



THE CHILDREN'S
BOOK COUNCIL
OF AUSTRALIA
NSW BRANCH

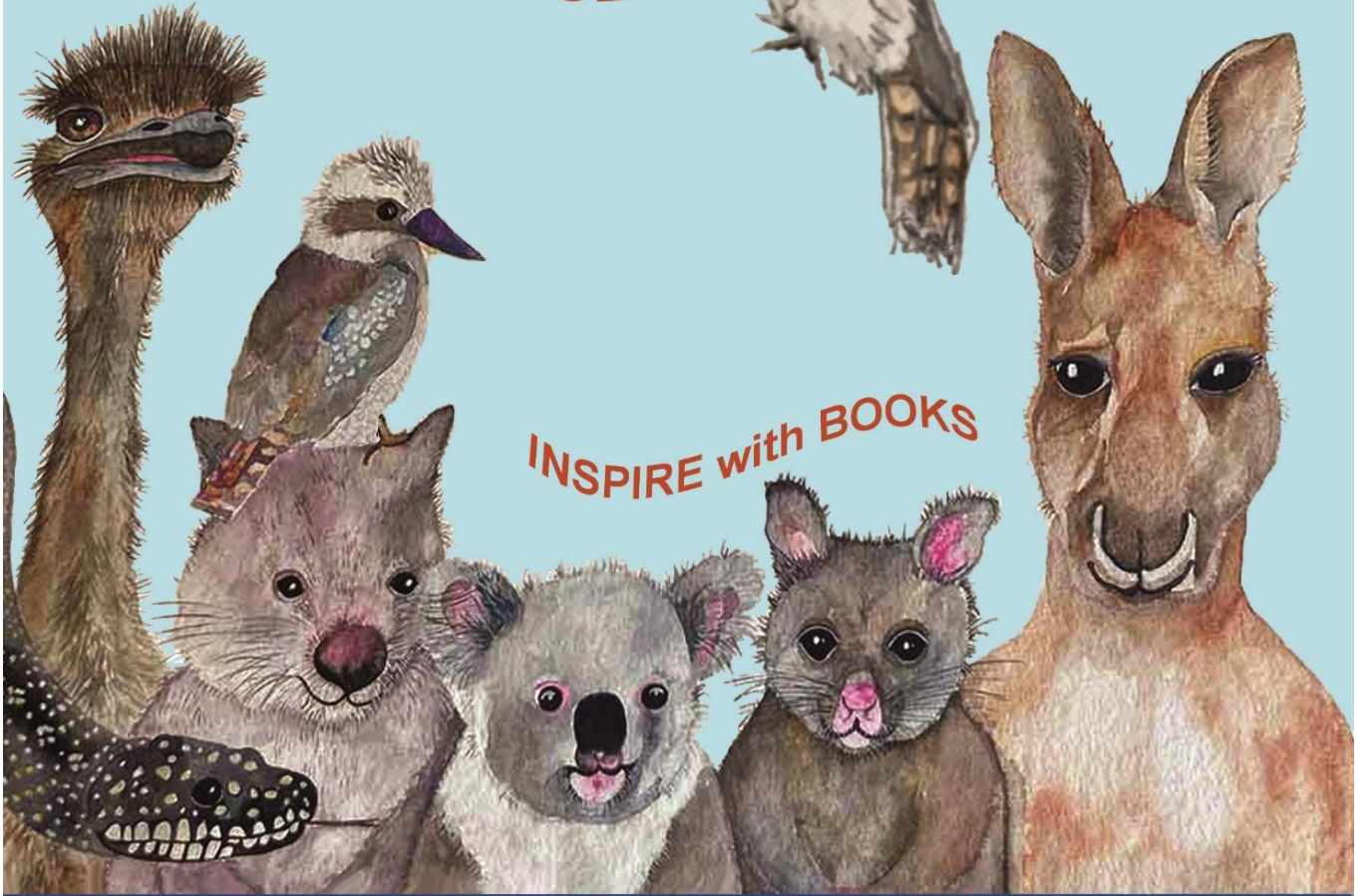
KIDS' CORNER

July/August 2023

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GROW IDEAS

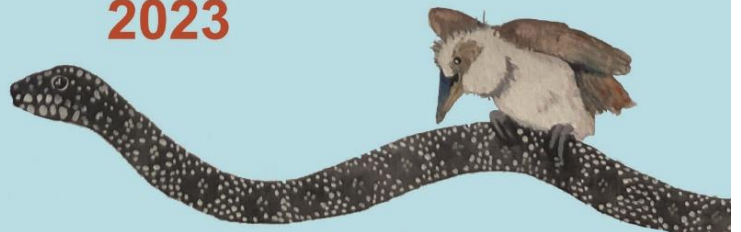
READ with JUDGES



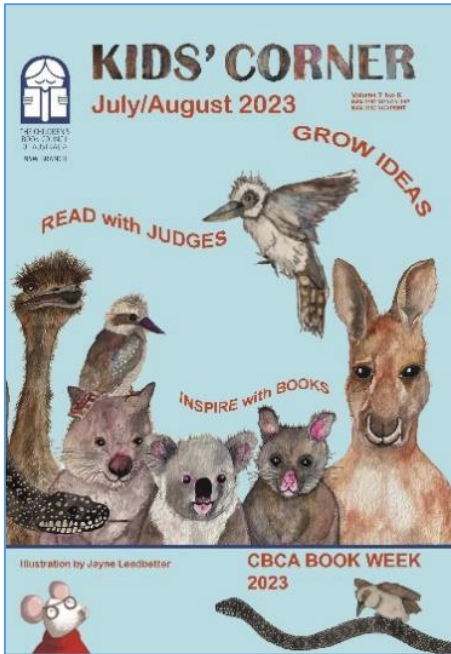
INSPIRE with BOOKS

Illustration by Jayne Leadbetter

**CBCA BOOK WEEK
2023**



CBCANSW Inc ~ KIDS' CORNER ~ July/August 2023 ~ READERS are the REAL WINNERS

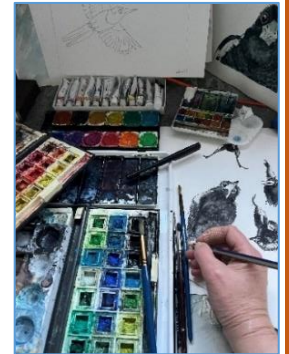


Welcome to KC for JULY 2023 . . . with our guest Illustrator **JAYNE LEADBETTER**

Hello,
I'm an aspiring author and illustrator of children's picture books. When not teaching Art, Design and Technology at high school, my huge 62-kilo rescue wolfhound-cross Clifford and I head off to the coast and park to photograph and paint landscapes, nature and birdlife.

For the cover of this issue of **KIDS' CORNER**, I began with my illustration of native animals, then inspired by Jackie, the editor of **KC**, I imagined each animal reading, writing, and creating art. Once I started, I found it hard to stop. It's so much fun letting your creativity take new paths and not

being afraid to take your work in different directions. I prefer to paint with watercolour and tweak it digitally. But I also like to get my hands sticky and dirty, using charcoal, recycled paper and found objects for collage and printmaking. Creating art can be very relaxing and rewarding.



