

KIDS' CORNER

September 2023

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Children's Book Week wrap up

Discovering New Illustrators

Asking Ruok

Voting for a better future

Cover illustration by Michelle Pereira

GUEST ILLUSTRATOR:



Welcome to MICHELLE PEREIRA

Instagram handle: @youngpapadum

Folio website:

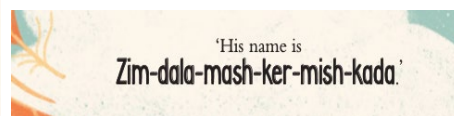
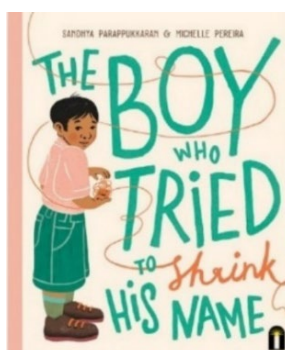
<https://www.jackywinter.com/artists/michelle-pereira>

as our

SEPTEMBER 2023 KIDS' CORNER GUEST ILLUSTRATOR

Michelle is the winner of the
2022 CBCA CHILDREN'S Book Week®
New Illustrator Award for

My name is Zimdalamashkermishkada.



<https://www.jackywinter.com/artists/michelle-pereira>

How did you become interested in art?

I've always loved drawing and painting since I was a little kid, so my interest in art is more of a permanent fixture of my personality than anything else. I like noticing details in the world around me and replicating them in my illustrations. This might sound a little cheesy, but I think creating art is a bridge between myself and the beauty of the physical world around me. It connects me with nature and encourages me to pause and appreciate the little things.



What do you like about reading?

Books are an absolute treasure! I love the feeling of being immersed in a story and seeing new perspectives through written characters. I've learned many lessons in life from the books I've read and find solace in the stories of authors I admire.

How would you describe your artwork and style?

My artwork is usually bright and textural. I like drawing people, so they'll often be the central focus of any illustration. Lately I've been getting into birds (it might be the Spring effect, we have many Wattle birds visiting our garden at this time of year), so I'd like to include more of them in future illustrations.

What surprises you about picture books?

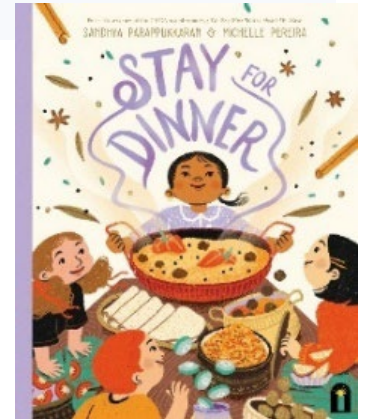
Just how tender and insightful they can be sometimes.

Which comes first - the story or the pictures?

In my case, the story comes first. I'm very lucky to have been paired with the talented author Sandhya Parappukkaran who seems to have so many stories tucked away in her mind! The manuscript is generally finalised by the time it gets to me, but sometimes I'll get a sneak peek at how it's shaping up early on. From there I develop some rough preliminary sketches that involve character designs and loose composition layouts. I work pretty closely with the publisher at this stage to finalise a storyboard (there are many back and forth emails and chats) and from there I knuckle down and draw!

Michelle's latest book is *Stay for Dinner* (Hardie Grant Publishers)

Reshma loves dinnertime with her family. Her family eat with their hands – not just finger food type–eating, but hands-on squishy eating. When she's invited to stay for dinner at her friends' places, she finds out that they all eat in different ways. Some go tinging with their cutlery, and others go click clack with their chopsticks. So, what will her friends say when they see her family eat with their hands? [Michelle Pereira's last two books have been created with Sandhya Parappukkaran.](#)



WELCOME to KC SEPTEMBER 2023

We hope you enjoyed CBCA Children's Book Week® 2023 and are ready to relax and read on and on.

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

has been in a state of constant development with so many great books to READ, GROW and INSPIRE each of us. Thanks to the many authors, illustrators and others who have contributed to **KC** and for your continuing energy and suggestions - **KC** is always "worth waiting for."

September **KIDS' CORNER**:

- *discovers* the CBCA 2023 New Illustrators,
- *wraps up* CBCA Children's Book Week® and gets ready to read some more,
- *asks* RUOK?

- *finds out* about voting for a better future,
- and MORE.

The October issue will continue catching up with more 2023 ideas. Then we look forward to beginning the November / December **BAGS = BOOKS AS GIFTS** issue, which will feature recent and upcoming titles from our CBCA NSW author and illustrator members. Great as we get closer to the "gifting" time of year.



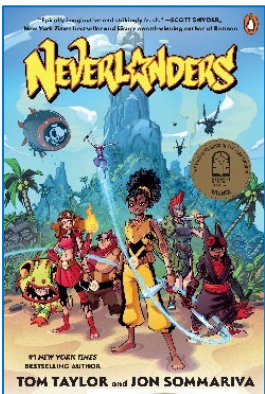
ANNOUNCEMENT of 2023 CBCA BOYA = BOOK OF THE YEAR AWARD WINNERS

[HTTPS://WWW.CBCA.ORG.AU/WINNERS-2023](https://www.cbca.org.au/winners-2023)



2023 CBCA JUDGES' COMMENTS

Read some of the abbreviated comments below that the CBCA judges had to say about some of the books. <https://cbca.org.au/news/2023-book-of-the-year-awards-announced>

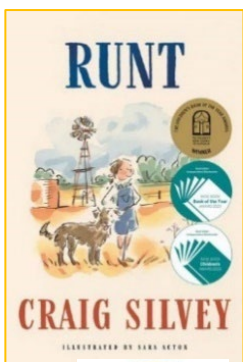


The CBCA Book of the Year: Older Readers

NEVERLANDERS by Tom Taylor

A contemporary "found family" tale embedded within the metatextuality of a Peter Pan narrative with a clever, action-oriented storyline and gloriously rich illustrations. Discerning readers will unpack the hints of the adults' destruction of the world, parental failure, gun violence and domestic violence to add a more serious

dimension to the fantasy plot. A stunning book with a potent message wrapped up in a ripping good yarn package.



