



THE CHILDREN'S  
BOOK COUNCIL  
OF AUSTRALIA  
NSW BRANCH

# KIDS' CORNER

**JANUARY & FEBRUARY 2021**

Volume 5 No. 1

Welcome back to KC 2021

**LOVING LIBRARIES**

**SHARING STORIES**

**CALLING FOR KIDS' COMMENTS 4 KIDS' CORNER = KC4KC**

**SPEAKING UP with Young Australian of the Year**



ISSN 2652 8339 Online

ISSN 2652 8320 Print



## WELCOME TO OUR GUEST ILLUSTRATOR CATE JAMES

[HTTPS://WWW.CATEJAMES.COM/](https://www.catejames.com/)

Cate moved to Australia in 2015 from Scotland where she studied Printmaking and Illustration at Edinburgh College of Art. She now lives in the Northern Beaches of Sydney with her husband and her sausage dog Sebastian.

Cate is a full-time illustrator. When she's not drawing for children's books, she likes to find different ways to be an artist. She was illustrator-in-residence at the Royal Hospital for Sick Children in Edinburgh, and now volunteers with ArtEx at the Sydney Children's Hospital in Randwick, where she also exhibits her work.

Cate teaches art to primary-aged children as well as teaching printmaking to adults. She is also a printmaking technician at UNSW.

She has illustrated over 25 books for publishers in the UK, US and Australia and was awarded the Penguin Random House Illustrators' Showcase Award in 2019. Cate's latest book is *By the Billabong* with by **Maura Finn**, illustrated by **Cate James** Affirm Press.



**WELCOME back to KC 2021** with plenty of ideas to share about reading, writing and thinking about great books from our Australian authors and others.

A special **Welcome back** to our guest illustrator **Cate James**.

**Sharing stories, Loving Libraries** and **Speaking up** are all part of **KC 2021** - getting ready for back to school and the beginning of a brand new and hopefully, better year all round for everyone.

Nerds, sheep, and pets are all unique characters in our featured books and have been shaped by surprising extra influences. Author **Nathan Luff** and illustrator **Chris Kennett** shape characters. Communities shared solutions to disasters with **Patricia Bernard**. And the unique joint authoring of *Ella Shine* with **Penny Jaye** and **Cecily Paterson** adds different perspectives to a new series.

LEARN to do your BEST this year with **libraries** to love and stories to share. Morrie invites you to help grow and shape each issue of **KC** with **KC4KC = Kids' Comments for KIDS' CORNER**. Be sure to **SPEAK UP** with your ideas as Young Australians.



Celebrate the  
Lunar New Year of the  
OX  
and contribute  
kindness and caring to  
the 2021 *International  
Year of Peace and Trust*



**SHARING STORIES – READ ON AND ON . . .**



## **PET SITTERS: READY FOR ANYTHING**

Author: **Ella Shine** and **Lisa Flanagan**, Illustrator.



**Ella Shine** is the pen name of authors **Cecily Anne Paterson** and **Penny Jaye**, two friends who love writing fun stories together.  
Publisher: Puddle Dog Press.

Available through [www.puddledogpress.com](http://www.puddledogpress.com) as e-books and audio books for your Kindle or tablet or through your bookshop for paperbacks to read and collect.

The series includes:

- **Gus Makes a Fuss**
- **Purple Panic**
- **Tony Takes Off**
- **Glitter Jitters**

*Need a pet sitter? Cassie and Lina are the girls for the task... as long as Gus the talking cat can keep out of trouble! **The Pet Sitters** is a brand new series of books about pets, best friends and a whole lot of chaos. Look out for them at your school library!*

*By sharing the writing of alternate chapters, **Penny** and **Cecily** (aka **Ella Shine**) tapped into a unique sharing of different perspectives of characters in their stories. Penny has several pen names:*

**Penny Jaye** <https://www.pennyjaye.com/books.html>

**Penny Reeve** <https://www.pennyreeve.com/>

and **Ella Shine** (for the **PET SITTERS** series)



### **HOW TO WRITE A BOOK WITH A FRIEND**

**BY PENNY JAYE (ONE HALF OF ELLA SHINE – AUTHOR OF THE PET SITTERS BOOKS)**

Have you ever wanted to write a story with a friend? Me too! So last year I decided to write a brand - new series of books with my friend, **Cecily Ann Paterson** (you might already know her from books like **Lola in the Middle**).



