



2026 BOLOGNA BOOK FAIR
BOOKS FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG ADULTS
RIGHTS GUIDE



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careys@allenandunwin.com

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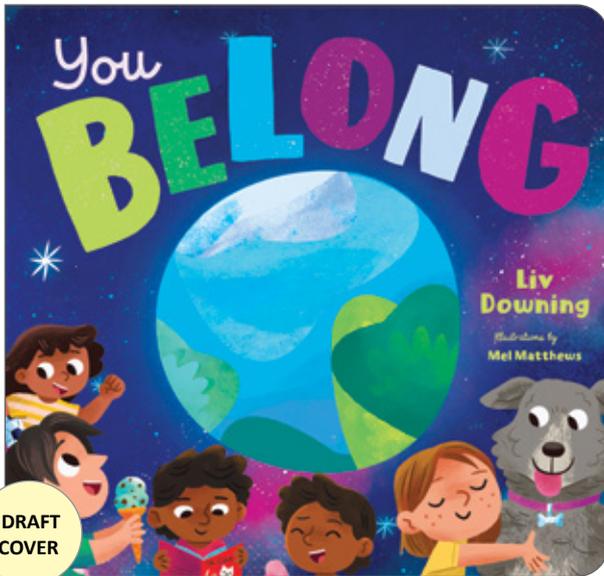
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YOU BELONG

Liv Downing, illustrated by Mel Matthews



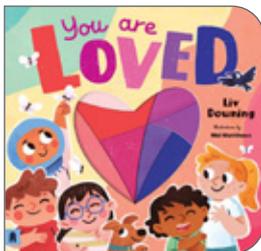
DRAFT COVER

A heartfelt and timely celebration of compassion and connection from the best-selling creators of *You are Loved*. Die-cut pages form a beautiful globe, making this book a special treasure to share and inspire.

*You belong to the earth.
You belong to the sea.
The sun kisses your face.
The trees help you breathe.*

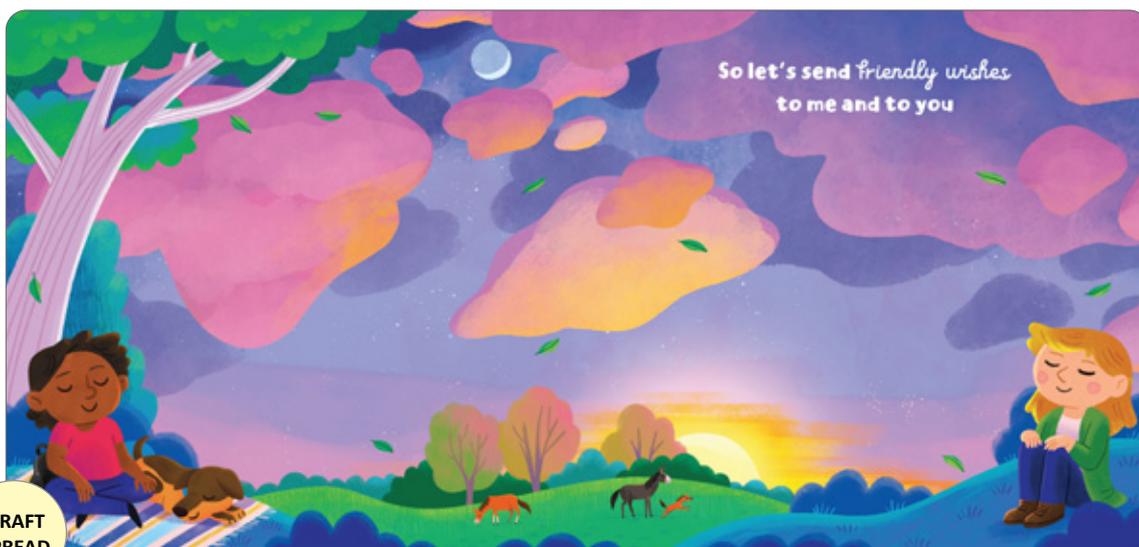
*We belong to each other, you and I.
The same way the clouds belong to the sky.*

This meaningful book reassures children that love extends beyond themselves – to others, their communities, and the Earth.



On *You Are Loved*:
“This book is so heartwarming. It impressed me as being like a mantra meditation with the mantra being ‘you are loved.’”
Professor Craig Hassed,
author of *Mindful Learning*.

Liv Downing is a registered psychologist, mindfulness educator, meditation teacher and parent. She has a podcast called *You Are Loved*. www.livmindfully.com
Mel Matthews is an illustrator and artist who lives by the beach and is inspired by the natural world. www.meldraws.com



DRAFT SPREAD

September 2026 • 250x260mm • BOARD BOOK with die-cut Full Colour Throughout • 32pp • **WORLD RIGHTS**



THE BABY SLEEPS

Lisa Dick, illustrated by Laura Bee



Beautiful, sweet, simple text that tugs at the heartstrings and has all the hallmarks of a classic.

In her pram, the baby sleeps.
Amid the city's busy bustle, the baby sleeps.
On an island in an ocean, the baby sleeps.
On our blue and spinning planet, the baby sleeps.

But when she wakes ...

She doesn't need the stars.
She doesn't need the sky.
She doesn't want the towers,
Or the cars cruising by.
Not her soft little rug.

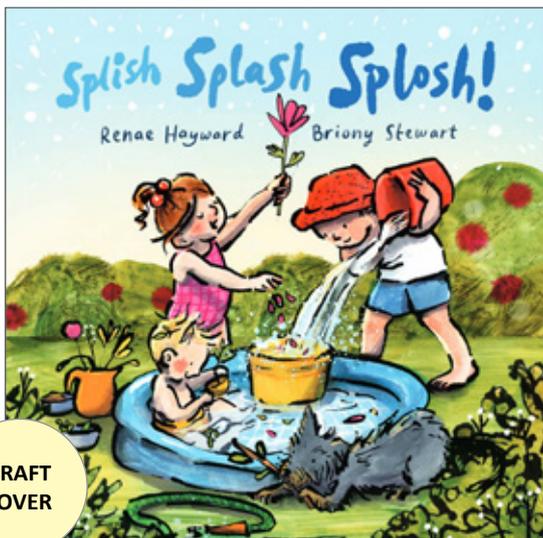
She just wants ... your hug.

Lisa Dick is currently studying creative writing under Liam McIlvanney at Otago University, works at the university part-time and has five children. She is very committed to her writing career. **Laura Bee** is an illustrator and graphic designer. She has illustrated *Whatever the Weather We're in this Together* and several other books for children. When she's not working you can find her spending time with her loved ones and cats, sewing, baking and making things with her hands!



SPLISH, SPLASH, SPLOSH!

Renae Hayward, illustrated by Briony Stewart



DRAFT COVER

A delightful picture book with a rollicking rhyming text about the joy of splashing about in the water, and intergenerational family.

What's the best on a summer day?

Grandpa knows – it's water play!

From sprinklers to mud pies to paddling pools, there's nothing kids love better than messing around with water. Three delightful children splish, splash, splosh through the day in this charming picture book.

Renae Hayward has authored several books for children including *Say Hooray*, which was shortlisted for the Speech Pathology Australia Book of the Year Awards. She has also contributed as a poet to *The School Magazine* and the children's anthology *Right Way Down and Other Poems*. Renae lives near Fremantle with her husband James, their two children and Frankie the labrador. www.renaehayward.com.

Briony Stewart is an illustrator and writer from WA, whose bestselling and award-winning books include *Bedtime Sorted!* by Jimmy Rees, *Mina and the Whole Wide World* by Sherryl Clark (Winner of the 2022 Prime Minister's Literary Award), *Accidentally Kelly Street* and *We Love You, Magoo*. www.brionystewart.com

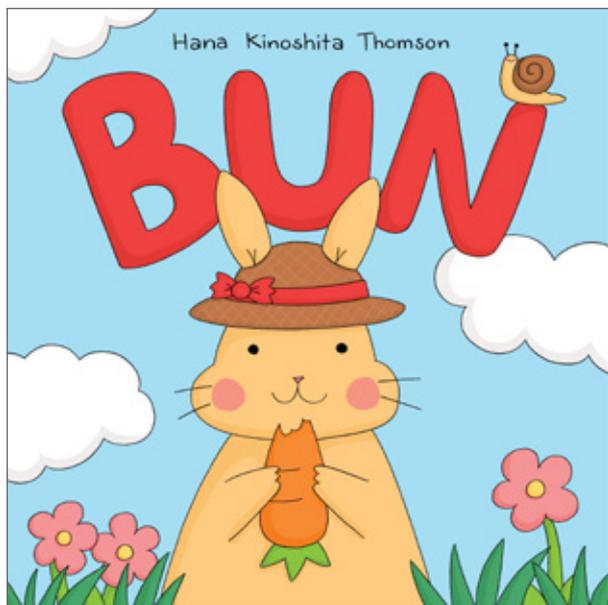


DRAFT SPREAD

BUN

Hana Kinoshita Thomson

GOODNIGHT BUN
coming
FEBRUARY 2027



Children will delight in this heartwarming tale about a very sweet bunny who loves gardening, baking and visiting her friends. Perfect for fans of Spot and Noni the Pony.

Bun and her friends Daisy, Buttercup and Walnut are getting ready for a big event ... a carrot cake party!

This outrageously cute picture book features detailed illustrations that readers will love revisiting. Spot vegetables in the garden, find baking ingredients in the kitchen, and check out the carrot details in Bun’s bedroom! Plus look out for Bun’s snail friend, Gary, who has a tiny cameo on every page!

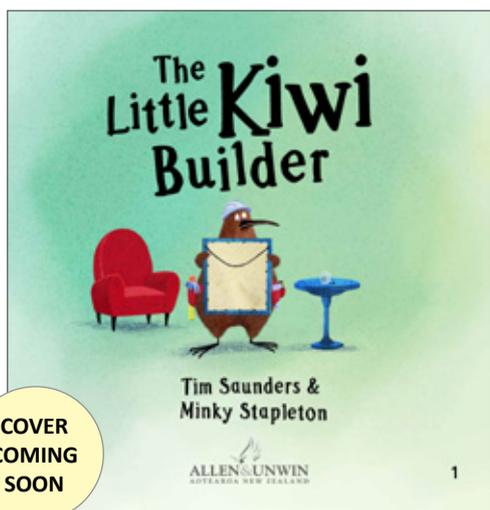
A classic series in the making that brings to mind nostalgic children’s characters like Miffy, Hello Kitty and Pusheen. *Goodnight Bun* is coming February 2027.

Hana Kinoshita Thomson is a Japanese-American-Australian illustrator, designer and author. She has a background in psychology and graphic design, and is passionate about mental health, the Japanese language and culture, diverse storytelling, and rabbits.



THE LITTLE KIWI BUILDER

Tim Saunders, illustrated by Minky Stapleton



COVER
COMING
SOON

Join the little kiwi builder and friends as they work together to fix his house.

Oh no, the little kiwi builder’s house is falling down!

His screws have all come loose – what can he do?

When the brickie, the plumber, the roofer, the sparky and the painter all come to help, it’s looking good!

Until, that night ... uh-oh!

Tim Saunders farms and is the author of adult non-fiction titles *This Farming Life* and *Under a Big Sky*. He was shortlisted for the prestigious Commonwealth Short Story Prize in 2021 for his story *Carved*; and won the 2018 *MindFood* Magazine Short Story Competition and was joint winner of the Caselberg Trust International Poetry Prize in 2023. He performs poetry around the Manawatu and beyond.

Minky Stapleton has been an award-winning Art Director and Creative Director, working in advertising agencies. She now works as an illustrator and creator of children’s books, many of which are best-sellers and have won awards. She moved from Johannesburg to New Zealand, where she now lives.



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DRAFT
SPREAD

STOMP AND ROAR, DINOSAUR!

Pamela Ueckerman, illustrated by Mel Matthews

COVER
TO
COME

CO-EDITION
OPPORTUNITY

A delightful rhythmic read aloud story that invites dinosaur identification perfect for the preschooler or the budding paleontologist.

*Great big slow feet,
Room to grow feet,
Stomp and roar, Dinosaur!*

Follow the fun parade of dinosaurs – from the baby ankylosaurus to the large T-Rex – as they walk, scamper, run, dig and stomp. Until, finally, it’s time for bed.

Yawn and snore, Dinosaur!

A celebration of dinosaurs of all shapes and sizes and a warm reassuring story to read before bedtime from an exciting new voice in children’s picture books, illustrated in a cacophony of colour by Mel Matthews, the brilliant artist of *You Are Loved*.

Pamela Ueckerman is a British-born Australian children’s author, poet and podcast host. She co-hosts and edits the podcast *Middle Grade Mavens* for which she has interviewed some of the UK and Australia’s most successful children’s authors. Her poetry and short stories have appeared on the Australian Children’s Poetry website and in *The School Magazine* and she has written for various publications about expat living, motherhood and home education. Pamela lives in Melbourne/Naarm with her family and far too many books and old ballet shoes.

Mel Matthews is an illustrator and artist who lives by the beach and is inspired by the natural world. Her books include *You Belong* (page 1 of this guide) and *You Are Loved*, both authored by Liv Downing.



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ALL THE WAYS I SEE

Nas Campanella and Eliza Hull, illustrated by Sophie Beer



Australia's first fully accessible picture book from a stellar team vividly evokes a blind child's experience of the beach in all its sensorial glory with a range of innovative accessibility features to suit all readers.

All the Ways I See is a joyful lyrical story about a day at the beach from a blind child's perspective as they experience the baking heat, the sticky sand, the hum of the ocean, the smell of hot chips, the splash of the waves.

This book has been designed with blind, low-vision, D/deaf or hard of hearing audiences in mind, as well as families who are looking for stories about mindfulness and living in the moment. Innovative accessibility features include Braille text, easy-to turn pages with rounded corners, and links to audio and sign language interpreted readings.

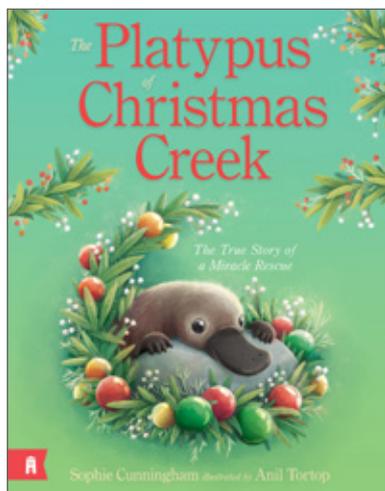
Nas Campanella is the National Disability Affairs Reporter for ABC News and has worked as a reporter and presenter for more than a decade. She is passionate about supporting people with disabilities to tell their own stories. **Eliza Hull** is a musical artist, writer, journalist and disability advocate. She has edited a collection of essays about parenting with a disability called *We've Got This* and co-authored the picture book *Come Over To My House* with Sally Rippin and Daniel Gray-Barnett. **Sophie Beer's** books including *Love Makes a Family* have sold into many languages and close to one million copies. In 2016, Sophie underwent surgery for an acoustic neuroma, a brain tumour that affects balance, the facial nerve and hearing, and she is subsequently hard of hearing. *Thunderhead*, her first novel, was inspired by this transformative event.



DRAFT
SPREAD

THE PLATYPUS OF CHRISTMAS CREEK

Sophie Cunningham, illustrated by Anil Tortop



The heartwarming true story of a lost platypus, from the bestselling creators of *Tippy & Jellybean*.

Little Platypus lives in a beautiful mountain creek.

As he grows, he learns how to tumble and turn in the water.

But one day he decides to go on a bigger adventure ... and ends up lost and alone, far from his mother.

This is the miraculous true story of how a lost baby platypus was rescued and cared for by vets at a wildlife centre, until he was ready to return to his home in the wild at Christmas Creek.

Sophie Cunningham is the author of three picture books: *Mango and Hopscotch*, *Tippy and Jellybean* and *Flipper and Finnegan*, as well as of many books for adults. She is a former publisher and editor and teaches at Allen & Unwin’s Faber Academy. In 2019 Sophie Cunningham was made a Member of the Order of Australia (AM) for her contributions to literature.

Anil Tortop was born and raised in Türkiye. She moved to Australia in 2011, and has been trying to get used to the local eight-legged house intruders and slithering visitors to her garden ever since. Originally an animator, she shifted her focus to children’s books and works primarily digitally. Her previous books include *Mango and Hopscotch*, *Tippy and Jellybean* and *Flipper and Finnegan* by Sophie Cunningham, *Bat vs Poss* by Alexa Moses, and *Pigasus* by Zanni Louise. Anil lives in Queensland with her husband and daughters.



It is nearly Christmas time again, which means Little Platypus has been at the sanctuary for almost a whole year.

He has grown fat and healthy.

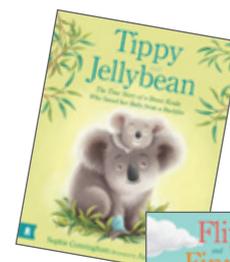
When the ranger picks him up, he kicks at her with his venomous spurs, like the fighter he is.

Little Platypus is ready.

It is time to find him to go home.

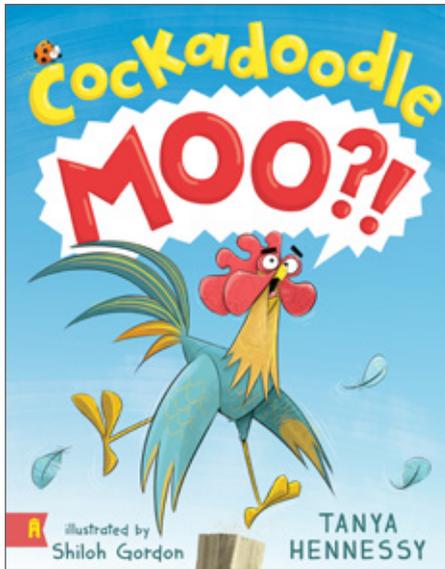
But where is home?

Little Platypus was found on a road, not close to any water. They can't take him back there!



COCKADOODLEMOO

Tanya Hennessy, illustrated by Shiloh Gordon



A rooster only has one line – how hard can it be to get it right?

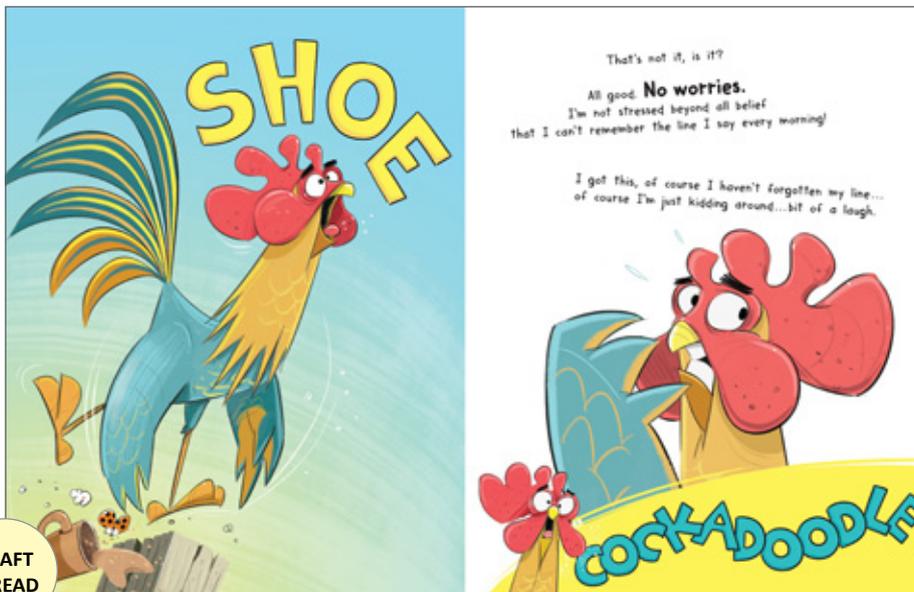
Okay, there’s the sun. That’s my cue. My time to shine. Get excited, a master is at work! COCKADOODLE ... MOOOOO!