The CBCA Book of the Year: Younger Readers

RUNT by Craig Silvey

The plot and characters are presented simply, yet they are complex, strong, witty, and evoke a reflection on life's meaning, purpose and what is truly important. This book is about the struggles of country life but also about community. The use of language and humorously named villains have the

reader cheering for Annie and Runt's success. This delightful story of human spirit, family love and communal support is perfect for the Younger Readers age group.





The CBCA Book of the Year: Early Childhood

WHERE THE LYREBIRD LIVES

by Vikki Conley and Max Hamilton, Illustrator



This book delights and entices from beginning to end. Lush green fills the pages, beautifully capturing the setting of cool climate forests. The sparse descriptive narrative sets a gentle pace and reads aloud well. Readers are encouraged to slow down, listen and look. Metaphors and similes add richness, and the enlarged text for action words and onomatopoeia increases engagement. A well-crafted narrative that encourages children to read aloud themselves.



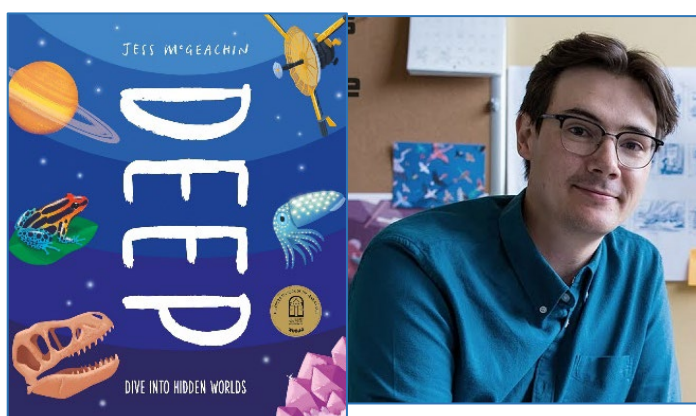
The CBCA Picture Book of the Year MY STRANGE SHRINKING PARENTS

by Zeno Sworder

This book is a celebration and fresh perspective on love and self-denial, which many children of immigrant families may recognise, and for other children should help build empathy. Every part of this book has been



crafted with enormous care. The artwork situates itself within an Eastern aesthetic, while still giving voice to a surreal reality of immigrant life. The metaphor of size is repeated in the images beautifully reflecting the sacrifices the parents have made so that their child can grow up in a new place, with new opportunities.

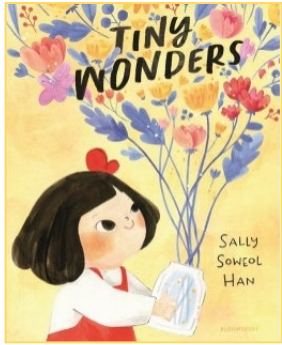


The CBCA Eve Pownall Award

DEEP: DIVE INTO HIDDEN WORLDS **by Jess McGeachin**



This imaginatively presented hardback reference book seamlessly brings together a large variety of information about the unseen elements of earth, sea and land life, outer space and the human body. The integration of text and illustrations is very cleverly managed, and the layout of the content works both as a dip-in-dip-out resource, as well as a read-through narrative. The front cover is incredibly appealing, and overall, this non-stereotypical information book is of a very high quality that will sustain readers' interest throughout.



The CBCA Award for New Illustrator

TINY WONDERS by Sally Soweol Han

The choice of artistic medium is perfect for the topic and intended audience and demonstrates skillful illustrative technique. The visible pencil lines create a sense of life, and the opening page is instantly engaging. Colour is used purposefully and symbolically throughout to portray character, setting, mood and themes of life, vibrancy and nature. There are many different layouts and framings used and images are fully entwined with text. There are life-like depictions of flowers in the information pages at the back and the beautiful endpapers reveal the central message of spreading wishes, joy, and hope for the future.



Watch and READ - COLLIDE BOOK TRAILERS

The **Collide** competition <https://www.cbcanw.org.au/collide-book-trailers> invited children to create a unique and original book trailer featuring a book from the 2023 CBCA Notables list. <https://cbca.org.au/notables-2023>. All up, there were 191 entries across all categories and ages. It took us a long time to decide on the shortlist.

SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR COLLIDE AMBASSADORS AND JUDGES:



TRISTAN BANCKS * DEB ABELA * NATHAN LUFF

THANKS to ROTARY - North Sydney for sponsoring the COLLIDE project.

The winners are:

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

YEARS 3-4 CATEGORY

RUNNER UP - George and Lewis - Gerringong Public School [My Shadow is Purple]
WINNER – Sathvik - Bella Vista PS [Lyrebird]

YEARS 5-6 CATEGORY

RUNNER UP - Charis and Amelia - St Columba Anglican School –[Naturopolis]
WINNER – LUCINDA - Bishop Tyrrell Anglican College - [Frank's Red Hat]

Years 7-9 CATEGORY

RUNNER UP – Evelyn - Hunter Valley Grammar – [Hedgewitch]
WINNER - Samanvi and Joelle - Ex-students Wentworthville PS - [Invisibly Grace]



Ask and care - RUOK?

Some days are better than others. Maybe it's the weather? Maybe it's a "friend" who isn't quite there for you? Maybe it's something you think you overheard? Maybe it's a surprise that catches your emotions a bit off guard? Maybe it's one of those germs that is going around? Maybe there is just too much going on? Maybe your family is a bit complicated. But . . .

YOU can make a difference to someone.
And **THEY** can make a difference to you.



But **HOW** can I help?

- **ASK** if someone actually is "OK".
- **LISTEN** to what they say and how they respond.
- **ENCOURAGE** them to take **ACTION**.
- **CHECK IN** with them to see if things are getting better. Sometimes just talking about an issue helps or if someone may need may help from others.

<https://www.ruok.org.au/>

Ask and care - RUOK?

RUOK?

I'm **here**
to **hear**

The 4 steps of an RUOK? conversation



Ask RUOK?

How are you travelling?



Listen

I'm here to listen if you want to talk more.



Encourage action

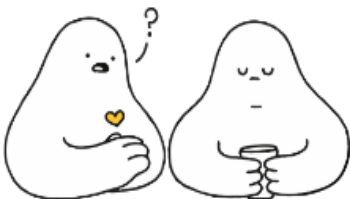
Have you spoken to your doctor about this?



Check in

Just wanted to check in and see how you're doing?

Learn more at [ruok.org.au](https://www.ruok.org.au)



1. Ask



2. Listen



3. Encourage action



4. Check in

Can words
“make my day?”



Every day is a good day to ask yourself and others “RUOK?”

A little caring in anyone’s day can make a difference - sometimes more than we know.

Some hints for a better day can be adapted from books like

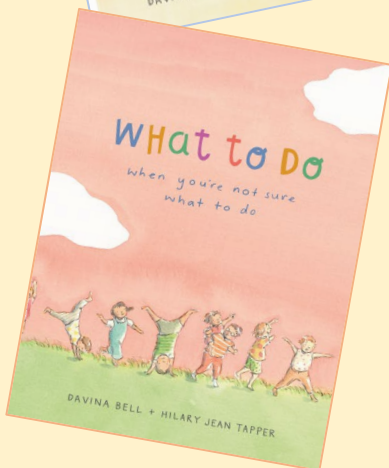
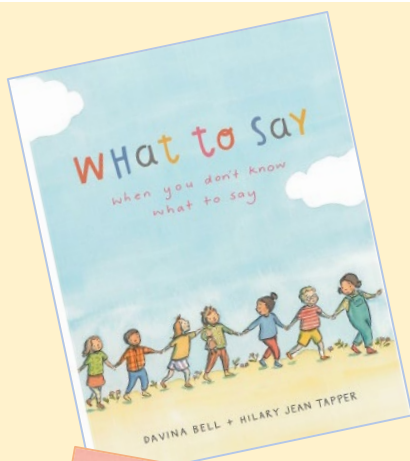
What to do when you’re not sure what to do

AND

It’s okay to not know what to say

by Davina Bell and Hilary Jean Tapper (Lothian).

- *Some things need careful thoughts and gentle words...*
- *Some things need to be left alone...*
- *Some things just take more time...*
- *Sometimes we just need a walk and some fresh air...*
- *It’s okay to want things to change...*
- *It’s okay to ask for help...*
- *How do YOU help share making a better day?*



shadow judging

BOOK OF THE YEAR AWARDS



A SPECIAL PROGRAM WITHIN OUR

SUN PROJECT

illuminating children's literature



The SUN PROJECT WINNERS were selected by groups of young readers, the *Shadow Judges*, who each chose a CBCA Book of the Year shortlist category to explore and to shadow judge. They applied the same criteria as our expert adult judges.

Each group read, discussed and debated before voting on their winner and creatively responded to a chosen book from their category.

Over 220 groups participated across Australia in 2023.

A special thank you to the **Copyright Agency Cultural Fund** for supporting 29 creatives to visit selected groups from regional or lower secondary schools or community groups to share their knowledge of the writing or illustration process.

COPYRIGHT AGENCY
CULTURAL FUND

The **SUN PROJECT** website is bursting with ideas from the teams
<https://shadowjudging.cbca.org.au/about/>

See **READ** <https://shadowjudging.cbca.org.au/read/>
to hear what the shadow judges are saying about the books.

See **RESPONSE** <https://shadowjudging.cbca.org.au/creative-responses/> to discover how the teams responded to their books. This includes videos, collages, objects, game shows, posters, discussions and more.

Announcement of 2023 CBCA Sun Project Winners

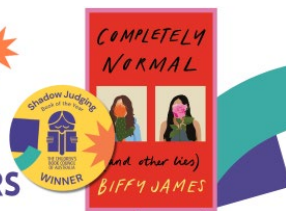
<https://shadowjudging.cbca.org.au/shadows-choice-winners/>

And the SHADOW JUDGES' WINNERS are:



<https://shadowjudging.cbca.org.au/shadows-choice-winners/>

shadow judging
BOOK OF THE YEAR AWARDS
Congratulations Winner!
2023 OLDER READERS



**Completely Normal
and other lies -**
by Biffy James (HGCP)



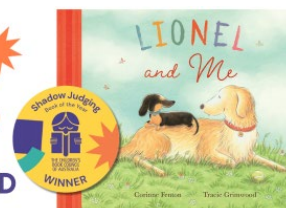
shadow judging
BOOK OF THE YEAR AWARDS
Congratulations Winner!
2023 YOUNGER READERS



August & Jones
by Pip Harry
(Hachette - Lothian)



shadow judging
BOOK OF THE YEAR AWARDS
Congratulations Winner!
2023 EARLY CHILDHOOD



Lionel and Me
by Corrinne Fenton
(New Frontier)



shadow judging
BOOK OF THE YEAR AWARDS
Congratulations Winner!
2023 PICTURE BOOK OF THE YEAR



Frank's Red Hat
by Sean E. Avery
(Walker Books)



shadow judging
BOOK OF THE YEAR AWARDS
Congratulations Winners!
2023 EVE POWNALL AWARD



**Deep: Delve into
Hidden Worlds**
by Jess McGeachin
(Welbeck)



THE PICTURES BEHIND THE STORIES . . .



FEATURING the 2023 CBCA SHORTLIST AWARD for NEW ILLUSTRATORS

This Award aims to recognise and encourage new talent in the field of Australian children's book illustration. Ages 0-18 years.

- ***TINY WONDERS*** – by SALLY SOWEOL HAN, (UQP) *WINNER *
- ***NATUROPOLIS*** – by Deborah Frenkel and INGRID BARTKOWIAK, Illustrator. (Storytorch)
- ***AUSTRALIA: FROM DAWN TO DUSK*** – by BRENTOS. (Affirm)
- ***WE ARE AUSTRALIANS*** – by Duncan Smith & Nicole Godwin, and JANDAMARRA CADD, Illustrator. (Wild Dog Press)
- ***THERE'S NO SUCH BOOK*** – by Jessica Dettmann and JAKE A. MINTON, Illustrator. (Hardie Grant Children's Publishing)
- ***THE BEST HIDING PLACE*** – by Jane Godwin and Sylvia A MORRIS, Illustrator. (Affirm)



CONGRATS TO ALL the 2023 CBCA Shortlisted New Illustrators.



“Morrie - creating and sharing a special world of colour, caring and imagination.”



TINY WONDERS (UQP)

<https://www.uqp.com.au/blog/sally-soweol-han-wins-2023-cbca-award-for-new-illustrator>

by **SALLY SOWEOL HAN**
www.sallyhanillustration.com

https://www.instagram.com/sallyhan_illustration/



a brief summary of my book ...

This is a book about hope, patience, happiness and taking action to make the town a better place. April metaphorically describes her town as gray in terms of colours. Inspired by her grandmother's love for dandelions, April wonders what might happen if she makes a wish, hoping it could spread the Happiness, using the language of flowers.

some background about your interest or involvement in art...

When I was young, I enjoyed drawings so much. I would lie down on my tummy and keep drawing in sketchbooks, mostly with crayons. So, my childhood dream was always to become an artist. I realized the profession of an illustrator much later on, probably almost after 20 years and became interested in illustrating picture books. From then on, I diligently started drawing on my own at home. I love picture books, especially those created by my favourite authors and illustrators, and my heart races when I discover illustrations that I like.

How did you create and develop your characters so they could contribute to the plot

I wanted to capture a child with positive and proactive attitude. Children are so pure and innocent that their positive beliefs have the ability to influence their surroundings in a way that grown-ups might not think of.

So, I wanted to tell a hopeful story that could lead to success despite repeated failures. It all starts from the kid's perspective, which makes it possible. In the synopsis I wanted to describe the dull town without much colour at the beginning, but gradually adding vibrancy and vivid hues as the story progresses, symbolizing the revitalization of the town and the happiness people feel.



She dug, and she planted, and she waited.



comments about your techniques ...

I like the feeling of textures I can create with my hands. Therefore, apart from early digital sketches - which allow me to make easy changes before moving to the final work- I work traditionally.

I print roughs in scale, then I add color while erasing lines little by little to avoid visible pencil lines.

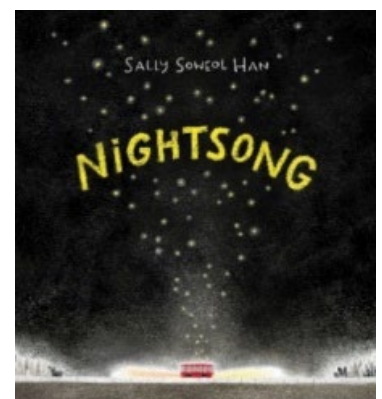
Gouache was the primary medium used to create TINY WONDERS, and soft pastels to enrich the colours. Small details were then added using coloured pencils. Through this approach, I took another way around with my upcoming second book called '**NIGHTSONG**', scheduled for publication in October. For this one, soft pastels were predominantly used to depict the serenity of the quiet night. The usage of materials varies from book to book depending on the theme and the style of the text, and the story.

a mention of anything that surprised you about the process...

It turns out that flowers are important for meanings all around the world. While organizing the 14 flower meanings in the back spread, I found joy in discovering new flower meanings that I did not know.

My new book **NIGHTSONG** (UQP) will be released in October 2023.

When their bus breaks down on the way home from a busy day in the city, Lewis and his mother discover that nature is full of wonder and music. <https://www.sallyhanillustration.com/books>





Morrie - Join a dreamy journey through Country from dawn to dusk with uniquely Australian wildlife, environment, and artworks. Brent has also included the Aboriginal names for Country as we move through the lands.



