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THE CHILDREN'S BOOK COUNCIL OF AUSTRALIA
NSW BRANCH

Kids' Corner

September 2021

Catch up with CBCA Book Week

Turn the next page with new books

Discover the real story with Info Books

Connect with characters and caring

Highlight KC4KC
Kids' Comments and Talents

Cover Illustration and Design © Yvonne Low www.yvonnelow.com

WELCOME TO KIDS' CORNER for September 2021

with OUR REMARKABLE GUEST ILLUSTRATOR

YVONNE LOW

Website: www.yvonnelow.com
Twitter: https://twitter.com/YLcreate

I'm a writer, illustrator and award-winning artist, and I love creating picture books, poetry and junior fiction. Seeing reflections in a puddle after the rain, discovering a 'cloud dragon' in the sky, finding a spider's web transformed into lace by morning dew – the wonderful natural world feeds my imagination, art and writing.

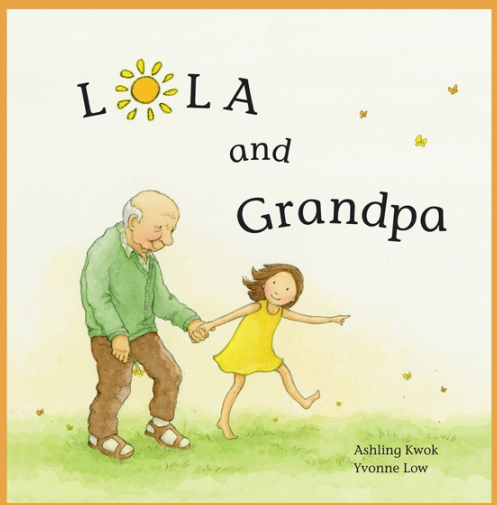
My cover illustration for CBCA Kids' Corner was created by pencil, then scanned and coloured digitally, and is very much an Aussie-inspired picture. I think Australian animals are very special – fancy being carried around in your mother's pouch and experiencing the world from your very own 'portable home'! This one is extra special – there's also space to read and carry books.

My debut picture book ***Lola and Grandpa*** (by **Ashling Kwok** and illustrated by **Yvonne Low**, Little Pink Dog Books) was published in 2020. It's a beautiful, gentle story about love and loss.

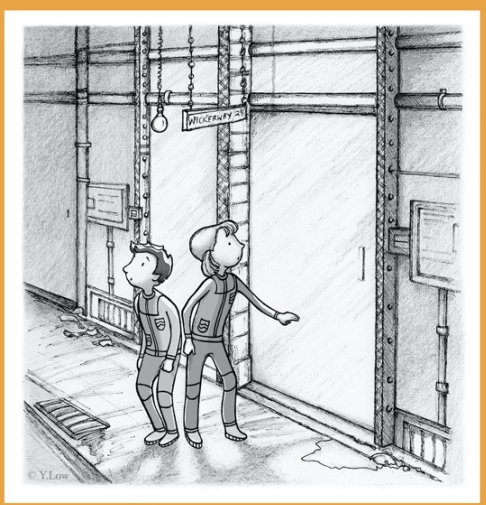
I'm also published with *The School Magazine*, Christmas Press and ABC Commercial.

I'm currently working on my own picture book project using graphic novel techniques, for which I won a 2021 ASA/Copyright Agency Mentorship Award.

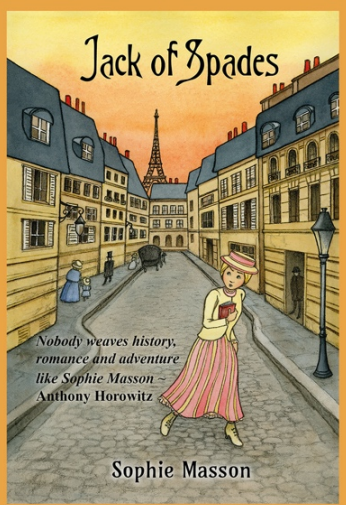
YVONNE LOW writer artist illustrator www.yvonnelow.com



Lola and Grandpa, Little Pink Dog Books

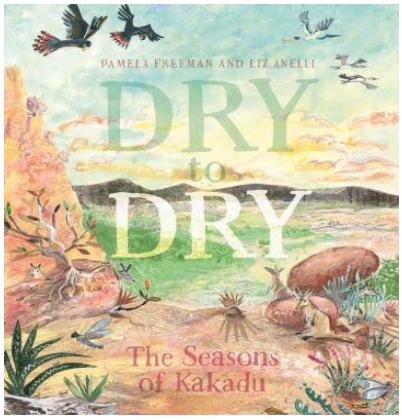


An illustration from ***The Fastest Ship in Space*** by Pamela Freeman, **illustrated by Yvonne Low** Christmas Press (Second Look)



Illustrated by Yvonne Low Christmas Press (Eagle Books)

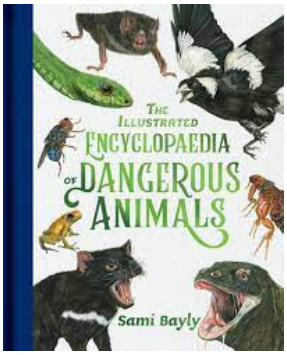
Welcome to KIDS' CORNER for September 2021. . .

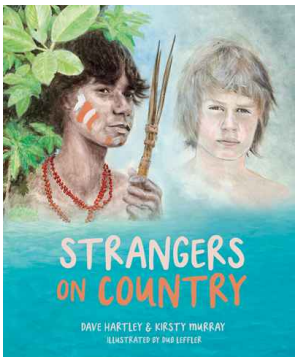


YVONNE LOW'S cover sets the scene for endless possibilities to celebrate reading with BITS OF CBCA BOOK WEEK AND MORE . . .