Before being a teacher, I was a textile designer and painted in a range of mediums in completely different styles.



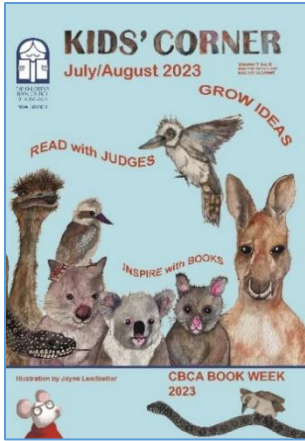
I'm very lucky, I live close to Centennial Park, where cockatoos, swans, ibises, spoonbills, geese, fruit bats and more call home, so I'm always spotting birds and mammals to photograph and paint. Lots of possums and magpies live on our street too and have inspired me to write and illustrate a picture book about a female magpie called *Tibi*.



I'm currently studying for a master's degree in creative writing at Uni. My passions are saving the environment, especially trees (I used to dress up as one), and volunteering to cook for people who are struggling to make ends meet in Sydney. And I'm working on a picture book about a child who motivates the community to come together and feed people in need. I hope that one day, my artwork and children's books will inspire others to spread a little more kindness in the world and make a difference.

You can find a few of my illustrations on Instagram @jayneleadbetter and in several issues of the wonderful online and kid lit magazine **Paperbound Magazine** <https://paperboundmag.com/issues/> and also <https://www.scbwi.org/members/jayne-leadbetter>.

My website is currently under construction.



WELCOME to KIDS' CORNER for July/ August 2023 and the countdown to 2023 CBCA CHILDREN'S BOOK WEEK®

Thanks to our guest illustrator, [Jayne Leadbetter](#), for sharing her love of nature and the environment and books in a special cover for **KC** this month. She has also adapted some of her Australian native animals on the cover for some extra images in **KC**.

A number of the 2023 CBCA Notable and the Shortlisted books feature animals and environment. [Sea, land, and air animal content (especially birds) were in 38% of entries].

This all helps set the scene to **Grow Ideas**, **Read with Judges**, and **Inspire with Books** as part of the countdown to CBCA Children's Book Week®.

This issue includes:

- ideas and remarkable images of the 2023 Children's Book Week theme – Read. . . Grow . . . Inspire...;
- background info about some of the CBCA Judges from NSW.
- updates of info about: the COLLIDE Book trailers; KBOYE - the Kids' Book of the Year Event; and the Shadow Judging creations.

Poet and Shortlisted author, [Mike Lucas](#) [Older Readers - *What We All Saw*], shares the POWER of Poetry and [CBCA Childrens' Book Week®](#).

CONGRATULATIONS to everyone as we wait and watch for Book Week which brings together ideas about great books from everyone – including YOU!

READERS are always winners! And **GO the MATILDAS!** [Thanks [Kristin and Serena!](#)]



KC4KC =

KIDS' COMMENTS 4 KIDS' CORNER

KC4KC comments about **READING. WRITING** and **CREATING** shared this month by the writing team of Carinya Christian School, Gunnedah with thanks to Alex Wharton, Principal.

Image created by Jayne Leadbetter ©2023.

2023 CBCA Children's Book Week® - Saturday, 19 August to Friday, 25 August 2023

Theme: READ, GROW, INSPIRE

With Illustrations and designs created by Matt Ottley

The 2023 CBCA Children's Book Week® theme comes to life through the amazing illustrations of Matt Ottley <https://mattottley.com/home/> . His exceptional talents as an author, illustrator and music composer set the scene to READ...GROW...INSPIRE. His images of the flying hero seahorse carry young readers through an endless sunlit space where imagination has unlimited scope for growth and infinite possibilities.



Image - [https://cbca.blob.core.windows.net/images/2023 theme /BookWeek Resources/tile_sky.jpg](https://cbca.blob.core.windows.net/images/2023%20theme%20/BookWeek%20Resources/tile_sky.jpg)

Matt's focus shows how literature has the capacity to develop a child's inner world and how it can plant the seed of inspiration for them to express their own creativity. In this manner, they are almost like plants, and literature is the sun, the soil, and the water. His images of sky and clouds, books, seahorses and other images lead us to our own interpretations.

He has created a visual riddle in his work, by including an object, an image, a quality or an element that represents each letter of the alphabet. Enjoy the search.

Watch the launch of the 2023 CBCA Children's Book Week® theme with Matt Ottley

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hRWj-sKSwBk>

SEAHORSES AND MYTHS

In various mythologies, seahorses symbolize good luck, magic, masculinity, strength, persistence, and peace. They can teach us great life lessons. They are seen to have significant power as spirit animals.

The Torres Strait Islanders believed that the seahorse brings luck and good fortune as an attribute from the sea. The seahorse is considered to be a symbol of strength and power.

According to Greek mythology, seahorses were sacred to Poseidon, the god of the ocean, storms, earthquakes, and horses. Legend explains that seahorses protect sailors while in the sea. Greeks also believed that when sailors drowned, seahorses escorted them between the physical and spiritual world.



The seahorse in *Percy Jackson and the Olympians* is called *Rainbow*.

Image: <https://camelcamelcamel.com/product/B004D8VIQU>

FUN FACTS ABOUT SEAHORSES

Source: <https://www.girlsthatscuba.com/seahorse-facts/>

- Seahorses are a type of fish. They are found on every continent... except Antarctica.
- There are more than 50 different species of seahorse. The smallest seahorse is just 14mm long. The dwarf seahorse is the slowest fish in the sea.
- The big-bellied seahorse is one of the largest seahorses. Species and can grow up to 35cm in length.
- The natural lifespans of seahorses are virtually unknown, with most estimates coming from captive observations. The known lifespans for seahorse species range from about one year in the smallest species to an average of three to five years for the larger species.
- Seahorses usually mate for life. Male seahorses carry the eggs during reproduction.
- Seahorses don't have stomachs, but they do have big appetites. They lack teeth, so they inhale their food through their snouts. It then passes through their digestive system so quickly that seahorses have to eat almost constantly to satisfy their appetites.
- Seahorses are masters of disguise. They sneak up on their prey with their impressive camouflage. Seahorses can change their colour to match their surroundings.
- Seahorses need our help.
Sadly, some seahorses are deliberately targeted so that they can be sold as pets or used in medicine. Seahorses like to hang out in areas heavily affected by human impact, including destructive fishing practices (like bottom trawlers), climate change, plastic pollution, and sedimentation.

There are plenty of things you can do to help the plight of seahorses and our oceans - by reducing your carbon footprint, eating less fish and refusing single-use plastics.

CHILDREN'S
BOOK WEEK

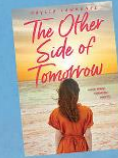
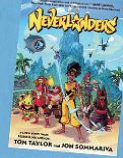
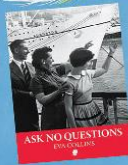
#CBCA2023

SHORTLIST 2023

CBCA BOOK OF THE YEAR AWARDS



OLDER READERS



YOUNGER READERS



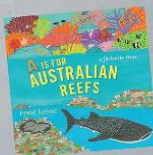
EARLY CHILDHOOD



PICTURE BOOK



EVE POWNALL AWARD



NEW ILLUSTRATOR AWARD



ARTWORK BY MATT OTTLEY
© 2023 THE CHILDREN'S BOOK COUNCIL OF AUSTRALIA

[https://cbca.blob.core.windows.net/images/2023 theme /BookWeek Resources/SL 2023 A4.jpg](https://cbca.blob.core.windows.net/images/2023%20theme%20/BookWeek%20Resources/SL%202023%20A4.jpg)

CBCA BOOK OF THE YEAR SHORTLIST 2023

SHORTLIST CRITIQUES

<https://cbca.blob.core.windows.net/documents/BookOfTheYear/2023/2023Shortlistcritiques.pdf>

CBCANSW Inc ~ KIDS' CORNER ~ July/August 2023 ~ READERS are the REAL WINNERS

CBCA BOOK OF THE YEAR AWARDS



CCBCA BOYA - CRITERIA AND CATEGORIES

BOOK OF THE YEAR: OLDER READERS - Entries in this category may be fiction, drama or poetry and should be appropriate in style and content for readers in their secondary years of schooling. Ages 13-18 years.

Note: Books in this category are for mature readers and some may deal with particularly challenging themes including violence and suicide. Parental guidance is recommended.

BOOK OF THE YEAR: YOUNGER READERS - Entries in this category may be fiction, drama or poetry and should be appropriate in style and content for readers from the middle to upper primary years. 7-12 years.

Note: Some of the titles in this category may only be suitable for readers who are in the upper primary years as they contain mature themes, including violence. Parental guidance is recommended.

BOOK OF THE YEAR: EARLY CHILDHOOD - Entries in this category may be fiction, drama or poetry and should be appropriate in style and content for children who are at pre-reading or early stages of reading.

Ages 0-6 years.

THE PICTURE BOOK OF THE YEAR - Entries in this category should be outstanding books of the Picture Book genre in which the author and illustrator achieve artistic and literary unity or, in wordless picture books, where the story, theme or concept is unified through illustrations.

Ages 0-18 years. (NB. Some of these books may be for mature readers).

EVE POWNALL AWARD - Entries in this category should be books which have the prime intention of documenting factual material with consideration given to imaginative presentation, interpretation, and variation of style.

Ages 0-18 years.

Note: Books in this category are for mature readers and some may deal with particularly challenging themes including violence and suicide. Parental guidance is recommended.

CBCA AWARD FOR NEW ILLUSTRATOR - This Award aims to recognize and encourage new talent in the field of Australian children's book illustration.

Ages 0-18 years.

JOINING THE CBCA JUDGES



The CBCA Judges are experts from across Australia with diverse backgrounds and experiences in aspects of Australian Children's Literature. They generally sit for 2 year-long terms, within the category of their known specialty. They volunteer their time from the very moment the first books arrive on their doorstep, reading every entry and meeting at regular intervals throughout the year. Each category of the CBCA Book of the Year Awards has three judges.

We catch up with some of the judges from NSW below.



JOINING THE JUDGES - COLLEEN CADDEY -Younger Reader Judge 2022-2024



I have been a reader for as long as I can remember. Growing up in a small, remote, and underprivileged community I discovered that reading and education could offer the experiences and opportunities of my dreams. Throughout my Kindergarten year I was sick and confined to bed, during this time my mother entertained me with stories and taught me to read. Books became my life, taking me to a completely different world, providing an escape from reality. I choose to read texts both fiction and non-fiction text. I enjoy historical fiction, biographies, ethical dilemma, mystery / intrigue, thrillers that are engaging without being horrific and anything that may offer insight or commentary on society or political life.

As a BOTY judge being able to access and reflect on current Australian Children's Literature is a privilege and experience that I find challenging, inspiring and life giving.

KC4KC = KIDS' COMMENTS 4 KIDS' CORNER

I hate **writing** but love **reading**. I like reading because I love escaping reality and being in a world of my own creation, unlike real life. The things that most inspire me are art, gaming, general pop culture and animals.

LAYLA ~ Year 8



KC4KC = KIDS' COMMENTS 4 KIDS' CORNER

I love **reading** funny made - up books and facts. **Reading** books helps everyone. I love playing sports, especially rugby, so sport books are also really interesting to me.

HARRISON ~ Year 6



JOINING THE JUDGES - FRAN CARSON

-Eve Pownall Judge 2024 - 2025



I am very thrilled to be one of the three judges for the Eve Pownall category for 2024-2025. It is very exciting to receive wonderful non-fiction Australian books in the mail on a regular basis.

I have always loved reading factual books since I was a young child, but the books I read in my childhood were not as beautifully illustrated as those we are inspired by today.

Every year the books in this category demonstrate truly imaginative presentations which really engage us in the text and help us to understand the information presented.

When we engage with the Eve Pownall books, we can learn so much about our country, Indigenous culture, history, natural environments and the wider world. We can rely on the accuracy of the texts as the authors and illustrators are often scientists or experts in their field who have researched the information presented.

I love the world of art and visiting art galleries and museums and also bushwalking and appreciating our beautiful natural Australian environment.

All of us enjoying the Eve Pownall books can truly be inspired and grow in our knowledge of the people and world around us.

I hope you can all have the chance to enjoy the fabulous and inspiring Eve Pownall books.



JOINING THE JUDGES - SHERYL COOTES

- Eve Pownall Judge 2022-2023

- Picture Book/New Illustrator Judge 2024



I was a teacher for nearly 35 years in primary schools in Western Sydney and the Blue Mountains. I have always been an avid reader, regularly borrowing from my local library from my childhood until now, although as an adult I also have the luxury of buying, keeping and sharing books. I still cherish many books from my childhood, such as *Pookie*, *The Magic Faraway Tree* and *Anne of Green Gables*. I have been a member of a Book Club for nearly thirty years. Apart from reading, I enjoy cooking and quilting.

I enjoy reading as I find it relaxing and a way to escape into other worlds. I also enjoy learning about history and the stories of others, mainly through reading fiction based on actual events and experiences. I read crime/mystery novels as a form of escapism but also to keep my mind active – solving the puzzle and getting into

the lives of the characters and settings. Young Adult fiction is also a good read as the narratives are usually very strong.

Being a judge for BOYA is an exciting experience and a privilege. I have been an Eve Pownall judge for 2022-2023. Each book is judged by a panel of three judges against set criteria relevant to the particular category. After reading the books individually, we discuss and collaborate before reaching a final decision. We look forward to the announcements each year of the Notables, Shortlist and Winners and hearing young people's responses to our choices!



KC4KC = KIDS' COMMENTS 4 KIDS' CORNER

I love **reading**, because you feel as if you are in another world and that you are actually part of the world that you are **reading**. I really enjoy **writing**, because you get to create a world that is full of whatever you want in it. **Writing** gives you so much freedom. When I am outside and in nature, I find it easier to **think**. There are lots of things going on in the world, but if you just take a moment to enjoy nature, it can calm your **thinking** down a lot. **Creating** things is heaps of fun. I really enjoy **creating** stories and **reading** stories that other people have **created** – it is really encouraging.

