

# BOOKED

## Festival Of Authors

Sunday May 17



Photos courtesy  
K. McDermott.



Stephanie Laurens



Jason Nahrung



Kirsty Brooks



Kim Michelle Toft

## *Booked* Festival of Authors 2009 – A Roaring Success!

The inaugural *Booked* Festival took place in the Bundaberg Library on Sunday 17 May 2009. Bestselling authors Stephanie Laurens, Kirsty Brooks, Jason Nahrung, and Kim Michelle Toft presented very interesting talks about their work. They also spent time chatting with fans and signing books. A great day was had by authors and audience alike.

*Booked* was held in partnership with the Bundaberg Writer's Club *Write Fest* and the Bundaberg School Librarian's Association, and was funded by Friends of the Library and the Book Sale.



### Kim Michelle Toft

author/illustrator of  
environment-themed picture books



Author/illustrator Kim Michelle Toft delighted the audience with her skills as a silk painting artist. Kim is an established artist from Ballina in NSW, who has moved into picture book writing and illustrating. She enjoys producing her picture books and is also keen to get the message out to children about caring for their environment, particularly their marine environment.

While she painted Kim answered questions from the audience about how she writes her picture books, where she gets her inspiration from, and how long they take to write and illustrate.



One of Kim's favourite books is *The Twelve Underwater Days of Christmas*. Accompanying the book is a CD with different versions of the song sung by Kim's friend, singer Lisa Hunt.

## Stephanie Laurens

bestselling author of Regency romance

Stephanie's is an absolutely huge name in the world of romance, and specifically Regency romance (novels set in England during the Regency period of the early 1800s). Her novels regularly appear on bestseller lists and she is known the world over. Responding to questions asked by facilitator Sue Gammon, and the audience, Stephanie spoke about why and how she writes Regencies, and also how she got published.



*"I just wanted to thank you and your staff for a wonderful day on Sunday. It was easy, pleasant, relaxing and fun! ... I will be spreading the word on...Booked among authors down here."*  
- Stephanie Laurens

Best known for her *Cynster* series and her *Bastion Club* series, Stephanie's descriptions of the fictitious grand houses of her heroes and heroines are so evocative travel agents field calls from people wanting to visit! Her books also brim with great romance and adventure.

## Jason Nahrung

gothic/vampire author

Originally from Maryborough, Qld, Author Jason Nahrung has so far published one novel - *The Darkness Within*. It was published as a result of Jason responding to a small publisher's Internet advertisement for manuscripts in the gothic genre. *The Darkness Within* was based on a novella written with his then-partner Mil Clayton by email while they lived in different states.

Jason also bravely spoke about the *Twilight* phenomenon, not one of his favourite subjects!



*"Please allow me to express in writing just how much I appreciated being involved in Booked, a well-organised and enjoyable day. ... I would especially note that the library staff were most accommodating, friendly and helpful..."*  
- Jason Nahrung



*"Thank you for such an excellent day...I met so many interesting, enthusiastic and generous people - librarians, writers and readers. Thank you for involving me in such a special event, it was a true joy."*  
- Kirsty Brooks

## Kirsty Brooks

chick-lit mystery author

The audience also heard from chick-lit mystery writer Kirsty Brooks who kept everyone laughing with her crazy tales. Kirsty is from Adelaide and looks after a menagerie of animals, especially birds, while writing her novels and working in her manuscript assessment and editing agency.

She is most well-known for her Cassidy Blair PI series, and after hearing Kirsty speak it was easy to see where she gets her ideas for Cassidy's adventures!

Peta Browne  
Bundaberg Regional Library