



THE CHILDREN'S  
BOOK COUNCIL  
OF AUSTRALIA  
NSW BRANCH



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DECEMBER 2022

# KIDS' CORNER

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BOOKS  
AS GIFTS  
(BAGS)

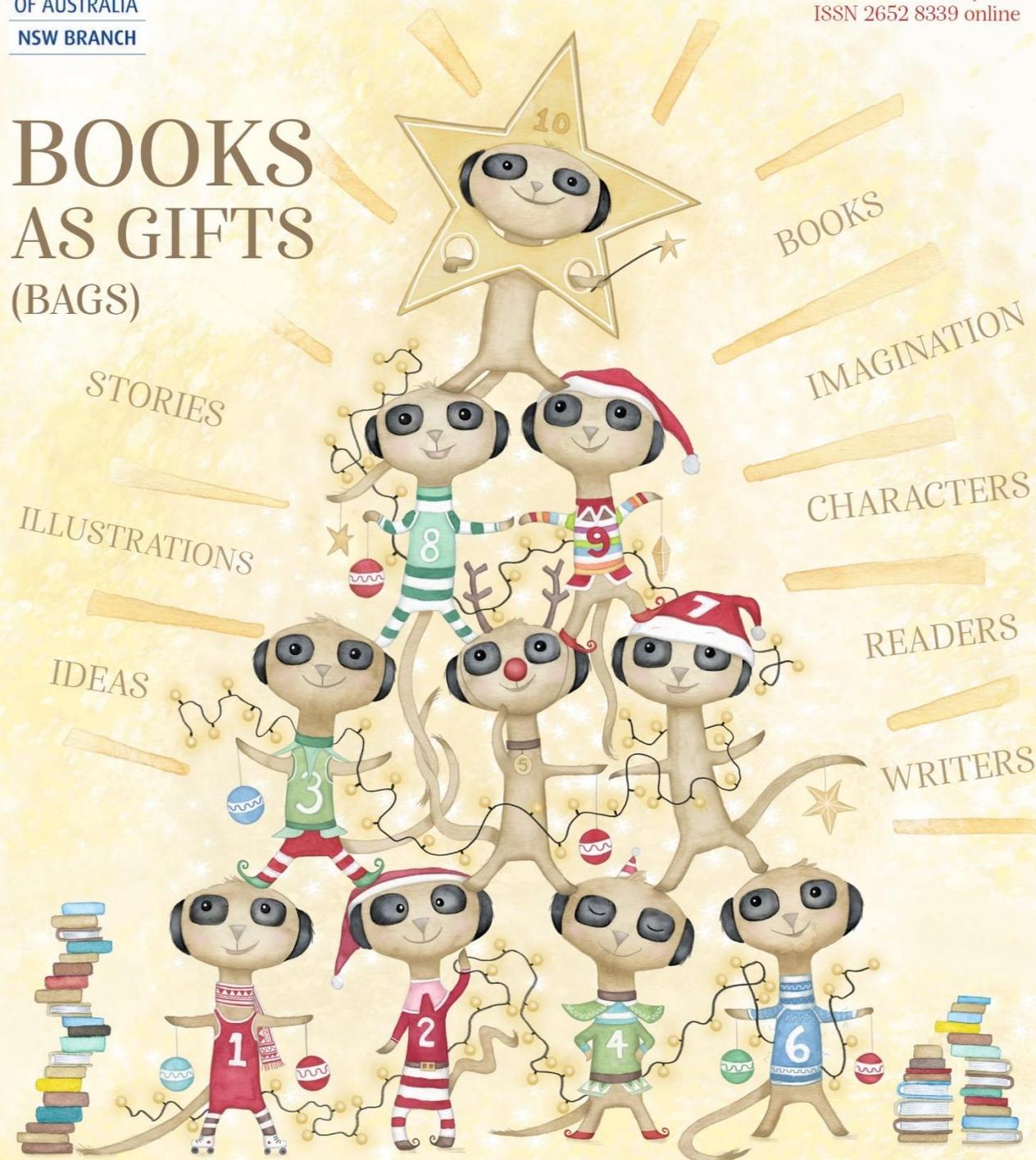


Illustration by Aura Parker (Meerkat Christmas)

# WELCOME TO AURA PARKER



Author & illustrator of

*Meerkat Christmas*

as our guest illustrator for

KIDS' CORNER - December 2022



I am excited to tell you my new picture book is here, MEERKAT CHRISTMAS - just in time for Christmas! My cheeky bath time meerkats from Meerkat Splash are back in a brand new, super fun adventure. This time they play a climbing game on Christmas Day, but who makes them CRASH? When I showed this story to a couple of my close friends right before it went to print, two of them said *'I want to be Meerkat Ten, please can I be Meerkat Ten'* which is very cute! Meerkat Ten is a star, you see, but I don't want to be too much of a spoiler because you will have to read it! See which meerkat you want to be ...

As an author and illustrator, I always imagine how the words and pictures work together to best tell the story. I do have a lot of bug characters and two meerkat books now. So, as you can probably guess, I am INFATUATED with meerkats! YES, I adore them! Insects make great characters too. It's fun drawing all those little legs and antennae in an expressive way and they have so many interesting qualities to work with. Funnily enough, I think of my little meerkat pups and bugs as being like human children, rather than animals. The way they are feeling, how they look and behave is anthropomorphized. I have to admit, I haven't seen any real meerkats running around wearing elf outfits, riding a zip line of tinsel on a candy cane, making Christmas tree towers or preparing for bath time... hmmm... except in my books!

I do research for my stories and drawing but tend to leap into an imaginary space quite freely – and it's so much fun! I also tend to choose background colours and sky based on emotion, or how my character is feeling, rather than the time of day. I enjoy working with colour and the effects it can give to the mood of the story. Let's just say the mood of my latest one is bright, fun and joyful! I hope you enjoy it.

Merry Christmas and I hope you get lots of time to read over the Summer.

Aura Parker



**And the great news for the holidays is:**

## **WELCOME TO BAGS 2022 = BOOKS AS GIFTS**

This is a remarkable listing of some of the many recent and upcoming books

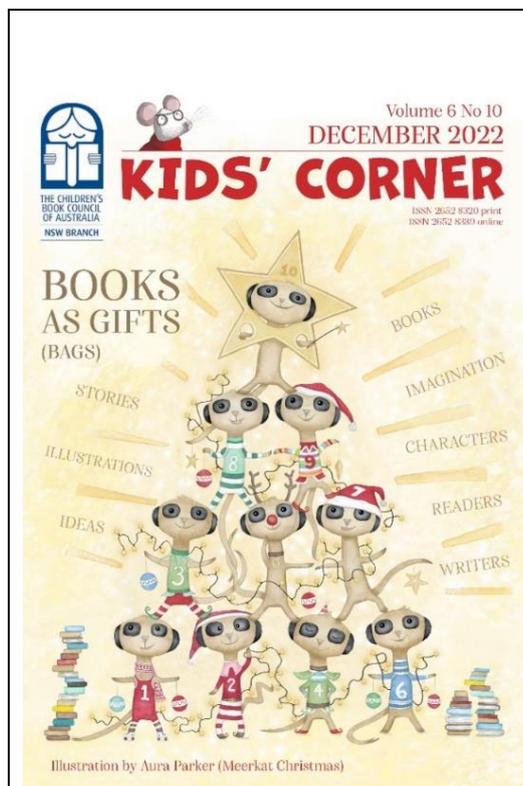
from our CBCA NSW member authors and illustrators.

Books are always a perfect gift to give and to share, especially for the holidays.

We know you will enjoy looking for and reading these titles.

Very special thanks to all the authors and illustrators who have imagined and created these and other stories.