Here are our top tips for writing with a friend:

#1 Write with someone who loves writing as much as you do!

This helps keep the writing happening and shares the load. For the *Pet Sitters* books, Cecily and I made a good team because we both like writing fun stories for kids.

#2 Plan before you write – but not too much.

Before you start writing, plan the events of your story. Cecily and I planned ***Tony Takes Off*** while eating sushi in a food court! Make sure you write down your notes and then get writing.

#3 Work as a team.

Share all the writing tasks but remember the things you are good at. Cecily and I take turns to write each chapter, but we're good at different things. Cecily is better at spelling and I come up with more crazy ideas.

#4 Decide on your author name!

Cecily and I decided to publish our ***Pet Sitter*** stories under the pen name **Ella Shine**.

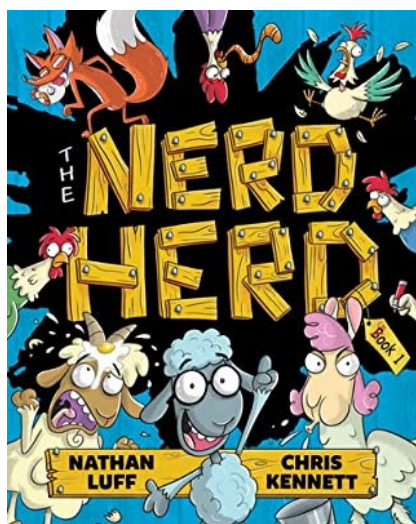
Will you use your own names, a combination, or something totally different?

Happy writing!



### **WAYS WITH WORDS**

*A **PEN NAME** is a name made up by an author to use instead of their real name.*



***THE NERD HERD*** by **Nathan Luff** and **Chris Kennett**, **Illustrator Scholastic** Barny the lamb and his friends are sick of being picked on, so they decide to form a gang to show everyone that they are not as soft as they look. But how do three fluffy friends stand up to a cunning fox, a gigantic cat, and a bull with behavioural issues?

**Nathan** and **Chris** respond to each other's initial wording and illustrations to work "together but apart" to reshape their characters so they "fit" and grow in the stories.

**Nathan Luff** [www.nathanluff.com.au](http://www.nathanluff.com.au) is the author of middle grade novels **Chicken Stu** and **Bad Grammar**. **Chris Kennett** [www.chriskennett.com](http://www.chriskennett.com) has illustrated the **Pixel Raiders** series, **Noah & Blue's Zooniverse**, amongst others. Recently they have combined their talents to create **The Nerd Herd**, a highly illustrated junior fiction series.



## ***NERDS UNITE! by NATHAN LUFF AND CHRIS KENNETT***

### **NATHAN:**

Writing an illustrated book is an interesting type of collaboration. Although Chris and I aren't in the same room and our correspondence filters through our publishing team, we are still very much working together (just apart). Our editor, Laura, and designer, Elly, are also integral collaborators on these books.

When writing, I don't think about what the specific illustrations will be, but I am always thinking about the visual *potential* of each moment. If there is too much sitting around and talking, I need to add some slapstick, so Chris isn't just drawing talking heads.

I try to work in as many visual gags as I can—often this involves the characters looking ridiculous—and in these situations, the words deliver the set-up, and the illustrations deliver the punch line. I can make illustration notes for Chris, but I rarely do unless there is something unspoken that he needs to understand (such as Barny lying to the reader). I'm more interested in what Chris's ideas are and how he interprets the story and characters.

*When writing book 1, I had my own ideas about what the setting and characters looked like but with the latest manuscripts, I now have Chris's illustrations in my head, so that does influence the story, especially the way the various locations now look.*



### **CHRIS:**

People often imagine the Author/Illustrator relationship as a constant collaboration, where the two get together and bounce ideas off each other, over coffee and cakes. And while that can be true in some cases, the reality is we're often separated by cities, states and sometimes, even countries. Which is a shame, because I *really* like coffee and cake.

