



KIDS' CORNER

JUNE/JULY 2025

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NOTABLY NSW

PLOTS

SETTINGS

TRAILERS

CHARACTERS

STORIES

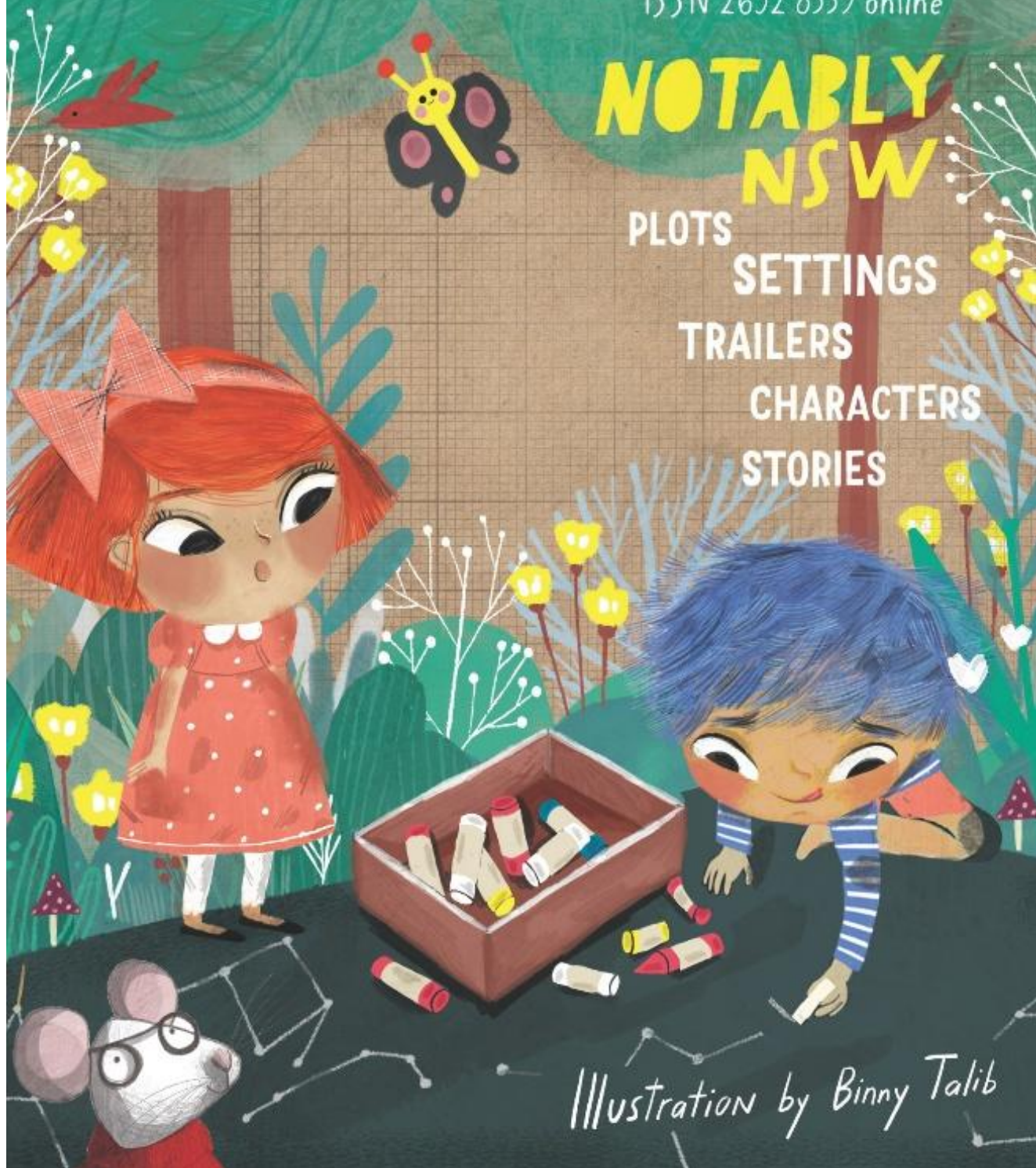


Illustration by Binny Talib



Book a **NOTABLY NSW** Adventure ... with **KIDS' CORNER** JUNE/ JULY - 2025

If you really want to **book an adventure**, there's a good chance that an author or an illustrator can provide the perfect passport for you to help create characters, sort settings, plan plots and adapt information for a great escape.

Special welcome to Binny Talib,
our **Guest Author/ Illustrator** and **The Letter Writer**
extraordinaire. With the help of Juniper and Jasper, she
introduces us to a blending of friends, letters, and
creatures lurking in the night. And then, she hints at a
zombie in her next new book that may become part of our future adventures.

KC continues with more details about

-our Notably NSW authors and Illustrators,

- bits of Book Week created by kids for kids through **COLLIDE** and **Shadow Judging**.

And don't forget more plans from the **KC4KC** kids.

CBCA Children's Book Week® is about a month away - August 16 – 23, 2025.

How are you planning to **Book an Adventure**?

Read on and on and share your ideas through **KC**. Happy reading always.

And the countdown for CBCA Children's Book Week begins...

Cheers – Morrie, Maryanne Ann O'Mouse, Magic Morrie and Adventure Morrie



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And WATCH FOR THESE in the NNSW details in the KC – AUGUST ISSUE

-NNSW Picture Books

-NNSW New Illustrators





GUEST ILLUSTRATOR -

BINNY TALIB <https://www.binny.com.au/about>

– Author, Illustrator, Letter writer and Zombie Stomper

I am an award-winning author and illustrator with a whimsical, contemporary style, and I've had the joy of illustrating over 35 books published here and internationally, from picture books and baby board books to non-fiction and chapter books.

I work from my sunny studio in Sydney, surrounded by other lovely creative folks, many cups of dandelion tea, and my loyal studio assistant Paddington (a very professional Border Collie). There has genuinely never been a dessert I didn't like.

My most recent book, ***The Letter Writer***, was published in May with Windy Hollow. I have a spooky-funny picture book coming out in August called ***Stompie, the Zombie*** with Amazon US. *It's a punny tale about a family of zombies with bold vivid illustrations.*

Right now, I'm working on a couple of secret projects, an exciting series with Hachette UK and a seriously lovely story for Penguin Australia. I can't say more yet, but I'm very excited.

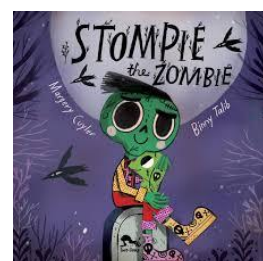
I grew up in the countryside in a wildly creative home, my mum was an incredible artist, and we were always making things. We had an orchard, rambling gardens, and a parade of animals: four sheepdogs, two house dogs, casual cats, roaming horses, and a paddock full of sheep (plus a few snakes hiding under the steps). It was a childhood full of imagination and muddy adventures, and it absolutely shaped who I am.

As a kid, I was a typical illustrator-in-the-making: doodling on every available surface, drawing all over my schoolbooks, and, yes, being slightly competitive with friends about who was the *best* at drawing (shameful, but true!).

I took every creative subject I could in high school and university. I even started studying architecture, but there were far too many straight lines. I quickly switched to film, design, and illustration and never looked back.

My absolute favourite book growing up was *The Magic Faraway Tree* by Enid Blyton. I adored the quirky characters and the idea of strange lands rotating at the top of the tree, it sent my imagination into overdrive. Now, as a picture book creator, that's what I hope to do for children: create stories that feel magical and a little unexpected, that inspire play, art, or their own stories.

I love discovering how to bring characters to life, how colour, texture, or scale can express emotion or draw a child deeper into the world of the book. I work in mixed media: pen, ink, collage, and then digital. For *The Letter Writer*, I even made tiny handmade envelopes and wrote the letters with an



old-fashioned dip pen and ink to give the book a real, tactile feel, like you're holding a secret note from someone special.

At the heart of everything, I hope to create something meaningful that makes a child feel seen, sparks their imagination, or makes them smile. *I love discovering how to bring characters to life, how colour, texture, or scale can express emotion or draw a child deeper into the world of the book. I work in mixed media: pen, ink, collage, and then digital. For The Letter Writer, I even made tiny handmade envelopes and wrote the letters with an old-fashioned dip pen and ink to give the book a real, tactile feel, like you're holding a secret note from someone special.* ~ Binny

Can you draw Jasper in his chair in four steps?



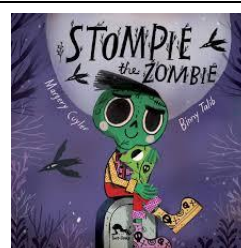
[Image by Billy Talib in her book *The Letter Writer*]

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Binny's latest books are:



THE LETTER WRITER
(Windy Hollow Books)
by Binny Talib



STOMPIE, THE ZOMBIE
by Binny Talib,
Illustrator.
With Margery Cuyler,
Author



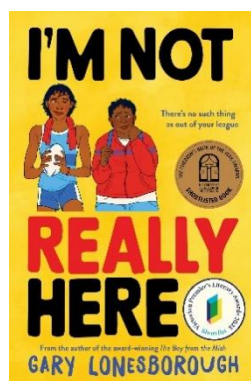
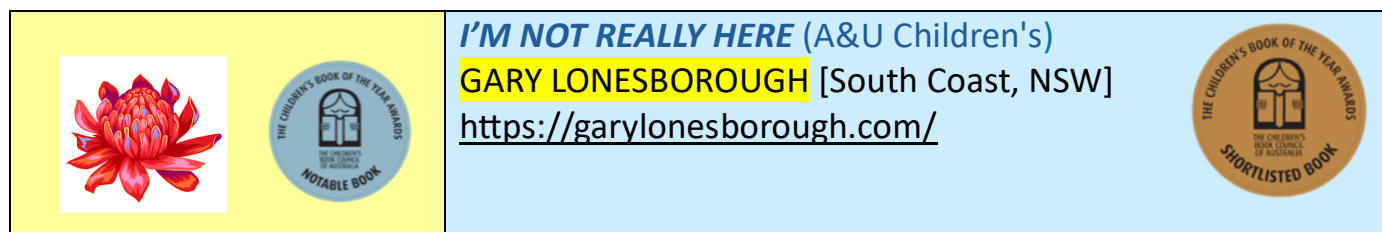
NOTABLY NSW

Every year, as part of the lead-up to Children's Book Week®, the CBCA (Children's Book Council of Australia) hosts the *CBCA BOYA [Book of the Year Awards]*. The CBCA NOTABLES and the CBCA SHORTLIST are part of this celebration.

New South Wales often compiles an unofficial listing called *NOTABLY NSW*. These are the books that are created by authors and illustrators with links to NSW and have been included on Notables listing. Our logo is the Waratah, the NSW floral emblem. We are happy to share some of the *NOTABLY NSW* listings through *KIDS' CORNER*.



2025 CBCA BOOK OF THE YEAR: NOTABLY NSW - OLDER READERS



I'm Not Really Here by Gary Lonesborough

I'm Not Really Here is a story about an Aboriginal boy named Jonah who moves to a new country town with his dad and little brothers. He's also gay, dealing with body image issues, making new friends and falling in love, and coming to terms with his mother's death.





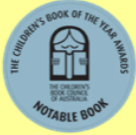


This was the quickest first draft I've written – I was able to complete a first draft in just over a month. Once I got started, it felt like the story was just pouring out of me as it became more and more personal. I was really surprised when I began writing Jonah that he became a way to explore so many things about myself as a teen who was dealing with body image issues as well as the death of my own mother.




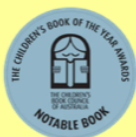

The setting of *Patience* is very much inspired by my hometown of Bega, NSW. I'd been wanting to set a book in my hometown, but I wanted to play with the geography too much that the town became fictional. I loved the way the town came together as a setting, though, as it also reflects my own relationship with the town now as an adult.

I'm incredibly proud of the final product as it feels like an extension of myself and what I wanted to say at the time. So many emotional moments in the book are palpable, rich with feeling, and I am so happy to have achieved that.

My favourite scenes to write were the flashback scenes as they are very much rooted in truth from my life, and I know readers will be able to connect with Jonah's story in a hundred different ways. ~GARY

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|   | <p>INTO THE MOUTH OF THE WOLF (HGCP) ERIN GOUGH [Gadigal land in Sydney] https://www.eringough.com/</p>  |
|   | <p>KATE FORSYTH'S LONG-LOST FAIRY TALES (New Dawn) KATE FORSYTH [Sydney, NSW] https://kateforsyth.com.au/ Illus by Lorena Carrington</p> |
|   | <p>WRONG ANSWERS ONLY (Penguin) TOBIAS MADDEN [NSW, Vic] https://www.tobiasmadden.net/</p> |

2025 CBCA BOOK OF THE YEAR: NOTABLY NSW – YOUNGER READERS

| | |
|---|---|
|   | <p>SASKIA SPARK-LEE: FUNDRAISER FAIL (Walker Books Aus.) REBECCA SHARPE SHELBERG [NSW]. https://www.rebeckasays.com/ Illus. by SOFYA KARMAZINA [NSW] https://cargocollective.com/sofyakarmazina/ABOUT</p>  |
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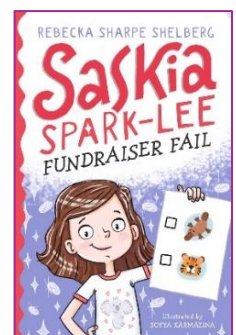


SASKIA SPARK-LEE: Fundraiser Fail (Walker Books) by Rebecca (Bec) Sharpe Shelberg

Website: <https://www.rebeckasays.com/>

Instagram: @rebeckasays

Saskia Spark-Lee is back! This time she's on a mission to save the animals...



Saskia Spark-Lee loves animals – she’s almost adopted a whole zoo-worth! But when Da and Dee say they can’t add another to the collection, she must come up with a new plan to continue supporting her furry friends. With some help from Nanna, and the amazing fundraising skills of her friends, Saskia may find where there's a will, there's a way!

Creating your characters: The character of Saskia Spark-Lee is a little bit my childhood self, a little bit inspired by my daughter, and a little bit her very own person.

It took me a year of just thinking about Saskia, her family and friends before I wrote any of her stories. I wanted her to have a close family that she could rely on, I needed her to use her own sparks of independence, imagination, and determination with a good dash of bravery and kindness to solve her own problems. While she can be shy, and sometimes uncertain, Saskia can also be determined.

Planning plot: *Fundraiser Fail* is based on an experience from my childhood when my parents couldn't afford to pay for me to attend a school camp.

I was determined to go. With some help from my family, I made and sold toffees at school for 50c each. It got to a point where the kids would crowd around me when I arrived at school. My big ice cream tub of toffees would be gone in no time. I made over \$100 and went on that camp. It was a very proud moment for me. I wrote the fundraising element to give Saskia and her friends a challenge to overcome. Just like my daughter, Saskia has a big soft spot for helping animals. This seemed to be an excellent cause for Saskia and her friends to rally around.

Bio: Rebecka (Bec) Sharpe Shelberg is a children’s author and librarian living on Dharug country (Western Sydney), in a neurodiverse household with her partner, three children and two floofy dogs. She firmly believes that stories and illustrations are the real magic in this crazy, confusing world. She loves love and kindness and really does want world peace.



***THE KINDNESS PROJECT* (Puffin)**

DEBORAH ABELA [NSW]

<https://www.deborahabela.com/about-deb>



Summary And Surprises By Deborah Abela

The Kindness Project started with an idea of a young girl called Nicolette kidnapping her nanna from a terrible nursing home she



calls Alcatraz, after an infamous prison. Inspired by my Nanna, I thought it was going to be a light-hearted story about the love between these two, until I realised this was just one part of a story about family and friendship, and how even small acts of kindness can change the world. Nicolette, Leaf, DJ and Layla are given a class project to make the world a better place. The trouble is, they don't like each other...until they discover they have lots in common, including some big worries. They band together when one of them needs their help to create the most magnificent kindness project of all.

The most surprising thing about the novel is it wanted to be written in verse! And I'm not a poet so I didn't know what I was doing, but my writer friends encouraged me to keep going. Now it's been shortlisted for two awards! I'm glad I didn't let my worries stop me- which is also a big theme of the book. ~DEB



TWINNING BFFS (NOT) (Scholastic)

ALEXA MOSES [NSW] <https://alexamoses.com/>

Illus. by **SOFYA KARMAZINA [NSW]**

<https://cargocollective.com/sofyakarmazina/ABOUT>



Same but different by Alexa MOSES

Grace and Izzy are twins- identical twins, and they are closer than BFFs. Even though they look alike, they're not similar at all!

They have both entered the same competition for Harmony Day at school, and the battle between the sisters is on! Who

will win? And will they ever be BFFs again?

Come hang out under the Friendship tree and have a squeazy yoghurt with Izzy and Grace and their gang. But do yourself a favour – avoid Clover Williams.

The good news is, the Twining series is now up to book three in the series.

What's happening with friendships now? ~ Alexa





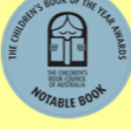









KC4KC = KIDS' COMMENTS FOR KIDS' CORNER

*I like reading books that include many pictures to
imagine the situations with images*

Suhas

Wentworthville PS

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|   | <p>AGGIE FLEA STEALS THE SHOW (Scholastic) TANIA INGRAM [SA]. Illus. by ANNE YI [NSW] https://storyboxhub.com/authors-and-illustrators/a-yi</p>  |
|   | <p>FLUFF: MESS UP! (ABC Books) MATT STANTON [NSW] https://www.mattstanton.net/about</p>  |
|   | <p>HELLO TWIGS, LOOK WHO'S GRUMPY (HGCP) ANDREW MCDONALD [VIC] Illus. by BEN WOOD [NSW, VIC] https://benwood.com.au/</p> |
|   | <p>HOW TO BREAK A WORLD RECORD AND SURVIVE GRADE FIVE (UQP) CARLA FITZGERALD [NSW] https://bookedout.com.au/find-a-speaker/author/carla-fitzgerald/</p> |
|   | <p>LANDOVEL (A&U Children's) EMILY RODDA [NSW] http://www.emilyrodda.com/</p> |
|   | <p>LAUGHTER IS THE BEST ENDING (Pan) MARYAM MASTER https://www.panmacmillan.com.au/?authors=maryam-master Illus. by ASTRED HICKS [NSW] https://www.speakers-ink.com.au/speakers/astred-hicks</p>  |
|   | <p>MING AND ADA SPARK THE DIGITAL AGE (Harper Collins) JACKIE FRENCH [NSW] https://www.jackiefrench.com/about</p> |
|   | <p>REAL PIGEONS POWER UP (HGCP) ANDREW MCDONALD [Vic], Illus. by BEN WOOD [NSW, VIC] https://benwood.com.au/</p> |
|   | <p>SHOWER LAND 1: BREAK THE CURSE (Puffin) NAT AMOORE [NSW] https://www.natamoore.com/ Illus. By JAMES HART, [Vic].</p> |
|   | <p>TIGG AND THE BANDICOOT BUSHRANGER (Harper Collins) JACKIE FRENCH [NSW] https://www.jackiefrench.com/about</p>  |

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|  |  | TWEET (Penguin) MORRIS GLEITZMAN [NSW] https://www.morrisgleitzman.com/ |
|  |  | WE DO NOT WELCOME OUR TEN-YEAR-OLD OVERLORD (A&U Children's) GARTH NIX [NSW] https://garthnix.com/about/ |
|  |  | WORST WEEK EVER: SATURDAY (Scholastic) EVA AMORES [NSW] https://www.swf.org.au/writers/eva-amores Ill. by MATT COSGROVE [NSW] https://www.mattcosgrovebooks.com/about |



CELEBRATE KBOYE =

Kids' Book of the Year Awards winners at the State Library of NSW

Kids Book of the Year Award event 2025

CBCA NSW Branch will be joining the National CBCA with a special event to announce the Book of the Year Awards and Children's Book Week®. The Awards Announcement video will be live on the [CBCA national website](#) from Friday Noon 15th August 2025




Join us

FOR OUR SPECIAL
2025 CBCA BOOK OF THE YEAR AWARDS ANNOUNCEMENT

KIDS BOOK OF THE YEAR EVENT

DATE: Friday August 15, 2025
VENUE: The Auditorium State Library of NSW
TIME: 10.30 am - 12.45 pm
GUEST SPEAKERS: Craig Silvey + Elerie Harris

Like the first illustration by Henry Secombe, designed for the CBCA to celebrate the first CBCA Book of the Year Awards winning book in 1946.

We are giving our members a priority window for booking.

Members simply book your spot through [Hello Club](#) and email your numbers (up to 25 attendees) to cbcansw@outlook.com.au

Cost for Non-Members is \$5.00 per ticket.
Bookings available from June 16.

Use this link: <https://www.trybooking.com/DCLON> or scan the QR code.



DATE: Friday
August 15, 2025

VENUE:
**The Auditorium
State Library of NSW**

TIME:
-10.30 am - 12.45 pm

GUEST SPEAKERS:
- **Craig Silvey**
- **Elerie Harris**

Check here with your reading team coordinator for more details
<https://www.cbcansw.org.au/kids-book-of-the-year-event-2021>

HELP!!! ... I need ideas for our Book Week Parade.....

BOOK WEEK COSTUME/PARADE IDEAS

Space Mission

- Astronaut cutouts with students' faces in the helmets, floating in space among planet and stars.



Jungle Safari

- Students' faces peeking out from safari hats as they explore the jungle with binoculars, surrounded by wild animals.



Submarine Expedition

- A large cutout of a submarine window with students' faces peering out, discovering ocean wonders.



Library Treehouse Adventure

- A cozy treehouse filled with books, with students peeking out of windows, climbing rope ladders, and reading.



Magic Carpet Ride

- Students flying on paper magic carpets over a book-filled landscape, with castles and stars.



**SEE MORE BOOK WEEK COSTUME IDEAS
BASED ON THE SHORTLIST FROM**


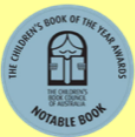


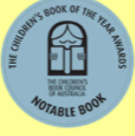

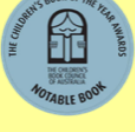
Madison's Library

Passionate about school libraries



<https://tinyurl.com/334numaz>

2025 CBCA BOOK OF THE YEAR: NOTABLY NSW – EARLY CHILDHOOD


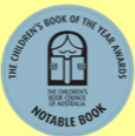

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|  |  | AMID THE SAND DUNES (HGCP) ANDREA ROWE [Vic], with HANNA SOMERVILLE [NSW] Illustrator https://www.hannahsommerville.com/about-v2g3 |
|  |  | DINOSAUR IN MY POCKET (Lothian Chn's Books) ASHLEIGH BARTON [NSW] https://www.ashleighbarton.com/aboutashleighbarton with Blithe Fielden [Qld], Illustrator |
|  |  | DON'T WORRY, FELIX (New Frontier) YOHANN DEVEZY [WA] & KATHARINE ALICE, [WA] With ZOE BENNETT , Illustrator [NSW] https://zoebennett.com.au/ |
|  |  | GOOD HAIR (Walker Books Aus.) YVONNE SEWANKAMBO [NSW] https://www.yvonesewankambo.com/ with FREDA CHIU , Illustrator [NSW] https://fredachiu.com/ |
|  |  | HAPPY ALL OVER (Walker Books Aus.) EMMA QUAY [NSW] https://emmaquay.com/about |

KC4KC = KIDS' COMMENTS FOR KIDS' CORNER

I like reading because I learn more through words

Divjot.....Wentworthville Public School

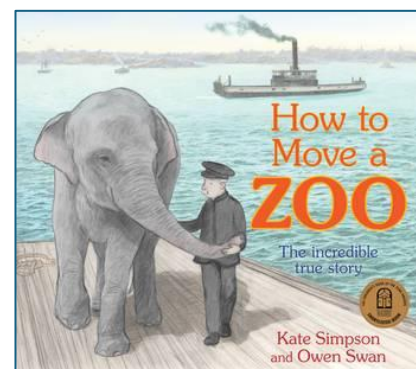


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|  |  | HOW TO MOVE A ZOO (A&U Children's). KATE SIMPSON [NSW] https://www.katesimpsonbooks.com/ with OWEN SWAN [NSW], Illustrator [NSW] https://www.owenswan.com/ |  |
|---|---|---|---|

How to Move a Zoo

tells the true story of Jessie the elephant,
who walked through the streets of Sydney one morning in 1916,
stepped onto a ferry and was transported across the harbour to her
new home at Taronga Zoo.

Kate and Owen became Elephant fans! See more comments...





Kate:

How to **Move a Zoo** was oodles of fun to research. We were lucky enough to visit the zoo's historical collection with Jean Rice from the Taronga Conservation Society. Jean showed us wonderful old photos and memorabilia such as tricycles for monkeys and decorative elephant headwear.

When researching a true story, sometimes you stumble across real gems of information, like the tiny sugar glider that travelled from Moore Park Zoo to Taronga in a zookeeper's pocket. But when things happened so long ago, it's not

always possible to fill in all the blanks. Who saw the elephant walking past their windows in the dawn light? What did Mr Miller say to Jessie as they walked through the streets? These questions and others were answered by our own imaginations. ~KATE



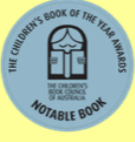
Owen:

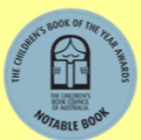
My grandma would sometimes describe things as being "as big as Jessie!" which shows what a huge place Jessie the elephant once held in the hearts of Sydneysiders. Jessie's story was brought to life for me through Kate's words and wonderful re-imagining of their journey across the city. I especially loved the kindly Mr Miller. It's the quiet rust he and Jessie have in each other that makes the story so special for me, and brings a tension to their

exciting (and true!) adventure.

Looking into local history was an adventure in itself – there is really no end to the amazing old photographs that can spark the imagination. I spent a lot of time happily lost in the City of Sydney Archives.

I also learnt a lot about elephants – firstly, that they are incredibly hard to draw! But by the end I'd fallen totally in love with them, not just with their magnificent appearance but also their loyalty, bravery, their dry sense of humour, and their patience with silly humans. ~OWEN

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|   | <p>I AM TREE REX (Berbay) MO DAVEY [NSW] https://www.justkidslit.com/the-quick-six-interview-with-mo-davey-on-i-am-tree-rex/</p> |
|   | <p>THE MOST AMAZING THING (A&U Books for Children) IAN HAYWARD ROBINSON [VIC] Illustrated by MATT SHANKS [NSW/VIC] https://www.mattshanks.com.au/</p> |
|   | <p>NIGHT WATCH (Walker Books Aus.) JODI TOERING [Vic], with TANNYA HARRICKS, [NSW] Illustrator https://tannyaharricks.com/</p> |



ONE LITTLE DUNG BEETLE (Wild Dog)

RHIAN WILLIAMS [NSW]

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

With illustrations

by HEATHER POTTER & MARK JACKSON [Vic]



Discovering beetles with Rhian Williams

My picture book, *One Little Dung Beetle*, is very beautifully illustrated by Heather Potter and Mark Jackson and published by Wild Dog Books.