Join us to:

- **catch up with CBCA BOOK WEEK happenings and ideas**
- **find lots of LINKS TO CELEBRATE awards, book trailers, and reviews.**





- **become part of WORLDS OF POETRY WITH LIBBY HATHORN and LIZ BOWRING.**
- **discover the real story: INFORMATION BOOKS with URSULA DUBOSARSKY, PAMELA FREEMAN, LIZ ANELLI, SAMI BAYLY, DAVID HARTLEY, KIRSTY MURRAY and DUB LEFFLER.**

- **CONNECT and CARE about characters and each other with CHRIS CHENG and RUOK? DAY.**

- **turn the next page with surprising NEW BOOKS coming soon.**

- **and highlights of KC4KC = KIDS' COMMENTS and videos and exceptional talents for KIDS' CORNER.**

CELEBRATING 75 Years

CBCA BOOK OF THE YEAR AWARD

THE CHILDREN'S BOOK COUNCIL OF AUSTRALIA
YOUR CONNECTION TO STORY

75 YEARS
1946 - 2021
BOOK OF THE YEAR AWARDS

CBCA BOOK of the YEAR

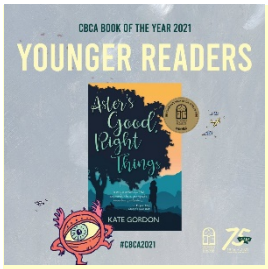
2021Winners and Honour Books

Older readers: winner

- *The End of the World is Bigger than Love* (Davina Bell, Text)

Older readers: honour books

- *Metal Fish, Falling Snow* (Cath Moore, Text)
- *Where We Begin* (Christie Nieman, Pan)



Younger readers: winner

- *Aster's Good, Right Things* (Kate Gordon, Riveted Press)

Younger readers: honour books

- *The Stolen Prince of Cloudburst* (Jaclyn Moriarty, illus by Kelly Canby, A&U)
- *Worse Things* (Sally Murphy, illus by Sarah Davis, Walker)

Eve Pownall Award for information books: winner

- *Dry to Dry: The Seasons of Kakadu* (Pamela Freeman, illus by Liz Anelli, Walker)

Eve Pownall Award for information books: honour books

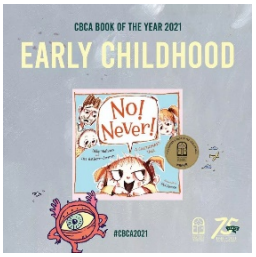
- *The Illustrated Encyclopaedia of Dangerous Animals* (Sami Bayly, Lothian)
- *Strangers on Country* (David Hartley & Kirsty Murray, illus by Dub Leffler, NLA)

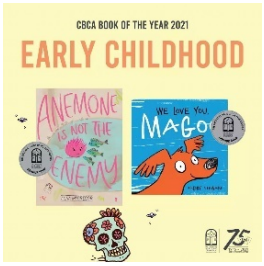
Picture books: winner

- *How to Make a Bird* (Meg McKinlay, illus by Matt Ottley, Walker)

Picture books: honour books

- *Not Cute* (Philip Bunting, Omnibus)
- *Your Birthday Was the Best!* (Maggie Hutchings, illus by Felicita Sala, Affirm)





Early childhood: winner

- *No! Never!* (Libby Hathorn & Lisa Hathorn-Jarman, illus by Mel Pearce, Lothian)

Early childhood: honour books

- *Anemone is not the Enemy* (Anna McGregor, Scribble)
- *We Love You, Magoo* (Briony Stewart, Puffin)

CBCA Award for new illustrators: winner

- *This Small Blue Dot* (Zeno Sworder, Thames & Hudson)

BITS OF CBCA BOOK WEEK

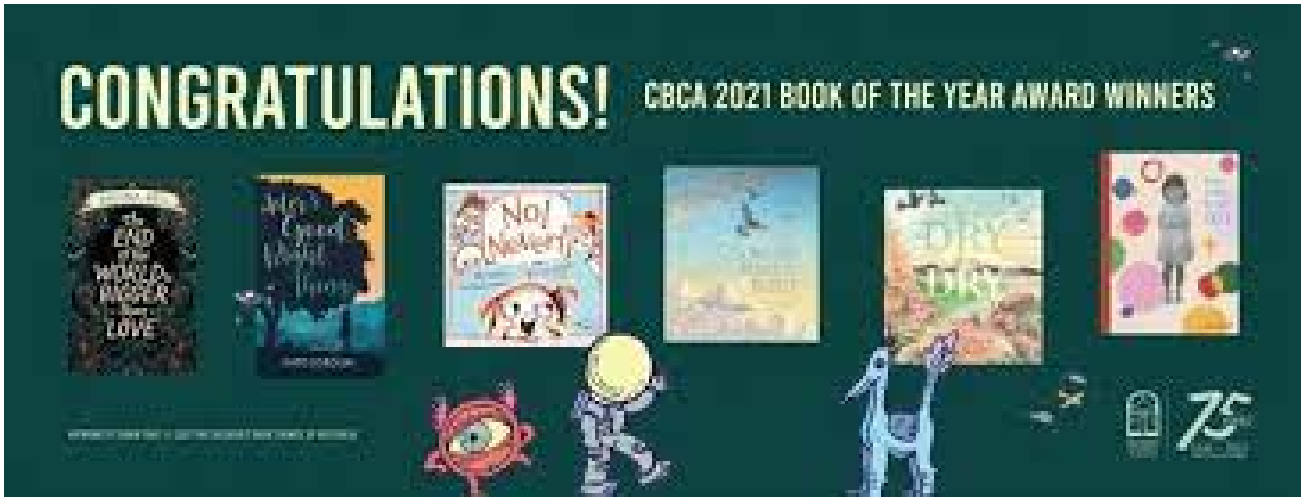
RELIVE the excitement of the WINNERS' ANOUNCEMENT at https://cbca.org.au

Want to know more about a book?