So. bringing someone else's characters to life, without them in the room is a huge responsibly. *Ultimately, I want to do justice to Nathan's characters and words, while still bringing my own ideas to the table.*

The first time I see the actual manuscript, it has already been laid out by the designer (Elly) with spaces left throughout, for my artwork. This serves as a great template for me to draw directly into the manuscript. Which means I already have a good sense of how the finished pages will come together.

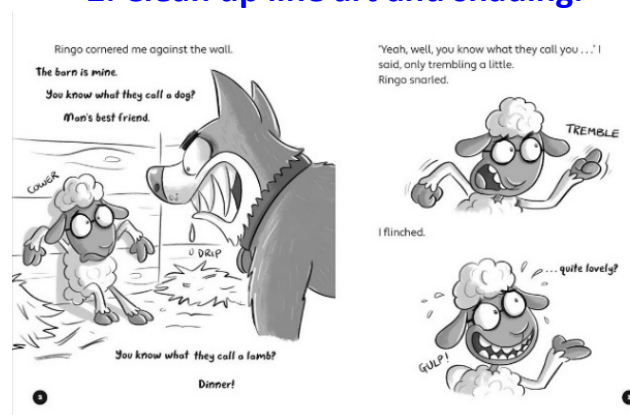
That's not to say I don't have any freedom to experiment. I'm always given room to play around with the layout, mix up the ideas or move text around if I need to. Now we have the first book under our belts, we've got a great formula for books 2 and 3, which I can't wait to share!

## **FROM SKETCH TO FINISHED ILLUSTRATION WITH CHRIS KENNETT** *(based on illustrations from The Nerd Herd)*

### **1: Rough drawings directly into the manuscript**



### **2: Clean up line art and shading.**



### **3: Spot colour added and the designer finalises text placement.**



## **WAYS WITH WORDS**

**COLLABORATE** – to plan and work together on a particular project.



**PODDY'S JUMPER** by Patricia Bernard and  
Krista Brennan, Illustrator *Five Senses Education*

*This is Patricia's third picture book along with **PODDY AND THE TWO-HEADED SNAKE** and **PODDY'S BACKWARDS ADVENTURE**. She normally writes primary and teenage adventure, fantasy, and science fiction.*

*When Patricia heard a newscast of the devastating effects of a freezing drought on our rural communities, she knew it was a story that had to be told. The personal stories from the community members contributed plenty to the telling. And the initial story grew.*



**SHARING STORIES of DROUGHT AND JUMPERS  
WITH PATRICIA BERNARD**

The story of **PODDY'S JUMPER** began when I heard an interview on ABC radio. A farmer, named Marie Knight, was telling the interviewer of how she lived on a huge sheep station near Coonabarabran, New South Wales, where there has been a drought for six years. Many videos have captured the impact of the drought [example: *DAY ZERO: The Australian Drought Crisis* <https://tinyurl.com/y293fdrv> ]

There was no grass, just red sand, dead trees and freezing cold winters. Marie told how she had to buy hay and for the sheep. Each morning after she has fed and watered the sheep, she collected the new-born lambs that the mother sheep couldn't feed.



Some days, she picked up twenty lambs. She put them beside her kitchen fire and fed them milk from babies' bottles. But they were still cold. So, she started knitting lamb jumpers. She shared the knitting pattern with friends, who sent it to their friends. Knitters from Australia, New Zealand, England, Scotland and Canada were sending lambs' jumpers to her farm.

Soon she had so many jumpers that she sold them to other farmers and donated the money to the 'Lamb Jumpers Helping Farmers Charity.' She helped so many farmers that she was given the Australian Order of Merit.

I telephoned Marie Knight to ask if I could write her story in a picture book. She said yes. Then, I researched the drought with other outback farmers.



Next problem – How to fit Marie's story into a picture book format of 29 pages and 400 words. It became easier, because, being a true story, it almost wrote itself. I found an illustrator who could draw sheep and people. I sent her photographs of Merino lambs because they are different to other lambs.

Then, I had to find a publisher who liked my story and Krista Brennan's illustrations. The publisher wanted a book that showed Australian children how hard it was to live in a drought area.



Writing a picture book takes a long time because it takes longer to draw 28 pictures than it took me to write the story. **PODDY'S JUMPER** will be published in March.

