

## Children's Librarian Newsletters 2015 (text only)

### December:

It's hard to believe another year has passed and the Summer Holidays will soon be upon us. This week I attended a celebratory afternoon tea organised by Port Macquarie Children's and Youth Services librarian, Virginia Cox. We were given a laminated bookmark listing the library's achievements for the year. It said:

***Congratulations, you have been part of: sharing stories with 5401 storytime visitors to the library, bouncing 794 babies, 2647 books read with Summer Reading Club last summer...*** and went on to list all the

events and activities for babies, young people and parents.

The bookmark is a friendly way of getting out information and I recommend giving one to all storytime participants with times, days and your storytime philosophy.

**The Koala Went Cooee** concerts in Kempsey and Port Macquarie Libraries have launched our tours of Australian public libraries and preschools. In 2016 Roman and I will be on the road. We are currently taking expressions of interest and organising tours of regional and urban areas based on these. Please contact to let us know your preferences for workshops and/or concerts.

### **2016 -Tours to date**

Melbourne: Wednesday February 3rd: 9.30am - 12.30 pm - professional development workshop for children's librarians (still taking bookings)

Northwest Slopes NSW: February 22nd-26th - Concerts and PD

New Zealand: March 10th - 31st Concerts (TBC)

South Korea: April 25th - May 25th Concerts & Professional Development

For more information please go to our homepage.

[http://www.schatzblackrose.com/blackrose\\_web/index.html](http://www.schatzblackrose.com/blackrose_web/index.html)

Here is my 2015 Christmas offering. The chorus is simply saying numbers 1 to 10 forwards then backwards twice so visually you can put a numbers card up in front of your group or if you want to take it very slowly give individual parents a number to hold up high. Involving parents in your storytime ensures a cohesive listening audience.

If you don't know this traditional tune then check it out on Youtube. Johnny Cash does a slow version. The tune of the chorus is the same as the verse. However it is easy to chant the song if you don't want to sing it.

<https://youtu.be/mr03En-8fH8>

### **Christmas is Coming**

(Tune of *Sweet Betsy from Pike*)

12345678910,  
10987654321,  
12345678910,  
10987654321.

Christmas is coming  
I know it's quite near.  
Everyone's happy  
And full of good cheer.  
The tree's decorated  
With tinsel and lights,  
And soon we will celebrate  
Our Christmas night.

12345678910,  
10987654321,  
12345678910,  
10987654321.

Christmas is coming,  
It soon will be here.  
Hooray for Santa  
And all the reindeer.  
Hooray for the presents,  
The food and the fun,  
We wish you Goodwill  
And Peace to everyone.

### **November:**

Welcome to the November newsletter of storyteller and author Morgan Schatz Blackrose. I am very excited to announce that the **Imaginarium**, Port Macquarie Public Library's new audio studio, has recorded its first CD, ***The***

**Koala Went Cooee** that I am now promoting with accompanying concerts and professional development workshops. It is available through PeterPal and James Bennett Library Suppliers or online here:

[http://www.freewebstore.org/Schatz-Blackrose/The\\_Koala\\_Went\\_Cooee/p892408\\_14511497.aspx](http://www.freewebstore.org/Schatz-Blackrose/The_Koala_Went_Cooee/p892408_14511497.aspx)

For digital downloads, individual tracks or the complete album here:

<http://www.cdbaby.com/cd/morganschatzblackrose>

**Virginia Cox, the Children's/YA Librarian Port Macquarie Library says:**  
*It's great to have songs that celebrate Australia's unique animals with lyrics that also help educate our young audiences as well. Morgan provides ideas on how to build on the song lyrics with a helpful 25 page downloadable booklet full of stories, ideas and lyrics to each song. Have fun singing, moving and grooving to this great CD. Thanks Morgan for providing such a great springboard for action!*

**The Koala Went Cooee Professional Development Workshops begin February 2016 in Melbourne VIC**

Wednesday 3rd February 9.30am - 12.30pm at the Resource and Learning Centre (RALC) CBD Level 1 104 A' Beckett St, Melbourne

Workshops and Concerts are offered Australia-wide, so please consider these workshops integrating percussion, movement and environmental education into your storytimes.

