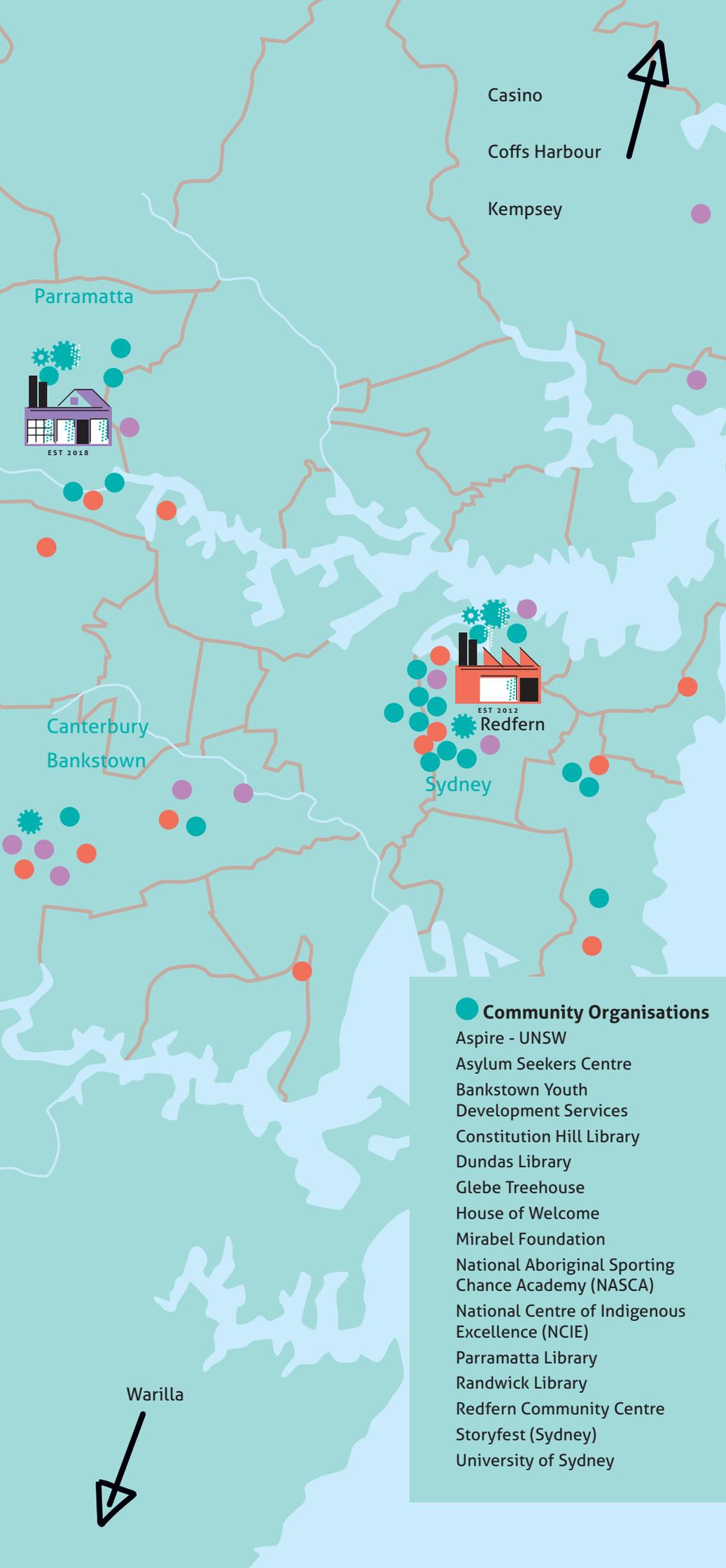


Our Footprint 2017 - 2018

● High Schools

Airs High School
 Arthur Phillip High School
 Ashcroft High School
 Auburn Girls High School
 Bankstown Girls High School
 Belmore Boys High School
 Bonnyrigg High School
 Brewarrina Central School
 Canterbury Boys High School
 Casino High School
 Centennial Park School
 Central Sydney Intensive English Centre
 Chifley College Shalvey Campus
 Coonamble High School
 Doonside High School
 Evans High School
 Fairfield Intensive English Centre
 Gilgandra High School
 Gunnedah High School
 John Edmondson High School
 Kogarah Intensive English Centre
 Liverpool Boys High School
 Liverpool Girls High School
 Macleay Vocational College
 Matrville Sports High School
 Melville High School
 Newcastle High School
 Orara High School
 Punchbowl Boys High School
 Rivendell School
 Sydney Secondary College
 Thomas Reddall High School
 Warilla High School
 WAYS Secondary College
 Wee Waa High School
 Westfields Sports High School





