

Children's Book Council of Australia (CBCA)

NSW Branch Inc. Newcastle Sub-branch

BOOK OF LOCAL AUTHORS & ILLUSTRATORS 2023



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BOOK COUNCIL
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SINCE 1945 — YOUR CONNECTION TO STORY

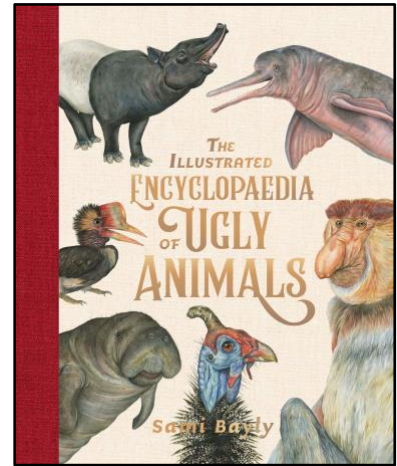
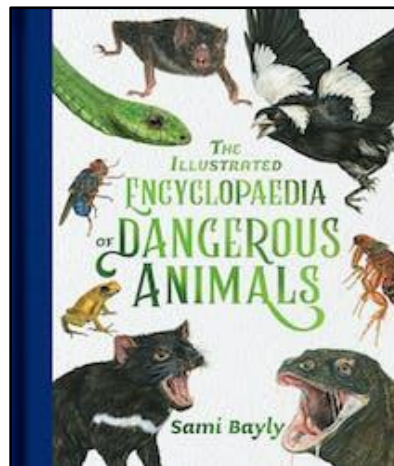
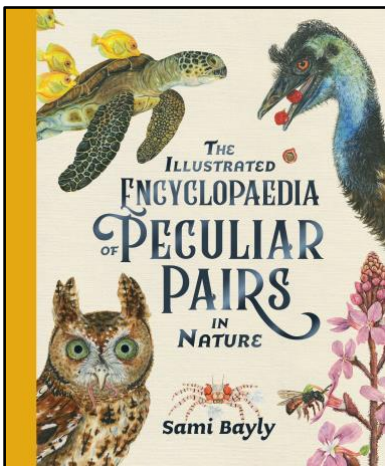
•NEWCASTLE SUB-BRANCH•



Sami Bayly

Illustrator and Author

Sami Bayly is an illustrator and author currently based in Newcastle, NSW. She has released four books, three of which are part of The Illustrated Encyclopaedia series: *The Illustrated Encyclopaedia of Ugly Animals*, *The Illustrated Encyclopaedia of Dangerous Animals* and *The Illustrated Encyclopaedia of Peculiar Pairs in Nature*. Her latest book, *How We Came To Be - Surprising Sea Creature*, is the first in a new series. Sami is trained in scientific illustration and loves to illustrate anything that can be classified as weird, wonderful or even ugly!



Offerings

- School, Library and Festival visits.
- Illustration Workshops

Awards

Sami has won, and been nominated for, numerous awards including:

2022 Winner Environmental Award for Children's Literature Non-Fiction: The Wilderness Society

2022 Winner Sun Project Shadow Judging: Shadows' Choice for the CBCA Eve Pownall Award

2021 Winner Children's Indie Book of the Year Award: Indie Book Awards

2020 Winner Best Designed Children's Non-Fiction Illustrated book: Australian Book Design Awards.

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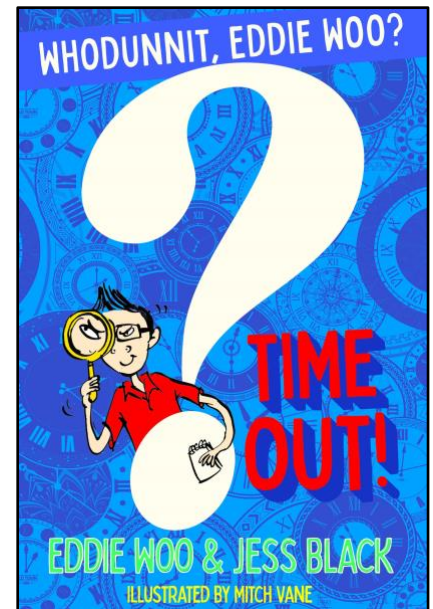
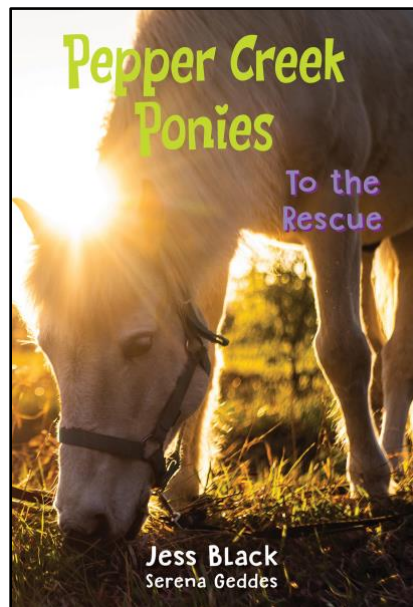
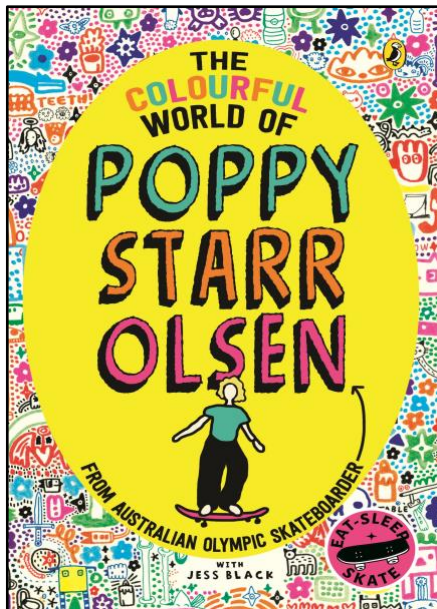


