



# KIDS' CORNER

APRIL 2021

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**Books create their own worlds!**

Old worlds, new worlds and other worlds!  
They take us to these worlds through  
stories of all kinds.



**Celebrate with a Competition!**



**COLLIDE** with your creativity  
by interpreting stories using  
visuals and sound effects to  
promote a **NOTABLE** book  
trailer or part of a play.

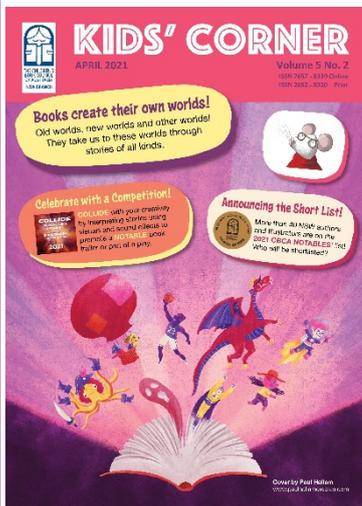
**Announcing the Short List!**



More than 40 NSW authors  
and illustrators are on the  
**2021 CBCA NOTABLES'** list!  
Who will be shortlisted?



Cover by Paul Hallam  
[www.paulhallamcreates.com](http://www.paulhallamcreates.com)



## WELCOME TO Paul Hallam our guest illustrator for KIDS' CORNER - APRIL 2021

His images get us underway in imagining all the worlds that stories bring us.

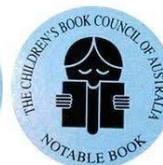
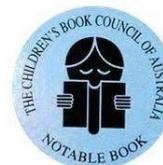
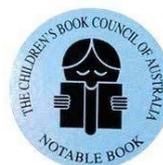


Paul is a children's illustrator from Western Sydney. He loves exploring new worlds (both real and imaginary) through reading books.

You can find Paul's work at

[www.paulhallamcreates.com](http://www.paulhallamcreates.com) or

[www.instagram.com/paulhallamcreates](https://www.instagram.com/paulhallamcreates)



### CELEBRATING the CBCA NOTABLES and more –

What worlds will great stories take you to?

Ask any of more than 40 **NOTABLY NSW** authors and Illustrators who are part of the **NOTABLES** list and have links to NSW.

Each of us like books for different reasons. Various book awards are based on different criteria. **KC** for April focuses on those which are part of the **Children's Book Council of Australia (CBCA) Book Week** celebrated **August 21- 27**.

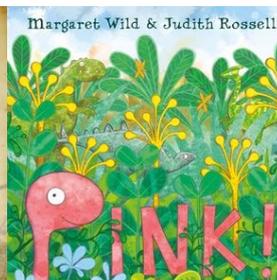
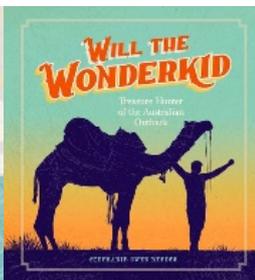
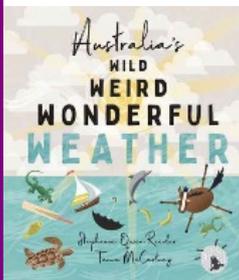
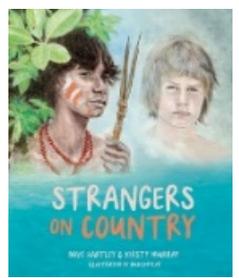
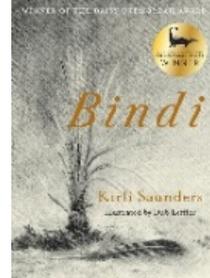
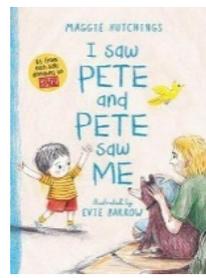
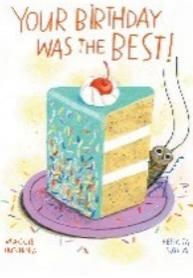
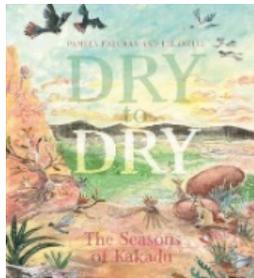
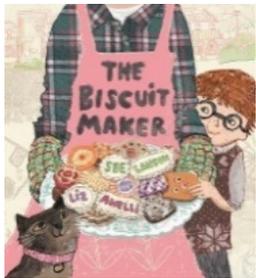
Over 500 books are published each year for readers aged 1- 18, Around 100 are selected for the **CBCA NOTABLES** list. Then, 30 are selected for the **CBCA SHORTLIST**.

How many Notables' books have you read so far this year?

How many are on the Shortlist?

Extra CONGRATULATIONS to these NSW creators with TWO books  
on the CBCA NOTABLES' LISTING:

LIZ ANELLI, MAGGIE HUTCHINGS, DUB LEFFLER,  
STEPHANIE OWEN REEDER, SUE WHITING and MARGARET WILD



**LIGHTS! CAMERA! ACTION!**

**Calling all students!**

**HOW DO YOU COMPETE WITH A BOOK?**

**COLLIDE** with your imagination by creating a book trailer on one of the **2021 CBCA Notable books**.

Remember, a book trailer is like a movie trailer, but for a book. You want to show others why they should read this book.

- Open to students in Years 3-9 living in NSW or attending a CBCA NSW Branch Member School.
- There will be three categories: Year 3-4; Years 5-6; Years 7-9.

**WATCH for more details.**

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

READ into action and make sure you **MEET OUR COLLIDE JUDGES**  
**TRISTAN BANCKS DEB ABELA NATHAN LUFF**

**OLDER READERS** - Entries in this category may be fiction, drama or poetry suited to mature readers in their secondary years of schooling. Ages 13-18 years.

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



Image - <https://bit.ly/2Ond45J>



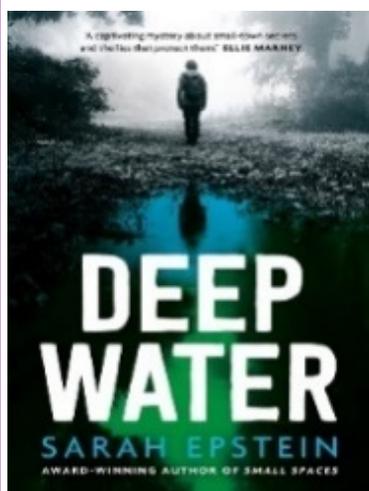
**[The F Team](#)** - RAWAH ARJA, NSW, Giramondo  
[www.rawaharjaauthor.com](http://www.rawaharjaauthor.com)

Instagram: rawaharja

Meet Tariq Nader, leader of 'The Wolf Pack' at Punchbowl High, who has been commanded by the new principal to join a football competition with his mates in order to rehabilitate the public image of their school. When the team is formed, Tariq learns there's a major catch – half of the team is made up of white boys from Cronulla, aka enemy territory – and he must compete with their strongest player for captaincy of the team.