**COOEE School Holiday Concerts at Sea Acres Rainforest Centre, Port Macquarie NSW**

Wednesday 13th January and Thursday 21st January 10.30am

**In other News:**

In September Roman and I were invited to Amsterdam International School to present a workshop on storytelling-based arts. For more information see here.

<https://morganschatzblackrose.wordpress.com/2015/11/02/storytellers-with-style/>

**November Rhyme Offering:**

## **The Little Old Woman and the Little Pig** (traditional rhyme adapted)

There was an old woman and she had a little pig  
Oink Oink Oink, Oink Oink Oink.  
It didn't cost much, cause it wasn't very big,  
Oink Oink Oink, Oink Oink Oink.  
The little old woman she lived on a farm,  
Oink Oink Oink, Oink Oink Oink.  
And the little pig slept in a big, red barn,  
Oink Oink Oink, Oink Oink Oink.  
The little old woman fed the pig on clover,  
Oink Oink Oink, Oink Oink Oink.  
But the piggy ran away, now the story's over  
Oink Oink Oink, Oink Oink Oink.

**Notes:** This is a call and response rhyme. You do a line and the children do the Oink line. (Please note that some children may not be comfortable with rhymes about pigs, so you decide if it is appropriate for your audience) There are a number of individual expressions children can do on the Oink line including oinking, doing the Auslan sign for pig on each oink. (See Auslan signbank. Help children distinguish the difference between a sound and a sign) Clapping hands in two sets of threes. Using other percussion for the 2X3 beats. eg. triangles, clapsticks, shakers, drums. You may need to explain that a barn is another word for shed and that clover is a type of grass.

### **September:**

Spring has Sprung! Welcome to the September edition of my storytime newsletter. I trust you have all survived Bookweek and are continuing to illuminate the lives of the young and young at heart with your storytimes and baby bounces. I enjoyed an enlightening family evening of story sharing at Port Macquarie Library, organised by Children's/YA Librarian, Virginia Cox.

Here is my take on the event beginning with the ancient riddle:

Ninny nanny netticoat,  
In a white petticoat,  
With a red nose.  
The longer she stands

The shorter she grows.  
What am I?

Answer: A candle

<https://morganschatzblackrose.wordpress.com/2015/08/31/books-light-up-my-world/>

I am excited to announce the arrival of my CD, **The Koala Went Cooee** - 24 Australian animal songs. You can listen to three of the songs on Soundcloud.

<https://soundcloud.com/schatz-blackrose>

The CD is on sale through our website, simply click on the link below.

[http://www.freewebstore.org/Schatz-Blackrose/The\\_Koala\\_Went\\_Cooee/p892408\\_14511497.aspx](http://www.freewebstore.org/Schatz-Blackrose/The_Koala_Went_Cooee/p892408_14511497.aspx)

### **The Koala Went Cooee Workshops 2015/2016**

Alternately you can attend a 3 hour musical storytime workshop with the CD and booklet included, and learn how to integrate the CD content into your programmes. I will be offering workshops Australia-wide beginning February 3rd 2016 in Melbourne. Workshops are available to specific libraries and regions upon request. Information available for **Melbourne** workshop and **Australia-wide** workshops here.

[http://www.schatzblackrose.com/blackrose\\_web/index.html](http://www.schatzblackrose.com/blackrose_web/index.html)

I have only recently found out about sarcoptic mange, which is a severe threat to two of our three species of wombat. While I love libraries, I don't want them to be the only place that future generations of children can see what these iconic Australian animals look like. Here is one of the wombat songs from the CD. Lets hope we are singing songs to celebrate wombats for generations to come!

### **Wombat**

(traditional tune)

I'm a little wombat, short and stout, *(on all 4's on the ground)*

Here are my paws and here is my snout. *(point to hands and nose)*

When I dig a big hole in the ground, (*dig with hands*)  
I kick the dirt all around. (*kick legs*)

### **August:**

Welcome to the August edition of my storytime newsletter. This month I am focussing on Bookweek, Sat 22nd - Friday 28th August. Each year since 1945, the Children's Book Council of Australia has hosted Children's Book Week to honour and celebrate the work of Australian authors and illustrators. 2015 celebrates 70 years of the CBCA Book of the Year Awards. This year's theme is *Books Light up our World*. By now you will have organised your activities and guest authors, illustrators and storytellers, however I have included an easy to learn story suitable for Primary School children that you may wish to include.