When I was a little girl. I was intrigued by the fiddler beetles and rhinoceros beetles that I would find in my garden. Did you know, for its size, the rhinoceros beetle is the strongest animal in the world? One rhinoceros beetle can lift 850 times its own weight. If the average person was that strong, they could lift 10 elephants! You will find both these beetles in *One Little Dung Beetle*.

I learned lots of amazing things writing this book. Did you know we know about 500 types of native dung beetles in Australia - and there are still more to be discovered! There is even one, whose scientific name is *Onthophagus mnischei*, that looks like a tiny triceratops dinosaur. You can spot that little beetle on the cover of *One Little Dung Beetle* and on the pages inside as well.

Beetles are very important ecosystem engineers - they help keep our environment healthy. Did you know that the descendants of a single ladybird beetle can, in one summer, eat nearly 200,000 of the aphids that would otherwise destroy garden plants. And they do this without leaving behind any harmful residues!

I had so much fun writing this book and I keep learning new things about beetles all the time. Did you know we have an Ironclad beetle in Australia known as the TimTam bug - because they look a bit like a squashed TimTam you can spot one on the end pages and inside the book too! Ironclad beetles have incredibly strong exoskeletons, and some can even survive being run over by a car. Scientists are investigating what makes them so tough and hope to use what they discover to make stronger materials for spacecraft.

I hope you have lots of fun reading *One Little Dung Beetle* and discovering your own favourite beetle! ~ **RHIAN**

KC4KC = KIDS' COMMENTS FOR KIDS' CORNER

*I like reading books that include many pictures to
imagine the situations with images*

Suhas.... Wentworthville Public School





Illustrating absolutely incredible beetles... with Heather Potter and Mark Jackson

What do we think about beetles and other insects? They're amazing, absolutely incredible, of course.



We are constantly taking small spiders and moths and flies and the occasional beetle that has ventured inside, back out again. Small brown beetles that are attracted to the light, and so active when the evening is still and muggy. We keep a huge magnifying glass in the kitchen drawer to use on these sorts of occasions.

There are some beetles in the book that we have never encountered in the wild, and some we never knew existed, like the strange, lumpy-looking Iron Clad Beetle, and the beautifully absurd Screech Beetle. We really did need to do some research first, so we quickly began gathering whatever information about the beetles we could find; images and whatever else we thought could be of use.

We sketched beetles from all different angles, turning them this way and that to understand their body parts and, much more importantly, how they fitted together. Small, handheld plastic models were very useful, especially when trying to draw a difficult and unusual angle. We quickly learnt something about their various colour combinations, differences between male and female, their varied environments, and all the tasks undertaken by these quite extraordinary, secret, tough little creatures.

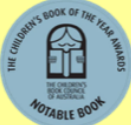
This time was actually enjoyable because we too were learning about them, and there was a lot, actually heaps, that we didn't know, but needed to know if we were to go ahead and make drawings for the book.

The layout, we think, is simple, consistent and nicely interlaced. Nothing, hopefully, dominates or overshadows anything else. Our drawings of beetles with their distinct, shiny textured backs have a real tactile quality about them, so it just seems appropriate to draw any surrounding stems, leaves, or bark in a similar way, more or less.

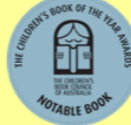
Our beetles have personalities, but subtle enough to stay absolutely believable, and the encounters they have, with their own kind, or some other creature, lends some humour to the work, though very gentle. It was from drawing the caterpillar getting larger, and larger from one number to the next, and just getting really fat, content and sleepy by number ten. That just made sense, with all that it had eaten.

It was enjoyable too thinking up different scenarios for different beetles, which you try out, then scrap, then try again, before you hopefully settle on an idea that you both agree upon, that you can then develop and expand. When you are sketching, trying out a number of ideas, you can be as serious or as silly as you please. You have to start somewhere, and scribbling in your sketchpad can often be the most enjoyable part of doing a book. ~ **HEATHER and MARK**





PIP HARRY [NSW] <https://www.pipharry.com/>
with Illustrations by Hilary Jean Tapper [NZ]



MARGARET WILD [NSW] <https://publishing.hardiegrant.com/en-au/authors/margaret-wild>
With illustrations by **HANNAH SOMMERVILLE** [NSW]
<https://www.hannahsommerville.com/>



KIAH THOMAS [Vic],
With Illustrations by JAKE MINTON [NSW]
<https://www.instagram.com/jakemintonillustration/>

<https://wordart.com/create>

Change the **SHAPE, COLOUR and FONT** for different styles.



| | | | | |
|---------------|-----------|----------------|-------------|------------|
| adventure | design | genre | meaning | rhyme |
| character | dialogue | glossary | medium | rhythm |
| collaboration | drama | graphic~novels | narrative | setting |
| colour | editing | illustrations | novel | story |
| concepts | emotional | imagine | plot | style |
| content | endpapers | information | poetry | text |
| context | extend | interpretation | protagonist | theme |
| conversation | fiction | judging | publisher | verse |
| creative | font | language | reader | vocabulary |
| creator | format | literary | recount | wordless |
| | | | | |

CBCA NSW Branch :: KIDS' CORNER :: June/July 2025 :: A NOTABLY NSW ADVENTURE

2025 CBCA BOOK OF THE YEAR: NOTABLY NSW- EVE POWNALL



DESIGN & BUILDING ON COUNTRY

(Thames & Hudson)

ALISON PAGE [NSW]

<https://www.australiaday.org.au/about/nadc/alison-page>

& PAUL MEMMOTT,

[QLD] <https://www.ngarrngga.org/stories-news/Profile-Paul-Memmott>

Illus. by **BLAK DOUGLAS** [NSW]

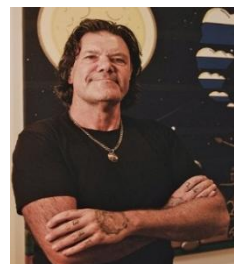
<https://blakdouglas.com.au/about/>



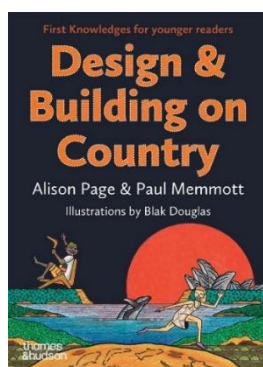
Alison



Paul



Blak



History, culture, country, story **by Paul Memmott**

Design & Building on Country offers a journey through the generous storytelling of First Nations people to share how, for thousands of years, they cared for and worked with Country to live in harmony in all aspects of life.