### ***HELPING OUR FARMERS – AN UPDATE BY MARIE KNIGHT***



Just like my grandmother, I have always used jumpers on our poddies. Like human babies, newborn lambs need help to control their body temperature.

I normally have 4 poddy lambs every year, but during the drought of 2017, I had 25, so my mother's knitting group helped me out. As more stories and photos came out on social media, I offered my extra jumpers to

anyone that would like them. The very day I offered them, I had requests for 100 jumpers.



I spoke with a friend on ABC Rural radio to see if others would like to help knit jumpers for lambs to help drought affected farmers. We started the *Lamb Jumpers Facebook* page. In one week, I received over 700 knitted jumpers to send out to farmers. I was amazed at the need and the generosity of spirit of both farmers and our supporters.

International groups are now helping their local farmers. Over 140,000 jumpers have been given to farmers all over Australia. Even during Covid-19, our supporters thank me for helping them feel connected to our Lamb Jumpers community and farmers.



### **WAYS WITH WORDS**

**Poddy** - the animals we hand raise – poddies - have a fat belly as they are bottle feed. I didn't know until **Lamb Jumpers** that we are the only country to call them Poddies. They can be hand raised for many reasons. Drought meant more lambs than ever before needed help as many mothers were not strong enough to look after them. I had farmers caring for 200 which meant lots of time and work, also lots of fun and love. – Marie

### **Welcome Back to School with**



### **LIBRARY LOVERS DAY 2021**

**February 14, 2021**

<https://www.alia.org.au/libraryloversday>

**The theme for Library Lovers' Day 2021 is  
'Make a date with your library'.**

### **LOVING LIBRARIES**

### **URSULA DUBOSARSKY**

### **AUSTRALIAN CHILDREN'S LAUREATE 2020-2021**

Every year on February 14<sup>th</sup> all around the world people send Valentine cards. ♡♡♡ But did you know every year on February 14<sup>th</sup> all over Australia people celebrate **Library Lovers' Day**? It's a special day for everyone who LOVES libraries in their schools and in their communities. Check out what YOUR library is doing to celebrate. You could even make your own Library Lovers' Day greeting card to give to your librarians. It would make them very happy, that's for sure!



Magpie and I love libraries EVERY SINGLE DAY OF THE YEAR! They are such wonderful places, filled with hundreds and thousands of books for you to read.

Do you have your own library card yet? My mission as Children's Laureate is to get as many children as possible all over Australia to join their local library, and get their very own card, with

their name on it. With your library card you can borrow as many books as you like! Here's a picture of me and Magpie with a special Laureate library card that the ACT Library Service uses for their young members.

BTW, it's 2021, there is a new Laureate Calendar, illustrated by Tohby Riddle, which you can download from the Children's Laureate website. It shows a magical children's library, with some PUZZLING flags hanging out the windows. Mmmm, what could it all mean? And just like last year, every month there will be a free Laureate writing activity for you to download as well.

Until next month, we are wishing you a very happy **LIBRARY LOVERS' DAY 2021** -

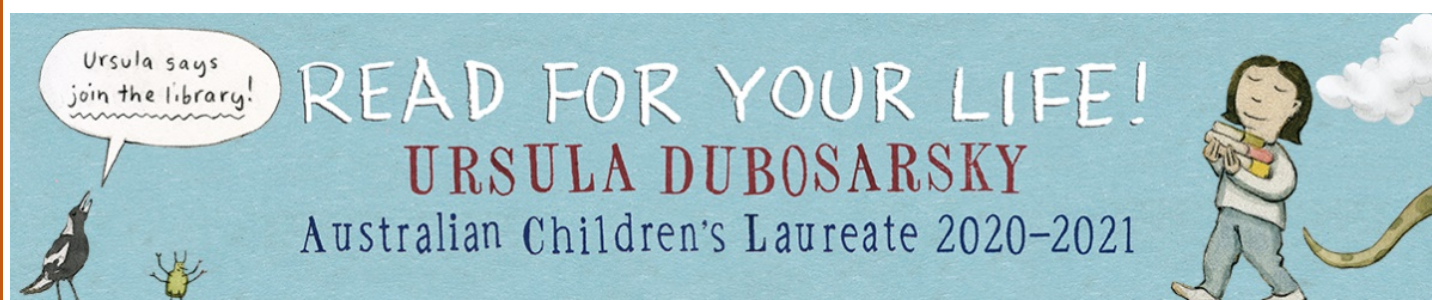
From Ursula and Magpie

For more information about the **Laureate Library Card** look here

<https://www.childrenslaureate.org.au/library-resources>

And for the **Laureate Calendar** and free writing activities look here

<https://www.childrenslaureate.org.au/laureate-resources>



How can a summer full of games compete with books?

