



# THE MAGNOLIA NEWSLETTER

## WHAT'S IN THIS ISSUE:

Welcome to our first newsletter! We are using this to keep our members and friends up to date with everything Magnolia. If there is anything that you read that interests you or if you would like to get more involved please just let us know...

Andy and Kate

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## FIRST STEPS...

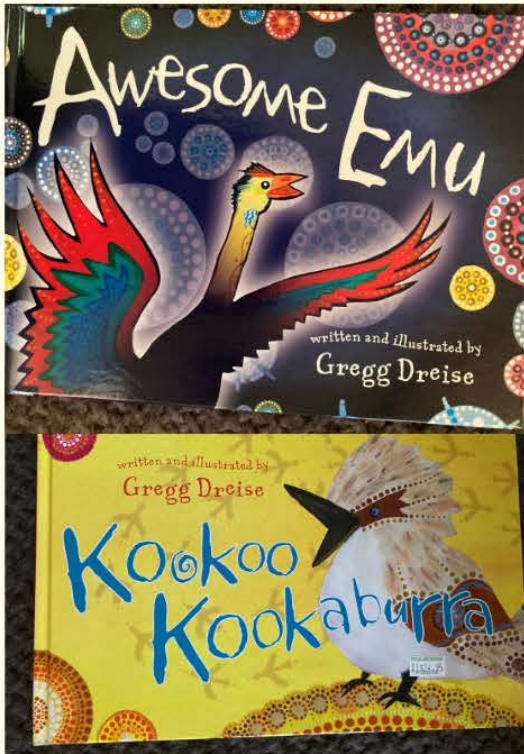
Supported by the Awesome Foundation and the Pegi Williams bookstore, we have now had a number of children's books donated for distribution to people in prison, and have purchased gift bags and printed some cards.

With the support of Port Augusta prison and, in particular, Jeff Bowey, we have been working through some of the logistics of the project. And then, on 13 April, we were able to visit the prison to deliver our first batch of books and these are now being sent out to families.



On our visit to Port Augusta Prison we were given a 'royal' tour of the facility and felt privileged to meet participants in an Aboriginal group program delivered by the DCS Rehabilitation Programs Branch. Those present heard for the first time about our project and provided some valuable feedback about what we are doing. We talked, for example, about the importance of thinking about kinship care in Aboriginal families and how our books should also be available for all children who are significant to the person in prison. People in the group liked the project and a few even volunteered to join the program straight away and signed up to send a book to their child!

The staff at the prison also seemed enthusiastic about the Magnolia Book Project and offered to help in any way possible. For example, education staff offered to make themselves available to support people in prison with their literacy - so they could write longer letters to their children if they wanted to! Particular thanks are due though to Jeff, Yilma, and the Activities team who are advertising our program and arranging for our books to be sent out at the right time.



## OUR AGM

The Magnolia Project is an unincorporated association whose rules can be accessed through [our website](#). We need to now set up a small committee to make sure that everything runs smoothly. So you are invited to a breakfast meeting (our AGM) on **Wednesday 11 May, 8.00am at Ballaboosta**, 289 Halifax St, Adelaide.

It would be great to see you there! Please just let us know if you are coming (so we can make the booking) and if you would like to nominate yourself (or someone else!) for a committee position. We would love to have you involved.

This meeting has only a small agenda (project updates, financial statement, Committee nominations and elections, any other business) and is really a chance for friends of Magnolia to connect with one another. We hope to have regular breakfast meetings so everyone can drop by and say hello.

**RSVP to E: [admin@magnoliaproject.com.au](mailto:admin@magnoliaproject.com.au)**

## SOME NEXT STEPS

We have started to make connections with two other prisons, the Adelaide Women's Prison and Mount Gambier Prison - just to see if they are interested in joining the program. Belinda Lovell, a PhD candidate at UniSA, has also kindly offered to distribute books to interested women in her new parenting program at the Adelaide Women's Prison. Belinda is doing some great work.

Youth justice (at Kurlana Tapa) also have a sample book bag and will see if any young people in the Centre who have their own children might like to take part. In addition,

Macquarie Correctional Centre in NSW is also interested in receiving some of our books to see if the program can work there. We have spoken about this to Robyn Cole, an officer at Macquarie, who is also doing some fabulous work supporting people in prison to make cards for Mother's and Father's Day. Her program has been overwhelmingly well received.



## FUNDRAISING

Our GoFundMe is now up and running and we have already reached our first target of \$500. Thank you so much to everyone who has donated. We will use the money to buy more books, especially those books that have an Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander focus for children as there were only a few of these in the original boxes of books donated by the publishers.



Finally, on Thursday 12 May, the SA Branch of the Australian and New Zealand Association of Psychiatry, Psychology, and Law (ANZAPPL) is having a Dinner Seminar. They have very kindly allowed us to place a flyer about the Magnolia Project on everyone's plate and so we hope to raise awareness of the project. If you would like to know more or wish to attend the dinner, you can visit their Humanitix page [here](#).



## WHAT ELSE?

Congratulations to Katherine for her appointment as a Senior Lecturer at Flinders University and for the conferral of her PhD. Katherine's work focuses on the development of more trauma-informed approaches to sentencing and criminal justice program delivery and provides the foundation for the work of the Magnolia Project.

## OUR FRIENDS

Thank you so much to the following groups who support our work:

