



Australian Fairy Tales Flesh or Fossil?

Old, old stories rumble through the landscape
Some are scattered fragments
Some are buried deep.
How do we find them?
Which can we keep?
When will we know those that are embedded in stone?
A code, a riddle a poem.

Welcome to the 2022
Australian Fairy Tale Society conference,
'Australian Fairy Tales: Flesh or Fossil?'

We acknowledge the traditional owners of the land on which we meet, the Yugara and Turrbal people, and pay our respects to the ancestors past, present and emerging.

Join us as we explore tales that have travelled across time and over seas as they tell us who we are, where we come from, and ponder where we may be going.

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Housekeeping

Permissions

Throughout the weekend, some presenters will be recorded on video, for later restricted release to AFTS members only.

Photographs of presenters and delegates will be taken – to celebrate this wonderful event, and for grant acquittals. Should you not wish to be included, please notify organisers at afts.conference@gmail.com. Thank you.

Presenters' Notes PDF

We've compiled a separate document with seven handouts that will be e-mailed to you.

- 2021 Fairy Tale Survey Em Chandler
- Ancestry as Fossil Lauren E Daniels, Dr June Perkins
- Diaspora and Fairy Tales Dr June Perkins, Roselle Tenefrancia, Sharon Orapeleng
- Fossicking in Fairy Tales Pam Blamey
- How To Analyse A Fairy Tale Down To Its Bones So You Can Rebuild It Melanie Hill
- How To Write A Modern Feminist Australian Fairy Tale Aimed At Children Catherine Turner
- The Value of Oral Traditions Joanne Ruksenas

Saturday's Charity Book Sale: Morgan Schatz Blackrose Collection

Enquiries: Pam Blamey (pamelamblamey@gmail.com)



Morgan Schatz Blackrose was a professional storyteller, writer, musician and educator for over thirty years. Her stories and songs took her to schools, hospitals, libraries, homes, festivals and conferences in Australia and to over twenty countries overseas.

Sadly, in 2019 Morgan passed away. These books are from her working storyteller's collection of texts. Take a look. There are many wonderful collections of folk tales here. Most are no longer in print.

Books will be sold for \$5 each in order to support a charity of her choice: Animal Management in Rural and Remote Indigenous Communities (Darwin).

Sunday's Market Stalls

Give our presenters and the Society some love – and check out the AustFairyTales merchandise at www.redbubble.com as well as that on offer at Sunday lunch:

- South of the Sun: Australian Fairy Tales for the 21 st Century and bespoke AFTS merch
- Bernard Hobson
- June Perkins
- Kathleen Jennings
- Kathryn Gossow
- Lauren E Daniels

COVID-19

https://www.qld.gov.au/health/conditions/health-alerts/coronavirus-covid-19

Please exercise personal responsibility with regard to current requirements as they apply to COVID vaccinations, personal hygiene, social distancing, and the wearing of face masks. Face masks are not compulsory in most Queensland settings, but are still required in some, such as high-risk settings, tested positive to Covid-19, are a close contact or have symptoms.



09:45

Saturday

SCHEDULE 01 OCTOBER 2022 9.15AM-8PM

09:15 CHECK IN - BE PROMPT



Kurilpa Point Park (near Montague Road, and GOMA Bistro)

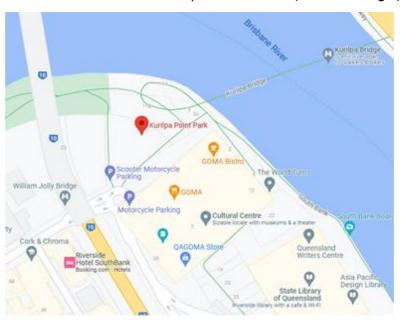
WELCOME TO COUNTRY

Aunty Deborah Sandy

CULTURAL WALK ON COUNTRY

Shaniah Thomason

90 minute walk from Kurilpa Point Park (at the bridge) to Ship Inn.



This is the start of the bridge, within Kurilpa Point Park. Please join us here at 9.15am Saturday to check in for the conference.



Thank you to Brisbane City Cr Jonathon Sriranganathan (Gabba Ward) for sponsoring the Cultural Walk on Country.



Saturday

SCHEDULE OCTOBER

Ship Inn Function Room entry is via the Griffith University Graduate Centre (S07).

Enter main door, turn left, ascend in lift.



LUNCH I hour 11:30



at the Ship Inn

Includes Morgan Schatz Blackrose Collection (Charity Book Sale)

12:30

Lyrebird, Gondwanan Memory Keeper Melaina Faranda The Value of Oral Traditions Jo Ruksenas * Handout A History of Australian Fairy Tales in Oz Jo Henwood Art of Imagination: Exploring Fantasy Aesthetics Olivia Rea

2:30 **AFTERNOON TEA** 30 mins

3:00

Art Portfolio: The Eternal Garden Bernard Hobson

The Rickety Old House: My Fairy Tale Childhood Laura Fulton * Handout Diaspora and Fairy Tales Dr June Perkins, Roselle Tenefrancia, Sharon Orapelena

1 hour 4.45 DINNER

5:45

6:00

to

8:00pm

AFTS Award Presentation

Finalists: Jo Henwood, Sophie Masson, Spike Deane

Storytelling Concert

MCs Bettina Nissen and Anne E Stewart with

Alexandra McCallum, Em Chandler, Les Davidson, Liz Locksley, Sue Robin



SCHEDULE



08:15 **CHECK IN**

Griffith University Film School

Lecture Theatre 1.23_S07 (This building adjoins the Ship Inn)

08:45

Welcome to Day 2

AUSTRALIAN FAIRY TALES: FLESH OR FOSSIL? - Keynote

Bettina Nissen (MC), with Alan Parsons, Jo Henwood, Kathleen Jennings

Magic Dreaming, Fairy Tale Journeys Anna Jarrett

2021 Fairy Tale Survey Em Chandler

* Handout

11:00

MORNING TEA

30 mins

11:30 **SESSION 1**



11:30 **SESSION 2** Gender Inclusive Fairy Tales: The Reinvention of Therianthropic

Shapeshifters Candice Lemon-Scott

Fossicking in Fairy Tales Pam Blamey

* Handout

How to analyse a Fairy Tale down to its bones so you can rebuild it

Melanie Hill guides us through Neil Gaiman's Coraline

* Handout

or

How to Write a Modern Feminist Australian Fairy Tale for Children

Catherine Turner

* Handout

Spinning Sideways: Fairy Tale Retellings Faith Mudge

Salonline web series Jo Henwood, Alyssa Curtayne, Eliane Morel

1:00

LUNCH

1 hour

2:00

4.00pm

Let's thank sponsors, and chat 2023 Conference (Sydney)

Australian Fairy Tales for Challenging Times

Jenni Cargill-Strong, Liz Locksley

Ancestry as Fossil: Inspiration from the wellspring of lineage

Lauren E Daniels, Dr June Perkins

* Handout

Thank you! Let's celebrate a wonderful conference!