Jess Black

Author

Jess Black is an award-winning author of over forty-seven children's books. Jess had two new books released in 2022. *Time Out!* is the first book in a new series, *Who Dunit, Eddie Woo?* Eddie Woo Super Sleuth is ready for action and mystery. *The Colourful World of Poppy Starr Olsen* is a funny and fresh novel for young readers inspired by the life of Australian Olympic skateboarder and creative soul Poppy Starr Olsen. Jess is the author of the following series - *Pepper Creek Ponies*, *The Tales of Mr*

Walker, *Kitty is Not a Cat*, *Little Paws* and the *Keeper of the Crystals* series; and is co-author of the hugely successful *Bindi Wildlife Adventure* series, the *Kaboom Kid* series and the *Animal Tales* series.



Offerings

- Author Talks
- Writing Workshops

Awards

- *The Tales of Mr Walker* Notable book CBCA Awards for Younger Readers 2019
- *The Tales of Mr Walker* longlisted for ABIA Award for Younger Readers 2019
- *The Tales of Mr Walker* longlisted for an Indie Award 2019

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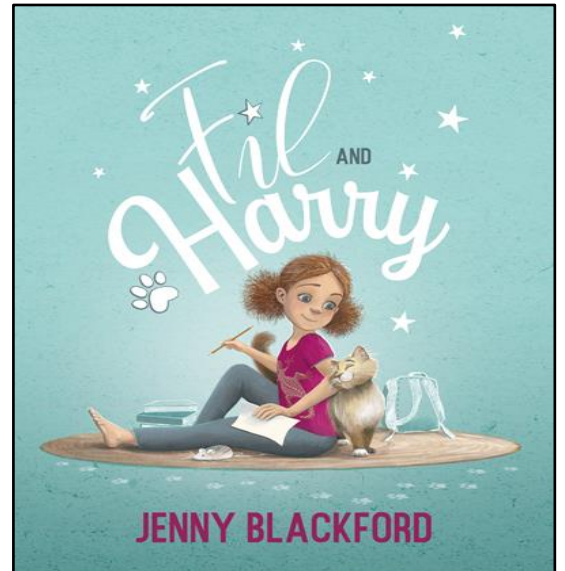
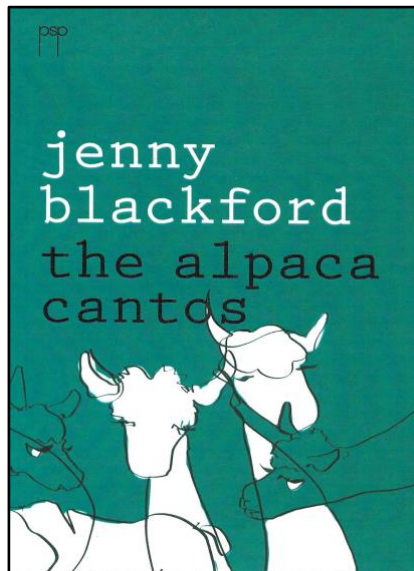
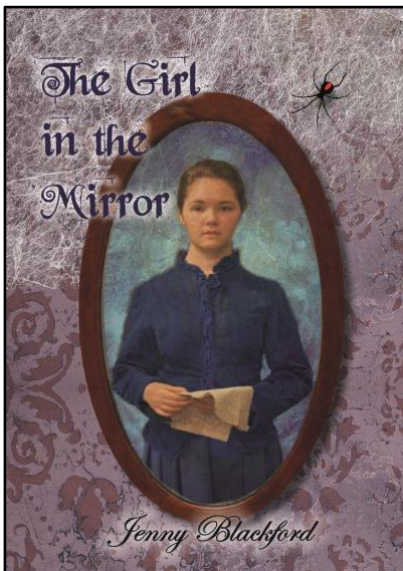


Jenny Blackford

Author

Jenny is a prize-winning Newcastle-based author and poet. Her middle-grade historical mystery *The Girl in the Mirror* appeared from Christmas Press/Eagle Books in 2019, and won the 2020 Davitt Award for Best Children's Crime Novel. Christmas Press also published her middle grade novel *Fil and Harry* in 2021. Her poems and stories for children are regularly published in the *School Magazine*, and have appeared in *Our Home is Dirt by Sea: Australian Poetry for Australian Kids*, *Stories for Nine Year Olds* and other great

anthologies. Pitt Street Poetry has published three collections of her poetry: *The Duties of a Cat*, *The Loyalty of Chickens* and *The Alpaca Cantos*, all suitable for teens as well as adults.