UH-OH!

The rooster can’t remember his line! It looks like it’s all up to you, dear reader, to come to the rescue ...

This hilarious picture book from bestselling writer and comedian Tanya Hennessy will appeal deeply to kids who love a bit of silliness ... and a chance to Cockadoodle ...!

Tanya Hennessy is a multimedia FORCE. She’s one of the OG internet comedy creators in Australia, an AACTA nominated comedian, a two-time ACRA winning radio announcer, a TV presenter, a bestselling author and a social media sensation with over 2.3 million followers. Tanya writes for adults and children and her books include *Am I Doing This Right?*; *Help Self*; *Drum Roll Please, It’s Stevie Louise*; *Pink Santa*; and *Pink Easter* (page 13 of this guide). **Shiloh Gordon** has a passion for creating lively, engaging illustrations that are full of character and fun. He graduated with a BA in animation from the Queensland College of Art and has worked as a professional illustrator for over 20 years.



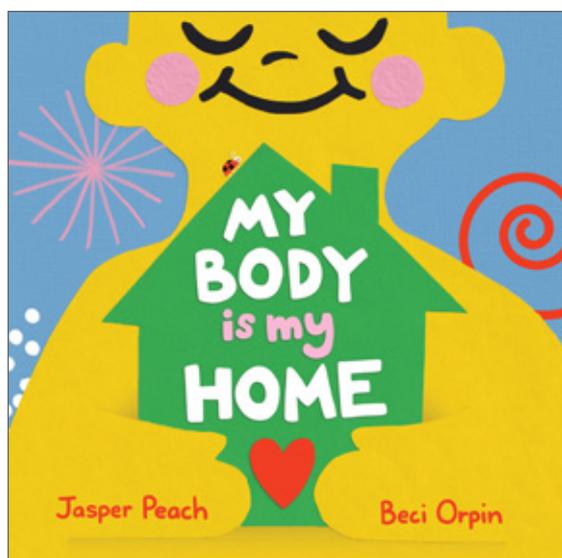
DRAFT SPREAD



Pink Santa rights sold: North American English (Macmillan/Henry Holt BFYR)

MY BODY IS MY HOME

Jasper Peach, illustrated by Beci Orpin



A joyful celebration of bodies of all shapes and kinds, with a gently inclusive message about being at home in your own skin.

*This is my body. It's my home.
I will live here my whole life long.
Every part of me belongs.*

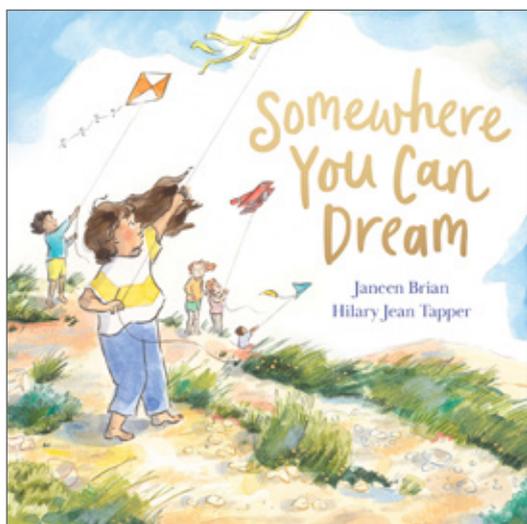
This heartwarming picture book is an empowering exploration of the ways we belong in our bodies. With vibrant illustrations and rhythmic language, *My Body is My Home* fosters confidence and self-love for young readers.

Jasper Peach is a trans, non-binary and disabled writer, speaker and parent. They are passionate about equitable access and inclusion. Their first book, *You'll be a Wonderful Parent*, was published in 2023 and is a celebration of rainbow families of all kinds. **Beci Orpin** is a Melbourne-based designer, artist and maker.



SOMEWHERE YOU CAN DREAM

Janeen Brian, illustrated by Hilary Jean Tapper



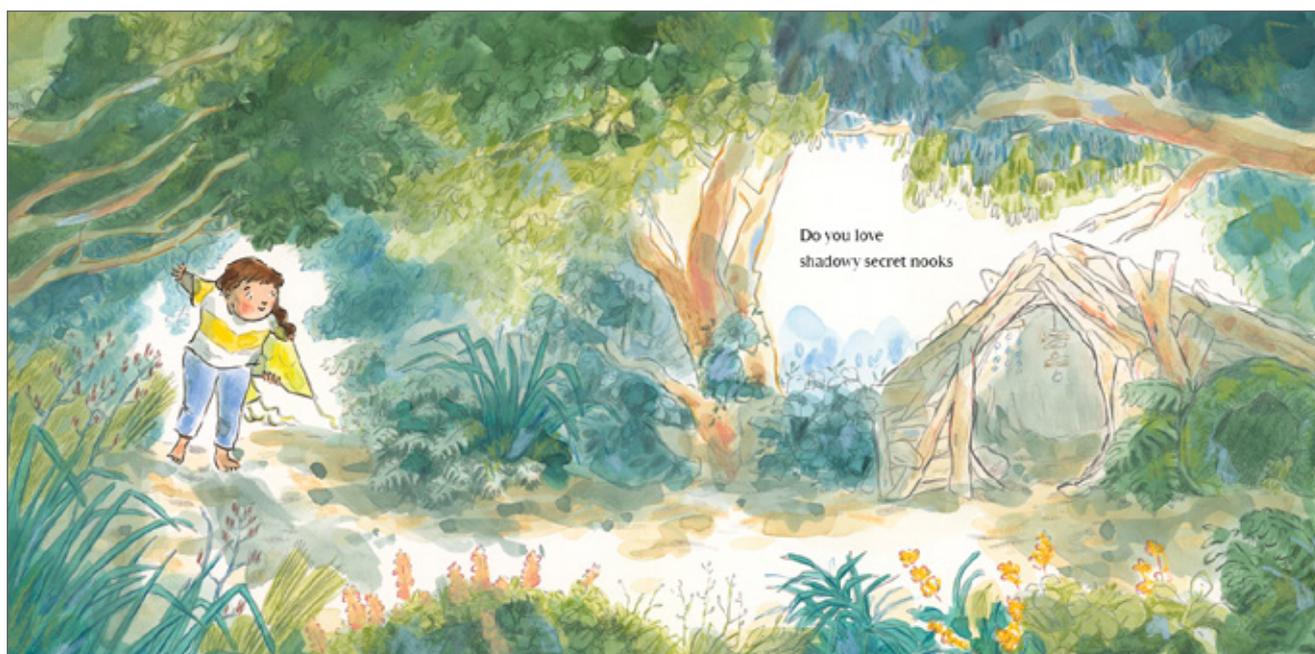
From the smallest cubby to the highest hilltop, this heart-warming, read-aloud picture book is all about finding your own special place in the world.

*Do you love shadowy secret nooks or cosy hideaways?
Leafy, shady trees or sheltered, rocky bays?*

*Do you love comfy little cubbies or tree forts way up tall?
Or spaces behind places where you can curl up small?*

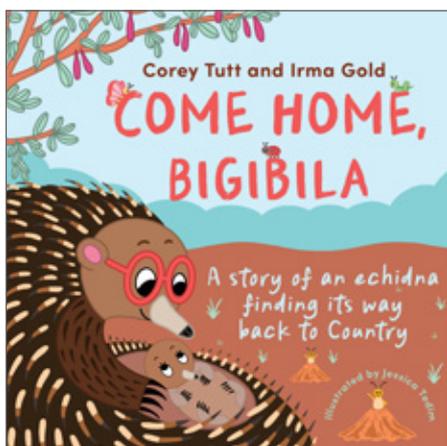
A beautiful, lyrical story that asks readers to consider where in the world they feel most at home, exploring safe spaces and cosy feelings, self-awareness and belonging. Perfect for reading at bedtime, with glorious illustrations by award-winning illustrator Hilary Jean Tapper.

Janeen Brian is an award-winning children's author and poet, with over one hundred published books. She enjoys writing picture books, junior fiction, poetry, novels and non-fiction. **Hilary Jean Tapper** is an award-winning illustrator based in New Zealand. She creates picture books, and works as a lecturer and researcher. Her awards include the ABIA Children's Picture Book of the Year, Storylines Noteable Award, and Forevability Book Award.



COME HOME, BIGIBILA

Corey Tutt and Irma Gold, illustrated by Jessica Tedim



From bestselling children’s authors Corey Tutt and Irma Gold comes a heartwarming story about an echidna, Corey’s totem animal, and the importance of home.

Bigibila was born on a night when Gawarrgay, the dark emu, was high in the sky.

The air tasted of native lime and was full of the sound of animal songs.

This is my Country, Bigibila thought. My place.

But when Bigibila finds herself far from her Country – how will she ever find her way back?

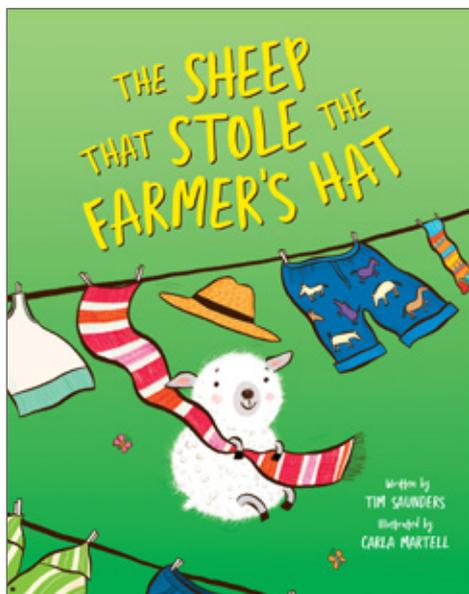
With Gamilaraay words seamlessly woven into the text and a facts section all about bigibila (echidnas), parents will love reading Bigibila’s story to their children, which explores our connection to family and place.

Corey Tutt is a Kamilaroi man who was born on Yuin Country along the New South Wales south coast. He now lives on Biripi/Dhungatti Country. He is the CEO and founder of DeadlyScience, and in 2020 was named the NSW Young Australian of the Year and a Human Rights Hero by the Australian Human Rights Commission. He is an Associate Professor at Western Sydney University. This is Corey’s fourth book following *The First Scientists*, *This Book Thinks Ya Deadly!* and *Caution! This Book Contains Deadly Reptiles*. **Irma Gold** is the author of six picture books, two novels for adults, and a short story collection. Her books have been published internationally. She works as a freelance book editor, and is the founder and co-host of writing podcast *Secrets from the Green Room*. **Jessica Tedim** is a Gamilaroi/Ularoi woman and contemporary Aboriginal artist from Walgett in north-west New South Wales, currently living and creating on Gubbi Gubbi Country on the Sunshine Coast, Queensland.



THE SHEEP THAT STOLE THE FARMER'S HAT

Tim Saunders, illustrated by Carla Martell



All the farmer's clothes have disappeared from the clothes line! Who has taken them?

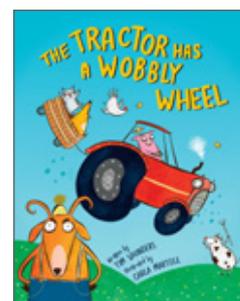
From the brilliant team that created family favourite and bestseller *The Tractor has a Wobbly Wheel*.

The farm animals are having a field day with all the farmer's clothes, using them in all sorts of inventive ways.

With perfect bouncy rhyme, this is a silly delight to read out loud while the illustrations capture the animals' strange and wonderful inner lives.

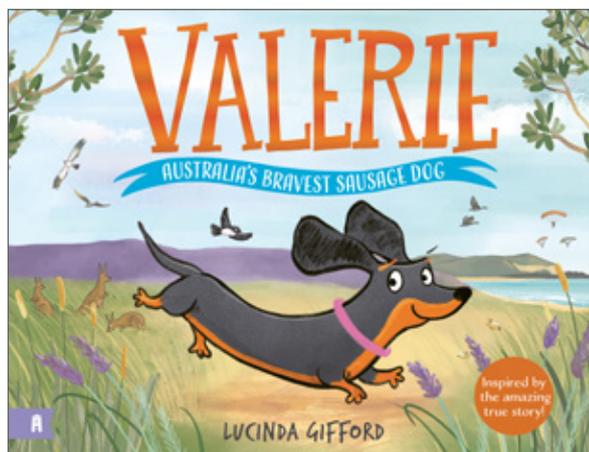
Tim Saunders farms and is the author of adult non-fiction titles *This Farming Life* and *Under a Big Sky*. He was shortlisted for the prestigious Commonwealth Short Story Prize in 2021 for his story

Carved; and won the 2018 *MindFood* Magazine Short Story Competition and was joint winner of the Caselberg Trust International Poetry Prize in 2023. He performs poetry around the Manawatu and beyond. **Carla Martell** worked in the animation industry until illustrating her first children's book in 2020, *Tulip & Doug* by Emma Wood, and is currently working on her thirteenth book. Her recent collaboration with author Juliette MacIver, *Duck Goes Meow*, won Best Picture Book in the 2023 New Zealand Book Awards for Children and YA.



VALERIE

Lucinda Gifford



The bold and true(ish) adventures of Australia’s Bravest Sausage Dog!

*Living the beach life and riding the swells,
practising backstroke and digging up shells.*

*Dining on oysters and fancy icecream ...
Valerie knew she was living the dream.*

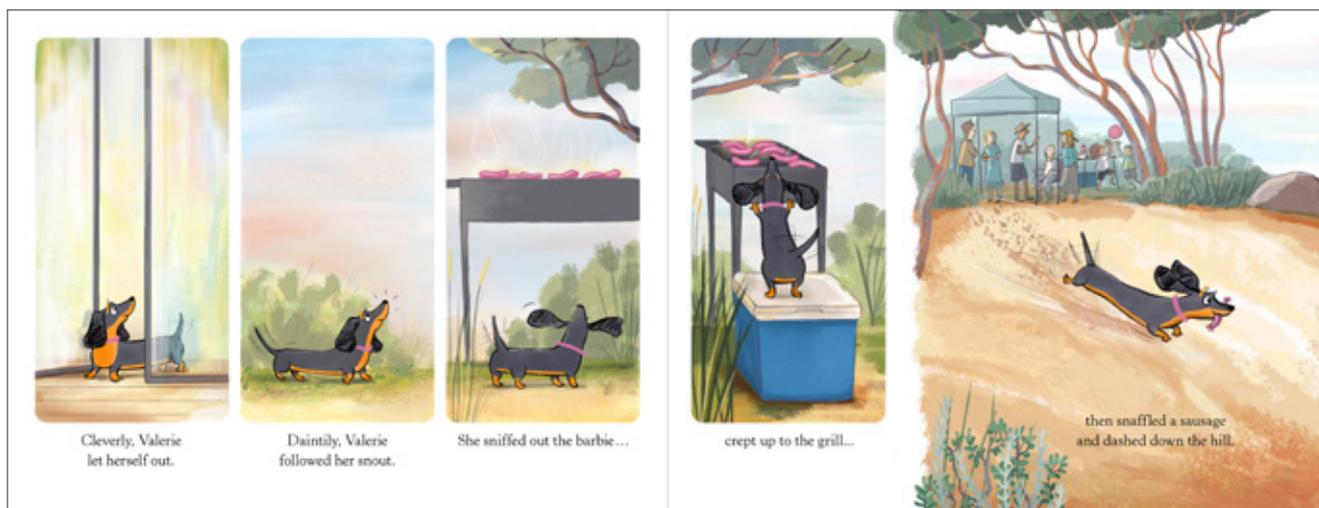
*Suddenly, Valerie heard urgent cries.
Hastily, Valerie grabbed a disguise.*

*‘What missing doggie? I don’t think that’s me ...
I’m on an adventure with lots more to see!’*

All around the world, people fell in love with Valerie – the bold-hearted dachshund who escaped a campground on Kangaroo Island and roamed the wilderness for over 500 days before being reunited with her loving owners.

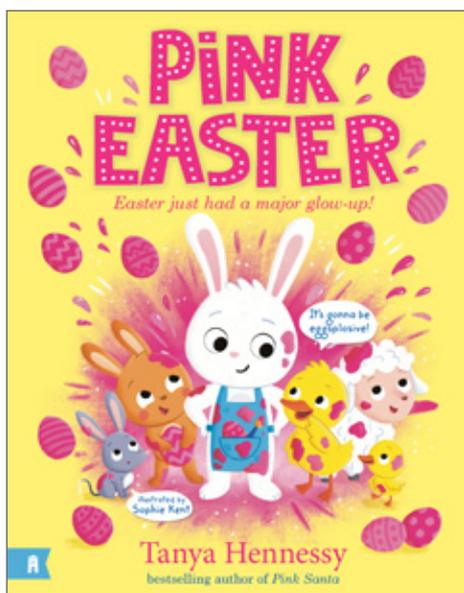
In this gloriously warm-hearted romp of a picture book, Lucinda Gifford has imagined Valerie’s adventures and brought them to vivid and hilarious life, as she befriends dolphins, eats her fill, and explores the wilds ... before finding her way safely home again.

Lucinda Gifford is the author and illustrator of many well-loved books for kids. In the 90s, Lucinda studied architecture in Scotland, where she learned to draw fancy buildings and moody scenery. Many years later, she put some of her best drawings in a folio and started looking for work illustrating children’s books. Lucinda has since illustrated over 40 books, ten of which she has also written. She works from her studio in Melbourne’s north and especially enjoys making books about chickens, wolves, dogs, cats and magical creatures.



PINK EASTER

Tanya Hennessy, illustrated by Sophie Kent



This year Easter is going to have a major glow-up! A joyous celebration of the season, and the power of community and cooperation, from bestselling children’s author Tanya Hennessy!

*‘Twas the night before Easter,
the workshop was busy,
Baskets to fill,
eggs to make pretty!*

When one plucky duckling steps up to help out the Easter Bunny, no one expects the outcome to be quite so eggsplosive! Now Easter has gone from pastel to pink in a split second! Oh no! But sometimes a mistake is just what you need to see the world in a whole new rosy light. Easter has never been so fabulous!

Tanya Hennessy is a multimedia FORCE. She’s one of the OG internet comedy creators in Australia, an AACTA nominated comedian, a two-time ACRA winning radio announcer, a TV presenter, a bestselling author and a social media sensation with over 2.3 million followers. Tanya writes for adults and children and her books include *Drum Roll Please*, *It’s Stevie Louise* and *CockadoodleMOO* (page 7 of this guide). **Sophie Kent** is a British illustrator based in Australia, known for her playful characters, vibrant colour palettes and design-led compositions. Sophie can often be found travelling, experimenting in the kitchen, or tending to her growing collection of plants.

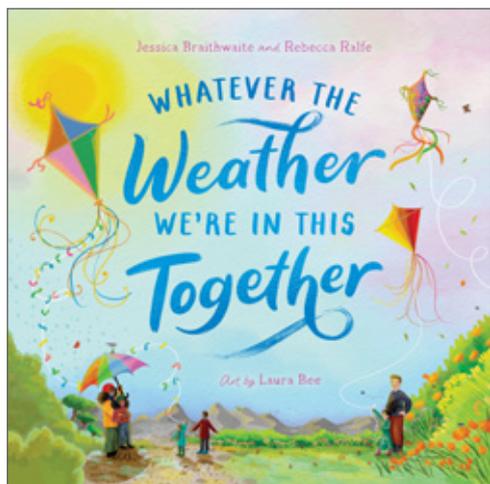


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North American English
(Macmillan/Henry Holt BFYR)



WHATEVER THE WEATHER WE'RE IN THIS TOGETHER

Jessica Braithwaite, Rebecca Ralfe, illustrated by Laura Bee



Like a warm hug on a cold morning, this beautiful book reassures children that they are loved ... always.

