

June 2007

# World Link Cairns



Our next Australian author will be Gabrielle Wang.



Author and illustrator Gabrielle Wang was born in Melbourne and is fourth-generation Chinese Australian. Her great-grandfather came to Victoria during the Gold Rush in the 1850's. Gabrielle went to art school, then worked as a graphic designer and illustrator before moving to Taiwan and China where she lived for seven years studying Chinese language and painting.

Her first novel, *The Garden of Empress Cassia* won the Best Children's Long Fiction in the 2002 Aurealis Awards, was shortlisted for the 2003 Queensland Premier's Literary Awards and was named a Notable Book in the 2003 Children's Book Council Book of the Year Awards. Her second novel *The Pearl of Tiger Bay* was published in 2004.

Gabrielle enjoys sharing her work and experiences with primary students. Her talks are based on her books, which reflect the multicultural nature of Australia. She discusses where ideas come from, how her Chinese background has influenced her writing and how children can explore their own cultural identity and personal experiences to create their stories.

# Lifestyle InPrint

Gabrielle's novels include illustrations. For her, pictures are an integral part of the writing process. During the presentations, she shows the students her original artwork and some special objects that have inspired her.

As a young girl growing up in Australia, she often felt alienated and uncomfortable with being Chinese. She was a banana (yellow on the outside, white on the inside). Now she feels in the privileged position of being able to draw the best from both cultures.



Gabrielle's website : <http://www.gabriellewang.com>

Budding and enthusiastic writers will be able to meet and listen to Gabrielle at a number of FREE workshops.

## Program

Tuesday, 24 July	School visits
Wednesday, 25 July	School visits
Wednesday, 25 July	6.30pm Meet Gabrielle Wang at Cairns City Library
Thursday 26 July	1-hour workshops at: 10am; 11.30am; 2pm and 3.30pm in Meeting Room1 Cairns City Library

**ALL SESSIONS ARE FREE,  
BOOKINGS ARE ESSENTIAL,  
PLEASE BOOK BY 9 JULY.  
TO BOOK CALL 4044 3727**

For further information about the workshops contact Lee on 4057 2233.

**Coming to Cairns Libraries!!**

Robert G. Barrett 29-30 August 2007  
Archimede Fusillo 16-18 October 2007.

***Watch this space!!***

# Cairns Libraries Services

## Online databases

Need to find newspaper and journal articles? Cairns Libraries, together with State Library of Queensland, has access to a number of very useful and user-friendly databases

Logon to Cairns Libraries web page [www.cairnslibrary.com.au](http://www.cairnslibrary.com.au)

Select [Ask Librarians Online](#) - found within text. A new window will open, taking you to the State Library of Queensland web site.

Select a database. Once you have selected an appropriate database, select [Cairns](#) from the dropdown box & click [Go Now](#).

At Patron ID, enter your library membership number (including the X) and then click [Login](#).

Follow instructions to begin your search. Please contact a Librarian for assistance in selecting the appropriate database or help with searching tips. Databases available include:

### [Australian/New Zealand Reference Centre](#)

Includes Australasian magazines, newspapers, reference books and company information.

### [Encyclopedia Britannica](#)

A reference site for students, educators, and parents, it includes editorially reviewed websites and the Encyclopedia Britannica.

### [Health & Wellness Resource Centre](#)

Up-to-date, authoritative full-text health information from journals and reference titles.

### [Literature Resource Centre](#)

Up to date literary information from journals and reference titles.

### [NewsBank](#)

Access to full text newspaper articles from more than 230 Queensland, Australian and International titles, with a particular focus on Australian, American & English publications.

### [ProQuest Science Journals](#)

A collection of journals in full text and image formats, covering a wide variety of subjects within the sciences.

### [Tumblebooks](#)

E Books for Kids. Read or listen to storybooks online, write a book review and play games

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Cairns Libraries will be hosting *Earth Quest – Outer Space to Inner Earth* from **Monday the 16<sup>th</sup> July** until **Friday the 28<sup>th</sup> September** in the Cairns City Library.

*Earth Quest* is a travelling exhibition from Questacon – The National Science and Technology Centre in Canberra. The exhibition is supported by Visions of Australia, an Australian Government Program promoting touring exhibitions by providing funding assistance for the development and touring of cultural material across Australia.

School groups and the general public are welcome to visit the exhibition at any time during the open period at no cost. For group bookings or more information, contact Kristie Jones on 4057 2214 or email Kristie on [k.jones@cairns.qld.gov.au](mailto:k.jones@cairns.qld.gov.au).

*Earth Quest – Outer Space to Inner Earth* will be launched on Monday 16 July at 4pm at Cairns City Library. You are invited to attend this launch. Bookings are essential so please ring 4044 2727 to ensure your place.



# Cairns Libraries @ Festival Cairns 2007

## Robert G Barrett

The highlight event for Festival Cairns at Cairns Libraries will be the visit to Cairns by iconic Australian author Robert G. Barrett from August 30-September 1. He will be visiting as part of the World Link Cairns project.

