



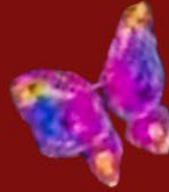
Kids' Corner

Jan/Feb 2024

Volume 8 No.1

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What does Mel Maze see?

**NEW
YEAR
PERSPECTIVES**

on

- ENVIRONMENT
- HISTORY
- LIBRARIES
- STORIES



© TONI CARY 2024 Illustrations



WELCOME to **KIDS' CORNER**

for February 2024

Join our amazing

GUEST ILLUSTRATOR

TONI CARY

<https://www.alcheringaartist.com.au/books/>

<https://www.facebook.com/kidzbooksBltoni/>



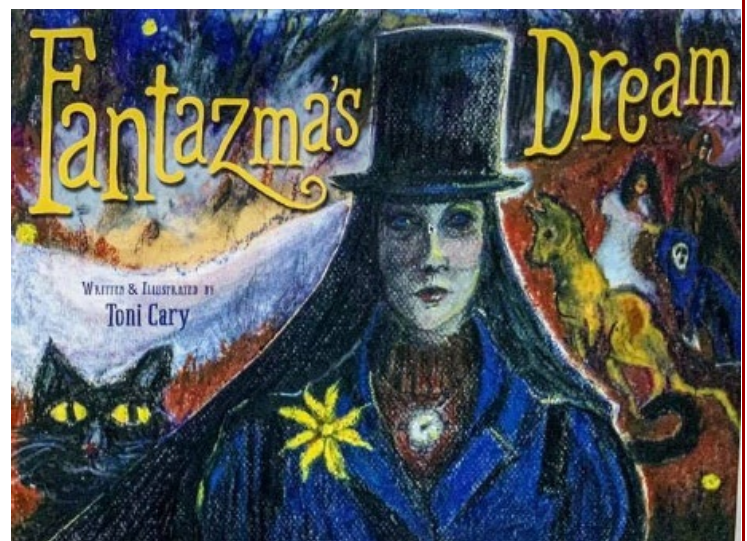
Toni's new graphic novel, *Where Iz Dorothy Oz?* starts our year with unique perspectives of futures to share.



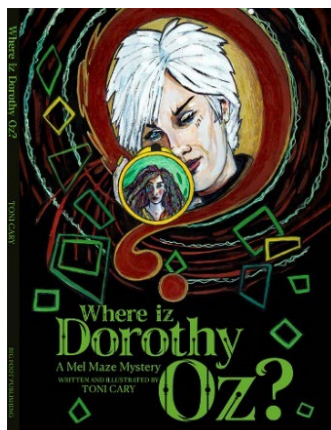
I have been creating children's and young adult books since establishing myself in 2017 as the **Alcheringa Artist**, with the publication of my **Alcheringa Series**. All illustrations in this series were specially photographed by the National Gallery of Australia. This series is narrated by Francine, the Pyrenean Mountain Dog. Francine takes her wildlife friends from the Snowy Mountains of New South Wales across the Monaro, on many wonderful adventures through four distinct seasons in those regions. This 4-book series is very popular across all age groups. It has been rendered in soft pastel and art pen.

My next book, *Fantazma's Dream*,
Little Steps Publishing

www.littlesteps.com.au begins with a long rhyming poem that takes readers on a journey through a spooky countryside "along the road to NOTHINGNESS . . . past the Lake of Dream... to Ghastly's guesthouse. There, a magical ghost named **Fantazma**, flies the children, as avatars, through a dark garden and into a portal of space and time, where they are transported through the Solar System on a Steampunk red rocket bike. This story teaches children about our Solar System and introduces them to astronomy by way of a glossary at the back of the book. It is rendered with oil, pastel, charcoal and art pens.



My background as an artist, means that while my books accentuate the artwork, the words are of equal importance.



My latest venture, *Where iz Dorothy Oz*, is within the Young Adult sector. The story involves a group of friends who go to different dimensions and places in the universe. In the beginning, I wrote this Science-Fiction Adventure story as a chapter book. However, I changed my mind, (as author's often do!). I decided that the story would have much more impact as a graphic novel, with its large amount of action and many imaginative inter-dimensional creatures to draw.

I also decided to make this the *Mel Maze Mystery Trilogy* instead of a stand-alone novel. Book Two, *The Shimmer Zone* will be available later this year. Book Three, *Into the Penumbra* will to be released in 2025.

I am using Portuguese Chalk poster paint, art pens and paint pens. It takes me at least one year to complete each graphic novel.