**Creating the book:** *The best part about writing my debut Young Adult novel **The F Team** was making my brothers and sisters as characters without them knowing! I had the chance to write from my perspective as their younger sibling and retell some of the funniest family stories and re-live some great memories that I almost forgot about. I was lucky that Giramondo, my publisher, gave me the space to be supported and to express my point of view in a safe environment. RA*



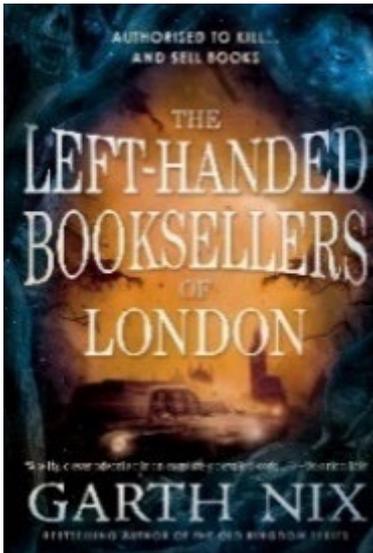
**[Deep Water](#)** - SARAH EPSTEIN, NSW + VIC A&U

[Website](#) | [Illustration work](#) |  
[Instagram](#) | [Twitter](#) | [Facebook](#)

*Creating a mystery like **DEEP WATER** is a fun challenge of weaving clues, threads and characters together to keep readers guessing, then trying to surprise readers in the climax with something they didn't coming. I really enjoyed writing these elements in a small town setting where everybody knows one another so well...at least, they think they do. SE*



**Read an extract:** <https://bit.ly/3cR6f5L>



### **The Left-Handed Booksellers of London - GARTH NIX - NSW, A&U**

[www.garthnix.com](http://www.garthnix.com)

[facebook.com/garthnix](https://www.facebook.com/garthnix)

@garthnix

YouTube clips or book trailers. <https://bit.ly/2Pv1YfP>



The basic idea for **THE LEFT-HANDED BOOKSELLERS OF LONDON** came when I was on tour in the UK for my book *GOLDENHAND*. I was signing books at a bookshop in Leith, the port of Edinburgh, and I noticed the bookseller who was helping me was left-handed. I commented on this and he said, “we’re all left-handed here.” I replied “ah the special left-handed booksellers of Leith” and that sparked something in my mind that eventually led to this book. GN



**WRITE NOW** – How many of the **NOTABLE** books <https://bit.ly/3upvBOz>

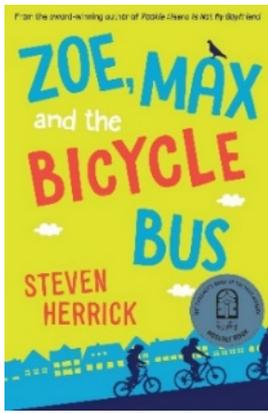
have you read? Choose one and describe three things that made it **NOTABLE** for you.

## **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. 8-12 years  
Note: Some of these titles may only be suitable for readers who are in the upper primary years of this category as they may contain mature themes, including violence. Parental guidance is recommended.



Image - <https://www.cockburnlibraries.com.au/kids/childrens-book-week-kids/book-of-the-year-2021-younger-readers/>



**Zoe, Max and the Bicycle Bus - STEVEN HERRICK** NSW UQP  
<https://bit.ly/3mo5TH8>



When their new teacher encourages kid to ride to school in a “bicycle bus” everyone discovers that they can do and learn all kinds of exciting things. Everyone loves the new way of getting to school.

But the stretch of road along the way is a new danger with traffic and bikes just about too close to each other. Will their secret idea be enough to save the day?

*After twenty-five books, I've finally combined my two loves - poetry and cycling - in a story about a bunch of children who want to ride to school. While writing this book, I'd spend all morning in my study drafting it, and most of the afternoon on my bike editing that draft in my head. Writing, cycling, smiling - it was a wonderful experience. SH*



**The Stolen Prince of Cloudburst - JACLYN MORIARTY** NSW + WA, illustrated by **KELLY CANBY** WA, A&U  
[www.jaclynmoriarty.com](http://www.jaclynmoriarty.com)

Facebook: jaclynmoriarty

Instagram: jaclynmoriarty

Twitter: jaclynmoriarty

Trailer - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Kx9qbEjpnDI>

Summary: **The Stolen Prince of Cloudburst** is the story of Esther

Mettlestone-Staranise, an ordinary child with two extraordinary sisters and two talented best friends. She has just returned to boarding school after the summer holidays to find some unexpected changes. There are rumours that her new teacher is an Ogre; there is an undercover Spellbinder in her class; and the mountains surrounding her school, usually a delight of glaciers, teashops and Faeries, are now crowded with evil Shadow Mages. Can ordinary Esther find a way to solve these puzzles and to save the school, her family, and possibly even her entire world? JM



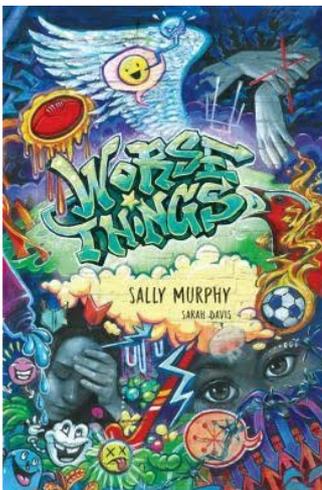
*I liked:*

- walking across the Sydney Harbour Bridge, watching the boats and thinking about Esther Mettlestone-Staranise and the Shadow Mages lurking around her school

- sitting in the local chocolate café, drinking hot chocolate and brainstorming ideas for how Esther would discover the undercover Spellbinder in her class. JM

- drawing my own (terrible) pictures of Esther's much more talented sisters, and her strange new teacher (as drawing pictures helps me to get to know the characters).

Even more than that, I liked seeing illustrator Kelly Canby's fantastic pictures for the book, and especially her design for the exquisite cover! JM

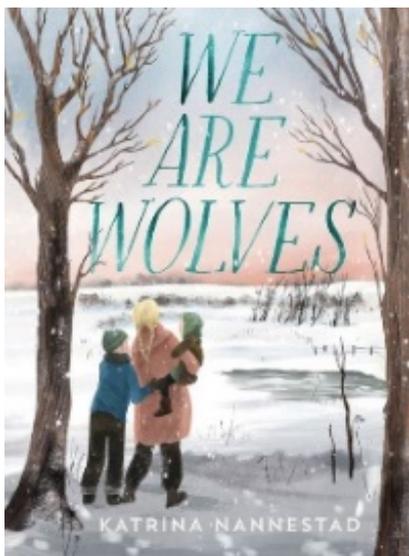


**Worse Things - SALLY MURPHY** – WA

Illus - **SARAH DAVIS** - NZ + NSW Walker Books

Summary – a story about connections, the ways they are made and what happens when they are lost. *When you're part of the team the sideline is a place of refuge of rest of reprieve. But when you're out of the team the sideline changes. Suddenly, it's the loneliest place of them all.* After a devastating football injury, Blake struggles to cope with life on the sideline. Jolene, a gifted but conflicted hockey player, wants nothing more than for her dad to come home. And soccer-loving refugee, Amed, wants to belong. On the surface, it seems they have nothing in common. Except sport. A touching and inspirational story about the things that bind us all.

