

WORKSHOP DESCRIPTIONS

WEAVING STORIES TOGETHER - SYDNEY INTERNATIONAL STORYTELLING CONFERENCE 2- 4 June 2023

WORKSHOP - Session 1 - Saturday 11am -12.40pm

1a. Earned Wisdom: Telling stories for and with older people and people living with dementia - Liz Weir - UK

This workshop aims to show how storytelling can effectively promote inter-generational activity, preserve memories, improve self-esteem and value the memories and contribution of older members of our community. It links the past, present, and future. The presentation will be interactive and practical.

1b Planning a Storytelling Program for Community Cultural Development

- Lillian Rodrigues-Pang NSW

Do you work with communities or desire to? Have a plan or concept of a program that you feel has legs? Bring that idea or program to this workshop and let's put it through its paces.

Lillian has run continuous programs in mental health recovery centres, with youth at risk, in domestic violence centres, for newly arrived refugees, migrant women, Indigenous community engagement and in gentrifying/diversifying communities. She has developed a practical approach towards the ethics of working with stories and communities and will gently examine all the program through the lens of these core questions.

1c. Something Old – Something New

- Colin Urwin - UK

Something Old – Something: The old rhyme finishes with... *something borrowed, something blue, and a silver sixpence in her shoe*. The 'something borrowed' can be family anecdotes or scraps of folklore; 'something blue' might be a memory or emotion, and not necessarily sad but joyous too; the 'silver sixpence' can be artefacts that are inspirational, even magical... weaving these strands together or just following one, Colin will guide workshop participants through a process of creation in which 'Something Old' and perhaps ill-defined can be reimagined and turned into a wonder tale that is not just 'Something New' but eminently tellable...

1d. Kamishibai: getting started or being better

- Jackie Kerin - VIC

Learn how to make, tell and teach others kamishibai. Explore this art form as a performance mode and/or teaching tool. Discover how to connect with global kamishibai practitioners and where to find the resources to assist you in mastering this versatile and delightful way of telling stories.

WORKSHOP - Session 2 - Saturday 1.40pm - 3.20pm

2a. Reaching Beyond the Story: After Story Activities to Extend and Deepen Learning

- Sheila Wee - Singapore

Whilst the act of telling a story is highly educational in itself, it is only the beginning of the benefits of storytelling. When you start with a story and follow up with activities that lead out into different parts of the curriculum, you increase children's engagement with the story and learning experiences where children pick up story structure, vocabulary, and confidence in communication. In this highly interactive workshop, you will experience how activities can lead out of a story and come away with practical, tested activities that you can put straight into use in your classroom or home.

2b. To Tell or not to Tell - Political correctness and our storytelling repertoire

- Tamas Osvald - TAS

Oral storytelling in contemporary society requires oral storytellers to actively investigate and explore their own repertoire of traditional folktales with a focus on racism, family violence, gender and hetero-normativity. This round table discussion, rather than a workshop, aims to provoke a conversation on how each individual storyteller can relate to this actual topic. Dr Tamas will lead this with examples from his own experiences.

2c. Haunted Places: local ghost stories

- Jo Henwood - NSW

Ghost tours and ghost stories become more popular with every passing year yet so many of the stories we tell were created in the northern hemisphere. This is an opportunity to create ghost stories that belong to your neighbourhood, using templates from ghost stories that have been told before. We will look at the history of ghost stories, the intentions of the ghosts that drive the narratives, and the types of stories that result. We can match local sites, local characters, and local events to these story types to create something new, and from that construct a ghost tour.

2.d It's Your Story - Tell It!

- Rona Leventhal - USA

Personal stories - those from our own lives - are both personal and universal. In this workshop, we will sow "story seeds" from our lives and see how we can start to shape them into stories for telling. In pairs and individually, through writing and speaking, we will look at stories, brainstorm memories, share ideas and start to thread together the pearls that can make up a story. Think you don't have any stories worth telling? You'd be surprised! Please join me on this most interesting journey!

WORKSHOP - Session 3 - Sunday 9.50am - 11.30am

3a. Beyond Labels: Bridging Difference Through Storytelling

- Noa Baum - USA

Can storytelling help us connect across differences?

Israeli born storyteller and author Noa Baum created a show based on dialogue with a Palestinian woman. Experience the storytelling model she developed to bridge differences in our communities. Discover how listening to and telling the story of the "other" can breakthrough stereotypes and labels to the possibility of compassion and change. Learn an effective tool to foster dialogue and promote stronger more resilient communities and workplaces.

3b. Therapeutic and wellbeing journeys with folktales

- Kim Billington - VIC

Most relevant to counsellors, psychologists, and teachers, Kim will present three different folktales. She will guide listeners in small groups to use therapeutic question prompts to explore resonances and reflections about how their own journey might be touched by these seemingly 'random' folktales. Folktales told in therapy can become Story Medicine helping children and adults find new possibilities and meanings in their life. This will be demonstrated with a case example of two 12-year-old boys. Kim demonstrates how to use Joseph Campbell's *The Hero's Journey* map and her unique narrative question prompts when using folktales as Story Medicine.