Offerings

- Author talks
- Author workshops for prose or poetry
- School visits

Awards

- First place in the Long Poem category of the Rhysling Awards 2021
- The 2020 Davitt Award for Best Children's Crime Novel for her novel *The Girl in the Mirror*
- First place Thunderbolt Prize for Crime Poetry 2017
- First place Humorous Verse section of the Henry Lawson awards 2014 and 2017

Contact

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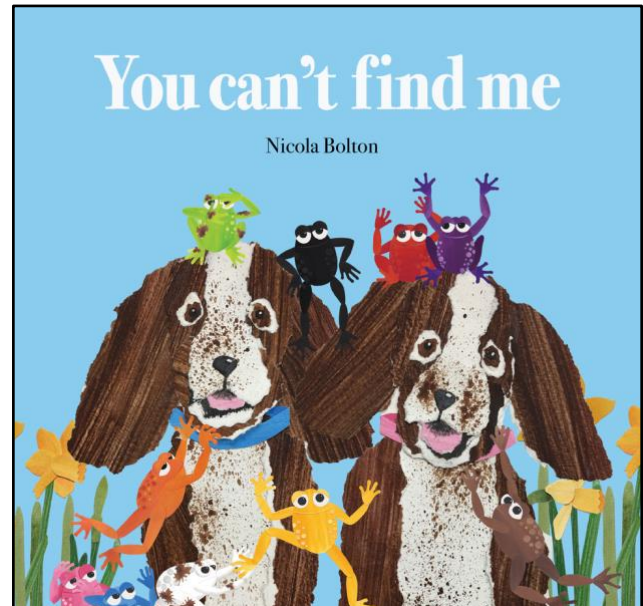
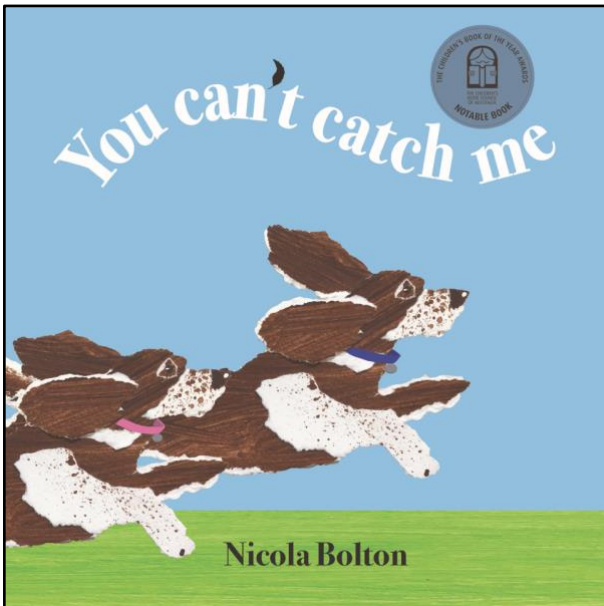
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Nicola Bolton

Author & Illustrator

Nicola Bolton is an illustrator, painter and children's book author based near Maitland, NSW. She studied Graphic Design and Fine Arts and her art has been selected in numerous art prizes in Australia. Nicola's first children's book, 'You Can't Catch Me', which she wrote, illustrated and self-published, was selected as a Notable - Early Childhood in the 2018 CBCA Book of the Year Awards and is also on the list of the 2018 - 2022 NSW Premier's Reading Challenge. Her most recent book, 'You Can't Find Me' was released in March 2020. It is another story about the two dogs and their new friends, the ten little frogs.



Offerings

- Illustrator talks & workshops
- Book readings
- School holiday workshops

Awards

- *You Can't Catch Me* – Notable book CBCA Early Childhood Book of The Year 2018

Contact

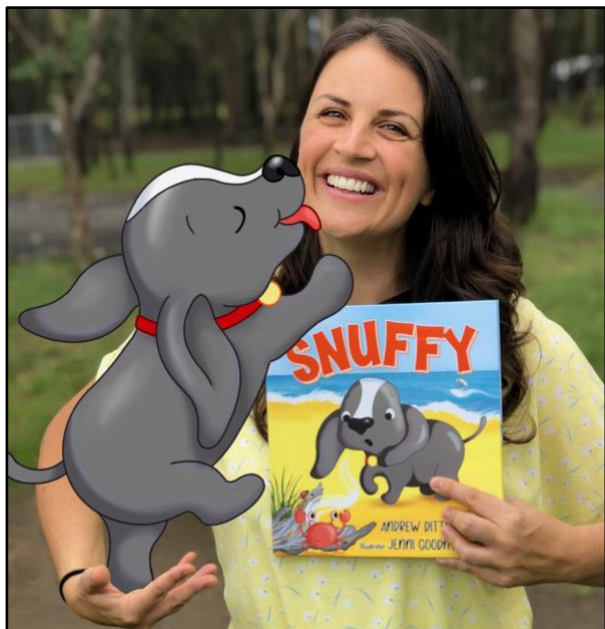
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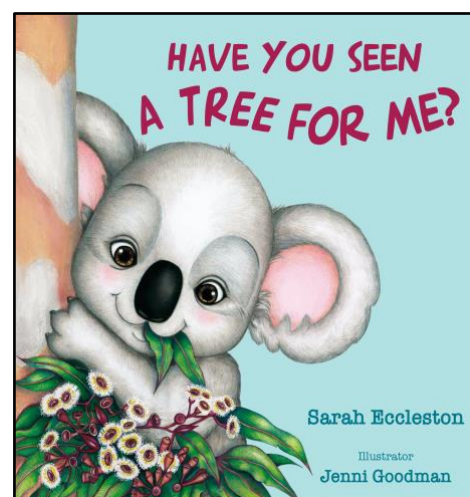
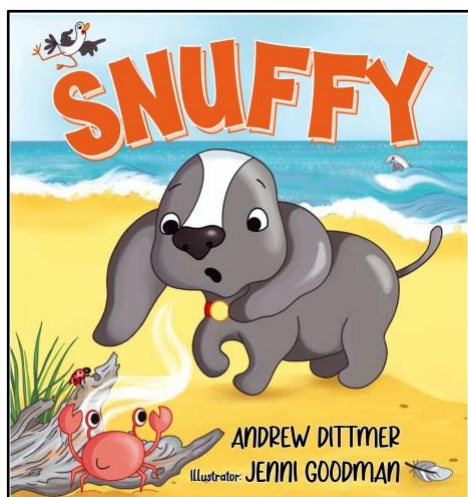
Jenni Goodman