Each book will contain around 100 pages with detailed illustrations which are all hand drawn and hand painted in comic format. In choosing which illustration to adapt for the cover of *KIDS' CORNER*, I decided to focus on Mel as a major character. And then decide what other aspects of the story to include as detail. I added the butterflies which are definitely part of the story. They are part of the tattoo on Dorothy's cheek. (In 2101, all humans have an identifying tattoo). At Grimtown, the purple butterflies are actually searching for Dorothy, so they are following Olli and his entourage until they find her.

The story of the "quest of a lifetime" begins here. And continues as part of the *Mel Maze Mystery Trilogy*. Whether I create a book for a child or a young adult aged 15, my purpose is to offer my readers a unique story, a unique set of artistic illustrations rendered totally by hand, to educate and titillate their imagination, thereby offering a high-quality, incomparable experience which will long be remembered.

Where iz Dorothy Oz? (Big Foot Publishing) by Toni Cary www.alcheringaartist.com.au

The main ordering "engine" is through the website and email system. www.alcheringaartist.com.au

Orders <https://www.alcheringaartist.com.au/books/>

WELCOME TO 2024 –

**A NEW YEAR WITH NEW PERSPECTIVES
from the past, the present and the future.**



Imagine the future...

Care for country and the environment ...

Develop creativity...

Celebrate all Australians...

Shape Australia with ideas and stories...

Grow ideas with our libraries...

Share your story...

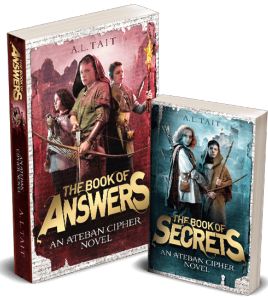


NEW YEAR, NEW TALENTS...



A new year brings new possibilities for everyone to develop unique new interests, talents and imaginings to shape our world.

Allison Tait (aka A. L. Tait) is the author of nine middle-grade novels, three non-fiction books for adults, and two ghost-written memoirs. Always an avid reader, she decided to 'have a crack' at writing her own novel when she was 25, just to see if she could. Turns out, she could.



DEVELOPING CREATIVITY

with ALLISON TAIT

<https://allisontait.com/>



Do you think of yourself as a creative person?

If you do, congratulations – but the truth is that most of us don't.

If you'd asked me when I was ten years old if I was 'creative', I'd have shaken my head. I'm terrible at drawing and art, and, while I was good at English, I didn't start writing books at the age of seven like some of my friends did.

And yet, here I am, working as an author, creating entire worlds and characters in my head, making stuff up for a living.

So, how did I get here?

I learned three important lessons – and I'm going to share them with you so you can be more creative in 2024.

I learned what creativity actually looks like.

Like most kids, I thought creativity was something that was dropped upon you from the sky. That you're a person who can write, draw, paint, dance, sing, imagine – or you're not.

The truth is, we're all creative, it's just that some of us recognise it earlier than others.

Creativity isn't loud. It isn't necessarily about being good at art, or music, or with words. Creativity is about the way you think. It's about how you spot ideas. And, most importantly, it's about what you do with those ideas when you have them.

Creativity is hard work.

Somehow, somewhere, the idea got out there that creativity is easy – and if it isn't effortless, well, then, you're just not creative.

One thing I've learned over many years is that creativity is hard work. It's about persistence, failure, and resilience. It's also about planning, routine and showing up.

Every time I write a novel, I write a first draft. This draft is just for me, so I can feel my way through and find out what the story is. It is not even close to perfect.

What makes my novels good (you should definitely read one) is not that draft, or the second draft, or the third draft. It might be the fifth draft.

Creativity isn't about getting it right the first time. It's about having the courage to try again.

Creativity requires resources.

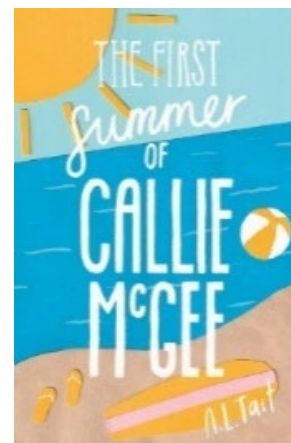
As a writer, the very best resources that I have are words. I draw on the mountain of books I've read (thousands and thousands) every time I write my own.

Words In equals Words Out.


You can do this too. Every book you read gives you fresh tools for your own writing. Read everything you can get your hands on – fiction, non-fiction, graphic novels, cereal boxes – and your creativity will flourish.

Here's a bonus ... Allison writes adventure, mystery, history, fantasy flavoured books that you really can't resist.