Robert G Barrett is a fiction writer brought up in Bondi, he left school at 14, became a butcher and worked as a boner in meatworks in Sydney and Townsville until 1980 when he was injured at work. Whilst recovering he did three writing courses at the Worker's Education Association and wrote a short story on his larger-than-life character *Les Norton* which was published as *A Hard Man* in Australian Penthouse. Next came *You Wouldn't be Dead for Quids* in 1984, which is now in its 14th reprint. Robert G Barrett has written gags for disc jockeys on Radio 2SM and acted in TV's *A Country Practice* and films *Bullamakanka* and *The Empty Beach*. Robert G Barrett, aged 56 going on 36, has just released his latest book *Goodoo Goodoo* published by Harper Collins.

He can be visited at his entertaining website – [www.robertgbarrett.com.au](http://www.robertgbarrett.com.au)

### Events

- **Cuppa and Chat with Robert G. Barrett**  
**11am**  
**FREE**  
including complementary morning tea

Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> Aug. Smithfield Library  
Cheviot Street Smithfield  
Friday 31<sup>st</sup> Aug. Cairns City Library  
151 Abbott Street Cairns  
Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> Sept. Earlville Library  
Shop M07M Stockland  
Earlville

Limited numbers. Bookings are essential. To secure a place please book by 16th August, please phone 4044 3727

Copies of Robert G Barrett's books will be on sale at all events.

For further information contact Lee Finkelstein on 4057 2233.



## Story times

Special Story times for Festival Cairns will take place at various branches of Cairns Libraries throughout the Festival.

Stories will be read by local personalities, followed by fun craft activities.

Cairns Libraries' mascot, Dewey the white-lipped green tree frog, will be visiting most Storytimes, and every child will receive a library show bag.

All Storytimes are FREE and will commence at 10.30am,

### Storytimes will be held at:

- Smithfield Library - Tues 28th Aug.  
To book ring 4057 7755.
- Babinda Library - Wed 29th Aug.  
To book ring 4067 1112.
- Earlville Library - Thurs 13th Sept.  
To book ring 4054 5976.
- Gordonvale Library - Tues 4th Sept.  
To book ring 4056 1365.
- Edmonton Library - Thurs 6th Sept  
To book ring 4055 4121.
- City Library - Wed 12th Sept.  
To book ring 4044 3720.

## Poetry Slam

In conjunction with State Library of Queensland, Festival Cairns and The Tanks, Cairns Libraries will be co hosting the Cairns workshops and heats of The Australian Poetry Slam 07.

FREE workshops will be held in the Meeting Room at Cairns City Library on Monday 27 August from 3.30-5.30pm (youth) and on Tuesday 28 August from 10am – 12 noon (adult). Heats will be held at The Tanks on Wednesday 29 August.

To hit the mike - head to [www.slq.qld.gov.au/slam](http://www.slq.qld.gov.au/slam) for the full slam deal.

# World Link Cairns

## Interview with Leonie Norrington



In May, Cairns Libraries hosted Australian author, Leonie Norrington. Leonie visited schools in the area and conducted a number of stimulating and exciting workshops with aspiring local writers. Leonie agreed to participate in an interview and so we shared a heart-warming hour talking about her ideas, philosophies and writing.

Leonie believes that stories are inherently within all of us. She feels that stories are important, not just for entertainment, but are the way that different cultural groups experience each other.

I asked Leonie about her early life and how this influenced her writing. She was born in Darwin, the third of nine children, however she grew up at Barunga Aboriginal community, south of Katherine.

Leonie explained that Clare, who “grew us up properly”, looked after the children in the family: teaching them bush tucker, hunting, and respect for sacred places and important people. They were real bush kids, speaking Aboriginal English and Kriol fluently. Even now, when she gets really worked up about something, she goes back to Aboriginal English.

In the early 1970s she returned with her family to Darwin and high school. She met and married her husband in Darwin.

It was when she was 28 and her sons started asking difficult questions about spelling and other learning issues, that she decided to finish her education. She completed high school and started university. Essay writing was quite difficult. Talking, she says, was easy. However, she never really trusted written words, “telling is easy, writing those words down, that’s the hard part.”

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So with that background, how did Leonie become a successful writer?

Leonie is a wonderful storyteller, she writes the way she speaks, the cadence of her words is accurately reflected in her written work. And so, why are children and in particular children of the bush reading her books? Why are they so successful?

Leonie confronted the issue that Indigenous children don’t read. And why? Because they don’t see themselves in the books presented for them to read. The characters do not resonate with them, they do not relate to the world in the same way as the Indigenous children on the communities relate to their world; therefore they are totally irrelevant to them. As a child she could not find books that resonated with her. All the books she was offered portrayed children whose adventures in no way compared with her wonderful life in the Australian bush.

That is why Barrumbi Kids became so successful. The series explores the real and exciting day-to-day adventures of kids living on outback communities.

Leonie also writes books that explore issues, not necessarily provides answers to problems. The characters work at finding a way of being. It is probably a feminine thing too, she admits. She doesn’t necessarily want answers.