Illustrator & CBCA Newsletter Coordinator

Jenni Goodman is a children's book illustrator who lives in beautiful Caves Beach, a lovely seaside town just south of Newcastle, Australia. Jenni uses different mediums to create her artworks including watercolour paints, coloured pencils, graphite pencils and digital media. She loves capturing the beauty of nature and expressive characters in her illustrations.

Most of Jenni's illustrating hours are spent creating picture books - a dream come true! She is the illustrator behind the 2018 Storm Boy Board Books, and feels honoured to help champion koala conservation through the 2020 release of *Have You Seen A Tree For Me?* Most recently, she has

teamed up with her older brother to create the sweet and playful picture book *Snuffy* which was Shortlisted for the 2022 Speech Pathology Australia Book of the Year. Jenni is currently working on her 8th book.



Offerings

- School Visits
- Illustrator Talks
- Storytimes/Book Readings
- School Holiday Workshops

Awards

- *Snuffy* - Shortlisted for the Speech Pathology Australia Book of the Year Awards, 2022

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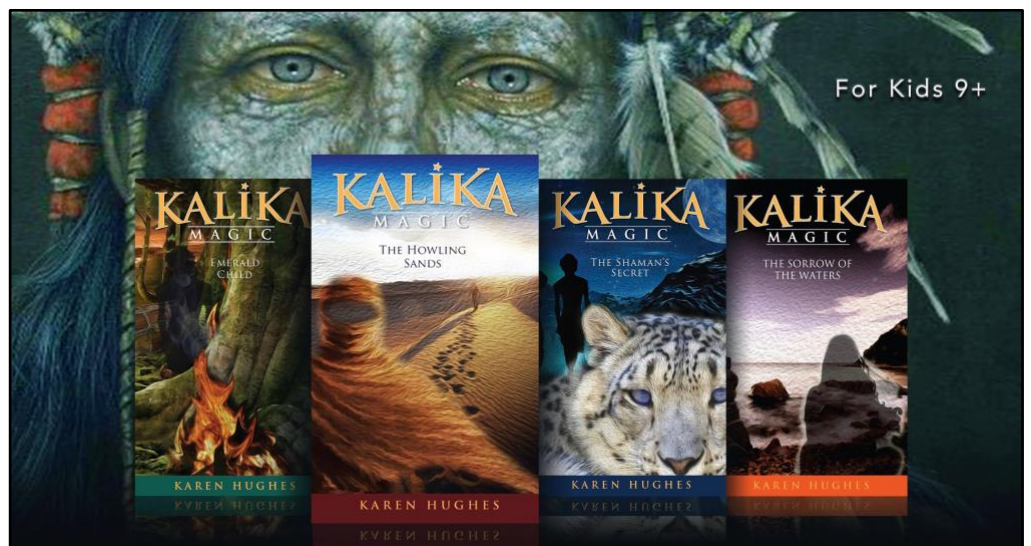
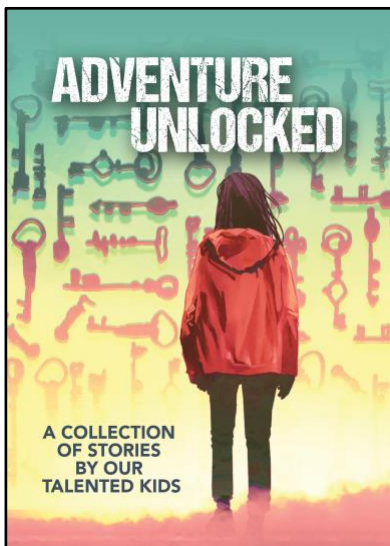
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Karen Hughes

Author

Karen Hughes is a former corporate lawyer, the mother of four fabulous young adults and the author of four mythic fantasy books in the *Kalika Magic* series, now listed on the NSW Premier's Reading Challenge. Her most recent book is *The Howling Sands* (2017). As the director of Hunter Valley Writers in Maitland, Karen runs the popular Talented Kids Program, publishing an annual anthology of stories written by local kids and delivering author talks, school visits, and creative writing workshops all over Australia. She is passionate about inspiring kids to live a creative life and believes that every child should have the opportunity to shine. Karen has just finished writing an adult science fiction novel as the creative component of her PhD (English) at the University of Newcastle and is currently working on her fifth *Kalika Magic* book.