- Primary Schools**
- Ambarvale Public School
 - Bankstown Public School
 - Belmore South Public School
 - Briar Road Public School
 - Canterbury Public School
 - Casuarina School
 - Claymore Public School
 - Curran Public School
 - Dee Why Public School
 - Granville East Public School
 - Granville Public School
 - Guildford Public School
 - Hampden Park Public School
 - Lakemba Public School
 - Marayong Public School
 - Mount Pritchard East Public School
 - Our Lady of Mt Carmel Catholic Primary School
 - Plunkett Street Public School
 - Redfern Jarjum College
 - Royal Far West
 - Ruse Public School
 - Santa Sophia Catholic College
 - Shalvey Public School
 - St Patrick's Primary School
 - Wiley Park Public School
 - Willmot Public School
 - Woodland Road Public School

- Community Organisations**
- Aspire - UNSW
 - Asylum Seekers Centre
 - Bankstown Youth Development Services
 - Constitution Hill Library
 - Dundas Library
 - Glebe Treehouse
 - House of Welcome
 - Mirabel Foundation
 - National Aboriginal Sporting Chance Academy (NASCA)
 - National Centre of Indigenous Excellence (NCIE)
 - Parramatta Library
 - Randwick Library
 - Redfern Community Centre
 - Storyfest (Sydney)
 - University of Sydney
 - SydWest Multicultural Services
 - Telopea Family Support
 - Way Out West
 - Children's Festival
 - Muslim Women Association
 - Garma Festival
 - Parramatta PCYC
 - Poetry Sydney
 - Reiby Juvenile Justice Centre
 - Settlement Neighbourhood Centre
 - Taronga Park Zoo
 - Telopea Family Support
 - Tribal Warrior
 - Women's and Girls' Emergency Centre (WAGEC)
 - Youth Off the Streets
 - Bowen College

Student Writing

Emu and Kiwi

Emu and his friends were playing and having fun like usual friends. But one day, suddenly, out of nowhere, Emu's best friend Kiwi started coughing. He didn't feel good. Kiwi was sick, apparently he had a disease called "Kiwitropitus". There was certainly no cure on Earth that could make Kiwi feel better. Emu was fearfully worried for Kiwi.

They were living in the outback of Western Australia. Blue-Tongued Lizard, the doctor of all outback animals, told Emu Kiwi was sick because of the natural habitat. Blue-Tongued Lizard said, "Kiwi cannot adapt to this environment." He also said,

"There is a cure for Kiwi but it doesn't exist here, it exists on the fourth planet from the sun, Mars."

Emu volunteered to go to Mars and get the cure, but the problem was how would he get to Mars? Emu thought for a minute. He had an idea. He would ask one of the four winds to bring him to space to Mars.

Emu asked East Wind, "Can you bring me to Mars?"

East Wind replied sadly, "No, I cannot bring you there. I have never travelled that far ever in my whole entire life. But my brother West Wind can probably bring you there!"

East Wind brought Emu to West Wind, his brother. West Wind was stronger than East Wind. East Wind asked West Wind, "Brother, are you strong enough to bring Emu here to Mars?"

West Wind replied, "No, but maybe South Wind does, for he is stronger than I."

West Wind brought Emu to South Wind but he replied with the same answer. So South Wind brought Emu to North Wind, "The strongest upon all of us," South Wind replied.

North Wind brought Emu all the way to Mars, the Red Planet.

The cure was an ocean blue, shiny crystal that Kiwi had to eat. It was on a mountain and Emu got it and brought it home to Kiwi. When Kiwi ate the crystal he described it as "sweet" and he got better. The cure worked.

Nathan, Year 5/6 Mount Pritchard East Public School



Meet Jahziel



Year 8 Airds High School student, Jahziel, spent Monday mornings every week for a term with Story Factory. He is a bright and charismatic student but he wasn't immediately excited about the idea of writing with us.

"I thought it was going to be like boring or something", he admits.

But after a few weeks of testing the waters, Jahziel was ready to dive into the writing process. "There was one day he just decided to get into it," said Jayne, his tutor. "He could see what he was being asked to do and once he had his idea clear in his mind the words just poured down onto the page... He was in the zone. And he nailed it."

Jahziel's transition was obvious to everyone around him, including his English teacher Narelle Barker. "[He's now a] confident young man who takes risks. He volunteers to read parts, and the biggest improvement is in his writing."