CHECK for **https://www.cbcansw.org.au/cbca-short-list**
and **CLICK *read more*** *for the book you want.*

FIND OUT
What the publisher says.
What The CBCA judge says.
What the Reading Time book review says.
What the author says - a video of the author talking about their book.

Choose the book you want to know about.



CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL AUSTRALIAN AUTHORS and ILLUSTRATORS

Illustration created by Yasmin Pine Year 9 - Central Coast Grammar School

CBCA BOOK WEEK in Lockdown:

We are part of OLD WORLDS, NEW WORLDS, OTHER WORLDS

My artwork was inspired by the recent transition to online learning for many students around the world, due to lockdown, and how our identity and voice has been redefined by our presence online.
The mechanical insects, inspired by the book ***Mechanica: a beginner's field guide*** *by Lance Balchin (Five Mile Press), bring a melancholy mood into the artwork by displaying how our longing for reality is currently replaced by artificial examples. Just like how our online identity is only a snapshot of the personality behind the keyboard.*

Old worlds *- the old headphones (WW1 headphones)*

New worlds *- symbolism of online learning and how are true emotions are masked online. Covid-19 is the reason we are doing everything online)*

Other worlds *- the mechanical bugs around the artwork, which symbolize the way we gravitate towards technology, even if it only achieves the same thing nature already does.*
What other worlds will we create? - Yasmin Pine

IMAGINE the POETRY POWER of WORLDS OF POETRY by LIBBY HATHORN

with LIZ BOWRING - Illustrator

Libby Hathorn has created a personal poem based on ***OLD WORLDS, NEW WORLDS, OTHER WORLDS***
theme of CBCA BOOK WEEK 2021

LIBBY HATHORN
www.libbyhathorn.com
is an established Australian children's writer of more than 80 works for children, with many awards and commendations both here and internationally.

Her latest book ***No Never; a cautionary tale*** written with her daughter, **Lisa Hathorn-Jarman**, and Illustrated by **Mel Pearce**, has won the CBCA PICTURE BOOK of THE OF YEAR AWARD, Early Childhood, 2021.

Poetry has been a mainstay of her life and work, so composing picture book texts is much like writing a poem.

LIZ BOWRING - Illustrator

A world within a world. As a child 'snowdomes' were very special souvenirs. Travellers always brought these mini-worlds back with them. From the Swiss Alps, the canals of Venice, the beaches of Hawaii to Taronga Park Zoo, they all came with a coating of snow which was transformed into flurries with a swift shake. Drawing is in pencil, then finished using Procreate on an iPad using an Apple pencil.

Liz paints with many materials. Her paintings hang mainly around her house and those of her friends. Her 5 school history books for young readers have been illustrated in watercolour. Liz has been lucky to work with children's books through her work as a teacher librarian. https://www.bowringbooks.com.au

Liz and her brother (with his portrait by Liz)

Old Worlds, New Worlds, Other Worlds, My World

by Libby Hathorn, illustrated by Liz Bowring

Old

So much to understand...
On my wall
Landscapes,
Faded family photos,
The memory.

New
Around my garden,
Intentions,
Seed pods burgeoning,
The promise.

Other
Through my window,
Discovery,
The not-so-distant stars,
The wonder.

So much to sightsee...

I decided to make the poem personal.

*As I looked around the room for **OLD WORLDS**, I spied an old photograph of my grandparents and another of my parents, and then a lovely Aboriginal landscape on the wall.*

*Looking outdoors into my tropical and overgrown garden I thought of **NEW WORLDS** with all the planted bulbs and then things growing and blossoming and all the seeds out there at the ready.*

*Lastly, I thought of **OTHER WORLDS** looking out the window at night and how the stars are always there, and how much closer with space travel we a getting. Mysteries unfurling for us.*

The last line is about the excitement of 'sightseeing' this wide wonderful world!

LIBBY HATHORN

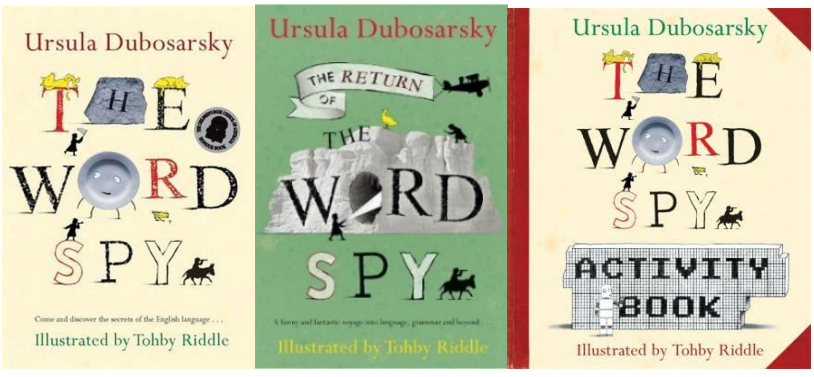
INFORMATION BOOKS – MORE THAN FACTS AND FIGURES

URSULA DUBOSARSKY
AUSTRALIAN CHILDREN'S LAUREATE

One of my very favourite sections in the library is the place where you find the information books. Now I love the fiction section! I love made-up stories – who doesn't? But there's something especially wonderful about information books.

You might say, why do we need them anymore? Now we can look up whatever information we want on the internet? But that sort of information-searching is very different to the experience you have with a book. The writers and illustrators of information books are not just giving you pages of facts and figures. They have really thought hard about the information and what it means, and what the best way to present that information might be, so that you, the reader, will think and wonder and discover.

Most of my books are made-up stories but I'm also the proud author of three information books, illustrated by the brilliant Tohby Riddle. I wonder if you know them. *The Word Spy, The Return of the Word Spy* and *The Word Spy Activity Book.* They are all about (you've guessed it!) WORDS. When I was writing ***The Word Spy,*** I remember thinking, *wow, this is like writing a novel.* I had a character, the Word Spy, who was telling all the information, and then the information itself was like the plot of the story. I really had to think the best way to keep the readers turning the pages!