Bone Storyteller

Gazing into eyes of ancient beings seeking story

Connecting through sky through water through stone through time

Picking up rocks discovering imprint mystery fragments puzzle to answer

Storyteller reaching
hip bone to thigh bone
hand to wing
wing to finger
fingers to bone
bone to fingers

Singing bones into idea idea into words words into flesh flesh into stars stars into constellation constellation falling into ocean dissolving water to earth hurling earth to sky

Yearning earth
fingers to webbing
solid into liquid
endangered
eye to eye
nose to nose
elbow to elbow

Birthing story
land to village
village to nation
nation to world - finding
song to story
story to teller
spinning word by word
Story

By June Perkins





Lyre Bird, Gondwanan Memory Keeper Melaina Faranda

What is it to be a non-Indigenous Australian, reared on imported stories, while still sensing fairy tale shimmerings in our ancient landscapes? And how do we find a respectful, authentic language to express this connection? I live in a caldera – a ring of mountains cloaked in world heritage rainforest, a fecund green cauldron continually brewing and bubbling with our continent's highest biodiversity.

It has been a continuous creative quest to reconcile faraway stories with numinous sensation until, in what Dr Martin Shaw calls 'interspecies gossip', the lyre bird appeared to me in a dream with a most pertinent and poignant message. Lyre birds are eclectic and excellent mimics, but what is their true call?

This talk will explore, through the weaving of dreams through a passage of deep time, and with accompanying audio of the lyre bird's song, along with references to roles of birds in fairytales – how the Lyre Bird might just be our very own Gondwana Phoenix.

The Value of Oral Traditions Jo Ruksenas (Handout available)

When we write something down, it is frozen at that moment. A snapshot of not just the story, but the recorder's lens. Their prejudices, biases, skills and motivations. But a story that lives in oral traditions is adaptable and vibrant, relying on memory and imagination, and the exchange between storyteller and listener. So, what effect does writing a story down have on the story, especially if it is not part of the writer (or the reader's) culture?

Guillermo del Toro, Mexican film-maker, leans heavily on Mexican fairy tales from his childhood in his movies, which are often described as macabre and violent. Westerners, he says, have 'Disneyised' traditional cautionary tales, commoditising them. Removing them from context, meaning and intrinsic value not only treats us as wusses, it devalues traditional knowledges.

Evelyn Araluen similarly hints at loss of knowledge and doom to come in her Australian book, *Drop Bear*. Tiddalik, Bunyip, Gongarra – Indigenous Australian cultural knowledge passed through oral traditions for generations, similarly commodified and misrepresented.

Much more than a quick scare, these stories represent important living cultural artefacts. Oral traditions provide robustness, but this is not infinite.

What remains, and who is to be trusted with the stories now?

SATURDAY SESSIONS



A History of Australian Fairy Tales in Oz: More than one yellow brick road

Jo Henwood

Researching the history of fairy tales in Australia through Trove reveals how often they turn out to actually be fairy stories. Distinguishing between both genres reveals the history of this genre in overlapping waves of immigrant peoples moving from imposing their cultural view, culturally appropriating Aboriginal stories, and inventing their own characters to fit in the landscape.

But that leaves Australian fairy tales and fairy stories as purely literary genres. Is the reason we can't find traditional stories simply because we didn't have any Australian Grimms to collect them? Were there stories waiting to be collected that don't exist anymore? Or has our spoken word culture evolved in other ways such as yarns?

Collections of Australian oral stories are frustratingly blokey, and surely a matter of collector focus because women have always shared stories over tables – and some of them might have been Australian versions of fairy tales, if they had been collected. But maybe not.

Magic doesn't seem to be part of the way we tell stories anecdotally (other than ghost stories) – except for the fascinating but unique figure of the bunyip with all its cultural appropriation baggage. Why is it so?

Art of Imagination: Exploring Fantasy Aesthetics Olivia Rea

How do we see the history of fantasy illustration depicted in table-top role-playing games (TTRPGs), like *Dungeons & Dragons*, today?

In Exploring Fantasy Aesthetics, I will discuss the lineage of modern TTRPG fantasy illustration, some of the key art periods that I think have either informed the modern aesthetic through techniques being passed down from teachers to students, or which are directly referenced by modern practitioners in their art. Moreover, I want to ask why. Why does this aesthetic seem to look to the past? And, if we want to touch a bit deeper, what power is there in using older aesthetics to depict modern concepts?

As background

My PhD research focuses on illustrations created for fantasy table-top role-playing games (TTRPGs) – and the most notable is *Dungeons & Dragons (D&D)*, which was first published in 1974.

These collaborative storytelling games have a shared imaginary world, embodied by a Game Master (GM) or Dungeon Master (DM) in which players take on character roles, known as Player Characters (PCs). The players interact with the story framework, created and run by the DM, who also mediates the rules, and assumes the roles of any creatures or characters that the Player Characters meet.

With the interplay between the person who creates and runs the world, and the players who experience it through characters they have created, it is an interesting place to explore unique stories, self-created identities, and self-determined mythologies.

Art Portfolio: The Eternal Garden Bernard Hobson

For these pieces I looked into the cautionary and sometimes tragic nature of fairy and folk stories. I tried to create a world and a sequence that could tell a story with only visual imagery – inviting the viewer to explore a tragic story of death and rebirth in a magical world, long after our own.

The Eternal Garden comprises five works:

- The Huntress's Promise
- Beyond the Kingdom of Stone
- The Jabiru's Flower
- The Eternal Kingdom
- The Eternal Garden

The Rickety Old House: My fairy tale childhood Laura Fulton

In the mid-twentieth century, the "legal fiction" of closed adoption saw thousands of infants and toddlers in the US, the UK, Australia and elsewhere removed from one home and placed in another, their names changed and their biological family histories suppressed or erased. With documents sometimes destroyed, misplaced or permanently sealed through "embargo", adopted people of my generation were often left to recreate their own origin stories through creative means.

