



# KID'S CORNER

March 2024

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Books and beyond

"News" and the NOTABLES

POWER of poetry

Bits of Book Week

Termites and TAMARRA

All about AUTHORS

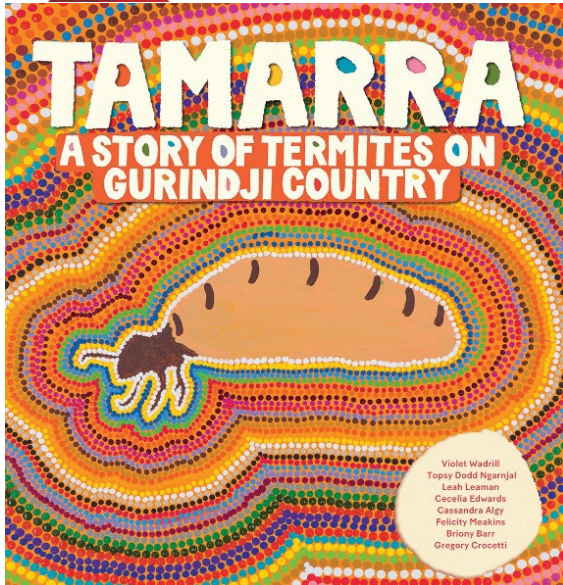
Artwork: Serena Donald







Can termites be beautiful? Absolutely ...especially when over 26 Indigenous artists share their knowledge, their culture, and their talents.



Welcome to the world of

## **TAMARRA:** **A Story of Termites on Gurindji** **Country** Hardie Grant Explore

<https://www.hardiegrantgift.com.au/books/tamarra-9781741178302>

**TAMARRA** was created as a collaboration of over 30 First Nations and non-Indigenous contributors who explored how termites and their mounds connect different parts of Country.

Termites help produce medicine for tiny Gurindji babies and their loving grandmothers, and enable people to utilise the many uses of spiky spinifex plants growing in the hot sun.

The teams' combined knowledge of science, culture, linguistics, history and story created a new kind of storybook. They worked in Gurindji Country 800 km south-west of Darwin.

Three languages tell the story:

**English** is the core language.

**Gurindji Kriol** is a blend used for non- Indigenous knowledge.

**Gurindji** is used for traditional knowledge.

Scanning a QR code allows you to hear these languages.

The book was illustrated by over 26 artists, working independently and in groups over a period of four months. Some artworks were created by individual Gurindji artists, and some were made by groups of artists working together.

One very large painting was made by 10 artists who worked together for over two weeks on a 2 x 3 m piece of linen.

Scan the QR code  
to listen to an audio  
version of *Tamarra*  
in language.



Artists painting the story of collecting bush medicine and termite mound to treat Gurindji babies at Karungkarni Art and Culture Aboriginal Corporation.  
Photo: Briony Barr 2021

Another painting (page 54) was created by Gurindji primary school students with some help from adults. It was made through a series of art-science workshops at the local school. on Gurindji Country.

Gurindji children at Kalkaringi School use Posca pens to draw the microbes in a termite mound.

(Photo: Briony Barr 2021)

Although a lot of artists created the artworks for the book, the artworks are unified through a bright colour palette, the dot style & integrated with figurative elements (e.g.

termites, gut microbes, medicinal plants) which draw on Gurindji knowledge and experience, & ideas from Western science.



Aboriginal people used the deep reds, yellows, white and blacks of clay ochres when painting bark slabs, rock walls, or their bodies for ceremony. Today, Gurindji artists delight in using vivid colour combinations of modern acrylic paints, reflecting the richness of colour found within the surrounding landscape, especially with the growth of wildflowers and fruit following the wet

season.

The book cover illustration is a great example of this. and was created by Mary Smiler and Lucy Tanami. Mary Yaringali Smiler Nangari is the daughter of Gurindji man Smiler Kartarta Jangala who was a *kurrwararn* (clever man). Mary's mother Kijina Vera Wirlingarri Nawurla was the one of daughters of Vincent Lingiari, renowned for his role in leading the Gurindji people to walk off Wave Hill Cattle Station. This event is now celebrated every year in the event Freedom Day which is held in August.

For the **Tamarra** book, Mary chose to paint the queen of the termite colony. Encircled by layer upon layer of colourful dots, the enlarged body of the queen appears to rhythmically expand and contract as she bears the eggs of her young.

Mary Smiler holds the **Tamarra** book at the Kalkaringi launch in 2023 (Photo: Briony Barr)



## FANTASTIC FACTS

- Some termite mounds can be up to 8 metres high.
- Termites create 4 kinds of poo and use it for actual food and for the glue that keeps the mound together.
- A mother termite may lay up to 10,000 eggs per day.



## WELCOME to KIDS' CORNER for MARCH 2024



Morrie is happy to introduce his new friend "MAGIC MORRIE" (adapted by Marion Silk)

He will join us to discover even more about CBCA Children's Book Week® 2024 and why



**Check for these in KIDS' CORNER for MARCH 2024.**



\* **ALL ABOUT AUTHORS** includes ideas about the Author Backpack Project and how to create an author suitcase or back pack.

\* **BITS OF CHILDREN'S BOOK WEEK®** gives us lots to look forward to.

\* **BOOKS AND BEYOND** introduces us to some of the teams of creators who are involved in putting together books, poems and more that keep us reading, writing, thinking, and imagining

\* **THE "NEWS" AND THE NOTABLES** helps us catchup on some brand new books and those that are in the race to become even more Notable.

\* **The POWER of POETRY** gives us poetry the RIGHT WAY UP and DOWN.

\* **TERMITES and TAMARRA** – Thanks to *Serena Donald* for creating her remarkable artwork as the cover background for the KIDS' CORNER March 2024 cover.

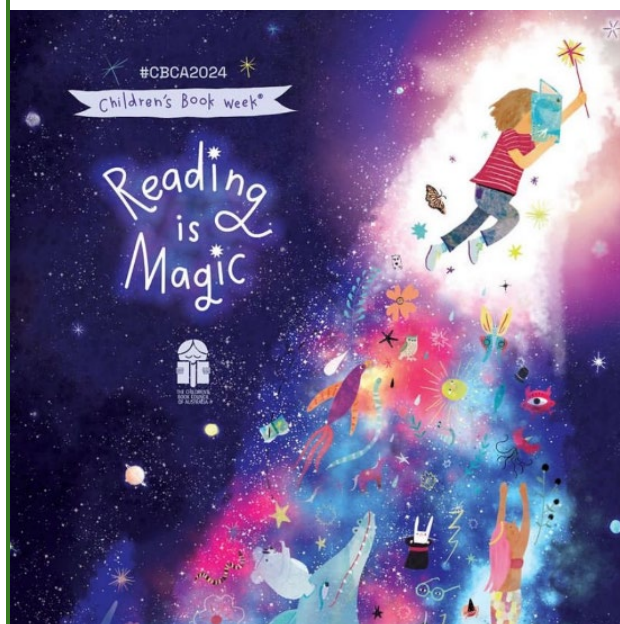
She is part of the **TAMARRA team** of over 20 artists, scientists, linguists and others from *Hardie Grant Explore* who share their unique stories behind their book *Tamarra: a Story of Termites on Gurindji Country - Hardie Grant Explore*.

Thanks to all authors and illustrators for continuing to share their imagination.

Happy reading always.

Cheers- Morrie, Magic Morrie and Jackie [Jackie.hawkes7@gmail.com.au](mailto:Jackie.hawkes7@gmail.com.au)

# BITS of CBCA CHILDREN'S BOOK WEEK® 2024



CBCA

## CHILDREN'S BOOK WEEK® DATES 2024

13 FEBRUARY SUN PROJECT: SHADOW JUDGING BOOK OF THE YEAR PROGRAM OPEN FOR REGISTRATIONS

27 FEBRUARY, 7.00 PM AEDT NOTABLES BOOK OF THE YEAR

19 MARCH 2024, 12.00 PM (NOON) AEDT SHORTLIST BOOK OF THE YEAR

FRIDAY, 16 AUGUST 2024, 12.00 PM (NOON) AEST SUN PROJECT: SHADOW JUDGING BOOK OF THE YEAR WINNERS CBCA BOOK OF THE YEAR HONOUR AND WINNERS

17-23 AUGUST 2024 CHILDREN'S BOOK WEEK®

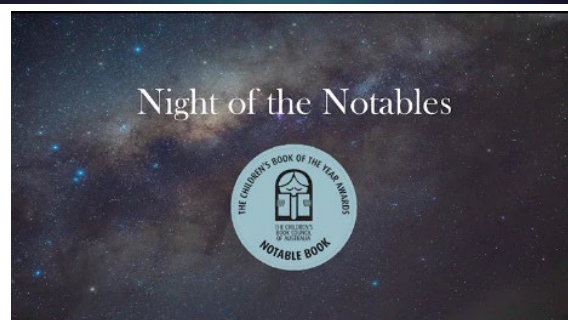
### *Reading is Magic* theme launch video

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kMokHCyJsik>

### Announcing the Notables video

Night of the Notables: CBCA 2024 Book of the Year Awards Notables announcement

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GCWe9UYzPTY>



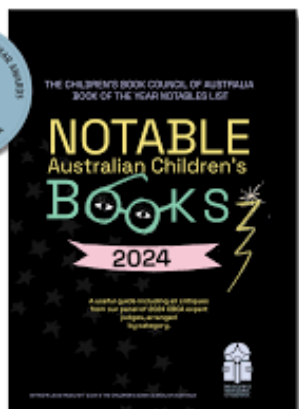
Prepare to be dazzled, it's time to celebrate the 2024 Book of the Year Award Notables

The Notables Lists are the top 20 - 25 titles published in each category throughout 2023, selected from the panel of expert judges across the categories: Older Readers, Younger Readers, Early Childhood, Picture Book, and Non-Fiction and information books (Eve Pownall Award). Sit back and let us welcome the Book of the Year Award Notables!

The **CHILDREN'S BOOK COUNCIL OF AUSTRALIA AWARDS** are for books with an implied readership under the age of eighteen.



**Link to the 2024 NOTABLES with the list and critique comments from the CBCA Judges** <https://cbca.org.au/>



Superb stories for young people are found here. The Children's Book Council of Australia (CBCA) proudly announces their 2024 Book of the Year Notables, a longlist of quality Australian children's literature published throughout 2023.

The CBCA received 656 entries for their 15 expert Judges to assess. The longlist showcases the outstanding work of 118 books, representing 43 publishers, 122 writers, and 72 illustrators. It is a healthy indicator of growth for the industry that the list includes 27 new creators. There are six categories in the CBCA Book of the Year Awards

## 2024 NOTABLE BOOK OF THE YEAR: OLDER READERS



## OLDER READERS



Entries in this category should be books for young people aged between 13 and 18 years (secondary school level). Readers require a degree of maturity to appreciate the themes and scope of emotional involvement. Books in this category may be fiction, drama, illustrated text, poetry or graphic novels.

## 2024 NOTABLE BOOK OF THE YEAR: YOUNGER READERS



### YOUNGER READERS

Entries in this category should be books published for children in the age range from 7 to 12 years (lower to upper primary school level). Books in the category may be fiction, drama, graphic novels, illustrated text or poetry.

**Any Day in March is a good day to read... and what else?**

**MARCH** is full of ideas for

### INTERNATIONAL IDEAS MONTH

<https://www.calendarr.com/australia/international-ideas-month/>



It begins with great stories and great ideas (like yours and others) that shape our world and can make it a better place for everyone. So, get your creativity cap on and think! There are no crazy or stupid ideas this month so jot down all your thoughts and figure out how to share them.

Someone originally thought of toilets, potato chips, understanding germs, how to clean up our world and so much more.

**THINK** – that's a good idea!



## 2024 NOTABLE BOOK OF THE YEAR: PICTURE BOOK



### PICTURE BOOK of the YEAR



Entries in this category should be books of the genre in which the text and illustrations achieve artistic and literary unity and the story, theme or concept is enhanced and unified through the illustrations. A picture book can be written and illustrated by a sole creator or a collaborative effort between two or more creators. The text and illustrations work cohesively. The illustrations are an integral part of or extend the meaning on the page. The age range for this category is 0 to 18 years.

### MARCH is full of ideas

### FOR CLEAN UP AUSTRALIA DAY - MARCH 3

Clean Up Australia Day is an annual event that promotes making a difference to the environment around us, by keeping it clean. It has become the largest community based environmental event in Australia and is supported by the wider community. It happens on the first Sunday in March across Australia and has been going for over 30 years

<http://cleanup.org.au>





## 2024 NOTABLE BOOK OF THE YEAR: EVE POWNALL



### EVE POWNALL



Entries in this category should be books with the prime purpose of documenting factual material. Consideration should be given to imaginative presentation, interpretation and variation of style. This includes works of non-fiction, autobiographies and biographies. This does not include activity books, text etc.

### MARCH is full of ideas

### INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY- MARCH 8

IWD is a global day celebrating the social, economic, cultural and political achievements of women. The day also marks a call to action for accelerating women's equality <http://internationalwomensday.com>

It is a day celebrated around the world and promotes a world that is diverse, equitable and inclusive to all. In some places around the world, IWD is a public holiday.





## 2024 NOTABLE BOOK OF THE YEAR: EARLY CHILDHOOD



### EARLY CHILDHOOD

Entries in this category should be books suitable in content and style for pre and beginning readers for children in the age range 0 to 6 years (pre-school and infant level). This includes works of fiction, poetry, wordless, board and concept books. The illustrations reflect all the text on the page and often do not add extra meaning to the storyline

## MARCH is full of ideas

### FIRST DAY OF RAMADAN – MARCH 10

The first day of the month-long Ramadan begins on the 10th March. It is a very holy and sacred month in which the first verse of the Quran was revealed to the Prophet Muhammad. During Ramadan Muslims abstain from eating and drinking from dawn to sunset and they also perform additional prayers at night.





## CBCA AWARD FOR NEW ILLUSTRATOR

Entries in this category are for books where **the illustrator is emerging or new to the field of children's book illustration**. The entry must be the illustrator's first children's illustrated book published where illustrations form a significant part of the book's narrative. The shortlist for the NEW ILLUSTRATORS is announced on MARCH 19.

## MARCH is full of ideas

### MARCH 14 - PI DAY

Pi Day is celebrated around the world on the 14th March. It is a day dedicated to Pi – which is the ratio of a circles' circumference to its diameter, which is approximately 3.1459. Pi day is an opportunity for math's enthusiasts to recite the infinite digits of Pi and talk to their friends about it.

<http://piday.org>



### MARCH 21 – WORLD POETRY DAY

[WORLD POETRY DAY](#) is hosted by the United Nations Scientific and Cultural Organisation which promotes the advancement of culture through effort, communication, and passion.

[World Poetry Day \(March 21st\) | Days Of The Year](#)

### MARCH 21 – HARMONY DAY

HARMONY DAY is a celebration that recognizes our diversity and brings together Australians from all different backgrounds. It is about inclusiveness, respect and a sense of belonging for everyone.

[Harmony week - Everyone belongs](#)





## NSW PREMIER'S READING CHALLENGE



### 2024 PRC poster created by SAMI BAYLY

Info with thanks to. JADE ARNOLD

The NSW Premier's Reading Challenge is now open!

Have you read an amazing book lately? Make sure you add it to your online reading record – remember students can include books they have read since October last year to their 2024 reading record.

The NSW Premier's Reading Challenge (PRC) is open to all students from Kindergarten to Year 10 in NSW who attend public, non-government or home schools.

To complete the Challenge, students need to read and log 30 books (for K-2 students) or 20 books (for Year 3-10 students) by Friday 23 August 2024 and have it validated by their schools' coordinator. There's a whole world of amazing books to explore – search for your next favourite book on the Student Experience site!

Upcoming Guided Illustration with Sami Bayly

The PRC will be launching an on-demand excursion introducing the PRC with Sami Bayly, the Australian author and illustrator behind the weird and wonderful Illustrated Encyclopedia and How we came to be series.

Sami will join the PRC team to take you through a step-by-step guided illustration of one of the animals from our 2024 PRC poster so you can create your very own artwork! This on-demand excursion will be available at:

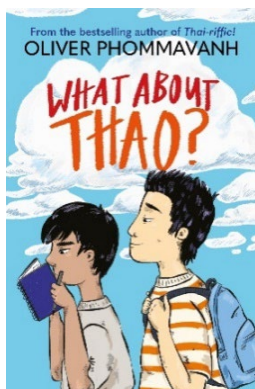
<https://dartlearning.org.au/> - on Friday 29th March.





*Oliver's books are also part of the NSW Premiers' Reading Challenge*

My recent books include:

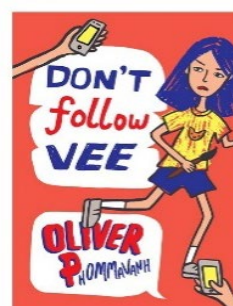
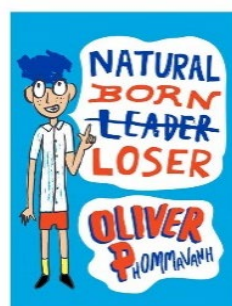
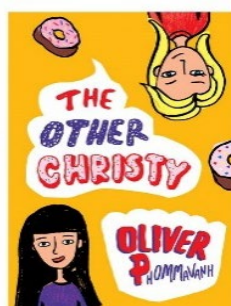
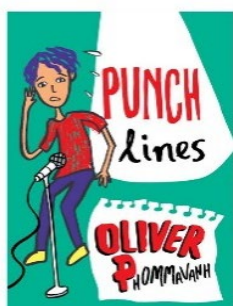
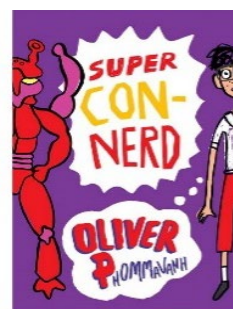
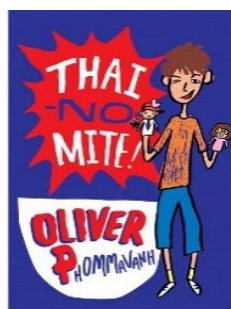


## TRAVELLING AND SHARING BOOKS

### – A NOTE FROM OLIVER PHOMMAVANH

I spend more than half my year visiting schools across Australia and the world. I love making kids laugh and getting them prepared for reading. I also do creative writing workshops with a focus on humour. I also have a Youtube channel where I talk about my books, games and sneakers.

<https://www.youtube.com/@virtualOliverP>



<https://online.det.nsw.edu.au/prc/emag5.html>

## Stories That Travel . . .With Oliver Phommavanh

<https://www.oliverwriter.com/>

A travelling suitcase is basically an author trapped in a bag.

Well, not the actual author, but it's the next best thing, because it's as though an author has popped out of the suitcase to visit your school.

It contains books, a folder filled with notes and the behind the scenes works, as well as videos for kids to connect with the author. The best thing about the suitcase is that there is a journal for kids to write in, and then the authors get to read the feedback and comments.

### What's in the suitcase?

My suitcase contains the usual copies of books, posters, bookmarks, notes and a USB stick filled with exclusive videos. But it also has a few things to showcase my likes and interests. I wanted the kids to actually get to know me, outside of my books. I made sure the suitcase would be different and fun, so it stands out. My actual suitcase is an R2D2, because I love Star Wars. I've included some plush toys, which is something I always bring on my school visits. I also had some video game magazines and comics because I'm a huge nerd. I've also included a wig and mask, so kids can dress up, so they can be the funny characters.



## Follow up activity!

Hey kids, you can make up your own virtual author suitcase.

Pick your favourite **Author** or **Illustrator**.

Imagine that you are going to introduce your friend, class or another school to this author.

What kinds of things would you include in their suitcase?

## How about these suggestions?

- Lists of their books
- Objects that relate to the books or the characters
- Quotes from the author from their website or blogs
- Links to relevant YouTube clips
- Reviews of the books by the kids
- A list of Q and A s for a potential author visit
- Try to find out what your favourite author likes or dislikes. Then, add something that could connect to their own interests.



## SUITCASE/ BACKPACK LIST FOR MY AUTHOR or ILLUSTRATOR

*This suitcase is for* \_\_\_\_\_


Author suitcases originated with CBCA NSW Northern Sydney Regional group. When COVID complications struck, they were forced to abandon their project.



Gina Krohn, teacher librarian at Glenfield PS, has expanded the suitcase idea and created a growing collection of **AUTHOR BACKPACKS**.

Schools, readers, authors and illustrators love connecting and are delighted with this continuing project.



by **GINA KROHN** - Coordinator PLCC Primary Libraries Creative Collaboration

Readers always enjoy connecting with authors and illustrators. Sometimes travelling distance can be complicated. I created the **Backpack Project** in mid-2023 after the **Travelling Suitcase** project closed in Northern Sydney.



The project's aim is to allow primary school readers to access books in multiple ways – the books themselves, using engagement materials such as toys or costumes and with a challenge unique to the backpack created by its author or illustrator. Backpacks also include general information, and, as they travel from school to school, TLs are asked to add their own lesson plans and ideas, continually increasing the value and usefulness of the resource. Feedback from both TLs and students is also encouraged.

*Backpacks ready to go.*

There are 41 creators 'backpacking' with more being invited or asking to join the project. It's very exciting! My first backpacker was Tristan Bancks. I'd approached him when he was a keynote speaker at the 2023 PLCC Advocacy & Action Conference. He readily agreed and I followed him to a Room to Read event that evening attended by Deb Abela, Pip Harry and Sarah Davis. Recruited! Sarah put me in touch with Kate Foster and more creators made contact.

I also invited creators who are popular with my students – they are the audience, after all.

Backpacks can be booked by checking the [Availability](#) page on the **Primary Libraries Creative Collaboration PLCC** site:

<https://sites.google.com/education.nsw.gov.au/tlcc/backpack-project>

and then completing the Google booking form.

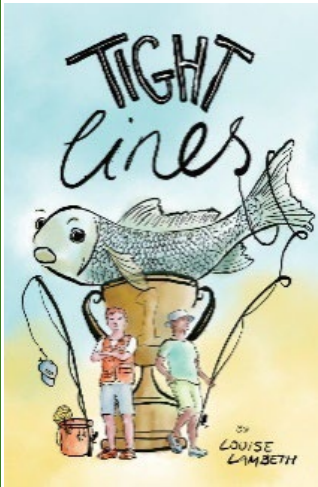
*Contents of Judith Rossell's backpack: a selection of her authored and illustrated books, an 1873 reader, 10 empire pennies, a handmade story dice and more...*





## READ "The NEWS"

– READ on and on and on - with new books



### TIGHT LINES

by Louise Lambeth <https://www.louiselambeth.com/>

Danielle Bluff, Illustrator, Cathie Tasker, Editor

Deep Water Publishing - Safety by Story

Have you ever been sick of injustice? Fed up with the bad guy always seeming to win? Then read on...

Roy is sick of being bullied, so he vows to beat the bully at his own game. He's going to win the fishing competition and take the trophy from him. But first he has to ask his big brother Jack to teach him how to fish.

Tight Lines is a book not just about fishing, it's got adventure, mystery, a rescue, fishy facts and more!



When I was asked to write a book that helped children learn how to be safe when fishing I never imagined the journey I'd take. My first step was to develop the main character Roy and his friends Tommy and Ruthie.

I based the character of the bully, Bryce Stark, on a bull shark, which is aggressive and uses cloudy waters to hide its approach. It even head-butts its prey before attacking.

Just like Roy, I needed to learn to catch a fish and how to clean, scale and gut one, which wasn't as yucky as I thought it would be.

Along the way I found out that fishing is fun.

What's next? There are more water adventures to come.

## CONGRATULATIONS!

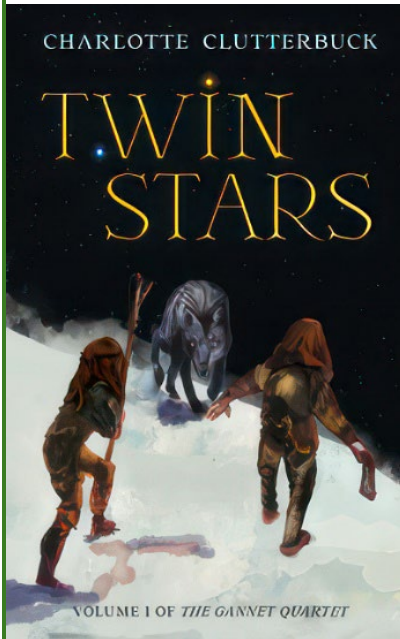
**Louise has been awarded the GOSFORD Local Woman of the Year 2024 for her work in drowning prevention.**





## READ “The NEWS”

– READ on and on and on (with new books)



### **TWIN STARS**

*Volume 1 of the Gannet Quartet*

**CHARLOTTE CLUTTERBUCK**

<https://charlotteclutterbuck.com/>

**MoshPit Publishing 2023**

Thousands of years ago in Stone-age Scotland twins, a brother and a sister, have dreams beyond the Custom of the Beaver Clan. Only by showing outstanding courage can Bhòid become a Hunter. Lamed by a fever, Sulaire fears she can no longer be a Healer.

After injuring the Headman’s son, Bhòid flees to an uninhabited island. Can he survive alone? Can Sulaire heal the Headman’s son? Will the twins see each other again?

As a child, I loved the realistic historical novels of Rosemary Sutcliff and Australian fiction by Joan Phipson and Mary Grant Bruce—books that let me imagine life in distant times and places.

**Twin Stars** is set on the Isle of Bute in Scotland where I lived as a child. Visiting the island in 2018, I wondered who the first settlers were, and the twins sprang into my mind. Their bond has been my guide and I tell the story from their two distinctive points of view.



The character who most surprised me was Athru. As he developed, I had to change his name From the Gaelic for ‘anger’ to the Gaelic for ‘change’!

Charlotte’s books also part of the 2024 NSW Premiers’ Reading Challenge.





## The POWer of Poetry . . .

### **RIGHT WAY DOWN AND OTHER POEMS**

Fremantle Press

With poems chosen by

**SALLY MURPHY**

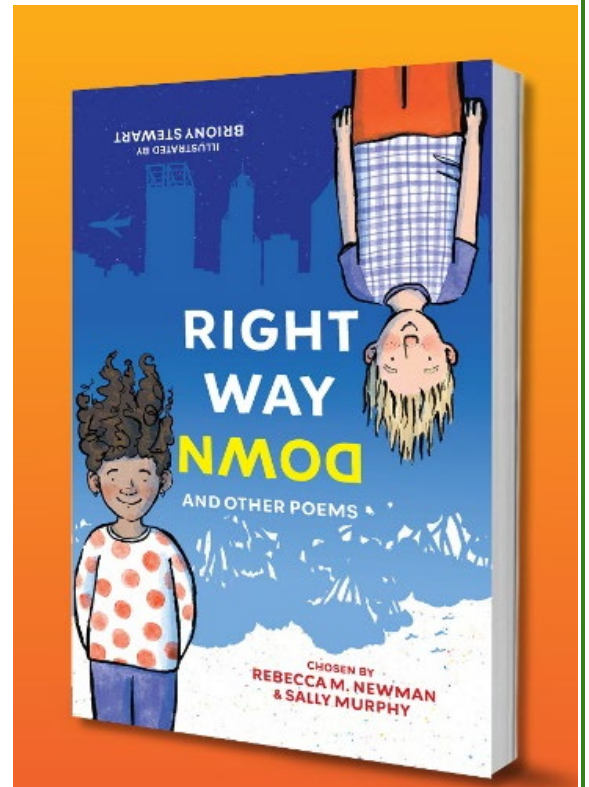
<https://sallymurphy.com.au/>

**REBECCA M NEWMAN**

<https://www.rebeccanewman.net.au/>

**BRIONY STEWART**, Illustrator

<https://www.brionystewart.com/>



*NEW - Pop a poem in your pocket!*

*Sally Murphy and Rebecca M. Newman have assembled a posse of Australian poets for Right Way Down and Other Poems.*

*Stand on your head with Sally Murphy, explode some dynamite with Cristy Burne or shoot some hoops with Cheryl Kickett-Tucker.*

*Grow a poet-tree with Meg McKinlay or curl up next to your cat with Amber Moffat and watch a bit of Stink-o-Vision with James Foley.*

*With striking illustrations by Briony Stewart, these poems will have you laughing, thinking and playing with words — whichever way up you read them.*

*Fremantle Press*





## REBECCA NEWMAN

<https://www.rebeccanewman.net.au/>

### ***What do you like about poetry?***

I like that poetry adds a delicious pause into my everyday rushing about. A thoughtful poem might lead me to stare off into the distance and ponder for a bit. I love when I startle myself by laughing out loud at a funny poem. A piece of wordplay might bring the urge to read it aloud. And I like that poetry can take something familiar or unfamiliar and hold it in time – like a photograph but with words.

### ***What surprises you about words?***

How words can stick with you for a very long time indeed. When I was growing up I was extremely fortunate to go to a primary school that valued learning poetry by heart. Now, forty years later, there are days when I'll come across a street sign or a word in conversation that will cause my brain to suddenly retrieve a poem from the archives. It could be a single line or just the title, but sometimes it's a stanza or the whole poem. I love discovering that I've been carrying a little poem gem around with me all that time and I get to enjoy it all over again.

## SALLY MURPHY

<https://sallymurphy.com.au/>

### ***What do you like about poetry?***

Everything! I love that poetry is a versatile way to say a lot in a condensed form. Poetry can make you laugh, or cry, or even just get a new perspective on something you thought you already knew well. And it doesn't have to rhyme, or be super serious, or be hard to understand. A good poem is like chocolate – satisfying, but you soon want more. Writing poetry, too, can be really satisfying – from just a few words to a whole page, the poet has lots of choices about how and what they write.



### ***What surprises you about words?***

I am always surprised by the way that even seemingly simple words can be arranged into something which really grips the reader. It isn't always necessary to use complicated words to make an impact.

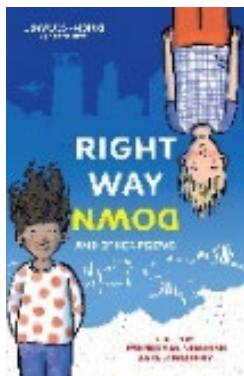


## A Gardener's Guide to Poetry by Meg McKinlay

Why don't you just grow  
a poet-tree? Just plant it  
in the yard  
amidst the banksia and the bees.  
It's simply not that hard  
to grow some poems fresh from seed.  
The only things they really need  
are daily sprays of words and sound,  
a frame to curl themselves around;  
a hidden corner out of sight,  
and every now and then some light.  
(But not too much! Full sun will fry it.  
A poet tree needs shade and quiet.)  
And put those secateurs away!  
You mustn't prune but let them stay  
those tender shoots that spiral out;  
from any one a poem may sprout.  
No telling which, so leave them be  
while they run wild, then wait and see  
and one fine day, you'll surely find  
a poem ripening in your mind.  
(Such lumpen fruit, what mottled skin!  
But how else would a poet begin?)  
Why don't you grow  
a poet-tree? Don't say you have  
no seed. You have your strange  
and restless heart and that  
is all you need.



Illustration© by Briony Stewart



Published in **RIGHT WAY DOWN AND OTHER POEMS**.

Chosen by Sally Murphy and Rebecca M Newman, with Briony Stewart, Illustrator.  
Fremantle Press 2024.

The original poem, **A Gardener's Guide to Poetry** © by Meg McKinlay is reproduced by permission of the author.

The illustration © by Briony Stewart, 2024, is reproduced by permission of the Illustrator.





## BRIONY STEWART

<https://www.brionystewart.com/about-me>

**In 50 words: WITH THANKS TO Briony**

<https://www.brionystewart.com/bio>

*"Briony Stewart is the author and illustrator of several award-winning books for children, including the 'Kumiko and the Dragon' series and 'We Love You Magoo' which was a CBCA Early Childhood Honour Book for 2020. Briony lectures on children's literature at university and conducts talks and workshops with children across Australia. She loves live drawing challenges, daydreaming and discussing dragons,*

*bunnies and how to tame lions."*

What does Briony do in her spare time? *Check out her website!*

## MEG MCKINLAY

<https://megmckinlay.com/>

***What is the BEST thing about poetry?***

Poetry gives me fresh eyes on the world. I love the way it invites us to open up creative possibilities to see everyday things in a new way.

***How did you become interested in "words"? What surprises you about words?***

My fascination with words began as a very young child, when my parents read me poetry. I grew up with delicious, delightful mysterious words from famous poets rolling around in my head. I didn't always know what the poems 'meant' but I loved the words – the sound of them, the way they rolled off the tongue, the surprising and unexpected ways they bumped up against each other. I am still surprised by words every day – by their chameleon nature, the way they shift and slide around depending on where you put them. A word is a word, but it is also a whole world.



***Are there any handy hints for creating poetry?***

Throw together some words that don't seem to belong with each other! Words are just like us – they like to hang out with their friends. But when you mix things up and make them sit next to words they haven't met before, things get much more interesting. Poems start to grow. Try cutting a bunch of random words out of old magazines and tip them all out onto a table. Then move them around until something weird and fun starts to happen.

***How do you decide to use "poetry" vs "regular" wording?***

I like to think there's some poetry in all my wording. Even when I'm writing prose, I like to feel that I'm always on the edge of poetry, thinking about the way words sound and fit together. When an idea becomes a poem rather than a story, I feel like I've captured a little snapshot-of an image, rather than taking the reader on a long journey from a beginning to an end.

***Why do you enjoy reading? What do you read in your spare time?***

Reading brings the world to me in new ways, through other people's eyes. I'm more interested in ideas than in the story itself. I like to read things that make me think. I love to read novels, but I always have a book of poetry with me something to dip in and out of in little windows of time.

***Where do ideas for poetry come from?***

Ideas for poetry come from EVERYWHERE! You just have to open your eyes to the world around us, and then grab those funny little thoughts and play with them. That's exactly how I ended up writing "A Gardener's Guide to Poetry". In that tiny little moment when your brain says *Huh. Poetry. Poet tree. Hey, that's kind of funny. Pay attention. Don't brush past it. Stop and roll it around in your mind, let your thoughts start scribbling and see where they take you.*



**MARCH is full of ideas for EVERYTHING!**

**THANKS** to all the readers and creators who share their imagination and stories.

Your ideas always highlight that  
**READING IS MAGIC**

Watch for the announcement  
of the  
**CBCA SHORTLIST – MARCH 19**



**Coming soon – details about:**

**COLLIDE Book Trailer Competition** <https://www.cbcanew.org.au/collide-book-trailers>

**SHADOW JUDGING** [shadowjudging.cbca.org.au](https://shadowjudging.cbca.org.au)

This issue of **KIDS' CORNER** was compiled by Jackie Hawkes [Jackie.hawkes7@gmail.com](mailto:Jackie.hawkes7@gmail.com) with the help of LOTS of people who love reading, writing, thinking and imagining.

**Happy reading always.**

**Your ideas are always welcome.**

**Cheers – MORRIE, MAGIC MORRIE**

**and many more. . .**