*I love your smile when the sun shines bright,
when magpies sing in the morning light.
I love your hug when thunder rumbles,
clouds roll in and raindrops tumble.*

*No matter what the seasons do, if skies turn
grey or sparkle blue,*

I love you now, I'll love you forever ...

Whatever the weather, we're in this together.

A beautiful celebration of the seasons, and a gorgeous affirmation of unconditional love, *Whatever the Weather We're in This Together* is a wonderful addition to the classic tradition of *Guess How Much I Love You* and *Under the Love Umbrella*.

Jessica Braithwaite is a Channel Nine weather presenter, songwriter and parent. Whether tracking a cold front, spotting rainbows, or explaining why that weird cloud looks like your aunt's poodle, Jessica is all about embracing every season. **Rebecca Ralfe** is a Cairns-based children's book author and anthropologist. She loves using rhythm and rhyme to write stories that entertain and engage children of all ages and abilities. **Laura Bee** is an illustrator and graphic designer from Aotearoa/New Zealand. When she's not working you can find her spending time with loved ones, cats, sewing, baking and making things with her hands!

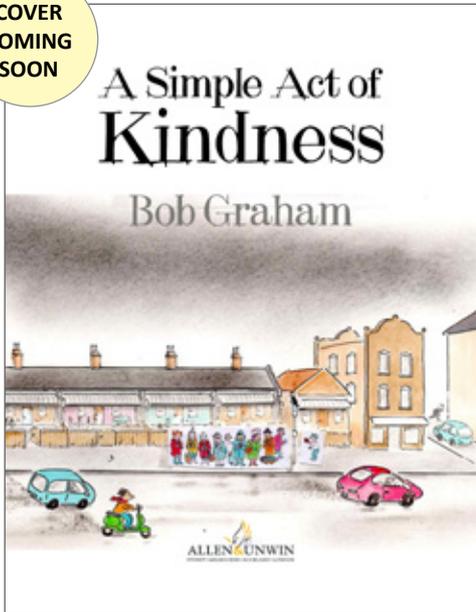


November 2025 • 250x250mm • HB • Full Colour • 32pp • **WORLD RIGHTS**

A SIMPLE ACT OF KINDNESS

Bob Graham

COVER
COMING
SOON

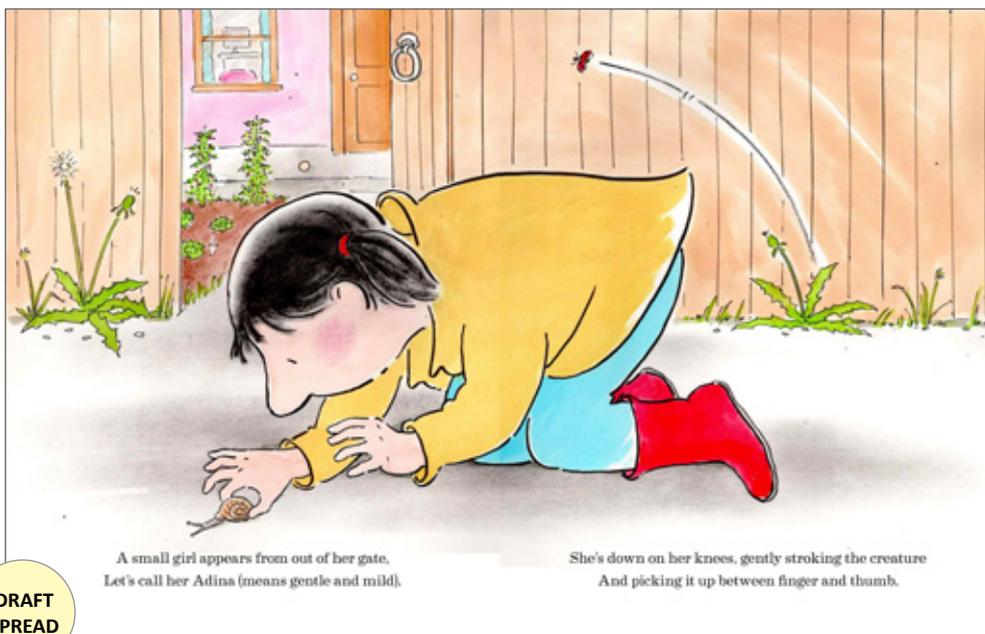


A tender ode to small kindnesses, and a tribute to the power of noticing, by internationally renowned creator **Bob Graham**.

One Sunday morning, a church bell chimes. People bustle along wet streets, caught up in their own lives. A man watches from a bus, and on the busy footpath outside the fogged windows a small act of kindness will be seen only by him.

Multi-award-winning author-illustrator Bob Graham celebrates the simple joy of a kind act and the moments that spark imagination. *A Simple Act of Kindness* encourages readers – young and old – to pause, look around at the world and delight in the tender moments unfolding in our midst.

Bob Graham is a Kate Greenaway-winning author-illustrator who has written and illustrated many acclaimed children’s picture books including *How to Heal a Broken Wing*, *How the Sun Got to Coco’s House*, *Max*, *Jethro Byrde: Fairy Child* and *April Underhill: Tooth Fairy*. His 2011 title, *A Bus Called Heaven*, is endorsed by Amnesty International UK and was the winner of the 2012 Children’s Book Council of Australia Picture Book of the Year Award – a prize Bob has won an unprecedented six times. In 2014, *Silver Buttons* was awarded the prestigious Prime Minister’s Literary Award. Bob lives in Melbourne.



CO-EDITION
OPPORTUNITY

DRAFT
SPREAD

A small girl appears from out of her gate,
Let’s call her Adina (means gentle and mild).

She’s down on her knees, gently stroking the creature
And picking it up between finger and thumb.

BAH HUMBUG!

Andy Geppert



In the tradition of *How the Grinch Stole Christmas* comes a funny feel-good festive story about everything we love (and hate!) about Christmas, from the bestselling creator of *Backyard Birdies*.

Humbug does NOT like Christmas. (BAH!)

He doesn't like the lights. He doesn't like the songs. He doesn't even like the food.

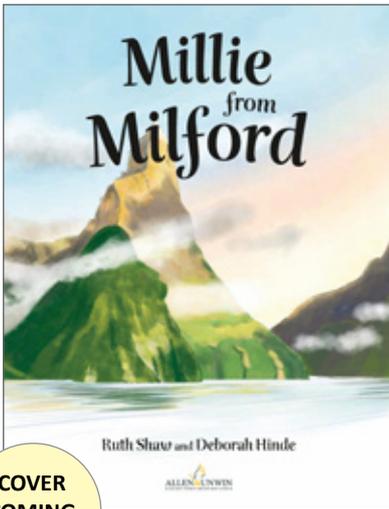
But when everything he does to destroy Christmas accidentally makes the celebrations even better, maybe he's not such a humbug after all!

Andy Geppert is an Australian illustrator based in Brisbane. A recipient of the CBCA New Illustrator Award, Andy's passion for picture books and art led him to create the SQUIGL CLUB in 2025, a unique online space connecting kids from regional communities across Australia through the joy of picture books and artistic expression. This vibrant club offers young artists the chance to dream, learn, and celebrate every SQUIGL they make. Andy is the creator of *Australian Backyard Birdies*, *Australian Backyard Buddies* and the picture book *Meep*, which was a CBCA Notable Book. Andy is also an award-winning marketing designer.



MILLIE FROM MILFORD

Ruth Shaw, illustrated by Deborah Hinde



COVER COMING SOON

The heart-warming true story of a badly injured baby seal that was nursed back to health by Ruth Shaw, author of international bestseller *The Bookseller at the End of the World*.

Based on the true story of Ruth Shaw and her husband Lance looking after a baby seal that had been shot between the eyes.

Millie lives in Milford Sound, the number one tourist destination in Aotearoa New Zealand.

After Millie was checked by a vet, she was taken to Ruth and Lance’s home to be looked after until she got back to full strength. Eventually they could return Millie to the wild seas where she belongs.

This is a beautiful story of the connection between a wild animal and a kindly human.

Ruth Shaw is the bestselling author of three books for adults: *The Bookseller at the End of the World*, *Bookshop Dogs* and *Three Wee Bookshops at the End of the World*. Her books have been translated into sixteen languages. Ruth lives with her husband in Manapouri in the South Island of New Zealand.

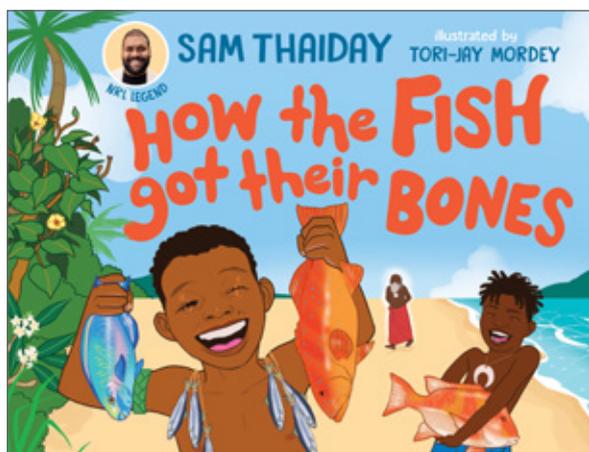


DRAFT SPREAD

Deborah Hinde is an award-winning children’s picture book illustrator and author. She lives in rural Waikato in New Zealand with her partner Mark and the mischievous studio ‘oodle, Tansy. Views of the surrounding rolling farmland, her garden and small olive grove provide her with inspiration for her artwork.

HOW THE FISH GOT THEIR BONES

Sam Thaiday, illustrated by Tori-Jay Mordey



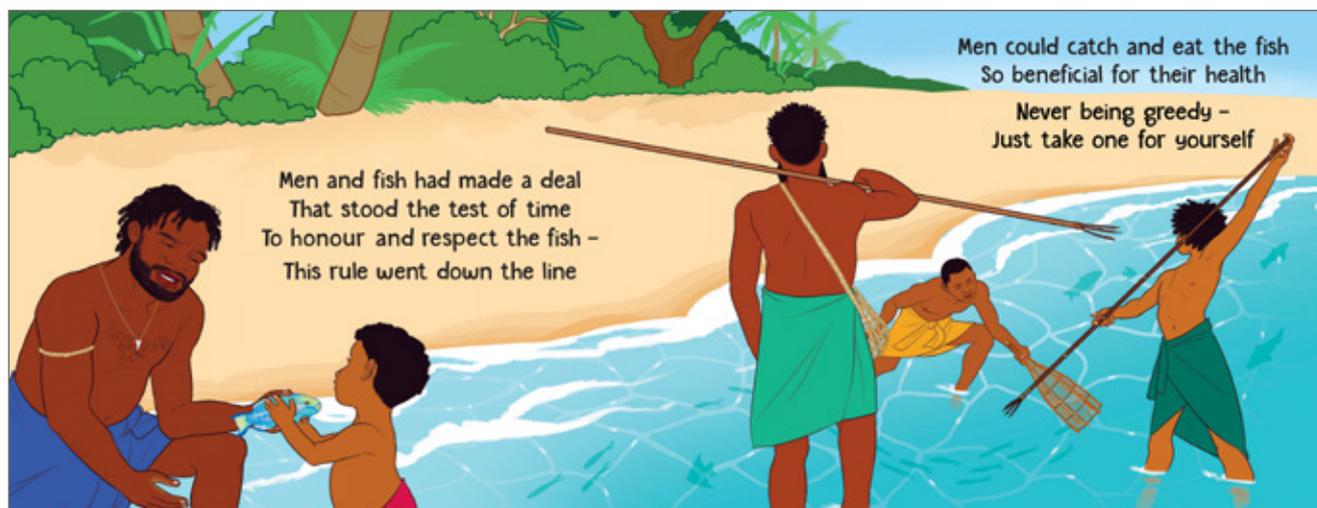
From the big heart of beloved NRL legend Sam Thaiday comes this wonderful rhyming picture book showcasing Torres Strait Islander storytelling and the importance of sharing

*Stories are our history
passed on down the line
But sometimes they get lost
And jumbled over time.*

*This story is about the fish
In all their scaly tones –
The story of the fish
And how they got their bones.*

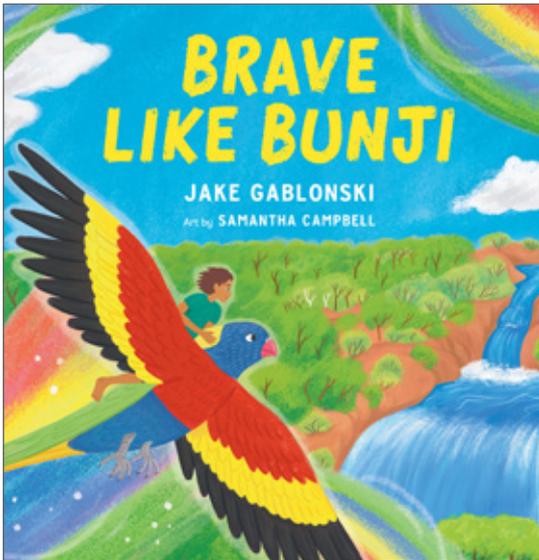
When two boys encounter an old man on the beach, their fateful decision not to share their abundant catch with him has far-reaching consequences. With vibrant illustrations full of drama, *How the Fish Got Their Bones* carries a powerful environmental message for young and old.

Sam Thaiday is a popular NRL legend of Torres Strait Islander and Australian descent. Sam spent his entire career with the Broncos. In 2011, he was awarded the Captaincy and won the Dally M Award for Best Second Row Player. Sam was also named in the Indigenous Australia Rugby League Team of the Century. He retired from NRL in 2018 and now has a career in media and sports commentary. In 2024 he won was crowned King of the Jungle on *I’m a Celebrity . . . Get Me Out of Here!* while raising vital funds for charity. **Tori-Jay Mordey** is a First Nations Australian artist and illustrator based in Meanjin/Brisbane. Her Torres Strait Islander and English heritage is often reflected in her contemporary Indigenous art practice – digital illustrations, drawing, painting, murals, printmaking and film.



BRAVE LIKE BUNJI

Jake Gablonski, illustrated by Samantha Campbell



A big-hearted story about identity, belonging and wearing your true colours with pride from debut author Jake Gablonski and acclaimed illustrator Samantha Campbell.

‘Hello, Bunji,’ said the bird. ‘My name is Wylla. I know you’re feeling upset and a little lost. Come with me, I have something to show you.’

When Bunji runs away from school, he doesn’t realise that a rainbow lorikeet is about to take him on an incredible adventure. As he soars over Nitmiluk Gorge and feels the rhythms of the environment supporting him, Bunji discovers that he *can* be brave if he shows his true colours with pride.

Brave Like Bunji is a story written from the heart by Wiradjuri man Jake Gablonski, beautifully illustrated by acclaimed Dagoman artist Samantha Campbell and set on the traditional lands of the Jawoyn, Dagoman and Wardaman people of the Katherine region of northern Australia.

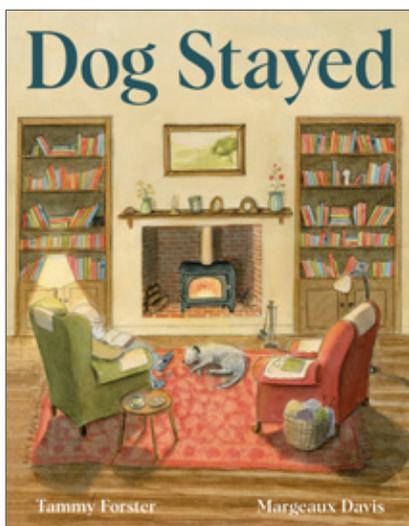
Jake Gablonski is a Wiradjuri man who grew up in Katherine in the Northern Territory. He is a storyteller at heart with a personal passion for mental health, wellbeing, education and community care. Jake often shares his voice as someone who belongs to both the First Nations and Rainbow communities, including those who sit at the intersection of both. www.jakegablonski.com. **Samantha Campbell** is a contemporary artist and award-winning illustrator.

She is descended from the Dagoman people and lives in Mparntwe (Alice Springs) with her family. She draws on inspiration from her childhood experiences living in remote Aboriginal communities, and finds enjoyment illustrating nature and people in a variety of mediums.



DOG STAYED

Tammy Forster, illustrated by Margeaux Davis



A tale of love, loyalty and the changing seasons of life. Mr Hindbottom does not want Dog, but Dog isn't going anywhere ... A heartwarming story about two grumpy but loveable characters and their journey of hope and renewal.

One morning, a man knocked on the door to sell something Mr Hindbottom did not need. Mr Hindbottom waved his cane, blew his nose, and slammed the door.

'And take your dirty, scruffy dog with you!' he yelled.

But the dog did not belong to the salesman, and the dog stayed.

When Dog turns up one day and stays – despite Mr Hindbottom's protests – they gradually find a comfortable way to get along. Life is good, but of course life doesn't stand still ...

When Mr Hindbottom is gone, can Dog ever love again?

'The lesson of this deceptively simple tale, beautifully illustrated with a lovely eye for detail, is of the endurance of love.' **THE AGE**

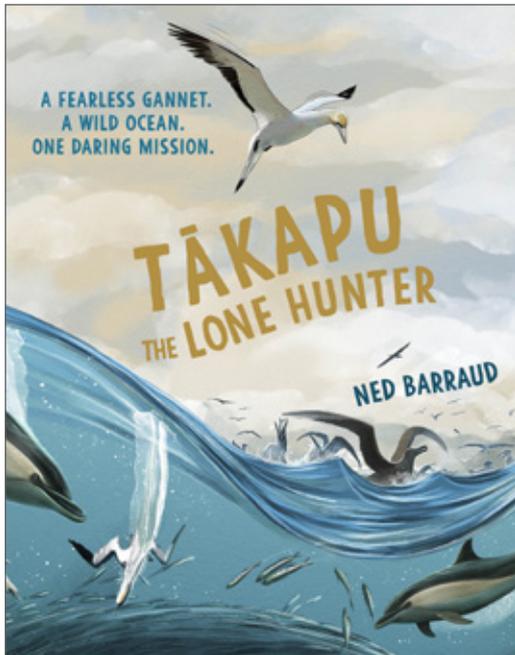
Tammy Forster has a Bachelor of Arts in Communication and a Bachelor of Business, and she's had fun executing launches, presenting at conferences, and delivering training workshops. Her four young children

inspire her storytelling. She lives in the US. **Margeaux Davis** illustrates books and makes cloth toys using discarded fabric scraps. Her background is in environmental education, working as a National Parks ranger. She now spends her days drawing, painting and sewing from her tiny garden studio surrounded by farms.



TĀKAPU THE LONE HUNTER

Ned Barraud



The gannet, or tākapu, must set off through the skies to find food for her chick.