## **CBCA NSW BRANCH AUTHORS & ILLUSTRATORS 2022 BAGS = BOOKS AS GIFTS**



**Happy Reading Always.**

**Ashleigh BARTON \* Sami BAYLY \*  
Wendy BLAXLAND \* Toni CARY \*  
Christopher CHENG \* Kristin DARELL \*  
Susanne GERVAY \* Lesley GIBBS \*  
Jenny GOODMAN \* Paul HALLAM \* Max  
HAMILTON \* Libby HATHORN \* KELLIE  
ANNE HAWKINS \* Sadami KNOCHI \*  
Ashling KWOK \* Penny JAYE/ Penny  
REEVES \* Artell LENTHALL \* MONICA  
LIZAMA \* Nettie LODGE \* Yvonne LOW  
\* Jodie McLEOD \* Katrina McKELVEY \*  
Suzanne MANSON \* Sophie MASSON \*  
Belinda MURRELL \* AURA PARKER \*  
Ellie ROYCE \* Jean SAXBY \* Pat  
SIMMONS \* Kate SIMPSON \* Paula  
STEVENSON \* Binny TALIB \* Debra  
TIDBALL \* Robert VESCIO \* Heidi  
WALKENSHAW \* Sue WHITING**



## CHRISTMAS BOOKS

### AURA PARKER



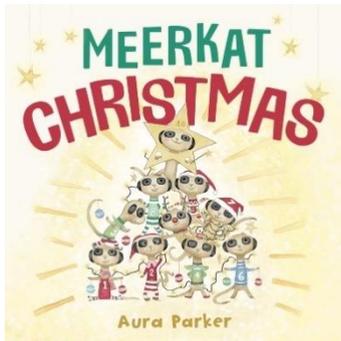
**Meercat Christmas** - Written and illustrated by **Aura Parker** (Puffin – October 2022)

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

<https://www.penguin.com.au/books/meerkat-christmas-9780143777229>  
@auraparker (Instagram & Twitter)

AURA meercat video <https://youtu.be/nX4O-aQWj-g>

From the author and illustrator of the delightful MEERKAT SPLASH comes a gorgeous Christmas book full of joyous, playful illustrations and bouncing rhyme. The meerkats are playing a new game – but who makes them CRASH?



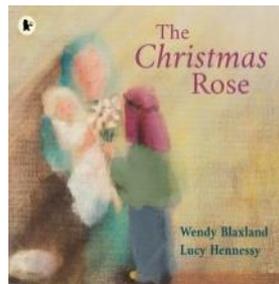
**PERSONAL QUOTE:** *I fell in love with words at a young age and my passion for writing stems from a love of reading. I couldn't think of a more wonderful thing to give someone as a gift than a book! - Aura Parker*

### WENDY BLAXLAND [wendyblaxlandwriter.com](http://wendyblaxlandwriter.com)



Facebook: Wendy Blaxland writer

**Recent or upcoming book/s:** *The Christmas Rose* (just been republished in soft cover by Walker Books Australia)



*Wendy with her new granddaughter, IDA.*

**Summary:** Join the shepherd girl Madelon as she travels through the breathtaking events of the very first Christmas. This retelling of the legend of the Christmas rose reminds us that the gift of love is the greatest gift at all. Marvel at Lucy Hennessy's exquisite oil on canvas illustrations.

**PERSONAL QUOTE:**

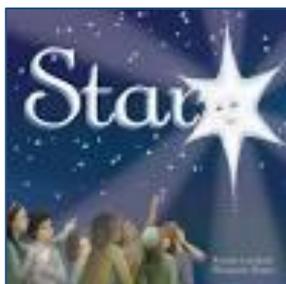
*Sharing stories is to share our thoughts, feelings and imagination. Writing makes these stories live on a page, but listening to other people's stories is just as important. Stories blow on every wind, and hide in every heart if you will open your own ears and eyes. Learn to listen..- Wendy BLAXLAND*  
*-Additional Information related to your special projects or interests?*

*The natural world inspires me, and humans most of all. What we feel and think are infinitely fascinating. Poems whisper their beginnings to me from what moves me most deeply, and often go out into the world to touch other people. Are you a poet too? Listen to your heart.- Wendy Blaxland*

**-What do you like about KC? KIDS' CORNER** helps us as writers, illustrators, creators, to connect with the people we write for – you! Thank you, **KC**, for the opportunities you give so generously.

## ARTELLE LENTHALL

<https://www.journeygirlontheroadtopublication.com>



*Recent or upcoming book:  
Star (Little Pink Dog Books)*

**Summary:**

**Star** is the Christmas story told from the perspective of the Bethlehem/ Christmas Star, but it is really a story of resilience, love, compassion and of finding and fulfilling your purpose.

**-PERSONAL QUOTE:**

*Like with most things in life you need to be true to yourself in what you read and what you write. I love to read both Picture Books and Middle Grade, rather than adult books. I tend to write lyrically and evocatively and try to find unique perspective from which to tell my stories.*

*(Sometimes it can be too unique/odd but I believe the industry is working on becoming more diverse so it's likely to become just one of many possible ways of saying and doing things.)*

*– Artelle Lenthall*

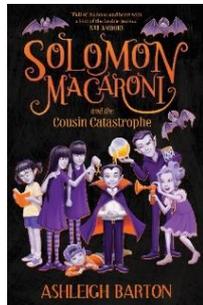


## And now presenting BAGS 2022 . . .

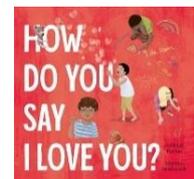
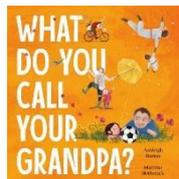
ASHLEIGH BARTON [www.ashleighbarton.com](http://www.ashleighbarton.com)



Instagram: @ashleighjbarton



(Please note: Solomon Macaroni is illustrated by Sarah Davis, and my picture books are illustrated by Martina Heiduczek)



**Recent or upcoming book/s:** *Solomon Macaroni and the Cousin Catastrophe* (UQP)

**Summary:** Solomon Macaroni is the sweetest vampire you've ever met. He's friendly, polite and makes a mean tofu Bolognese. When his parents go on a one-hundred-year cruise without him, Solomon is not impressed. Can he survive one hundred years staying in spooky Transylvania with Uncle Dracula and his naughty prankster cousins?

**Recent or upcoming book/s:** *What Do You Call Your Grandma* (HarperCollins)

**Summary:** A charming and heart-warming book that celebrates the many different ways we say grandma. Shortlisted for the CBCA Early Childhood Book 2022, *What Do You Call Your Grandma?* is a love letter to grandmothers and families from every corner of the globe.

**Recent or upcoming book/s:** *What Do You Call Your Grandpa* (HarperCollins)

**Summary:** A charming and heart-warming book that celebrates the many different ways we say grandpa. A 2021 Children's Book Council Notable Book, *What Do You Call Your Grandpa?* is a love letter to grandfathers and families from every corner of the globe.

**Recent or upcoming book/s:** *What Do You Do to Celebrate* (HarperCollins)

**Summary:** A joyous book that explores the many different ways we celebrate the close of one year and the beginning of another. *What Do You Do to Celebrate?* is a fascinating look at festivities and traditions from all around the world.

**Recent or upcoming book/s:** *How Do You Say I Love You* (HarperCollins)

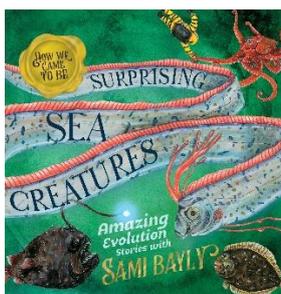
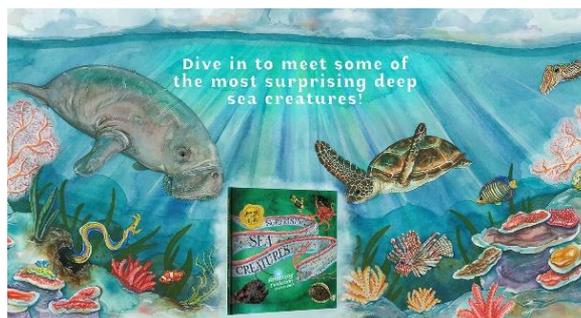
**Summary:** An exuberant and beautiful book that celebrates the many different ways we say 'I love you', in languages the world over. *How Do You Say I Love You?* is a heart-warming look at how we tell our loved ones how much we care.

### PERSONAL QUOTE:

*There's nothing I love more than reading and writing books for children (which are really books for everyone). And, in my unbiased opinion, books make the very best presents – they can be read over and over again, shared with loved ones, and cherished for generations. – Ashleigh BARTON*

-What do you like about KC? I love that KC is written specifically for kids. As a committed bookworm, I would have absolutely loved this as a child!

## SAMI BAYLY –



Website: <http://www.samibayly.com>

Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/samibayly/?hl=en>

Facebook: <https://m.facebook.com/samibaylyauthorillustrator/>

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

### **Recent or upcoming book/s**

***How We Came to Be: Surprising Sea Creatures (Lothian/ Hachette Australia)***

**Summary:** Dive deep through the ocean zones to discover unusual evolution stories behind some of the most surprising sea creatures. Find out why they have come to look and behave the way they do... the answers might surprise you!