I suggest that the fairy tale is one method of filling those gaps. In this talk, I'll provide some historical context, explaining why the use of imagination and fairy tales was often so important to children adopted under the "invisible" method of closed adoption.

It will also include a reading of "The Rickety Old House", a short fairy tale I wrote in the style of an American folk tale as part of a longer work of fiction, exploring my own experience as an adopted person through creative writing experimentation. It will end with a Q&A session.

Dr June Perkins, Roselle Tenefrancia, Sharon Orapeleng (Handout)

Dr June Perkins, Sharon Orapeleng and Roselle Tenefrancia will tell us three stories of significance.

One each from Botswana, Philippines, Papua New Guinean Australian as they ask ... what stories can be given to the next generation – and kept alive in an Australian context; how do we identify the colonising influences, be they European or from Missionaries; and find cultural traditions free of these?

4:45 DINNER 1 HOUR



AFTS Annual Award for Inspiration and Contribution to Australian Fairy Tale Culture

This annual award is judged according to a body of work that has enduring significance due to its originality, influence, beauty/quality, depth of insight and breadth of scope, and contribution to understanding Australian fairy tales.

While the nominee does not have to be a member of the AFTS, only AFTS members can nominate and vote. The winners' names are engraved on our permanent Award, a truly beautiful sculpture created by Spike Deane.

2022 Finalists



Sophie Masson OAM

Award-winning writer, and 2015 AFTS keynote speaker

Sophie Masson has revelled in a profound and lifelong involvement with the very heart and soul of myth and fairy tale – bringing to the page both her European background and her Australian perspective. Most recently, she contributed to the AFTS anthology South of the Sun (2021), and has worked with Lorena Carrington on French Fairy Tales (2019) and Magical Tales from French Camelot (to be released in 2022), and their new venture Pardalote Press.



Spike Deane

Glass artist, and AFTS eZine and conference graphic designer

Australia's top – and indeed, only – fairy tale glass artist draws on narratives found in folk and fairy tales with a focus on themes of individual transformation, metamorphosis and the idea of becoming.

Behind the scenes, Spike has created the graphic design for most AFTS conferences and eZines, been Ring Leader of the Canberra Fairy Tale Ring, co-ordinated AFTS social media, and contributed illustrations to the South of the Sun: Australian Fairy Tales for the 21st Century anthology.



Jo Henwood

Australian Fairy Tale Society co-founder and president

Jo Henwood has worked hard to forge new relationships with fairy tale enthusiasts across Australia and the globe. As the Society's Ring Maiden, Jo encourages our multi-disciplinary creatives and academics to appreciate old tales, and to reinterpret and reimagine them in new ways.

Jo is an accredited Storyteller and accredited Professional Tour Guide, who leads many heritage site tours, and is a museum theatre creative, workshop leader and public speaker.

Storytelling conce

Tellers: Alexandra McCallum, Anne E Stewart, Em Chandler, Les Davidson, Liz Locksley and Sue Robin.

As a taster -

From Em, we'll hear 'Scrapefoot', the oldest version of 'Goldilocks and the Three Bears', followed by an extremely brief history of the tale.

From Les, we'll hear 'Them Bones, Them Bones, Them dry old Bones and Teeth'."

From Liz, we'll hear 'Just a bit more time': a story performance with a bit of science magic.

Just a Bit More Time: A story performance with science magic Liz Locksley

Before people the trees were bigger, the animals were larger and time... was endless. That was before the blackness came and swallowed up the giant trees, the giant animals and the sunshine of millennia. The eternity of time was compressed, buried deep and forgotten.

Many years passed, new plants grew, animals were born and people evolved.

In a faraway land, maybe China, a small child found a slither of deep time, washed up in a storm.

Deep compressed time, with the heat of a century of sun and the work of a thousand horses you could hold in your hand. The child fashioned the deep time into an earring fit for an empress or maybe a time lord. There began a dangerous game of power in the search for just a bit more time.

Scrapefoot: An oral retelling of the oldest version of 'Goldilocks and the Three Bears' Em Chandler

This oral story is adapted from Joseph Jacob's story 'Scrapefoot' in his More English Fairy Tales, possibly the oldest version of the more familiar 'Goldilocks and the Three Bears'.

The story follows the fox, Scrapefoot, as he enters the castle of the three bears, breaks their chair, drinks their milk, and sleeps in their bed, and what happens when the three bears return home.

This interactive retelling will be followed by a brief summary/history of this story, and how the tale of a tricksy fox turned into a tale of a sweet, home-breaking girl.

















Keynote panel

9am Sunday

Australian Fairy Tales: Flesh or Fossil?

Bettina Nissen (MC) converses with Uncle Alan Parsons, Jo Henwood, and Kathleen Jennings

Our keynote panel 'Australian Fairy Tales: Flesh or Fossil?' will explore questions central to our theme.

- How do we keep old stories alive through time and across cultures?
- How do old tales translate from the spoken word to the written, and then into different formats film, fiction, comics, ballet and many more?
- Who are the translators?
- What do these tales tell us about where we come from and even, where we may go?

The panellists will respond from their own experience as writers, storytellers, artists and illustrators. This discussion will travel with the participants as we navigate our way throughout the day.

10:00

SUNDAY SESSIONS

Magic Dreaming: The ancient art of storytelling and fairy tale journeying

Anna Jarrett

Drawing from fairytales from around the world, learn how to dream into the inner landscape of stories. Step into the storyline with Anna, travelling through time and place into the essence of the story.

We will play with getting to know characters as real people, and developing relationships with storied places. To work more deeply with fairy tales, learn some key skills: place-based research, ancestral memory, character psychology, symbolism, story elements, conscious dreaming, deep listening, improvisation, reflection heartbeat drumming, soul singing, life story work, energetic work and embodiment.

This workshop is evolving out of Anna's professional work with stories and dreaming for 35 years. Anna is a traveller of real worlds, imagined realms and dream lives.

This interactive talk is about reclaiming our heart and soul language to reach deep inside ancient tales and find the bridge between the old worlds (fossils) and our world today (flesh). It's especially designed for storytellers, writers, singers, dreamers and artists who dwell in the unseen worlds.

2021 Survey of Popular Fairy Tales: Why, how, what, and where next? Em Chandler (Handout available)

In 2021, I created a survey to get a sense of what the most popular fairy tales are. After sharing the link online through social media, I received 139 different results from around the globe, and the results were in some ways anticipated, and in other ways quite surprising!