**Walker Books** <https://bit.ly/31ORavn>



**We Are Wolves** - KATRINA NANNESTAD -  
NSW + VIC, with  
illustrations by **MARTINA HEIDUCZEK** – NSW  
ABC/ Harper Collins Books

[www.katrinanannestad.com](http://www.katrinanannestad.com)

Talking about *We Are Wolves* –



Summary – *When the Red Army marches into East Prussia at the end of World War 2, the Wolf family are forced to flee, unprepared, in the middle of a blizzard. In the chaos and violence, the children, Liesl, Otto and Mia are separated from the rest of the family. Lost and alone, they*

*learn to survive by doing all sorts of naughty, dangerous, horrid things. They become wild wolves.* – K N

**Creating the book** - *I loved everything about the process of creating this story. I did a lot of research about the Wolfskinder - the children who were left orphaned and alone in East Prussia at the end of the war. Their stories were incredibly sad, but fascinating too, as I'd never heard them before. Writing my book was an emotional experience. Liesl, Otto and Mia became real to me and I felt like I travelled with them on every step of their journey. I still think of these three children each day and will for a long time to come.* K N



**MARTINA HEIDUCZEK**, **Illustrator** - NSW, **We Are Wolves**  
ABC/ Harper Collins Books

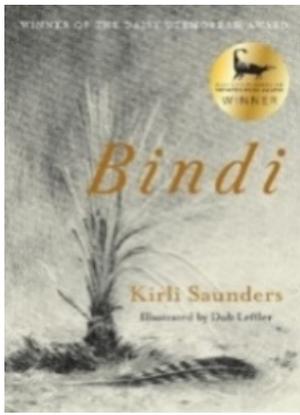
<http://www.martinaheiduczek.com>

Instagram: [martina\\_illustrates](https://www.instagram.com/martina_illustrates)

*We Are Wolves* – Author Katrina Nannestad describes her novel.

***We are Wolves*** is written by Katrina Nannestad. At the end of WWII, the Wolf family flees East Prussia as the Russian army approaches. The children Liesl, Otto and little Mia must survive alone and try to stay together as Liesl promised her mother. MH

*I was overjoyed when I was asked to put my visuals to this remarkable book! As a German, my family heritage originated from Silesia, which was part of Prussia, so I grew up familiar with this story known to me as “Wolfskinder” which had struck a strong chord with me. I was fortunate to draw upon post war stories told by my grandmother as well as my knowledge of the area. Strong images came to me immediately and I could not wait to put them to paper. Illustrating **We are wolves**. truly was a labour of love! – MH*



***Bindi* - KIRLI SAUNDERS –NSW, with Illustrations by DUB LEFFLER – NSW, Magabala Books.**

***Kirli Saunders*** <https://kirlisaunders.com/>

Resources for teachers:

<https://www.slv.vic.gov.au/stories/kirli-saunders-story-talks>

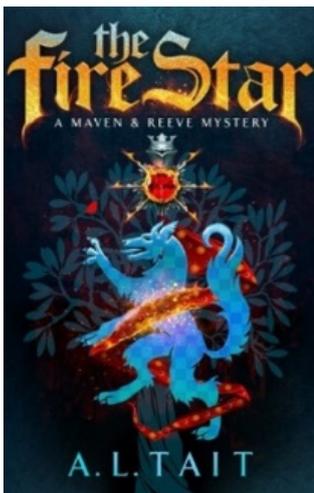
<https://readingaustralia.com.au/lesson/bindi/>

*Bindi* is an award-winning verse novel for mid-upper primary students by Kirli Saunders, illustrated by Dub Leffler. Written 'for those who plant trees', *Bindi* incorporates Gundungurra language and explores climate, bushfires, and healing. Written from the point of view of 11-year-old, Bindi and her friends, this verse novel celebrates connection to Country and care for the Earth with community. KS.



**Creating BINDI** - *Bindi* was soul work to write. It is full of nostalgia and action. I love how the poems interweave with Dub's masterful charcoal works. I hope it encourages our young readers to care for Country like Bindi! I pay *my respects and acknowledge the Traditional Custodians, past present and emerging of the lands, seas and skies.* KS

**DUB LEFFLER, Illustrator NSW**



***The Fire Star* - A L TAIT - NSW, Penguin Books Australia**  
<https://allisontait.com/>

***THE FIRE STAR* (A Maven & Reeve Mystery)** was born out of a life-long love of detective stories, history and clever characters with a lot to say. It's the first time I ever tried writing a dual narrative and the first time that one of my characters demanded a first-person point of view. It was both a challenge and an absolute joy to meet Maven and Reeve and to follow them into the labyrinth of the mystery of the missing Fire Star, as well as through the protocols and parameters of their Mediaeval-style world. ALT



**Interview with Megan Daley** - In this interview, I discuss many aspects of the writing process for *The Fire Star*, including inspiration, wrestling with the point of view, uncovering the mystery and much more.  
[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kpxgW\\_HTZ0w](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kpxgW_HTZ0w)



***Beyond Belief* - Heroes of the Holocaust - DEE WHITE - NSW + VIC**  
Scholastic Australia

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

Facebook, Twitter and Instagram at DeeWhiteAuthor

Book Trailer for *Beyond Belief*

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=63EsOWVwF60>

*Beyond Belief* Research Process



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TmDgwARp3go>

Reading from *Beyond Belief*

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LpP3O\\_ESdjw](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LpP3O_ESdjw)

*Beyond Belief* Book Activities

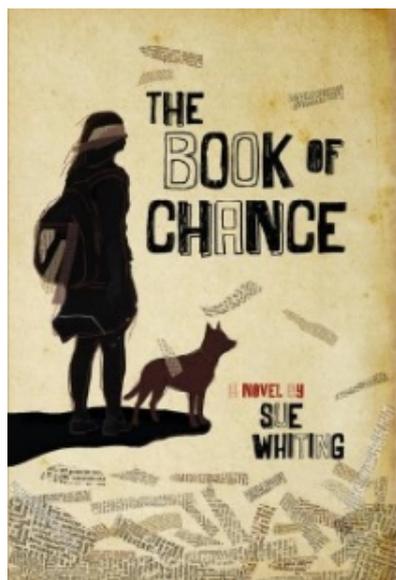
<https://bit.ly/3fNjZAq>

*Beyond Belief* was inspired by the true story of Paris Muslims who saved Jewish Children during WW2. It follows 11-year-old Ruben, forced to seek refuge at a Paris mosque. Any hint of his Jewish identity and he'll be killed, and so will the people trying to save him. After the mosque is raided, Ruben flees to the South of France hoping to be reunited with his family. A story of hope and friendship in times of war. DW

### **What did I enjoy about creating my Notable Book?**

So many amazing things happened to me on the journey creating **Beyond Belief** and what I enjoyed most was:

*I loved spending a month in Paris researching and writing Beyond Belief; walking in the shoes of my main character, Ruben. I did a tour of the Paris sewers – smelly but interesting, cruised down the Seine river, spent three days at the Grande Mosque of Paris, discovered Ruben's synagogue, explored museums and libraries, and ate French food – all in the name of research. DW*



**The Book of Chance** - SUE WHITING NSW Walker Books

<https://suewhiting.com>

<https://www.instagram.com/suewhiting4>

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



Creating *The Book Of Chance* - I enjoyed creating the character of Chance Callahan. Chance has a strong sense of right and wrong and isn't afraid to voice her opinion. I loved walking through the streets of Wollongong, where the story is set, and trying to see things through Chance's eyes and to try to think like her. It was

challenging at times, but I loved every minute of it! SW



**WAYS WITH WORDS –**

**NOTABLE**= of high quality; important; or worthy of noticing

**CRITERIA**= having certain characteristics:

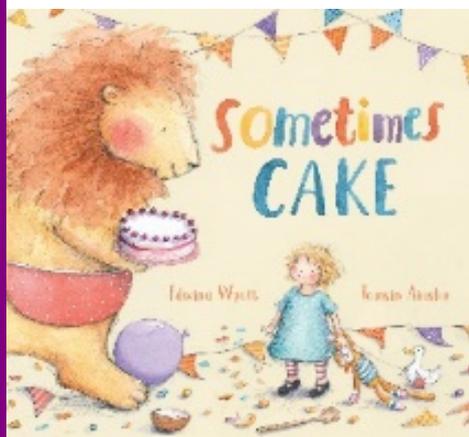
**CATEGORY**= a group or collections of things sharing certain characteristics.