ANNABEL ~ Year 7



JOINING THE JUDGES - MARGOT LINDGREN

-Picture Book and New Illustrator Judge 2022-2023



Way back in 1984 I told the students in my school library I would love to be a CBCA Book of the Year judge many of them said – do it! but it took until 2021 for this dream to come true. When the first box of books arrived, I was so excited and over the following two years even the post office lady joined in with my anticipation of what treasures I might find.

To me Book Week has two main parts, and both are very important to me.

One is exploring all the books that have either reached the Notables list which this year had 25 books in each category and then the more in-depth exploration with groups of readers in my library of the 6 very special short-listed titles. The second part to me is the unpacking of the CBCA slogan which this year is Read Grow Inspire. There are so many possibilities here but it is the word INSPIRE that really bounces out at me.

So many of the books I read are so inspiring either because the characters do something amazing and this can be big or small, or because I marvel at the creativity of the author or illustrator.

Between 2021 and 2023, I read over 400 new books and now I need to add more bookshelves to my house to hold all the terrific titles. My dad and grandfather were avid readers, and so it seems quite natural that I also caught the reading bug. Book Week 2023 will be extra exciting this year. As I listen-in to all the conversations about the winners, I hope you love them all as much as I did.



JOINING THE JUDGES - CATHIE TASKER

-Younger Readers Judge 2024

CATHIE TASKER -

She makes books . . .

And reads them. . .

And judges them. . .

I'm a CBCA judge, an editor, and a reader.

Reading is all I do for work, and reading is what I do for fun. Judging is fun too because it's an excuse to chat to other judges about books. That's why I do what I do. Reading and breathing are essential for life and happiness.

This year I'm judging the Younger Readers category and I'm expecting to read more than 120 books. Like the CBCA theme for Book Week (read...grow...inspire), I find it inspiring to read, because it helps me grow as a person.

I'm never bored, because there's always something new, and some strange thing to try. Last Saturday I went to the beach with an author, an illustrator, a book designer. That's four of us all working on creating a picture book on water safety and rockpools.



Danielle Bluff (book designer), Dub Leffler (illustrator) and Louise Lambeth (author).
Me? I'm taking the photo. See how hard we're working.
We're doing research for the book. It's inspiring!



JOINING THE JUDGES - ALEX WHARTON

-Eve Pownall Judge - 2023 – 2024



Alex Wharton is a teacher and leader of an independent school in northwest NSW. Alex loves all things to do with English - reading, writing, spelling, thinking, growing, reflecting, sharing, storytelling - the list goes on!

- Why are you a reader?

Reading opens doors, takes us to newfound places and broadens our horizons and thinking to what could be possible! I struggled with the act of reading as a child but have always loved stories,

especially people reading to me (audiobooks). Now as a reader, it is something I can do anywhere at anytime that brings pleasure and joy.

- As a reader (not as a judge) how do you choose what you read?

I look at book reviews, browse bookshops and speak with my friends, we share what we might like to be reading with each other and it fosters a great sense of excitement.

- Any short facts about the judging or BOYA process?

Judges read (and judge) all the entries submitted to them, in Eve Pownall category facts and research and verified as part of the judging process, consider having your voice in the conversation through the CBCA Shadow Judging

process <https://shadowjudging.cbca.org.au/>

And YES! CBCA judges' videos on shortlisted titles are must-watch content.

[2023 Judges Panel Discussion videos are available in CBCA NSW Branch Members' Lounge – Alex].



KC4KC = KIDS' COMMENTS 4 KIDS' CORNER

I read because it keeps my creativity flowing so I can write my own stories. One of my favourite book series is *The Story Treehouse Books*. They have lots of creativity. Books like those keep me writing in my free time. Sometimes, I write stories about what has happened in my life. I start most of my writing by thinking about a topic. After I get an idea, I extend that idea and start writing. Once, we were driving to Tamworth and an idea popped into my head. So, when I got home, I wrote it in my book.

HANNAH ~ Year 7

BOYA FACTS AND STATS 2023

- a brain borrow of *Eve Pownall statistics* - with thanks to Alex W



- Majority of entries had reader audience of 5–14-year age range (EP category spans 0-18 years)
- 27 entries from debut authors
- 11 entries from debut illustrators



KC4KC = KIDS' COMMENTS 4 KIDS' CORNER

I love **reading** because it is super fun! I keep **reading** all the time by picking books that I am interested in - chapter books with pictures. My sister likes books that are really long and have no pictures. So, it's all about what you like. When I **read**, I **think** about what the story is telling me and what has happened that is good or bad, and how they will fix it. It normally takes me about three days to read a chapter book and about five minutes to **read** a picture book.

LEXI ~ Year 5

KC4KC = KIDS' COMMENTS 4 KIDS' CORNER

I love to play soccer and **write**. When I watch others play, it makes me get the feeling that I want to play. My brother taught me how to play soccer when I was 3. I love **reading** because it keeps me active and so I don't get bored. I also love **creating** art. It is so **inspiring** to watch and to **create**. I also love **writing**.

SAXON ~ Year 5



CELEBRATING CBCA Children's Book Week® 2023
READ, GROW, INSPIRE - by MIKE LUCAS

*MIKE LUCAS Poems <http://www.mikelucas.com.au/book-week-poems.php>

*MIKE LUCAS YouTube link for Book Week Poem

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=I13OZW8nHwo&t=6s>

Read, grOW, inspire



When I was nine, I was given a book.
I opened it up and I had a good look.
There weren't any pictures or words on the pages.
I picked up a pencil and scribbled for ages.
I made some mistakes and I started again,
And I filled up that book by the time I turned ten.



When I was one, I was given a book.
I opened it up and I had a good look.
I banged it and bent it and bit it in places,
Then stared at the colours, the shapes and the faces.
And I wondered what else this odd object could do.
But I didn't find out till the day I turned two.

When I was two, I was given a book.
I opened it up and I had a good look.
I studied the pictures, and then the strange scribbles
That ran through the pages in squiggles and wiggles.
And I wondered What can those weird wavy lines be?
But I didn't find out till the day I turned three.

When I was three, I was given a book.
I opened it up and I had a good look.
I learned all the letters and put them together
To make special sounds, and I felt very clever.
I practised a lot, then I practised some more,
And I read my first word on the day I turned four.



When I was four, I was given a book.
I opened it up and I had a good look.
I sat with the cat in the hat on the mat,
And I wished that my cat was a cat just like that.â
And I found out how stories like that came alive
With just pictures and words on the day I turned five.

When I was five, I was given a book.
Before it was opened, I had a good look
At the names on the front. And I hoped that one day
I could write my own words in my own special way,
And tell tales that were nobody else's but mine.
And that's just what I did on the day I turned nine.

When I was ten, I showed someone my book.
They opened it up and they had a good look.
And they read it right through, every word, every letter,
Said where I'd done well and where I could do better.
And I listened and learned and continued to try
To improve, to read more as the years passed on by.

As the years passed, I wrote tales, short and long.
I wrote picture books, poetry, lyrics from songs.
I read tales of adventure, excitement and woe,
And each book that I read helped my own stories grow.
Then I bought a computer and opened a folder,
And filled it with stories. And now I am older...