This talk will discuss why I decided to undertake this research, the process I took to collect the data and create the survey, the hiccoughs that emerged, the survey results, and the flaws I have identified.

How I plan to continue this research (or have continued the research, should it have progressed before the conference commences) will also be revealed.

11:00 MORNING TEA

30 MINS



Gender Inclusive Fairy Tales: The reinvention of therianthropic shapeshifters Candice Lemon-Scott

Shapeshifting has played a significant role in traditional fairy tales, myths, legends and folktales, with its known origins going as far back as 13,000 BC.

Of interest to this talk is that while original fairy tales typically portray feminine and masculine stereotypes, shapeshifters have the potential to break down gender norms.

Examples include Red Riding Hood's wolf reimagined as 'Red', a bisexual werewolf, in television program *Once Upon a Time*, and the lycanthropic non-binary ice wolf Jai, a shapeshifter in the *Elementals* trilogy by Amie Kaufman.

By comparing the role of therianthropic (part human, part animal) shapeshifters in original fairy tales, to those in more contemporary imaginations, I look at how fairy tales can break down gender binaries – and specifically how non-binary youth can be represented in fairy tale retellings in Australian fantasy novels for children.

Fossicking in Fairy Tales: A Jungian sifter for gems in the psyche Pam Blamey (Handout available)

Exploring a fairy tale using a Jungian filter can be an awe-inspiring way to spend your time - indeed it can be an addictive time thief.

Last century, Jungian analyst Marie Louise von Franz described fairy tales as "the purest and simplest expression of collective unconscious processes". As a result of analysing thousands of fairy tales over the years, she devised a methodical structure to study the tales to get the most from them in uncovering these processes. Others, like Catherine Moreau and John Betts, have followed in her footsteps.

Thus, from exploring the structure of the drama through to analysing the motifs and symbols and finding parallels in other stories, this methodology reveals gems of history, social mores, and psychological insights, ancient wisdom and forgotten teachings.

This is true for our First Nations people who have their dreamtime stories for millennia, as well as later Australians who have brought their traditional stories with them – "from all the lands we come".

Just as we can learn so much about life long ago using the fossil record, so we can still learn about the human psyche from old, even ancient fairy tales. It just takes some fossicking!

How to analyse a fairy tale down to its bones, so you can rebuild it Melanie Hill will guide us through Neil Gaiman's Coraline (Handout)

Melanie will reveal how she teaches writers to identify key components in successful stories, like Coraline, for use in their own works.

The specifics include a scene by scene breakdown of the working components, the use of motifs and symbols to create a sense of foreboding and to assist with world building, point of view, and characterisation. Finally, to build your own story, learn generic descriptions for these components.

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SUNDAY SESSIONS



How to write a modern feminist Australian fairy tale aimed at children Catherine Turner (Handout available)

Catherine was inspired by the UN Women's Agency in Georgia (the country) utilising the power of story that helps shape a child's value system by putting together a collection of stories based on historically significant women, with the aim of turning around some of the gender acculturation around the world. This project resonated as Catherine's lifelong passion for fairy tales was sparked as a child at their parent's knee after being read the original (and gory) Hans Christian Andersen and Brother Grimm stories.

From this inspiration, and for their research project in the Master of Fine Arts (Cultural Leadership) with the National Institute of Dramatic Art (NIDA), Catherine set out to gain a better understanding of the theoretical approaches and genre characteristics of fairy tales through a contextual write.

Catherine then wrote an original Australian fairy tale with a feminist focus, aimed at children aged 6-8, of colonial and Euro-Anglo descent, with the protagonist based on a significant historical female figure from their local area (Geelong, Victoria).

The research insights, mindful of how Australian fairy tales are tied up in the colonial experience, will form the basis of the case study presentation.

Spinning Sideways: The art of the fairy tale retelling Faith Mudge

Fairy tales are an eternally popular source of inspiration for storytellers, from Disney classics to musical theatre, fantasy epics to subversive magic realism. Fairy tales seem to be almost infinitely adaptable, but as cultural values and expectations change, how do the stories we want to tell change with them? What do we choose to keep, what do we reject, and why?

We will be discussing the work of three Australian authors and analysing how they have adapted fairy tales to serve innovative new narratives and alternative perspectives.

Salonline: A fairy tale web series Alyssa Curtayne, Eliane Morel, Jo Henwood

An AFTS original web series is coming! 'Salonline', set in 17th century France, explores the (fictionalised) lives of three Salonnieres: Mme Marie-Catherine, Baroness D'Aulnoy; Charlotte-Rose de Caumont de la Force, and Henriette Julie de Murat.

When 'Salonline' goes live on the AFTS YouTube channel, expect behind the scenes gossip, and fairy tale performances (acted by Alyssa, Eliane and Jo); plus the option to chat with the Salonnieres and their followers on a designated Facebook page.

1:00

LUNCH

1 HOUR

Australian Fairy Tales for Challenging Times Jenni Cargill-Strong, Liz Locksley

We live in an age of such rolling uncertainty, that the ability to pivot and adapt to changing circumstances has become increasingly vital. Catastrophic fires, floods, the pandemic and the spectre of climate derangement have created enormous mental health pressures. The post-truth landscape, where we are bombarded with large volumes of seemingly plausible disinformation has increased polarisation of the Australian public.

If so, what kind of Australian folk and fairy tales are needed in these challenging times and how can they be best rewoven to engage, enchant, heal and inspire contemporary Australians, while honouring our First Nations people?

Ancestry as Fossil: Tapping the wellspring of lineage as inspiration Lauren Elise Daniels, Dr June Perkins (Handout available)

If we consider our lineage and ancestry as fossils waiting to be discovered, the act of uncovering our stories and giving voice to our ancestors grows into an expression of our deeper connections to our sense of family, our landscapes, our world, and to each other. Storytellers find that by turning attention to their own relations – both near, far and distant – a wellspring of story awaits, forgotten voices begin to speak, and connections form.

Join Lauren Elise Daniels and Dr June Perkins for a discussion on ancestry as a powerful catalyst for story and how our attention becomes a healing experience.

Flesh or Fossil

He'd promised his wife. Her lifelong wish to communicate with future archaeologists. But they could never agree on what should accompany her, and there was the question of what would survive centuries underground. Also, they – he – never truly believed the day would come. But here it is.