To keep her "creativity" busy, her new book, **The First Summer of Callie McGee** (Scholastic Australia) *heads off in a slightly different direction* and delivers a mystery about growing up, figuring things out and solving the puzzle of who you are. Find out more at allisontait.com



RESOLUTIONS and PLANS - Ideas for GETTING STARTED

RESOLUTIONS say: "you MUST "	Resolutions are different from plans	PLANS ask: HOW will you go about doing this?
Perfection may not be possible.	Any progress is progress.	PROGRESS always makes things BETTER .
Changing everything may not be possible.	Start by changing just a few parts of any big idea.	SOME things can definitely change.
NO one knows EVERYTHING .	Ask other people to help you learn something NEW .	EVERYONE knows SOMETHING
What do you know NOW ?	Keep track of how your abilities or interests CHANGE .	What would you like to learn?
Start with something you know and make it better.	START/ CHANGE / IMPROVE	CREATE! 



Australia Day

Reflect. Respect. Celebrate.

AUSTRALIANS – WE’RE ALL FROM EVERYWHERE...

Australia Day is a time to:

- reflect on what it means to be Australian,
- celebrate contemporary Australia,
- acknowledge our history, and
- recognise the contribution that every Australian makes to our nation.

Australians identify as being a nation made up of people from many countries, cultures and histories. This includes everyone from our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people who have been here for more than 65,000 years, to those who have lived here for generations, to those who have come from all corners of the globe to call our country home.

Adapted from Australia Day 2024 <https://www.australiaday.org.au/about>



Image *First Nations at first light* - <https://www.australiaday.com.au/whats-on/dawn-reflection/>

FIRST NATIONS AT FIRST LIGHT ...

As the sun rose on Australia Day, the sails of the Sydney Opera House were illuminated with a spectacular Aboriginal artwork, honouring the nation’s Traditional Custodians.

The work, titled *Trailblazers* was designed by Aboriginal digital artist Brett Leavy and features Nanbarry, Barangaroo, Pemulwuy, and Patyegarang as four significant First Nations heroes who once shaped the landscape around Sydney Cove (Warrane) during the 18th century. The ***Dawn Reflection*** has become a meaningful tradition acknowledgement to the remarkable contributions of Australia’s first peoples at the first light of our national day.



Nanbarry



Barangaroo



Pemulwuy



Patyegarang

(Adapted from <https://www.australiaday.com.au/whats-on/dawn-reflection/>)

MEET OUR YOUNG AUSTRALIANS OF THE YEAR

They are some of the inspiring 16-30-year-olds who are making a difference for an Australian future.

See all the nominees <https://australianoftheyear.org.au/> And hear their stories.

(with thanks to ABC Australia <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oRm7d4LzQeY>)



Australian
of the Year
Awards

Reflect. Respect. Celebrate.

Since its inception in 1960, the Australian of the Year Awards have provided a focal point for Australia Day celebrations and a forum for the recognition of outstanding achievement.

What would make Australia a better place for Young Australians?

What interests do you have?

What talent would you like to develop?

Who can help you?

What have you helped someone learn to do?



CAITLIN FIGUEIREDO is the co-chair, Australian Youth Affairs Coalition. She works to bring young people's voices into parliament through a national youth advisory council.

Australian Capital Territory



HIL AUTAR has undergone chemotherapy, bone marrow transplants, open heart surgery and survives a life-threatening chronic illness. He is a researcher and founder of Bheem Health which provides low-cost medical devices for sick and vulnerable people.

New South Wales



PETER SUSANTO – At the age of two Peter began translating words from Bahasa Indonesia into English. In 2022, at the age of 15, he began training for a career in medicine. He applies his intellect to a range of work and research as a community volunteer.

Northern Territory



EMMA MCKEON AM

As the most successful Australian Olympian of all time, Emma is the second woman in history to win seven medals in a single Olympics. She supports and encourages other young people to achieve their goals.

Queensland



TIAHNI ADAMSON

As a wildlife conservation biologist, Tiahni is involved in incorporating Indigenous knowledge in sustainable climate change solutions for a changing world.

South Australia



NAARAH

Naarah is an actor, musician and First Nations activist. She promotes diversity, development of identity and involvement by young Indigenous people in the arts and fields of the entertainment.

Tasmania



BHAKTAI BAHADUR

Bhanktai is a registered nurse who advocates for and showcases multicultural communities by organizing help during difficult times.

Victoria



KATE KIRWIN

Kate is the founder of She Codes Australia. She supports and promotes programs that involve girls and women in learning about and working in the fields of coding.

Western Australia





CARING FOR COUNTRY WITH VICTOR STEFFENSEN

As the year unfolds with yet another summer threatened by extreme weather conditions, concerns for the Australian environment with the possibility of bushfires on one hand and floods on the other, are in our thoughts.

For centuries, First Nations people have learned about and shared invaluable knowledge and practices about how to care for our Australian ecosystems.