I have reprinted it from my book *Mouthmovers* (2010) with instructions for acting it out with children and yourself as the narrator. However, as suggested in the *Hints* it is best if you tell it first, quite simply. This means making it easy for you to remember the characters and mouth directions. eg. use names you are familiar with and NSEW or up, down, left, right and visualise them.

### **The Snookums**

(A traditional crooked mouth story)

*Suitable:* Acting out with children who can hold a lit candle, under supervision.

*Props:* One lit candle in a candle holder.

*Actions:* Five children play the characters of the Snookums. They line up out the front. Mrs. Snookums, second from the end is holding the candle, she passes it to Mr. Snookums, who passes it back and so it continues down the line until Baby Snookums blows out the candle and ends the story.

*Hints:* You tell the story first, demonstrating the ways the Snookums all tried to blow out the candle. i.e. upward, downward, left side and right side. Mouth twisting and blowing exaggeration is called for in the telling!

Teller: It was time to blow out the candle at the Snookums house so everyone could go to sleep.

Mrs. Snookums: Your turn to blow the candle out Mr. Snookums.

*[Mr. Snookums tries and fails]*

Teller: But Mr. Snookums couldn't blow out the candle because he only blew upwards.

Mr. Snookums: I can't Mrs. Snookums. You try.

*[Mrs. Snookums tries and fails]*

Teller: But Mrs. Snookums couldn't blow out the candle because she only blew downwards.

Mrs. Snookums: I can't Mr. Snookums. Let's get Sam to blow out the candle.

*[Sam Snookums tries and fails]*

Teller: But Sam Snookums couldn't blow out the candle because he only blew to one side.

Sam: I can't Mother Snookums. Let's get Sue to blow out the candle.

*[Sue Snookums tries and fails]*

Teller: But Sue Snookums couldn't blow out the candle because she only blew to the other side.

Sue: I can't Mother Snookums.

Mrs. Snookums: Oh what are we to do?

Mr. Snookums: Oh what are we to do?

Sam Snookums: Oh what are we to do?

Sue Snookums: Oh what are we to do?

*[Baby Snookums gently takes the candle]*

ALL: Baby Snookums what are you doing?

Baby Snookums: I'll blow out the candle.

*[blows it out]*

Teller: And the Snookums family all went to sleep.

\*\*\*\*\*

I will be co-hosting a family evening at Port Macquarie Library with Children's/ YA Librarian, Virginia Cox on Wednesday 26th August 5.30 -7.pm to share what specific books lit up our lives as adults and children.

***Books are lighthouses erected in the great sea of time. —E.P. Whipple***

**In other news:** My new CD **The Koala Went Cooee** (23 Australian animal songs) is coming along. Here is a teaser - *I'm a Big Brush Turkey*.

[http://www.schatzblackrose.com/blackrose\\_web/index.html](http://www.schatzblackrose.com/blackrose_web/index.html)

## **July:**

Welcome to the July edition of my storytime newsletter. This month's offering is a mystery! I mean this literally, and playing centre stage is something you will all be familiar with, 'storytime.' As it is school holidays and many of you will be busy with your holiday programmes, I thought why not give you a fifteen minute reading break from the kiddy chaos with a 'body in the library' tale.

I set this story in the 'old' Belgrave library in Victoria, where I had my first library job in 1986. While it is a work of fiction, like all writers (and good library patrons) I am an avid borrower! However, none of the characters in this story

are based on 'real' people, so any similarities are purely co-incidental ... if you believe in that sort of thing.

You can read the story here at the bottom of my Resources page.

[http://www.schatzblackrose.com/blackrose\\_web/video.html](http://www.schatzblackrose.com/blackrose_web/video.html)

**In other news:** I am still accepting submissions for *Ding Dang Dong! Fifty Frère Jacques Storytime Songs*. Here are the details required. Previous newsletters have additional information about this project.