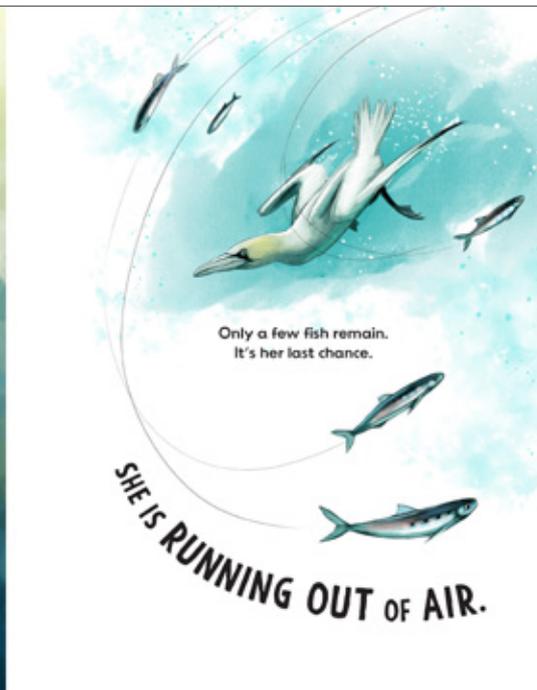
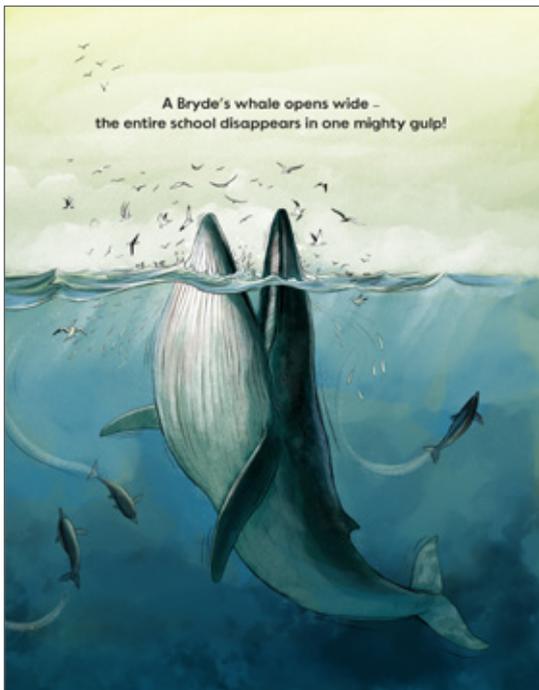
When she spots a feeding frenzy far below, she needs to act fast.

Will she plunge through the waves in time?

Can she avoid danger beneath the surface?

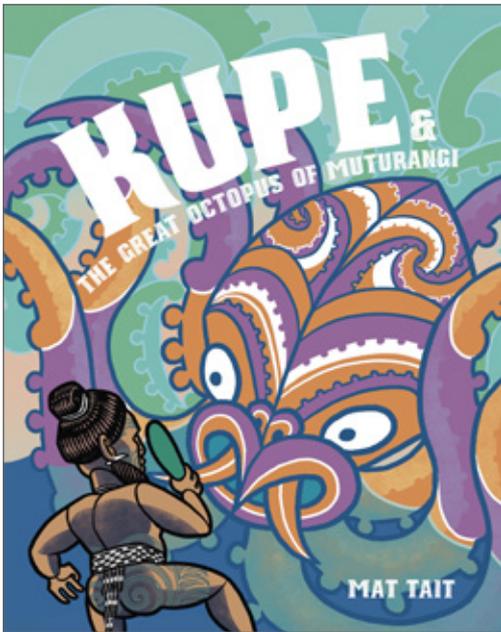
And will she make it home with a meal for her waiting chick?

Ned Barraud is a New Zealand-based illustrator, artist, and author known for his detailed nature paintings and popular children’s books. His work celebrates Aotearoa’s unique wildlife, landscapes, and natural heritage through art prints, original paintings, and storytelling.



KUPE AND THE GREAT OCTOPUS OF MUTURANGI

Mat Tait



This is the story of Kupe, who in Māori legend discovered Aotearoa while hunting a wheke (octopus), told and illustrated by award-winning author Mat Tait.

Kupe found that a huge, fearsome wheke (octopus) was taking all the fish in the ocean and the people of Hawaiki had nothing to eat.

So Kupe chased that wheke across Te Moana-nui-a-Kiwa (the Pacific Ocean).

Finally Hine-te-Aparangi, Kupe’s wife, saw land and a long white cloud: Aotearoa!

Find out what happened when the wheke and Kupe had a massive battle ...

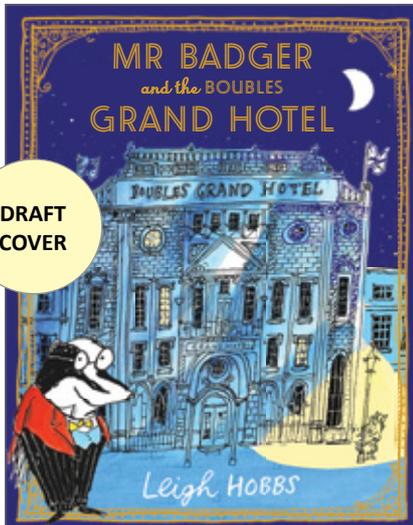
Mat Tait is a South Island-based illustrator of European and Māori descent. He gained a BFA in painting from Ilam School of Arts and now lives and works in the Motueka area. He’s the author of *Te Wehenga*, which won the Margaret Mahy Book of the Year and the Elsie Locke Non-Fiction Award at the 2023 NZ Book Awards for Children and Young Adults, and Best Children’s Book at the 2023 PANZ Book Design Awards. He illustrated



The Adventures of Tupaia, written by Courtney Sina Meredith, for which he was the recipient of the Russell Clark Award for Illustration at the 2020 NZ Book Awards for Children and Young Adults. His comics work has been published widely both locally and internationally, including *The Heading Dog Who Split In Half* with writer Dr Michael Brown.

MR BADGER AND THE BOUBLES GRAND HOTEL

Leigh Hobbs



DRAFT COVER

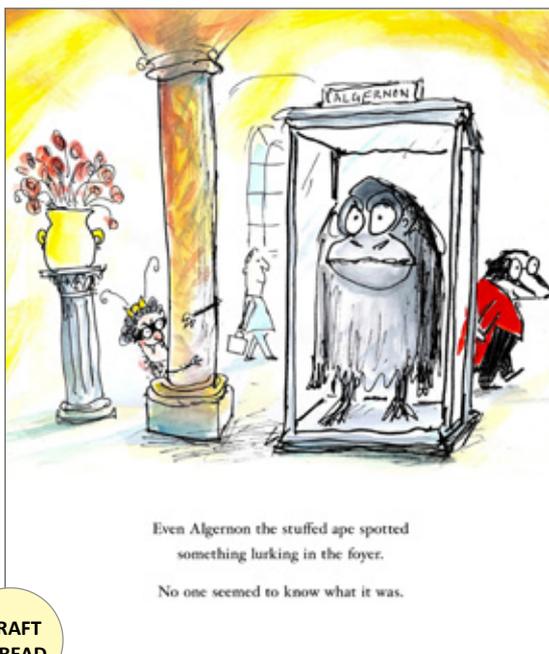
A delightful, classic picture book, showcasing the old world charm of one of Leigh Hobbs's most beloved characters, amidst all the fun and adventure of a grand hotel.

Mr Badger is the Special Events Manager at the Boubles Grand Hotel.

It is the hotel's one hundred and seventy-fifth anniversary, and the owners are having a special birthday party to celebrate. Their granddaughter, Sylvia Smothers Carruthers, wants very much to attend, but it is a party just for grown-ups. Everything has to be just right, and things have a way of going wrong when Sylvia is around. Fortunately she is far away at summer holiday camp ... or is she?

All sorts of disasters happen in the lead up to the party – the doorman loses his pants, the famous Boubles biscuits are burnt – and a human fly has taken up residence in the Deluxe Suite! Mr Badger must use all of his charm and ingenuity to solve the mystery and put things right.

Leigh Hobbs is a star in Australian children's publishing. His subversive humour has delighted children for almost three decades and he has won every major Australian children's choice award. Leigh was the 2019 Australian Children's



Even Algernon the stuffed ape spotted something lurking in the foyer. No one seemed to know what it was.



'It has six eyes and ten arms,' said another.

'It has fangs and wings,' said one guest.

Laureate and was one of five Australian Legends of Children's Literature featured by Australia Post on a stamp. His best-known children's books feature Old Tom, Horrible Harriet, Mr Badger, Mr Chicken and more, many of which have been adapted or screen or stage.

DRAFT SPREAD

THE NIGHT TIGER

Sherryl Clark, illustrated by Hannah Sommerville



A beautiful, evocative picture book about a child gathering their courage and activating their imagination to explore the night as a tiger might, prowling through the back garden with the family cat. Perfect bedtime reading for little children with big imaginations.

*I arch my back high, feel my night tiger paws
and night tiger claws stalk across the grass,
flick my tiger tail, twitch my tiger ears
growl my night tiger groooooowwwwwl.*

After the sun sets, the night creeps in and it's time for bed. But darkness shrinks as the full moon springs up above the trees, lighting the garden and inviting a child to take on an intrepid night-time adventure. A glorious celebration of imagination, courage and daring.

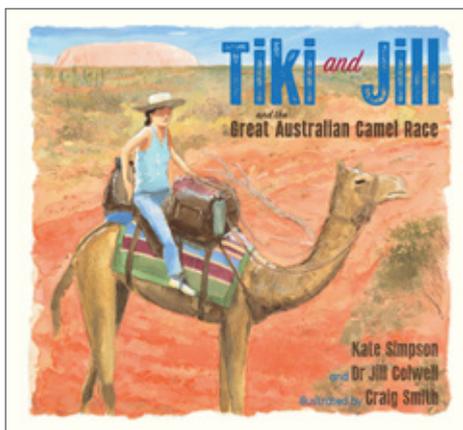
Sherryl Clark has published more than 40 books, from picture books to novels. Her novel *Farm Kid* won the 2005 NSW Premier's Literary Award, her verse novel, *Sixth Grade Style Queen (Not!)*, was a CBCA Honour Book in 2008, and many of her titles are Notable Books. *Mina and the Whole Wide World* won the 2022 Prime Minister's Award for Children's Literature. She writes both fiction and poetry, and works as a freelance editor.



Hannah Sommerville creates enchanting picture books using watercolour, gouache and digital illustrations. She has won multiple awards including CBCA 2022 Book of the Year – Early Childhood for *Jetty Jumping*, written by Andrea Rowe.

TIKI AND JILL AND THE GREAT AUSTRALIAN CAMEL RACE

Kate Simpson and Dr Jill Colwell, illustrated by Craig Smith



The amazing true story about a remarkable camel called Tiki from two CBCA award-winning creators.

Tiki was a desert-born camel and still more than half wild when he met his rider, Jill.

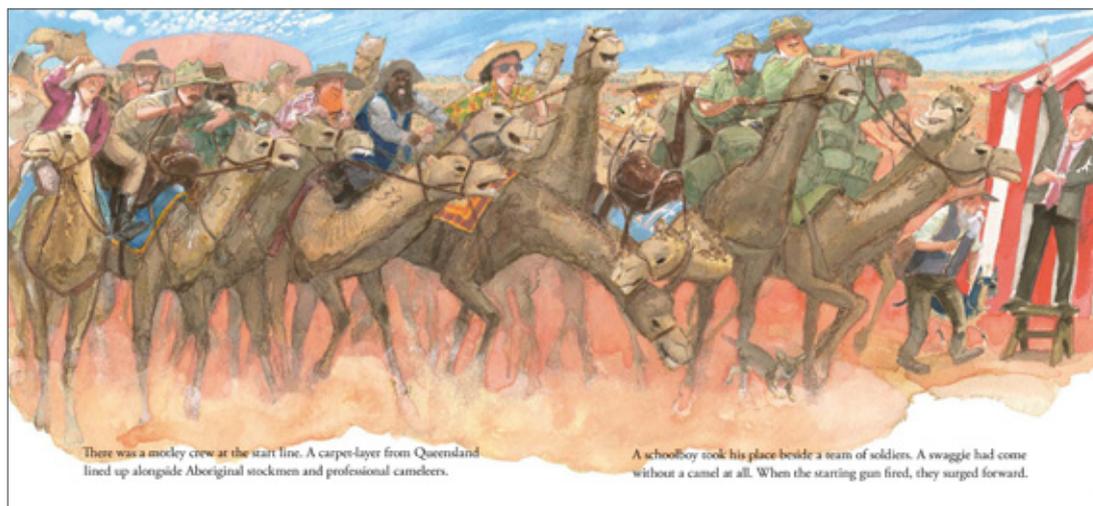
Jill was an accomplished horse rider who had never ridden a camel.

Tiki and Jill had entered the Great Australian Camel Race – a three-month trek from the red centre of Australia all the way to the Gold Coast. But Tiki was a tricky camel to ride. He spat on Jill. He bucked. He liked to roll in burrs.

Then one especially tough day amongst the sand dunes of the Simpson Desert, everything changed. And Tiki and Jill became firm friends.

This is the incredible true story about the bond between a camel called Tiki and his rider, Jill, and the extraordinary endurance race that captured the imagination of Australia.

Kate Simpson was raised on a diet of children’s books, but it was her fascination with science that led her to her first career as a chemical engineer. Following the birth of her children, Kate re-discovered her love of picture books and soon decided to try her hand at writing them. Kate now juggles a full-time job as an engineer with her writing work. Her books feature Australian history, science, curious kids and powerful women. **Dr Jill Colwell** grew up in outback NSW on a sheep and cattle property. In 1988, she was one of only a handful of women to compete in the Great Australian Camel Race. **Craig Smith** has collaborated with many of Australia’s best-loved authors, such as Paul Jennings and Doug MacLeod. Craig’s work over the last 30 years has been acknowledged in the CBCA Book



There was a motley crew at the start line. A carpet-layer from Queensland lined up alongside Aboriginal stockmen and professional camelers.

A schoolboy took his place beside a team of soldiers. A swaggle had come without a camel at all. When the starting gun fired, they surged forward.

of the Year awards, as well as in children’s choice awards around Australia. In 2011, Craig was awarded the biennial Euphemia Tanner Award, which recognised his distinguished services to children’s literature.

YALLA! LET’S GO!

Peter Bol and Jennifer Castles, illustrated by Louie Joyce



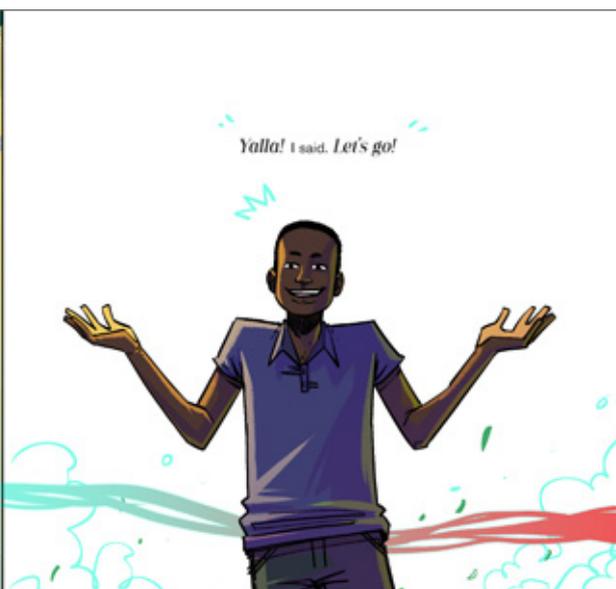
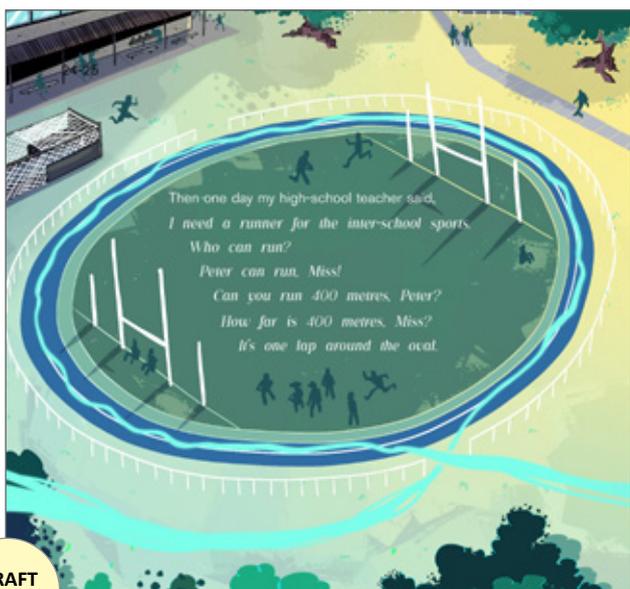
A joyful picture book based on the real-life journey of young Peter Bol.

When Peter Bol and his family fled Sudan for Egypt, they never imagined they would settle in Australia. But after they arrived, Peter discovered the joy of running, and began to dream about competing on the biggest stage in the world. The Olympic Games.

He was a little kid with a big dream – and sometimes dreams really do come true.

Peter won the hearts of the Australian nation at the 2020 Tokyo Olympics. Now, with a full heart Peter is delighted to share his childhood journey. The perfect book to encourage young readers to find their own path and dream big dreams.

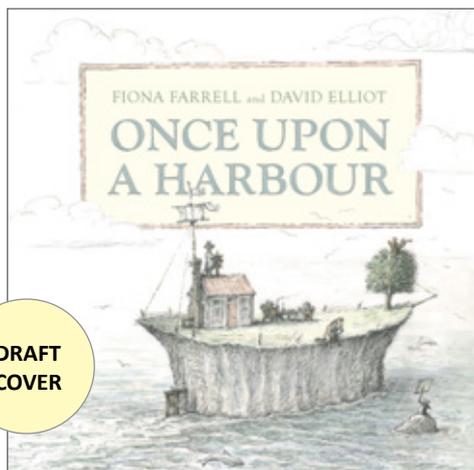
Nagmeldin ‘Peter’ Bol was born in Sudan, with his family fleeing the civil war when he was four years old. The Bol family emigrated to Egypt, before immigrating to Australia. After unexpectedly embarking on an athletics career at 17, Peter went to his first of three Olympics in 2016 in Rio de Janeiro. In 2021, at the Tokyo Olympics, Peter became the first Australian in 53 years to qualify for the Men’s 800m final. He loves sharing his journey and inspiring kids to dream big and follow their heart. **Louie Joyce** is an award-winning comics creator based on Dharawal Country. His most recent comic is *Godzilla: Skate or Die!* Other works include *A Fistful of Pain*, *Haphaven* & *Past the Last Mountain*.



DRAFT
SPREAD

ONCE UPON A HARBOUR

Fiona Farrell, illustrated by David Elliot



DRAFT COVER

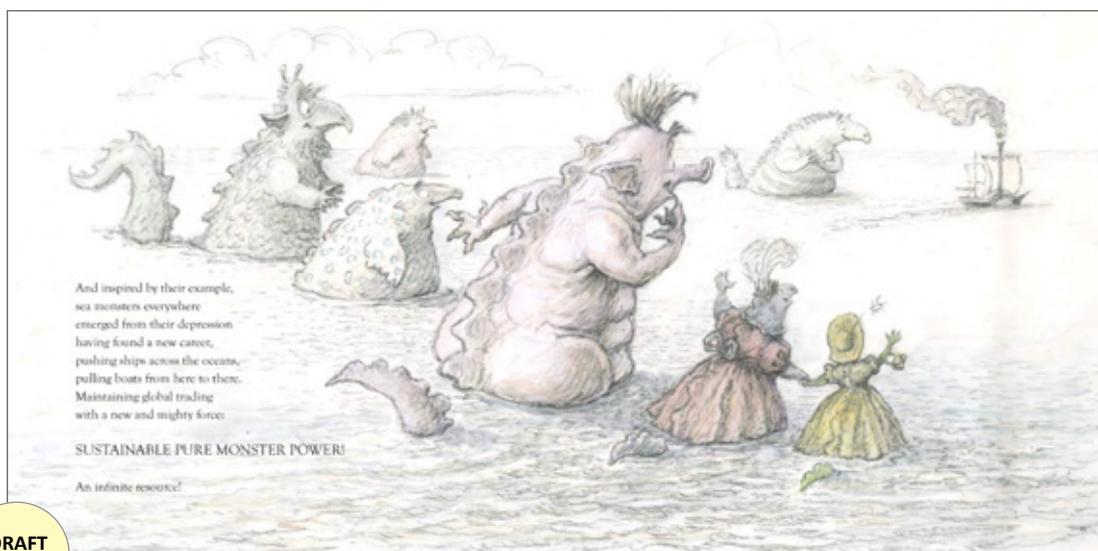
An extraordinary collection of funny inventive stories with charming illustrations from the internationally acclaimed David Elliot and Fiona Farrell.