AUSTRALIA: FROM DAWN TO DUSK

By BRENTOS -
BRENT TURNER

<https://www.brentos.com.au/>

Affirm Press

<https://affirmpress.com.au/browse/book/Brentos-Australia:-From-Dawn-to-Dusk-9781922806321>



G'Day, I'm Brentos and I'm the illustrator of **Australia From Dawn to Dusk**. I'd love to share with you a little more about my inspiration for my books and let you know some cool tips about how you too can illustrate (draw!) your own cool characters and sceneries.

I created **Australia From Dawn to Dusk** to share with the world how special Australia's landscapes, iconic places and Indigenous countries are and to show everyone how the local native animals live and interact with the natural environment in each location.

Growing up in the bush and on the coast, you develop a real appreciation for the sights, smells and connectedness of the Australian bush, of the plants, the insects, reptiles and animals that we share this land with. It's our mission as artists to celebrate this and aim to be a positive voice for our wildlife.



When I was a kid, I used to love exploring the trails in the local bushland near my old house where I'd find secret creeks filled with yabbies and tadpoles, build bush shacks against ancient gum trees and admire wallabies who would be out searching for wildflowers and bush berries. If I wasn't playing in the bush, I would be at the beach in summer where I would spend all day playing in the surf.

After spending my day in the bush or at the beach, I would come back home and after dinner I would draw these cool Australian billabongs that were filled with all kinds of native animals.

Unfortunately, I stopped drawing. And as I grew older, I was drawn towards the computer where I would teach myself graphic design. It wasn't until many, many years later when Apple released the iPad with a magic Pencil that I rediscovered just how fun drawing was again! I downloaded a couple of drawing apps like Procreate and Adobe Fresco and instantly fell back in love with drawing again and started drawing weird, mutant Australian animal monsters in pastel colours.

What I found really cool about drawing on the iPad was that I can change colours really easily. I can move elements (like trees and kangaroos) around and if I make a mistake, I can always use the erase tool or undo button! Even though I spend a lot of time drawing on the iPad, I still really enjoy drawing with a good old-fashioned pencil and paper!

As a millennial, I've grown up with technology and have a background in graphic design. So, when Apple released the iPad, I naturally took a liking to this new creative innovation and quickly fell in love with the process of creating digital art. The iPad and broad selection of drawing apps have come a very long way and it's now possible to emulate any style of illustration or painting in any medium – from watercolour, acrylics, oil even to aerosol, the iPad allows digital illustrators the power to push their creativity beyond traditional limitations.

For my particular style of illustration, I use simple linework and flat colours in pastel tones, and I can create my illustrations as digital 'vector' artwork – This means the artwork can be sized up indefinitely without losing any image quality, so if we wanted to wrap something as big as Sydney Opera House, it would be possible.

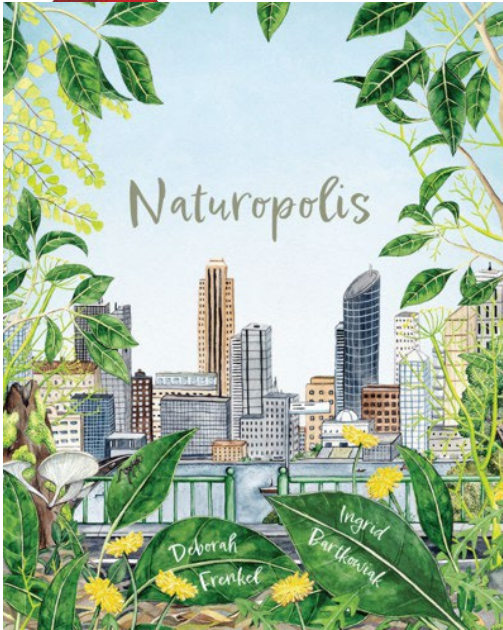


If you'd like to get started drawing, I would firstly choose something you really, really love (for me that's Australian wildlife) and draw that because how could you not enjoy drawing something you love.

I would encourage you to find artists and illustrators who you really like and study their work, find out what makes their artworks unique. Is it the colours? Is it the lines or shading? There's a lot you can learn by looking at other people's work and as an exercise, copying it in your own style, although I would never suggest plagiarizing someone else's work (that means copying someone's work and saying it's your own original work). Instead, I would encourage you to develop your own cool style and dedicate at least 15 minutes every day to drawing with a pen or pencil, or drawing digitally on an iPad if you have one. I can guarantee that in one year you will be well on your way to becoming a master illustrator.



Morrie - *Naturopolis* creates and shares the amazing worlds and creatures that we often overlook. A walk down the street (or anywhere) will never be the same.



NATUROPOLIS

by **DEBORAH FRENKEL**

<http://deborahfrenkel.com/#/naturopolis-picture-book/>

and

INGRID BARTKOWIAK, ILLUSTRATOR

Website: ingridbartkowiakart.com

Insta: @ingrid.b.art

Facebook: Ingrid Bartkowiak Art

(Storytorch)

NATUROPOLIS - a brief summary ...

Among the steel and stone canyons of the city, nature flourishes in tiny, tenacious ways. Follow the ant (*Iridomyrmex purpureus*) to discover the scraps of wilderness hiding in plain sight in this lyrical celebration of urban flora and fauna.

Naturopolis is a wonderful acknowledgement of the unseen, and the world that awaits the viewer, eager to connect with nature. You don't have to go far to find what is waiting for us beneath our feet.

background interest or involvement in art ...

I've always loved art from a very young age. I used to spend hours looking through delicately illustrated fairy

books, Jeannie Baker's collages and the wondrous watercolour world of Beatrix Potter. After school I studied a Bachelor of Fine Art, which was less focused on illustration, and more so on contemporary and conceptual work. It was a great course, but I definitely felt I fit more comfortably into the illustration route, and this is what I pursued after graduating in 2019.

comments about my techniques ...