**Please send your submission to:**

[story@schatzblackrose.com](mailto:story@schatzblackrose.com)

If you are new to this newsletter you might want to check out last year's edition, available in PDF format here

[http://www.schatzblackrose.com/blackrose\\_web/index.html](http://www.schatzblackrose.com/blackrose_web/index.html)

I will leave you with a quote from Oscar Wilde:

“It is what you read when you don't have to that determines what you will be when you can't help it.”

**June:**

Welcome to the June edition of my storytime newsletter. In it is a link to my latest blog, an update on the submissions for '*Ding Dang Dong! Fifty Frère Jacques Storytime Songs*,' and a rhyme to celebrate **World Oceans Day** on June 8th. In other news, the recording studio at my local library is nearing completion and I am looking forward to start recording *The Koala Went Cooee*, a CD of Australian animal songs. On track for launch in Spring 2015.

Have you ever wondered what happens to the kids who attend your storytimes? Many long standing librarians will tell you that they are now seeing the children of these children in their current storytimes. Not only does this reflect the years of dedication that they commit to public libraries, but also the quality of the service they provide. These parents want their kids to have the same pleasurable experiences of library storytimes that they had as children. Public Libraries: Providing Fun for Generations!

For the past fourteen years I have been visiting my local primary school and its support unit, presenting storytimes to kids who have a broad degree of

learning difficulties and disabilities. My focus is on creating a pleasurable experience for the kids, carers and teachers to participate in. While I present stories and rhymes, new and old favourites each week, I am currently working on a musical story with the playing of percussion instruments embedded in it. We may or may not present it to others, but that doesn't really matter. The kids have taught me to be fully present and trust the experience of being in the now with it, and going with the flow or more often than not, riding the rapids. I told the following story of the 'turtle who wanted to fly' to the kids, many of whom are unable to hold on to anything with their hands, or talk. The tale also serves as an affirmation of trusting the present moment.

<https://morganschatzblackrose.wordpress.com/2015/05/28/126682078/>

Last month I called for submissions for rhymes based on the **Frère Jacques** rhyme. Please email me with the rhyme and the following information.

### **World Environment Day June 5th and World Oceans Day June 8th.**

If you are presenting a storytime celebrating the diversity and importance of our global environment, here is a fun rhyme from *Rhyme-a-saurus* to include. It is an ideal rhyme to introduce Auslan signs for the sea creatures, and creates anticipation and a sense of accomplishment when children are successful at guessing the numbers, animals or doing the signs. If you know the signs for lots more ocean creatures then do the rhyme twice with the 4 substitute creatures e.g. fish, turtle, whale, octopus.

### **5 Flubby Jellyfish**

5 Flubby Jellyfish  
On the sea floor,  
One was eaten by a shark,  
And then there were 4.

4 flubby jellyfish,  
Swimming in the sea,  
One was eaten by a stingray,  
And then there were 3.

3 flubby jellyfish,

In the ocean blue,  
One was eaten by a dolphin,  
And then there were 2.

2 flubbery jellyfish,  
Swimming just for fun,  
One was eaten by a crab,  
And then there was 1.

1 flubbery jellyfish,  
Is all that I can see,  
Who ate all the other jellyfish?  
Will you tell me?

### **May:**

Welcome to the May edition of my storytime newsletter. This month I am focussing on one thing: I am requesting submissions from children's librarians AKA storytimers, for my latest storytelling handbook which I wish to publish in Spring. This is your opportunity to share your gems with other early childhood educators across Australia.

I currently have the following books, *Tell me:Storytelling as a Global Language, talkabout: raps and rhymes, songs and stories promoting speech and language development in children, Mouthmovers, Bushraps, Chinny Chin Chin, Feast: fabulous food folktales and activities, rhyme-a-saurus: treasured rhymes for storytimes*, which are all available as part of my storytelling and oral literature workshops for early childhood educators.

However I am keen to edit a book of contributions from Australian Public Librarians, as a resource for storytimes and preschool language programmes. Over the past three decades my work with children's librarians has informed my practice as a storyteller and children's literacy advocate. One of the highlights of my workshops is participants sharing their versions of various songs and rhymes. The two most common are *Frère Jacques* and *I'm a Little Teapot*. I would therefore like to make a compilation of 50 variations of the French canon *Frère Jacques*. As the melody and form is simple, there are already many variants that have become favourites in storytimes throughout Australia.