I guess you would have to be a soccer playing car to answer that.

AND THEN,

head back to schools with great libraries full of Teacher Librarians who love stories and imagination. Read on . . .

***TLC4KC = TEACHER LIBRARIANS' COMMENTS FOR KIDS' CORNER***

With images thanks to Dulwich Hill PS and Leumeah PS





## **BACK TO SCHOOL AND BACK TO LIBRARIES – YAY!!! WITH GINA K**

**Gina KROHN** is the Teacher Librarian at Glenfield Public School

Are you excited about all the new books in your library? How many will you read in Term 1? Here's a couple of ideas to settle you back into library land –

- Why not set yourself a target of books to read and then challenge your friends to beat you! This is a terrific chance to read some new books, re-visit your favourites and maybe even finish that exciting series that you started last year
- Too many words in that book but the story appeals to you? Try the graphic novel version which tells the same story but with more pictures than words? If you really loved this, why not read the full novel and compare the two. Which do you prefer?
- So, you've read some fantastic books this summer but you're not sure what to read next? Ask your librarian for a recommendation, or ask a book-lovin' friend
- Do you love mysteries? If you do, why not create your own by writing clues about a book you've loved and seeing if your classmates can guess what it is! Write a description of any character, a significant event or perhaps the setting. Give out your clues one at a time and see how many clues it takes before your mystery book is revealed!



### ***How can school libraries help give kids a good year?***

-from NSW SCHOOL LIBRARY MATTERS JAN 17 postings

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/394521434230757/permalink/1353531854996372/>

**RACHEL KLEINER** . . . by providing appealing books with an appealing space to read them in e.g., beanbags.

**ALISON CUNNINGHAM**

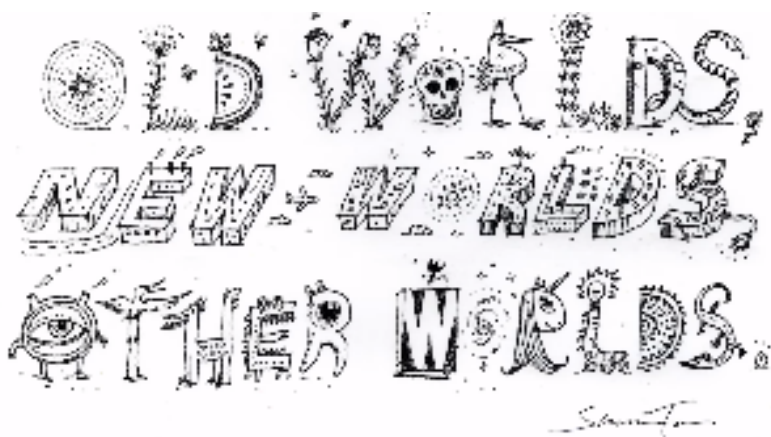
. . . by being that 'extra' teacher who knows kids and is interested in them.

**MARGOT LINDGREN**

. . . with lots of great book stock, displayed in an appealing way, heaps of front facing books AND plenty of time for AND a teacher-librarian who reads and likes to recommend books to groups of kids and to individuals AND time for kids to talk to one another about the books they have loved. . .

## DEBORAH HOGG

Just add love... with Teacher Librarians who love reading, love children, love childhood as a concept and a rite of passage, love shared learning, love problem solving, love making the library welcoming, joyful and love-filled, love how important it is for us to provide our libraries as "the third place/room" for our students ... and make the library a place of wonder!



## BITS OF BOOK WEEK

The theme for CBCA Book Week 2021 is

***Old Worlds, New Worlds, Other Worlds***

**Dates: Term 3: August 21-27**

Themes for past years are found on-line <https://www.cbca.org.au/cbca-book-week-themes>  
Planning for CBCA BOOK WEEK takes time. Already planning is taking place for a theme for 2023.

