

A Day at the Melbourne Writers Festival by Maisie (Year 7)

On the first of May 2023 we boarded a train at Frankston station at 8:15. The train ride took just over an hour and once we arrived in Melbourne it was only a short walk to the State Library where the day would be held.

The first speaker was Kay Kerr, a neurodivergent author who has written many novels including *Love & Autism*, *Please Don't Hug Me*, *Social Queue* and *Take Care, Brisbane*. Kay had always struggled not understanding and loved reading at young ages, but lost the feeling as a teenager. As a teenager she would always write in diaries and started journaling. Her advice to us was to observe the world and your emotions and learn to work with them, not against them.

The next speaker was Tom Taylor who is the author of Star Wars, Marvel and DC comics. Tom used to be a professional juggler before he found his passion for making comics, he also dropped out of school to become a playwright and a coordinator in many musicals. Tom Taylor is also known as the writer of *The Deep* which is now a show on Netflix.

After the first two authors we had a lunch break and went to a food court for an hour!

After lunch we walked back to the State Library for the third speaker, Nova Weetman. Nova worked on the storyboard of the show *H2O-Just Add Water*, but always struggled to end stories. Nova's presentation was all about creating a character and letting the story roll on. Her advice to us was that stories come from the characters. She also told us about her first book that she finished at the age of twelve, called *The Jelly People* and that is when she found her passion for writing.

The last speaker was Lili Wilkinson who loves to write fantasy stories. She used to be a teacher who taught creative writing and LOVES magic. Lili loves to write cliff-hangers. Her message that she wanted to teach all of us was that magic needs more problems than a character can solve, and that is what makes it exciting.

After all of the speakers we walked back to the train station and took the next train home!



Tom Taylor:
Ask Me Anything



Nova Weetman:
Main Character Energy



Lili Wilkinson:
Caught in A Brainstorm



Kay Kerr:
True Love Stories