Standing by her coffin, her wedding dress draped over one arm, (such a princess she was on that day, clear-faced, sparkling eyes, her flesh so yielding in their lovemaking), in his hand, her reading glasses, (the way she squinted reading all manner of things in the lamplight, the sunlight and the moonlight), and at his feet in a box, he has photo albums, her smartphone, her favourite red shoes, love letters, locks of their children's hair, her gardening tools, pressed flowers, mother's day cards...

But what are reading glasses without the book discussions, gardening tools without the joy of the perfect rose, red shoes without her clunky dancing? The letters will fade, and the dress will disintegrate. What would any of this debris say to anyone about a loving life lived well? Of how they all loved her?

The undertaker is getting restless, impatient. Hammer poised with coffin nails in his mouth, eyebrows raised, ready to close her up.

The husband drops his load, kicks the box out of the way, steps up and into the coffin, and wraps his arms around her bony shoulders. "Ok", he says, "you can nail it down."

Kathryn Gossow





ALAN PARSONS

Australian Fairy Tales: Flesh or Fossil? with Bettina Nissen MC, Jo Henwood, Kathleen Jennings

Alan Parsons found his family as being part of the stolen generation in his thirties. This began a journey into finding mob and travelling extensively to discover his heritage. That journey took Alan to many places and people; always discovering the stories that pertain to his heritage.

"A fossil is the remnant of a record of something that was once living." Alan's journey continues with many engagements with children and spiritual gatherings.



ALEXANDRA MCCALLUM

- Storyteller
- MC
- Conference co-organiser

Alexandra is an oral storyteller and writer of fiction, poetry and performance work. She is also a community cultural development facilitator with a particular interest in creative pathways to oracy and literacy development. Alex has performed at numerous venues and festivals around Australia, written scripts for school touring and been published in *Artshub, Running Dog* and *Best of Bareknuckle Poet*.



ALYSSA CURTAYNE

Salonline: a fairy tale web series with Jo Henwood, Eliane Morel

An emerging oral storyteller with a passion for folk and fairy tale, Alyssa is currently studying a MA in Creative Writing and Children's Literature at Deakin University. She is a former journalist, who works as an English teacher in Western Australia.



ANNA JARRETT

Magic Dreaming - The ancient art of storytelling and fairy tale journeying

For 35 years, Anna – a professional Storyteller, Traveller, Teacher and Dreamer – has worked around the world with storytellers and artists from many lands. Her storytelling and writing is guided by deep dreaming and long wild walks in her home on the south coast of New South Wales.

Anna's story work reaches beyond words and transcends the boundaries of our physical world. Inspiration comes from her travels and amazing teachers in yoga, song, flow, shamanic drumming, storytelling and bird language.

The practice of magic dreaming draws from Anna's journey as an Australian woman and gypsy soul, while her work as a support teacher and nature guide ground her creative storytelling practice. Together, these bring the human experience and nature connection into the esoteric world of Magic Dreaming.



ANNE E STEWART Storyteller

An acclaimed storyteller with an international reputation, Anne is a versatile performer, with the energy and voice to engage any audience. Anne's focus is on the shared stories of Australia honouring Indigenous, Celtic, Asian and World stories. She's also written much about the Australian storytelling scene and is a consummate MC.

BERNARD HOBSON

Art Portfolio: The Eternal Garden

Bernard is a third year Griffith University animation student, focusing on Sound Design and Illustration. His years of travelling have shaped his artworks, which create narratives around the strange and unusual places of the world, where human beings still look out of place.

Bernard says: "There is a strangely familiar feeling of frontier splendour when seeing the depths of our oceans, the reaches of outer space, and in my own experience, travelling the Arctic. A sort of sinister, haunting frontier-splendour reaches from these worlds untouched by humanity. The stories of that desire to reach back, often become cautionary monuments against treading where we do not belong.

"In my lines I try to conjure up places we once could have recognised, now lost to time. Man-made spires, twisted into half-natural forms, bathed in unnatural light and colour. These worlds should – and do, conflict and clash with our own. And it's within this essential conflict, that I try to create narratives of explorers, invaders and the monuments they leave behind."



- MC for keynote panel, Australian Fairy Tales: Flesh or Fossil?
- Storyteller
- Conference Co-organiser

Bettina Nissen is a storyteller with over thirty years experience working in the field of Early Literacy in libraries, schools and community organisations. Her training is in Librarianship and Social Sciences.

As a storyteller, Bettina loves to tell old folk and fairy tales from her Western European heritage. She plays with rhymes and songs and stories to bring these tales alive in a contemporary setting. For many years, Bettina took these stories and rhymes to community arts projects in diverse settings from playgrounds to detention centres, alternate schools and respite care centres. Currently, Bettina coordinates Paint Dbay REaD, a volunteer-led early literacy project in Deception Bay, Queensland.



CANDICE LEMON-SCOTT

Gender Inclusive Fairy Tales: The Reinvention of Therianthropic Shapeshifters



Candice is an internationally published Australian author, editor and presenter, and a current doctoral candidate at the University of Newcastle. Her thesis is a creative project focusing on non-binary representation in Australian middle grade fantasy literature.

Her 15 published books with Penguin, Pearson Education and New Frontier Publishing include the *Jake in Space* and *Eco Rangers* series. *Ocean Warriors: The Rise of Robo-Shark* is her newest release, published with Storytorch Press. Her quirky, fast-paced narratives appeal to young readers in particular.

Recognition in a number of literary awards mean her books have been on bestsellers lists in schools and bookstores. These include: the PPA Award on diversity, difference & diagnosis, the Educational Publishing Australia Awards, Victorian Premier's Literary Awards, Wilderness Society's Environmental Awards for Children's Literature, US Green Earth Awards, Australian Booksellers Association, Lamont Books and Premier's Reading Challenge.

Candice is also a Books in Homes role model, Australia Reads ambassador and member of Society of Children's Book Writers and Illustrators, and Book Links



How to write a modern feminist Australian fairy tale aimed at children



Books and stories are Catherine's first love. She/they is an emerging writer (with an Australian military history book in-progress), qualified book editor, award-winning freelance book publisher, and regular writers' festival-goer. She's also worked in book production in educational publishing and has volunteered at state-based writers' centres.

Another of their lifelong loves is for the performing arts, having previously worked in a regional theatre in Queensland and now working with a classical music organisation in Melbourne.