There is a special prize every year in Children's Book Week, called the *Eve Pownall Award for Information Books*. I bet you've read some of these shortlisted and award-winning books or seen them in your library or bookshop. And guess what? Tohby Riddle and I were very excited one year when our book, ***The Return of the Word Spy,*** actually won this prize! (Magpie is excited too.)

Happy reading of all sorts of books, everyone, until next time - Ursula and Magpie

INFORMATION BOOKS: WHY ARE INFORMATION BOOKS IMPORTANT?

LIZ ANELLI *- Not everyone likes stories. Non-fiction books are great for encouraging reluctant readers. Also - if I ever want to find something out, I go to a kid's information book because I know it will one: be really clear, nice and succinct and have lots of pictures.*

PAMELA FREEMAN - *Because the world is a wonderful, interesting and exciting place, and information books help people see that. And, as Liz says, not everyone likes story books, but everyone can find a non-fiction book which interests them!*

SAMI BAYLY - *Information books are fantastic!*
Where else can you find pockets of information on so many different topics that are REAL, fascinating, and educational? Maybe a television program, but is it really the same?

Sitting with your child, class, relative or friend and reading a great book together is one of the best feelings in the world, knowing that you get to walk away with a new-found interest, fact or understanding on a subject is priceless and timeless.

SEARCHING FOR INFO ABOUT INFO BOOKS?

TAKE THIS PATH:

CBCA > Book of the Year > Presenting the shortlist > Eve Pownall Award >

THEN click on each book. OR just click below.

Dry to Dry: The Seasons of Kakadu - Pamela Freeman - ill. Liz Anelli

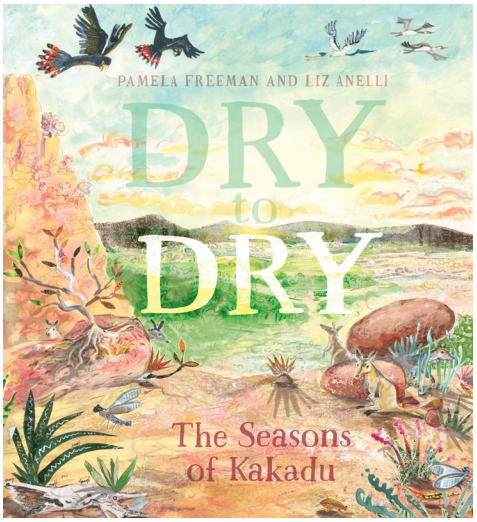
Walker Books Australia https://cbca.org.au/book/dry-to-dry-the-seasons-of-kakadu

The Illustrated Encyclopaedia of Dangerous Animals - Sami Bayly - Hachette Australia

https://cbca.org.au/book/the-illustrated-encyclopaedia-of-dangerous-animals

Strangers on Country - David Hartley & Kirsty Murray- ill. Dub Leffler

National Library of Australia https://cbca.org.au/book/strangers-on-country



EVE POWNALL AWARD 2021 WINNER

DRY TO DRY: THE SEASONS OF KAKADU

Pamela Freeman - text
https://www.pamelafreeman.com/tag/dry-to-dry/
Liz Anelli - illustrator
https://lizanelli-illustration.com **Walker Books Australia**

In the tropical wetlands and escarpments of Kakadu National Park, the seasons move from dry to wet to dry again. Those seasons have shaped the astonishing variety of plants, animals, birds, insects ... migratory birds by the thousands, grasshoppers and owls, lizards and turtles, fruit bats and spear grass. And, gliding past them all in the rivers and waterholes, the long, sinuous shapes of crocodiles.

How did you become interested in your topic?

Liz*: I THINK Pamela started that one…we met up in my Newcastle studio back in 2018/17??? (Pamela???) and chatted about places, species and what would be most fun/ exciting/ visually dynamic….*
Pamela: *Yes, I had been to Kakadu and was very keen to do a book about it. It's such an extraordinary place, and so different from* ***Kati Thanda-Lake Eyre****, that it seemed the perfect companion book to* ***Desert Lake.***

What did you discover that surprised you while working on your book?

Liz: *That the water in Kakadu National Park is often green, sometimes brown and never blue.*
ALSO (yikky fact here) that you can sweat from absolutely every and any part of your body
Pamela: *How localised some of the flora and fauna are - and that these very local plants live in the same place which is also home to birds which fly all over the world. Also, how clever Liz Anelli is, but I kind of already knew that.*

How did you decide what to research about Kakadu and how to carry out your research?

Liz: *Pamela came up with a long list of possible creatures, plants etc. and between us we selected the ones that fitted well into the seasonal yearly cycle … but Pamela did most of that.*
There was way too much to choose from. Kakadu is home to ***2,000 plant species****, around one-third of all Australian bird species and about one-fifth of all Australian*

mammals. Some of these animals are threatened or endangered and many aren't found anywhere else in the world.
Pamela: *I couldn't possibly research every plant and animal, so to come up with that list I looked for 'flag-bearer' species - ones which showed the shift of seasons or were particularly symbolic of Kakadu (like the jabiru, or Leichhardt's grasshopper). And then, after Liz had been to Kakadu on her sketching trip, we went through the sketches to agree on which ones would convey the story the best (and look great).*

What do you think people really SHOULD know about Kakadu?

Liz: *That is in danger. Most of us know about the cane toads but there are many feral and invasive species, with climate change also a major factor.*
Pamela: *Yes, in danger and worth protecting. Its biodiversity makes it particularly important to preserve. I also think they should know that it's worth visiting!*

Watch for Pamela's and Liz's next book together called ***FROM SEED TO SKY*** about the Daintree Rainforest.