Watercolour has always been my favourite medium to work in, and it's what I used for *Naturopolis* of course! I usually start my process by visiting the library to look at books about my subject matter or watch videos and read articles online. Of course, if I'm able to see the real thing, I go and see if I can spot it in nature. I really enjoyed this with the



content of *Naturopolis*, as it was mostly things I could find in the city! I then create the sketch, add washes of watercolour, then hone in on the details. I tend to use very small brushes, as I love the delicate details you can create with them.

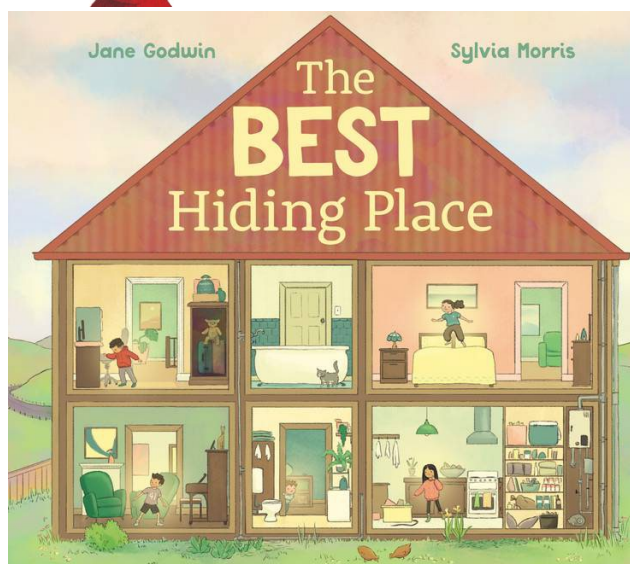


I was surprised about ...

Naturopolis was my first time working with a publisher, and I have to admit I was quite nervous! But I was pleasantly surprised with how much creative freedom I was given to create the artworks. Storytorch were fabulous to work with - one of the most useful tips my publisher gave me during the process was to think about where the text would go! You almost have to think of the text like it's a part of the artwork.



Morrie - When there are so many places to hide, sometimes you can't help but hope you haven't hidden too well ... and then it's your turn to wonder if everyone will keep looking...



**THE BEST HIDING PLACE
(Affirm Press)**

<https://affirmpress.com.au/browse/book/Jane-Godwin-and-Sylvia-Morris-The-Best-Hiding-Place-9781922848086/>

by JANE GODWIN

<http://www.janegodwin.com.au/>

**and
SYLVIA MORRIS,
ILLUSTRATOR**

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

What if you are too good at playing hide and seek?
Archie's
friends are looking everywhere ...



Medium

The illustrations were created 100% digitally in Clip Studio Paint. I used a small selection of digital brushes, primarily designed to mimic dry media: pencils for the line work, and pastels/chalk for the colours. This selection allowed me both to blend tones, and to scrape one over another, to create warm scenes of light and shadow.

For the in-cupboard scenes, I also used digital brushes designed to mimic watercolour to splash down a few colours, before softening those splashes with the dry brushes.

The digital brushes were originally purchased from DAUB and Frender, though I have made my own modifications.

Technique

We were in lockdown for most of the research phase, so I relied on sketching from *Old People's Home for 4 Year Olds* to make sure I was getting the age and size of the characters right and made use of real estate websites to help me work out a plausible house design.



I spent time brainstorming potential hiding places, and sketching busy shelves/spaces, to ensure the house felt like a good place to play hide and seek. As I went, I created a floorplan so that I could provide glimpses of other rooms through doorways and build a sense of the house as a connected space.

I took inspiration from seek-and-find books and puzzles, using detailed black line art and high viewpoints to evoke the game aspect of hide and seek. I added shimmering light and shadow to convey intimacy and immediacy, and to set the stage for the dramatic light and shadow Archie experiences in the cupboard.

I used simplified but fairly realistic character designs to reinforce this intimacy and familiarity, and to give myself a lot of space for depicting emotions subtly.

I tended to work with one layer for the background lines, and another layer for the children's lines. For the colour, I generally kept the furniture separate from the walls and floor, and the children separate again, so that I could blend colours in a looser manner without worrying about fiddly outlines.

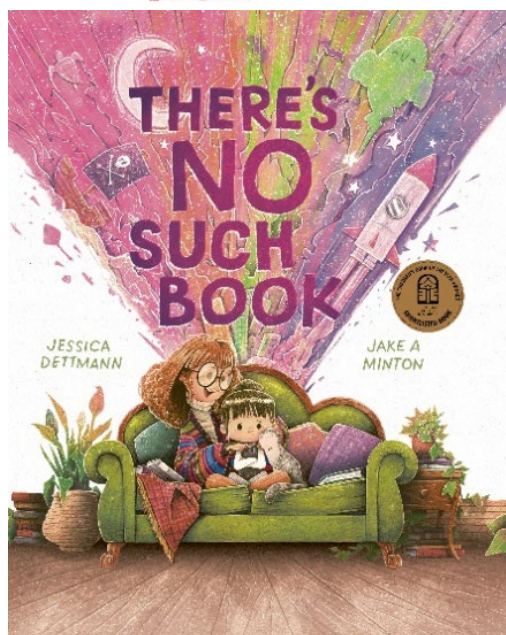
To capture the unreal, too-bright feeling of stepping from darkness into light, I first painted those scenes in normal lighting conditions, and then added layers of pale yellow in varying translucency over the top.