Now I am older I've written a book
You can find in the libraries and shops if you look.
And I travel to schools, and I talk about how
My mind grew as I read to the mind it is now -
How I didn't give up, but kept writing each day.
So, if you want to write in your own special way,
There is nothing to stop you, apart from yourself,
And one day you may see your own book on a shelf.



Copyright © Mike Lucas 2023



Mike has a tradition of writing a poem each year, especially for Book Week. He has written a number of other poems. He is also the author of picture books and novels. **What We All Saw** is shortlisted for the 2023 CBCA Older Readers category.



The POWER OF POETRY . . . AND MORE

By MIKE LUCAS - www.mikelucas.com.au

- What do you like about poetry?

I'm not a fan of all poetry. I like poetry that is easily understandable, that you don't have to work hard at interpreting. I think pulling poetry apart at school put me off a lot of it and I try to get away from that with the poetry workshops I teach. My favourite type of poetry is metered, rhyming verse. I love the challenge of making the words fit perfectly.

- What surprises you about poetry?

How there isn't enough of it published for children. Poetry anthologies are a great tool to help reluctant readers get into literacy. Especially when they realise how much fun it can be. I've seen children's attitudes to poetry change during my 45-minute workshops when they discover the magic of language.



-Why do you write?

I've always written stories and poems, but it's only in the last decade or so that I've realised how much I need to write. I am always on the go and writing is my way of relaxing. There are no rules and no boundaries to what I can create, and I love the idea of inventing something that has never existed out of nothing but thought.

-Why do you read?

Reading is a way of meeting people, experiencing places or going on an adventure without moving. And that's great if you're an introvert like me (some people I know may disagree with that). Nothing else matters when you're lost within the pages of a book. And, as an author, I'm also learning the craft from the sofa or bed. My dilemma, when I have a spare hour is – do I read? or do I write?

-What do you look forward to about CBCA Book Week 2023?

I'm looking forward to having a week away from my normal job as an engineer and having some fun with the children. I'm booked out at schools across Adelaide and will be presenting to about 1,500 students that week.

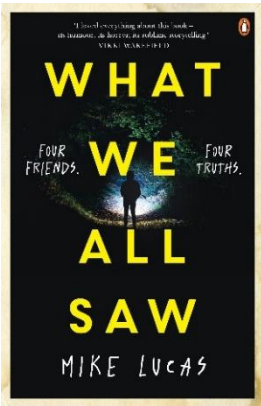


- How do you balance your imagination in writing poetry plus books across age groups?

Writing anything creative takes imagination. Writing poetry (often for picture book manuscripts now) is a relatively quick process for me, especially the first draft. It doesn't take as much time as a YA novel. If I get stuck on my novels (yes, that can happen!), I try to pen a poem or picture book manuscript to give me some sense of achievement.

-How does what you read influence how and why you write?

I've been a Stephen King and horror fan since I was eleven and much of what I write has a macabre touch to it. I still read mostly adult novels and I really enjoy the classics, books that I feel I should have read when I was younger. And when I read a great novel, it spurs me on to try to write my own.



-Where did the ideas for your characters come from in *What We All Saw*?

There are four main protagonists in *What We All Saw*, and I wanted them all to be different. I think I used my own voice to create Sam, the narrator. Gray was based on a friend I had growing up. He was a rebel, a bit of a troublemaker, but would do anything to help his close friends. When I was creating Charlie, I envisioned Vern from *The Body (Stand By Me)* by Stephen King. I wrote this story while I was losing the sight in one of my eyes (I had a lot of time off work) and Shell's blindness came out of that experience.

And saving the best for last ...

What do you wish people would ask you about your books? Hmmmm. . .

And don't forget, Mike's book, *What We All Saw* is shortlisted for Older Readers.

*MIKE LUCAS WEBSITE for *What We All Saw*

<http://www.mikelucas.com.au/what-we-all-saw.php>

*MIKE LUCAS Penguin site for *What We All Saw*

<https://www.penguin.com.au/authors/mike-lucas>

KC4KC = KIDS' COMMENTS 4 KIDS' CORNER

I love to **read** and **write**. When I see inspiring artwork, it gets me **thinking** about what it's like to **create** artwork like that. My 15-year-old cousin has done some amazing things in **creating** artworks, and he helps me **create** amazing artworks. I am 11 years old and look forward to a lifetime ahead of **creating, reading, and writing**.

ALEX ~ Year 5



KC4KC = KIDS' COMMENTS 4 KIDS' CORNER

I love to **write** stories and sometimes **read** books. I love to **create** stories and art in all different ways. But you might wonder... What keeps me **reading, writing, thinking, and creating**? What helps is the fact that when I am bored, I will sometimes, for example...**read** a book or make a piece of art. It makes me feel proud of my work, so I do it again! Normally what inspires me is my dog, animals, nature, my family, other artworks and sometimes, even school. **HELENA ~ Year 6**



WATCHING and WAITING for WINNERS . . .

Watch for exciting announcements about great books that are part of 2023 CBCA Children's Book Week®.

CBCA BOYA = Children's Book Council of Australia Book of the Year Awards



Nearly 500 books total were nominated this year.

Totals submitted for each category were:

Older readers - 60+
Younger Readers - 145
Early Childhood - 121
Picture Books with
New Illustrator - 200
Eve Pownall Award - 90

Books are judged as
NOTABLES, SHORT LISTED,
WINNERS, and HONOUR
books.



The 2023 BOYA winners will be announced
FRIDAY AUGUST 18
on <https://cbca.org.au/>
and presented by our new partners,
*The Australian Theatre
for Young People*

KBOYE = KIDS' BOOK of the YEAR EVENT

Friday, August 18

KBOYE will feature special book reviews
by readers of the Shortlisted books
for **OLDER READERS**
and for **YOUNGER READERS**.

James Foley is our guest presenter.



The **BOYA** winners and
the **COLLIDE Book Trailer** winners will be
announced as part of the **KBOYE**.

A yellow event poster for the Kids Book of the Year Event. It features the 'READ GROW Inspire' logo at the top left and the CBCA logo at the top right. The text reads: 'COME ALONG AND CELEBRATE THE ANNOUNCEMENT OF OUR 2023 CBCA BOOK OF THE YEAR AWARD WINNER AND HONOUR BOOKS AT OUR Kids Book of the Year Event FRIDAY AUGUST 18 11.00 AM - 1.30 PM @ Sydney Mechanics School of Arts Theatre 280 Pitt Street, Sydney (short walk from Town Hall) Our guest presenter is .. James Foley'. Below this is a small bio of James Foley and a photo of him. At the bottom, it says 'Featuring: • Announcement of the WINNERS of The COLLIDE! with the Notables Book Trailer Competition • View the winning entries • Hear students review the shortlisted titles in the Older & Younger Reader categories' and 'School bookings now closed'.

COLLIDE



The COLLIDE Book Trailer Competition

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

invited teams of readers to read any of the CBCA NOTABLE BOOKS for 2023 and create a book trailer.

This year, 191 trailers were submitted.