Narelle was so impressed she called Jahziel's Mum to tell her all about it. Narelle says: "His mother expected me to discuss his behaviour. The next day he said that Mum was so pleased that she took him to McDonald's. Winner!"

"I feel more confident, when I do my writing, of what I can actually do. It makes me feel special, and brave." says Jahziel. He now writes all the time. "Any writing, creative writing. When I have nothing to do I just write."

Ocean's Treasure

Shiny white marble, changing colour in the sun.

Bright star making me feel special.

Swimming off a Cook Island beach. Rarotonga.

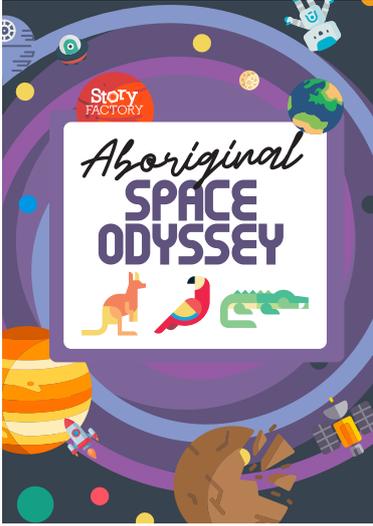
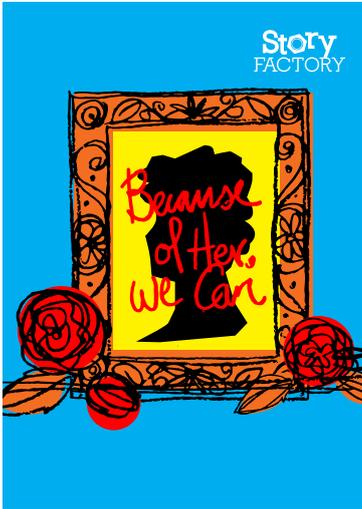
And I discovered a white pearl.

I return the pearl to where it belongs. To share its beauty.

I was the chosen one and I felt rich.

Never Judge a Book By Its Cover Alone

You can try to judge our books by their covers (and they are pretty cool covers), but we can guarantee the student work inside will take you on adventures you never thought possible!

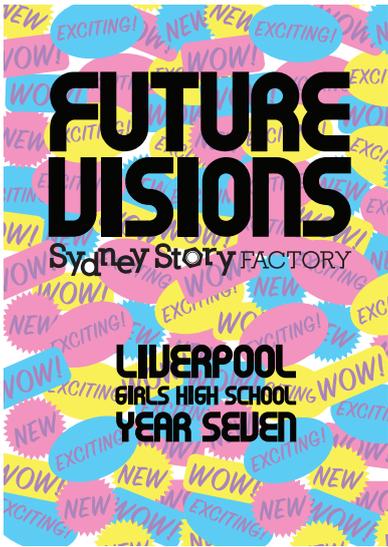


Because of Her, We Can

In response to the NAIDOC 2018 theme 'Because of Her, We Can', students from Sydney Secondary College wrote a collection of poems celebrating the influence of their mothers, aunts, famous sports people, singers, and sisters.

Aboriginal Space Odyssey

Students at Mount Pritchard East Public School were learning about space, so we incorporated this theme into our workshops. Students wrote the stories of how the Australian animals fabled in Aboriginal creation stories went to Mars (and, importantly, came back again!).



Future Visions

Future Visions encourages high school students to investigate issues affecting young people today such as social media, climate change, digital surveillance, and artificial intelligence. Through taking on futuristic personas, they detail their thoughts on how these issues might change or affect them in the future.

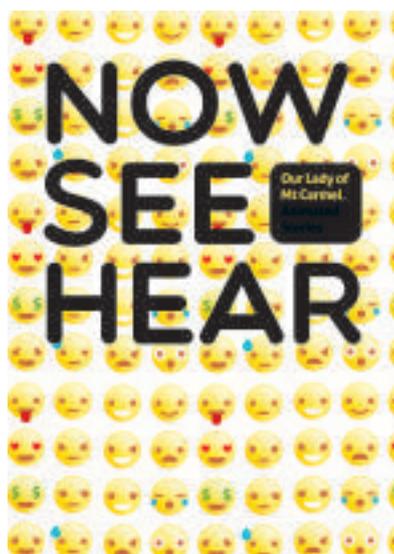
Matchbox Poetry

Sometimes the smallest objects can reveal the biggest secrets. Students write a poem about an object of their choice that fits inside a matchbox. Poems are transcribed onto ribbon, which is carefully rolled and sealed at one end inside the matchbox. As the reader slides open the matchbox, they are given hints about the object, word by word, as the ribbon unfurls.