EVE POWALL AWARD 2021 HONOUR BOOK
THE ILLUSTRATED ENCYCLOPAEDIA OF DANGEROUS ANIMALS
Sami Bayly. Lothian Children's Books

WONDERFUL DANGEROUS ANIMALS with SAMI BAYLY www.samibayly.com

Author of

The Illustrated Encyclopedia of Dangerous Animals

Sami shares facts about 60 of the most dangerous and deadly animals from across the world. Discover how they have adapted to survive, decide whether we should be threatened by these animals or appreciate them for their incredible features, and pour over Sami's breathtaking scientific illustrations.

How did you become interested in your topic?

*I thought of the concept for **The Illustrated Encyclopaedia of Dangerous Animals** when I was driving home from Taronga Zoo. I had just spent the day there with some TV producers from ABC, who were making a segment on my first book (**Ugly Animals**). One of the zookeepers had been telling me all about one of only two venomous lizards in the entire world! When it bites down onto its victim, it will almost chew them in order to pump out more venom! This leaves their prey immobilized and ready to eat. I was fascinated that such a dangerous and interesting creature existed*

and that I wasn't even aware of it! I started thinking of all the other unusual dangerous animals out in the world that were potentially unknown, and I wanted the opportunity to share their stories with the kids of Australia.

What did you discover that surprised you while working on your book?

It is tricky to narrow down the many surprising things I learnt. But, if I had to choose, it would be that there is a dangerous butterfly! The African Giant Swallowtail butterfly is poisonous due to all of the toxic leaves it eats during its caterpillar stage. Although they are immune to these toxins, if you are unlucky enough to consume the butterfly, it can prove deadly. This butterfly poses a threat to the smaller creatures AND, if enough of these toxins are consumed by hippos, it can kill them.

How did you decide what to research and how to carry out your research?

*One of the most challenging parts was trying to include all of the most important and relevant information about each and every animal. With a limited word count, I had to create a text that was short and sweet! I needed to include a summarised version of what made the animal dangerous as well as tell how they carry out their dangerous abilities. Each page also needed to explain their description, conservation status, diet and location. I added all the additional information into a section titled '**Fun Facts**'.*

My go-to sites when researching the creatures were the IUCN Red List (the world's most comprehensive inventory of the global conservation status of biological species), *National Geographic, Australian Geographic, Australian Museum, peer-reviewed scientific papers, experts in the field, zoo websites and more.*

What do you think people really SHOULD know about dangerous animals?

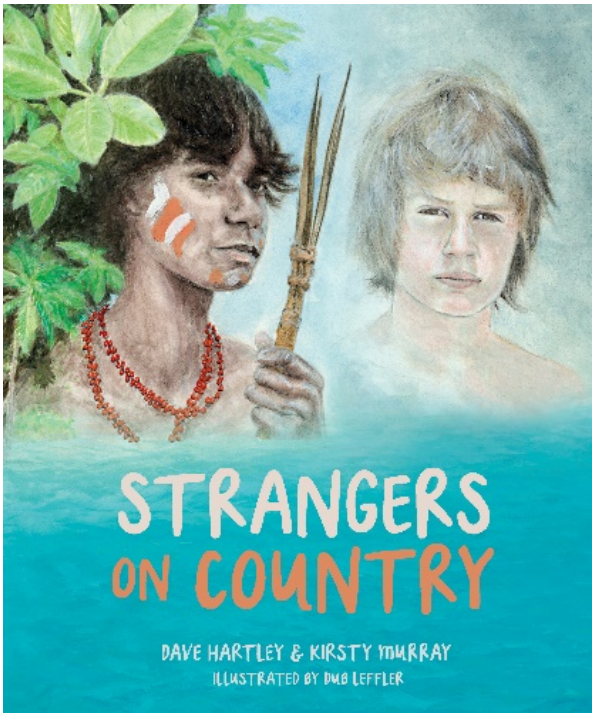
At the end of the day, it is most important to appreciate ALL animals throughout the environment, not just the cute ones, funny ones or animals that offer humans something of value. These attitudes and mindsets are so toxic and will only contribute to more species becoming extinct. Dangerous animals are just like the other wonderful animals you come across, except they have evolved some unique and superior abilities that protect them and help with their survival. It shouldn't be something to fear or eradicate, but something to celebrate, admire and appreciate. So, learn to love all animals, even the ones that can potentially harm you. Treat them with respect, and you will ensure their existence for generations to come.

EVE POWALL AWARD 2021 HONOUR BOOK

STRANGERS ON COUNTRY - Dave Hartley and Kirsty Murray

https://kirstymurray.com/

With Dub Leffler, illustrator https://www.instagram.com/dubleffler (NLA)



STRANGERS ON COUNTRY tells the stories of six Europeans who were cared for by Indigenous communities of eastern Australia between the 1820s and 1870s. Most were shipwreck survivors, one was a runaway convict, but all of them were saved from starvation by the Indigenous families who adopted them.

Each of the true stories are told through two historical fiction narratives. First, from the perspective of five Indigenous people - Sassy, Tomagugu, Wurra, Pamby-Pamby and Panney – who befriended the lost Europeans and then from the point of view of the survivors. Dave Hartley is a proud descendant of the Barunggam people of Queensland so he wrote from the perspective of the Indigenous characters. Kirsty Murray is descended from convicts and early immigrants so she imagined what it would be like to one of the rescued Europeans. Fact sections at the end of each chapter provide extensive background information to the reader.

How did you become interested in your topic?

Kirsty and Dave were brought together by Susan Hall of the National Library of Australia who approached them to commission a book about the experiences of 19th Century shipwreck survivors. The NLA had previously published a brilliant book for adults on the topic - John Maynard & Victoria K. Haskins *Living with the Locals: Early Europeans experiences of Indigenous Life*. After reading John & Victoria's book, Dave and Kirsty met on Skype and discussed how to tackle the stories in a way that would make them accessible to younger readers. We also needed to get to know each other and discover if we could work together happily. Kirsty's 2013 CBCA Honour Book *Topsy Turvy World – How Australian Animals Puzzled Early Explorers* had given Kirsty insight in how to adapt complex history and science for younger readers. Dave's writing style was fresh and exciting. Combining our skills and discussing our shared passion for the stories gave us the confidence to accept the project.