Victor Steffensen is an Indigenous writer, filmmaker, musician and consultant with a wealth of traditional knowledge about Aboriginal practices and culture. Much of his work over the past 27 years has been based on the *arts and reviving traditional knowledge values – particularly traditional burning*. **Victor** is a co-founder of *Firesticks* <https://www.firesticks.org.au/> an Indigenous-led organisation that aims to re-invigorate the use of cultural burning.

Two of Victor's latest books share valuable ideas with us about how to care for the environment.

<https://www.hardiegrant.com/au/publishing/bookfinder/author/victor-steffensen>.

Remarkable artworks by **Sandra Steffensen** bring the landscapes of Australia to life.

Looking After Country with Fire: Aboriginal Burning Knowledge with Uncle Kuu. (Hardie Grant Explore)
by **Victor Steffensen**
with **Sandra Steffensen**, Illustrator

This book was awarded the **2023 Karajia Environment award for Children's Literature**.

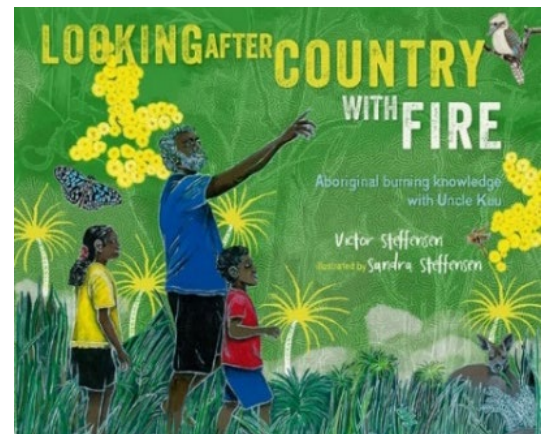
<https://www.wilderness.org.au/environment-award-for-childrens-literature>

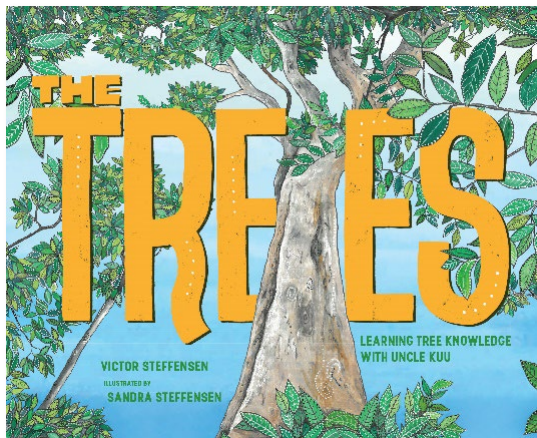
The book focuses our attention on reviving Indigenous knowledge and practices to help care for the environment, particularly the use of “cool fire” to prevent the devastation of the lands through bush fires.

“Join Uncle Kuu as he takes us out on Country and explains cultural burning. Featuring stunning artwork by Sandra Steffensen, this is a powerful and timely story of understanding Australia's ecosystems through Indigenous fire management, and a respectful way forward for future generations to help manage our landscapes.

At the back of the book, you will also find lyrics to a song written by Victor with the same title, 'Looking After Country with Fire'.

<https://www.hardiegrant.com/au/publishing/bookfinder/book/looking-after-country-with-fire-by-victor-steffensen/9781741177824>





The Trees: Learning Tree Knowledge with Uncle Kuu.

(Hardie Grant Explore)

by **Victor Steffensen**, with **Sandra Steffensen**,
Illustrator.

“The Trees helps us understand how to care for Country and respect Indigenous knowledge. Looking after the trees is

important for keeping Country happy and healthy. First Nations People have cared for the trees on Country for thousands of years. In return, the trees look after the people and provide them with gifts of seeds, flowers, wood and more. This creates the balance between giving and taking from the land.”

<https://www.hardiegrant.com/au/publishing/bookfinder/book/the-trees-by-victor-steffensen/9781741178876>

Victor shares some of his background and involvement in caring for Country.

How and why did you become interested in traditional ways of caring for the environment?

I have always had a deep passion for traditional knowledge from a young teenager so I learnt as much as I could from Elders and friends. It is all about the language of the land and how we connect with Country and a big part of that is the knowledge of caring for the Earth and ourselves.

What should people know about fires?

Everyone should know that fire is a part of caring for the land and that Aboriginal people have been doing cultural burning for thousands of years. People need to know that there is a lot of knowledge involved and that it is a safe practice where the fire is cool and our friend.

Why are Indigenous practices of cultural burning more effective in dealing with bushfires than other methods that are sometimes used?

Aboriginal fire practices are so effective because you are working with the land and burning in places that need to fire at different times. It involves burning more often throughout the year to ensure a mosaic pattern where we only burn the right country that needs fire and protect places that don't need fire.

