

Media Release



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New Centre Celebrates Rich Tradition of Story-telling

A vibrant new arts venue, the Centre for Stories, has opened in Northbridge, Perth to collect and share stories in both traditional and digital forms.

The brainchild of philanthropists, Caroline and John Wood, the Centre for Stories is located at 100 Aberdeen Street in a late nineteenth century restored house. It aims to provide an inclusive and welcoming space where people from all communities can come together to celebrate stories.

Founder and Managing Director, Caroline Wood, says: “We have long dreamed of finding a way to recognise storytelling as a means to inform social change and to remind one another of our shared humanity. We’re building the centre around three pillars – story telling, story writing and story collecting.”

The Centre has started a programme of regular events with details regularly updated on its website www.centreforstories.com Most of its early activities have centred around story-telling, including a sold out evening performance of readings by leading Western Australian writers featuring Amanda Curtin and David Wish Wilson.

Forthcoming events include a Deepavali storytelling evening, complete with traditional Indian storytelling, food and music and on the other side of the spectrum the Centre's programming also features social media workshops for writers and authors.

The centre is in the process of building partnerships with a number of community groups to collect stories to be compiled into a series of on-line content showcases, focusing strongly on voices that are not heard in the mainstream community.

The centres General Manager, Ada Chung is busy sourcing and developing content and looking at ways to develop a strong oral story telling component to the programme.

"We want the centre to be an inclusive, vibrant place where everyone is welcome and there is an interesting programme of events which appeals to and inspires everyone from different parts of the community," Ada said.

Caroline says the centre will be announcing key partnerships in the new year.

"For us, it is all about strengthening and building connections between people to encourage the value of listening to stories and to weave into the fabric of culture the understanding that everyone's story matters,' she said.

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