Between 2015 and 2020, Catherine's combined loves for literary, visual arts and heritage came together while working in the GLAM (gallery, library, archives, and museums) sector, where they managed: a regional gallery and military museum in Queensland; a converged library-museum-gallery team in regional New South Wales; and an award- winning and internationally recognised central library building, and its teams, in regional Victoria.



Salonline: a fairy tale web series with Jo Henwood, Alyssa Curtayne



Eliane Morel is a writer, actor, singer and producer, who studied voice at the Canberra School of Music, has a BA (Hons) in Theatre Studies from UNSW and a Diploma in Playwriting from NIDA.

In 2018 she wrote and today continues to perform her award-winning show 'Disenchanted: A Cabaret of Twisted Fairy Tales'. This will play Fringe Brisbane this month.



- 2021 Survey of Popular Fairy Tales: Why, how, what, and where next?
- **An oral retelling of 'Scrapefoot'**, the oldest version of 'Goldilocks and the Three Bears', followed by an extremely brief history of the tale

Em Chandler (she/they) is a proud queer and trans theatre-maker, magician, and storyteller. With over 16 years of experience working with kids and their adults, they are committed to collaborating on new multidisciplinary work.

Em worked with a range of theatre-makers during her Bachelor of Music Theatre, including Sisters Grimm, Anthony Crowley, and Casey Gould. Graduating in 2019, Em has since completed Honours and begun a PhD.

Their show, *Once Upon a Rhyme*, received the Candlelight Productions Scholarship for Artistic Excellence at the Melbourne Magic Festival 2016. Their work has been described by the Sydney Morning Herald as "pure enchantment".

Em is passionate about social justice, fairy tales, and connecting with others through imagination and wonder.



FAITH MUDGE Spinning Sideways: The Art of the Fairy Tale Retelling

Faith is an Australian writer of speculative fiction, whose work has been shortlisted for Ditmar and Aurealis Awards, while her story *January Days* was runner-up for the Queensland Young Writers Award in 2015.

She blogs about all things fairy tale, folklore and mythology at <u>beyondthedreamline.wordpress.com</u> and would rather be reading than doing anything else.



JENNI CARGILL-STRONG

Australian Fairytales for Challenging Times, with Liz Locksley

Jenni is an award-winning Australian storyteller, enchantivist and storytelling teacher. Her passions and expertise are focused on stories of place, stories to celebrate the earth, stories to heal, to strengthen community and myths which express the divine feminine.

She has entertained adults and children since 1993 and, since 2003, has taught face-to face and online.



JO HENWOOD

- A History of Fairy Tales in Oz: More than one yellow brick road
- Australian Fairy Tales: Flesh or Fossil? (with MC Bettina Nissen, Uncle Alan Parsons, Kathleen Jennings)
- Salonline: a fairy tale web series (with Alyssa Curtayne, Eliane Morel)

Jo Henwood leads tours around many Sydney heritage sites as a museum theatre creative, as an accredited Storyteller (with Australian Storytellers), and as an accredited Professional Guide (with the Institute of Australian Tour Guides). Jo also mentors heritage sites' storytellers for the Federation of East Asian Story Tellers.

In 2013, she and Reilly McCarron founded the Australian Fairy Tale Society, for which she is the 'Ring Maiden', aka resource provider, for our Fairy Tale Rings.



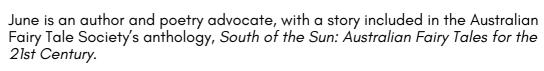
JOANNE RUKSENAS The Value of Oral Traditions

Jo's first remembered stories are fairy stories – and in particular, *Grimms'* Fairy Tales: a forbidden book bought for her brother that lived on the highest shelf at the end of the hall. This book led her to appreciate just how complex these tales really were.

Jo is an educator and writer of fiction and non-fiction, with a current focus on issues in the education system. She lives in Brisbane with her family and two rescue pups.



- Ancestry as Fossil: Tapping the well-spring of our lineage as inspiration with Lauren Daniels
- Diaspora and Fairytales with Sharon Orapeleng, Roselle Tenefrancia
- Conference co-organiser



Born to a Mekeo mother and Australian father, June defines herself as a world citizen in the diaspora ocean whilst looking out from Brisbane. She is devoted to excellence in intercultural, diversity and across-arts perspectives in storytelling, and community building.

The current Chair of the Queensland Writers Centre management committee is undertaking a Masters in Education, and is working individually and collectively on new pieces and events. In telling and creating stories, June excavates the heritage of both her mother and father.

As detailed at https://gumbootspearlz.org/ June has published online, in galleries, environmental centres, print and video with QAGOMA, QLD Poetry, ABC Open, Writing QLD, and Baha'i creative collectives.



KATHLEEN JENNINGS

Australian Fairy Tales: Flesh or Fossil? with MC Bettina Nissen, Jo Henwood, Uncle Alan Parsons

Kathleen Jennings is an illustrator and writer based in Brisbane, Australia. As an illustrator, she has won one World Fantasy Award (and been a finalist three other times), and has been shortlisted once for the Hugos, and once for the Locus Awards, as well as winning a number of Ditmars. As a writer, she has won a British Fantasy Award (the Sydney J Bounds Award) and two Ditmars and been shortlisted for World Fantasy Awards, the Courier-Mail People's Choice Book of the Year Award, the Crawford Award, the Australian Shadows Award, the Eugie Foster Memorial Award, and several Aurealis Awards.

Her illustration portfolio is at: kathleenjennings.com Her bibliography is here: http://tanaudel.wordpress.com/writing/

KATHRYN GOSSOW Conference co-organiser

Kathryn has been writing and publishing short and flash fiction in a variety of genres since 2006. Her debut novel *Cassandra* was a finalist in the Aurealis Awards for Best Fantasy Novel in 2017. The *Dark Poet* is a collection of short stories on the dangers of charisma. In her third novel, a small-town thriller, *Taking Baby for a Walk*, the ordinariness of life meets the extraordinary of crime.

Kathryn is the current Brisbane Ring Maiden, and a co-editor of *South of the Sun: Australian Fairy Tales for the 21st Century* anthology; and her latest news can be found at www.kathryngossow.net



The Rickety Old House: My fairy tale childhood

Laura's creative practice PhD, through RMIT, explored how the adopted person may address issues of identity, origin and belonging through creative writing experiments. Having completed this in October 2020, her current focus is creative writing. Specifically, a novel – an imagined family history that considers issues of separation, trauma and loss, how we cope with those issues, the ways we look forward, and the ways we look back.