How did you decide what ideas to include in your books?

When I wrote children's books, I wanted to give the readers a story where they would learn important knowledge about the land and all the different parts that are crucial to understanding the big picture. It gives people a different perspective from what they usually know. It helps them to see that people are a part of the environment and that we have a place in caring for it.



illustration by Sandra Steffensen

How do stories help us connect to the land and our communities?

Storytelling within many cultures is an important way of passing down knowledge and educating the younger generations. Without stories it would be pretty boring when it comes to learning and sparking our imagination. Stories are a fun way to share important messages and even teach us how we need to see the world and what we can do to help or respect certain ways and beings.

What suggestions do you have that each of us could use to become more proactive in caring for the environment?

The best thing we all can do in looking after the environment and each other is to learn as much about the land and waters as possible, especially understanding how indigenous cultures have cared for the Earth for so long and how that is still useful today. The next thing is to help each other to care for the land and to understand that if we do it the right way, everyone will benefit from it into the future.

How do trees help protect the land?

Trees are so important in protecting and nurturing the land in a way that makes it as healthy and plentiful as possible. Without trees we will see a great decline in our natural resources and that is already starting to happen in some places. Not only are they important to keeping our planet healthy but also, they have so many uses and secrets that can help us create a better world if we listen to them closely and the traditional knowledge that people have learnt from them for generations.



The Trees (Hardie Grant Explore) - Illustrations by Sandra Steffensen

“Aboriginal people have looked after trees for thousands of years...In return, trees have looked after people and shared knowledge about food, medicine, other plants, homes for animals, changes in seasons, tools and more.”

Adapted from *The Trees* (Hardie Grant Explore)



The POWER of poetry and stories

COUNTRY TOWN

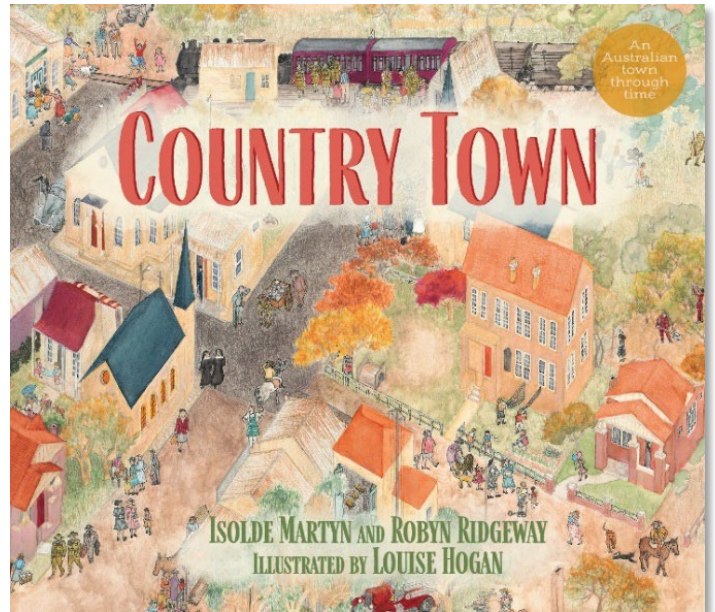
Ford Street Publishing

was created by **Isolde Martyn** Author
Robyn Ridgeway Author and Poet
and **Louise Hogan** Illustrator

Each member of the team contributed different aspects of the story through language, poetry, and illustrations.

Further links:

fordstreetpublishing.com
creativenetspeakers.com
paulcollins.com.au



Country Town provides a decade-by-decade journey through history showing how a particular part of Australian countryside and its inhabitants have changed from pre-settlement to modern times.

Each of the focus illustrations highlights that same small section of land and reveals the changes that occur over time, decade by decade as the story of that land and the daily life of the people that inhabit it unfolds.

ISOLDE MARTYN

Author



We're honoured that **Country Town** is being featured in this special edition of **KIDS' CORNER** when people in Australia are thinking how best to handle the past. It's not easy to find the right balance in looking back, but through the co-operation between the three of us in creating the book, we hope we managed to achieve it.

Our picture book is the story of an imaginary inland Australian town as it grows decade-by-decade. It begins by showing a First Nation Camp by a river crossing. The text for that page was by far the most challenging. It needed to be evocative and alive, and whereas the text elsewhere could draw on contemporary sources - the written word - this definitely couldn't.

Because the story of the First Nations People is a spoken one, handed down from generation to generation, that's what we needed to convey somehow, and that's when our First Nations co-author, Robyn Ridgeway, decided

a poem was the answer. She created a voice for one of the children in the picture, and just like songs can express feeling so vividly, the boy's words conveyed his one-ness with Country and his clan, as well as a hairs-on-the-back-of-your-neck sense of change that opens up the rest of the book.