Here is one that I wrote and in 2013 and has proved very popular with my young audiences:

Dinosaurs.

Pterodactyls, Pterodactyls, (*flap arms like a pterosaur*)

Dinosaurs, Dinosaurs, (*walk like a T-Rex*)

Here's a brontosaurus, (*stretch out arms, front and back*)

Do you think he saw us, (*look around*)

Run away, run away. (*run on the spot*)

The basic form of the song/canon is:

4 syllables, 4 syllables,

3 syllables, 3 syllables,

6 syllables,

6 syllables,

3 syllables, 3 syllables,

As with many traditional songs or those in the public domain, the provenance is dubious; 'I heard it from so and so, and they got it from a speaker at a conference who made up half the words because she couldn't remember them all after hearing it once from a child playing in the street, etc. But that is the nature of traditional rhymes and songs, which are also adapted to suit the context and preferences of the performer. So saying, I ask that your submissions include the following information:

Title (if known)

Words

Actions to accompany words if necessary

Name of person(s) submitting and their library (branch or region)

Song writer (if known, and it can be you!)

Who/where you heard it

Any relevant notes or anecdotes

Obviously the nature of sharing among children's librarians means that there may be a number of similar entries. I will attempt to credit all. This may also indicate the popularity of particular songs.

I will not be publishing the book until I have 50 entries, so please don't think because you have a well-known version you won't submit it because you think someone else will.

I look forward to receiving your contributions via email. Please feel free to discuss the project with me. The working title for this book is '*Ding Dang Dong!*' *Fifty Frère Jacques Storytime Songs.*'

**Please send your submission to:**

[story@schatzblackrose.com](mailto:story@schatzblackrose.com)

**In other news:** I am currently available for performances during **Children's Bookweek 22nd - 29th August - Books Light Up Our World**. Preferences given to libraries in regional and remote communities who require a storyteller/author who can cater to all age groups.

Enjoy **National Simultaneous Storytime Wednesday 27th May** and if you haven't seen the following Auslan performances of previous books by Michelle Goodison, treat yourself and your storytime participants.

The Very Cranky Bear

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0QsogILzKtQ>

The Wrong Book

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9rvOLF4IPqQ>

Too Many Elephants in this house

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=odfpCmqqEzI>

**April:**

As promised in my March newsletter, I have a new song celebrating where we are in the world. This song can be adapted to all towns and states throughout Australia. I wrote it to be included in the Kempsey Library six week storytime outreach programme at Aboriginal Preschools, earlier this year. You can access my blog post *Everyone has a Place: Positioning Aboriginal Kids in the World through Storytelling*, on the link below. It also has lots of pictures.

<https://morganschatzblackrose.wordpress.com/2015/03/19/everyone-has-a-place-positioning-aboriginal-kids-in-the-world-through-storytelling/>

**Here We Are**

Here we are in Kempsey town (*substitute whatever town/suburb/community you live in*)

All jump up (*everyone jump up*)

Now all sit down. (*everyone sit back down*)

Here we are in New South Wales (*substitute your state or territory and add an adjective or say initials to help it scan eg. sunny Queensland, W.A*)

Its our state

And we think it's great.

Here we are in the land down under, *(Use a globe to show where Australia is in the world)*

It's called Australia,  
Our country of wonder.

Here we are on the blue planet Earth, *(Use the globe to show the water: why we are called the blue planet)*

It's our home,  
In the Universe. *(talk about the other heavenly bodies, sun, moon, stars and other planets)*

Begin the rhyme by discussing the notion of home. Everyone lives somewhere. In one of my storytimes I showed a 'big' book of houses throughout the world and we discussed where people and animals lived. We then expanded the notion of home right through to the Universe.

Last week I was fortunate to travel over the Great Dividing Range to the towns of Barraba, Narrabri, Boggabri and Wee Waa to present a storytime workshop to the Children's Librarians from Central Northern Regional Library Service, followed by a number of storytime concerts. As always I am heartened by the commitment of children's librarians to continuing the public library tradition of providing the best quality services to their communities. I would like to leave you with the following thought about the importance of storytime:

**Your presentation (storytime/baby bounce/ school visit) may be the highlight of a child's day. For all your feelings of inadequacy, inexperience, exhaustion, being overwhelmed or under prepared, and everyone can feel like that at one time or another, your work can make a difference to a child's day, even their life. Remember this and smile.**

Best wishes for your school holiday programmes.

