



# moments

## New centres open for business



MultiLit's lobby and small meeting rooms featuring colourful illustrations from our much-loved picture books



As part of MultiLit's commitment to providing comfortable, conducive and modern learning environments for our students and staff, the MultiLit Sydney Centre (incorporating the Macquarie Park Literacy Centre) and the Bella Vista Literacy Centre have relocated to new purpose-designed premises.

In keeping with the new Centres opened in Perth and Brisbane over the last couple of years, the décor features beautiful, whimsical illustrations from MultiLit's very own picture books.

General Manager Literacy Services, Andy Russell, is delighted with the facilities.

**"We've really focused on creating a vibrant, welcoming space that provides a wonderful learning and working environment for our students and staff."**

**"Our students love the striking illustrations throughout the Centre. We aim to spark their imagination and convey that reading can unlock a world of wonder, joy and adventure."**

The new Centres feature a welcoming reception area, an expansive library, custom tutoring spaces, upgraded technology, and in the Sydney Centre, a larger, brighter training room for our professional development workshops.

Families and staff have already commented on the quality of the space, in particular the improved, child-friendly learning environment and its openness, allowing for more interaction between staff.

## First Nations collaboration for Putto Press

The latest release from MultiLit's picture book imprint Putto Press, *Our River Playground*, is the product of an exciting collaboration with First Nations creators.

The book was inspired by an event co-hosted by MultiLit with the Painted River Project, an initiative of Western Sydney University and Monash Sustainable Development Institute, headed by Dr Leo Robba. Drawing on the knowledge of local Indigenous communities, Painted River Project events combine art and science to promote awareness of the importance of natural water resources across ecological, cultural and economic domains.

A series of events were held in Moree and Boggabilla in September 2023, with students from Boggabilla Central School (BCS) participating, accompanied by Gomeroi Elder Uncle Carl McGrady, the school's Senior Leader Community Engagement Officer.



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These events and the stories Uncle Carl shared sparked the idea for a new picture book, co-authored by MultiLit’s Anna Notley and Uncle Carl. Illustrator Elenore Binge, a Gomeri artist who also grew up in the Toomelah and Boggabilla areas, was commissioned to create the artwork for the book, which was designed by Dana Brown.

*Our River Playground* is the first book for both Uncle Carl and Elenore, whose murals are a common sight at BCS and around nearby Goondiwindi.

To celebrate the book’s publication, the MultiLit team returned to the region for a series of events with the Painted River Project team, including a special school assembly featuring a reading of the book at BCS, a community barbeque at the Euraba Paper Collective, and a launch at the opening of a Painted River Project exhibition at Bank Art Museum Moree. These events provided a great opportunity to connect with the local community and, most importantly, for the students to be the first to see themselves in the new book.

*Our River Playground* is now available through [multilit.com](http://multilit.com) and [The Bookshop by MultiLit](#).



From top to bottom: Uncle Carl, Dr Leo Robba and Anna Notley launch the book with a reading at Boggabilla Central School; by the Macintyre River, which inspired the book.

## MultiLit Closing the Gap Initiative extended

Since 2022, MultiLit has been working with 42 majority Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander schools in regional and remote areas of Australia to implement our product suite and provide comprehensive training and support to educators under a Commonwealth-funded Closing the Gap project.

We are pleased to announce that funding for the project has now been extended by \$1.5 million, allowing MultiLit to continue to support these schools to the end of the 2026 school year.

The initiative is led by Chloe Allen, supported by the School Partnerships team and the MultiLit Research Unit (MRU), and is a wonderful example of MultiLit’s ability to deliver a comprehensive instructional model at a national scale.

On the funding extension, Minister for Indigenous Australians, Senator Malarndirri McCarthy said, “For over two decades, MultiLit have been delivering data-driven programs to help First Nations students improve their reading and writing skills.”

As schools are now reporting their data, we look forward to sharing these results and the important literacy gains being demonstrated in the future.

## Remote assessment trial

Many of our Closing the Gap schools in remote areas face challenges around staffing, and MultiLit has been exploring new ways to support these schools.

Most recently, our Literacy Centres tutors and testers assisted in collecting their end-of-year data via Zoom.

While there were initial concerns over how successful online testing would be for students, within minutes the testers engaged all students and successfully completed the testing over three days. One student returned to class declaring that he “loved testing day!”

The trial also gave the teachers in the school new insights into the assessment process and how to use their data to compare progress against benchmarks. Staff reported feeling more confident after the trial in understanding the purpose of the data collection and what would be required for future testing.

## Indigenous Education Summit

Project Director Chloe Allen presented on the project at last year’s Indigenous Education Summit in Perth. Attendees included school staff and leaders from all sectors, universities, cultural leaders and leaders of other educational and cultural initiatives. There was a strong focus on embedding cultural practices and ‘both-way’ or ‘two-way’ learning.

Chloe shared her insights gained through several years of working with our Closing the Gap Schools and discussed issues such as the sustainability of structured programs in settings for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students.

# Five from Five expands reach with new content and Academy links

Five from Five, a community education initiative of MultiLit, is a resource for parents, teachers and allied health professionals, designed to help bridge the gap between research and practice.

In addition to swathes of information on its website, a series of free professional learning seminars is presented each term. These tackle the challenges of leading change in literacy in a school environment and the Big Five ideas of literacy acquisition: phonemic awareness, phonics, fluency, vocabulary and comprehension. The most recent addition to the suite, 'Oral language at the discourse and sentence levels', was developed by speech and language specialists Dr Anna Desjardins and Anna Taylor and provides practical examples of how to explicitly teach oral language in the early years of school.

