

What's the story?

By CHARLENE MACAULAY

IF THERE was ever the perfect place to hone story writing, Footscray's 100 Story Building is it.

From the trap door leading down to the mysterious 99 floors below, to the never ending story stretched out on one table for young writers to add to, to the bookcase that doubles as a hidden door, the 100 Story Building is all about getting the creative juices flowing for young writers.

Five years ago primary school teacher Lachlann Carter joined forces with Jenna Williams and Jessica Tran, who were both in publishing, to offer in-school workshops that allow kids from all backgrounds to develop a love of reading and writing.

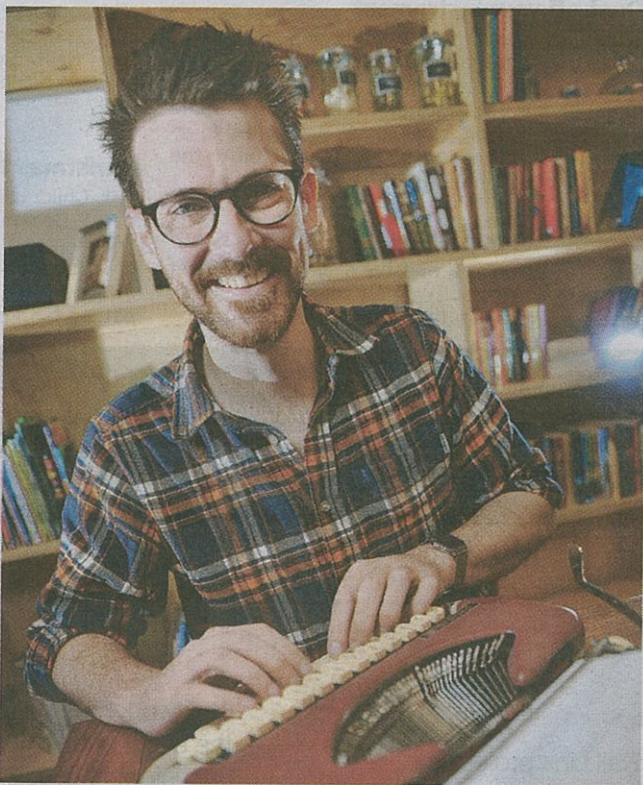
The first program, Pigeon Letters, saw upper-primary students join forces with well-known and award-winning Australian children's book authors, with the resulting works published in Pigeon Letters: Stories in the Post.

A sequel has since been published.

In September, the trio took the plunge and opened up its own location at Nicolson St Mall.

The social enterprise offers school workshops, creative writing excursions, publishing programs and after-school activities for young people in the West.

"I saw a lot of challenges for the teachers, particularly because of the diversity of the



Lachlann Carter runs 100 Story Building in Footscray.

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Picture: DAMJAN JANEVSKI

children they were working with and their need for one-on-one attention.

"We wanted something really cool to address that," Mr Carter said.

"The whole idea of the space is to provide a creative environment that allows children and adults to feel safe to take creative risks.

"Our programming is structured around that as well as

opening up the writing process - demystifying the writing process, so that children we work with understand the nuts and bolts of grammar and writing.

"This Saturday, 100 Story Building will celebrate the launch of the Early Harvest literary journal, which has had input from 13 students across Dinjerra Primary, Footscray Primary, Footscray City Primary, Footscray West Primary and St John's Primary.