



Choose your own adventure-style audio tours come to the Gold Coast

ABC Gold Coast Damien Larkins

Posted Wed 24 Feb 2016, 1:26pm

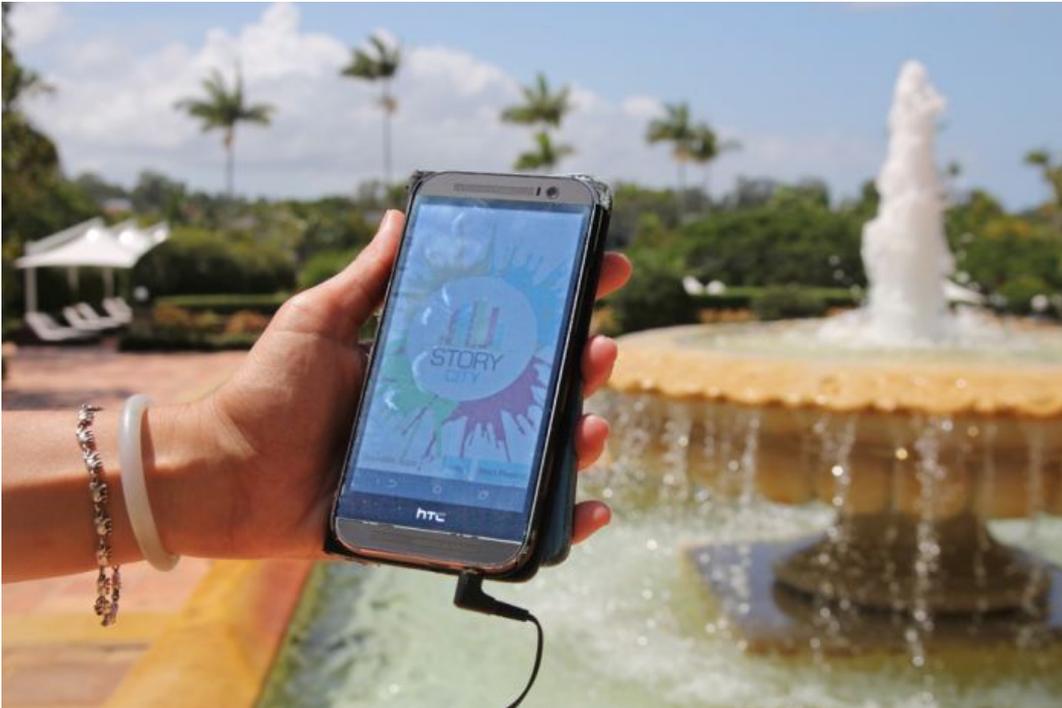


PHOTO: Story City now lets users explore fictional stories in real-life Gold Coast locations. (ABC Gold Coast: Damien Larkins)

A digital story-telling project that allows people to live and breathe their own adventure in real-life locations lands on the Gold Coast.

MAP: Southport 4215



Story City lets people immerse themselves in stories based in real-life locations and physically choose the direction of the plot.

Using a smart-device, users listen to the story and pick where it, and they, will go next.

Once they arrive at their chosen location, a GPS tracker unlocks more of the story.

Story City has already rolled out in Brisbane and Adelaide, but now three stories have been launched on the Gold Coast.

The new stories feature Coolangatta, Southport and Sanctuary Cove.



PHOTO: Story City author Dimity Powell's story starts at the fountain behind the Intercontinental Hotel and takes listeners on a wild adventure. (ABC Gold Coast: Damien Larkins)

Gold Coast children's author Dimity Powell, who wrote the Sanctuary Cove adventure, said it was a great way to really involve people in a story.

"It puts the user in the actual place that the story is set in," she said.

"It's based on the Choose Your Own Adventure-style of storytelling, but it's designed specifically for a digital format."

Ms Powell's story *The Chapel of Unlove* puts the listener at the centre of a light-hearted, quirky story about their fictional godmother Delilah and her soon-to-be husband Barry, an Elvis impersonator.

"They're just about to get married then something terrible happens," she said.

"It's up to you to work out, to solve, or choose if they make it to the chapel in time or not."



PHOTO: Listeners are offered a choice of directions the story can go and have to follow the path to physically get there. (ABC Gold Coast: Damien Larkins)

Her story starts by the fountain at the back steps of the Intercontinental Hotel and explores the resort's surrounds as the plot unfolds.

Ms Powell spent months walking around the location, talking to locals and taking photos in order to create a tale that immerses users.

"For me as a writer it's important to get that visceral feeling, to stand and listen to the birds and watch how the light sparkles on the marina," she said.

"If I don't get that I can't write accurately about it."

Ms Powell said it was all about encouraging people to have fun.

"To enable them to become immersed and into an actual story and feel like they're the real heroes," she said.

According to Ms Powell, the best thing about the project was the stories could be explored over and over again.

"If you're not happy with the ending you can start all over and choose a different path," she said.

The Story City app is available on IOS and Android devices.

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Dimity Powell, Story City author



PHOTO: Based on the listener's choices the stories unfold in multiple ways with multiple endings. (ABC Gold Coast: Damien Larkins)

Topics: adventure, computers-and-technology, author, digital-multimedia, offbeat, mobile-phones, southport-4215, sanctuary-cove-4212, coolangatta-4225