

Cover design by  
Kristian Aus



Welcome to

# Kids' CORNER

for July 2020

**SHARE**  
authors'  
**amazing**  
encounters  
with animals

**CELEBRATE**

the  
**Curious Creatures**  
created by  
**GWYN PERKINS**  
author and illustrator  
for CBCA Book Week  
2020

**JUGGLE**

words  
with **Ursula Dubosarsky**  
the Australian Children's Laureate

**COLLIDE**

with the  
CBCA NSW Branch  
**Book Trailer Competition**

helped by  
Deb Abela,  
Tristan Bancks  
and Nathan Luff

**MEET**

with the **MASCOTS**  
who keep us reading  
and **MORE . . .**



**Happy reading  
always!**

## SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR GUEST ILLUSTRATOR KRISTIAN AUS



for designing the July KC cover. Kristian is an Illustrator and Industrial Designer who lives and works in Sydney. He creates his illustrations digitally and loves making comics with bright, bold colours. He started illustrating as a way to create anything he could imagine, without any limits on his creativity. When he isn't drawing, Kristian loves to watch Science Fiction movies and TV shows and play video games. These formats have their own unique versions of stories.

Links to portfolio - [illustration.kristianaus.com](http://illustration.kristianaus.com) and Instagram [@kristian\\_aus](https://www.instagram.com/kristian_aus)



### WRITE NOW

The scientist just came around the corner and saw Kristian's snake creature. How did he describe it?

The creature has just come around the corner. How would it describe the scientist?



### C O L L I D E

Produce a book trailer that features a book from the **2020 CBCA NOTABLES LIST** or an Australian title on the **2020 NSW PREMIER'S READING CHALLENGE LIST**.

When producing your book trailer, remember that a book trailer is like a movie trailer, but for a book. You want to show others why they should read this book.

**COLLIDE** features help from our judges:

**Deb ABELA | Tristan BANCKS | Nathan LUFF**

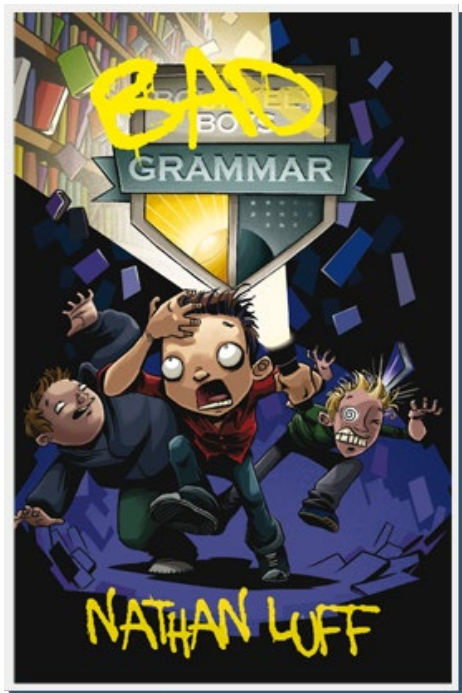
### KC MEETS WITH NATHAN LUFF

Hi I'm **Nathan Luff** -

When I read any book, I always turn it into a blockbuster movie in my mind. Sometimes I even have award ceremonies where I give out prizes to the movies I've made in my mind. Do you do that too? No? Yeah, me neither. Book trailers are so much fun because you get to create short previews of those amazing mind movies!

This book trailer competition is a chance to share the excitement of books, to hook new readers, and to have a bit of fun with technology too.





For some tips on how to create book trailers, [check out this blog post from my website](#).

I'm the author of middle grade novels *Chicken Stu* and *Bad Grammar*, with a brand spanking new junior fiction series coming in 2021. While I am an author of books, I guess I would describe myself more as a storyteller because I have also written a few plays for young audiences and I've made, or been involved in, quite a few short films and some television work. I love storytelling across multiple mediums.

A dream job I once had was with the Wakakirri National Story Festival, where students were able to create and share stories through dance, song, plays, films, short stories and storyboards. Viewing the thousands of stories entered each year was a real treat.

Because of how much I love both books and films, Book Trailers are the perfect collision point between the two and I'm super excited to be associated with this new competition. I like the idea not only of students making their own trailers but also being able to see the trailers made by other students.

When not writing, I'm a primary school teacher specialising in the performing arts. One of my favourite things to do in schools is to make films, though I do have to remind myself that I'm not allowed to do all the writing, acting, directing and editing myself. Unfortunately, I have to share the roles with the students.

As a judge, what I'm looking for is ultimately to be entertained. For it to be a completely successful book trailer, however, after watching it I should want to go and pick the book up immediately and start reading. Intrigue me!

There are so many great book trailers out there and different styles. Some use live action, some use animation, some use still images with voice over. There is no wrong or right way to do it. I really do love fellow judge Tristan Bancks' trailers because they are super fun. Another one I saw recently that I loved was the book trailer for *Leviathan* by Scott Westerfield.

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?time\\_continue=66&v=PYiw5vkQFPw&feature=emb\\_logo](https://www.youtube.com/watch?time_continue=66&v=PYiw5vkQFPw&feature=emb_logo)

It's great because it sets up the world of the book really well – I get an excellent sense of where the book is set and what genre of book it is. It also has great music and best of all it leaves you with an unresolved question, making you want to read the book and find out more. Do you oil your war machines, or do you feed them?