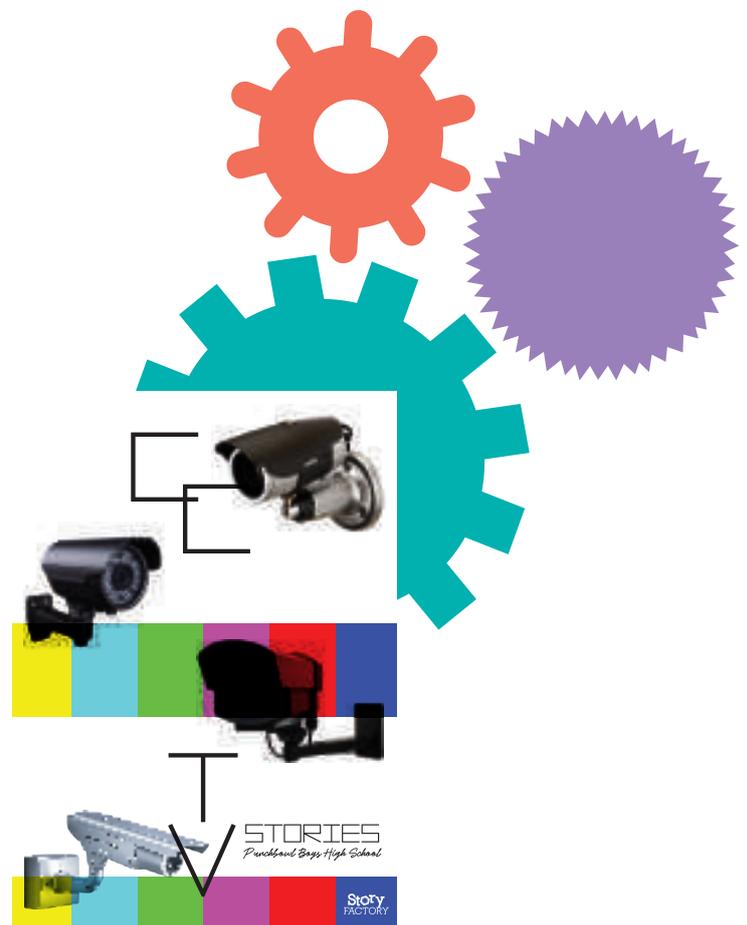
Identity Poetry

Some childhood memories will stand out more than others - for better or worse! Identity Poetry celebrates the positive experiences and memories of students, and how they have helped shape their identities.



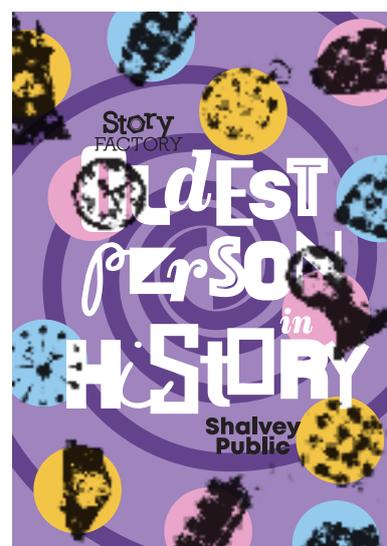
Now See Hear

Students in schools across Sydney explored their identities through digital storytelling. They wrote short stories, which were brought to life through drawings, animations, audio and video recordings, and more.



CCTV Stories

CCTV Stories begins with a mysterious piece of CCTV footage, showing unidentified characters engaged in various activities in an unspecified location. Students take on a character and explore their motives, personalities, and challenges.



Oldest Person in History

Ever wondered what it might be like to live in a different time? The Oldest Person in History can tell you! Students at Shalvey Public School documented this character's life in a scrapbook packed with their letters, conversations, newspaper articles, poems and diary entries.

Our Impact

Evaluation is very important to Story Factory. It enables us to assess the tangible impacts and outcomes of our programs, ensure they are being achieved, and inform future iterations. All programs are evaluated internally, with benchmarking occurring through external assessments.

In 2017, we engaged NSF Consulting to run independent evaluations of two of our programs.

The results are in: we're making a tangible difference!