3c. Hodja, Rumi and Tea (Chai) tradition - 3 cultural heritages of the Humanity & Storytelling

- Cem Alfar - Turkiye

After Rumi and his Whirling Dervishes ritual (Sema) were recognized as Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity by UNESCO in 2005, 2 more symbols of the Islamic culture, the tradition of telling Nasruddin Hodja Stories and the Tea (Chai) tradition which has been an inseparable part of the community and family gatherings & storytelling, have just been added on the same list in December 2022. In this cultural exchange, the stories of Nasruddin and Rumi, rituals and infusing

of traditional tea will be used as an occasion for exchange of inspirations, stories, insights, feelings and experiences amongst different storytellers.

3d. Soundscapes in Stories

- Dee Palanisamy - VIC

Have you wondered how you can easily create an atmosphere using soundscapes for your story? Storytellers give life to stories through understanding various performance elements, like gestures, voice, movement, props, and sounds. This workshop will emphasise effective uses of small musical instruments and everyday items to explore different sound textures and creative inventions of stories. Come and explore how simple objects can help aid sensorial reminiscence and bring stories to life.

WORKSHOP - Session 4 - Sunday 11.50am - 1.30pm

4a. Approaching Diversity in Storytelling with Kindness

- Em Chandler - VIC

Culture is ever shifting, and storytellers have a responsibility to consider the impact of their tales. But how can we be true to our own journey while respectfully intersecting with others'? Through play and discussion, Em Chandler will share one way to approach diversity (especially queerness) in our material and our audiences. This workshop will be a safe and respectful environment to explore what can be a challenging topic-- being kind to ourselves and others.

4b. Puppet Yum Cha – an introductory ‘taster’ into the world of Puppetry

- Kay Yasugi - NSW

Learn how to bring your stories to life with puppetry. Have a go at using different puppets to enhance your storytelling experience, including rod puppets, hand/glove puppets and marionette string puppets, as well as simple objects. This hands-on introductory workshop is open to beginners – no prior puppetry experience is needed.

4c. Getting to the heart of it

- Donna Jacobs-life - NSW

This workshop explores several practical techniques and story treatments that Donna has successfully used over the years through her work with communities in conflict, and in response to cross-cultural misunderstandings. Drawing from Donna's work in South Africa, Israel and Palestine, with indigenous and refugee communities in Australia – and as Program Director for "Together for Humanity" ,– this workshop is a mixture of storytelling and activities for listening, connecting and reflecting. It will be peppered with anecdotes and scenarios that will enable the participants to truly sense the nature of this work and ways to approach it. For tellers and professionals who want to make a difference.

4d. Physicality In Stories: Remembering We Have A Body!

- Rona Leventhal - USA

Storytelling is an oral tradition. Yet as performers our bodies also can speak volumes. We will explore the many ways we can include both large and subtle movements to help tell a story effectively and how movement can complement the voice. Very Participatory and active! Come ready to play, explore, take risks in a safe environment and walk away with new tools! Wear loose, comfortable clothes.

POSTERS SESSION - Saturday 3rd June 5pm-6pm

This year there is an interesting variety of posters dealing with oral storytelling projects and activities in different settings and contexts...

POSTERS

Spreading Korean Culture through Storytelling - Alicia Dongjoo Bang (South Korea)

This poster will focus on KISA's (Korean International Storytellers Association) efforts to spread Korean culture through storytelling.

Lycian Way Cultural Storytelling Tour - Cem Alfar (Turkiye)

A sharing experience of the first cultural Storytelling and Hiking Tour of FEAST on the ancient paths of the Lycian Way.

Talking Stories - For all lovers and tellers of Tales, Myths and Legends - Caroline Welkin (New Zealand)

A poster about the international storytelling podcast on mixcloud.com produced by East London Radio that is listened to and received contributions from people worldwide.

Giving Voice to Older Persons - Wong Swee Yean (Singapore)

A presentation of a successful 12-session storytelling programme for seniors in the community, using a holistic approach to learn about self, identity and history. This culminated in performances for a public audience.

Building Resilience with Stories - Jo Henwood (NSW)

A poster about a collaborative project with Prosper, a charity to support disadvantaged children become resilient, safe, building respectful relationships, and connections to culture and community participation.

Forked Tongues Storytellers - Lilli Rodrigues Pang (NSW)

Sharing of a bilingual storytelling training programme that involves and supports migrant communities.

The Story Room – Karen Sanders (NSW)

A poster about a live monthly event on the Northern Beaches in Sydney where people share their personal lived experiences related to the theme of the month.

FEAST – The Federation of Asian Storytellers - Sheila Wee (Singapore) and Priti Modylyer (VIC)

An introduction to FEAST and its various programmes.

Salonline: a fairy tale web series - Jo Henwood (NSW)

Details of information about Salonline, an original web series communicating the origins of the fairy tale genre in the French Fairy Tale Salons of the late 17th century.

Music & Sensory Storytelling for Children with Special Needs - Wong Swee Yean (Singapore)

Sharing of a special multi-sensorial storytelling programme for neuro-diverse children to learn about the Rickshaw Puller in Singapore's history.

Stories that Stir - Monica Rosenfeld (NSW)

A Poster about a live storytelling event in the Eastern Suburbs in Sydney, where people share a personal story, linked to a theme. It's part of a larger Global Stories that Stir Movement whose mission is to facilitate a revolution of human connection, through storytelling.