Aboriginal people were the first cooks, engineers and designers of this vast continent for over 65,000 years. The book describes how they designed and built in their environment, from fish traps to ovens, from homes to fashion, as well as the invention of the boomerang. Readers will learn how Aboriginal peoples' cultures and ancient knowledges can be used today and into the future to create a better, healthier global community.

Using informative yet accessible language and imagery, a unique team draws on their areas of expertise to explain and share examples from First Nations peoples all over Australia. Professor Paul Memmott AO is an anthropologist and architect. Alison Page is an artist, designer and descendant of the Walbanga and Wadi Wadi people of the Dharawal and Yuin Nations. Archibald Award-winning artist Blak Douglas provides striking and humorous illustrations throughout the book.

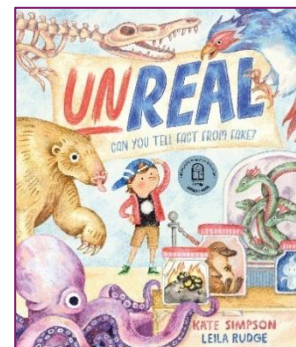
The First Knowledges series for younger readers celebrates the wisdom and ingenuity of the First Peoples of this land. From baking the world's first bread to expertly managing *Country* so that everything had a chance to flourish, these books provide children with the building blocks to better understand our history and look to the future with fresh eyes. ~**PAUL**

| | |
|---|--|
|   | <p>THE ANTI-RACISM KIT (Hardie Grant Chn's Publishing) SABINA PATAWARAN [NSW] https://medium.com/@sabina.patawaran/about & JINYOUNG KIM [NSW] https://www.wheelercentre.com/people/jinyoung-kim illus. by Emma Ismawi [VIC]</p> |
|   | <p>THE ILLUSTRATED ENCYCLOPAEDIA OF EXTINCT ANIMALS (Lothian) SAMI BAYLY [NSW] https://www.samibayly.com/</p> |
|   | <p>SEED TO SKY: LIFE IN THE DAINTREE (Walker Books Aus.) PAMELA FREEMAN [NSW], https://www.pamelafreeman.com/about/biography/ with LIZ ANELLI [NSW] https://lizanelli-illustration.com/about</p> |
|   | <p>UNREAL (A&U Children's) KATE SIMPSON [NSW], https://www.katesimpsonbooks.com/ illus. by LEILA RUDGE [NSW] https://www.leilarudge.com/aboutleilarudge</p> |



Unreal is a nonfiction book about telling the difference between fact and fake. It challenges readers to find the mythical creatures hiding among real-life animals and plants. When researching *Unreal*, I needed to find mythical and real creatures that seemed like they *could* be true, but *might* be fake.

Sometimes I was really surprised by what I found.



When writing the chapter called *Healing Powers* about animals that can heal themselves of serious injuries, I had an idea for the mythical creature early on, but I was worried that kids would pick it as the myth straight away. But once I realised just how weird the real animals were, I stopped worrying. I ended up with a sea creature that shoots its innards out of its anus, a jellyfish that can live forever, a sea snake that grows back two heads when one is chopped off, an amphibian that can regrow pretty much any organ, and a flatworm that can rip itself in half and regrow from both ends. Like I said, telling fact from fake is harder than it sounds.

Of course, if it's going to be a challenge, the pictures also have to keep you guessing. When my publisher was looking for an illustrator, she wanted someone who could draw both real animals and mythical ones, with the same 'verisimilitude' (she's a publisher, so she always uses big words like that). What she meant was, she wanted each creature to look like it *could* be true but *might* be fake, just like the words say. I think Leila Rudge has done a really fabulous job on that front. While I love all of her illustrations, I think my favourite is one of Australia's most iconic animals - the drop bear.

~KATE

| | |
|---|--|
|  | <p><i>WALKING THE ROCK COUNTRY IN KAKADU</i> (A&U Books for Children and Young Adults) DIANE LUCAS (NSW) https://www.dianelucas.com.au/about/ BEN TYLER (NT) https://eng.anu.edu.au/bandalang/people/ben-tyler/ Illus. by EMMA LONG (NSW) https://www.bundanon.com.au/artist/emma-long/?srsltid=AfmBOorPIMX9VMGchM6LAv_aJuexQwEm41xmdAggaEspEu_v_hzccEAnD</p> |
|  | <p><i>WHEN THE WORLD WAS SOFT</i> (A&U Books for Children and Young Adults) JULUWARLU GROUP ABORIGINAL CORPORATION (WA) Illus. by ALEX MANKIEWICZ (NSW) https://www.alexmankiewicz.com/about/</p> |



Creative responses to the Shadow Judging Project

<https://shadowjudging.cbca.org.au/all-creative-responses/>

features student judges evaluating the CBCA BOYA Shortlist. Part of their project showcases creative responses to the 2025 Shortlisted books. This may include creating games, poetry, artworks, and ...

Watch for more responses to be added.

WHAT IS NAIDOC WEEK? ABC – Behind the News



<https://www.abc.net.au/btn/classroom/naidoc-anniversary/105451686>

National NAIDOC Week celebrations are held across Australia in the first week of July each year (Sunday to Sunday) for all Australians to celebrate and learn about the history, culture and achievements of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

NAIDOC Week 2025 marks a powerful milestone: 50 years of honouring and elevating Indigenous voices, culture, and resilience. The 2025 theme, "The Next Generation: Strength, Vision & Legacy," celebrates not only the achievements of the past but the bright future ahead, empowered by the strength of our young leaders, the vision of our communities, and the legacy of our ancestors. <https://www.abc.net.au/education/naidoc-week-2025-education-resources/105420636>



2025 National NAIDOC Week Poster

'The 2025 National NAIDOC Poster incorporating the Aboriginal Flag and the Torres Strait Islander Flag (licensed by the Torres Strait Island Council).'

Some comments from Jeremy . . .

... Each person in the painting depicts a series of lines akin to songlines, that represent what they know, who they were and what they have passed on, the first being that of lore (interpretive), hunting, protecting, and tracking, the second of care, weaving, fishing, and love. . .

The third is when we see the two combine into one, and the last two take unfinished elements of them all, to show the passing down of knowledge and care.

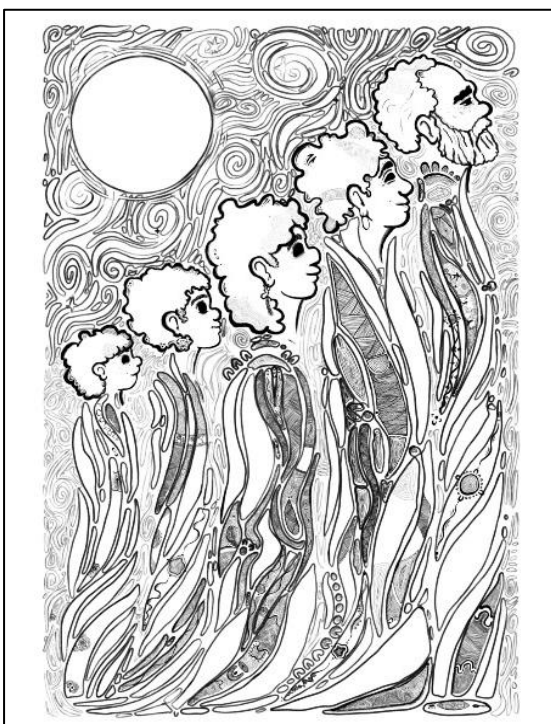
Above them is the essence of the land they live and protect/care for. ...with the swirling clouds and giant moon, a place around the fire is where the next Generation find their strength, vision and legacy. . .