## 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)



Image - <https://bit.ly/3wI8MYf>



**Sometimes Cake** - EDWINA WYATT NSW + VIC, with illustrations by TAMSIN AINSLIE - NSW, Walker Books  
website : <https://edwinawyatt.com.au/>



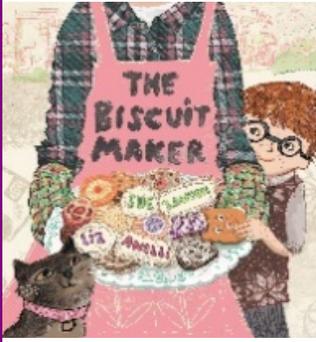
*Audrey found Lion. Lion had a cake. "What are you celebrating?" asked Audrey. "Tuesdays," said Lion. "Also, coconuts."*

A story about finding joy in the smallest things and discovering that, even on the most ordinary of days, there is always a reason to have cake.

The thing I enjoyed the most about creating ***Sometimes Cake*** was seeing the world through Lion and Audrey's eyes, where every day is exciting. It made me look at colours, favourite foods, items of clothing and days of the week differently, and helps me to practise the art of gratitude and celebrate ordinary moments and special friendships. EW



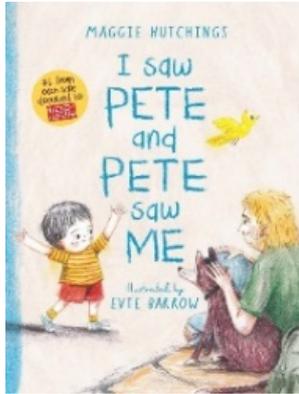
**WRITE NOW** - Begin planning a book trailer by blocking out SIX aspects of the story you want to highlight.



**The Biscuit Maker - SUE LAWSON – VIC, illus by LIZ ANELLI – NSW Walker**

<https://tinyurl.com/27yr7hfc>

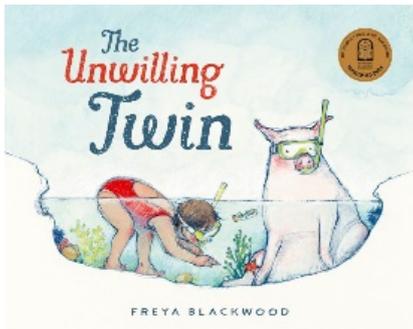
This book is made with a crumbly 'biscuity' mono print line that is then coloured with collage and paint and carefully baked into place on my computer. It was a joy to draw my own neighbourhood and include the pleasure of community gardening into the narrative. And that's my friend's cat. LA



**I Saw Pete and Pete Saw Me - MAGGIE HUTCHINGS - [NSW], Illustrated by EVIE BARROW [VIC] (Affirm)**

*In 'I Saw Pete and Pete Saw Me' a small child notices a man who is experiencing homelessness, when the grown-ups walk right past. A heartfelt story about the power of human connections. MH.*

*My great, great grandma, Martha, was homeless so writing a book about this important social issue was quite an emotional journey for me. I hope this story about Pete who is homeless and a small boy who makes a connection with him stays in the hearts of readers. MH*



**The Unwilling Twin - FREYA BLACKWOOD - NSW**

HarperCollins

[www.freyablackwood.com.au](http://www.freyablackwood.com.au)

Instagram: @freyablackwood

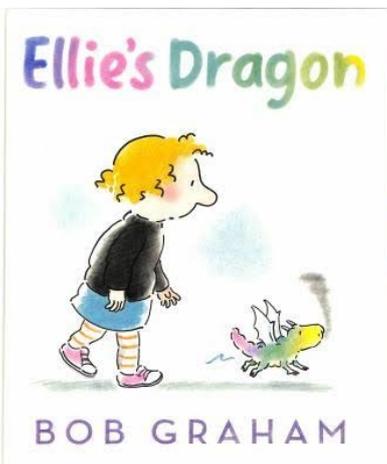
Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/freyablackwoodsbooks>



Video introducing **The Unwilling Twin**: <https://tinyurl.com/3ezrus4f>

*Have you ever wanted to be a twin? To have a best friend, that dresses the same and plays whatever you want whenever you want? In **The Unwilling Twin**, Jules has a twin, a pig called George. They are the same in every way. It is quite impossible to tell them apart! Jules and George do everything together, but sometimes, like all siblings, they disagree.*

*I loved creating these two characters and putting them into every day situations to see how they would play together. It was great fun to have the text say one thing, and the drawings to show something different. FB*



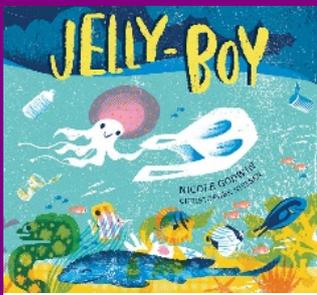
**Ellie's Dragon - BOB GRAHAM NSW Author/Illustrator, Walker Books**

I loved making **Ellie's Dragon**.

As always, my desk was covered with coloured pencils, pastels, ink, pens, tissues, scraps of paper, cotton buds, paint brushes, tracing paper and sticky tape which found its way somehow onto the elbows of my shirt sleeves as I made the finished pictures.

And somehow, miraculously out of all of this, I was able to come up with the pictures that you now see in the pages of my book. Even after all these years of making books I continue to be surprised by that. BG





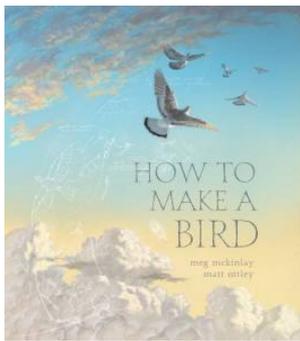
***Jelly-Boy*** - NICOLE GODWIN – ACT, Illustrated by CHRISTOPHER NIELSEN NSW Walker

<http://www.chrisillo.com/>

*What happens when a jellyfish falls in love with a plastic bag she mistakes for a jelly-boy? Jelly-Boy is different. He is big and strong. And not as wobbly as the other Jelly-boys. By the time Jelly-Girl discovers the dangerous truth about her new friend, it may already be too late.*

**Walker Books** <https://www.walkerbooks.com.au/Books/Jelly-Boy-9781760651237> ]

*An unconventional, every-kid picture book that has the potential to inspire the next generation of readers to protect our oceans.* [https://www.walkerbooks.com.au/Authors\\_and\\_Illustrators/Christopher-Nielsen](https://www.walkerbooks.com.au/Authors_and_Illustrators/Christopher-Nielsen)



***How to Make a Bird*** - MEG MCKINLAY VIC + WA, illustrated by MATT OTTLEY - NSW, Walker

<https://mattottley.com/home/>

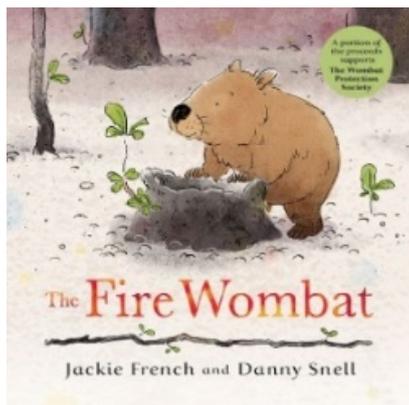
*“We shadow the protagonist as she contemplates the blue print of an idea, collects the things that inspire from the natural world to shape a bird. And breathes life into it before letting it fly free. It shows how small things, combined with a little imagination and a steady heart, can transform into works of magic.”*