### **March:**

I have a new song for storytime, created while out on my morning walk and seeing a koala in a tree. Living on the Mid-North Coast of NSW, a region resplendent with wildlife I have found inspiration for writing many songs and rhymes about Australian wildlife, and where possible I use traditional tunes to accompany them. This one is to the tune of *Brown Girl in the Ring*, a West Indian children's song. It's called *Grey Koala in the Tree*.

Here is the link to my blog **Stories In My Life** which features the song with accompanying notes on Learning Outcomes.

<https://morganschatzblackrose.wordpress.com/2015/02/19/theres-a-grey-koala-in-the-tree/>

**Morgan's Wild Life**, is a blog I write featuring my encounters with the fauna in my local community.

<https://morganswildlife.wordpress.com/>

March 3rd is World Wildlife day. If you are interested in integrating particular days and weeks of observance into your storytimes then this link to the United Nations is a useful one.

<http://www.un.org/en/events/observances/days.shtml>

Recently I bought a novelty washer in the shape of an octopus, with water crayons for children to play with in the bath. I have a few washers that I use as puppets for rhymes. They are cheap and durable. The other multi-functional 'puppets' I have are oven mits in the shape of animals, again durable and cheap. Besides the song '*Octopuses Garden*' which I sing, I couldn't find a good Octopus rhyme, so I wrote this one.

### **Olly the Octopus**

1,2, I love to swim in the ocean blue, (*hold up pointer fingers one at a time*)  
3,4, I love to slide on the ocean floor, (*additionally, hold up tall fingers so you now have V signs*)  
5,6, I love to hide, that's one of my tricks, (*now hold up three fingers each hand*)  
7,8, Arms have I, (*hold up all 8 fingers*)  
Olly the Octopus waves goodbye. (*make the Auslan sign for octopus then wave your hands*)

**Learning Outcomes:** Children learn that Octopuses have 8 arms, also called legs or tentacles. They live in the ocean and hiding is their first form of defence. They hide in the sand on the ocean floor, behind coral or in caves. Children learn to identify the thumbs and fingers and how the thumb can hold fingers down. The rhyme offers a different way of finger counting, up to 8 rather than 5 or 10.

**Pictured:** Morgan at an Aboriginal Preschool teaching about where we are in the world.

Many children know the name of their town. I am using a globe to build on their knowledge, adding state, country, hemisphere (top half or bottom half of the world) through to planet and universe. A map or globe is a useful visual prop for identifying what country the stories/songs/books in your storytime come from. April newsletter features the *'Here We Are'* rhyme and an article on the Kempsey Library Storytime for Aboriginal Children Project.

## **February:**

Welcome to 2015 - The Year of the Wooden Goat, also known as the Year of the Green Sheep. **Lunar New Year is on February 19th**, so if you are celebrating this event in storytime, make sure you have lots of delicious food to go with your stories. I have included my favourite goat tale in this newsletter. *The Three Billy Goats Gruff* was collected by Norwegians Peter Christen Asbjørnsen and Jørgen Moe. If you are looking for a 'green sheep' picture book then there is *Where is the Green Sheep* by Mem Fox and illustrated by Judy Horacek.

As a storyteller I am a big fan of folktale anthologies. The nineteenth century saw the publication of many British and European folktale collections, by folklorists such as Joseph and Jacob Grimm, Andrew Lang, Joseph Jacobs, Peter Christen Asbjørnsen and Jorgen Moe. From the 1960's to the 1980's there was a resurgence in publishing folk and fairytales by people like Welsh author, Ruth Manning Sanders. Today Jack Zipes, Jane Yolen and Geraldine McCaughrean have collections available in many libraries. But are these stories being read by or to children, or are they mainly borrowed by adults with an interest in traditional stories?