Discover more about the poster and Jeremy's artwork

<https://www.naidoc.org.au/posters/poster-gallery/2025-national-naidoc-week-poster>

Artist: Jeremy Morgan Worrall

COLOURING PAGE



Poster title :: Ancestral Lines
is a visual representation of
lines and ties
that follow a generation
and the songs that come with it.

Click on the link below to download
your colouring page

https://www.naidoc.org.au/sites/default/files/documents/2025-06/NIAA_NAIDOC%202025_POSTER_NANI_BW.pdf



COLLIDE

with some of the **BEST** - people and stories –
in print and on the screen.

WELCOME back ...

to our **COLLIDE** judges for 2025:

Alexa, Deb, Nathan, and Tristan.

They **COLLIDE** with lots of info and ideas on the
CBCA NSW website

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

COLLIDE is a competition for kids to make book
trailers based on the **2025 NOTABLES**.

<https://cbca.org.au/2025-notables/>



COLLIDE

Book Trailers: Visuals, music, story

by **Deb Abela** <https://www.deborahabela.com/>

I really like my book trailer for **Grimsdon**, which my very clever partner helped make. We tried to create a sense of intrigue with the visuals and music, and tell enough of the story without giving too much away. It's only 30 seconds long but by the end, kids are often bursting to read the book.

HANDY HINTS FOR MAKING TRAILERS

Choose a book you like.

Decide the mood you'd like, and choose the music and images that help create that.

What is the hook for your trailer? Why should kids read the book? Hint at the characters and story, but don't give away any secrets or the ending!

My very clever partner, Todd, helps me make my trailers. I write the script, we both

choose the music, and he comes up with the visuals. For **The Book of Wondrous**

Possibilities, he used the cover to make an animation, added some other graphics and headings.

We also asked a friend of ours who is a radio journalist to do the voiceover, and her voice is perfect! For the **Grimsdon** trailer, we used the cover and added a series of simple transitions, added text and powerful music that builds in tension.

You can find all of my trailers here:

<https://www.deborahabela.com/videos>



See also- Deb's comments about her **2025 NOTABLY NSW** book, **The KINDNESS PROJECT** in this issue of **KC**.





Book Trailers: Hints for a great ~~escape... holiday... trailer ???~~

by **Nathan Luff** <https://nathanluff.com.au/>

with illustrations by **Chris Kennett** <https://chriskennett.com/>

Featuring :

Jungle Escape (<https://nathanluff.com.au/book/jungle-escape/>)

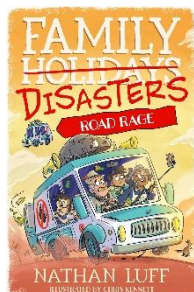
Family Holidays-Disasters (Scholastic Australia)

Nerd Herd (Scholastic)

1) *Keep it simple.* Sometimes book trailers are too complicated, with too much information, so you don't understand what is happening. Remember, book trailers are designed to make you *want* to read the book. So start by telling someone in only a few sentences what the book is about. And then, try making your book trailer focus on those few sentences you've just said.

2) *Be creative.* Make your trailer stand out from all the others by thinking outside the box. We LOVE seeing trailers that are unique and creative.

3) *Leave the viewer wanting more.* Don't spoil the ending. You want to hook the viewer and make them read the book to find out what happens next ... Focus your trailer on the set-up of the book.

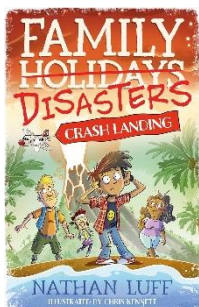


Yay For Book Trailers- Nathan Luff

Some book trailers look like ads for huge blockbuster Hollywood movies. Mine don't, which is a deliberate choice. Book trailers are supposed to match the tone of the book, and because my books are comedies, I make mine deliberately look bad to try and make people laugh.

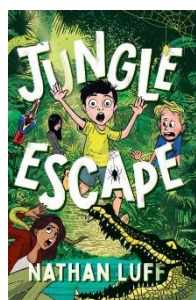
For example, in this one for **Road Rage**, I had my son move alongside the car with branches and things, as though I'm driving past them. Of course, it doesn't look like I'm moving at all. Also, Chris Kennett, the illustrator, doesn't live near me, so I had to improvise ... <https://nathanluff.com.au/book/family-disasters-road-rage/>

In this one for **Crash Landing**, I made an ad for the dodgy Airline featured in the book, complete with a dodgy green screen: <https://nathanluff.com.au/book/family-disasters-crash-landing/>



And for **Jungle Escape**, where I couldn't afford to have CGI crocodiles and cassowaries attack me, I made it so that all of the action happens off camera ... <https://nathanluff.com.au/book/jungle-escape/>

I love book trailers that are a bit creative ... and if you don't have the budget to make slick looking trailers, it's an opportunity to have a lot of fun instead





Blurbs and trailers and dinner...

by Alexa Moses <https://alexamoses.com/>

I've done many kinds of writing.

I used to be a screenwriter and, before that, a journalist. Now, I'm an author.

I also love to write rhyming poetry and have a few picture books under my belt. I love writing realistic stories that are funny, a little bit brutal and most of all, honest.

Sometimes, when I choose whether to read a book or not, after I'm intrigued by the cover, I'll turn the book over and read that little piece of writing on the back called the *blurb* to find out more. Is it an adventure? a mystery? a fantasy? or a relationshipy book? ...thrilling or cosy? Then, if I like the blurb, I move onto the first page and beyond.

If the blurb on the back cover doesn't match the story inside the book, I start to get cranky. It's a bit like ordering crispy fried chicken on a restaurant menu and getting served firecracker beef. Even if the beef is good, I'm disappointed...*Because I expected crispy fried chicken.*

Books need to do what they are supposed to do - even surprise you.

A book trailer is just like a blurb, except on film. It needs to accurately reflect the tone, ideas and characters inside the book. Otherwise, you are going to have some disappointed diners – oops, readers. ~ALEXA

See also- Alexa's comments about her **2025 NOTABLY NSW** book, **TWINNING BFFS (NOT)** in this issue of **KC**.