**Personal quote:** *With our world quickly changing, we need to act to save so many precious species. By illustrating and creating content for kids, I feel that it is a wonderful way to inspire upcoming generations to create the change we need in the world. – Sami Bayly*



**Why did the elves ask the turkey to join the band?**

**-Because he had the drumsticks**

**What does Tarzan sing at Christmas?**

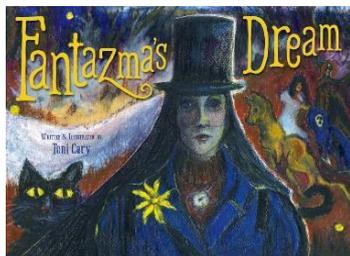
**-Jungle bells**

**How do you know when Santa's around?**

**You can always sense his presents.**

**What was Santa's favorite subject in school? Chemis-tree!**

TONI CARY [www.alcheringaartist.com.au](http://www.alcheringaartist.com.au)  
<https://www.facebook.com/tonicary.007/>



**Recent or upcoming book/s:**

New- fifth book: "**Fantazma's Dream** (Little Steps/ New Frontier)

Upcoming - sixth book "**Where iz Dorothy Oz** - to be released in late 2023

**SUMMARY:** *Fantazma's Dream* is a book I have always wanted to write and illustrate. It is essentially about space, has accurate astronomy, and many learning outcomes. It is for ages 6-12. It also has a "spookiness" element. I have already presented it to schools about a dozen times. The children love the book, and we do tandem projects associated with the James Webb telescope with its images, and the new Artemis moon project. It has been very exciting for everyone. It is written as a long rhyming poem.

**Brief Comment:** *Where Iz Dorothy Oz* is my first graphic novel for ages 10-15. It has an Australian bias and is basically a sci fi adventure in the year 2102 in another dimension. There are four main teenage/young adult characters, and certainly includes a narcissistic antagonist with evil designs for the world. There will be about 90 pages of full colour illustrations with all the requisite speech bubbles.

**Role:** I am an author and illustrator, originally trained at the National Art School. I write in both prose and poetry.

**What do you like about KC?** I particularly like the reality that **KC** is a direct connection between the creators and young readers. It is not easy to have that connection, and consequently this is a very valuable activity. I also try to make that connection through school visits and my local market, the largest on the far South Coast of NSW. It is invaluable when creating a new children's book.



**What do you call Santa when he stops moving?**

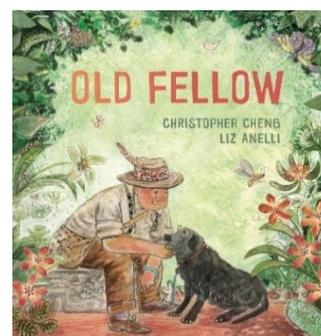
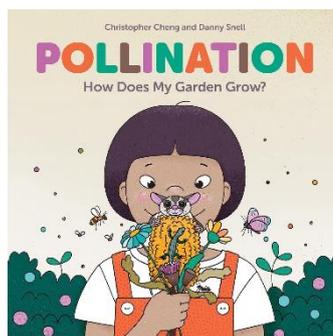
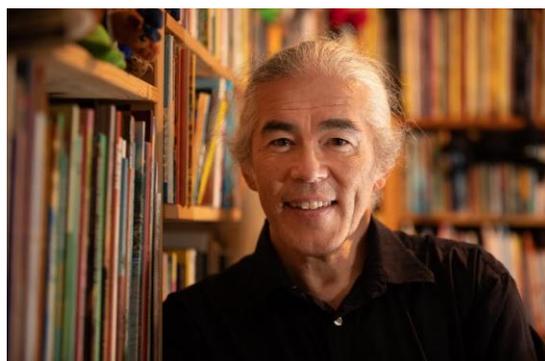
**Santa Pause.**

**Where would you find chili beans?**

**At the North Pole.**

**CHRISTOPHER CHENG** - W: [www.chrischeng.com](http://www.chrischeng.com) FB: christopherchengauthor

<https://www.chrischeng.com/books.html>



**Recent or upcoming book/s:**

**Pollination** (CSIRO Publishing **-RELEASE DATE 2023** February 2023)

**SUMMARY:** A child's day in the garden with their Gran and Pa leads to a wonderful exploration of pollination. Join them in discovering how pollination happens in our gardens and backyards, and the importance it has for our environment. Meet the animals involved in pollination and the plants that depend on pollination to produce our fruit, vegetables and even our clothes!

**Old Fellow** –Chris Cheng with Liz Anelli, Illustrator. (Walker Books Australia - 2022)

**SUMMARY:** An old man and an old dog look after each other on their daily trip to the local park. Along the way they meet friends, new and old, who brighten their day in different ways. A beautiful, heartwarming book that celebrates community and connection.

**Other recent books**

**Bear and Rat** –

Christopher Cheng & Stephen Michael King, Illustrator (Penguin Random House Australia -2021)

**The Imagineer** -

Christopher Cheng & Lucia Masciullo - Illustrator (National Library of Australia Publishing - 2021)

**Wombat** -

Christopher Cheng & Liz Duthie, Illustrator (Walker Books Australia - 2021)

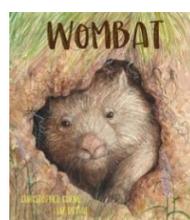
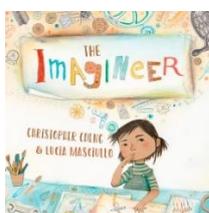
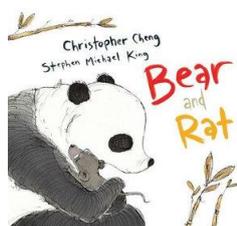
**-PERSONAL QUOTE –**

**Have you written today?**

**Have you read today? - Christopher Cheng**

**and**

**There are books just right for you - Ask a librarian. - Christopher Cheng**



## KRISTIN DARELL -

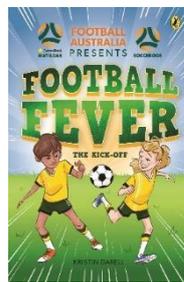
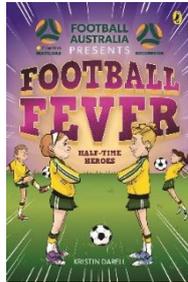


W – [www.kristindarell.com.au](http://www.kristindarell.com.au)

F – <https://www.facebook.com/kristindarellwriter>

Instagram – <https://www.instagram.com/krisddarell/>

Twitter – [https://twitter.com/kristin\\_darell](https://twitter.com/kristin_darell)



**Recent or upcoming book/s :** Football Fever 1: The Kick-Off (out now)

(Penguin Random House) - Football Fever 2: Half-Time Heroes ( Penguin Random House)

**Summary:** It's a new season for the U11s *Merridale Fever*, a mixed team of football-loving boys and girls. Follow their journey as they build friendships and have fun working towards their dream of playing for Australia. *Football Fever* is an action-packed junior fiction series in partnership with Football Australia. Featuring lots of your favourite *Commbank Matildas* and *Subway Socceroos* stars.

**PERSONAL QUOTE:** *The gift of stories is the most precious gift we can give. It's why I love being an author. I hope with all my heart these stories give lots of children joy and perhaps even inspire more kids to pick up books and read this Christmas. - Kristin Darell*

## SUSANNE GERVAY



Facebook – sgervay

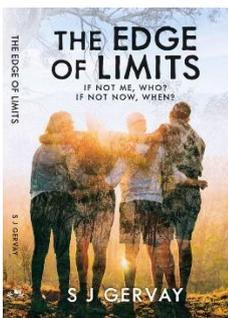
Twitter – sgervay

Instagram – susanne\_gervay

Youtube - sgervay

Linked in – susanne-gervay

TikTok – susannegervay\_author



**TITLE of recent or upcoming book/s:**

**The Edge of Limits** (Flying Elephants Media – released November 2022)

**Summary:** A wilderness school trek. No showers, hard trekking, wild rivers, wilderness ... and flies, thousands of them. Freezing nights and sweaty days. Great mateship. Great betrayals. Eight days descending into fear, exhaustion, ravines and rivers, heading for their final place of initiation and decision of who boys want to be.

**-PERSONAL QUOTE:** *Without books, how do I make sense of the world? Books give me hope and a safe place to land. – Susanne GERVAY*

### **Additional Information related to your special projects or interests?**

Girls matter. Boys matter too. Consent is important, but how do we make sense of it with confusing messages. Writing 'The Edge of Limits' let me go inside the lives of boys and men, so they can make their own decisions of who they want to be.