To date, Five from Five's professional learning seminars have been viewed more than 15,000 times by teachers and professionals eager to learn more about teaching

according to the Science of Reading principles. They have reached far beyond Australian shores, benefiting educators from all over the world, from Mexico to Mauritius and the UAE to the USA.

Five from Five also hosts guest presenters. In 2024, Dr Iain Giblin, a linguist from Macquarie University, proposed ideas on how to make grammar teaching exciting, and Michael Salter, from The Language Garden, dived into morphology. These presentations were incredibly well received by the Five from Five community, with over 2100 people registering to attend.

Most recently, Five from Five transitioned to be part of The Academy for the Science of Instruction. With the Academy now providing guidance and support on content development, Five from Five is well-positioned to continue to expand its reach and impact.

Visit [fivefromfive.com.au](https://fivefromfive.com.au)

## New releases

### SpellEx Part B

SpellEx is a whole-class spelling program suitable for students from Year 3. It provides explicit instruction in spelling concepts, terminology, rules and conventions.

SpellEx Part A was released in 2023 for students from Year 3, and in 2024, SpellEx Part B was launched for students in Year 4 and upwards.

By following SpellEx's carefully scripted lessons, supported by a range of additional resources, teachers for Years 3–4 can be confident they are covering all the skills and knowledge required to master English orthography.

SpellEx Part B, like its Part A counterpart, consists of a manual, eight handbooks, two workbooks as well as concept posters to display in the classroom. The program is supported by a rich collection of downloadable resources, including worksheets, word lists, student record forms and lesson slides.

Find out more at [multilit.com/spellx](https://multilit.com/spellx)

### InitialLit: Maximising Impact

With more than 1800 schools now using MultiLit's initial instruction program InitialLit, we identified the need for a new professional development workshop to help schools and teachers optimise their InitialLit implementation. Schools reported that teachers were often unsure how to use the rich assessment data collected in the program to guide instruction.

The new one-day workshop focuses on three key areas:

*Using Data:* How to make data-informed instructional decisions to support students' needs and provide appropriate differentiation.

*Explicit Instruction:* Connecting data insights to the principles of explicit instruction for intentional, responsive lessons utilising all components of the InitialLit program.

*Theory and Design of Program:* Understanding the evidence base behind InitialLit and the theories of effective teaching embedded in the program, enabling further refinement of practice across the teaching of all literacy skills.

Find out more at [multilit.com/programs/initiallit/#maximising-impact](https://multilit.com/programs/initiallit/#maximising-impact)

### Leading School Transformation: Using an Evidence-based Approach

A new two-day workshop was launched by The Academy for the Science of Instruction in late 2024, to provide school leaders with evidence-based strategies to lead transformation and to create a practical action plan to be implemented back at school.

The first two workshops, held in Perth and Melbourne, saw discussion of important issues such as:

- the high numbers of students who haven't yet achieved proficient reading levels by the time they reach Year 7, and the implications for primary schools seeking to design improvement plans
- how secondary schools can better implement instructional practices that align with the science of learning across curriculum areas
- the need to create a compelling shared moral purpose that all staff in a school buy into, and how to go about it.

Dates for 2025 workshops are available now.

Visit [scienceofinstruction.com.au/courses/leading-school-transformation-course/](https://scienceofinstruction.com.au/courses/leading-school-transformation-course/)



**Emeritus Professor  
Kevin Wheldall**

## MultiLit scholars top honours list

Two of MultiLit’s leading academics have been named among the top 1 per cent of scholars in their field worldwide.

Emeritus Professor Kevin Wheldall AM, MultiLit Co-founder and Director, and Chairman of the Academic Board of The Academy for the Science of Instruction, has been ranked 34th in the field of special education, according to [ScholarGPS](#).



**Dr Mark Carter**

Dr Mark Carter, Principal Research Fellow in the MultiLit Research Unit and Dean of The Academy for the Science of Instruction, has been ranked 45th in the field of special education, placing him in the top 1 per cent globally.

The analytics site recognises tertiary institutions and academics for their outstanding performance in various fields, disciplines and specialties. Rankings are based on publication record and citations as well as the impact and quality of academic work.



A MultiLit SUMMIT

ADVANCING EFFECTIVE EDUCATION 2025

30-31 May 2025

Sofitel Sydney Wentworth

## Save the date: Advancing Effective Education 2025

MultiLit invites all educators, support staff, school and system leaders, as well as policy makers passionate about leading change and advancing education through effective instruction, to Advancing Effective Education 2025. The conference, at the Sofitel Sydney Wentworth on 30–31 May 2025, will feature a host of national and international speakers, focusing on research, leadership and theory to practice in delivering effective instruction.

Travelling to Australia for the conference are international literacy experts Dr Steve Graham, Dr Karen Harris, Dr Linda Siegel, Dr Rhona Stainthorp and Dr Jonathan Solity. Joining them on the program are local leaders Dr Jenny Donovan, AERO; Glenn Fahey, Centre for Independent Studies; Ken Lountain, Department of Education, SA; Patrick Ellis, Catholic Education Canberra Goulburn; Dr Greg Ashman, Clarendon College; and Rebecca Birch, Queenwood, among a range of other speakers from across the Australian educational landscape, as well as key MultiLit staff.

The conference will also be a key celebration of MultiLit’s 30th anniversary in 2025, with a cocktail evening celebrating this important milestone.

Find out more and register at [multilit.com/summit](http://multilit.com/summit).



## Work with us!

MultiLit is expanding its operations around the country, and we are always looking for people who share our mission to join the team. Available roles are listed at [multilit.com/work-with-us](http://multilit.com/work-with-us), so please check them out and share with your colleagues and networks.

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