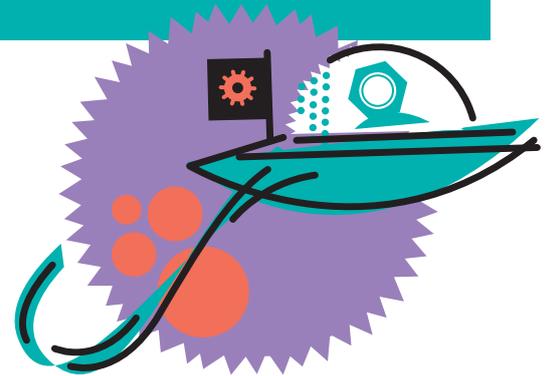
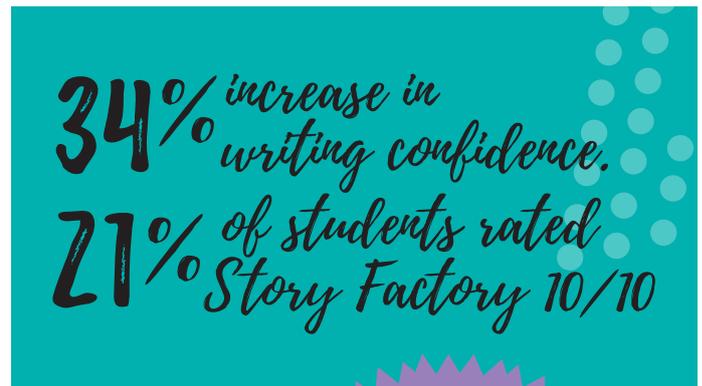
Canterbury Boys High School Residency

At Canterbury Boys High School we're spending some quality time with students in all manner of creative writing endeavours.

One day a week, we run between two and four writing programs for boys in years 7 to 12. From scriptwriting and monologues to slam poetry inspired by Shakespeare and fictional memoirs, students explore their creativity and let loose – with some incredible results!

The evaluation found that during the first year of the program (2017):

- 1. Students overwhelmingly enjoyed the workshops**, rating them 7.9 out of 10, with 21% rating them 10 out of 10.
- 2. There were very significant improvements in confidence and enjoyment of writing.** The percentage of students who said they were 'very confident' about their writing increased from 4% before the program to 38% after it; the percentage of students who said they 'really enjoy' writing increased from 11% to 36%.
- 3. There were significant improvements in the students' writing:** common features included writing that was organised and fluent, writing with a varied vocabulary, compelling and engaging writing, writing going beyond the formulaic, experimentation with language conventions, and the use of a clear personal style and voice.



Canterbury Boys High School received a **2018 Secretary's Award at the Public Education Foundation Awards**, in recognition of their collaboration with Story Factory.





Western Sydney Primary School Program

Over three years (2017-2019) we're running repeating programs in eight primary schools across Western Sydney, bringing our special blend of creativity, writing and fun right into the heart of each school.

Each year, in each school, we run two creative writing workshops per day for a term. We then return to the same eight schools twice more, to achieve deep and lasting impacts.

Similar to our Canterbury Boys High School program, evaluation for 2017 yielded incredibly strong results demonstrating program impacts:

- **There was a big impact on young people's confidence and enjoyment of writing.** The percentage of students who said they were 'very confident' about their writing increased from 42% before the program to 67% after the program; those who 'really enjoy' writing increased from 61% to 81%.
- **Outcomes were particularly strong for Indigenous students.** After our workshops, 93% of Indigenous students said they "really enjoyed" writing, up from 56% before the program.
- **Teachers said they had noticed improvements in academic performance as a result of the program.** One teacher reported 'massive' improvements in academic results. She felt this was attributable to the value of the students' development of story characters, which engaged them in a way that built their confidence to try new things and to attempt



"Makayla[...] has probably the lowest literacy in the class. She has poor spelling, misses words and cuts sentences in half, and most of her writing is illegible. But she loved writing. And sharing. And just being there with us in session. She was always excited to share her work, with a big smile on her face. And she wrote herself as the hero of the story. That's a significant breakthrough to me."*

* Name has been changed.

Bilal Hafda, Storyteller-in-Chief, Parramatta

25% increase in writing confidence

37% increase in enjoyment for Indigenous students



Student Writing

the way the light tries to bend
its torso & pronounce your

name, a light so soft my palms
could bake dreams

from its sugar

*Excerpt from 'Dear name, there are
new gardens to be planted' by Quang,
2018 Year of Poetry participant*

Quarantine is...

a gun without bullets
a pencil without lead
a sea of ocean without fish
a classroom without any kids
a kitchen without a knife
a sky without a sun
a watch without numbers
a table without legs
a car without tyres
a bath without a plug
a phone without batteries

Yasmin, Bankstown Girls High School

Cathy Freeman

Because of her I know life's not
perfect and neither am I.
Because of her I will never give up.
Because of her I learned how to be
confident.
Because of her I meet the path to
greatness.
Because of her I remember to keep
my head held high.
Because of her I do my best.
Because of her I am proud to be
Aboriginal and proud to be following
my dreams.
Because of her my dream is
to compete in the Olympics
and make my family proud.