We handled the text about the Stolen Generation in two ways: in a contemporary mention in a newspaper and then from a modern perspective with Robyn summing up the feeling of trauma and sadness about the past felt by many First Nations People today.

In looking through the illustrations for Country Town, a highly respected elder commented that he could see how the pictures showed the local mob being gradually removed from the town but in the final spread he could see they were back in the community. We are glad he felt that. We tried to end our story with a sense of pulling together and a very positive note. We also hope it reflects the harmony and enthusiasm the three of us felt working together.

ROBYN RIDGEWAY

Author and poet



Poetry is an artform that many people don't quite understand.

Once you get a feel for it, the words can tell you a huge story in very few words. What I like about poetry is that each time you read a poem you take from it what you need.

Isolde initially contacted me because she needed an Aboriginal perspective within the book, and I was happy to get involved. I can't remember who suggested I write a poem for the beginning of the book, but I believe it worked. It spoke of the past and its simplicity, of how the boys and young men would spend time with the Elders sitting around the fire, listening, and learning. Most importantly it spoke of the sense of change coming and that there would no going back. I think

the poem sets the scene for the book very well. And provides a lead in to thinking about the context of the story.

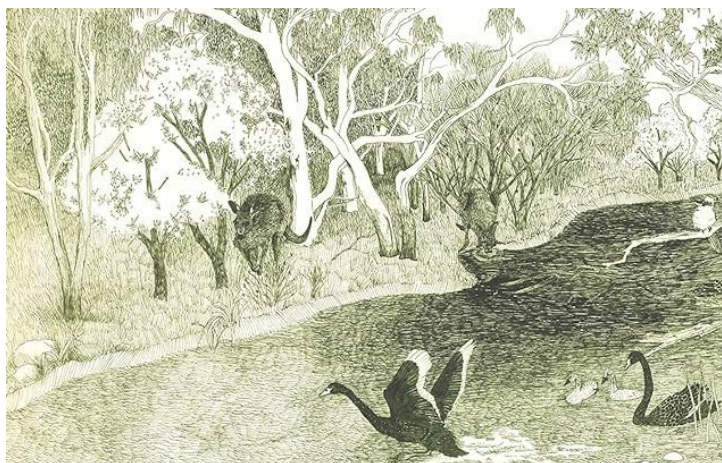
Country Town was written for primary school children, grades 4 and up. It's a story of the history of our country and how it developed over time. But! - And this is most important - it is written for this age group. It gives enough information so that they know what happened without going too far into the issues of the time. They will learn more about the issues as they get older. This book can be used as a starting point.

The poem sets the scene very well for the story and the history to unfold. It provides a special context and leads into thinking about many aspects of the overall story. The book finishes, but the story continues.

River Camp 1822

Robyn Ridgeway

It's warm sitting by the fire.
The sun on my back, my shoulders
Old Uncle talking up big about the past
Telling us stories of how we came to be.
Stories that'd teach us how to be men
How to follow our lore
How to keep the bush safe, the animal too
So, there'll always be plenty to eat.



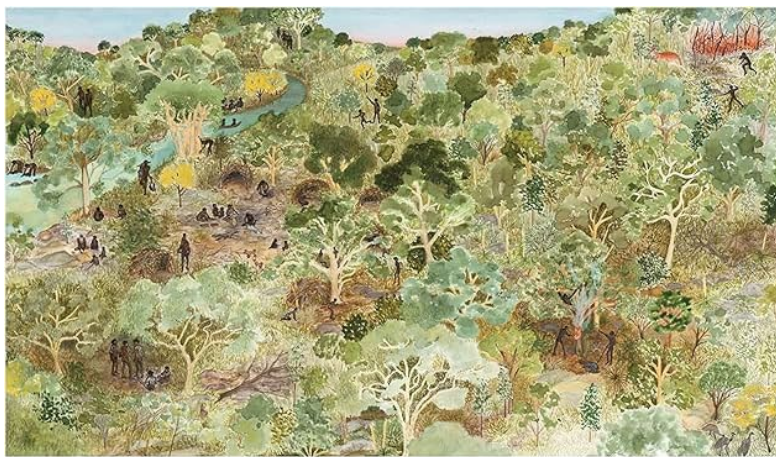
I close my eyes as I listen to Uncle speak
His voice soft, peaceful, it speaks of home, of belonging
Makes me feel safe here by the fire with him and the others.
All the boys like me craving to learn so we can be hunters one day too.

We're grounded here in this land, my people and me.
We belong here, like Uncle says, we come from the earth.
And the river is part of us, it gives us food and play.