Laura is a teacher and editor, as well as a former columnist, staff writer, ghost writer and project writer. Her commercial books and articles were published in the US, UAE and Australia, while her critical and creative work has appeared in numerous US and Australian literary magazines.

The dual US-Australian citizen, now based in Melbourne, was born in the Mississippi delta region of southern Arkansas.





LAUREN ELISE DANIELS

Ancestry as Fossil: Tapping the well-spring of our lineage as inspiration with Dr June Perkins

A 2021 Aurealis Award winning co-editor, Lauren Elise Daniels has a Bachelor of Arts and Master of Fine Arts in Creative Writing, and has worked in publishing since the early 1990s. After publishing her 2018 novel, Serpent's Wake: A Tale for the Bitten, Lauren co-authored the 2020 bestseller, Winning Short Story Competitions: Essential Tools for the Serious Writer, with Cate Sawyer.

This year, her short fiction appears in the *Generation X-ed* and *Out of Time: True Paranormal Encounters* anthologies and Midnight Tales magazine. Her poetry is published with *For Ukraine from Women of the World* and the Horror Writers Association's mental health initiative, *Of Horror and Hope*. She co-edited the *We Are Providence* anthology, launching at Providence, Rhode Island's Necronomicon in August.

An editor for over 100 titles, Lauren directs Brisbane Writers Workshop, www.brisbanewriters.com



LES DAVIDSON Storyteller

Les Davidson, as a storyteller, has told stories from Orkney to Tassie both formally and sometimes very informally. Ancient fairytales, urban legends and modern mythologies are all ingredients of his craft – which can appear in impromptu tales told to folks while travelling on mass transport.

As Les loves his adventures with the Sydney Fairy Tale Circle and the Society's annual conferences, he asked to participate in Brisbane. Thank you, Les!



LIZ LOCKSLEY

- Australian Fairy Tales for Challenging Times with Jenni Cargill-Strong
- Storyteller

Liz grew up between worlds. She gets her sass from Manchester's swagger of industrial ingenuity, soul from Dentdale's dialect of Norse ancestry and roaring peat brown becks, and spirit of adventure from the Australian bush, desert and ocean.

Liz is a storyteller and narrator of systems for life: food, water, energy, movement, community, hope. A gas engineer by training and a storyteller by provenance, Liz works as an environmental consultant and sustainability project manager.

MELAINA FARANDA

Lyre Bird, Gondwanan Memory Keeper

From a wild, story-loving kid exploring the creeks and mountains of the living green citadel of the Tweed Caldera, Melaina grew up to write over fifty Young Adult and Children's books, published nationally and internationally, by major publishers who keep swallowing each other to get bigger.

Melaina fuses her love of landscape and passion for storytelling in both written and spoken forms, by travelling to mythic sites, and journeying with story and myth-tellers.

A highly engaging speaker, her workshops, presentations and performances at: literature festivals, writers' centres, and in schools throughout Australia, result in rave feedback and repeat invitations.

MELANIE HILL

How to analyse a fairy tale (Neil Gaiman's Coraline) down to its bones so you can rebuild it

Melanie is an author, poet, professional editor, and now the co-host of weekly podcast 'Story Nerd', with Canadian editor Valerie Francis, with whom she demystifies story theory. As a Certified Story Grid Editor, Melanie combines story theory with her skills as a logistics planner to help authors identify and solve problems.

Melanie confesses to a passion for middle grade and young adult stories, spy stories, fairy tales, and master detective novels. Her short fairy tales Bunyip Moon, Battle for the Forest, and Selkie Skin appear in anthologies published by Sally Odgers, and Confectionary is in the Vision Writers Group anthology titled Darkest Depths.

Originally from Launceston, Tasmania, Melanie spent 18 years in the Royal Australian Air Force as a logistics officer before moving to Brisbane, where she cat-wrangles four school-aged children with her husband. Melanie can be contacted via her website http://melaniehill.com.au

OLIVIA REA

Art of Imagination: Exploring Fantasy Aesthetics

Olivia adores anything haunting, whimsical or fairy tale, and strives to create beauty and storytelling in her work as a freelance fantasy illustrator for books and Table-Top Role-Playing Games (TTRPGs).

How these tales are updated in their representations and interpretations reflects on the time and artist,' says Olivia, who was recently a part of the zine Poison Apple: Villains & Creatures of Fables & Legends. 'I was delighted and fascinated by the interpretations of fairy tales by my fellow artists and writers. Especially when they were different to what I had seen previously, and when it reflected their personal experience (their culture, their values, what they want to see represented in fairy tale artwork).'

For her PhD, Olivia is researching the history of illustrations for fantasy TTRPGs, like *Dungeons and Dragons*, and for the Griffith University Bachelor of Animation, she tutors the Art Direction students in art direction, concept art and life drawing.







PAM BLAMEY

Fossicking in Fairy Tales: A Jungian sifter for gems in the psyche

The irrationality of fairy tales – and their possibilities, rather than facts – appeal to Pam, who says delving into them can uncover deeply buried instincts and shadow material in the psyche.

As a member of the C.G. Jung Society of Queensland since 2001, Pam's passion for fairy tales goes beyond 'happily ever after'. Full of symbolism and metaphor, she believes they nourish the soul: the part of a person that wants to become consciously aware of themselves and others.

The now-retired counsellor and art therapist joined the Australian Fairy Tale Society in 2013 as a founding member and inaugural secretary. She has also served as Brisbane Ring Maiden.



ROSELLE TENEFRANCIA

Diaspora and Fairytales with Dr June Perkins and Sharon Orapeleng

Roselle Tenefrancia is from the Philippines, where she was a writer, editor, researcher, and lawyer.

Since 2012, Roselle, her husband and son have lived on the Gold Coast, where she edits a local boating magazine, and volunteers for organisations supporting multicultural and marginalised communities. She runs an initiative called Art+Potluck on the Gold Coast that aims to create connections, through food and culture-sharing between community members at the dining table.

She writes poetry and is using her personal migration experience to establish a sense of belonging in her new world. She had an article and collaborative poetry featured in *Writers Queensland: Diaspora Edition* in 2021.



SHARON ORAPELENG

Diaspora and Fairytales with Dr June Perkins and Roselle Tenefrancia

From the country cloaked in a brilliant sparkle of diamonds and synonymous of the traditionally-built women like Mma Ramotswe*, Botswana-born Sharon Orapeleng now calls Brisbane home.