An online exhibition of shortlisted trailers commences on August 11, 2023.

Thanks to **Tristan Bancks** and **Rotary, North Sydney** for sponsoring prizes

COLLIDE

Thanks to our **COLLIDE** Judges for sharing their energy and experience creating great books and amazing book trailers.

Watch for their latest books:

DEB ABELA -

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

The Book of Wondrous Possibilities

TRISTAN BANCKS –

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

Scar Town

and **NATHAN LUFF -**

<http://nathanluff.com.au/>

Family Disasters Series – Crash Landing (Nov 2023)

SHADOW JUDGING



Groups of young voices have been reading the 2023 CBCA Book of the Year Shortlisted titles and discussing, debating, and analysing them using the same criteria our professional Book of the Year judges used to determine the BOYA Winners.

These "shadow judges" will place their own vote for the book they thought best met the criteria.

SHADOW JUDGING

These *Shadows' Choice* winners will be announced on <https://cbca.org.au/> at 12:00 PM (midday, AEST) Friday 25 August.

Visit the **Shadow Judging** site

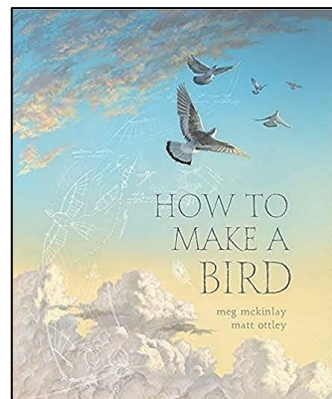
<https://shadowjudging.cbca.org.au/creative-responses/>

to see the **Creative Responses** to books read by the Shadow Judges. These responses include posters, poems, debates, games, and more.

DESIGN TEAM - Did you know???

- **MATT OTTLEY** provided the featured artwork for CBCA Childrens' Book Week® 2023. He is the winner of the 2021 Picture Book Award for *How to Make a Bird*.

-**ZENO SWORDER** (2021 New Illustrator Winner for *One Small Blue Dot*) and **ANNA MCGREGOR** (creator of *The Anemone is Not the Enemy*, 2021 Early Childhood Honour book) have also collaborated to design some of our wonderful 2023 CBCA Book Week range.



WORD JUGGLES OF TITLES from the CBCA SHORTLIST 2023

Juggle parts of the titles of a batch of books to make sentences about what could be part of a blended story. Books are your choice. You may like to choose the first book on the shelf of every other fiction shelf, or . . .

We choose to work with the titles and categories of the CBCA 2023 Shortlisted books.

Image by Jayne Leadbetter



OLDER READERS	WORD JUGGLE
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ask No Questions (Eva Collins, P&W) • Completely Normal (and Other Lies) (Biffy James, Hardie Grant Children's Publishing) • The Greatest Thing (Sarah Winifred Searle, A&U) • Neverlanders (Tom Taylor, illus by Jon Sommariva, PRH) • The Other Side of Tomorrow (Hayley Lawrence, Scholastic) • What We All Saw (Mike Lucas, PRH) 	<p>The greatest thing is that it is completely normal to ask no questions about what we all saw on the other side of tomorrow.</p> <p>What we all saw on the other side of tomorrow was just the greatest thing, but it was completely normal.</p>
YOUNGER READERS	WORD JUGGLE
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • August & Jones (Pip Harry, Hachette) • Elvie and Rhino (Neridah McMullin, illus by Astred Hicks, Walker Books) • The Raven's Song (Zana Fraillon & Bren MacDibble, A&U) • Runt (Craig Silvey, A&U) • The Way of Dog (Zana Fraillon, illus by Sean Buckingham, UQP) • Xavier in the Meantime (Kate Gordon, Riveted) 	<p>When August and Jones saw Elvie and Rhino, they all burst into singing the raven's song. Xavier, in the meantime, went the way of the dog, and howled at the moon.</p>
EARLY CHILDHOOD	WORD JUGGLE
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bev and Kev (Katrina Germein, illus by Mandy Foot, Little Book) • Jigsaw: A Puzzle in the Post (Bob Graham, Walker Books) • Lionel and Me (Corinne Fenton, illus by Tracie Grimwood, New Frontier) • Market Day (Carrie Gallasch, illus by Hannah Sommerville, Hardie Grant Children's Publishing) • Snap! (Anna Walker, Scribble) • Where the Lyrebird Lives (Vikki Conley, illus by Max Hamilton, Windy Hollow) 	<p>Bev and Kev live out of town, out where the lyre bird lives. They were surprised when they received a jigsaw puzzle in the post. Lionel and me, however, decided to save our money, and wait to shop on market day.</p>

And more word juggles . . .

PICTURE BOOK of the YEAR	WORD JUGGLE
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dirt by Sea (Tom Jellett, illus by Michael Wagner, PRH) • Farmhouse (Sophie Blackall, Hachette) • Frank's Red Hat (Sean E Avery, Walker Books) • My Strange Shrinking Parents (Zeno Swords, T&H) • Our Dreaming (Dub Leffler, illus by Kirli Saunders, Scholastic) • Paradise Sands: A story of enchantment (Levi Pinfold, Walker Books) 	<p>While he was dreaming about a story of enchantment, Frank's strange red hat was shrinking into the dirt by the sea near the old farmhouse.</p>
EVE POWNALL AWARD	WORD JUGGLE
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A Is for Australian Reefs (Frané Lessac, Walker Books) • Amazing Animal Journeys (Jennifer Cossins, Hachette) • Come Together: Things every Aussie kid should know about the First Peoples (Isaiah Firebrace, illus by Jaelyn Biunaiwai, HG Explore) • DEEP: Delve into hidden worlds (Jess McGeachin, Welbeck) • Opal and Dart (Vianne Brain, illus by Clare Bradley, Forty South) • Wild Australian Life (Leonard Cronin, illus by Chris Nixon, A&U) 	<p>Some of the things every Aussie kid should know about amazing animal journeys is that as they dart about and delve into deep hidden worlds, the wild life eventually come together with others in their species.</p>
CBCA AWARD FOR NEW ILLUSTRATORS	WORD JUGGLE
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Australia: From dawn to dusk (Brentos, Affirm) • The Best Hiding Place (Jane Godwin, illus by Sylvia Morris, Affirm) • Naturopolis (Deborah Frenkel, illus by Ingrid Bartkowiak, Storytorch) • There's No Such Book (Jessica Dettmann, illus by Jake A Minton, Hardie Grant Children's Publishing) • Tiny Wonders (Sally Soweol Han, UQP) • We Are Australians (Duncan Smith & Nicole Godwin, illus by Jandamarra Cadd, Wild Dog). 	<p>From dawn to dusk the best hiding place is in a book.</p> <p>From dawn to dusk, we are Australian tiny wonders.</p> <p>There's no such hiding place for Australian tiny wonders.</p>

FOLLOW THIS LINK

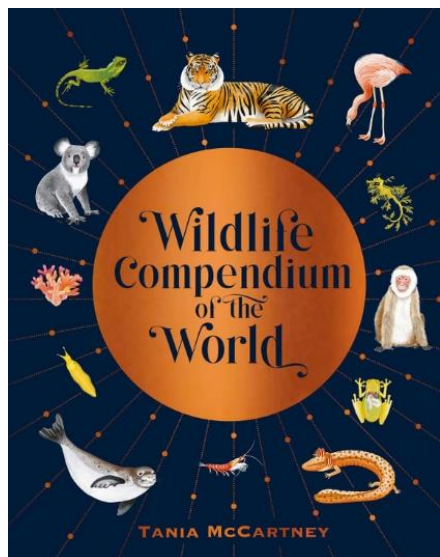
<https://cbca.org.au/cbca-book-week-resources>

to Your 2023 Authorised Promotional Images

CBCA Children's Book Week® resources)



WHAT'S NEW???