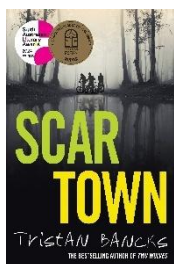
We catch up with some ideas about

Stories on page and screen

with Tristan Bancks <https://www.tristanbancks.com/>

Tristan tells stories for the page and screen. His books for kids and teens include *Two Wolves*, *The Fall*, *Detention*, *Cop & Robber*, *Ginger Meggs*, the *Tom Weekly* series and, most recently, *Scar Town*, a suspense-thriller. His books have won and been shortlisted for many awards, including a Children's Book Council of Australia Honour Book, the Prime Minister's Literary Awards, and the YABBA children's choice book awards. *Scar Town* (Penguin Books) was named the 2024 Children's Book Council of Australia's Book of the Year for Younger Readers.

Check out my [website for tips on making BOOK TRAILERS](#). More info soon. ~ Tristan



WHAT'S NEW? Read on and on...

for a brief mention of some of the highlights of new books coming your way.



LUNA'S WORLD (Affirm Press)

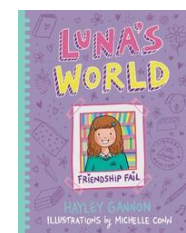
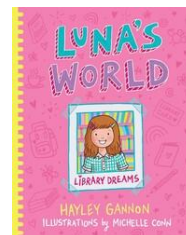
<https://www.simonandschuster.com.au/p/affirm-press>

by Hayley Gannon

<https://www.simonandschuster.com.au/authors/Hayley-annon/237063108>

with Michelle Conn, Illustrator

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



Luna LOVES books and reading and is intent on becoming this year's Best Library Monitor Ever. She is not your typical bookworm as she tends to interrupt others and have emotional outbursts.

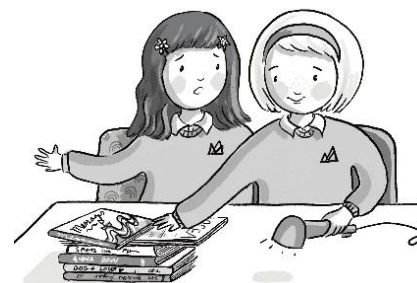
Because her mind is always racing with ideas, her Mum shares a journal with Luna to help Luna get her thoughts down on paper. This diary format makes the book accessible to readers.

I've been told that readers "*can see themselves in*

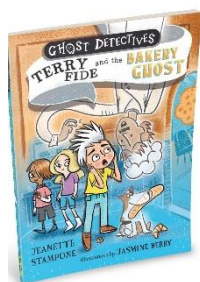
Luna."

However, Jade desperately wants the library monitor position as well. When Ms Sunny, the Librarian, sets the girls a series of library challenges, it is impossible to know who the best person for the job will be.

Watch for the adventures to continue as the series grows.



TERRY FIDE and the BAKERY GHOST



(About Kids' Books)

by Jeanette Stampone

<https://jeanetestampone.com/>

with illustrations by Jasmine Berry

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

I was born and raised in a huge 300-year-old English house that even had an underground cellar. I didn't go down there much, as it was too scary! And with parents who owned a bakery, it's no coincidence that my first junior fiction book is about a ghost in a bakery! ~ Jeanette

It's kind of hard to explain that you really can't just take over your father's ghost-detecting business and do away with a local ghost because...

Terry Fide is terrified of anything remotely scary except for his ghost dog, Bones. Can he possibly solve the mystery of a ghost in the town bakery? Well, maybe he could try if the ghost hasn't destroyed all the pastries in the bakery.



My favourite part of writing was brainstorming everything about creating the characters. It was great fun to come up with a name like Terry Fide because he's *terrified* of ghosts!

When I began to think about his family and friends, I created his ghost companion, Bones. He became my favourite character because he's cheeky and tends to disappear (literally) when he's in trouble!

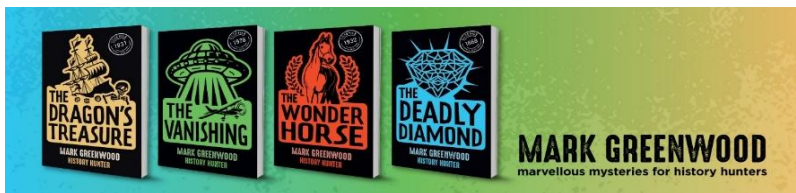
If you enjoy writing, make sure you spend lots of time getting to know your characters because it really helps to make your story unique. ~ Jeanette

Mark Greenwood :: So, what is a *History Hunter*?

<https://markgreenwood.com.au>

(based on Mark's books (Fremantle Press)

<https://markgreenwood.com.au/books>



My writing is occupied with curious characters, journeys, quests and challenges.

I'm hooked on history and love sharing stories. History Hunters like me enjoy delving into baffling mysteries, searching for lost treasures and investigating unsolved cold cases.

History hunters are curious about the past. We enjoy searching for the truth, sifting through clues and analysing data like detectives.

As a writer, I'm drawn to well-known and little-known slices of history. The spark or interest may come from a character, a setting or a significant event.

Characters we see in our mind's eye are created over many hours, days, weeks...sometimes years. They develop when we know where their journey takes them and what challenges they may face.

To get to know characters, settings and events through research is like excavating an archaeological site. History hunters are always brushing away layers of time so they can tell a gripping story about what happened, what were the consequences and why we should care. ~ Mark

[Mark's books include fascinating slices of history. In his new *History Hunter* series get the real story about diamonds and curses, Phar Lap, an ancient shipwreck treasure, a plane that just "vanishes" and other history mysteries, just waiting to be discovered]. ~ Mark

Book Week Countdown

In the countdown to CBCA Children's Book Week®, we are surrounded with amazing books, whether they are lined up for potential awards, are brand new and headed for the "what's new" shelves in the shops or in our libraries, or may be part of an adventure just looking for the right reader to come along.

NOTABLY NSW - KC simply could not get to all the "NEWBIES" and will be carrying over info about more of the NOTABLY NSW books in the BOYA Picture Book and New illustrator categories and other creatives with links to NSW in the Notables categories.

We hope to also have room for some of the other newly published books being released at this busy time on the reading calendar.

Special thanks to all Australian authors and illustrators who share their non-stop avalanche of ideas and imagination, and help us *book an adventure* through their plots, characters, settings, information and images.

Enjoy your Book Week preparations. Share what's happening with KC.



Thank you to the reading team of Wentworthville PS for sharing their **KC4KC** ideas.

Happy reading always –

Cheers- Morrie, Maryanne Ann O'Mouse, Magic Morrie, and Adventure Morrie



**More
Adventures
Coming
Soon...**



This issue of KC was compiled by Jackie Hawkes Jackie.hawkes7@gmail.com with the help of LOTS of people who love to READ, WRITE, THINK, and IMAGINE. We'd love to hear of your upcoming plans to BOOK AN ADVENTURE!