The unification of value and flattening of perspective on the cutaway page is designed to create a sense of meditation, and oneness with the world, separate from the game.

The mottled rainbows in the cupboard were inspired by the weird, colourful effects that you can get by pressing your hands into your closed eyes. They create an uncertain mood, in contrast with the solidity of the house outside of the cupboard.



Morrie - This proves there IS such a book for anything and anyone! Book Week really is a time for a certain kind of chaos and miracles! What a fun book - perfect for this time of year.



THERE'S NO SUCH BOOK

by JESSICA DETTMANN

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

and JAKE A MINTON, Illustrator.

Little Hare/ Hardie Grant Children's Publishing

<https://www.hardiegrant.com/au/publishing/bookfinder/book/there-s-no-such-book-by-jessica-dettmann/9781760509743>

There's No Such Book is a tale about a little girl named Ellie, who has left organising her book week costume until the NIGHT BEFORE the parade, and the creative lengths mum goes to in helping find a solution. Sometimes finding the right costume means creating a

whole new book!

On producing this book, I was lucky enough to work with the amazing Jessica Dettman and my publisher Alyson O'Brien. I've been a professional illustrator for some time though, had never taken the step into the world of publishing. I was blown away by the amount of creative freedom I was given and how open and collaborative the team were.



In the manuscript there are just two characters, Ellie and mum. I felt like there was room, and a need, for a visual character in the middle. Ellie and mum are opposites. Pragmatic and orderly Ellie. Creative and chaotic mum. To balance out the personality differences between our two leads (and because, who doesn't love cats?) the nameless cat was born.

The design of the characters, which is my favourite part of the process, came very naturally. It was all there in the writing. I enjoy using a lot of symbolism in my work and the characters' contrary personalities made a perfect starting point.



Ellie is written as very sensible and rational, so her physical appearance reflects that. She wears only grey tones, has her hair tied neatly in a bun and is generally square in shape. Eccentric mum, on the other hand, has a messy head of red hair, colourful, expressive clothes and made up primarily of round shapes.

Image –© Jake Minton

Our cat friend is very triangular, down to the little bow tie and the stripes. This is because the triangle is the strongest shape and little cat can be seen throughout the book trying it's best to keep everyone safe and together.

The use of symbolism is a great tool to add more meaning to your work and get the audience engaged on a deeper level. One they might not even consciously realise at first. Go back and have a look at the opening spread of *There's No Such Book* and notice the environments around the characters. What surrounds Ellie? What surrounds mum? What's between them on the table? The colours, shapes and object choices in your drawings can all play an important role in telling the story. It can also be used to insert an entirely different story, or sub narrative, just through the visuals. What is the meaning of that room, drenched in dark turquoise, that sits between Ellie and mum?



Morrie - We Are Australians gives us unique combinations of language and cultural concepts from Duncan and Nicole along with

Jandamarra's remarkable portraits which **feature** aspects of traditional Aboriginal art techniques of ochre dot work. Together, their **blending** of language and art links all to a shared Australia of the past, present, and future. We look forward to seeing and hearing more about their work (and the new book *Listen*) in future issues of *KC*.

WE ARE AUSTRALIANS

By Duncan Smith & Nicole Godwin

<https://nicolegodwin.com/my-books/we-are-australians/>

Jandamarra Cadd, Illustrator. Wild Dog Books

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



What is The Indigenous Voice to Parliament?

Adapted from ABC KIDS LISTEN – Broadcast 30 Aug 2023 <https://tinyurl.com/bdzrseya>



Australians who are registered to vote will soon help decide whether Australia changes its constitution (the rules our government follows) to create an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Voice.

If most people write 'yes' a group of First Nations representatives will be formed to help the Federal Government make decisions that affect the lives of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

This group will help plan rules, laws and projects that have an impact on the lives of First Nations people. ' <https://tinyurl.com/bdzrseya>

ABC NEWS REPORT:

ABC - Behind the News:

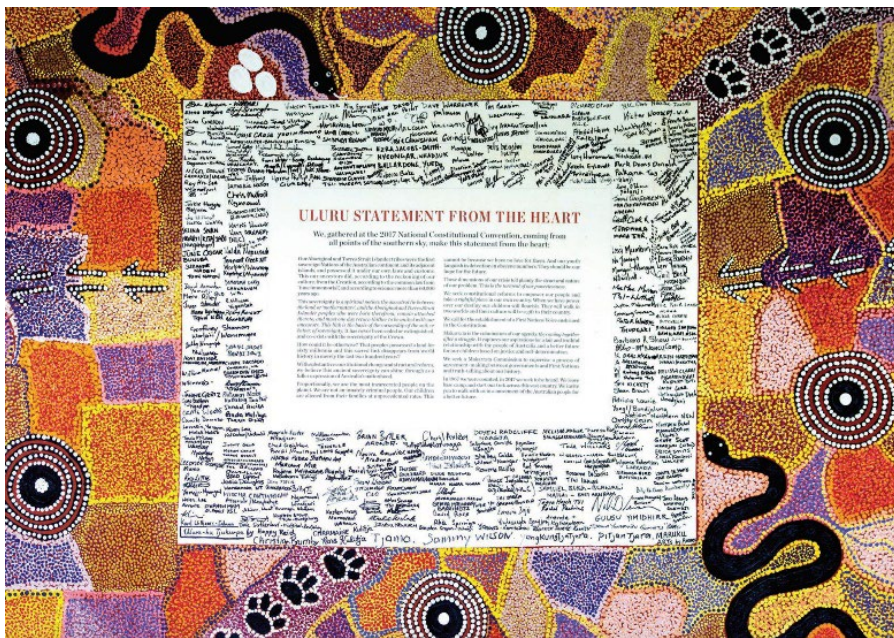
WHAT IS A REFERENDUM?