WILDLIFE COMPENDIUM OF THE WORLD

(Hardie Grant Explore)

Tania McCartney

taniamccartney.com

Extra links <http://taniamccartney.blogspot.com/>

Kids love animals. They have an inherent understanding of their majesty, and how vital they are to the wellbeing of our planet.



Wildlife Compendium of the World isn't my first book on animals.

They are magical to research, write and draw, and just when I think I know all about them—they continue to blow me away. Do all animals really add up to just 5% of all life on Earth? Is the world's most dangerous truly 5mm long? Are a crab's teeth really in its stomach?

Yes, yes and yes.

Choosing from a predicted 8 million species (90% yet to be identified) where three species die out every hour of the day, was some feat. The answer lay in a mix of the beloved and well-known, set loose in a zoo of the weird, creepy and dangerous.

As with all of my recent books, I not only researched and wrote the text, I illustrated each animal, laid out, designed and typeset each page. It was an enriching project, and probably my favourite part of the book are the celestial endpapers. Along with a series of animal location maps, animal types, taxonomy, environments, endangerment and animal rights, I hope *Wildlife Compendium of the World* enchants and enlightens kids (and big kids, too). I hope it inspires them to fall in love with our astonishing creatures, and champion their health and wellbeing well into an uncertain future.



Tania McCartney is an author, illustrator, designer, editor and book obsessive. She has 65 books in print or production. She currently lives in Canberra with her family, a forest of artwork and a mountain of books.



THE BLACK COCKATOO WITH ONE FEATHER BLUE

(Wollemi Press)

By **Jodie McLeod**

www.jodiemcleod.com

Illustrated by **Eloise Short** www.eloieshort.com

This beautiful new children's book by award-winning creative duo – children's author Jodie McLeod and illustrator Eloise Short – once again stars one of Australia's most iconic birds.

With their first two books featuring the famous avian mimic – the superb lyrebird – in *Leonard the Lyrebird* and its follow-up, *Lilah the Lyrebird*, Jodie and Eloise are no strangers to fauna-themed picture books. So why the attraction to wildlife and, specifically, birds?

“Living in the Blue Mountains – you can't help but be awed by the animals and landscapes here, which inevitably influence my ideas and story-writing,” says Jodie.

It was seeing a lyrebird perform in her backyard that sparked the idea for *Leonard the Lyrebird* (which won the Whitley Award for Best children's book), and her love of black cockatoos that inspired her latest book's title.

“Black cockatoos don't have blue feathers, but when the rhyme of the title came to me, I just couldn't get it out of my head.” After conducting some market research with her two daughters, then aged 5 and 7, Jodie confirmed the rhyme had a ring to it.

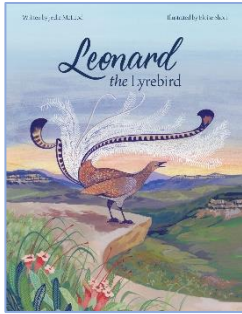
“I tried writing it in prose [*Leonard* and *Lilah* are both prose] but it didn't feel right,” says Jodie. “The story *wanted* to rhyme. I couldn't hold it back.”

The result is a tale filled with adventure, musicality and mystery as the black cockatoo tries to find her missing feather, but ultimately discovers something unexpected.

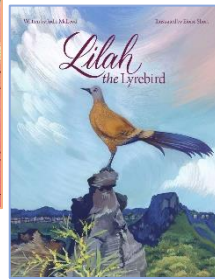
“There are some lovely themes of friendship, kindness and the magic of giving, but there's also the fun of guessing – who is the feather thief?” says Jodie.

The red-tailed black cockatoo is one of a handful of Australian animals depicted in the book by Eloise, a Katoomba-based artist and textile designer; and while the book is not set specifically in the Blue Mountains, as are the previous books, her hand-painted illustrations retain a very similar look and feel.

“I am in awe of Eloise's illustrations in this book,” says Jodie. “There is so much detail in the animals and the landscapes – there's something surprising to notice in every reading.”



Does that mean fans of *Leonard* and *Lilah* might catch a glimpse of their two favourite lyrebirds somewhere among the pages?



“Let’s just say we’ve exercised our artistic licence,” says Jodie. “You will have to read it to find out!” 384 words ##

KC4KC = KIDS' COMMENTS 4 KIDS' CORNER

Something that keeps me **reading, writing, and creating** is school. Everything makes me **think**, and there’s not a lesson where I don’t learn something new. My favourite topics to **read and think** about are equality and peace. I wish there were more time to **write creatively** in school, not just for assessments and assignments.

MIAH ~ Year 8



The Wilderness Society

EACL = Environment Award for Children’s Literature



The Wilderness Society has been celebrating the best new fiction, non-fiction and picture books written for children that promote a love of nature since 1994 with the **Environment Award for Children's Literature**.

The **Karajia Award for Children’s Literature** was launched in 2022. It celebrates excellence in children’s literature by Aboriginal or Torres Strait Island authors and/or illustrators, who honour Connection to Country and tell stories exploring land, community, culture and language.

These 2023 EACL shortlists are revealed!

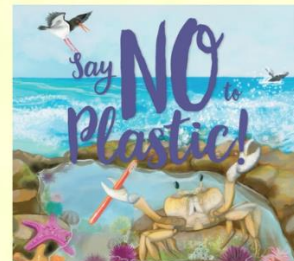
<https://www.wilderness.org.au/environment-award-for-childrens-literature>

Nature Book Week in early September is the annual celebration of Nature and Storytelling. **KC** will include more info about EACL in the September issue.