*Eileena, Sista Speak
written during Because of Her,
We Can - NAIDOC 2018*

Photo Faction

I wish to be valued, and be
something more than my race
not just a coloured girl, occupying
space.

My voice heightened
as I spew my emotions –
Bottled up anger and
identity confusion.

The end is near yet I no
longer fear.
Walking past boundaries and
breaking frontiers.
I am no longer confined in my own
dark skin
my voice, a weapon, ready
to claim my win.

I sing my thoughts and pour
out my emotions,
to my humble anticipated audience.

The conclusion is near, and
it's hard to bear
that my only audience is
these empty chairs.

Betty, Bonnyrigg High School



"[After participating in Story Factory workshops] students have been able to develop greater ideas and been able to articulate their ideas more constructively, using different sentence types and descriptive language. Students are more confident to approach writing tasks and are willing to try different literary devices/ techniques to suit or meet the purpose/ audience."

**Alex Thompson, Teacher,
Ruse Public School**



Meet Zane



One of Parramatta storyteller Tony Britten's favourite workshops is Matchbox Poetry. Students are tasked with writing a poem about an object that is special to them, but can fit inside a matchbox.

Poems are written onto a ribbon that is placed inside the matchbox. Students decorate their matchboxes and mount them onto decorative frames. These are then displayed to make writing and creative projects visible to all.

Tony has delivered Matchbox Poetry at a number of schools in Western Sydney. One student, Zane*, has significant behavioural and learning issues. His classroom teacher worked with him during our workshops instead of a volunteer tutor, as she **wanted to make a positive change in their relationship.**

Zane's mother has never been around and he had a close relationship with his maternal grandmother before she passed away earlier in the year. Zane wrote a poem about a button, which he imagined was once attached to one of his grandmother's cardigans. Her favourite colour was purple, so he wound purple wool around a matchbox before making a bed of purple wool for the button inside.

Zane wrote no fewer than five drafts of his poem – something he has never done before. **He was focused and present in every workshop because he was writing about something he cared about.** His behaviour wasn't always perfect but he completed the activity and has a significantly improved relationship with his teacher.



At the presentation that concluded the program Zane was the first to volunteer to read his poem out loud to the group, which his teacher and the school's Aboriginal Liaison Officer could not believe. Zane's teacher took a photo so she could share this with his Dad and carers.

* Name has been changed.

Our Volunteers



We now have over 1,095 active volunteers giving their time and knowledge to help the young people we work with grow their confidence, enhance their literacy skills, and develop a love of writing.

Without their help, we simply would not be able to achieve the profound impacts we do for so many terrific young people.

As a result of our volunteers' commitment, the average number of individual tutoring hours a young person receives during a typical Story Factory program is our highest ever. We have also had invaluable administrative and tutoring support from a series of incredible, self-motivated interns hailing from across the globe, including Germany and the USA.

We are so grateful to you all - thank you!

'Story Factory gave me the ability to interact with students I would have never been able to and make a change in their lives. I am thankful for this opportunity.'

Mikail Demir, Volunteer and Student Teacher

"WHENEVER WE NEEDED HELP, SOMEBODY WAS ALWAYS THERE."

"I FEEL MORE CONFIDENT ABOUT MYSELF THANK YOU FOR EVERYTHING."

Meet Alexis



When Parramatta Storyteller-in-chief, Bilal Hafda, reflects on working with Year 10 student Alexis, 'brilliant' is the word that comes to mind.

Alexis is a student at Chifley College's Shalvey Campus, near Mount Druitt. Like most high school students we work with, Alexis came into our workshops with a sense of hesitation and distrust. After all, it can be odd to go from second period science to ranting and raving about superheroes and villains with a group of gregarious storytellers.

'She was like other students who weren't extremely talkative or willing to share ideas or willing to write. But under the tutelage of her volunteer mentor, she was happy to share things because there were adults willing to listen to her', says Bilal.

It's a journey that Alexis also reflects on very positively.

'I've always enjoyed writing but never had the encouragement to produce my own piece,' she says. 'It has taught me easier ways to deal with behaviour that normally is quite frustrating for me.'

While she's shone as a writer, Alexis' key achievement is her role as a student tutor for children at Willmot Public School, demonstrating the kind of leadership often more typical of seasoned adult tutors. 'She has a superhuman amount of patience and any time a student is disengaged, she just brings them back to their work,' says Bilal. 'No matter what is going on, she's one hundred percent focused. It's very difficult finding an adult tutor who can do that, and Alexis can do that.'