<https://www.walkerbooks.com.au/Books/How-to-Make-a-Bird-9781925381894>



***Your Birthday Was the Best!*** - MAGGIE HUTCHINGS – NSW, illustrated by FELICITA SALA, Affirm  
instagram is @maggie\_hutchings\_

I was thrilled to have 2 books on the Notables' list this year! I had a ball writing this book. The story came to me after I'd written 'I Saw Pete and Pete Saw Me' which is quite a serious book so it was lovely to let my sense of fun loose! The star of the book is a plucky little cockroach who unwittingly causes chaos and plenty of SCREAMING when he arrives uninvited at a birthday party. MH



***The Fire Wombat*** - JACKIE FRENCH - NSW, illustrated by DANNY SNELL - SA Angus and Robertson

Website: [www.jackiefrench.com](http://www.jackiefrench.com)

Facebook: [@jackiefrenchauthor](https://www.facebook.com/jackiefrenchauthor)

Twitter: [@jackie\\_french](https://twitter.com/jackie_french)

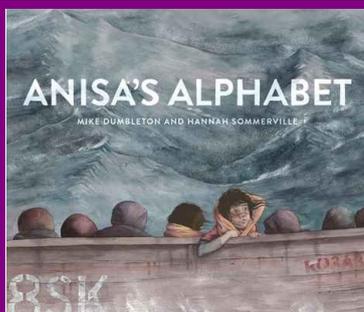
Instagram: [@jackie\\_french\\_](https://www.instagram.com/jackie_french)



[https://drive.google.com/file/d/1DuUB1ieT4CCrEluleR\\_I203EUGZtrjQ/view](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1DuUB1ieT4CCrEluleR_I203EUGZtrjQ/view)

[https://youtu.be/\\_6M\\_0Dr5npQ](https://youtu.be/_6M_0Dr5npQ)

**Summary** - This is the true story of the small wombat who appeared at our wildlife refuge in the middle of the 2019-20 bushfires, as more than 2 million hectares burnt around us. It was inspired as I watched how the wombats, wallabies, possums, even a quoll, all stood back to let the starving wombat eat and drink, and it's also the story of how all across Australia people donated time, ingenuity and money to help hungry, homeless and injured wildlife. The memory of kindness and generosity lingers long after the flames have gone. JF {see also Jackie's poem in **KC**}



***Anisa's Alphabet* - MIKE DUMBLETON - SA,**  
illustrated by **HANNAH SOMMERVILLE NSW**, Midnight Sun  
<https://www.hannahsommerville.com/about-v2g3>

*Anisa takes the reader through the alphabet, describing her journey from an unnamed war-torn country to a refugee camp, then on to an overcrowded boat towards supposed freedom and security.*

<https://www.newsouthbooks.com.au/books/anisas-alphabet/>

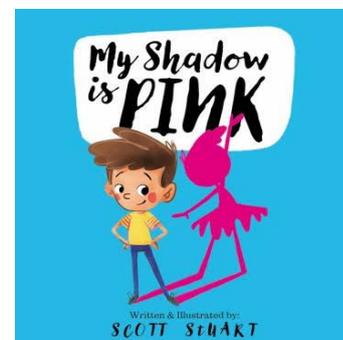


***My Shadow is Pink* SCOTT STUART - NSW** Larrikin House

<https://scottstuart.co/> <https://bit.ly/31SOPQ1>

Shadow's main character likes princesses, fairies and things 'not for boys'... he soon learns (through the support of his dad) that everyone has a shadow that they sometimes feel they need to hide. but mainly discovering the importance of being who you are.

<https://larrikinhouse.com/product/my-shadow-is-pink-hardcover/>



***Girl from the Sea* - MARGARET WILD - NSW**, illustrated by **JANE TANNER** – VIC, Allen and Unwin

*This is a seemingly simple story of a ghost-girl who longs to become part of the family living in a house by the sea. The story is left open to interpretation so that readers can draw their own conclusions.*

*The illustrations – charcoal drawings with touches of blue – are truly a work of art. Eerie, beautiful and sad.*

*If you “read” the pictures carefully, you will find all sorts of clues that will fill in information that is not given in the text. MW*

***Hello Jimmy!* - ANNA WALKER –NSW** Penguin/ Puffin Books  
[www.annawalker.com.au](http://www.annawalker.com.au) [www.instagram.com/annawalker](http://www.instagram.com/annawalker)



Hello Jimmy Book Trailer:

[www.youtube.com/watch?v=OhiAmdHtCU](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OhiAmdHtCU)

*Hello Jimmy!* is a story about a boy, his dad and a loud parrot that comes into their lives. The narrative was inspired by my brother's experience of separation. Exploring the idea of loneliness was challenging, but above all I wanted to celebrate a parent's love for their child and finding connection. I enjoyed thinking about how Jimmy would walk and talk! AW



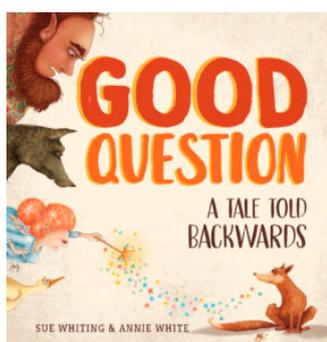
***Good Question: A Tale Told Backwards* - SUE WHITING – NSW**

illustrated by **ANNIE WHITE** - VIC Walker Books

<https://suewhiting.com>

<https://www.instagram.com/suewhiting4>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZAeegOF3Kuk>



**Good Question** is the story of a hungry fox who stumbles into all the wrong stories. The fox character narrates the story and it was so much fun thinking like a fox and creating his “voice”. It was also fun to tell the story backwards, asking “why” questions and working out how and why the fox ended up in that tree! SW



**WRITE NOW-** What makes a character memorable? How do they do what they do? Who they are? How would they change from being in a book to being in a movie?

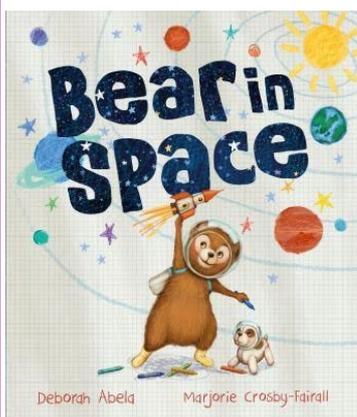


## EARLY CHILDHOOD -

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 0-7 years



Image - <https://www.cockburnlibraries.com.au/kids/childrens-book-week-kids/book-of-the-year-2021-early-childhood/>



**Bear in Space** - DEBORAH ABELA – NSW, Illustrated by MARJORIE CROSBY-FAIRALL – NSW Walker Books

<http://www.deborahabela.com> <https://www.facebook.com/deborah.abela.9>

<https://www.crosby-fairall.com/>

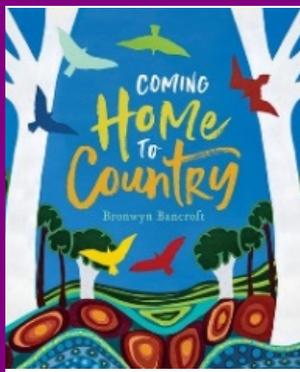
[Bear in Space picture book by Deborah Abela and Marjorie Crosby-Fairall Australian version](#)



**Bear in Space picture book by Deborah Abela and Marjorie Crosby-Fairall ...**

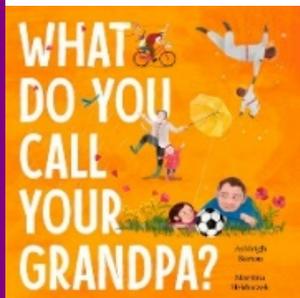
**Summary** - Bear is different. When he dreams of going into space, the other bears laugh. In space he feels at home, but also alone, until something extraordinary happens. A story about being different and finding friends who love you just the way you are.