She is a mother, wife, community advocate with passion to build more connected and compassionate communities where no one is left behind. She is a mental health policy professional and also Psyched Solutions' founder and Principal Consultant.

* Mma Ramotswe is the lead character in Alexander McCall Smith's *Ladies* No. 1 Detective Agency series.



SHIRLEY WAY

- MC
- Conference co-organiser

For Novalis, Germany's 18th century poet-philosopher, each fairy story is an irrational vision, akin to a musical fantasia, 'with, at the most, individual verses which are intelligible, like fragments of the most varied things'.

Those intelligible sparks in fairy tales and their varied associations captured Shirley early, leading her will-o-the-wisp-like on many a storytelling (and story-reading) journey.

As a result, Shirley is the current eZine editor, an Australian Fairy Tale Society founding member, a former president of the Queensland Storytelling Guild, and a radio news director.



SUE ROBIN Storyteller

Sue has been telling and collecting stories for forty years while teaching and helping to bring up a family. She strongly believes that if we are to keep traditional stories truly alive, they must be told "eye to eye, mind to mind, heart to heart" as the Scottish saying goes.





An Ode to a Brisbane childhood in the sixties

When I was small

The Garbo would run up the side of our house in the early morning.

He would call out as he hoisted the galvo bins on his shoulder and run back down the path.

The Bottlo too

With clink and rattle up and down the side path.

I would lie awake in the half light And listen to the sounds of my street.

A little later the Baker would call out

And appear at the back door with a huge basket full of fresh loaves.

Twice a week, the greengrocer would drive up and down the street with a truck load of fresh vegetables.

Ringing his bell, loud and slow.

Women would crowd around the truck, chatting and laughing together

As the grocer placed carrots in a paper bag alongside the onions and a cheeky smile...

One day he ran over our neighbour's dog.

She lay lifeless on the road and the grocer wept as he listened to our cries.

They buried Rusty deep under the jacaranda.

All long gone now

The calls and cries still on the breeze that has circled the globe for fifty years.

Old bottle tops

Pieces of glass polished smooth to stone

And Rusty's bones

Lie in wait to be rediscovered

As the earth is turned for a new housing estate.

I am made of stories

Shifting in and out of shadows

Travellers across time

Waiting

Waiting

Waiting

To be heard.

Bettina Nissen



Special thanks

Aunty Deborah Sandy and Shaniah Thomason Welcome to Country, Cultural Walk on Country

Shaniah is a young language champion for the Yugara Language in Brisbane; and her connection to country has been learning and doing culture with her elders, including her mother 'Aunty' Deborah Sandy.

Thank you for sharing your love and knowledge of Yugara-Turrbul Country with us, this wéekend.

Graham Ross

Assessment panel

Graham - a crafter of oral tales - is also a coach with integral perspectives, and a narrator of historically-based monologues.

Graham joined Bettina Nissen and June Perkins on the Assessment Panel to select this weekend's presenters. Thank you!

Dr Leila Honari

Griffith University Film School

Dr Leila Honari leads the Art Direction major in the Griffith Film School's animation program. Her principal research interests lie in the field of cultural and historical animation. Leila is an animator of Persian background, whose first profession was as a designer of traditional carpets.

Leila facilitated our partnership with the Griffith University Film School - and the selection of our lecture theatre. Thank you!

Lorena Carrington

Conference artwork

Lorena is a photographic artist and book illustrator based in regional Victoria, who exhibits regularly in Australian galleries. Both Australian and international publishers have published her work, and commissioned her covers. Lorena's knowledge of illustration, books and story are shared through school and library visits, and at literary and arts festivals.

Lorena received the 2020 Australian Fairy Tale Society award, for her 'outstanding contribution to the field of Australian Fairy Tales', and designed our 2022 conference artwork. Thank you!

Spike Deane

Graphic artist

Spike is a Canberra-based visual artist, who works primarily in cast glass, to explore the underlying narratives found in folk and fairy tales to consider questions of becoming, transformation and 'the hopeful journey'. She works in her home studio and at the Canberra Glassworks.

Spike is a finalist for the 2022 Australian Fairy Tale Society award, for her outstanding contribution to the field of Australian fairy tales', and created our conference graphic art - splendidly seen in this program, across social media, and our promotions. Thank you!

Ship Inn, Griffith UniversityBuilt in 1846, this iconic South Bank hotel was once a rowdy sailors' drinking den, but – as we've experienced – it's now a civilised gastro pub. For your hospitality and delicious food, thank you!

sponsors

We, the 2022 conference organisers, and AFTS executive wish to thank:

- Australian Fairy Tale Society for the Bursary, so an in-need Member can attend
- Brisbane City Council / Gabba Ward for sponsoring the Cultural Walk on Country
- Coldesign GRP for sponsoring Lorena Carrington's conference artwork, and graphic design by Spike Deane
- Griffith University Film School for the in-kind use of their lecture theatre
- Queensland Writers Centre for sponsoring our Keynote Panel







Coldesign GRP







Australian Fairy Tale Society

Brisbane Fairy Tale Ring

I found the AFTS on Google, joined up and then found out members actually met in real life to talk Fairy Tales. A Fairy Tale Ring! The Brisbane Ring meets five times a year on a Saturday afternoon at the State Library. We go down rabbit holes, inspire each other and talk tales.

At our next meeting on November 19, we'll examine Basile's Italian fairy tale, *Verde Prato* or *Green Meadow*. All members (in all state rings) will receive a bibliography and points to ponder from AFTS Ring Maiden, Jo Henwood, ahead of time.

We hope to see you there!

Kathryn Gossow Brisbane Ring Leader



https://www.facebook.com/brisbanefairytalering

eZine II, Magical Transformations Call for submissions: Open soon Publication: Late 2022

Nature itself is a miracle of transformation:

From birth to death,

From caterpillar to butterfly,

From seed to stem to mighty tree or delicate bloom.

And us?
From womb to grave,
cradled and embraced between,
enlivened with choices.

Every choice transforms. Uttering it is the spell.

What happens next?





2023 AFTS Conference

Meet us in Sydney, next June! Call for presentations: Coming soon.

Castles, Cottages and Cauldrons: Power and Place in Fairy Tales

The Australian Fairy Tale Society (AFTS) is a national non-profit charity.

Our aim is to encourage academics, performers, creatives and enthusiasts from around the country to conserve, create, converse about and share all things $fairy\ tale$.

We offer a national website, annual conferences, a growing number of state-based or local Fairy Tale Rings, and an options for passion projects.

All are welcome.



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