Set in a harbour that could be anywhere in the world, *Once Upon a Harbour* shares stories of fantastical characters like Mr and Mrs Drizzle, who ‘drench the world till it’s puddle and slush’; big hearted sea monsters Craig and Shirley (who perhaps don’t exist); plantation trees who party, bored of their plantation rows; and Piggy Bill and his little piggies ‘as happy and as grubby as can be’.

With its stunning, strange and charming illustrations (think a blend of Shaun Tan and Dr Seuss) and bouncy rhythmic text, *Once Upon a Harbour* delivers a classic story arc of build-up, excitement, climax, resolution and a sweet ‘go to sleep’ ending.

Fiona Farrell is one of New Zealand’s leading writers. Her first novel, *The Skinny Louie Book*, won the 1993 NZ Book Award for fiction. Other novels, poetry and non-fiction books have been

shortlisted for the Montana and NZ Post Book Awards, with four novels nominated for the International IMPAC Dublin Literary Award. In 2007 she received the Prime Minister’s Award for Fiction, and in 2012 was appointed an Officer of the NZ Order of Merit for services to literature. **David Elliot** is an award-winning illustrator and writer for children. He has provided illustrations for authors on the local and international stage, including Brian Jacques, T.A. Barron, Margaret Mahy, Joy Cowley and Janet Frame, and produced ten picture books of his own. In 2017 his book *Snark* won two national awards and a White Raven. In 2013 his book *Henry’s Map* was named one of the top 20 best picture books for children in the USA’s *School Library Journal*.



DRAFT SPREAD

THE ENCHANTMENT OF GOLDEN EAGLE

Margaret Wild, illustrated by Stephen Michael King



A powerful tale about a child, a golden eagle and a forgotten promise from the author of the children's classic *Fox*, illustrated by the beloved creator of *Mutt Dog*.

One day, Ella and her little brother Leif found a fledgling with a broken wing. They took him home, wrapped and fed him, and watched over him for seven days and seven nights.

In time Golden Eagle was well enough to fly away, but he loved the children, so he promised to stay with them at the edge of the dark forest.

Until one day, the wind whispered and the breeze caressed his feathers, and Golden Eagle forgot his promise ...

Margaret Wild's award-winning, internationally successful children's books include *Old Pig* (shortlisted, CBCA Picture Book of the Year), *Fox*

(winner, CBCA Picture Book of the Year), *The Dream of the Thylacine* (honour book, CBCA Picture Book of the Year), and *On the Day You Were Born*, all illustrated by Ron Brooks, plus many more. Margaret has been the recipient of the Nan Chauncy Award and the Lady Cutler Award for her contributions to Australian literature.

Stephen Michael King has been described as an artist who 'draws from the inside out', and it is this gentle, intuitive truth that gives heart and playfulness to his work. He is an internationally renowned, award-winning author and

An unforgettable tale about love, nature and forgiveness from two of Australia's most-celebrated picture book creators.

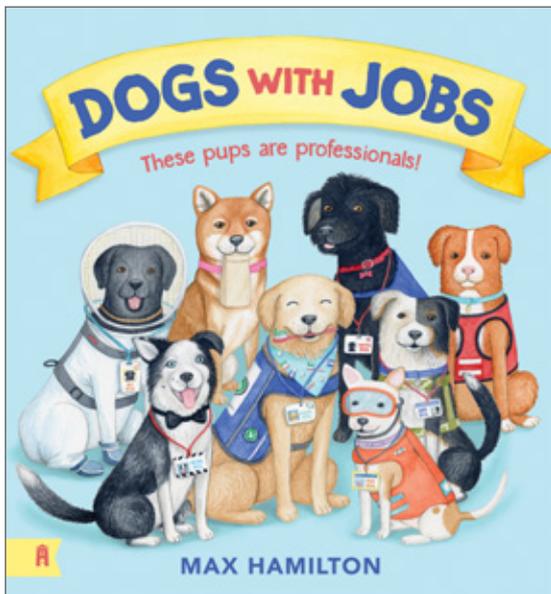
illustrator who is frequently honoured in children's book award categories – including winning the CBCA Book of the year and the Prime Minister's Literary Award. Stephen has produced more than 100 titles and worked with a stable of Australia's best authors, including Glenda Millard, Margaret Wild, Nick Bland, Peter Carey and Tim Winton. Books that Stephen has written and illustrated include: *Three*, *Rainbow Bear*, *Mutt Dog*, *Leaf*, and *Milly, Jack and the Dancing Cat*.



'Can you save him?' Ella asked her father, Magnus.
'Will he die?' asked Leif.
'Golden Eagles are strong,' said Magnus. 'If he lives through the night, we'll nurse him back to health.'
Ella wrapped the bird in a blanket, and Leif put him in a box. The room was warm and dark and quiet.
Ella fed Golden Eagle strips of raw meat, and watched over him for seven days and seven nights.
When at last he opened his eyes, she knew he'd be all right.
In time ...

DOGS WITH JOBS

Max Hamilton



Dogs with jobs? What more could you want! A delightful exploration of the many careers of our canine companions.

Dogs may be our best friends, but sometimes that’s just their side hustle!

Meet the bee-keepers, the whale poop sniffers, the dental assistants, and the penguin protectors from around the world who prove that dogs have more jobs than you can throw a stick at.

Packed with adorable illustrations and quirky jobs, this heartwarming book about our best (and busiest) friend is perfect for young readers and dog lovers everywhere.

Max Hamilton is a CBCA and Whitley award-winning illustrator, a graphic designer and most enthusiastically a maker of children’s books. She enjoys noticing the little details in things and loves to get lost in the world of illustration and stories. Max lives with her family and their cuddly dog in Sydney, Australia.

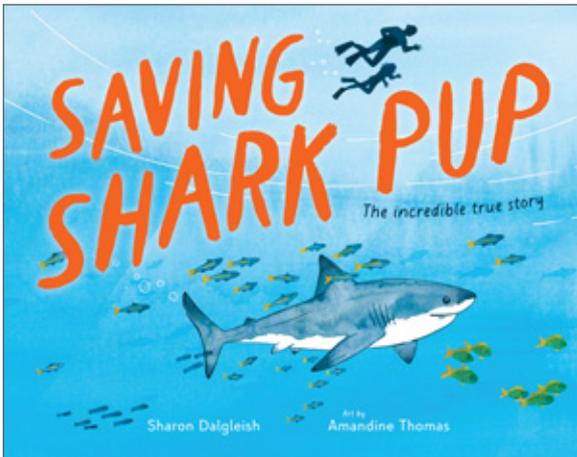
www.maxhamiltonillustration.com.au



Eba alerts her handler using body signals when he smells whale poo (or scat) in the water. Scientists then collect the scat samples and use them to monitor the health, movements and diet of orca whales.

SAVING SHARK PUP

Sharon Dalglish, illustrated by Amandine Thomas



The true story of a great white shark pup who washed up on the beach and was rescued by the local community.

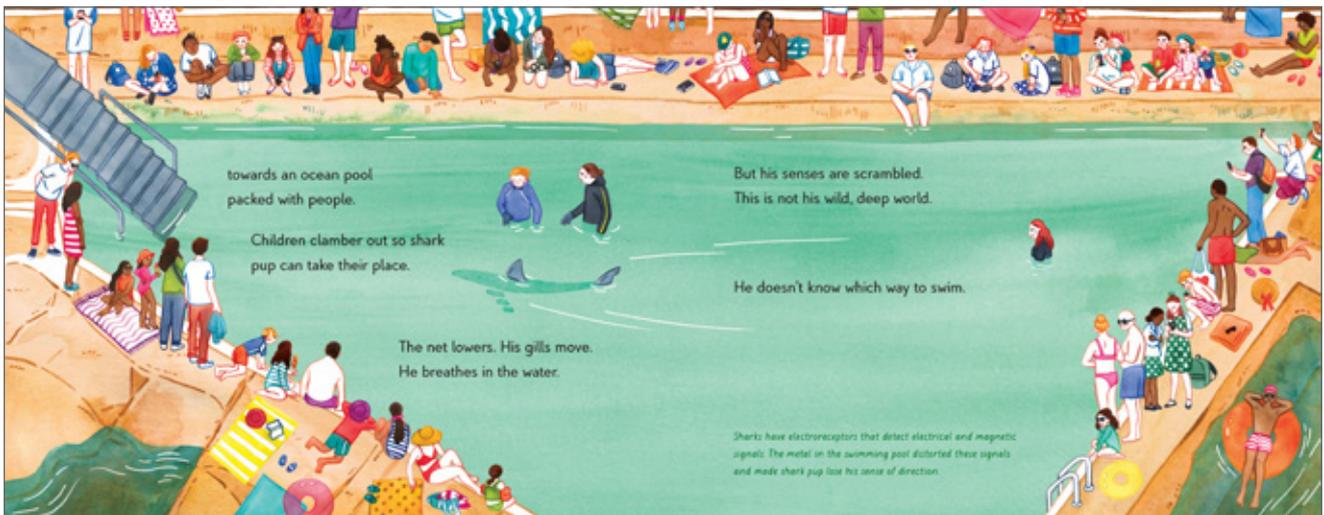
When a great white shark pup washed up on Sydney’s Manly Beach, the local community rushed to the shark’s rescue, eventually releasing him back into the ocean.

Great white sharks are vital for the ocean ecosystem, and yet despite this, their beauty and mystery are rarely celebrated. This glorious picture book is a lyrical and emotive account

of the shark pup’s journey back to the ocean, interspersed by fascinating facts about great white sharks. The two narratives work together to inspire compassion and hope for one of the ocean’s most feared and misunderstood creatures.

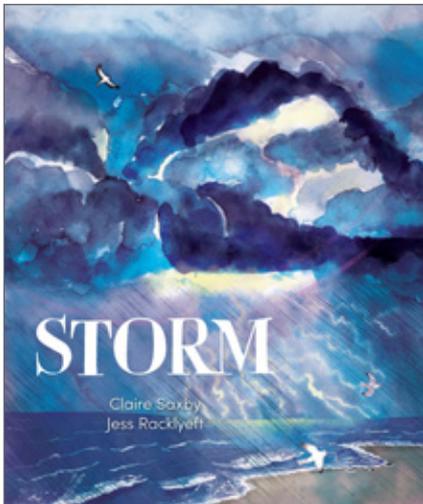
A fascinating true story perfect for shark-obsessed young readers and all animal lovers.

Sharon Dalglish worked for many years as a librarian, and then a teacher. She now spends her days writing stories, non-fiction and poetry for children. She has published over fifty books for the education market, as well as numerous textbooks and resource books for primary school teachers. Sharon lives in Sydney with Maisie, her rescue dog/office assistant. **Amandine Thomas** is an award-winning author and illustrator based in the leafy Dandenong Ranges near Melbourne, Australia. Her vibrant watercolour illustrations have featured in children’s books and magazines, and she has worked with a variety of clients from across the globe, sharing stories of positive change for people, for communities, and for the planet. www.amandine-thomas.com



STORM

Claire Saxby, illustrated by Jess Racklyeft



A storm is brewing. From the first puff of wind to a howling gale, this beautiful non-fiction picture book offers a deeply researched exploration of the effects of wind and weather.

A storm is rising.

It begins with a puff. Then another.

A flutter, a ripple, a shiver show where the breeze blows.

An evocative exploration of the birth of a thunderstorm and the effects of wind and weather on the natural environment, from the creative team behind CBCA Picture Book of the Year *Iceberg*.

Claire Saxby’s work has won several awards including CBCA Honour Book, a NSW Premier’s Literary Award, a SCBWI Crystal Kite Award, an Environment Award for Children’s Literature, an Educational Publishing Award and the Whitley Award multiple times. She is widely curious about just about everything and passionate about encouraging curiosity and wonder. Jess Racklyeft works mainly in watercolours and ink and her illustrations often combine collage – either on paper or digitally assembled. Jess has written and/or illustrated over 40 titles and won several illustration accolades including CBCA Picture Book of the Year for *Iceberg* and a CBCA Honour Book for *Australia: Country of Colour*.

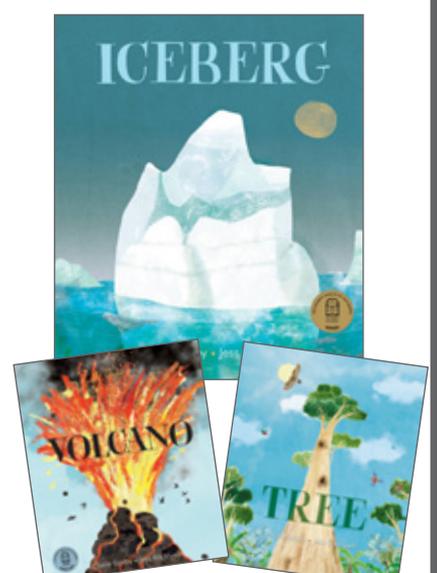
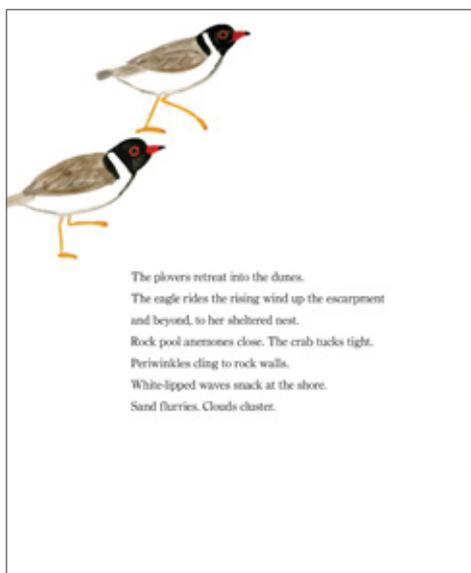
On ICEBERG:

RIGHTS SOLD: NA English and French (Groundwood); French ex NA (Editions Circonflexe)

WINNER: 2022 CBCA Picture Book of the Year; **SHORTLISTED:** 2022 Children’s Literature Award – Adelaide Festival Awards

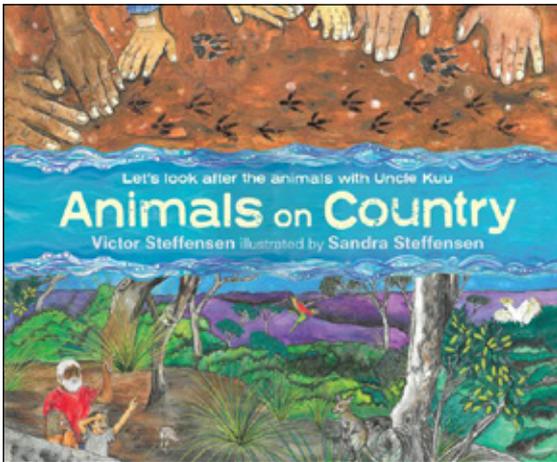
On VOLCANO:

RIGHTS SOLD: Korean (Kyowon)



ANIMALS ON COUNTRY

Victor Steffensen, illustrated by Sandra Steffensen



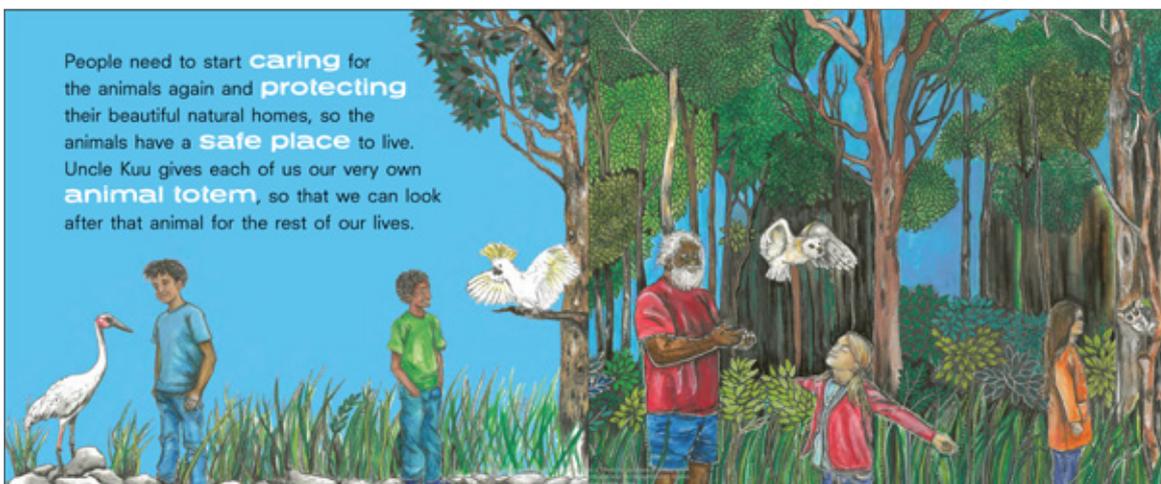
This engaging picture book from award-winning brother-and-sister team Victor and Sandra Steffensen inspires children and adults alike to look after animals through Indigenous cultural practices.

For thousands of years, Aboriginal people looked after the land to keep it healthy, so there was plenty of food for the animals to eat.

But today, the animals are wondering what has happened to the people. Trees have been cut down, land has been cleared and rivers have been polluted.

Join Uncle Kuu as he takes children out on Country to learn about the First Peoples’ traditions of caring for animals, and in turn, caring for Country. We can all be part of the animal world and help to look after the animals.

Victor Steffensen is an Indigenous writer, filmmaker, musician and consultant, applying traditional knowledge values in a contemporary context through workshops and artistic projects. He is a descendant of the Tagalaka people through his mother’s connections from the Gulf Country of north Queensland. He is the co-founder of Firesticks, and has connected with First Nations communities in California, Canada, and the Sámi people of Scandinavia, sharing cultural knowledge practices related to caring for Country. This is Victor’s third children’s book with his sister Sandra. **Sandra Steffensen** teaches Visual Arts specialising in the practice of ceramics. Sandra uses the sgraffito technique to adorn her functional pieces with intricate illustrations of local landscapes and wildlife to remind us of the beauty and the role they play in this world.



People need to start caring for the animals again and protecting their beautiful natural homes, so the animals have a safe place to live. Uncle Kuu gives each of us our very own animal totem, so that we can look after that animal for the rest of our lives.

BEFORE IT WAS CALLED SCIENCE

Corey Tutt, illustrated by Jaelyn Biumaiwai



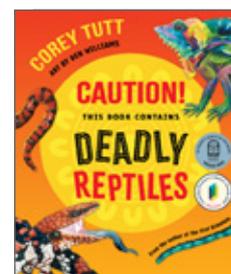
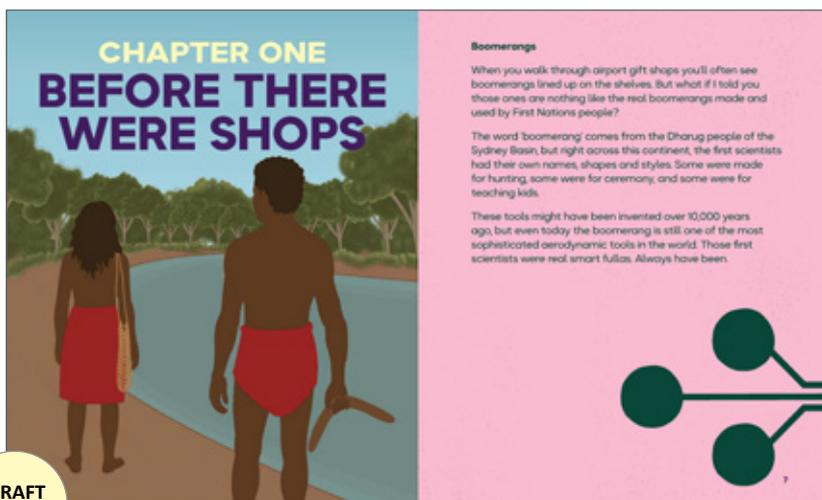
Bestselling author Corey Tutt is back to share more incredible stories of how Australia’s First Peoples practised science long before it carried that name.