[Bear in Space picture book by Deborah Abela and Marjorie Crosby-Fairall Australian version](#)



***Coming Home to Country* - BRONWYN BANCROFT – NSW, Hardie Grant Children’s Publishing**  
[www.bronwynbancroft.com](http://www.bronwynbancroft.com)

*"The majority of my artistic practice has been embedded with family history and the stories told around fires and cups of tea. I love the Country that my old people cherished and lived in and I feel their presence every time I return. It replenishes me with wonder and delight. Home." – Bronwyn Bancroft*



***What Do You Call Your Grandpa?* - Ashleigh Barton - NSW, Illustrated by Martina Heiduczek NSW ABC Books**

**"What do you call your grandpa?"** is written by Ashleigh Barton and published by Harper Collins. This beautiful picture book takes us around the globe to discover the many different ways we say "Grandpa". MH

I did a lot of research for "What do you call your grandpa?" as we

(the publisher, Ashleigh and I) felt it was vital to set the scenes in detail to represent the countries, and to portray a diverse range of people and cultures in a respectful and fun way. I enjoyed how much I learnt along the way and how this book not only celebrates the special bond between grandfathers and grandchildren, but opens up conversation about the beauty of different cultures and the acceptance of others. -MH

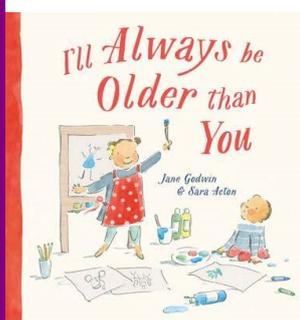


***Soon* - LIBBY GLEESON NSW, Illustrated by JEDDA ROBAARD - VIC**  
 Little Hare - Hardie Grant Children’s Publishing  
<http://www.libbygleeson.com.au/>

***Soon*** was written when I was waiting for the birth of my first grandchild. I put myself in the mind of a big brother or sister waiting for the promised arrival but having no real idea of the process. All the activities the child does with the mother in preparation for the baby builds the sense of

anticipation and the eagerness for the new arrival. LG

I enjoyed immersing myself in the child’s experience of anticipating the arrival of a baby in the family. I loved seeking out activities to repeat and make the text accessible for the very young. LG



***I'll Always Be Older Than You* - JANE GODWIN - VIC, Illustrated by SARA ACTON -NSW, Hardie Grant Children’s Publishing**  
<https://www.saraacton.org/>  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uD3pX-AbXhA>

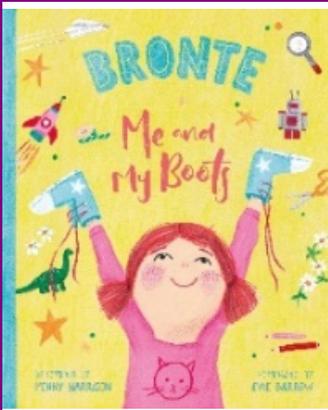
*I'll teach you to peel bananas, eat ice-cream in a cone It's lucky you've got me – I had to learn this on my own*

*A big sister marvels at how she will always be older than her baby brother, no matter how much he grows* <https://bit.ly/3uoZqyg>



One of the things I love about picture books are end papers. I enjoyed creating all the little illustrations of the baby brother, in different positions, exploring the end papers at the beginning of the book. In the end papers at the end of the book, I had great fun drawing the brother and sister enjoying lots of activities together, such as playing the pots and pans! SA

I remember when I was about four years old realising that even when my little brother got to my age, I would still be older than him. I remember thinking this was quite remarkable, and it made me feel very important of course, and that clearly I would need to mentor him his whole life! When I look back now, I'm not sure that I have him any guidance at all – but we remain great friends and I am very grateful for each of my siblings. JG



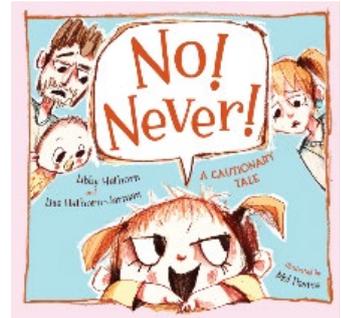
***Me and My Boots* - PENNY HARRISON [NSW + VIC, illustrated by EVIE BARROW VIC, Hardie Grant / Little Hare**  
[www.pennyharrison.com.au](http://www.pennyharrison.com.au)



*I had so much fun writing this book as it was inspired by my eight-year-old daughter. She is spirited and outspoken and is occasionally referred to as 'bossy boots', but the truth is she's so much more, to so many people. I loved seeing Bronte come to life through Evie Barrow's vibrant and delightful illustrations.*

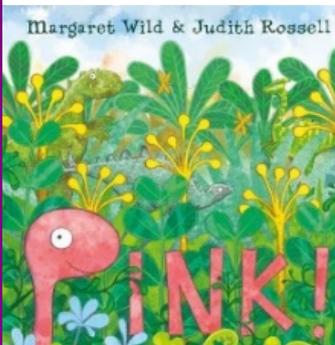


***No! Never! A Cautionary Tale* - LIBBY HATHORN - NSW & LISA HATHORN-JARMAN NSW, illustrated by MEL PEARCE – WA**  
 Lothian Children's Books/ Hachette Children's  
<http://libbyhathorn.com/>



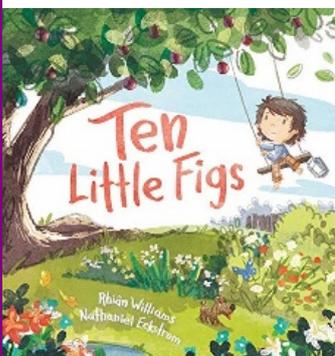
*Co- authors Libby and Lisa enjoyed writing the text together.*

Collaboration can spark creativity. The idea for *No! Never!* was inspired by a funny event. Imagine Libby stepping on LEGO and asking her granddaughter, aged four, to pick it all up. Georgina's immediate response was 'No! Never!'. It was naughty, but it seemed so funny at the time, and led us to write the text for this lovable, cautionary tale. So it's true that ideas can come from ordinary life! LH & LHJ



***Pink!* MARGARET WILD - NSW, illustrated by JUDITH ROSSELL – VIC**  
 Working Title Press

*Pink is the only pink dinosaur in the herd. She loves being pink until she realises that her colour is a disadvantage when she plays her favourite game: hide-and-seek. One day her difference helps her friends, and once again she's happy being pink. I enjoyed writing what I regard as a traditional story with a beginning, a middle and a satisfying end. And, of course, Judith's bright, lush illustrations of the jungle are delightful, as are the expressive faces of the dinosaurs. MW*



***Ten Little Figs* - RHIÂN WILLIAMS - NSW Illustrated by NATHANIEL ECKSTROM - NSW, Walker Books**

*"Ten little figs are on my tree. I love figs and they're all for me*  
 A child counts down the figs on the backyard fig tree, as each one is snatched away by a different Australian animal ...until only one is left...