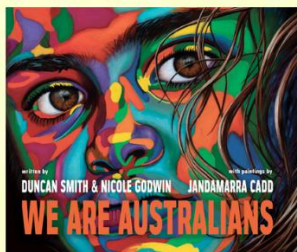
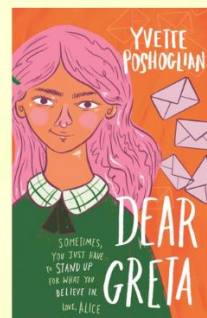
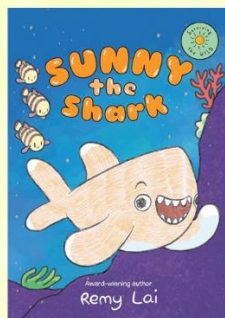
2023 Shortlist for Environment Award for Children's Literature

Wilderness Society shortlists for Environment Award
for Children's Literature

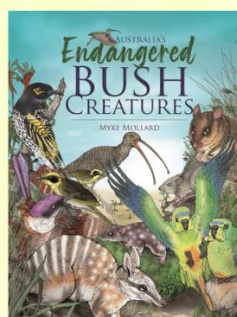
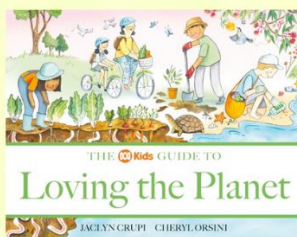
PICTURE
BOOK



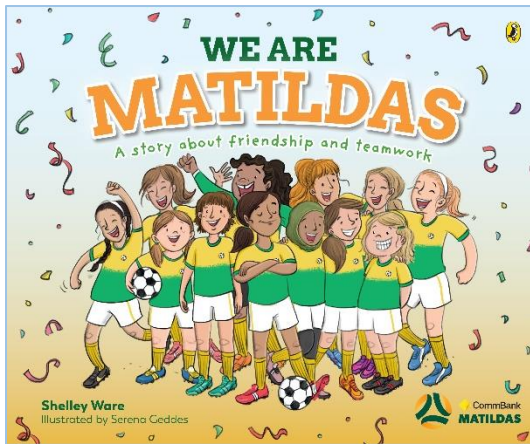
FICTION



NONFICTION



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



WE ARE MATILDAS

(Penguin Random House)

<https://www.penguin.com.au/books/we-are-matildas-9781761048906>

by Shelley Ware

<https://www.shelleyware.com.au/welcome>

and

Serena Geddes, Illustrator

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

We were asked to write and illustrate the books as part of the **Commbank Matildas** for the world cup. It's a collection for all ages and it came through Penguin.

A brief summary . . .

Jazzy dreams of being a football star and playing for the CommBank Matildas one day. She has a plan to get there . . . now all she needs is a team. This determined leader soon realises that running a team can be challenging but being on the field with her friends is one of the best parts of the game.

Together, ***We Are Matildas***.

-Characters - What surprises you about your characters? Do you have a favourite player? in the books? on the Matilda's team?

I have a fond association with the characters in the book. I asked Shelley if she had girls I could base the characters on. She presented me with 12 and a boy called Toby. All with a brief run-down of their personalities. Whilst I haven't met them, I felt a real connection with each of the characters. I hope I get to meet them one day! They were all my favourites in the book! From the Matildas – ALL of the women in the Matildas!!! - how can you have just one favourite?

-Why do you like soccer? Are you interested as a player or a fan?

Can I let you in on a secret.... I have never played soccer... or really followed it.... it wasn't a prerequisite for getting the project thank goodness, but now I am a fan!

-Sharing soccer - What is the most fun you have had because of your book?

I definitely loved getting to know the characters in the book and bringing them to life, working with Shelley Ware and being a part of something big like the FIFA World Cup that supports women in sport and inspires kids to follow their dream.

-What is the most exciting part of having the 2023 FIFA Women's World Cup™ hosted by Australia and New Zealand?

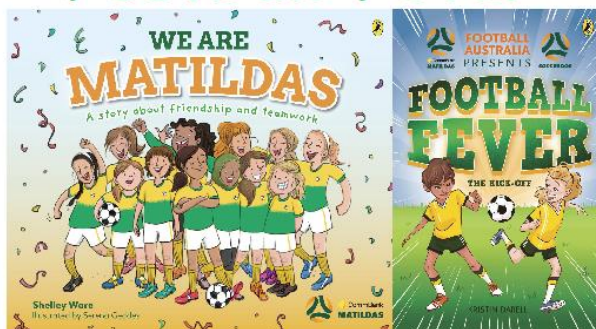
There is a different energy, a buzz, knowing so many talented and elite athletes are here. Watching the first game at the Canopy in Lane Cove on the big screen brought families and friends together. It was an experience that filled my soul (especially when we scored!) and I felt so proud to be there supporting the Matildas and so proud to contribute to this tournament with our book!

Join me, **SERENA GEDDES** (*We are Matildas*) and **KRISTIN DARELL** (*Football Fever*) as we celebrate all things Football at Lane Cove Library on **Thursday 10th August from 4-5pm!**

Bring your imagination for drawing, writing, colouring and watch as we create our own football character. Come dressed in your favourite football colours and jerseys to win prizes on the day!



Football Fever



Celebrate the Football World Cup coming to Australia and meet author Kristin Darrell and illustrator Serena Geddes. Get to know the Matildas and Soccerroos and explore creating awesome football books in celebration of the 2023 World Cup.

Come dressed in your favourite football colours and jerseys to win prizes on the day!

Signed books can be bought at the event.
Free event for ages 5-12.

Lane Cove Library
Thursday 10 August
4:00pm-5:00pm

Book Online: www.lanecove.nsw.gov.au/library
Phone: 9911 3634



FOOTBALL FEVER series

[*The Kickoff, Half-Time Heroes, Next Level, Gala Day*]

by Kristin Darrell <https://www.kristindarell.com.au/>

Lesley Vamos, Illustrator <http://www.stripeddesigns.com/who> (Penguin Books)



What is your best-selling Football Fever series about?

Football Fever is an action-packed junior fiction series about six girls, six boys and a crazy dog who are all passionate about football. They play together in a team called the Under 11s Merridale Fever. The series follows the team through a football season as they navigate friendships, exciting

opportunities, tough choices and big changes in their lives. They even get advice and support from some of Australia's biggest football stars.

****What surprises you about your characters? Do you have a favourite player in the books or in the CommBank Matildas?**

The most surprising and special thing about the twelve characters is the power of their friendships. They have problems, but it was exciting that simply having these kids in a team doing something they love was enough for them to feel supported and safe enough to be themselves.

It's also hard to pick a favourite Matildas player – but I am particularly inspired by midfielder Katrina Gorry. She has such grit and determination, and never ever gives up.

Why write about Football?

I was never a great football player (or soccer as many people call it), but I've always loved watching the game because it's accessible. All you really need is a ball and you don't have to be brilliant to have a great time. I also love that it's a sport in which girls and boys can play together.

What is the most exciting part of having the 2023 FIFA Women's World Cup™ in Australia and New Zealand?

Without a doubt it is the spotlight on our women's team. They are amazing role models, who all have special stories of overcoming challenges to represent their country at one of the biggest sporting competitions in the world. Whether you love football or not, the **Matildas** are inspiring a new generation of football stars.

AUSTRALIAN SCHOOL LIBRARIES DAY

is in the middle of CBCA CHILDREN'S BOOK WEEK®



CBCA CHILDRENS' BOOK WEEK®

brings together schools, libraries, authors, illustrators, judges, readers, creators - you name it. They all have great ideas when it comes to stories. And so do YOU!



What is the BEST thing about CBCA Children's Book Week®?

Happy Reading, Writing, Thinking, and Imagining ALWAYS!

Cheers - MORRIE and Jackie

This issue of **KIDS' CORNER** was compiled by Jackie Hawkes [jackie.hawkes7@gmail.com] with the help of LOTS of people who love reading, writing, thinking and imagining. THANKS to All. Your ideas are always welcome.

