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'Noonie and the Missing Bone' school writing workshops

An ASG National Excellence in Teaching Awards (NEiTA) recipient is about to set out on a national school tour delivering workshops, in exclusive partnership with ASG, to help young students unlock their storytelling abilities.

2015 ASG NEiTA recipient Casey Hawkins is the author and illustrator of picture story book, '[Noonie and the Missing Bone](#)', which tells the tale of two pets 'Noonie' and 'Merlin' as they go on their quest to find the missing bone and learn some important values.

Aimed at primary school children, they can colour in the characters and it has also been created as a resource for teachers and parents to inspire students to write and illustrate their own short stories. The book includes story writing instructions and planning pages to assist students develop unique stories, based on their experiences and adapting the basic writing techniques and simple illustrations used in 'Noonie'.

To complement the picture book, Ms Hawkins has developed a series of writing workshops which are linked to the Australian curriculum (years one to four) and hopes to visit 60 Australian schools.

Ms Hawkins says every child has a story to share.

"When I talk about animals in class, my students ask endless questions and relish the opportunity to share their own stories. Most children enjoy the company of animals and can recall amusing experiences they've had in the past. I can feel students' energy lift when they get the opportunity to write about something they deeply care about.

"Finding suitable resources to teach lessons can feel like panning for gold. I had past students and colleagues in mind while producing the book and workshop content. During the workshop, I introduce students and teachers to a visualisation strategy to assist in writing detailed character descriptions. Many of my students complained they had nothing to write about because they hadn't learned to express their everyday experiences in a creative way; that's why I decided to offer the writing workshops. Once students have rung up a few positive writing experiences, there'll be no stopping them."

ASG CEO John Velegrinis says it is great to be supporting a wonderful learning and teaching initiative.

"This is an example of how teaching outside of the box and making learning real for young children can have a really positive impact. Story telling is the art of communication and as children are telling and writing stories this will build their confidence and encourage them to ask more questions and penetrate a deeper level of critical thinking and understanding. These skills will help them in other areas of learning and communicating with their family at home.

"We're also really proud to be continuing our partnership with ASG NEiTA recipients. We love supporting teachers and education, and it is even more rewarding to see ASG NEiTA recipients achieve their own aspirations which are linked to improved educational outcomes for students. Launching this book has been one of Casey's goals for a very long time, so we're really pleased to be a part of this journey and to help her achieve this aspiration."

'*Noonie and the Missing Bone*' is available for purchase online through ASG and the **first 60** school resource packs or whole school licences purchased will receive a complimentary creative writing workshop.

Ms Hawkins will post a monthly [blog](#) on the ASG website and will also be active on ASG's social media platforms over the next year.

Read Ms Hawkins' first blog, ['I pursued passion over worry and look what happened'](#).

Media contact:

To arrange an interview with Casey Hawkins please contact:

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Editors notes:

The Australian Scholarships Group (ASG) is a member owned organisation, helping to create educational opportunities for children. ASG has been helping families and their children for more than 40 years. During this time, more than 530,000 children have been enrolled with ASG and more than \$2.5 billion in education benefits and scholarship payments returned to members. For more information visit: www.asg.com.au.