Across Australia’s vast land and skies, the First Peoples have walked with Country for thousands of years. They read the land and waters like a book. They knew the winds, watched the stars, and listened deeply to the environment around them. They understood that to take care of Country is to take care of yourself, your family, and the generations yet to come.

Organised into two main sections – BEFORE and NOW – Corey shares case studies from various communities, presented to suit kids aged 7–12 years. Did you know that the first scientists invented sustainable ways of carrying food and water, unlike the single-use plastics and packaging we see today? Or that the first scientists could remove salt from seawater?

This is the perfect book to get kids excited about science and sustainability. Together, we can walk towards a better future, caring for Country as the first scientists always have.

Corey Tutt OAM is a Kamilaroi man, and the CEO and founder of DeadlyScience, a not-for-profit organisation that aims to provide science resources to remote schools in Australia and connects young First Nations people with mentors in STEM. He was born on Yuin Country in Nowra on the New South Wales south coast, and now lives on Birpii/Dhungatti Country. In 2020, Corey was named the NSW Young Australian of the Year and a Human Rights Hero by the Australian Human Rights Commission. In 2022, Corey received an OAM for service to Indigenous STEM education. He is an A/Professor at Western Sydney University. This is Corey’s fifth book.



SHORTLISTED:
2026 Victorian Premier’s Literary Awards

NOTABLE BOOK:
2026 CBCA Book of the Year, Eve Pownall Award

BRAVEPAW SERIES

L.M. Wilkinson, illustrated by Lavanya Naidu

An epic Tail of Adventure! Can one gallant mouse find the Heartstone and save her homeland from destruction? A fully illustrated and brilliantly readable series full of magic and prophecy, quests, heroism and loyal friendship – the world of Bravepaw will hook young readers until the very last page of this four book series.



BRAVEPAW AND THE SONGSTONE OF THE DEEP: BRAVEPAW 4

The final battle is upon us – can one small mouse stand against what rises from the deep? The epic conclusion to the beloved and bestselling Bravepaw quartet.

Titch and Huckleberry have journeyed a long way from their cosy home on the Plateau – and all they want to do is go home, eat some tasty plums and play in the cooling stream. But Titch is a hero now, whether she likes it or not, and heroes do not give up, not when Alluria needs heroes more than ever before!

Titch knows that there are many ways to be brave, and she has friendship, brave and true, on her side – but will that be enough to stand against the forces of darkness, when all of Alluria is cracking open?

Now, at the final hour, will the prophecy be fulfilled? Can Bravepaw unite the Gems of Harmony and save the world?



BRAVEPAW AND THE FANGSTONE OF FLINTFALL: BRAVEPAW 3

Titch is on the hunt for the gemstones missing from Bravepaw's staff. But the world is wide and full of danger...

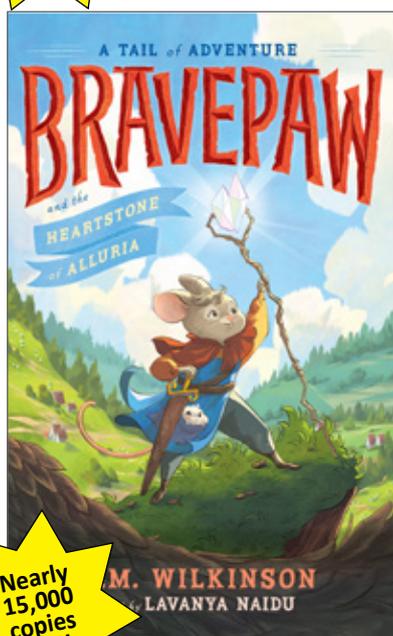
It's one small mouse, and one epic quest!

Can Titch tell friend from foe in time to unite the Gems of Harmony and save her homeland from destruction?

Sept 2024 (Book 1); March 2025 (Book 2); March 2026 (Book 3); Sept 2026 (Book 4)
198x128mm • PB • B&W Illustrations Throughout • 192pp, 192pp, 208pp, 224pp



Over
10,500
copies
sold!



Nearly
15,000
copies
sold!

BRAVEPAW AND THE CLAWSTONE OF ROTWOOD MIRE: BRAVEPAW 2

Titch and Huckleberry are on an epic quest. They have followed their hearts ... right into the path of a terrifying swamp monster, and a village full of brainwashed squirrels!

Maybe their hearts aren't to be trusted? Maybe Titch is just an ordinary little mouse and not Bravepaw after all ... ?

But Bravepaw or not, Titch is not about to give up. Can she defeat the greedy turtle controlling the squirrels, and discover what his glowing green gem has to do with the legend of Bravepaw and her quest to save Alluria?

BRAVEPAW AND THE HEARTSTONE OF ALLURIA: BRAVEPAW 1

Titch has always longed for adventure – just like the gallant mouse hero Bravepaw in all her favourite stories. But she is the smallest mouse in her family, living in a peaceful little village where nothing exciting ever happens ... until DIRE TROUBLE comes to the Plateau!

Titch and her best friend Huckleberry must set out on a DANGEROUS QUEST to take the Heartstone to repair the crack in the heart of Alluria before the whole world breaks apart.

Can Titch ever hope to live up to the legend of Bravepaw?

SHORTLISTED: 2025 ABIA, BOOK OF THE YEAR FOR YOUNGER CHILDREN
SHORTLISTED: 2024 BEST CHILDREN'S FICTION, AUREALIS AWARDS
SELECTED: 2024 ONE OF THE BEST MIDDLE GRADE BOOKS –
READINGS BOOKS

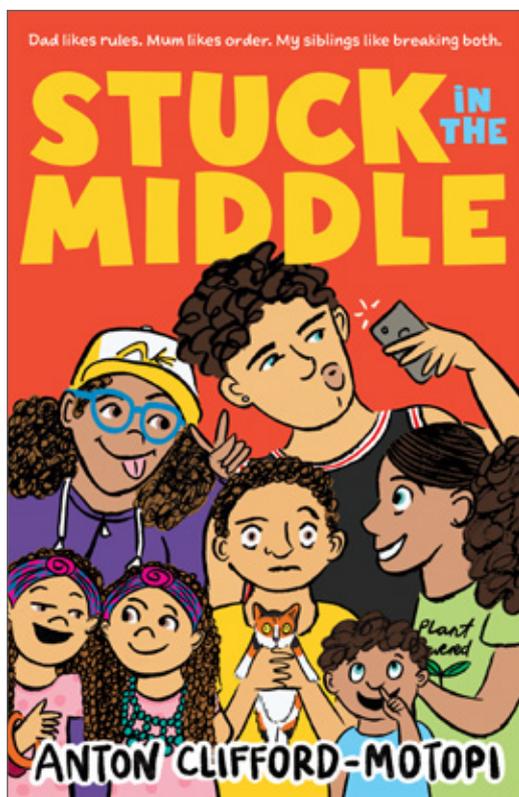
L.M. Wilkinson is the award-winning author of more than twenty books for children and teenagers, including *A Hunger of Thorns*, which won the Victorian Premier's Literary Award and was a CBCA Honour Book. Lili has a PhD in Creative Writing and is a passionate advocate for young readers.

Lavanya Naidu is a storyteller with a passion for building worlds and developing characters with heart. The twilight zone where they meet is where the magic happens! She is a graduate in animation film design and has illustrated several children's books and worked on games and animation production (television and film). Lavanya grew up in Kolkata, India, and now lives in Melbourne.

WORLD RIGHTS • RIGHTS SOLD: North American English (S&S BFYR); French (Eilean); Czech/Slovak (Bookmedia); Norwegian (Fontini); Russian (Goodwin)

STUCK IN THE MIDDLE

Anton Clifford-Motopi

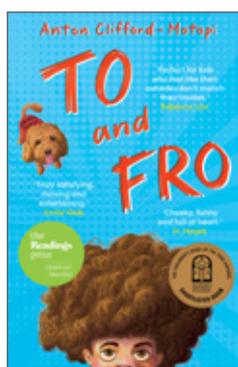


A delightfully funny novel about what it's like to be the middle child of a big, raucous and loving family in a small house with only one toilet, from the CBCA shortlisted author of *To and Fro*.

Dad likes rules. Mum likes order. My siblings like breaking both.

Leon is having a bad time – his best friend Jacob has moved to Alaska, he's not allowed to look after Jacob's cat, he has to be a buddy to the weird new kid and no one in his family listens to him. The only place he feels calm is under his bed, listening to cat-themed songs.

When Leon encourages his parents to help out the new kid, his problems get worse. Everyone in Leon's family seems to like Victor better than him. He tries to tell them how he's feeling, but how can a quiet person like Leon make himself heard in such a loud family?



TO AND FRO Awards:

SHORTLISTED:
2025 CBCA BOOK OF THE YEAR, YOUNGER READERS

SHORTLISTED:
2024 READINGS CHILDREN'S PRIZE

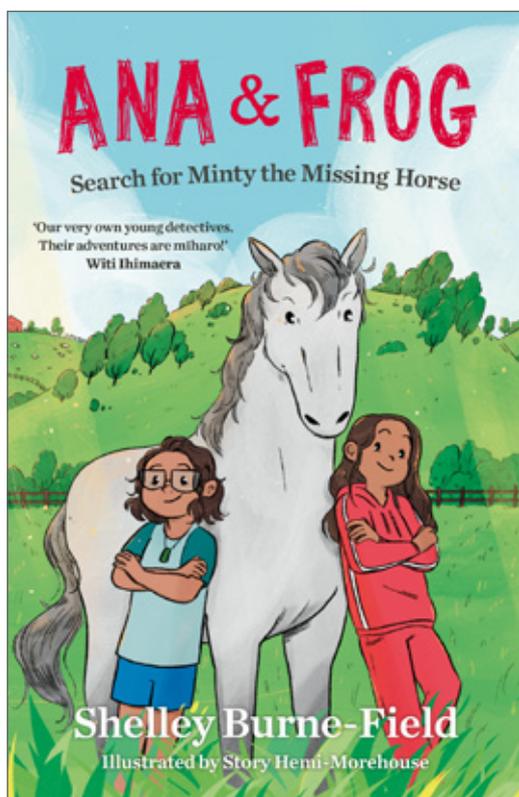
Anton Clifford-Motopi's passion is writing funny and thought-provoking stories for children. His stories explore themes of self-identity, family relationships and friendship, drawing from his experiences of being black with light skin, growing up in a large adoptive family and raising four children. Anton's debut novel, *To and Fro*, was shortlisted for the CBCA Book of the Year Awards and the Readings Children's Prize. He lives in Brisbane with his family. www.antoncliffordmotopi.com

August 2026 • 198x128mm • PB • 48,000 words / 288pp

WORLD ENGLISH LANGUAGE RIGHTS

ANA & FROG SEARCH FOR MINTY THE MISSING HORSE

Shelley Burne-Field, illustrated by Story Hemi-Morehouse



A funny middle grade story of two cousins turned junior detectives on the hunt for their aunty's horse.

Best-friend cousins Ana and Frog learn that Minty, their aunty's beloved horse, is missing.

Aunty is so sad, and Ana loves that horse more than anything. More than hip-hop. Much more than homework.

So Ana and Frog must find her.

They set out on a methodical spy mission around their small town, searching for any clues that might lead them to Minty, and to whoever might have taken her.

They look inside abandoned buildings, check out random horse poo, follow dead-end trails, fight off wild dogs and get the local policeman on side. All while still doing their school projects, playing netball, dealing with the school bullies, performing in the dance recital, playing Cluedo with Ana's dad, and teasing each other along the way.

Find out if the cousins can solve the mystery of what has happened to Minty!

BRAVE KĀHU & THE PŌRANGI MAGPIE Awards:

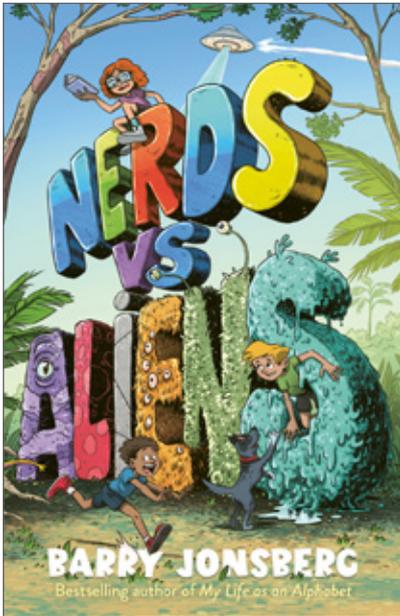
SHORTLISTED: 2025 NZSA BEST FIRST BOOK AWARD, NEW ZEALAND BOOK AWARDS FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG ADULTS



Shelley Burne-Field (Sāmoa, Ngāti Mutunga, Ngāti Rārua, Pākehā) is a kaituhituhi from Te Matau-a-Māui Hawke's Bay. She writes articles and creative non-fiction as well as fiction of all sorts, including short stories. She has written two epic middle-grade adventure stories, *Brave Kāhu & the Pōrangī Magpie* and *Kimi the Kekeno's Big Adventure*, published in 2024 and 2025. She is an alumni of the Master of Creative Writing from Auckland University 2020 and also Te Papa Tupu mentoring programme. Her story 'Speaking in Tongues' was the only New Zealand Finalist in the 2022 Commonwealth Short Story Prize. Her work is now in print in anthologies around the world, and has appeared in Newsroom and on RNZ. Shelley is a proud member of the NZSA.

NERDS VS ALIENS!

Barry Jonsberg



Aliens are on their way to Earth, but never fear – the future of our world rests in the hands of three ten-year-old nerds. A laugh-out-loud alien adventure novel from the internationally acclaimed, bestselling Australian author of *My Life as an Alphabet*.

‘The world will end at ten thirty-six in the morning, on the fourteenth of March this year.’

This is the message aliens send to eleven-year-old nerds Harrison (Aitch), Ally and Mo. How do they send it? Via the magnetic letters on Mo’s fridge, of course.

Aitch and Ally aren’t sure what to believe, but soon they’re in an alien spaceship travelling at lightspeed to Jupiter’s icy moon Europa. Mo is worried his mum will be furious that he boarded an alien craft with strangers. And Aitch is not too happy that they’ve kidnapped his dog.

But maybe the aliens aren’t that scary after all? They say they want to save the planet. It’s only humans they’re not so impressed by ...

The future of the human race might just be in the hands of three nerds and their lazy dog. What could go wrong?

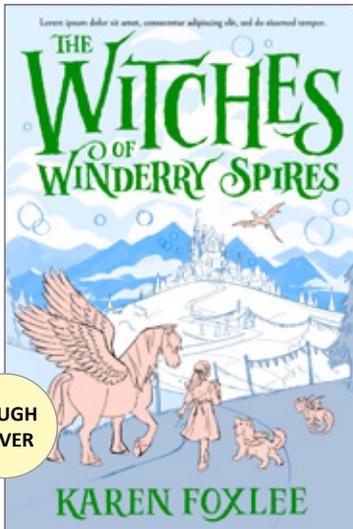
Nerds vs Aliens! is a high interest, low word count, engaging, smart speculative middle fiction and includes fun narrative commentary on storytelling techniques from one of Australia’s best storytellers.

Barry Jonsberg is the internationally popular author of over 22 novels which have attracted numerous awards around the world including CBCAs, Prime Minister and Premiers’ awards, German Readers’ Choice Leserpreis and Children’s Peace Literature Awards.



THE WITCHES OF WINDERRY SPIRES

Karen Foxlee



An unforgettable and heartwarming quest fantasy from the award-winning and bestselling author of *Lenny's Book of Everything* and *A Most Magical Girl*.

No one ever knows what happens to the Clock Tower Girls.

Lucy Broadmeadow is bad at schoolwork but very good at cartwheels and climbing things and secretly longs to be an explorer. The last thing she thought she would be is the Clock Tower Girl, a role steeped in secrecy, which means she must leave her family and travel far away.

When Lucy arrives at Winderry Spires, she has no idea what she is meant to do. The Ticking Witch is missing, the clock won't stop chiming and the villagers are up in arms. There is a Rift between worlds, with strange and terrible things breaking through.

Lucy decides to take matters into her own hands. She isn't magical but she is strong and brave, and she has new companions to help her – Sig the water dragon, Mustard the gloomy Pegasus and Midnight, the winged wolf-pup. Can Lucy and her friends mend the Rift and save the Ticking Witch before time runs out?

On *The Wondrous Tale of Lavender Wolfe*:

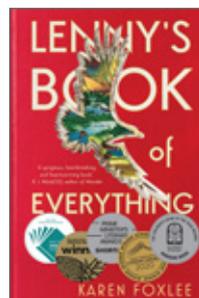
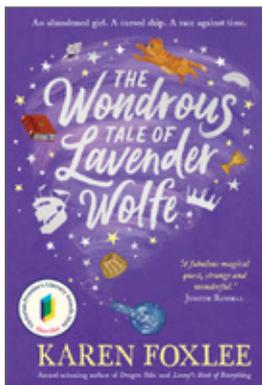
'Karen Foxlee is one of my favourite writers, and this is exquisitely written: a marvel of imagination and adventure.'

Jaelyn Moriarty

'A fabulous magical quest, strange and wonderful.' **Judith Rossell**

'Bold, original and gloriously fantastical. I loved *Lavender Wolfe* and her adventures to bits.'

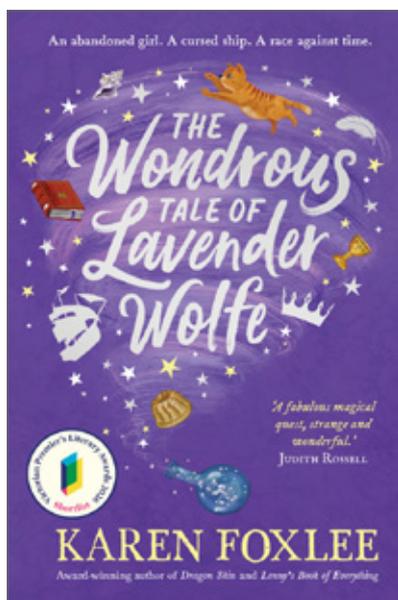
Lian Tanner



Karen Foxlee is an Australian author who writes for both children and young adults. Her multi-award-winning books include *Ophelia and the Marvellous Boy*, *A Most Magical Girl*, the Miss Mary-Kate Martin's Guide to Monsters series, *Lenny's Book of Everything*, *Dragon Skin* and *The Wondrous Tale of Lavender Wolfe*.

THE WONDROUS TALE OF LAVENDER WOLFE

Karen Foxlee



An inventive and playful fantasy-adventure about an abandoned girl, a friendly ogress and a terrible curse from the multi-award-winning and bestselling author of *Dragon Skin* and *Lenny's Book of Everything*.

Lavender Wolfe is a clapperdudgeon and pickpurse, with a magical secret. She is all alone on a wharf when she is snatched by Big Agatha and thrown into the galley of a pirate ship, The Good Marchioness.

