

First Launch of *The Messenger Bird* at the University of Adelaide



Dr Amy Matthews launched the book with a wonderful speech. She said 'The Messenger Bird' was a beautiful book.

About Dr Amy T Matthews

Amy T. Matthews has published short stories in collections including *Best Australian Stories*, and been long-listed for the *Australian/Vogel* literary award. She has co-edited two anthologies of short stories and poetry and was the winner of the 2010

Adelaide Festival Unpublished Manuscript Award for her novel *End of the Night Girl*, published by Wakefield Press in 2011. *End of the Night Girl* has been called 'a novel of ideas in the best possible sense' (Gillian Dooley, *Writers Radio*), and a 'humanist, realist novel of the kind that makes for truly compelling reading' (Naomi Milthorpe, *The Canberra Times*). It has received positive reviews in *The Australian*, *The Advertiser*, *The Townsville Chronicle* and *ANZ Lit Lovers*, was named *The Age* Book of the Week on September 24th, and was listed in *ABRs* and *The Advertiser's* Best Books of 2011. Amy is currently a Research Fellow in the Department of English & Creative Writing at the University of Adelaide.



Jeri Foreman, Celtic fiddler, played a bracket of tunes that suited *The Messenger Bird*. She even arranged and played the Piano solo 'The Maiden's Prayer' for the fiddle and played that as well. 'The Maiden's Prayer' is the music Tamar plays in *The Messenger Bird* which brings Nathaniel from the past. Then Jeri played a piece which she composed upon reading the book. She called it 'Nathaniel's Waltz'. It is just how I imagined Nathaniel would play. 'Nathaniel's

Waltz' and Jeri's reflection will soon be available on this website.

About Jeri Foreman

Jeri became obsessed with violins as a toddler and commenced lessons as a 3 year old. Approximately four or five years later, a violin teacher taught her some Irish tunes and she was hooked! For several years she learnt tunes in isolation until winning the Young Traditionalists Award, two years in a row at the Victor Harbour Folk Festival (2000, 2001).

Jeri won Most Outstanding New or Emerging Artist/Group in the Folk Federation of SA Folk Awards in 2007 and 2008. She has won and placed in multiple competitions at the Frances Folk Gathering over the years and placed in the Golden Fiddle Awards at the National Celtic Festival in 2011. In 2010, Jeri was awarded two grants and multiple scholarships to travel through the USA and Canada to study with many of the world's top fiddle players. In 2011, she was the South Australian representative in the Fiddler's State

of Origin project at the Fleurieu Folk Festival, a project which featured one top young fiddler from each state in Australia.

Jeri continues to appear on many stages as both a soloist and an ensemble member with a wide variety of musicians. She is most often seen performing with Paddy Montgomery or Chris Muldoon but also plays with acts such as Sycamore Road, Tombstone String Band and Andrew Claremont's Supper Club. She has been a member of Garida (inaugural recipients of the Peter Daly Award at the National Folk Festival for best performance of Celtic music by Australians), Fiddle Frenzy, Pining for the Fjords, Green Glass and is an inaugural member of the Adelaide Scottish Fiddle Club. Jeri has also shared the stage with Danny Spooner, Hanneke Cassel, Genticorum, Catherine Fraser, Tamarisque, Bluguru and many others.



Janeen Brian spoke about the incredible mosaic she made with china fragments from my 160-year-old garden. One of the characters in 'The Messenger Bird' collects china fragments and tries to piece them together as if she is putting the family back together again.

About Janeen Brian

Janeen Brian has been writing for over 30 years, more than twenty as a fulltime children's author. During that time she's had more than 70 books published and among her titles are three that won Honourable Awards in the Children's Book Council of Australia Awards. They are, the picture book, ***Where does Thursday go?***, the information book ***Hoosh! Camels in Australia***, about everything you wanted to know and didn't know about camels! And ***Pilawuk – when I was Young***, the real life story of a young Aboriginal girl who was taken from her family – a situation now known as The Stolen Generation. Seven other books have received Notable Awards, while others have been translated into other languages. She also has over 100 stories and poems published in children's magazines. Janeen is an Ambassador for the SA Premier's Reading Challenge, is involved in the South Australian branch of the May Gibbs Children's Literature Trust and reading is a passion. Her latest books are: *Shirl and the Wollomby Show*, *I Spy Mum!* and *I Spy Dad!* Besides writing she enjoys creating mosaics.