It's not just primary school children who have flourished in response to Alexis' standout tutoring skills. In fact, her journey from a shy writer to charismatic tutor has become a source of inspiration for Bilal himself.

'Alexis was the first case where I saw a high school student who didn't want to talk to us, become a vibrant charismatic person. A lot of that is due to the fact that Alexis herself is incredible, but I've been working with her and seeing that happen through the workshops. For me, I want every single student tutor to go through that now. I didn't even know that was possible, but she made it possible.'



Our Partners

We are deeply grateful for the support of the generous corporates, businesses, philanthropic foundations, private donors and many wonderful individuals who share Story Factory's belief in the power of creative writing. Your generosity has helped us change the lives of so many young people in need by providing them the opportunity to engage in quality arts education. Thank you!

REDFERN

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Berents Project Management Pty Ltd

Our Board

Story Factory is a not-for-profit association incorporated in New South Wales. We are governed by a board who bring a wealth of experience and specialist expertise to the task.



Michael Gonski - President
Partner, Herbert Smith Freehills
 Michael is a solicitor specialising in employment law. In 2014 he was awarded Philanthropy Australia's Young Philanthropist of the Year Award.



Dr Catherine Keenan - Co-founder, Executive Director
 Cath was formerly a journalist with The Sydney Morning Herald, working as an arts writer and as literary editor. She is 2016 Australian of the Year Local Hero.



Tim Dick - Secretary
Co-founder, Solicitor
 Tim is a criminal lawyer. He was formerly a journalist with The Sydney Morning Herald.



Grant Lovett - Treasurer
Head of Interest Rates in the Derivative & OTC Markets Division of ASX Limited.
 Grant is a member of the Institute of Chartered Accountants.



Gail Hambly
General Counsel/Company Secretary, Fairfax Media
 Gail is responsible for the provision of legal, company secretarial, corporate governance and internal audit services across the Fairfax group.



Jonathan Barrouch
Internet Entrepreneur
 Jonathan is CEO and founder of Sydney-based technology start-up up Local Measure.



Benjamin Law
Writer
 Ben is a journalist, columnist, TV screenwriter and author of two books - *The Family Law* (2010) and *Gaysia: Adventures in the Queer East* (2012). The Family Law is now a major SBS TV series.



Paul Martin
Executive Director, Quality Teaching, NSW Education Standards Authority (NESA)
 Paul has played key roles in the implementation of the NSW Government's Great Teaching, Inspired Learning initiative with both NESAs and NSW Institute of Teachers.



Gemma Salteri
Executive Director, CAGES Foundation
 Gemma was a founding member of Philanthropy Australia's New Generation of Giving program. In 2016 she was awarded Philanthropy Australia's Emerging Philanthropist Award.



Garigarra Mundine
 Garigarra is a Wiradjuri/Bundjulang/Kamilaroi and Gumbayngirr woman from Dubbo, NSW. Garigarra began as an intern at the Story Factory in 2013 on the Home Project. She currently works in the Department of Infrastructure, Regional Development and Cities, and is moving to DFAT in 2019.

Financial Statements

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2018

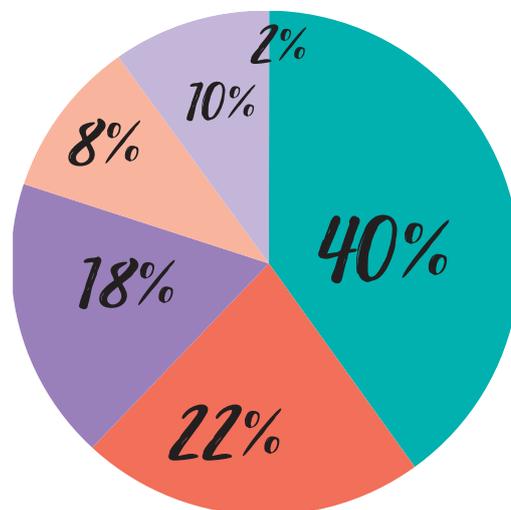
	2018	2017
	\$	\$
Donations and contributions	1,503,235	1,265,787
Government grants	34,466	108,156
Shop sales	8,451	12,112
Workshop income	46,778	17,187
Venue hire income	8,707	10,363
Membership dues	364	273
Art Auction proceeds	70,942	-
Other income	12,418	8,991
Total Revenue	1,685,361	1,422,869