I sit and listen to the sounds of the day
The birds, a fish jumping to the surface only to be caught by a bird of prey.
I can feel the winds of change ever so slightly-
A shiver runs up my spine and I turn my face from the fire, from the river.
I look towards the bush and suddenly there's a hush, a silence.
A strange fear comes over me.

My life is one of peace, of family of learning
Of gently teasing and play
Of camp sessions with my Elders like old Uncle
Each day a day to look forward to
And yet I have this feeling deep in my heart
hurting trying to tell me something.
Change is coming and not for the best.

Life as I know it,
my home, my Country, my river, my bush
It may all be gone for my people one day.
And that will be a sad day.
That will be like taking a bird and caging it.
It will be alive, but it won't be free.
Part of it would die
A bit at a time.



The poem, **River Camp 1822** was written by Robyn Ridgeway and was originally published in **Country Town** Ford Street Publishing, 2023

LOUISE HOGAN- Illustrator

This was a bigger, more challenging book than I had at first imagined. It began to take on a life of its own, revealing more complexity and nuance along the way. I feel very privileged to have been able to work on this project.



We began by imagining an ideal site, with fresh water, animals, plants, trees and some usable land to build shelter and gather together.

I chose a bird's eye perspective so that I could show as much of the town as possible. The viewpoint changes in some of the later illustrations to show the town's expansion.

I hoped to show the subtlety of the Australian bush, in all its shifting moods, with soft yet strong colours.

The artworks show how the country town developed and provide opportunities to visually compare aspects of change over time.

'*River Camp 1822*' [page 6] shows First Nations people going about their daily lives: fishing, hunting, gathering food, cooking, making a canoe and teaching the young, passing down stories of their people.

In '*The Coming of Strangers 1833*' [page 8], we see a sudden disruption to their peaceful lives, with the intrusion of strangers, both confronting and threatening. Joshua Grant has also discovered the land where he would like to build.

The landscape is still untouched, but by '*The First European Settlement 1843*' [page 12], the settlers are moving in and First Nations people have been alienated. Apart from an altercation with the first settler, they have largely disappeared. Many of the following decades show First Nations people mostly absent from the town. When '*Christmas Time 2018*' [page 44] arrives, there has been a gradual re-emergence, after a shifting mood towards reconciliation.

This bustling little town has moved into the 21st century.

Isolde spent many hours researching before we planned the layout of the town. We worked together in as truthful, respectful and sensitive a way as we could, acknowledging the hurt as well as the good. It was invaluable having Robyn's input.



Robyn, Isolde and Louise combined their talents and experiences with writing, poetry, and artworks to create **Country Town**, a unique story of Australian history.



February 14 = Library Lovers' Day – Of course we LOVE LIBRARIES!

LIBRARIES, BOOKS ... AND SO MUCH MORE

*With thanks to the Team at
Tamworth Library*



Tamworth Library has a track record of innovations that make the library space a place of learning and engagement. From the creation of Australia's first public library horticultural seed collection and cake tin collection to the introduction of borrowable STEM Kits that are QR Code linked to learning material, this library has been able to increase its engagement and realise a steady increase in membership over a number of years.

Tamworth is an inland city surrounded by mountain ranges in northern NSW, Australia. With a population of around 45,000 in the city and a further 20,000 in the region, Tamworth's rural/urban mix of population and industries often gives the impression of a large country town rather than the reality of a fast-growing city.

Tamworth City Library is the main library branch of six within the local government area and is also the administrative centre of the Central Northern Regional Library that totals 15 branches across six member councils in the region.

Tamworth Library is a spacious and welcoming library which is inclusive to all. Regular programs and events are popular, which includes our well attended kids' programs. These include story times for our 0–5-year old's, school holiday activities for school aged children and STEM/ robotics for all.

Connective communities, partnerships with service providers and community services are one of the main focal points of the library. This includes becoming a dementia friendly space, a safe haven for homelessness and is inclusive to all. We run programs for a local disability service and host the community for a variety of purposes.

Our book collection, daily newspapers, free computer access, innovative programs and friendly staff are drawcards. We work extensively with the local schools to promote and encourage kids to read and borrow. As a result, we have lots of schools visit us throughout the year to celebrate important days like CBCA Children's Book Week[®]. We are involved in the local teacher librarian meetings and hold teacher events to showcase what the library does.