<https://www.abc.net.au/btn/high/what-is-a-referendum/102532444>

By Joseph Baronio, Posted 27 Jun 2023

Aussies will soon have the opportunity to vote in a referendum on the Indigenous Voice to Parliament. We find out what a referendum is, and how they've shaped our country.





ULURU STATEMENT FROM THE HEART

The [Uluru Statement from the Heart](#)

(the Statement) is an invitation from a group of First Nations people to non-Indigenous Australians.

Shared in 2017, the Statement calls for substantive reform to help

realise [Indigenous rights](#), through the establishment of an Indigenous Voice to Parliament and a Makarrata Commission. ‘Makarrata’ is a multi-layered Yolŋu word understood as the coming together after a struggle. The Statement specifies that the Makarrata Commission would undertake processes of agreement-making (treaty) and truth-telling. <https://tinyurl.com/9rxm66y>

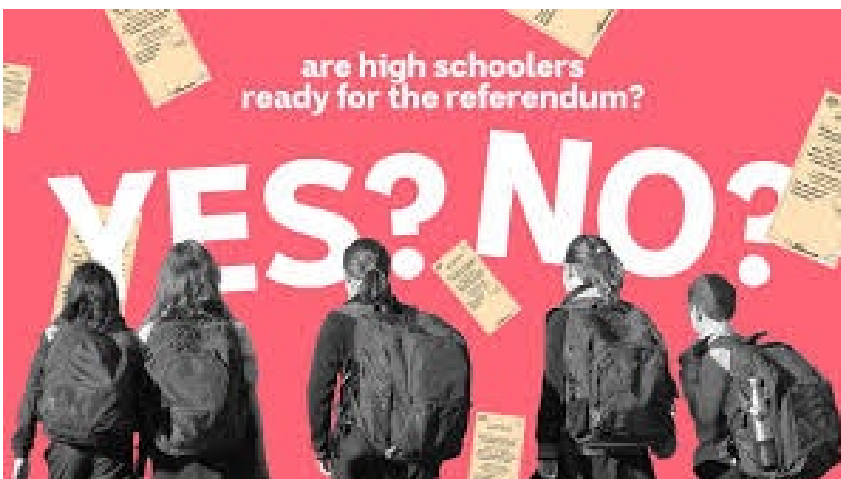
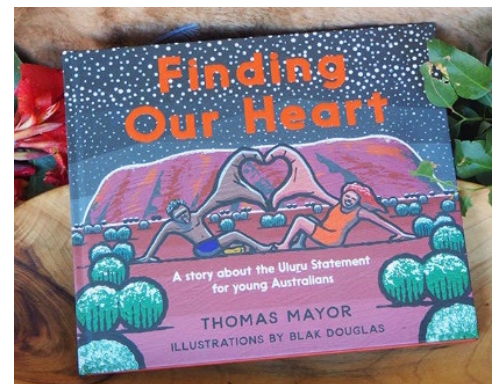
"FINDING OUR HEART" (Hardie Grant Publishers) by THOMAS MAYOR

‘When we all came together at Uluru, we invited all Australian people to accept our voice and culture as a gift.’

Can you help us find the heart of the nation?

A book about understanding Australia’s past, so we can have a shared future.

<https://kooricultural.com/blogs/news/reconciliation-more-than-a-word>



ABC NEWS REPORT:

ABC - BEHIND THE NEWS: ARE HIGH SCHOOLERS READY FOR THE REFERENDUM?

posted September 6, 2023

<https://www.abc.net.au/btn/high/first-time-voters-discuss-the-referendum/102816822>

We find out what first-time voters know about the upcoming referendum on an Indigenous Voice to Parliament, and whether or not they are ready to cast their vote.

hmmm... THINKING ahead.



Each year since 1945, the CBCA has brought children and books together across Australia through

CBCA Children's Book Week®

Plans for next year are beginning.

**2024 CBCA
CHILDREN'S BOOK WEEK®
theme announcement**

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

**READING is MAGIC with
JESS RACKLYEFT**

• **as Featured Illustrator**

Morrie says –**BIG THANKS** to all authors and illustrators. They give kids of all ages a chance to try extra ideas so that, as readers, you can learn to boost your own emerging talents and interests.



September KIDS' CORNER gave us a bit of a break so we could:

- ❖ **discover** New Illustrators (and **ENJOY THEIR SIDE OF THE STORY**)
- ❖ **wrap-up** 2023 CBCA Children's Book Week® (and **KEEP THE GOOD PARTS!**)
- ❖ **remember to check** regularly if we are all OKAY **?(RUOK?)**
- ❖ **vote for a better future** (every opinion makes a difference to someone)
- ❖ **KEEP READING ON and ON**

The October issue will continue with more 2023 ideas.

Then, we look forward to **November / December** with the **BAGS = BOOKS AS GIFTS** issue, featuring recent and upcoming titles from our CBCA NSW author and illustrator members. Great as we get closer to the "gifting" time of year.

Thanks to all for continuing to share ideas through **KC**. 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, thinking and creating. Ideas are ALWAYS welcome (c/o jackie.hawkes7@gmail.com), even if they take time to appear in KC. Thanks for continuing to share ideas through KC.