EXPENSES

Employee expenses	1,038,671	713,977
Property expenses	155,073	70,327
Audit fee expense	6,000	6,000
Promotion and fundraising	19,633	11,088
Workshop expenses	33,953	26,299
Home Project consulting fees	-	1,700
Insurance	8,370	8,045
Association administration	78,197	47,403
Depreciation	56,152	97,905
Evaluation expenses	25,980	4,500
Program costs	46,881	110,674
Total Expenses	(1,468,910)	(1,097,918)

Surplus Before Income Tax	216,451	324,951
Surplus From Continuing Operations	216,451	324,951
Other Comprehensive Income For the Year, Net of Tax	-	-
Total Comprehensive Income For the Year	216,451	324,951

Where Our Revenue Comes From



STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2018 (Summary)

	2018	2017
	\$	\$
ASSETS		
Total Current Assets	2,660,392	1,643,106
Total Non-Current Assets	156,778	67,105
Total Assets	2,817,170	1,710,211
LIABILITIES		
Total Current Liabilities	1,581,076	709,194
Total Non-Current Liabilities	27,692	9,066
Total Liabilities	1,608,768	718,260
NET ASSETS	1,208,402	991,951
EQUITY		
Reserves	360,000	360,000
Accumulated surplus	848,402	631,951
TOTAL EQUITY	1,208,402	991,951

Art Auction

Our biennial art auction is not to be missed! In 2017, the generosity of an amazing group of contemporary artists and the support of a raft of art lovers raised \$70,942 to support the delivery of our programs.

Story Factory Inkwell

Our beloved Inkwell keeps the creativity flowing through monthly giving. In 2017-18, 75 dedicated donors supported our programs through recurring donations. Heroes every one!

Our full Annual Financial Report 2017-18 is available on request.



We Need Your Help

We are deeply grateful to our wonderful community for the generosity that makes the delivery of our programs possible. We welcome the involvement of new supporters who share our vision for an Australia where all young people, no matter their background, have the skills and confidence to tell their stories.

We have a number of projects that urgently require the support of new financial partners. Please contact us to discuss how you might be able to support one of these projects or another of our innovative programs.

We look forward to exploring partnership options with you.

Dr Cath Keenan - Co-founder and Executive Director
cath@storyfactory.org.au

Nikola Amanovic - Director, Story Factory Parramatta
nikola@storyfactory.org.au

Jayne Wasmuth - Development Manager
jayne@storyfactory.org.au

Story Factory is an incorporated entity with DGR1 status. All donations of \$2 or more are tax-deductible.

"I DIDN'T KNOW THERE WAS SO MANY WAYS TO MAKE A CHARACTER DO DIFFERENT THINGS. COOL!"

"I THINK IT WAS THE MOST AMAZING EXPERIENCE I EVER HAD!"

"I NEVER DONE ANYTHING LIKE THIS AND EVERYBODY LISTENED TO MY IDEAS."

Meet Natalie



Nine-year-old Natalie has attended weekly after-school workshops with us for two years, visiting our Redfern centre with the Settlement Neighbourhood Centre.

She's a young woman of strong opinions and a loud voice, who used to like standing behind the door and tripping people up on their way in much more than she liked writing.

But then things changed. As she explained to Craig, our volunteer manager, "we knew that you and everyone were teaching kids how to write and show good manners and respect people's drawings and things.

"I just thought 'okay, I'll get along with everyone and I'll show them I can learn and respect the things they teach me.'"

Natalie's volunteer writing tutor, Lorena - who has worked with Natalie for the whole two years - watched her transform from a rambunctious child who struggled to sit still to a confident, determined young person committed to bettering herself for the benefit of others. Natalie even changed her ambitions for the future, saying that she wanted to "learn more about writing and stories so one day I can grow up and teach other kids to do these new things."

When asked if she thought writing with us helped her write at school, Natalie said: "I think it helps me a little bit with everything. [In] Kindergarten I was bad at writing and in Year 1; but I started to get good, I think, in Year 2 when I started [at Story Factory]. I got really better—and I got an 80 on my work!"

Lorena is so proud of her. "Natalie is a natural born leader, and she has a lot of potential to be a real force of strength and leadership for her peers."

"The students were engaged and inspired from the moment they arrived at Story Factory. The workshops allowed them to explore a way of storytelling that was new to them in an environment that fostered creativity. Story Factory's warmth and humour inspired confidence in the students, who felt empowered as storytellers."

Melanie Hargraves, Teacher, Belmore South Public School



Get involved at    

www.storyfactory.org.au

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STORY FACTORY ACKNOWLEDGES THE INDIGENOUS PEOPLE AS THE TRADITIONAL CUSTODIANS OF THE LANDS ON WHICH WE WORK.

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