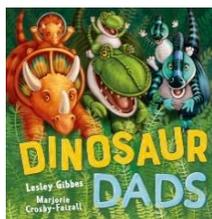
#### **-What do you like about KC?**

I love its range of books. Outreach to authors and illustrators. I am excited that it is moving into young adult literature too.

#### **-What would make KC better?**

Go the way you are going and keep developing new outreaches. Young adult is an important one

### **LESLEY GIBBS - [lesleygibbes.com](http://lesleygibbes.com)**



Recent or upcoming book/s:

**Summary: *Dinosaur Dads*** [with Marjorie Crosby-Fairall, Illustrator] (Ashton Scholastic) *The dinosaur kids whinge and grumble until, an earth-shattering STOMP echoes over the hill. Get ready, get set, for daddies galore. Here they come! Here they come! Hear they come...ROAR!*



**Summary: *Searching for Cicadas*** [with Judy Watson, Illustrator] (Walker Books) - In the summertime, Grandpa and I go cicada-watching. We put our camping gear into my wagon and walk down to the local reserve. Last year we saw five Green Grocers, three Yellow Mondays and one Floury Baker. Can we find the rare Black Prince this year?

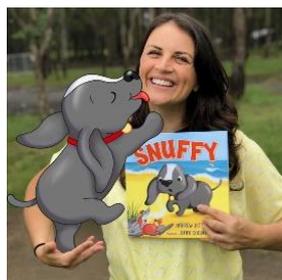
**-PERSONAL QUOTE: *The Christmas holidays are a cherished time for book reading. I can't wait to see what Santa brings me this year. - Lesley GIBBS***

**-Additional Information related to your special projects or interests?** I loved researching dinosaurs for my picture book *Dinosaur Dads* and had so much fun sharing my love of dinosaurs and palaeontology with children for Book Week this year. I'm always happy to visit schools. Be sure to look out for my next picture book *Dinosaur Dads to the Rescue* coming out in September 2023. .

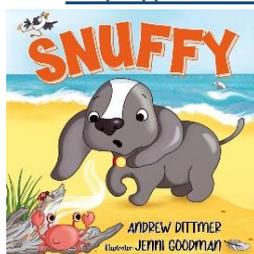
**-What do you like about KC?** I love the support KC gives to Australian authors and illustrators.

**-What would make KC better?** Give aways and competitions

### **JENNI GOODMAN - [www.jennigoodman.com.au](http://www.jennigoodman.com.au)**



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**INSTAGRAM:** @jenni.goodman

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**INSTAGRAM:** @jenni.goodman

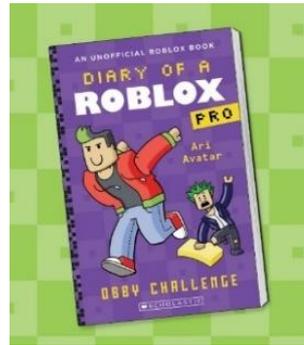
**-TITLE of recent or upcoming book/s:** Snuffy (New Holland Publishers)

**Summary:** Snuffy is a little dog who just has to sniff EVERYTHING! Sometimes Snuffy's sniffer gets her into trouble, but can her nose save a day at the beach from an unhappy ending?

**PAUL HALLAM - Website:** <https://www.paulhallamcreates.com/>



Instagram: <https://instagram.com/paulhallamcreates>

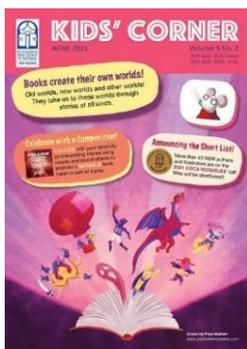


**-TITLE of recent or upcoming book/s:**

*Diary of a Roblox Pro: Obby Challenge (Book 3) Books 1 and 2 are also available and Book 4 "Lava Chase" will be out on January 1, 2023 (you can find cover images of the other books online) (Scholastic Australia). -RELEASE DATE Nov 1, 2022*

**SUMMARY:** In this book, Ari Avatar and his enemy Trip must work together to escape from a deadly obstacle course!

Paul also designed the cover for *KC* April 2021 and for *KC* May 2020.

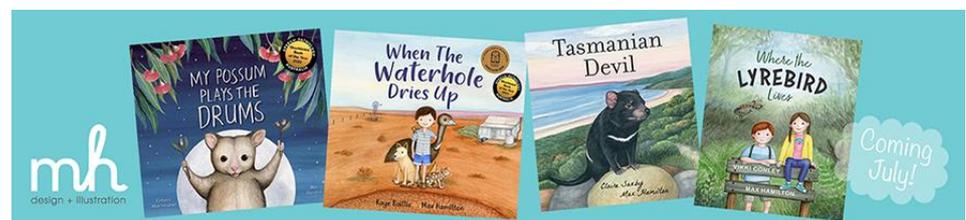


**-PERSONAL QUOTE:** *I love reading because it lets you walk in someone else's shoes and see life from their point of view. - Paul HALLAM*

## MAX HAMILTON -Design / Children's Book Illustration



[max@mhdesign.com.au](mailto:max@mhdesign.com.au) [www.mhdesign.com.au](http://www.mhdesign.com.au)  
[www.instagram.com/mhdesignillustration](https://www.instagram.com/mhdesignillustration)



Max also created the cover for *KC* August 2021.

**Recent or upcoming book/s:**

***Where the Lyrebird lives*** – Vikki Conley with Max Hamilton, Illustrator (Windy Hollow Books)

***Tasmanian Devil*** - Claire Saxby with Max Hamilton, Illustrator (Walker Books)

And coming soon ... two more new books in 2023.



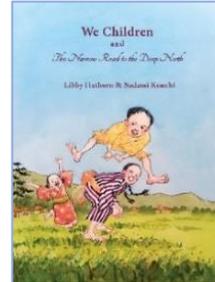
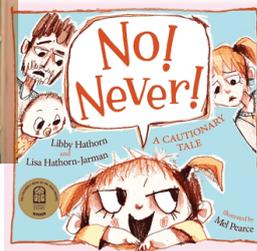
## LIBBY HATHORN



Website: [www.libbyhathorn.com](http://www.libbyhathorn.com) <<http://www.libbyhathorn.com>>

@libby.hathorn <<mailto:instagram@libby.hathorn>>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/libby.hathorn>



### RECENT or upcoming book/s:

2021 - 2022 was a very busy reading time for this writer as usual. But also, a busy publishing time with three new picture books coming out! And the prospect in 2023 of a gorgeous picture book about nature and our environment coming out Jun/July 2023 called, what else? ***Mother Earth***.

- **No! Never! a cautionary tale** - Libby Hathorn, with [Lisa Hathorn-Jarman](#), and [Mel Pearce](#), Illustrator. (Hachette) [Winner of CBCA Book of the Year, Younger Readers, 2021]

**The Best Cat, the Est Cat**- Libby Hathorn with Rosie Handley, Illustrator. (State Library NSW, 2021)

-**We Children and the Narrow Road to the Deep North** – Libby Hathorn, with Sadami Konchi, Illustrator. (Interactive Press, 2022)

-**Upcoming Mother Earth** (Hachette) upcoming release June/ July 2023.

### PERSONAL QUOTE:

*If I'm to give any advice to young readers and writers it is this: Read a lot and write a lot to help you found out who you are...and include poetry in that reading, poetry which delivers sense and nonsense and all the emotions, the best and the worst of us as humans! – Libby Hathorn*

### -Additional information and interests

*Poetry has been my companion, all of my life. I never leave home without it. If you commit favorite lines or a whole poem to memory nothing and nobody can take it away from you ever again. – Libby Hathorn*



**What's as big as a Christmas tree but is lighter than a feather? Its shadow.**

**How do Christmas trees get their email? They log-on.**

**KELLI ANNE HAWKINS** - <https://kellihawkins.com.au/books/books-for-kids/>



[Kelli Hawkins is an Australian author who writes for both adults and children.

Her adult novels are published under the name **Kelli Hawkins**.

Her children's books are under **Kelli Anne Hawkins**.]

Website: <https://kellihawkins.com.au/books/books-for-kids/>

Instagram: [kellihawkinswriter](https://www.instagram.com/kellihawkinswriter)

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/kelli.hawkins.16>



**Birdbrain** – Kelli Anne Hawkins (Harper Collins).

**Summary:** My most recent book is **Birdbrain**, published Sep 2022. Before that there was **The School For Talking Pets** (Harper Collins – 2021).

**Summary: Birdbrain** – Hadley Boggs is whisked away to be princess of Ludrovia. She's soon dealing with dancing goats, a hair-obsessed president, loads of fondue, and the king's advisor – a budgerigar!