Offerings

- Author talks / workshops / readings
- School / Library / Book Club visits
- Weekly creative writing sessions on Zoom
- Talented Kids Program in our Maitland studio
- Writers Festival workshops / panels
- Homeschool creative writing programs
- School holiday workshops

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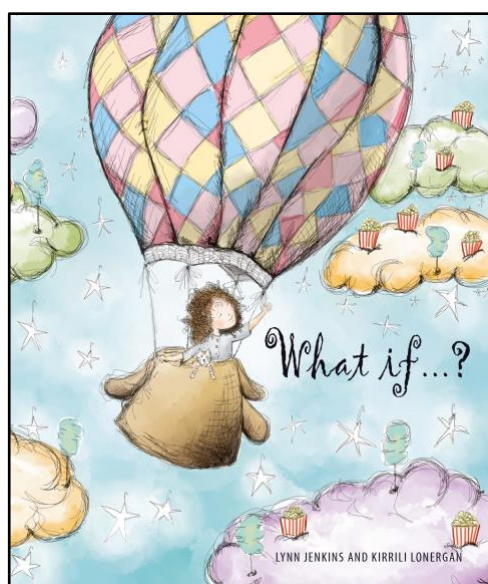
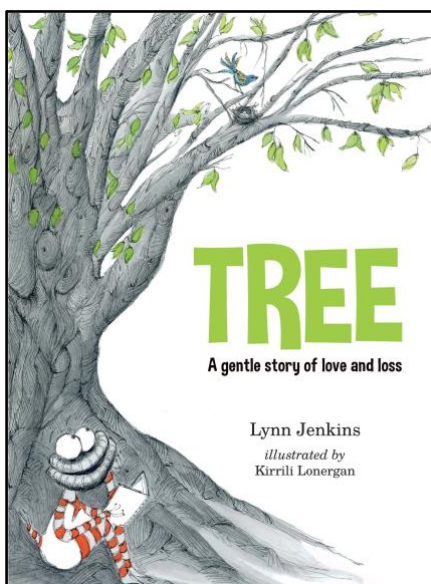
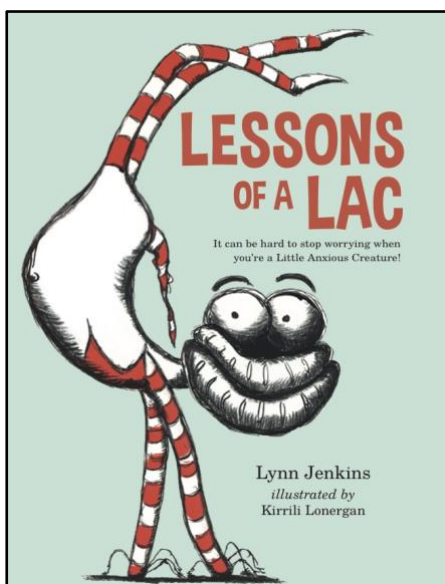


Lynn Jenkins & Kirrili Lonergan

Author & Illustrator

Lessons of a LAC is the dynamic duo Lynn Jenkins, author/clinical psychologist and Kirrili Lonergan illustrator/art therapist. Together they have written and illustrated a five book series including characters Lopyy LAC (Little Anxious Creature) and

Curly Calmster which help children discover a useful way to think about their anxieties. In addition, they have two further titles 'Ollie's Treasure', a tale of mindfulness and 'What if...?' which encourages children to use imagination and FUN to deal with worries. Their visits are guaranteed to be fun and interactive with puppets, props, drawing and loads of education!



Offerings

- Lessons of a LAC anxiety management school visits
- Lessons of a LAC teacher PD sessions
- Mindfulness (Lynn), Art Therapy (Kirrili) workshops
- Book readings based on Lessons of a LAC titles with puppets or FUN with What if...?
- School holiday workshops
- Conference Presentations

Awards

- Ollie's Treasure - Shortlisted book for the Speech Pathology of Australia Awards 2018

Contact

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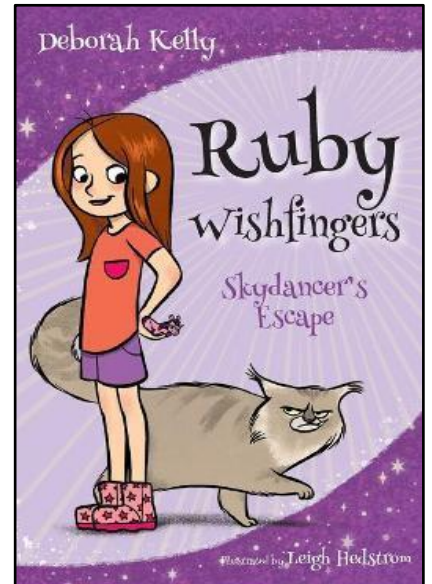
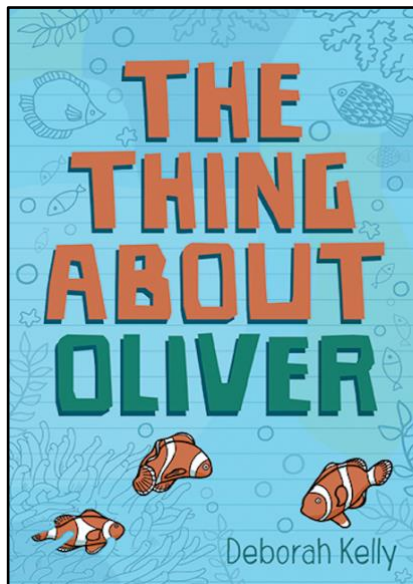
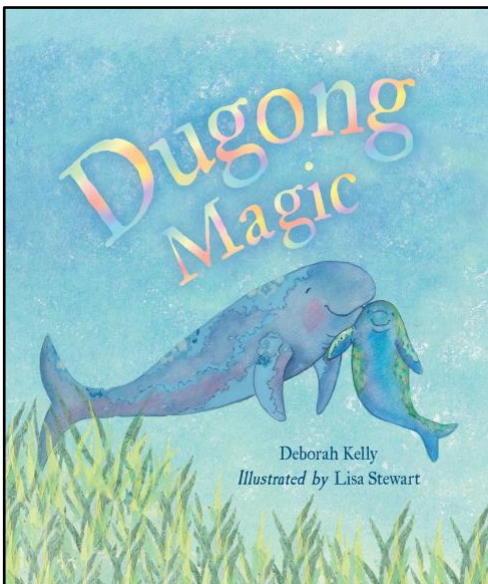
In: https://www.instagram.com/lessons_of_a_lac/, <https://www.instagram.com/kirrilonergan/>
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Deborah Kelly