If you have ideas for a theme related to books and reading, please send it through to:  
**Peter Macinnis - email** [petermacinnis@ozemail.com.au](mailto:petermacinnis@ozemail.com.au)

Please use the subject line **Book Week Themes** in your emails, as this will make sure your careful efforts don't get lost.

**AUSTRALIA DAY** is held on January 26. It acknowledges Australian histories from ancient times to the present and looks forward to a shared future.  
**REFLECT. RESPECT. CELEBRATE.**

-What do you think  
Australians should celebrate  
on Australia Day?

-How would you change  
Australia to make it better?

-Where is your favourite place  
in Australia?

-What should Australia share  
with the world?





**MICHELE HETHERINGTON** wrote this poem on Australia Day 2017.

"I don't believe in the celebration of the invasion," she says, "though I do believe in celebrating being Australian."

Image Artwork by Frances Belle-Parker projected on the sails of the Sydney Opera House at Dawn <https://www.australiaday.com.au/>



## OUR DAY

*A poem by Michele "Mickey" Hetherington, NSW*

*We are the past, present and future of this land.  
Here before anyone, mixed into everyone.  
What is done cannot be undone.  
Moving forward we shall overcome.  
This our land, where it all begun,  
together may we stand as one.  
Battles were fought, our future they won.  
Here before anyone, mixed into everyone.  
We chose who we now become.*

Poem Source: Our Day - Creative Spirits, retrieved from <https://www.creativespirits.info/aboriginalculture/arts/poems/our-day>



### WAYS WITH WORDS

**ANCESTOR**- a person, typically one more remote than a grandparent, from whom you are descended; a person you are related to going back through generations of family.

## YOUNG AUSTRALIANS OF THE YEAR – MAKING A DIFFERENCE

Everyone has talents and personal stories that can make a difference. Check out the stories of each of these young Australians.

### ISOBEL MARSHALL

### is the 2021 YOUNG AUSTRALIAN WINNER

At just 18 years of age, Isobel Marshall co-founded **TABOO** with school friend Eloise Hall, to help women around the world by breaking down stigma around menstruation and providing greater access to hygiene products.



## YOUNG AUSTRALIAN OF THE YEAR FINALISTS



<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2021-01-09/2021-young-australian-of-the-year-finalists/13036552>

**TARA McCLELLAND - ACT** - Tara works with young people at risk of experiencing, homelessness, helping to expand their skills while in crisis accommodation. She is particularly passionate about advocating for young people's mental health issues,

**NATHAN PARKER - NSW** – Despite a military bus accident which resulted in Nathans arm being amputated, he has gained his commercial pilot license, become a public speaker, mentor, flight instructor and a gold-medal athlete in the Invictus Games.

**STUART MCGRATH - NT** - Stuart McGrath is an Aboriginal health practitioner and will become the first Yolngu registered nurse. He has helped produce the 'Ask the Specialist' pod cast to improve communication between health professionals and patients.

**DANIEL & WILLIAM CLARKE** are passionate conservationists who have raised more than \$900,000 for the endangered orangutans.

**TAYLA HARRIS - VIC** is a talented athlete in AFLW football and boxer who is a powerful advocate for respectful relationships through her work with **Our Watch**, an organisation working to prevent violence against women. Her co-authored 2020 book, '**More Than a Kick**', provides advice to young people on how to navigate social media and deal with online bullying.

**TOBY THORPE - TAS** has worked tirelessly for youth empowerment and climate action. Through his Climate Justice Initiative, which runs in-school workshops, he is helping young people understand how to make a difference to the world.

**GRACE FORREST - WA** is the founding director of **Walk Free**, an international human rights' organisation working to eradicate modern slavery. She has been appointed the United Nations Association of Australia's youngest-ever Goodwill Ambassador, for Anti-Slavery.



**Happy New Year** to all with the prospect of enjoying great stories – real and imagined. 2021 will bring stacks of new stories from our authors and illustrators to create and to catch up with. We hope you enjoy **KC 2021** and feel free to become part of the ideas' factory with **KC4KC = KIDS' COMMENTS for KIDS' CORNER**.

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. If you have ideas to share with **KIDS' CORNER**, please contact

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