What did you discover that surprised you while working on your book?

From our first conversation, we suspected we might work well together. We were both a little nervous – collaborations can be complicated – but the best surprise was that we made a great team. As we shared our early drafts with each other, we developed a deep respect for our different perspectives on the material. We also began to realise just how important these stories of shared Indigenous and Europeans experiences were to our understanding of Australian history. When Dub Leffler's illustrations arrived in our in-boxes, we were over the moon with excitement. We knew the project had great potential but seeing Dub's illustrations really cemented our confidence that we were working on a very special book.

How did you decide what to research about Strangers on Country and how to carry out your research?

We decided to focus on stories from Queensland, Dave's home state, so each story benefitted from his connection to country. We used Maynard & Haskin's book as our initial inspiration and key resource for the project and then selected the stories that we thought we could adapt successfully. We also conducted additional research for each story using both primary and secondary sources. To ensure our stories were accurate, we reviewed every little detail. Nothing was included in the stories that couldn't be verified and supported by original materials. We were lucky to have the support and back up of the team at the National Library. In addition to Dub's fantastic illustrations, the book includes dozens of original illustrations and photographs from the collections of the NLA. We received feedback from John Maynard and Victoria Haskins and great support from editors at the NLA, particularly Susan Hall and Irma Gold.

What do you think people really SHOULD know about this part of history?

For too long, Australian history has been told exclusively from the perspective of Europeans. We hope that our readers will be inspired to contemplate what it must have been like for the First Australians to find strangers arriving on their shores. As Chris Sarra wrote in his foreword to *Strangers on Country: 'positive and loving relationships are always possible when we let ourselves be connected by our humanity'*.

REVISIT *the* ***COLLIDE Book Trailers made by kids***

SUE BATES, CBCA NSW Branch COLLIDE Convenor

https://www.cbcansw.org.au/collide-book-trailers-winners

Congratulations to all the students who entered the 2021 Collide! with the Notables competition this year. The standard was very high which made judging by Deb Abela, Tristan Bancks and Nathan Luff a very difficult task.

Although this year was challenging for teachers and students with the restrictions presented by Covid 19 many multiple entries were sent in by schools. Thank you to the teachers who facilitated the learning by their students in producing the many exciting videos that were so enjoyable to watch.

Thank you also to our judges who also reported back to say how much they enjoyed judging the contest this year. Nat Amore said, "This year's Collide entries were inventive and clever. The outstanding trailers had a perfect mix of music, images and text and made me desperate to read the book, which is exactly what a good trailer should do."

The Classroom Teacher from St Joseph's Catholic Primary School Como-Oyster Bay whose student won the 5/6 section said,
"My students had a great time engaging in this competition. It allowed students to be creative and use technology in a fun, purposeful way."

CBCA BOOK WEEK KIDS BOOK OF THE YEAR BOOK TALKS

WATCH videos of kids talking with Anna WHATELEY and Nat AMOORE about the shortlisted books for OLDER READERS or YOUNGER READERS with the Kids Book of the Year Event

https://www.cbcansw.org.au/kids-book-of-the-year-event-2021

CLICK on the video for your level. Either high school older readers or primary younger readers.

RELIVE the excitement of the WINNER'S ANOUNCEMENT
https://cbca.org.au

CBCA Shortlist OLDER READERS for 2021

Metal Fish, Falling Snow Cath Moore, Text
Review Team - **Ellen Henderson. Belle Lackey, Hollie Garrett** Winmalee HS
Peta Lyre's Rating Normal Anna Whateley, A&U Reviewer – **Amelia** Northmead
Creative and Performing Art High School
The End of the World is Bigger than Love Davina Bell, Text Reviewer – **Gabby Varnakulasingham** St Patrick's College Campbelltown
The Lost Soul Atlas Zana Fraillon, Lothian Reviewer – **Tom Hanley** The Kings School
When Rain Turns to Snow Jane Godwin, Lothian Reviewer – **Mia Jackson** Carinya Christian School - Tamworth - HS
Where We Begin Christie Nieman, Pan Reviewer - **Sophie Wainwright** St Patrick's College Sutherland

CBCA Shortlist - YOUNGER READERS for 2021

Aster's Good, Right Things (Kate Gordon, Riveted Press) Reviewer – Alice - Summer Hill Public School
Bindi Kirli Saunders, illus by Dub Leffler, Magabala Reviewer – Summer - Bidwell Public School
The Book of Chance Sue Whiting, Walker
Reviewer – Lily - Oatley West Public School
The Stolen Prince of Cloudburst (Jaclyn Moriarty, illus by Kelly Canby, A&U)
Reviewer – Annabelle - Carinya Christian School - Gunnedah - PS
We Are Wolves Katrina Nannestad, ABC Books
Reviewer – Leora - St Aidan's Catholic Primary School
Worse Things (Sally Murphy, illus by Sarah Davis, Walker) Reviewer – Adriana - Balmain East PS

CARING AND CHARACTERS

If you ask most people, there will certainly be times when life is not exactly perfect. Our personal worlds and our broader worlds can be confusing and difficult.

Problems and uncertainty about Friends, Family, Health, Money, School, Sexuality, Covid, Parents, Jobs, Bullying and more can make life complicated.

RUOK? Day September 9 reminds us to think of ourselves and others. It can help to consider what we can do to be a friend or how to help others when things aren't quite what we wish they were.

This year the message is:

'Are they *really* OK? Ask them today.'

Your conversation can change a life.