**Summary:** Pets? Tick! TALKING pets? Double tick! Silly spies, secret plots and one shy kid who might just save the day? Tick, tick, tick! Anything's possible at

***The School for Talking Pets.***

***Personal Quote: I just loved reading as kid. Now, I try to write the sort of books I loved - funny, entertaining, intriguing. And always with animals! – Kelli Anne HAWKINS***



**What does Mrs Clause say to Santa when she sees clouds? Looks like rain, dear.**

**What is Santa's dog's name? Santa Paws!**

**What do you call a reindeer ghost? Cari-boo!**

**What do grapes sing at Christmas?**

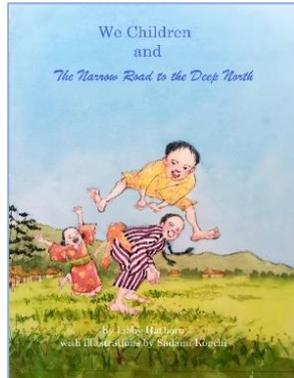
**'Tis the season to be jelly.**

## SADAMI KONCHI



**-WEBSITE/ social media contacts:**

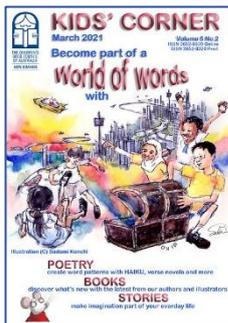
[Sadami's Graphitti \\*Blog \(CV\)](#), [ASA Stlefile Instagram](#)



**Recent or upcoming book/s:**

**-We children and the narrow road to the deep north**, written by Libby Hathorn, with Sadami Konchi, Illustrator. (IP Kidz).

-I am currently working on another picture book project with Libby Hathorn.



Sadami also designed the cover for **KC March 2021**.

### Summary:

Libby Hathorn's sensitive and sweet story depicts the heart-warming interaction between three village children and the haiku establisher Matsuo Bashō (1644–1694) based on his real journey, the quest of poetry in Japan. Sadami Konchi's rich watercolour washes and techniques glorify each page and showed the old Japanese culture with historical accuracy.

**-PERSONAL QUOTE:** *This groundbreaking picture book has showed environmentalism, too and demonstrated the insights of Basho's famous haiku along his journey. Young readers will enjoy the passage, seeing each famous spot with Basho and his companion Sora. Poet Libby has sincerely projected her emotion onto the great poet Basho's life with respect.* - Sadami Konchi



**What do Santa's elves learn in school? The elf-abet.**

**What comes at the end of Christmas day?**

**The letter "Y"**

**How is the Christmas alphabet different from the ordinary alphabet?**

**It has NO "L". (Noel)**

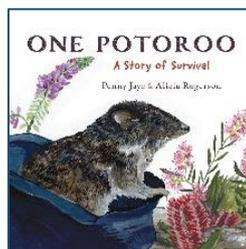
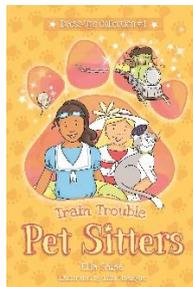
**PENNY JAYE (aka PENNY REEVES,**

**aka ELLA SHIINE =Penny JAYE and Cecily Anne Paterson)**

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

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

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



**Recent or upcoming book/s:**

**-Train Trouble (Pet Sitters: Dress Ups! #1(Puddle Dog Press)-**

**SUMMARY:** Two pet sitters, One lovesick cat. What could go wrong?

Cassie and Lina are pet sitting mice at the Model Train Show. But Gus the talking cat is acting weird, and mice are mysteriously multiplying!

Can the girls discover what's happening? Or will there be chaos at the Train Show?

Train Trouble is the 5th book about Gus the talking cat and his best humans, Cassie and Lina!

**-One Potoroo: a story of survival – with Alicia Rogerson, Illustrator. (CSIRO Publishing).**

**-PERSONAL QUOTE: Writing is a great way to have adventures without leaving your house! - Penny Reeve / Penny Jaye [living and writing on Dharug country]**

**ASHLING KWOK**



**Web:** [www.ashlingkwok.com.au](http://www.ashlingkwok.com.au)

**Facebook:** <https://www.facebook.com/ashling.kwok>

**Instagram:** [https://www.instagram.com/ashling\\_kwok](https://www.instagram.com/ashling_kwok)

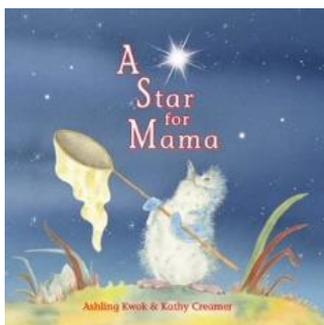
**Twitter:** <https://twitter.com/AshlingKwok>

**-TITLE of recent or upcoming book/s:**

**A Star for Mama**, Ashling Kwok, with Kathy Creamer (Little Pink Dogs Books – released Oct 2022)

**Summary:** A baby penguin tries to catch a shooting star for his mama's birthday but gets lost along the way.

Will Kip ever get the chance to show his mama how much he loves her? Find out in this charming story that celebrates the special bond between mother and child.



**-What do you like about KC?**



**Everything!**

**MONICA LIZAMA** - WEBSITE: [www.monicalizama.net](http://www.monicalizama.net).

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

FB, INSTAGRAM: Monica Lizama.

Blotch the dog.



TITLE: *The Empty Dish* (Olympia Publishers)

**Summary:** The Empty Dish is the story about Oscar Wild, the cat, who went to eat his delicious biscuits and found his dish empty. Immediately he thought, "there is a thief in this house!"

Was it the dog? Was it the mouse? Was it the possum?

Was it the parrot?



**PERSONAL QUOTES – Monica Lizama:**

*-Being alive is an amazing gift.*

*-I was born to create odd stuff.*

*-When I finally grow up, I'll write a serious kid book.*

How to make KC better: Offering tuition for young and old writers.



**Why does Santa have three gardens?**

**So he can "hoe, hoe, hoe".**

**What goes, "Oh! Oh! Oh!"**

**Santa walking backwards.**

**Where would you find snowmen dancing?**

**At a snowball**

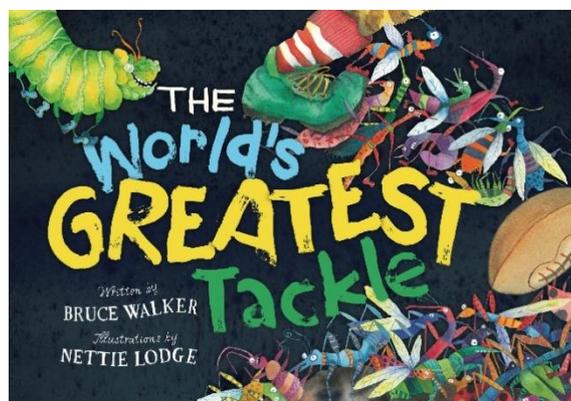
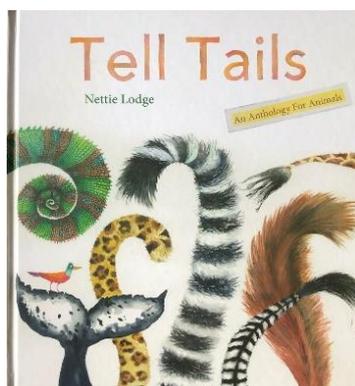
**What comes at the end of Christmas day?**

**The letter "Y"**

**How is the Christmas alphabet different from the ordinary alphabet?**

**It has NO "L". (Noel)**

**NETTIE LODGE** - <https://www.facebook.com/nettie.lodge.artist>



Nettie also created the cover for KC October 2022.

### Recent or upcoming books/s

-**Tell Tails** - written and illustrated by Nettie Lodge (Green Olive Press).

**Summary:** *Tell Tails: An anthology for animals* is based on the lives and times of animals from all over the world. Each page is a double page spread illustration showing the strange and wondrous features of the animal and includes a poem about the life of each animal.

-**The World's Greatest Tackle** - Bruce Walker with Nettie Lodge, Illustrator (Woodslane Press - due for release April 2023).

**Summary:** Through illustration and rhyme, the story unfolds of an extraordinary football game, played annually between the animals and insects of the world. Inevitably, the insects usually get annihilated until one day a perfect tackle brings down the might of the animals. It is a David V Goliath story of epic animal proportions.