I have seen picture book versions of traditional stories that were hitherto only printed in anthologies, often without illustrations. I am happy that now so many traditional stories have been retold and published as individual stories in a picture book format. The most popular nursery tales in the English language, like *The Three Bears* and the *Three Little Little Pigs* have also been interpreted in a post-modern context, and enjoyed by older children. This means that those 'old' stories, because they are in a familiar and friendly format, the picture book, are once again accessible to young children. I find that telling traditional tales to young children can work better for storytimes than reading a picture book version of the tales, if the printed story is too long. This doesn't mean that they aren't 'good' books, but simply better suited to home reading experiences. If you tell a traditional story during

storytime it can enhance a child's literacy experience to be able to recommend a book version of the story that they can borrow. One of the exciting elements of storytime is the presentation of different storytelling and story reading mediums. *The Three Billy Goats Gruff* is a wonderful story to dramatise or tell using a felt board. Here is my version of it:

## **The Three Billy Goats Gruff (BGG)**

Once upon a time there were three Billy Goats Gruff: Little BGG, Middle-sized BGG and Big BGG.

One day they decided to go up the mountain to eat the juicy, juicy green grass. Little BGG trotted off until he came to a bridge and trit-trotted across. (*slap thighs to make the trotting sound*)

Underneath the bridge there lived a troll with eyes as big as saucers and a nose as long and pointy as a stick. (*do the accompanying gestures*)

'Who's that trit-trotting across my bridge?' roared the troll.

'Only me,' said Little Billy Goat Gruff. 'I'm going up the mountain to eat the juicy, juicy green grass.'

'I'm going to gobble you up,' roared the troll.

'No please don't,' said Little BGG, 'my brother Middle-sized BGG is coming soon. Why don't you eat him, he's much bigger?'

'Be off with you then,' roared the troll.

And Little BGG trit-trotted all the way up the mountain.

Next came Middle-sized BGG.

'Who's that trit-trotting across my bridge?' roared the troll, with eyes as big as saucers and a nose as long and pointy as a stick. (*do the accompanying gestures*).

'Only me,' said Middle-sized Billy Goat Gruff. 'I'm going up the mountain to eat the juicy, juicy green grass.'

'I'm going to gobble you up,' roared the troll.

'No please don't,' said Middle-sized BGG, 'my brother Big BGG is coming soon. Why don't you eat him, he's much bigger?'

'Be off with you then,' roared the troll.

And Middle-sized BGG trit-trotted all the way up the mountain.

Next came Big BGG.

'Who's that trit-trotting across my bridge?' roared the troll, with eyes as big as saucers and a nose as long and pointy as a stick. (*do the accompanying gestures*).

'Only me,' said Big Billy Goat Gruff. 'I'm going up the mountain to eat the juicy, juicy green grass.'

'I'm going to gobble you up,' roared the troll.

'I don't think so,' said Big BGG,

'Oh yes I am,' roared the troll.

'Oh no you're not,' roared Big BGG and began to stamp his hooves on the ground.

'Oh yes I am,' roared the troll.

'Oh no you're not,' roared Big BGG and lowered his head and charged at the troll, butting him so hard he flew up into the air and over the mountain landing with a loud kerthunk on the other side.

Then Big BGG trit-trotted all the way up the mountain. And all three billy goats gruff munched happily away on the juicy, juicy green grass.

Snip Snap Snout,  
the tale is out!

**Riddle:** Why is it hard to have a conversation with a goat around?

**Answer:** Because they are always butting in.

I wish you all a happy **Library Lovers Day February 14th**. Here's a song to share. Feel free to add your own verses or call for storytimers to say what they think libraries are for.

### **I LOVE THE LIBRARY** (*tune of Frere Jacques*)

I love the library,  
I love the Library,  
Yes I do,  
Yes I do,  
Libraries are for learning,  
Libraries are for laughing,  
For me and you,  
For me and you.

Just waiting for my local library in Port Macquarie to finish constructing its latest community resource, a recording studio! Naturally I will be availing myself of this facility and look forward to promoting my coming CD - *The Koala went Cooee*, later in the year.

In 2015 I will continue my focus on presenting Professional Development workshops to Children's Librarians throughout Australia. Please email me to discuss how I can assist your library training.

If you are new to this newsletter then you can catch up with last years offerings by clicking on the link below.

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