Author

Deb Kelly is a multi award-winning, internationally published author of picture books, junior fiction and middle grade. Deb visits schools, libraries and festival events (including Newcastle Writers' Festival and Sydney Writers' Festival) to share her books with children. Many of her books are included in Premier's Reading Challenge lists around Australia. She is a Role Model for *Books in Homes* and reviews children's books for *Reading Time* magazine.



Offerings

- School visits
- Readings K – 6
- Festival appearances

Awards

- *The Thing About Oliver* – winner Australian Association of Family Therapists Award in 2021
- *The Thing About Oliver* – shortlisted for CBCA Younger Readers & Speech Pathology Australia Book of the Year 2020
- *Me and You* – winner Speech Pathology Australia Book of the Year 2017
- *Ruby Wishfingers: Skydancer's Escape, Me and You & The Thing About Oliver* – CBCA Notable books

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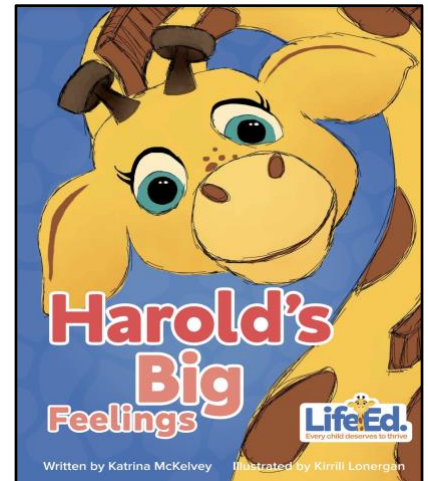
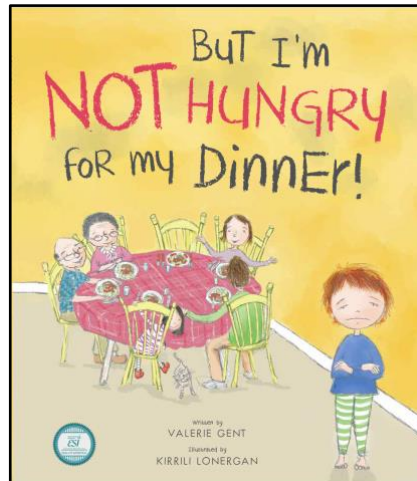
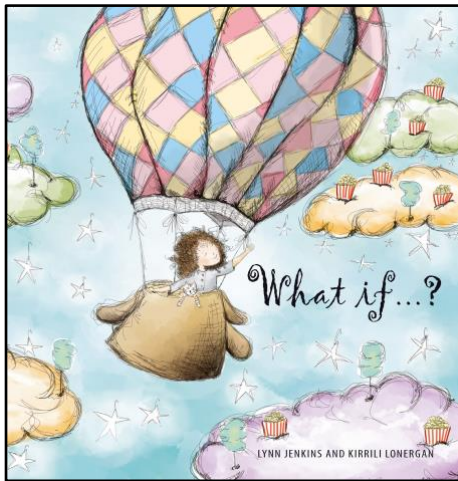
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Kirrili Lonergan

Author/Illustrator & CBCA Committee Member

Kirrili Lonergan is a Newcastle based picture book illustrator and art therapist with a passion for visual storytelling and self-expression through art. She loves sharing her skills with children and relates warmly to their needs through her former years working as a paediatric nurse. She is the illustrator for the Lessons of a LAC picture book series and the co-creator of the Lessons of a LAC anxiety management package. She has been shortlisted for the Speech Pathology of Australia Awards in 2018 for *Ollie's Treasure* and in 2022 for *But I'm NOT Hungry for my Dinner!* She is an active member of CBCA and SCBWI.