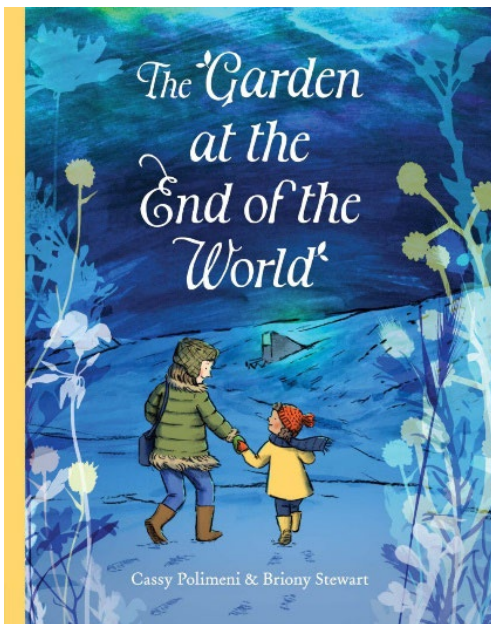
The **seed collection** is a wonderful concept. People donate seeds and then borrowers plant them. If they have any left over, they bring them in, and we package them up for the next batch. It promotes sustainability and simple living.

The **cake tin collection** is amazing.

People can come in and borrow a range of cake tins and cooking aids. Instead of paying money to buy number tins or character tins we offer them for borrowing. This is highly successful and popular.



SEEDS FROM ACROSS THE WORLD ...



The Garden at the End of the World.

**By Cassy Polimenti and Briony Stewart
UQP**

“At the end of the world, halfway between Norway and the North Pole, is an island.

Inside the mountain is a vault. And inside the vault are millions of seeds...”

“Are they magic seeds? Lila asks....”

The story is based on ...

The Svalbard Global Seed Vault in Norway preserves samples of seeds from throughout the world. It is large enough to store samples of 4.5 million seeds.

Although its mission is to keep the world's seeds safe, it isn't meant as a way to reseed the world after a world-scale catastrophe. The collection could, however, assist with replenishing starts of plants in case of disaster. This collection also makes it possible to provide samples of the genetic make-up for research into plants that may no longer be commonly available in the world.

[adapted from Facts About the Global Seed Vault <https://www.livescience.com/56247-global-seed-vault.html>]

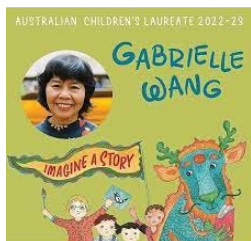
Bits of CBCA Children's Book Week®... 2024 A NEW YEAR – FULL OF MAGIC!

The 2024 CBCA Children's Book Week® theme: **Reading is Magic**, celebrates reading and the amazing power of stories to transport minds. It encourages young people to be curious about the wonders in our world. A good story provokes conversations. Talking about stories with others connects the reader with other readers. Wrapped around all of this are the "tricks" and skills of our amazing writers and illustrators, as they use all their powers of language and illustration to engage the reader in this world they are building.



CHILDREN'S BOOK WEEK® 2024: **Reading is Magic!** Saturday, 17 August to Friday, 23 August 2024 Feature Artist: **Jess Racklyeft**

Watch the **CBCA Children's Book Week® 2024** theme announcement, with this year's featured artist, **Jess Racklyeft** on [Youtube](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kMokHCyJsik) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kMokHCyJsik>
The new year has started with plenty of new stories already in our books and in our lives with more coming. Some quick reminders:



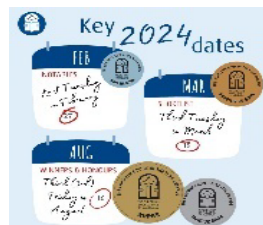
To the **Australian Children's Laureate Team**

Thank you to **Gabrielle Wang**, the 2022-2023 Laureate, who helped us IMAGINE A STORY [in fact MANY!]. Good luck to **Sally Rippin**, the 2024-2025 Laureate who has adopted the theme, **ALL KIDS CAN BE READERS**. <https://www.childrenslaureate.org.au/sally-rippin>



ANNOUNCING SOME OF THE BEST

Enjoy the announcement of
2024 CBCA NOTABLES FEBRUARY 27



Watch for the announcement of the
2024 CBCA Short List MARCH 19

GETTING INVOLVED FEBRUARY 27



Announcing the launch of **SHADOW JUDGING** <https://shadowjudging.cbca.org.au/> and the launch of the **COLLIDE with the Notables Book Trailers competition**.

<https://www.cbcanw.org.au/collide-book-trailers>



This issue of **KIDS' CORNER** was compiled by Jackie Hawkes jackie.hawkesy@gmail.com with the help of LOTS of people who love **READING, WRITING, THINKING** and **CREATING**. Many thanks to all readers and creators who help us develop **New Perspectives and Stories**. Your ideas are always welcome with **KIDS' CORNER**



<https://www.cbcanw.org.au/kids-corner>

Happy Reading Always – Cheers- Morrie and Jackie and many more