Leonie believes that the Barrumbi Kids series is an important publication for the relationships between aboriginal and non-aboriginal cultures. So many of us, even in the States and Territories with the larger Indigenous populations, do not interact or relate to aboriginal people. Through stories we can experience that interaction. “It makes you more confident with your life,” she says. Stories can take away the fear of the unknown, humanise another culture.

In the Barrumbi kids series Leonie tried to accomplish a number of important aims. She introduced the concept that black and white kids could get along together. She also introduced the concept that even though the different families had different values on the surface, on a real level they all wanted to look after their kids and care for the society they lived in. Her final aim, which was explored mostly in Spirit of Barrumbi, was even more challenging. The dominant culture is the white man’s culture, but what happens if a white kid breaks a traditional rule? Which culture should dominate then? And should the kid be admonished in the traditional manner?

I mentioned that sometimes while I was reading her books I had to check to see if a particular kid was white or aboriginal. The voices sounded very similar. This, Leonie pointed out, was deliberate.

She blurred the lines of race to emphasise that there was no difference except for colour of skin and culture.

I wondered if she, as a non-Indigenous person has the right to write this way. Leonie says she always writes from the white perspective, that is where she is, at but we must realise that Indigenous people are in our lives – here in the North up to 25%. They are part of our lives and we need to understand the culture.

And the characters, who are so important to the story, where do they come from?

Having met Leonie I can see that many readers will realise that Dale is based on Leonie. She says that, like her, he is good at speaking out first, is not good at schoolwork, is hopeless at writing and finds it hard to learn to read. He also thinks he belongs, not he is not aboriginal in the strictest sense, but he belongs to that mob, no matter what the authorities think.

Tomias is based on a man Leonie grew up with. He was solid, balanced, an aborigine in a society dominated by white culture. He was a role model for the children in the communities where there are not many powerful role models. Reading about Tomias, I can see that he is gentle and thoughtful boy who will grow into a well respected and loved member of the community. His future is evident in his childhood.

Leonie's humour and resilience dominates her personality. She delivered some very inspiring and exciting workshops for students and the aspiring writers her attended her sessions. The guests at the launch of her latest book, *Leaving Barrumbi*, at Cairns City Library were treated to a wonderful address. So check out her books next time you are at a branch of Cairns Libraries.



# What's happening next?

## Manunda Library Relocation

Site preparation works have caused some delays in taking possession of the new Manunda Library tenancy from the developer.

As a result the library will now reopen a little later in the year after completion of significant fit out works.

Until further notice we shall continue with some critical services for our much-valued customers, we invite you to visit our Library Information Kiosk situated within Raintrees Shopping Centre at which all of your reserved items can continue to be collected. Also to minimise inconvenience returning items, a centrally located returns bin will be provided in a prominent location.

Whilst the new library is being built, our friendly library team will be waiting to serve you at any one of the other 7 branches of Cairns Libraries, the closest being the Earlville Library (Stockland) and the City Library in Abbott Street Cairns. Please see the library information leaflet for locations and opening times.

Situated just inside the rear car park entry, the new library will be more than double the size of the existing floor space and will feature the latest technology, research and resource materials in a friendly atmosphere. New services also include extensive community facilities, exciting and innovative features for young adults and readers of all ages, as well as a vibrant and lively dedicated children's area.

Relocating the Manunda library has presented Council with a much welcomed opportunity to again upgrade library services in line with global trends and the growth needs of the community. We apologise for any inconvenience caused during this temporary closure, and look forward to celebrating the launch of the new Manunda Library a little later in 2007. We shall advise the opening date as soon as it is confirmed.

# Stop Press!!

## Extended Saturday Hours for Earlville Library

**Free gift if you join on Sat 7/7/07**

Earlville Library will be open from 9am to 5pm from Saturday 7 July 2007. Make Earlville Library part of your Saturday one stop shop excursion to Stockland Earlville. Check our website [www.cairnslibrary.com.au](http://www.cairnslibrary.com.au) for further details.

## Forthcoming activities

### World Link Cairns tours

- Gabrielle Wang – 24-26 July, ring 4057 2233 for details
- Robert G Barrett – 30 August – 1 September, ring 4057 2233 for details
- Archimede Fusillo – 16-18 October, ring 4057 2233 for details

### Poetry Slam

- Youth workshops Monday 27 August 3.30-5.30pm City Library Meeting Room
- Adult workshops Tuesday 28 August 10am – 12 noon City Library Meeting Room
- Heats @ The Tanks Wednesday 29 August

### Questacon

- Monday the 16<sup>th</sup> July - Friday the 28<sup>th</sup> September in the Cairns City Library.
- Launch at 4pm 16<sup>th</sup> July - Cairns City Library.

### Cairns Show

- July 18-20 Staff from Cairns Libraries will be available on the Cairns City Council stand in the Fred Moule Pavilion to answer all your questions about the Cairns Libraries and its many services.

### Seniors Week

- 10 August 10am – 12noon Lifestyle Information for seniors. City Library meeting room.

### Library Book Sale

- Friday 10 – Sunday 12 August 2007 at Fred Moule Pavilion Cairns Showground.