Offerings

- Illustrator talks/workshops
- Author/illustrator talks/workshops
- Lessons of a LAC anxiety management school visits
- Lessons of a LAC teacher PD sessions
- Art Therapy sessions
- Book readings
- School holiday workshops

Awards

- *But I'm NOT Hungry for my Dinner!* – shortlisted for Book of the Year Speech Pathology Australia 2022
- *Ollie's Treasure* – shortlisted for Book of the Year Speech Pathology Australia 2018

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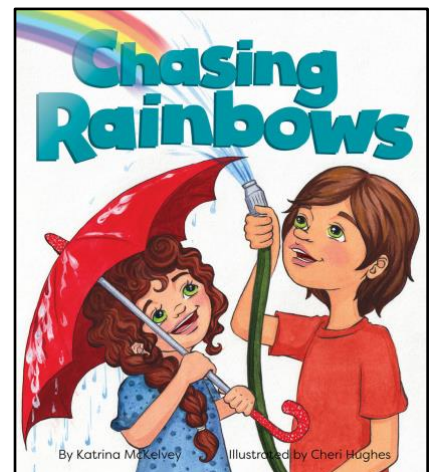
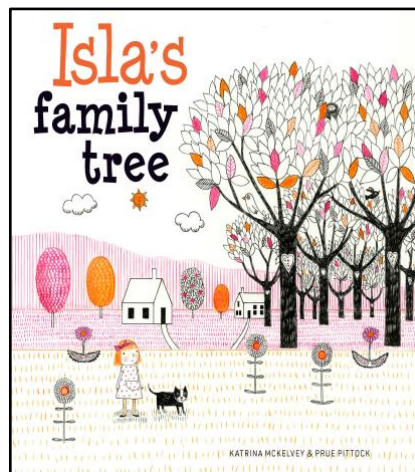
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Katrina McKelvey

Author & CBCA Committee Member

Katrina McKelvey is a children's author, picture book manuscript assessor, former primary school teacher, and wife and mother living in Newcastle, NSW. She's highly involved in CBCA, SCBWI, LittleScribe, community events, literary conferences and festivals, and loves visiting schools. She's written many children's picture books and educational readers including her new titles, *Mila and Ivy* and three Healthy Harold big books for the newly released Life Education Australia Early Years program. Other much-loved books include *Isla's Family Tree*, *Chasing Rainbows*, *No Baths Week*, and *Up To Something*. Katrina's left-handed, loves tea, scary movies and rollercoasters, and is addicted to mint chocolate. When she was little, a hot air balloon accidentally landed in her backyard.



Offerings

- Storytimes (Preschool to Year 6)
- Author Talks (Preschool to Year 6)
- Author/Illustrator talks/workshops with Kirrili Lonergan
- Writing Workshops for Stages 2 & 3
- School Holiday sessions
- Literary events host
- Literary conferences and festivals: host, chair, panel participant, presenter

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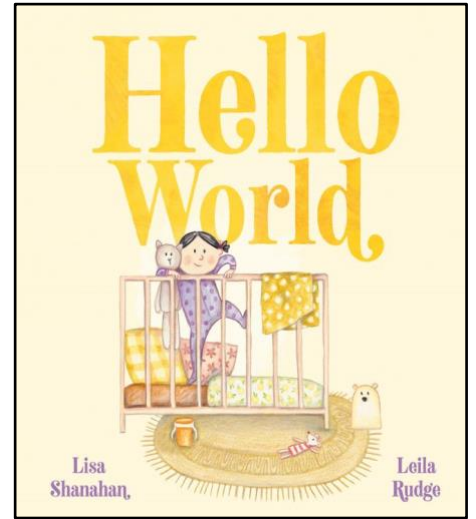
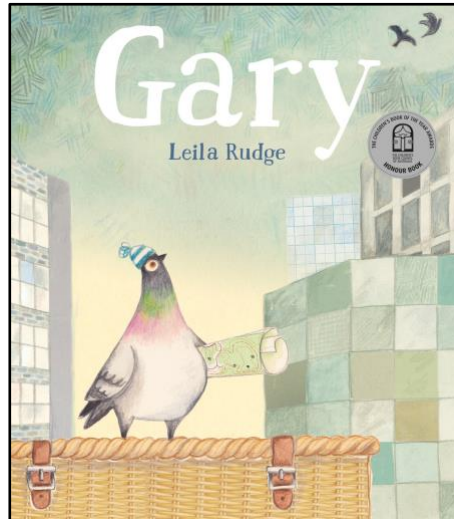
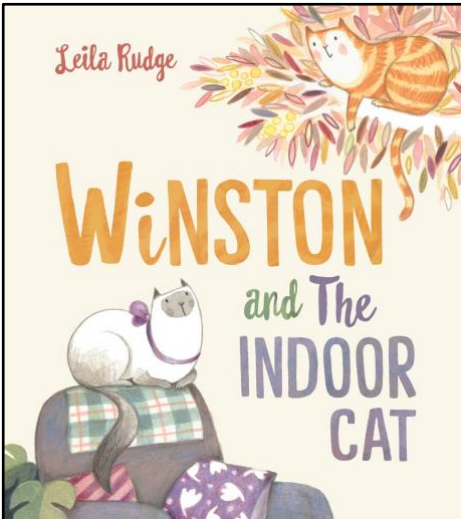


Leila Rudge

Author/Illustrator

Leila grew up in England and spent her first few years making mud pies with five siblings. Not long after completing an Illustration Degree at Bath Spa University, she hopped on a plane to Australia with her portfolio.

Leila has now illustrated over ten picture books including three of her own stories. Her writing usually always begins with a sketchbook scribble and she enjoys developing story ideas from her illustrations. Her illustrations are a mixture of pencil, paint, paper and any other bits and bobs found in her studio at home. She loves adding collage to her drawings and often spends a bit too long flipping through magazines to find the perfect pattern. Leila currently lives and works in Newcastle, Australia.