Not sure what to talk with people about?
Try the **RUOK? CONVERSATION BINGO** activity
https://tinyurl.com/42ft4sn4

Explore more ideas on:

RUOK?

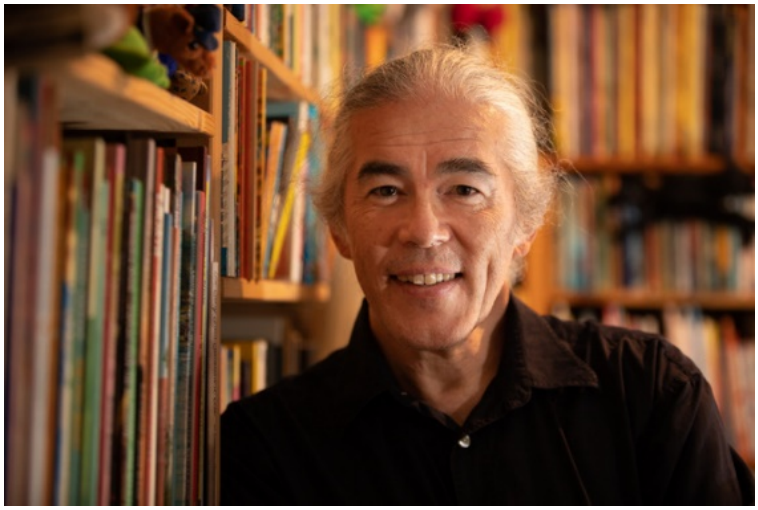
https://www.ruok.org.au/join-r-u-ok-day

https://au.reachout.com/

REACH OUT.COM™

Christopher Cheng

https://chrischeng.com is the award-winning author of very many children's books in print and digital formats. His background includes work and interests in teaching, animals, sciences, writing, information and ideas of all kinds. Chris has a number of amazing books newly delivered and coming soon. See his books and videos https://www.chrischeng.com/books.html on the website.



New Now:

Bear and Rat*; illus. Stephen Michael King, Penguin Random House Australia - *this is my story for my beautiful Bini

BEAR and RAT
…about My Very Best Friend
CHRISTOPHER CHENG

In most books there is a little bit of me snuggled away but Bear and Rat is exceptionally special and so very close to me.

When my wife, who is also my very best friend, became sick I wondered how I would feel. And of course, I often process my wonderings by writing. That's ***how BEAR and RAT*** link: https://www.chrischeng.com/bear-and-rat.html was created.

I thought about all the fun and excitement that I had with my very best friend, and I wondered about my feelings, and about the feelings of my very best friend, and then I wondered how I could remember everything to do with my very best friend … and with all that wondering a story was created. And when people ask me about the characters (which they often do) the answer is simple; my wife's favourite animal, a RAT (she even had a pet one) and mine, a PANDA (that's my Chinese ancestry).

But that is only half the story - the other half of the story is the creation of the wonderful illustrations - and that was thanks to my friend *Stephen Michael King* link: https://www.stephenmichaelking.com> (he actually created the illustrations for one of my very first books sometime last century!). We talked for a while about lots of things (not just my story), as friends do, but I did tell him that Bear had to be a panda - no other bear would be right. The rest was left to him, so he sketched and then

drew to create the wonderful art in the book. I was a very lucky creator to have Stephen illustrate my story.

Have you a best friend? Has your best friend ever had to leave for whatever reason? Maybe it was to move to another city, or a bigger house a long way away. Or maybe you had a favourite pet, an animal that did everything with you and that loved you to bits but like all pets they eventually aged and died. Or maybe it's your grandparents who love you even when you get into trouble, or who give you the best surprises (how do they know what you think?). How do you feel? What do you remember doing with them? What is it like without them? How can you ever remember them? These are all wonderings that could create your story too - just like I did for ***BEAR and RAT***.

SOMETHING FOR SOMEONE

Sometimes you just need something nice to happen for you, or for someone else You may like to share some surprises with RANDOM ACTS OF KINDNESS. Smile at someone while walking down the street.

Tell someone something you like about them. Sing something for someone. Pick up some litter that has blown away.

Write something for someone. Take your dog for an extra walk. Contact a friend you haven't seen for a while. Write down three things you enjoyed about today. Cook something for someone. Tidy up a part of the house that no one pays much attention to (you'll know it is better because of you.)

Make something for someone. Thank someone for sharing an idea that you found interesting. Bake something for someone. Learn something new.

Think of more ideas to share.

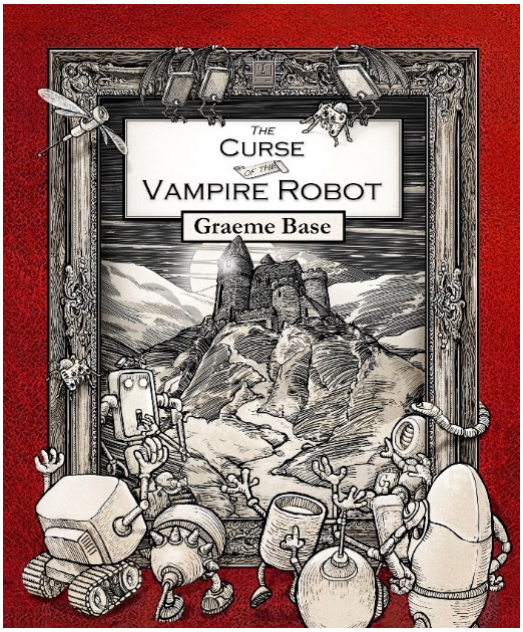
WHATS NEW in even more new books?

THE CURSE OF THE VAMPIRE ROBOT - GRAEME BASE Harper Collins Au

When I was in high school, I discovered the fantastic etchings and woodcuts of Albrecht Dürer. I loved the incredible detail of his work and the often-imaginary scenes and creatures he created.