[adapted from <https://www.walkerbooks.com.au/Books/Ten-Little-Figs-9781921977312> ]



**WRITE NOW and COLLIDE info - The GOVERNOR of NSW is Her Excellency Margaret Beazley. Her Excellency has a range of official duties in relation to the NSW Parliament, meets regularly with government officials and promotes the work of various community organisations including as Patron of CBCA NSW Branch.**

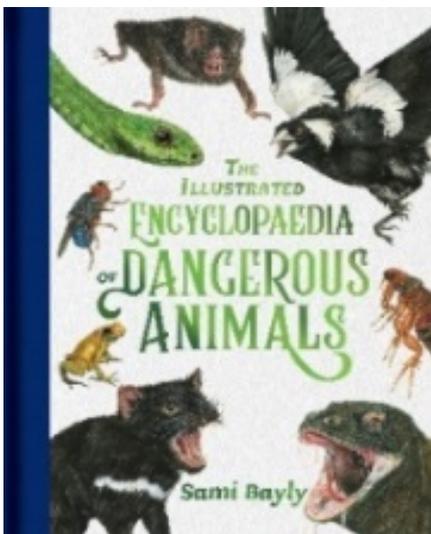


## EVE POWNALL AWARD FOR INFORMATION BOOKS

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



Image <https://www.cockburnlibraries.com.au/kids/childrens-book-week-kids/eve-pownall-award-for-information-books-2021/>



### ***The Illustrated Encyclopaedia of Dangerous Animals***

**SAMI BAYLY- NSW**

Hachette Australia/ Lothian.

<https://www.instagram.com/samibayly>

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

<https://mobile.twitter.com/samibayly>

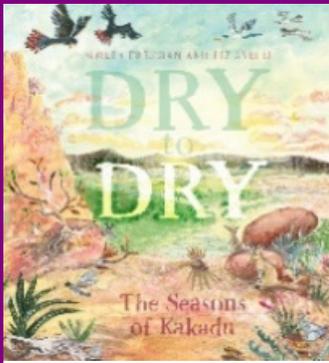
<http://www.samibayly.com>



***The Illustrated Encyclopaedia of Dangerous Animals*** explores 60 animals that can be described as dangerous or deadly. It outlines their danger factor and the reasons behind their incredible abilities, their conservation status, where they live, what they eat and of course some juicy fun facts. Each creature has a full page illustration to showcase their magnificence, with size comparisons and line drawings revealing the fascinating information behind them.

### ***Creating my Notable book.***

*I had such a blast when creating this book, not only because I got the chance to paint 60 incredible creatures that I hadn't before, but because of how much I learnt along the way. Making these books is always such a valuable experience, as I am able to discover the reasons as to why they have evolved the ways they have and to also shine a light on the more misunderstood species in the animal kingdom.*



**Dry to Dry: The Seasons of Kakadu - PAMELA FREEMAN – NSW,**  
 Illustrated by **LIZ ANELLI - NSW,** Walker  
<https://www.pamelafreeman.com/>

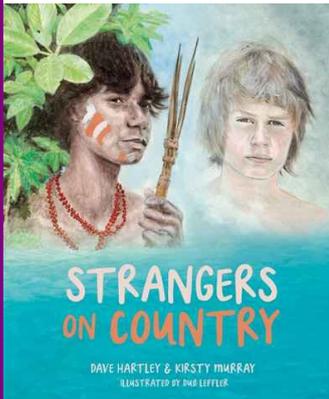


*I'm very proud of this book, not only because it took seven years to write (!), but because Liz Anelli's illustrations are so magical that it's like walking around with an art exhibition in your hand.*  
 PF

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6C6ManZKU5U>

[www.lizanelli-illustration.com](http://www.lizanelli-illustration.com)

Illustrating the thousands of living things contained in this book took a lot of trekking up waterfalls, crouching in mosquito infested bushes and avoiding crocodiles. Followed by months in my studio painting, drawing, cutting and sticking. It was all totally worth it. LA



**Strangers on Country - DAVID HARTLEY – QLD & KIRSTY MURRAY – VIC**  
 Illustrated by **DUB LEFFLER – NSW,** NLA  
<https://www.facebook.com/dub.leffler.5>



Told from the perspectives of six European convicts or castaways and the Indigenous people who gave refuge to them, these strangers on country give unique insight into cultural interactions in the early days of Europeans settlement in Australia, [adapted from DL.]

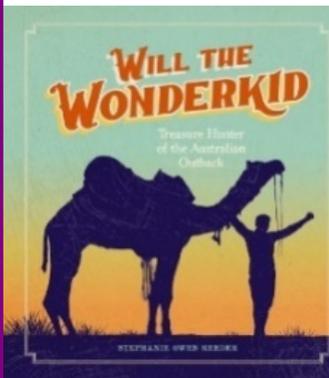
*The most important aspect of indigenous culture shared in this book is the coming together of different peoples- through terrible hardship & happenstance, these strangers on country were cared for, protected & loved by the indigenous people of Australia and welcomed into their way of life despite coming from vastly different cultures from the other side of the globe. -DL*



**Australia's Wild Weird Wonderful Weather -**  
**STEPHANIE OWEN REEDER – NSW + ACT** Illustrated by  
**TANIA MCCARTNEY ACT ,** NLA Publishing  
[www.stephanieowenreeder.com](http://www.stephanieowenreeder.com)



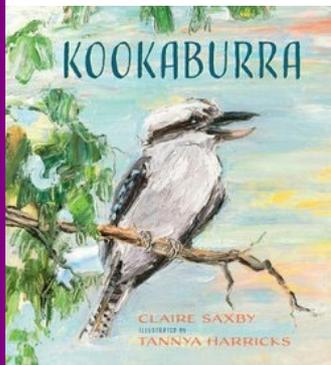
.....  
 Tania McCartney and I had so much fun collaborating on this book, finding out all sorts of amazingly weird and wonderful things about the weather in general, and Australia's weather in particular. This included everything from hamburger-shaped raindrops to snow falls on Uluru and flying dolphins. We were also impressed by Indigenous weather knowledge, amazed at how animals can sense the weather and alarmed by the effects of climate change. SOR



**The Wonderkid: Treasure Hunter of the Australian Outback -**  
**STEPHANIE OWEN REEDER – NSW + ACT**  
 NLA Publishing  
[www.stephanieowenreeder.com](http://www.stephanieowenreeder.com)  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=E9KFqFzJuvs>



My latest Heritage Heroes book retells the true story of Will Hutchison. In 1914, aged just 15, Will rode his camel Mustard off into the desert in search of gold. He didn't find any gold, and he and his companions nearly died of thirst, but this resilient young man didn't give up and, in the end, he discovered the Coober Pedy Opal fields. I love inspirational stories like this!  
 SOR



**Kookaburra** Claire Saxby – VIC, Illustrated by **TANNYA HARRICKS** – NSW Walker Books Australia  
<https://tanyaharricksillustration.squarespace.com>



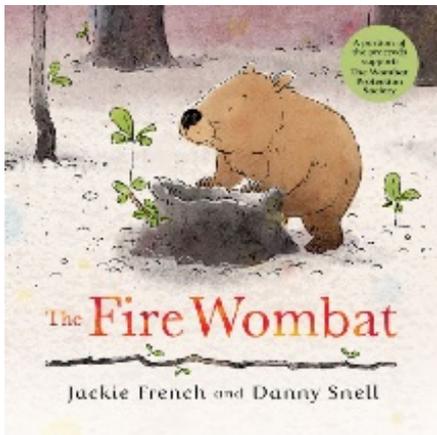
*Kookaburra* is part of the narrative nonfiction “Nature Storybook” series by Walker books. It was such a pleasure to illustrate Claire’s story of a Kookaburra and her family as they prepare for nesting, search for food and defend their territory. The story takes place on a riverbank which I imagined in my illustrations as the beautiful Shoalhaven River where I grew up. TH

## CBCA AWARD FOR NEW ILLUSTRATORS

We will hear more about the new illustrators in the May issue of KC.