Offerings

- Author/Illustrator visits and workshops across all ages and abilities

Awards

- *Winston and the Indoor Cat* – Shortlisted CBCA Early Childhood Book 2022
- *Gary* – Honour book CBCA Early Childhood Book 2017

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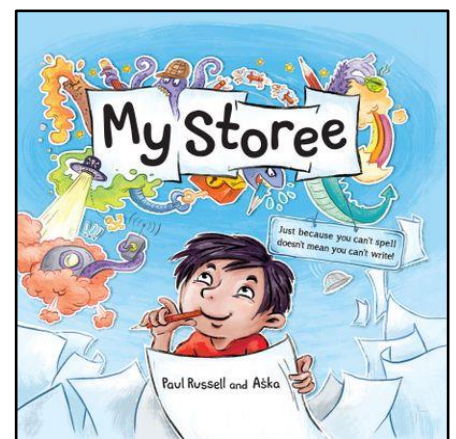
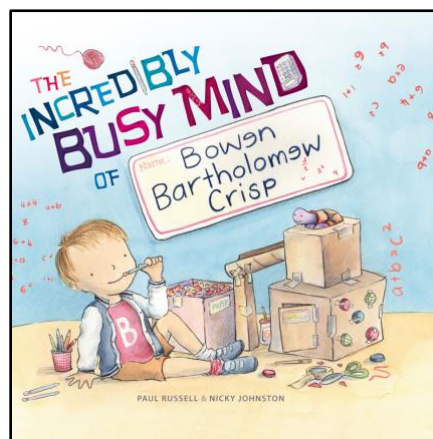
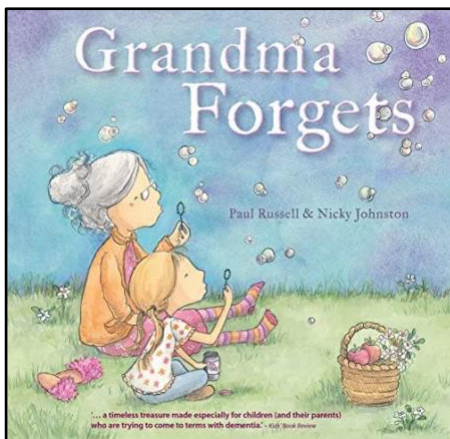
In: https://www.instagram.com/leilarudge_illustration/



Paul Russell

Author

Paul Russell has always been passionate about stories, even before he could read. Determined never to grow up and lose his imagination, he is a teacher, playwright, father, artist and author but maybe not always in that order. He is passionate about children's literacy and in building an appetite within children for the written word. Paul's writing mixes his personal experiences with his imagination, allowing him to write on such diverse topics as dyslexia, dementia, anxiety and neurodiversity. His books combine serious issues with his gentle hand and great humour.



Awards

- *The Incredibly Busy Mind of Bowen Bartholomew Crisp* – winner of the Speech Pathology of Australia award 2022 for 5 – 8 year olds
- *Grandma Forgets* - CBCA Notable Book 2017
- CONDA Best Playwright 2009

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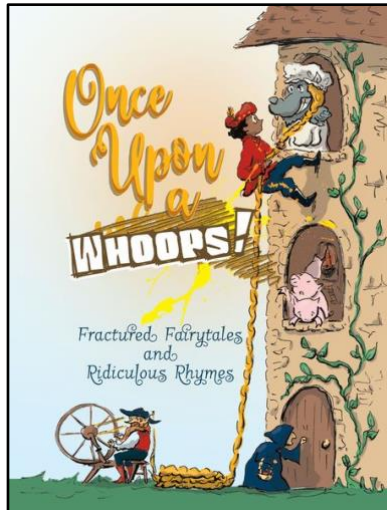
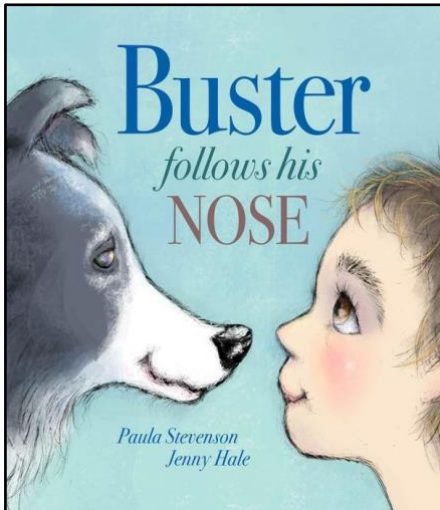
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Paula Stevenson

Author

Paula loves to write stories for children that entertain, surprise and inspire. She lives and works on a rural property in the Upper Hunter Valley of NSW, having escaped from the city more than twenty years ago. She writes every day and is inspired by her landscape and environment, writing stories and poems for children about cows, kelpies, roos, echidnas, goannas and even snakes, which occasionally sneak into her house. She is fascinated by bees and passionate about alerting the world to the threats they face. Her picture book *Buster Follows His Nose* was published in May 2022. Her poems have been published in *The School Magazine*, and she has had stories published in numerous anthologies. Paula posts regularly on her website and FB blogging about books, writing and her animal encounters!



Offerings

- Author talks
- School visits
- Library visits

Awards

- Short listed Scribbles Creative Writings Awards 2018 & 2019
- Long listed Harper Collins Aspiring Writers Award 2017

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Enriching young lives through
Australian stories

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