Disguised as a boy (for only boys may live in the galley) and renamed Hans Whitby, Lavender has to make her home among the kitchen rats. However, The Good Marchioness is no ordinary ship. Captained by Odyessia Pleasant, a fierce pirate with long blonde hair, violet eyes and a bird's wing in place of an arm, the crew are on a desperate voyage – to find and return stolen treasure before all those who sail within the cursed pirate ship are turned to sand. Lavender included.

Lavender is quick-witted and sharp as a tack, and as her magic starts to be revealed she finds herself coming under the arresting gaze of Captain Pleasant. Will Lavender help break the curse? Or will she be just another victim of this story within a story, her true identity lost to the sands of time?

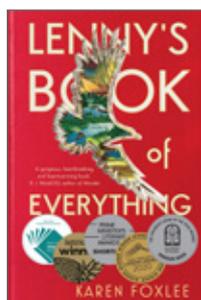
An adventure as big as the ocean and as warm as your heart. All aboard!

'Karen Foxlee is one of my favourite writers, and this is exquisitely written: a marvel of imagination and adventure.' **Jaclyn Moriarty, award-winning author of the Kingdoms and Empires series**

'A fabulous magical quest, strange and wonderful.' **Judith Rossell, bestselling author of The Midwatch**

'Bold, original and gloriously fantastical. A stunning book. I loved Lavender Wolfe and her adventures to bits.' **Lian Tanner, award-winning author of Spellhound**

'Proves again why Karen Foxlee is one of Australia's finest writers for children. Made with a teaspoon of skullduggery, a hearty dollop of swashbuckling and a barrelful of heart.' **Reece Carter, bestselling author of A Girl Called Corpse**



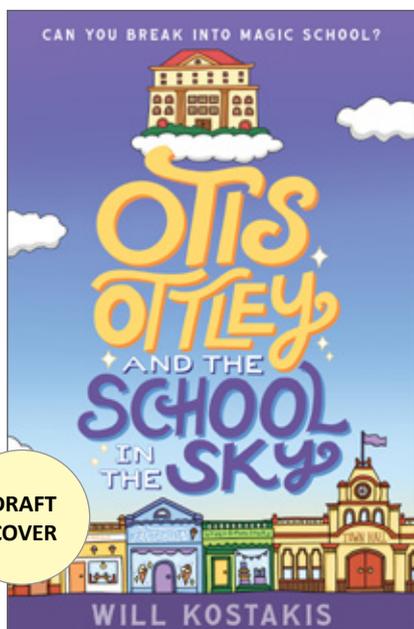
Karen Foxlee is an Australian author who writes for both children and young adults. Her multi-award-winning books include *Ophelia and the Marvellous Boy*, *A Most Magical Girl*, the Miss Mary-Kate Martin's Guide to Monsters series, *Lenny's Book of Everything* and *Dragon Skin*.

November 2025 • 208x138mm • PB • 70,000 words / 400pp • **WORLD ENGLISH RIGHTS RIGHTS SOLD: North American English (S&S BFYR)**



OTIS OTTLEY AND THE SCHOOL IN THE SKY

Will Kostakis



Otis Ottley is an ordinary boy who yearns to go to the magic school in the sky. And he will stop at nothing to make it happen. A funny and warm middle-grade novel about finding the magic in everyday life, from a much-loved, award-winning Australian author.

Otis Ottley lives in the shadow of the Manor School for Children with Magical Proclivities. Literally. It's a hovering island that passes over his town.

He's been dreaming of roaming its halls, casting spells and conjuring spectacles. But more importantly, he needs magical help to remember something very, very important.

With the help of a recently ejected student wizard (long story short, he was shot out of a cannon), Otis will break into magic school. Or at the very least, he will break a few rules trying.

A wonderful middle-grade novel – funny, heartfelt and brimming with magic.



WE COULD BE SOMETHING Awards:

WINNER:

2024 Prime Minister's Literary Awards, YA Literature

NOTABLE BOOK:

2024 CBCA Book of the Year, Older Readers

SHORTLISTED:

2024 Victorian Premier's Literary Awards

2024 NSW Premier's Literary Awards

2024 Queensland Literary Awards, YA Book Award

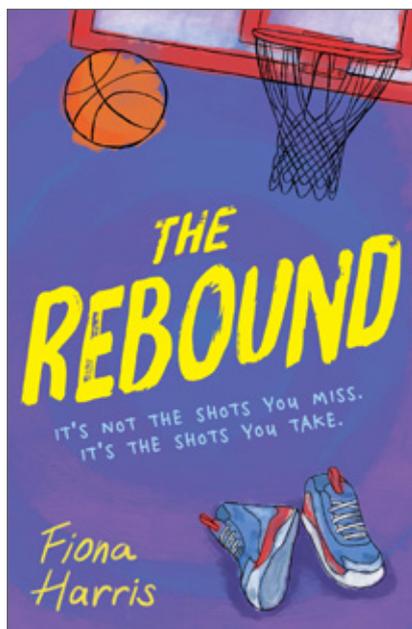
Will Kostakis splits his time between writing for young adults and touring Australia to inspire young adults to write stories of their own. First published at nineteen, he is best known for writing whip-smart comedies that break (then mend) hearts. His previous novel, *We Could Be Something*, won the 2024 Prime Minister's Literary Award for Young Adult Literature. An advocate for young readers and writers, he was awarded the 2020 Maurice Saxby Award by the School Library Association of New South Wales for service to children's and young adult literature.

September 2026 • 198x128mm • PB • 25,000 words / 144pp

WORLD RIGHTS excluding NORTH AMERICA

THE REBOUND

Fiona Harris



‘Hoop wizard’ Harry is relegated to his school’s worst basketball team when he misses tryouts, but his new team has some surprises for him in this triumph-over-adversity story. Perfect for sports-mad kids and readers of series such as *Patty Mills’ Game Day*.

After missing his eagerly awaited trial to play for the Under Sixteens Firsts, fourteen-year-old Harry Portelli has no choice but to play with the worst training team in the school.

The Redbacks are a mess. They can’t pass. They can’t shoot. They can’t win.

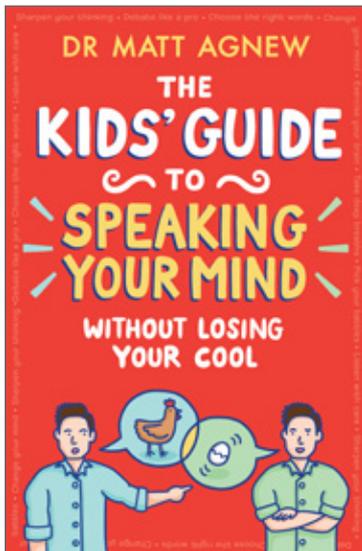
This is not the future either Harry or his dad imagined. Harry has to dig deep to work out what basketball means to him and, with the help of surprising new friendships, he rediscovers his love for the sport as the Redbacks start to play like a team.

And then the school arranges a derby, the Redbacks against the Firsts, and Harry’s heart sinks – the Redbacks are bound to be destroyed. But is winning all that matters? Harry learns that sometimes the sweetest shot is the one you get on the rebound.

A fast-paced feel-good story guaranteed to capture the imagination of readers of all levels by the bestselling author of Liz Watson’s *Diary of a Netball Star* series and Sam Kerr’s *Kicking Goals*.

Fiona Harris is an award-winning author, scriptwriter, and actor with over twenty years of experience across publishing, television and theatre. Over the past few years, she has penned forty-three books, including two adult fiction novels *The Drop-off* and *The Pick-up*; the junior fiction series, *Sleepover BFFs*; Holocaust survivor Abram Goldberg’s memoir, *The Strength of Hope*; five books in Liz Watson’s junior fiction series, *Diary of a Netball Star*; three books in the *Trolls* series for Dreamworks; and two picture books for footballer Marcus Bontempelli. Fiona co-created the award-winning comedy web series, *The Drop Off*, with her husband, Mike McLeish, which aired on Channel 9, and in 2025 they co-adapted the script for the Dolly Parton musical, *Here You Come Again*, for Australian audiences. Fiona is currently working on three new books and a play.

THE KIDS' GUIDE TO SPEAKING YOUR MIND WITHOUT LOSING YOUR COOL **Dr Matt Agnew**



Sharpen up your and your child's thinking and debating skills with this fun and engaging book that includes imaginative activities to encourage cool, calm and rational thinking, from one of Australia's most popular scientists.

How do we end up with different ideas and opinions? How can we talk about these ideas and opinions to each other even when we disagree?

When I read, see or hear something, how do I know if it's true or false? What if I'm right and my friend's wrong? How do we stay friends? Is it okay to change my mind?

Dr Matt explains how to avoid confirmation bias and us-vs-them thinking, and how to stay calm and show respect to others in the heat of an argument, along with tips on how to debate like a pro! Included are some thought experiments to do at home or in the classroom that will help kids speak their mind without losing their cool.

'Fabulously informative ... In a world full of misinformation, this book is a terrifically valuable tool for all ages.'
Good Reading Magazine

Dr Matt Agnew is more than a scientist; he's an edutainer who helps make science, maths and technology fun and accessible for everyone. With academic credentials spanning the STEM portfolio, myriad appearances across a variety of media channels, including TV and radio and a social media profile for reaching a wide and varied audience, Matt is a qualified, passionate and engaging scientist. Matt has worked as an engineer, an

artificial intelligence expert, data scientist, and astrophysicist and his breadth of technical knowledge, combined with an approachable manner and a palatable way of explaining ideas, positions him as a go-to expert for engaging with the public about the latest happenings in the world of science.

change our thinking a bit so that we see an argument not as a competition, but as a way we can learn. Even if you don't fully agree with someone else's point of view, you can still leave an argument having learned a thing or two.

So, seeing an argument as a cooperative interaction helps to the two key goals of an argument: let's find a solution together and let's learn something together. Disagreements can lead to learning new things and expanding our view of the world. See the person you're arguing with as a partner, and by arguing different points you can both track, learn and grow. But just as importantly, seeing yourselves as partners means there's a better chance you'll avoid getting into a fight, and instead find a solution to the argument together as a team.

114

To evolve is to compete!

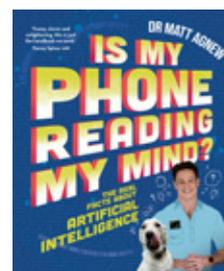
Have you heard of evolution? It's basically the idea that the wide variety of life that exists today - from plants to bacteria, to insects and birds, to humans and whales, and everything in between - is because of small changes in living things over millions (sometimes even billions) of years!

Reproduction is when something passes on its genes to a younger version of itself. It's like saying 'you a baby', but for all living things, from humans to dogs to trees. And in the process of reproduction, sometimes the new version will have small changes compared to the original.

When one of these different versions are made, it must compete with the original version for food and other resources. If this 'changed' version isn't as strong as the original it will just die off rather than reproducing, so it won't get enough resources to survive. But if it's as good or better? Well, now that new changed version will survive and stick around!

So you can see that it's not just humans who are competitive. All life at its very simplest wants to compete with other life for survival. We're built to compete - which is why we need

How can you argue without getting into a fight? 95



IS MY PHONE READING MY MIND?

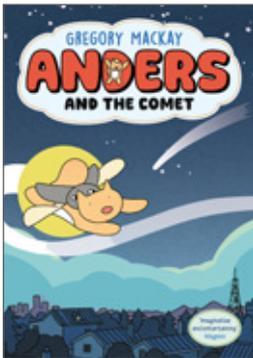
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GRAPHIC NOVEL

ANDERS SERIES

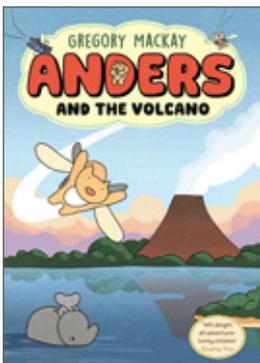
Gregory Mackay

Introducing, in full colour, the lovable Anders and his band of intrepid friends, Bernie, Eden and Veronica, who are always on the lookout for action-packed adventures. These are warm, charming stories that spark the imagination and perfect for the newly-independent reader wanting an adventurous as well as emotionally safe book to read on their own.



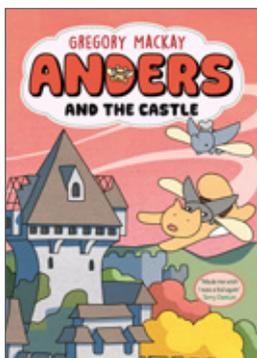
ANDERS AND THE COMET

It's the school holidays, and there are comics to make, cubbies to build, ice cream to eat, and rhinos to impress at Wekiwa water park. Then Anders and his friends meet the Green Grabber and things take on a whole new twist. Comets are discovered, Anders meets Skip who becomes his flying pet, and the friends get stuck in a storm in a jumping castle. A dramatic sky-high rescue ensues! An endearing story of fun, friendship and unexpected courage.



ANDERS AND THE VOLCANO

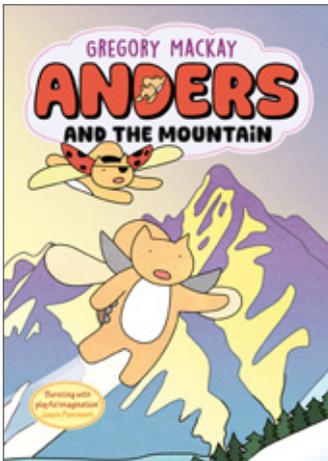
Anders is on holiday again. He flies everywhere with his pet beetle Skip and hangs out with Bernie and Eden. They play in Eden's new cubby house, try to build a pond and go to Whump class. When they all head off together to Camp Canvas at Mount Tremble, they make new friends and discover new things about themselves. That's lucky, as they'll need everything they've got when Mount Tremble – an extinct volcano – starts to rumble ...



ANDERS AND THE CASTLE

School's out and there are flying races to have, acrobatics to learn and excursions to take. Then Anders and his friends discover a map of an old castle and plan to take a look. The friends set out together but the mist rolls in and they lose each other on the way. Luckily they've planned to meet in the castle's middle, but it's not so easy to find! The castle is full of twists and turns and unexpected surprises – things they've never seen before. Some are fantastic and some are just a little bit spooky ...





ANDERS AND THE MOUNTAIN

The school holidays kick off with a magical trip to the lolly factory. However, the next morning Anders and his friends awaken to find that their beetles have vanished!

They all set out for Mount Rumble where they hope to be reunited with their pets. When they spot some mysterious beetle carvings, the gang heads high into the mountains. But then there's an avalanche! Will they find their beetles – or will they be the ones who need rescuing?

Alongside a brand new Anders story, *Anders and the Mountain*, this is a relaunch of the *Comet* and *Volcano* titles that were first published in black and white in 2015 and 2016, just slightly too early for the graphic novel boom! With this relaunch these four Anders titles are available for the first time as individual volumes in full-colour with a fresh new look. The perfect cosy graphic novel series for young readers.

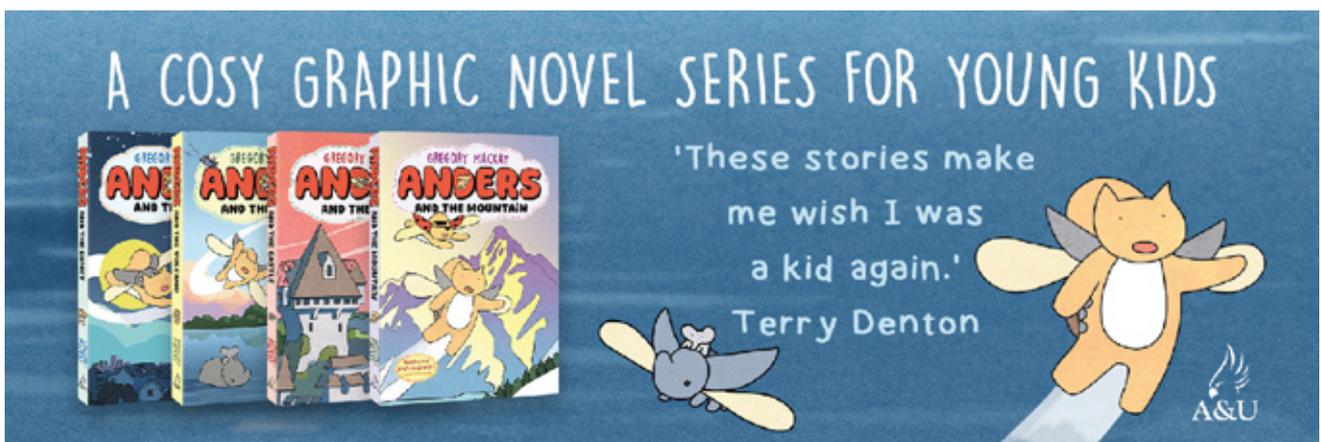
'A delightful graphic novel.' **Good Reading**

'Imaginative and entertaining.' **Magpies**

'A sweet, funny ... graphic novel that champions friendship, creativity and imagination ... perfect for comic fans or reluctant readers.' **Readings**

'The combination of congenial friendships, playful worldbuilding ... and fantasy-tinged action should easily win this quirky crew some fans.'

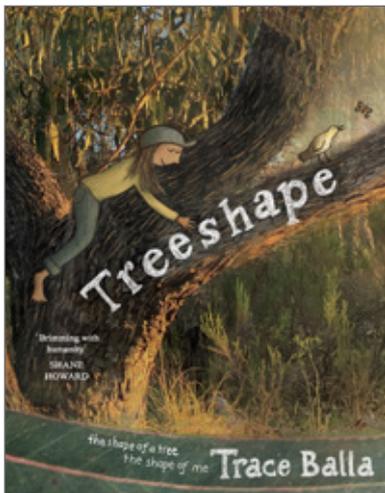
Publishers Weekly, UK



Gregory Mackay has been making comics since school. He enjoys drawing and watercolour painting. He likes drawing aeroplanes and machines, as well as building models and painting pictures. Gregory's books have received much acclaim including being shortlisted for the Angoulême Festival, the most prestigious comics awards in Europe. www.anderscomics.com

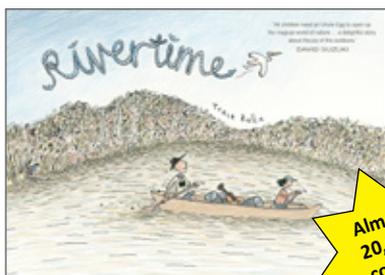
TREESHape

Trace Balla



Trace Balla’s stunning graphic novel memoir reveals her personal and life-changing experiences of place, her understanding of the natural world and her relationship to Country. An extraordinary, inspiring and hope-filled graphic novel from the multi-award-winning creator of *Rivertime*, *Rockhopping*, *Landing with Wings* and *Leaf-light*.

This beautiful book tells the story of young Trace’s awakening to the preciousness of the environment, including her participation in the protests against uranium mining at Jabiluka in the 1980s. Channeling her gift for visual storytelling, Trace reveals emotional truths, shares her commitment to environmental activism, highlights trees that have been meaningful in her life, and explores her deep appreciation of place and connection with First Nations peoples.



Almost 20,000 copies sold!

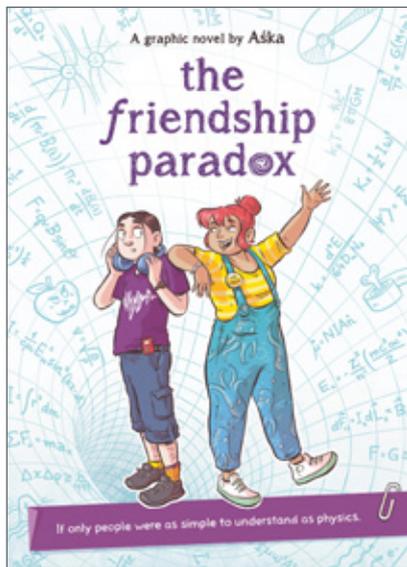
Trace’s delicately detailed artwork, distinctive approach to storytelling, passion for the protection of the planet and heartfelt messages of kindness will resonate and inspire graphic novel readers of all ages.