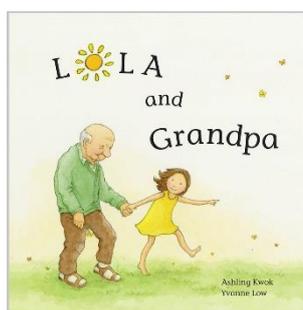
**-PERSONAL QUOTE:** *If you can read a book, you are never alone. If you can write and illustrate a book, you can escape into the wildness of imagination where anything is possible. – Nettie LODGE - Author, illustrator and some sort of poet. Nettie LODGE*

**-What do you like about KC?** It's always great to see what inspires other illustrators and writers of children's books and to gauge the kid's reactions

YVONNE LOW Website: [www.yvonnelow.com](http://www.yvonnelow.com)



Twitter: <https://twitter.com/YLcreate>



Recent book: *Lola and Grandpa* (Little Pink Dog Books)



Yvonne also designed the cover for **KC**, September 2021

**SUMMARY:** Lola shares a tender, loving relationship with her Grandpa, who she visits every Sunday. When he passes away, she struggles to cope. But as time goes by, Lola realises that her Grandpa will always be with her – in her heart and in the memories they made together. A beautiful and gently reassuring story.

**PERSONAL QUOTE:** *I try to write or draw and create something every day. It might be the start of a poem, taking a photo of a beautiful leaf, or a quick sketch of a bird in the garden. Being creative puts a smile on my face - Yvonne Low*



What did the gingerbread man put on his bed?

A cookie sheet.

Why do mummies like Christmas?

All the wrapping.

KATRINA MCKELVEY - <http://katrinamckelvey.com/>



Katrina McKelvey - children's author



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



## JODIE MacLEOD - *WEBSITE/ social media contacts:*



W: [jodiemcleod.com](http://jodiemcleod.com)  
F: [@JodieMcLeodWriter](https://www.facebook.com/JodieMcLeodWriter)  
T: [@jodiemcleod](https://www.instagram.com/jodiemcleod)  
I: [@jodiemcleodwriter](https://www.instagram.com/jodiemcleodwriter)



What happens when the one thing that makes you special is stolen?

Join the Black Cockatoo in this fun, read-aloud adventure through the Australian bush as she searches for her feather... and discovers what's truly important.

*"Do you know who took my one feather blue?"*

### **Recent or upcoming book/s: *The Black Cockatoo with One Feather Blue***

(Wollemi Press - *RELEASE DATE* - July 2023)

**Summary:** *Do you know who took my one feather blue?"*

What happens when the one thing that makes you special is stolen?

Join the Black Cockatoo in this fun, read-aloud adventure through the Australian bush as she searches for her feather... and discovers what's truly important.

### ***-PERSONAL QUOTE:***

***Regularly seek awe, and good ideas will find you. - Jodie MacLEOD***



**-Who live at the North Pole, makes toys and rides around in a pumpkin?**

**-Cinder-ELF-a**

**-What do you call an Elf who sings?**

**A Wrapper**

**What is invisible and smells like milk and cookies?**

**Santa's burps.**

**When should you feed a baby reindeer milk?**

**When it is a baby reindeer.**

## SUZANNE MANSON [author and illustrator]

Social Media Contact: [redheadpublishingau](http://redheadpublishingau.com)



### Recent or upcoming books:

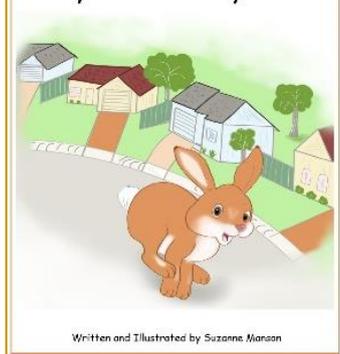


-*The Banksia Tree (The Adventures of Olivia and Grandma)*

-*The Sand Slide (The Adventures of Olivia and Grandma)*

-*Emily and Pugsle Pelican (The Adventures of Olivia and Grandma)*

### Rocky the Rascally Rabbit



**Title of upcoming book:** *Rocky the Rascally Rabbit* (Self-published - expected release Easter 2023).

I am hoping to publish another two books next year. A further book in the Olivia and Grandma series and a funny book that boys will like.

**Summary:** Olivia and Grandma have many adventures on the secret tracks at Redhead Beach. Searching for the banksia fairies, the fish in the rock pools and sliding down the sandhills. Pugsle Pelican also includes Olivia's little sister Emily. Rocky the Rascally Rabbit is always escaping his hutch and searching for new things to eat.

**PERSONAL QUOTE:** *I have always loved writing and illustrating children's books. My books are about real events which makes it more fun to involve the little people. - Suzanne MANSON*

**Kids' Corner** sounds like a great way to involve children in books and encourage them to read.

## Sophie MASSON



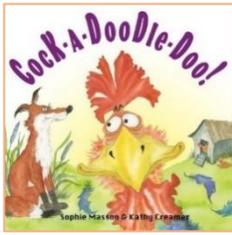
WEBSITE/ social media contacts: [www.sophiemasson.org](http://www.sophiemasson.org);

FB: <https://www.facebook.com/SophieMassonAuthor/>

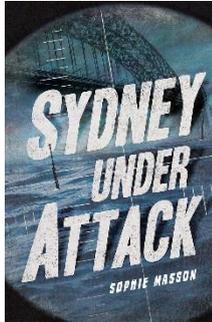
Instagram: [@sophievmasson](https://www.instagram.com/sophievmasson)



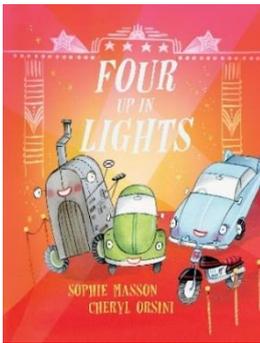
**Recent or upcoming book/s:** *Cock-a-doodle-doo!* [picture book, illustrated by Kathy Creamer] (Little



Pink Dog Books - July 2022). **Summary:** Richie the rooster loved waking up the farm each morning. He loved it so much that he began to crow earlier and earlier. Again and again! Stop, everyone cried. But Richie wouldn't stop. Until one day... A hilarious story about how you can have too much of a good thing, by the acclaimed author and illustrator team who also created *See Monkey* and *Join the Armidale Parade*



**Recent or upcoming book/s:** *Sydney Under Attack* (Scholastic Australia, March 2022) **Summary:** In 1942, 12-year-old Nick lives in Rose Bay, Sydney, with his mum, dad and sister, and dreams of becoming a writer like his dad. But with the world at war, Nick is constantly on alert for anything that seems out of the ordinary and then late one night he sees it! A plane! But no-one believes him! Then, the unimaginable happens. Sydney is attacked! And Nick starts noticing people behaving strangely. Is it just his imagination or something more sinister?



**Recent or upcoming book/s:** *Four Up In Lights* by Sophie Masson with Cheryl Orsini, Illustrator (Christmas Press, September 2022).

It's a big day for Maxie, Flash, Fergie, and Lady. The first day of the film shoot for the movie that is going to make them into stars! They've been through a lot to get here at last, and they're looking forward to a great time. But nothing is quite as it seems on the film set. When on the first night one of their co-stars, the great stunt plane Daredevil, is kidnapped, the four friends are flung into mystery and danger. How will they find Daredevil and defeat the bad guy before

the humans come back in the morning?

From two acclaimed creators comes the third fabulous, fast-moving, funny adventure of four lovable friends who just happen to be machines. A sequel to *Four All At Sea* (2021) and *Four On the Run* (2020).

**Recent or upcoming book/s:** *Satin* (Midnight Sun Publishing - March 2023



*Every morning early, when no-one's about, Satin slips out of the forest and walks along the sleepy sunrise streets, looking for blue...*

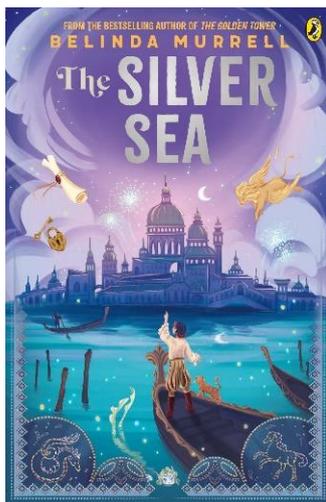
He's collected all kinds of blues, from all kinds of places. He's making something beautiful, with all those blues. But something's missing, and he doesn't know what it is. And then, one day ...

