

Biography as a creative endeavor

Picture and Story by Fletcher Howell

Tony Thompson was facing the prospect of writing a biography of a man almost all of us have heard of, but that no-one really knows about. The life of William Shakespeare has long been a mystery, with limited detail about who he was as a person.

The job of the biographer is to recount what we already know and discover what we are missing. Through research and drawing assumptions, Mr Thompson also aimed to maintain a storyline and to make something unique which people would be interested in reading.

In regards to starting his book, Mr Thompson said, “When researching (Shakespeare’s life) I asked questions like, ‘what can I say about this’ or ‘how do I frame this’ all the time. The ultimate aim was to find a unique angle which no-one has investigated before.”

In the end his search turned to the written work itself. “The answers I was looking for were found in the way he writes his plays,” Mr Thompson said. “His feelings about where he lived and what his life was like could all be found in the content of his plays.”

Mostly, Mr Thompson concentrated on reading Shakespeare’s plays and discovering new themes with a critically focused eye.

The process of writing a biography is as much a creative investigation into the life and background of a person – an attempt to find answers and search for clues -as it is an account of known events.



Preparatory School Events - Wyvern Book Parade

by Peter Ioannou, Ryan Roberts and Eric Sheng

A breakfast and book parade was held at Wyvern Preparatory School to raise funds for the Room to Read foundation. This charity provides books and other reading resources for children in developing countries. These things are essential for a good education and more opportunities in life. Wyvernites seemed to enjoy dressing up in exuberant costumes as they brought to life some of their favourite book characters, such as Willy Wonka, Gandalf, Robin Hood and Alice in Wonderland. Year 11 IB students were able to collect \$1,300 for Room to Read through this event.

Lindfield sees Monkey Baa Theatre

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Lindfield Year 5 and 6 students piled into Centenary Hall to enjoy a performance by the Monkey Baa Theatre of Susanne Gervay's book *I am Jack*. It is a compelling story about a boy who is bullied but does not want to tell anybody else for fear he will make it worse. When the PostScript team asked some questions of students exiting the hall about the show, they had this to say., "I liked it. I learnt that if you're being called names, you should tell someone so that it stops happening."



The playwright, author and main actor of *I Am Jack*.

Staff vs. Students Theatresports Verdict

By Robbie Tighe

In what some are calling the greatest theatrical conflict in the history of anything, ever, a narrow victory was awarded to the staff of Newington College. Boasting the marquee signing of old boy Rueben McDonald and the extreme prejudice of judges bribed with hundreds of dollars probably, inspirational teachers Mr Verco, Mr Parkin, Ms Meoli and Ms Cookson overcame a team of extremely talented and attractive Newington students.

The student team, consisting of Gus Gillies, Kieran Corcoran, Oscar Gresham, Tom Steel and Elliot Ulm guided a (minimum) thirty thousand strong crowd through countless laughs, tears and genuine good times. Devastated yet generous in defeat, team member Elliot Ulm described the competition as ‘a fierce battle for the ages, it’ll go down as one of the greats’. Following a prolonged silence, he added ‘we were robbed.’ In extreme contrast to such sportsmanship, Mr. Parkin stated ‘a team effort, to be sure, but I was the best. Absolutely. I am supreme ruler and president of the universe and you’re all peasants and I hate democracy and foot-long subway deals’.



The crowd is hyped for the competition.



The students and teachers during the competition.



Finding the balance between teaching and writing.

By Tom Foley

Chris Morpew found inspiration in a book from the ‘go girl’ book series. Mr. Morpew (son of Newington’s Chaplain Rev Morpew) is not particularly a reader of children’s books but the author of these books inspired him; she was just a “regular” person who became a writer and he wanted to do the same.

He decided to write the Zac Power books, and success came to him. At one point, Mr. Morpew considered writing as his full time job, but it was not entirely fulfilling. He returned to teaching and wrote part time. Mr Morpew said, “This balance seemed right.”

Speaking about his more recent success, The Phoenix Files, he was asked by a Year Eight student about the change of cover. He replied, “Don’t be fooled, it’s the same book. Or be fooled if you want, I could use the rent money.” A round of laughter followed.



Picture : Sarp Saydam

The mechanism within the clock

By Fletcher Howell

Although the face of the Literature Festival is made up of the wonderful authors who give time to share their passion, the hidden mechanism that keeps it all turning smoothly is the support team.

Many thanks to :

The Buddies who walked around with the authors, keeping them on time and not getting lost in the labyrinth of corridors and staircases were:

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- Christian Moustakas
- Oliver O'Shea
- Will Osmand
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- Nazim Rahman
- Deklan Rollason
- Tom Whitnall

The Literature Festive Committee, who dedicated months of their time to ensure this event ran to the highest standard:

- Ms Ann Jagger (Festival Coordinator) – Stanmore, Teacher Librarian (Literature)
- Ms Sabine Tanase (Assistant Festival Coordinator) – Senior Library Technician
- Mr Richard Wheeldon – Head of English
- Mr Sean Corcoran – Head of Learning and Teaching
- Dr Andrew Hirst – Deputy Headmaster (Head of Stanmore Campus)
- Ms Gina Simmonds – Library Operations Manager
- Ms Joanne Barnes – Wyvern, Teacher Librarian
- Ms Sue Gough – Lindfield, Teacher Librarian

Picture : Fletcher Howell



The PostScript team:

- Michael Carayannis - ONU(2004), *Sydney Morning Herald* Sports Journalist
- Dr Yvonne Smith – Head of Library
- Spencer Cornish (Year 11)
- Tom Foley (Year 11)
- Fletcher Howell (Year 11)
- Peter Ioannou (Year 11)
- Nick Jackson (Year 11)
- Ryan Roberts (Year 11)
- Sarp Saydam (Year 11)
- Eric Sheng (Year 11)
- Robbie Tighe (Year 11)