Trace Balla is a well-loved Australian children’s book author and illustrator who lives on Dja Dja Wurrung Country. Trace’s stories explore themes of connection to Country and community, nature, friendship, gratitude, grief and human rights. She has won the CBCA Book of the Year Award, the Readings Children’s Book Prize, the Wilderness Society’s Environment Award for Children’s Literature, a Comic Arts Awards of Australia Bronze Ledger, and an Honour Award for the inaugural SCBWI Australian Picture Book Illustrator Awards. www.traceballa.com

THE FRIENDSHIP PARADOX

Aśka



Road trips, physics and friendship collide in this gorgeous graphic novel about the highs and lows of a gap year that is perfect for fans of *Heartstopper* and *The Greatest Thing*.

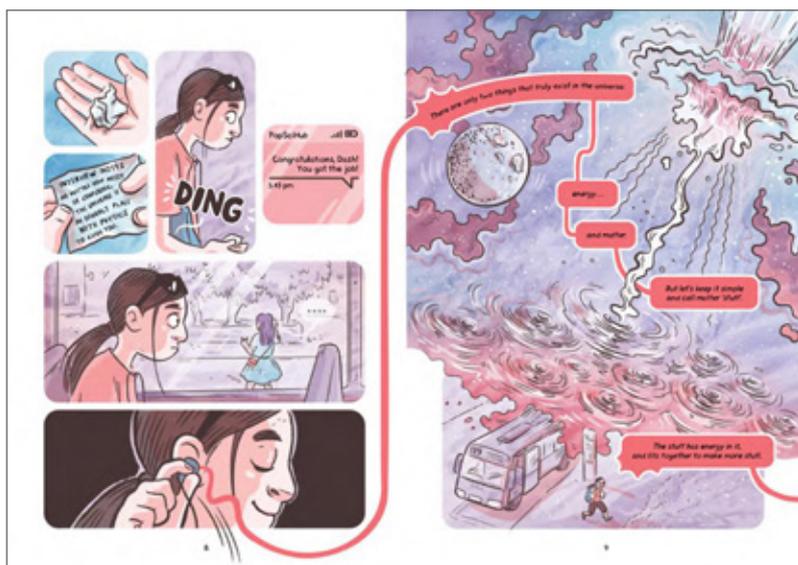
High school is over. Dash is excited to spend their gap year working for the local science museum, travelling and teaching kids about physics. Maybe they'll even make a friend. People *are* part of the universe, so the laws of physics should also apply to them, right?

Except Dash discovers the workplace is just as challenging as school – relationships are confusing, students don't follow the rules and co-workers aren't what they expect. Then Dash meets Kay. Can opposites really attract? Or will Dash's attempts to use physics to understand their world repel a potential friend?

A heartfelt YA graphic novel about friendship and finding your place in a puzzling world by the highly acclaimed comic artist of the CBCA Notable graphic novel *Stars in Their Eyes*.

'Filled with vibrant colours and expressive characters [...] a colourful journey of self-discovery and friendship.' **Books+Publishing**

'Aśka's dynamic style shines with nuanced characters and rich sense of place as Dash navigates the complexities of science and friendship while on a road trip like no other.' **Sarah Winifred Searle, multi-award-winning creator of *The Greatest Thing***



Aśka (pronounced 'Ash-ka') is an award-winning graphic novelist and an ex-quantum physicist. A hugely engaging and popular presenter, Aśka is passionate about visual literacy. She has published more than ten books and graphic novels. Her recent titles include the Stonewall Honor Book YA graphic novel *Stars in Their Eyes* which was also nominated for the 2022 Comic Arts Awards of Australia and the CBCA Council of Australia Notable Books. Aśka is an organising committee member for the Perth Comic Arts Festival and contributes regularly to *The School Magazine*. When they're not creating children's books they travels across Western Australia as a science communicator. www.askastorytelling.com

THE RAVEN'S EYE REBELLION

Claire Mabey

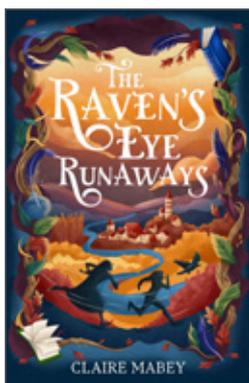


A gripping adventure perfect for young readers who love being transported into a realm of fantasy and magic. Rich with wonder and a thirst for justice, *The Raven's Eye Rebellion* is the unmissable sequel to the award-winning *The Raven's Eye Runaways*.

When Getwin, Lea and Buckle – with the help of Sharp the raven – unearth the trickster *Book of Blacke*, they embark on a quest to undo the controls on their world, seeking justice for the Scribes who are forced to work and for those who have never been allowed to read or write.

The city of Wyle comes alive with danger and intrigue as our heroes contend with the secrets of the Scholar's Library, a magical boat, curious creatures, a secret reading and writing society, sleeping trees and the twists and turns of the ancient city.

Can the friends stay safe? Will they be able to free the Scribes? Will they make enough trouble to shake the foundations of their world?



THE RAVEN'S EYE RUNAWAYS Awards:

WINNER: 2025 NZSA BEST FIRST BOOK AWARD, NZ BOOK AWARDS

WINNER: 2025 NZ BOOKLOVERS AWARD FOR BEST JUNIOR FICTION

SHORTLISTED: 2025 ESTHER GLEN JUNIOR FICTION PRIZE, NZ BOOK AWARDS

NOTABLE: 2024 STORYLINES BOOK AWARDS

On *THE RAVEN'S EYE RUNAWAYS*:

'The work of a writer who wields her words with exquisite care and understands the power of great storytelling.'
NZCYA judges

'You'll be transported to a heady, haunting world where words are a currency reserved for the few, and paid with the price of spilled blood.' **Graci Kim**

'A bewitching story that will captivate readers. There's twists and turns aplenty, and magic too, with Mabey setting a cracking pace. The characters are full of vigour and personality, and flaws too.' **Rebekah Lyell, NZ Booklovers**

'With a gorgeous turn of phrase, unique characters and an exciting plot ... is worth a read no matter your age.'
Kristin Stefanoff, Glam Adelaide

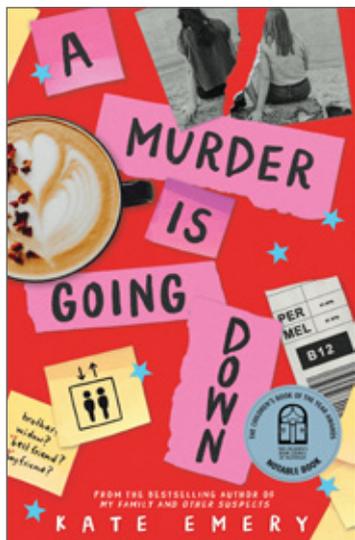
'The world she has created, and the characters that reside there, feel authentic and inevitable as if they have lived with her for a long time. The story is translated onto the page with wit, restraint and confidence. It's a talented rendering of a beautiful world and I instantly capitulated to the reality of it.' **Hera Lindsay Bird**

Claire Mabey is the founder of Verb Wellington, LitCrawl Wellington and Lōemis. She is also books editor at *The Spinoff*, book critic at RNZ and a regular guest on ABC's *The Bookshelf* podcast.

A MURDER IS GOING DOWN

Kate Emery

NOTABLE BOOK:
2026 CBCA Book of the Year, Older Readers



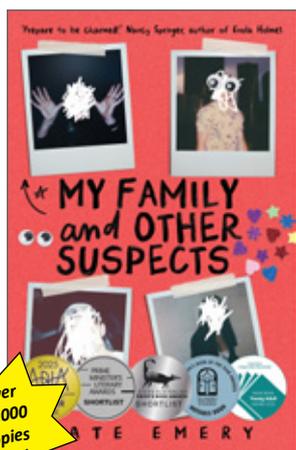
A brilliant and hilarious cosy YA crime from the author of *My Family and Other Suspects*, with a mystery that will keep readers guessing to the very last page. For fans of Karen McManus and Holly Jackson.

This is what happens when you put a pair of unemployed teenagers in charge of a sudden death investigation. What we lack in investigative skills we make up for in free time.

Heidi's meant to be having the time of her life on exchange in Switzerland, but instead she's cold, all alone and on an involuntary dairy-free diet. So when she hears the news of her brother Felix's death, she readily jumps on the first plane home to Perth.

To be completely honest, Felix wasn't that much of a brother, so Heidi's not crying buckets – but she's not exactly happy either. Thanks to an epic betrayal by her (ex) best friend and (ex) boyfriend, Heidi has absolutely nothing to do and no one to talk to. That's until Patrick, the wisecracking younger brother of Felix's widow, convinces her that they need to investigate her brother's mysterious death.

Will Heidi and Patrick get to the bottom of Felix's death – and do they really want to?



On *MY FAMILY AND OTHER SUSPECTS*:
 'Prepare to be charmed!' **Nancy Springer**, author of *THE ENOLA HOLMES MYSTERIES*
 'I enjoyed every single moment of this laugh-out-loud mystery.'
Amy Doak, bestselling author of *ELEANOR JONES IS NOT A MURDERER*

MY FAMILY AND OTHER SUSPECTS Awards:
WINNER: 2025 YA BOOK OF THE YEAR, WA PREMIER'S BOOK AWARDS
WINNER: 2025 ABIA, BOOK OF THE YEAR FOR OLDER CHILDREN
WINNER: INDIE YA BOOK AWARDS 2025
SHORTLISTED: 2025 PRIME MINISTER'S LITERARY AWARDS, YA CATEGORY
NOTABLE: 2025 CBCA BOOK OF THE YEAR, OLDER READERS
SELECTED: 2024 ONE OF THE BEST YOUNG ADULT BOOKS – READINGS BOOKS

Kate Emery lives in Perth and works as a senior reporter for the *West Australian*. She is the author of *The Not So Chosen One*, which was shortlisted for the Text Prize and the Aurealis Awards, and *My Family and Other Suspects*, which won the 2025: Indie Book Award for YA; the ABIA's John Marsden Book of the Year for Older Children; the WA Premier's YA Book of the Year; and was shortlisted for the Prime Minister's Literary Awards YA category.

November 2025 • 198x128mm • PB • 70,000 words / 336pp • **WORLD RIGHTS RIGHTS SOLD: North American English (PRH/Knopf); French (Seuil Jeunesse)**



CATCH

Sarah Brill



NOTABLE BOOK: 2026 CBCA BOOK OF THE YEAR, OLDER READERS

LONGLISTED: 2026 INDIE BOOK AWARDS, YOUNG ADULT AWARD

A unique and irresistible contemporary YA coming-of-age story about sixteen-year-old Beth, who discovers she has a life-saving gift. A superb novel about finding out what it takes to be an unlikely hero.

Sometimes people fall. It happens. Sometimes people are pushed. Sometimes people jump. And sometimes there's someone there to catch them.

The summer Beth turns sixteen, she grows. She grows so fast her bones hurt and she feels like throwing up. Everyone – including Etienne, the boy over the road – looks at her differently. Then she starts catching people. People who are falling out of trees or from high buildings.

Soon Beth discovers that helping strangers sometimes hurts – hurts her and the people she loves. And it isn't great for her school grades, either. Will she find a way to balance family and friendship and basketball and romance and ... catching?

An extraordinary story about finding out who you are, and discovering who you want to be.

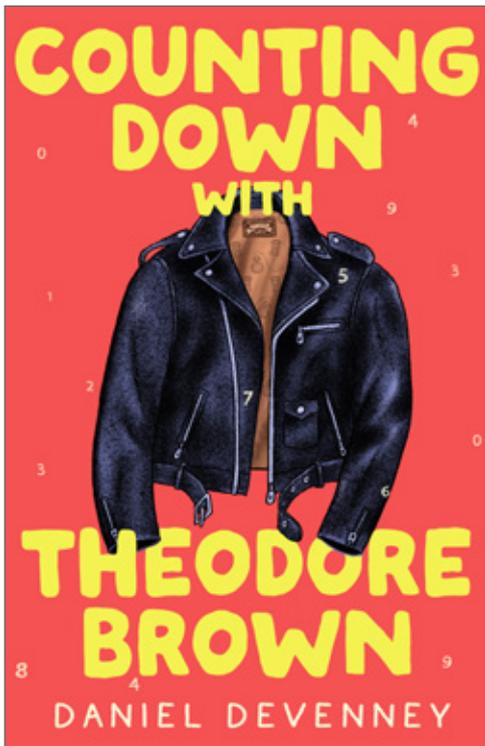
'Catch is a graceful exploration of what it means to hold others up while trying to find your own balance, and learning to trust yourself, even when the ground is shifting beneath your feet.'

Karys McEwen, Books+Publishing

Sarah Brill grew up in Perth, Western Australia and began writing at the age of 15. She initially focused on playwriting but also wrote for film and radio. Her first novel, *Glory*, was published by Spinifex Press in 2002. Her second novel *Symphony for the Man* was also published by Spinifex Press in 2020. Sarah lives in Sydney with her three sons and two cats.

COUNTING DOWN WITH THEODORE BROWN

Daniel Devenney



A fantastic coming-of-age story and a compelling love story with a twist.

Theo has crippling social anxiety – understandable, given that when he looks into people’s eyes he sees a number which is the number of days until they die or disappear from his life.

He’s kept everyone at a safe distance since his dad died. But now that he’s in college, he fears he’s missing out. Even his stuffy English professor thinks he needs to get a life. So, to improve his mental health and sharpen his writing skills, he decides to do just that.

Enter the tidal wave that is Lil Sanchez. She may only be around for the summer, but Theodore can’t help but wonder if the pleasure of knowing her, might be worth the pain of losing her. Only time will tell, and the clock is ticking ...

Counting Down with Theodore Brown explores our basic need for connection. Theo’s journey highlights the joy connection brings to our lives and the dangers we face without it. It’s a story about mental health, identity, friendship, sexuality, love, loss, and the impermanent nature of the human condition. It’s a story about life.

Daniel Devenney is a bookseller and writer based in Auckland, New Zealand, by way of Ireland and the United States. A vocal advocate for mental health and Queer representation, Daniel currently works at Unity Books, reviews YA fiction for *The Spinoff*, and contributes author interviews, poetry, and reviews to *Express Magazine*. *Counting Down with Theodore Brown* is his debut novel.

GOOD YOUNG MEN

Gary Lonesborough



'... [a] powerful story exploring events that draw young men together and drive them apart.' - **Books+Publishing**

Gary Lonesborough is a Yuin writer, who grew up on the Far South Coast of NSW as part of a large and proud Aboriginal family. Gary was always writing as a child, and continued his creative journey when he moved to Sydney to study at film school. Gary has experience working in youth work, Aboriginal health, child protection, the disability sector and the film industry. His young adult novels, *The Boy from the Mish*, *We Didn't Think It Through*, and *I'm Not Really Here* have been shortlisted for numerous awards.

A brilliant contemporary YA coming-of-age novel about three small-town First Nations friends, united by tragedy and finding their way towards adulthood.

As we step into the shopping centre car park, white spray-paint on the orange brick wall catches my eye. Two council workers in high-vis shirts are on ladders, scrubbing away the faded words: WHITE POWER.

In the idyllic coastal town of Carraway's Point, the four Aboriginal boys of Chopin Drive grew up together, carefree and close. But they drifted apart in high school, and everything changed forever the night Brandon was killed by a white cop.

Now racial tension is brewing, and each boy must wrestle with grief and their own complicated lives.

A searing and unputdownable YA novel about race, friendship, love, family and contemporary society from an acclaimed and award-winning author writing from the heart.



***The Boy From the Mish* AWARDS:**

WINNER: 2022 IBBY Australia Ena Noël Award; 2021 Favourite Australian Debut Book, Booktopia FAB Awards

HIGHLY COMMENDED: 2022 Book of the Year for Older Children, ABIAs
SHORTLISTED: 2022 NSW Premier's Literary Awards; 2022 Book of the Year: Older Readers, CBCA Awards; 2022 Young Adult Book of the Year, Indie Book Awards; 2022 Victorian Premier's Literary Awards; 2021 Readings YA Book Prize



***We Didn't Think it Through* AWARDS:**

WINNER: 2024 MARION ACT Book of the Year, Books for Older Readers

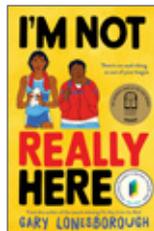
WINNER: 2024 Readings Young Adult Prize

SHORTLISTED: 2024 NSW Premier's Literary Awards

SHORTLISTED: 2024 NSW Premier's Literary Awards, Indigenous Writers' Prize

NOTABLE BOOK: 2024 CBCA Book of the Year, Older Readers

SHORTLISTED: 2024 Prime Minister's Literary Awards, Young Adult Literature



***I'm Not Really Here* AWARDS:**

WINNER: 2025 CBCA Book of the Year, Older Readers

SHORTLISTED: 2025 Victorian Premier's Literary Awards, Writing for Young Adults

KINGS OF THIS WORLD

Elizabeth Knox



**SHORTLISTED: NZ BOOKLOVERS
AWARD FOR YOUNG ADULTS 2026**

THE SPINOFF BEST BOOKS 2025
'A heady heartrace of a novel.'

**NZ LISTENER 50 BEST BOOKS FOR
CHILDREN & YOUNG ADULTS 2025**

**AUCKLAND COUNCIL LIBRARIES
TOP 10 FOR TEENS 2025**

When Vex and her friends are kidnapped and held to ransom, it sets off a terrifying chain of twists and turns as they struggle to survive and to work out how to escape.

Vex is used to people being afraid of her power, the ability to persuade others to do what she wants.

But when she arrives at a new school, it is packed with people who have the same power, and who might even like her.

There is her roommate Ronnie, who is a coolheaded high achiever, and Ronnie's friend Taye, who is recovering from a brain injury. There is witty, lordly Hannu, whose father happens to be a billionaire. And then there's Ari: troubled, blessed, honourable, terrifying Ari.

Vex is enchanted by her new friends when, five weeks into term one, they are kidnapped.

They find themselves chained in the basement of an abandoned factory, trying to figure out how to escape, all the while tormented by questions like: Why were they taken? Why do the kidnappers seem to hate Vex, and at the same time want to recruit her?

Can Vex and her friends save themselves? And if they do, will they ever feel safe again? What kind of reckoning will they face afterwards? And will Vex once again feel responsible for all the bad things that happened?

'If you love dark academia, incredible world-building, and some really scary baddies – read this book.' **Sarah Forster, *The Sapling***

Elizabeth Knox is the author of fourteen novels including the multi-award winning and highly praised YA novels *Dreamhunter*, *Dreamquake* and *Mortal Fire*. *Dreamhunter* was a 2005 White Raven, winner of the 2006 Esther Glen Medal, shortlisted for the 2006 Deutz Medal and featured on the 2006 Booklist Editors' Choice list and the 2007 ALA Best Books for Young Adults list. *Dreamquake* was a 2008 Michael L. Printz Honor Book and featured on the 2008 NY Public Library 'Books for the Teen Age' list and the 2008 ALA Best Books for Young Adults list. *Mortal Fire* was shortlisted for the 2014 LA Times Book Awards and won the Young Adult Fiction prize in the 2014 New Zealand Post Book Awards. Elizabeth herself is the recipient of many awards and fellowships and in 2020 was made a Companion of the New Zealand Order of Merit.

ENQUIRIES

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Australian Government



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