**PERSONAL QUOTE:**

*I love writing and I love reading! The two go hand in hand—and always have done!*  
— Sophie MASSON

**BELINDA MURRELL** - [www.belindamurrell.com.au](http://www.belindamurrell.com.au)

**The Silver Sea** (Puffin -August 2022)



**Summary:**

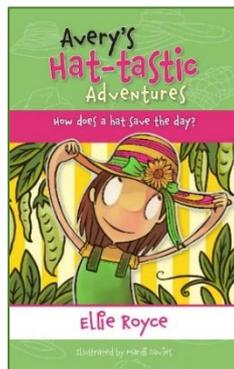
*The Silver Sea* is the second book in Belinda Murrell's Tuscan series, set in an Italian Renaissance inspired world filled with magic, mystery, mischievous creatures, and danger at every turn. 'You don't understand how dangerous this is. Anyone you see could be a spy. You cannot trust anyone.'

**PERSONAL QUOTE:** *We all know that reading books makes you smarter. So what better Christmas present to give someone you love than a beautiful book filled with magic, wonder, delight and escape? Happy holiday reading!! – Belinda MURRELL*

Currently working on a project to create a statue of Charlotte Waring Atkinson, who wrote the first Australian children's book. Charlotte is Kate Forsyth's and Belinda's great X 4 grandmother.

**ELLIE ROYCE** - <https://www.weareallmadeofstories.com/>

Instagram: [weare\\_allmadeofstories](https://www.instagram.com/weare_allmadeofstories) and [ellieroycekidlitauthor](https://www.instagram.com/ellieroycekidlitauthor)



**Recent or upcoming book/s:**

**Avery's Hat - tastic Adventures Book 1 - How Does a Hat Save the Day?** Ellie ROYCE with Mardi Davies, Illustrator. (*We Are All Made of Stories*).

**Summary:**

Join Avery, her friends and her hats, having fun and solving problems in this first adventure in a new junior fiction series! HOW DOES A HAT SAVE THE DAY will sit alongside favourites like Billie B Brown and Lulu Bell for kids who are looking for their first chapter books.

**-PERSONAL QUOTE:** *Reading is some of the best fun you can have, and it can be even better when you share it with someone! – Ellie ROYCE*

**JEAN SAXBY- <https://thefangs.com.au/>**

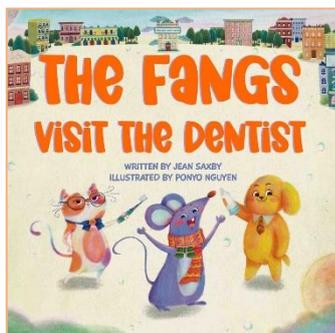


<https://jeansaxby.com.au/>

Instagram: [https://www.instagram.com/the\\_fangs\\_kidsbook/](https://www.instagram.com/the_fangs_kidsbook/)

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

Jean writes content both fiction and nonfiction to make life better—for a laugh and for well-being and transformation.



**-Recent or upcoming book/s: *The Fangs Visit the Dentist* - Jean Saxby with Ponyo Nguyen, Illustrator. (Ironstone . Press (September 2022**

**Summary:**

Going to the dentist is an adventure for Risky Rat, Cunning Cat and Tricky Dog in this quirky and humorous must-read for 3 to 7-year-olds. Recommended by dentists, it includes delightful illustrations with a sprinkling of catchy rhyme and well-being themes. More Fangs books are coming.

**PERSONAL QUOTE: READ: Stories weave our messy and magnificent life tapestries! Jean writes content both fiction and nonfiction to make life better—for a laugh and for well-being and transformation. – Jean SAXBY**

**-What do you like about KC?**

I love the variety and illustrations and author help pages. Also, the opportunities for authors to share their books. It would be great to click on the link and go straight to the latest Kid's Corner issue without downloading ... but I guess this may cause website problems? I feel it needs more easy-access and exposure.

**-What would make KC better?**

So much work goes into KC – this is a hard question to answer. Perhaps if an author has a new book trailer or activity pages, it could be added, if there's room during the year?



**What's the difference between Santa's reindeer and a Knight?**

**One slays the dragon and the other one is dragging the sleigh.**

**-Knock, knock-**

**Who's there? Olive. Olive who? Olive, the other reindeer.**

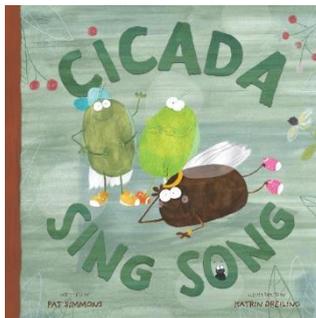
**What's red and white and red and white and red and white?**

**Santa – rolling down hill**

**PAT SIMMONS** - <https://www.patsimmonswriter.com.au>



**Recent book/s:** *Cicada Sing Song* – Pat Simmons with Katrin Dreiling, Illustrator (Little Steps Publishing).



**Summary:** The cicadas are above ground at last. This is going to be the loudest sing song ever. Who knew that cicadas could rap? Join them for the Festival of Sound. No ticket needed.

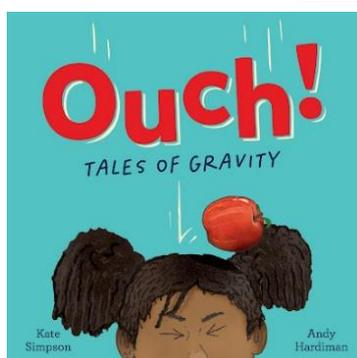
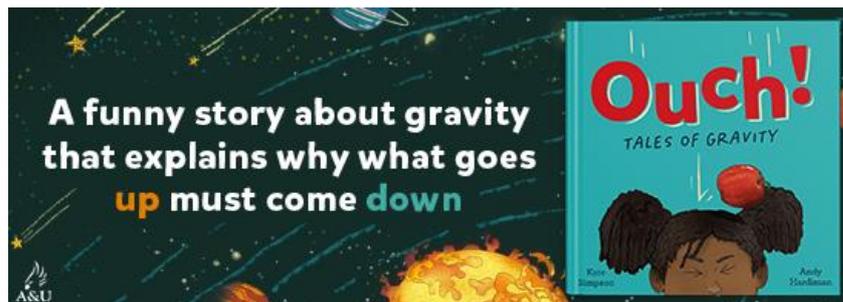
**PERSONAL COMMENT:** *Writing about and engaging with the natural world and the creatures within it gives me great joy and I love to share that joy with the children who read my books. -Pat Simmons*

**KATE SIMPSON** – Author and Podcast host

**-WEBSITE/ social media contacts:**



[www.katesimpsonbooks.com/](http://www.katesimpsonbooks.com/) Twitter @ksimpsonbooks



**Recent or upcoming book/s:**

*Ouch! Tales of gravity* – Kate SIMPSON with Andy Hardiman, Illustrator. (Allen & Unwin).

**Summary:** Have you ever thought gravity was a bit of a downer? Ouch! Tales of Gravity captivates young minds with an introductory look at why what goes up must come down and will have them asking the important questions: just how would you eat cornflakes in space?

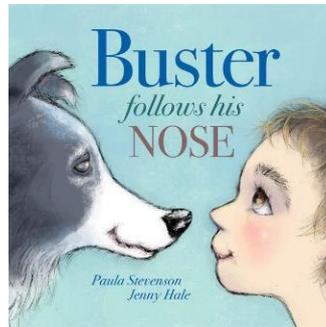
**-PERSONAL QUOTE:** *There's nothing more important in this world than asking 'why?'. It inspires my writing and I hope it will always inspire every aspect of my life*

**- Kate SIMPSON | Children's author and podcast host**

**PAULA STEVENSON - [www.paulastevensonwriter.com.au](http://www.paulastevensonwriter.com.au)**



**Insta pmstevo7**



**Recent or upcoming book/s**

***Buster Follows His Nose*** - Paula Stevenson with Jenny Hale, Illustrator (Little Pink Dog Books).

**Summary:**

Tilly and Buster are great mates. They both love to wander and explore. But one day Tilly can't find her way home and it's getting dark. Luckily the old dog Buster keeps her safe.

I love the dance that is created between author and illustrator, and I love to create special worlds for children to explore and delight in.



**What kind of bug hates Christmas?**

**A hum-bug**

**Where would you find snowmen dancing?**

**At a snowball.**

***BINNY TALIB*** - *Illustrator/sometimes author*

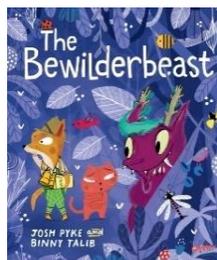


**-WEBSITE/ social media**

**contacts: [www.binny.com.au](http://www.binny.com.au). *instagram: @binnyillustration***

**Recent or upcoming book/s:**

***The Bewilderbeast*** (Scholastic AU - released Aug 2022)



**Summary:**

Deep in the darkest, remote and most loneliest jungle, there lives quite the one and the onliest. Seen once in the wild, and then never again, all that's left are notes from a tracker's own pen. A nonsensical puzzle when seen piece by piece, but when viewed as a whole ...