- **Ribbit Rabbit Robot** - SOFYA KARMAZINA - NSW, Scholastic
- **No! Never!** - MEL PEARCE - NSW, Lothian
- **Seven Seas of Fleas** - DAVE PETZOLD - NSW - Starfish Bay Publishing
- **Shirley Purdie: My Story, Ngaginybe Jarragbe** SHIRLEY PURDIE - WA, Magabala
- **This Small Blue Dot** - ZENO SWORDER VIC- Thames & Hudson
- **Go Away, Worry Monster!** - ROBIN TATLOW-LORD, EK Books

## POETRY AS PART OF THE NOTABLES



*The Fire Wombat* is a special book for me, born in anguish, while so much I loved was destroyed and others I love died, but written in joy and hope at regeneration and kindness. – **Jackie French**

### THE FIRE WOMBAT – Jackie French

She came from fire country  
Her fur was smoked to black  
Too weak to get to water  
The others all stood back.  
They waited as we fed her  
And no one tried to bite  
This is her second evening  
We think she'll be alright.



**WRITE NOW** – Think of something surprising that happened this past week. Tell what happened next. Now, think of one of the last few books you have read. What do you think will happen next in the story?

**PIERRE'S PLAY**  
with Ursula DUBOSARSKY  
AUSTRALIAN CHILDREN'S LAUREATE

Hello young writers –

If you've ever thought you might like to write a play, this is the competition for you! The challenge is to write an extra scene for the play. It is found inside my novel **Pierre's Not There** (Allen and Unwin)

It's a puppet play and you could write your extra scene as a puppet play or as a play with human characters or a mixture of both. It's up to you – YOU are the writer! There are all sorts of strange and funny characters for you to be inspired by, especially when you see **Christopher Nielsen's** wonderful illustrations throughout the book.

You can find all the details of how to enter here:

<https://readingaustralia.com.au/2021/03/playwriting-competition-dubosarsky/>

It's open to students in Years 5,6,7 and 8 The due date is April 30, 2021

If you've never written a play before and are wondering how to do it, I've written down some of my own top tips for writing a play, and created a short video too.

<https://readingaustralia.com.au/2021/03/playwriting-tips-dubosarsky/S>

I've also written a WHOLE BOOK of plays you could have a look at for inspiration. It's called **"The Boy Who Could Fly and Other Magical Plays for Children (Christmas Press)** . See if you can find a copy in your library or bookshop!

And have a look too at the video I made about playwriting for the 2020 NSW School Magazine's "Wonderful World of Words Literary Festival".

You'll find it here:

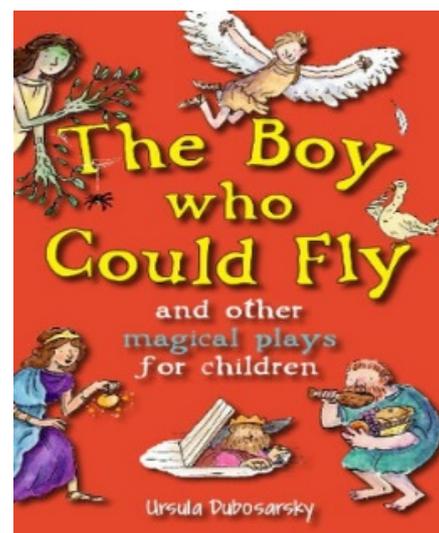
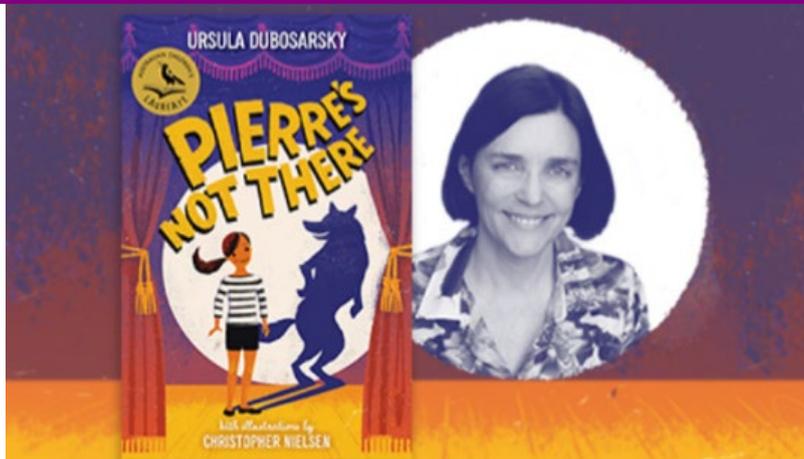
<https://theschoolmagazine.com.au/the-wonderful-world-of-words-a-literary-festival-with-the-school-magazine>

So come on, read "Pierre's Not There" and get writing - the Laureate Magpie and I can't wait to see what you come up with!

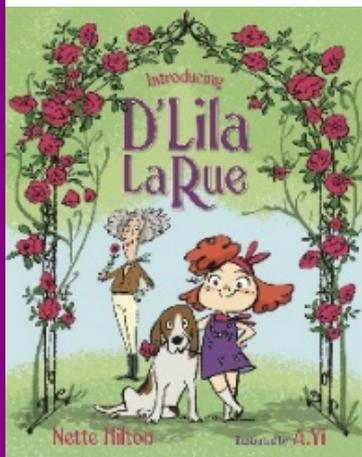
Until next time, Ursula and Magpie

PS remember to look at the Laureate website for this month's free writing activity for children

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



## WHAT'S NEW?



### Introducing D'Lila LaRue

**NETTE HILTON** and Illustrations by **A. Yi**

Walker Books

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

D'Lila is so busy helping, organising, mending and living life with her Nanny Anny that the adventures that happen along the way just fit in as if that was exactly what they were meant to do. Like going to The Lion King and accidentally, well almost, becoming one of the performers. And the bus lines and tunnels that are quite scary. And the art class and a rather troublesome spider.



Apart from just loving D'lila, I truly love Nanny Anny who really is my sister and a Nanny to several children. I especially loved watching her with her small charge, Michael, when they went to the park, or out for a coffee or just wandered about doing their shopping. Something special can happen between a Nanny and her little one when they are busy living their lives together.

Just how amazing are the illustrations by Ann Yi? Just soooo spectac!

### What are they Called?

Australian Animals



DIANA MARLAY COLE

### What Are They Called AND What Are They Called 2

**DIANA COLE** Little Red Apple Publishing

[www.dianamarlaycole.com](http://www.dianamarlaycole.com)

I enjoyed writing and illustrating **What are they Called 1 and 2** and learned a lot as well.

There are some really appropriate collective nouns, like a *scourge* of mosquitoes, and some strange ones like a *musket* of lyrebirds.



### What are they Called 2?

More Australian Animals



DIANA MARLAY COLE

The images were fun. I love the cassowaries with their vivid colour and amusing expressions and the elegant brologas as they dance.

I guess I became interested in animals because of lots of wildlife in my garden, including rabbits. Many, many years as a painter inform my use of vibrant colours.

## The NOTABLES and the SHORTLIST are just the beginning. . .

Celebrate your reading with book trailers and parts of plays and more.  
CONGRATULATIONS to all authors and illustrators for sharing their worlds –  
OLD, NEW and OTHER. HAPPY READING ALWAYS.

Cheers - Morrie and Jackie



This issue of KC was compiled by Jackie Hawkes with the help of LOTS of people who love reading, writing and thinking.

To share your ideas for KIDS' CORNER, please contact

[jackie.hawkes7@gmail.com](mailto:jackie.hawkes7@gmail.com)