Around the same time, I was, like many people, exposed to the schlock-horror world of Dracula and vampire mythology.

Many years later, when personal computers first appeared on the scene they came with by a whole new language: 'computerspeak', made up of acronyms, new terminology and other jargon.



In *The Curse of the Vampire Robot*, (Harper Collins Au) I have mashed together these three influences, blending real and imaginary worlds with a cast of robovampire characters.

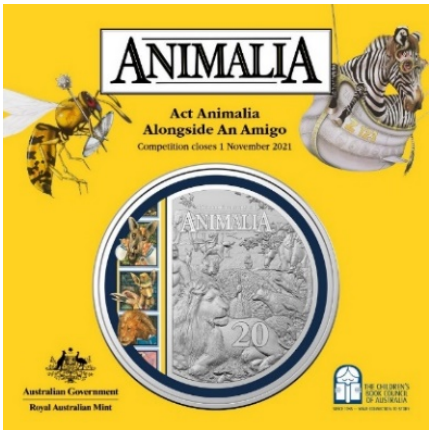
I decided to write the text in verse because it is a form I really enjoy – there's an inbuilt charm and humour – following a common vampire story theme but using heaps of words from the world of computers.

It was only at the last minute I realised the tale would have to be set in the Scottish Highlands – where else would you find Mac computers?

Ha-ha! - Graeme Base 2021

ANIMALIA COIN COMPETITION

https://cbca.org.au/news/animalia-coin-competition

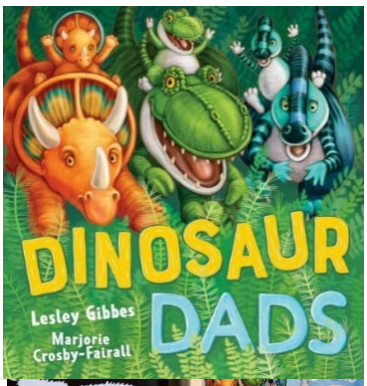


To celebrate the 35th Anniversary of Animalia, the CBCA in partnership with the Royal Australian Mint are inviting classrooms and families from across Australia to participate in a competition for the chance to win Animalia Library Bags with a 35th Anniversary of Animalia Coin inside.

Click **HERE** to watch a video of **Graeme Base** talking about Animalia and the 35th Anniversary of Animalia Coin.
For competition details and the entry form, click **HERE**

SIMILAR BUT DIFFERENT - THERE ARE NEVER ENOUGH DINOSAURS. . .

READ and ROAR



Dinosaur Dads (Scholastic)

Lesley Gibbes https://lesleygibbes.com/

and **Marjorie Crosby-Fairall,** Illustrator

https://www.crosby-fairall.com/books

The dino kids are bored and grumpy until their dads take them out on a romping, stomping dinosaur adventure. There are mud fights, piggyback rides, running races and splashing fun in the stream.

The more dinosaurs the merrier.
So why dinosaur characters?
When I was little my dad looked as big as a dinosaur and as strong as one too so of course the characters in a book all about dads just had to be dinosaurs! LG

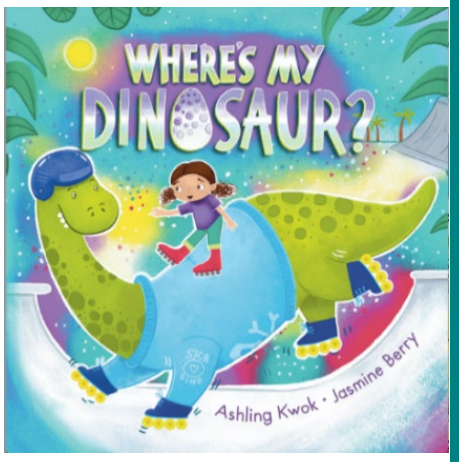
Lesley Gibbes MarjorieCrosby-Fairall

Make a dinosaur with Marjorie https://www.crosby-fairall.com/activities

Where's My Dinosaur? (Yellow Brick Books)

Ashling Kwok https://www.ashlingkwok.com.au/

and **Jasmine Berry**, Illustrator https://jasmineberryart.com/my-books/



There's something growing in mummy's tummy. Could it be a rabbit, a puppy or a bear? Maybe it's a dinosaur. Riley's always wanted a dinosaur! Follow the hilarious adventures of a little girl who never gives up hope. Will she achieve her dream of owning a dinosaur or will she discover something even more special hiding in her mummy's tummy? [Publication date 30 Sept. 2021]

I think children love dinosaurs because they are strong and powerful, unlike kids who often feel small and powerless in our society. Pretending to be a dinosaur or carrying a toy dinosaur around in public helps children feel safe and protected in an unfamiliar world. Dinosaurs also get to stomp and growl and roar and do naughty things without facing any consequences - something children would love to be able to do!" AK

ALLEN AND UNWIN BOOK FOR REVIEW

Find some time.
Find a book.
Find a new character.

Find some special events
https://australiareads.org.au/events/

Find some suggestions to read.

https://australiareads.org.au/school-kids/

Be a reader with the rest of Australia on

TUESDAY September 14

While we don't really need an excuse like CBCA BOOK WEEK, to celebrate reading, every year when it comes around, there are endless possibilities to read write and think about it with activities, ideas and excitement to be involved. Shaun Tan's designs have combined all these possibilities to create a truly unique environment of possibilities with this year's theme – ***Old Worlds, New Worlds, Other Worlds*** - full of unique characters and creatures. These different worlds are always part of who we are.

Reading and imagination continue. Ideas are already emerging about CBCA Book Week for 2021 with the theme:

Happy Reading always. Cheers- Morrie and Jackie

This issue of **KC** was compiled by Jackie Hawkes with the help of lots of people who LOVE reading, writing and thinking. Your ideas for ***KIDS' CORNER*** are always welcome. Please contact Jackie – jackie.hawkes7@gmail .com