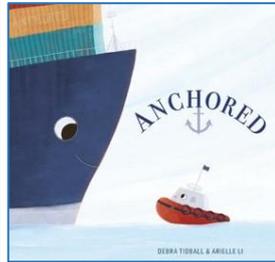
Behold! The Bewilderbeast!

***-PERSONAL QUOTE: It was an absolute delight to be part of this beautiful book with the talented Josh Pyke .- Binny TALIB***

**DEBRA TIDBALL** - [www.debratidball.com](http://www.debratidball.com)



**Recent or upcoming book/s**



**Anchored** (EK Books – due for release April 2023).

**Summary:** *Ship heads out to sea leaving Tug behind. Despite being oceans apart, they remain connected by love. This warm hug of a story will offer comfort to anyone who's ever felt lonely or left behind, because even if we can't see the ones*

*we love, they're always in our hearts.*

A book for anyone who has spent time away from someone they love.

And watch for a new picture book with EK Books mid 2023

And earlier –

**The Scared Book:** CBCA notable book, SCBWI Australia Crystal Kite Winner, shortlisted Speech Pathology Book of the Year, Premier's Reading Challenge NSW

**When I See Grandma:** Winner Children's section Caleb Award, shortlisted Speech Pathology Book of the Year, Premier's Reading Challenge NSW

**-PERSONAL QUOTE:** *I adore picture books! There's something magical about the way the words and pictures play together on the page to create meaning, often with unique depth – so much more than just the sum of its parts! – Debra TIDBALL*

*KC does an amazing job. I love all of it.*

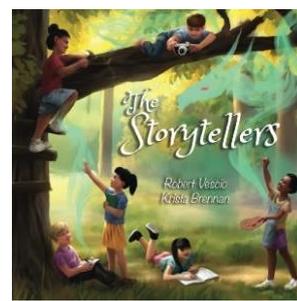
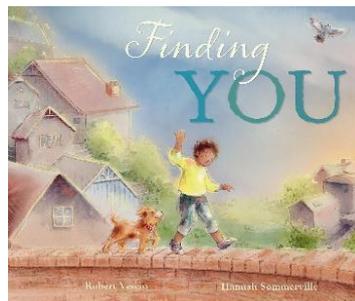
**ROBERT VESCIO**



**Website:** <http://www.robertvescio.com>

**Facebook:** [Robert Vescio - Children's Author](#)

**Instagram:** [Instagram: robertvescio\\_author](#)



### Recent and upcoming book/s:

-**Red** - Robert Vescio with Emma Stuart, Illustrator (Brolly Books – release date – November,2022.

**Summary:** A child watches on as a bushfire rages across the landscape. Animals flee and the sky is filled with smoke and ash. Fire-fighters battle the inferno while others rescue the animals caught in its path. **Red** celebrates our unsung heroes who sacrificed their lives to save others.

**Finding You** - Robert Vescio, with Hannah Sommerville, Illustrator (New Frontier Publishing – release date - August 2022). **Summary:** When a boy and a dog meet, an unbreakable and life-changing bond is created. A touching and timely story about welcoming newcomers and those in need.

- **The Storytellers** - Robert Vescio, with Krista Brennan, Illustrator ( IPKidz – release date October, 2022. **Summary:** Follow six children as they grow up doing what they like best and pursue their dreams. The storytellers come from all walks of life. Each one brings something special to their story. Come on a wondrous journey that starts a chain reaction through the joy of storytelling.

**PERSONAL QUOTE: *Adventure is a doorway and the journey waits for no one.***

**- Robert VESCIO**

## HEIDI WALKINSHAW

**WEBSITE/ social media contacts:** [www.heidiwalkinshaw.com.au](http://www.heidiwalkinshaw.com.au) *insta:* @heidiwrites\_



**Recent or upcoming book/s: *Upcoming book:***

***Some Fish Have Moustaches*** - Heidi Walkinshaw, with Michel Streich, Illustrator (Affirm Press - RELEASE DATE - 30 May 2023

COVER: Still in final edits

**Summary:** Did you know that some fish have moustaches? Get to know about big fish and small fish, round fish and long fish of all shapes and sizes and those that have moustaches. This is my debut picture book.

**PERSONAL QUOTE: *There is magic all around you, just waiting to be noticed, waiting to be explored. Find that magic and create something wonderful, something extraordinary that tells a story that can be experienced by all who read it.*** - Heidi WALKINSHAW



**What did the Christmas tree say to the ornament?**

**Aren't you tired of just hanging around?**

**What did one Christmas tree say to the other one?**

**Lighten up!**

**Where would you find snowmen dancing?**

**At a snowball.**

## SUE WHITING



### -WEBSITE/ social media contacts:

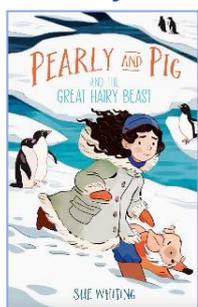
Website and blog: <https://suewhiting.com>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/suewhiting4>

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

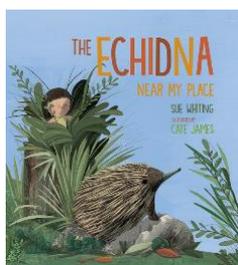
Twitter: <https://twitter.com/suewhiting4>

### -TITLES of recent or upcoming book/s:



- **Pearly and Pig and the Great Hairy Beast (Pearly and Pig #1) (Walker Books Australia)** Antarctica awaits for expert worrier Pearly Woe and her partner in adventure, Pig, in this novel for adventurous readers 8+. With Pearly's parents missing, Pig pig-napped, and Pearly a stowaway on an icebreaker heading for Antarctica ... Pearly's worries just got REAL. Illustrated by Rebecca Crane

- **Pearly and Pig and the Lost City of Mu Savan (Pearly and Pig #2) (Walker Books Australia - March 2023)** Pearly and Pig and the entire Woe family are headed for the kingdom of Anachak, where they plan to search for the lost city of Mu Savan. A jungle adventure! What could go wrong? Everything. Of course! Illustrated by Rebecca Crane. For readers 8+.



### - **The Echidna Near my Place (Walker Books Australia)**

As a young child and their nana go for walks together, they follow a short-beaked echidna, keenly observing and discussing what its life might be like. A wonderful addition to the acclaimed and award-winning **Nature Storybook series**, which provides memorable reading experiences, combining narrative and factual forms. Beautifully illustrated by Cate James



- **Tilda (Walker Books Australia) Summary:** Tilda Moss refuses to believe her papa has abandoned her and left her, alone and orphaned, in Brushwood Convent and Orphanage for Girls, no matter what Sister Agatha says. A promise is a promise and Papa promised he would be back for her as soon as he returns from the war. A story of friendship, hope and determination, for readers 10+.

### PERSONAL QUOTE:

*There is some powerful magic within the pages of a book. Stories have the ability to transport us to different worlds, to help us understand what it means to be human, to walk in other's shoes, and to see ourselves reflected. There are few things I enjoy more than being lost in a good book. – Sue WHITING*

## MORRIE CHRISTMAS and HAPPY HOLIDAYS



Special thanks to Aura as our guest illustrator and head meerkat coordinator for sharing her meerkat magic and imagination on the cover for December 2022.

Thanks to ALL authors and illustrators for sharing their imagination and ideas with us.

As we look back to a busy year full of reading, writing, imagining with certainly more than a few complications and surprises of all kinds along the way, we celebrate the talents and energy of so many who have shared stories and more through **KIDS' CORNER 2022**.

This issue of **KC** was compiled with the help of LOTS of people who love reading, writing, thinking, and creating.

Future planning of **KC** will focus particularly on what you like best about **KC** and on your suggestions that would make **KC** even better.

Please do send your comments and ideas through to Jackie -  
[Jackie.hawkes7@gmail.com](mailto:Jackie.hawkes7@gmail.com)

## MORRIE CHRISTMAS and HOLIDAYS

with lots of **BAGS = BOOKS AS GIFTS**  
and thanks to all.

Here's to a healthy happy, creative year  
for 2023 full of **GREAT THINKS** to share!



Happy reading always.

Cheers - Morrie and Jackie and team