See **COLLIDE COMPETITION DETAILS** on-line

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



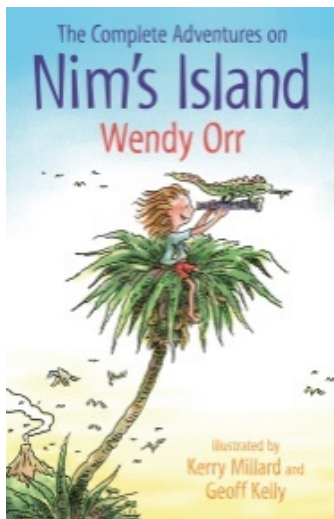
### WRITE NOW

Write a plan for the opening shot of a book trailer about some **CURIOUS CREATURES**.  
What do the creatures look like? Where are they? What are they planning to do? Why?  
What is about to surprise them?

## WENDY ORR - FROM BOOK TO MOVIE AND BACK TO BOOK



WENDY talks about her book **NIM'S ISLAND** which recently celebrated its 21st birthday of being published. Wendy is the Author of **Nim's Island**, **Peeling the Onion**, **Dragonfly Song** and many more [www.wendyorr.com](http://www.wendyorr.com)



**Nim's Island** is the story of a girl who lives on an island with Jack, her father, Selkie, the sea lion and a marine iguana called Fred. When her father disappears at sea, Nim needs to be braver than she's ever been – and when she calls Alex Rover, the adventure author for help, Alex has to find her own courage too.

Most of us don't live alone on islands, but we all need to be heroes sometimes. We need to explore things we never thought we could do – and the best way to start is in our imagination. We can do familiar things like walk up a hill and imagine climbing a huge, steep mountain, or can live amazing things as we read by making our own movie in our heads.

What I loved best about the **Nim's Island** movie was the author talking to her character. It expresses how I work even though I didn't put it in the book – movies have to show things that you might imagine while you're reading.

So when I'm asked how **Dragonfly Song** or **Swallow's Dance** might be adapted into a movie, I know there would be a lot of action – and a lot of surprises for me, as I'd see new things about my characters that I hadn't known before.



**WRITE NOW** – Create a newspaper headline that would:  
**REPORT** that you were missing in the middle of the ocean  
**CONVINCE** rescuers to keep looking for you  
**CELEBRATE** your rescue!



### CREATURE CHUCKLES

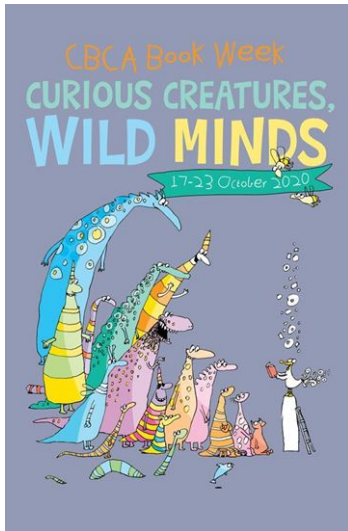
Did you know that dolphins are so smart that within a few weeks of captivity, they can train people to stand on the very edge of the pool and throw them fish?



### CREATURE CHUCKLES

What do you call a dinosaur with no eyes? - Doyouthinkysaraus

What do you call a sleeping dinosaur? - A dino-snore!



## CREATING CURIOUS CREATURES, WILD MINDS

### GWYN PERKINS

GWYN is the author / illustrator who created the designs for a very special 2020 CBCA Book Week of **Curious Creatures, Wild Minds** planned for October 17-23. We thank Gwyn for sharing this Q & A of ideas and helping set the scene of "Let the celebrations begin!"

**What was the first thing you thought of when you heard the theme for Book Week, Curious Creatures, Wild Minds?**

Oh good! "Creatures", I can work with that.

**What do you like about the 2020 CBCA Book Week theme?**

Creatures can mean lots of things: People, animals, or funny monster

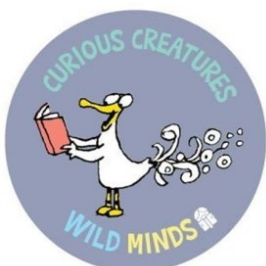
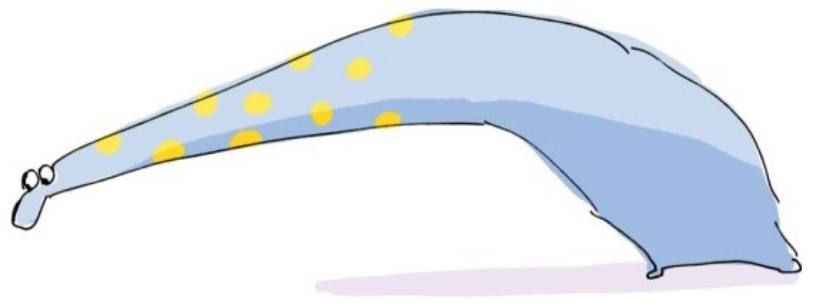
dinosaurs which suit my drawing style. Curious ones lean forward, intent on discovery with exaggerated body language.

**Which part of the theme – creatures or minds – did you most want to capture?**

An illustrator's job is to show both, but indicating that the creatures might be collectively thinking of something was more important.

**How did you go about changing the words of the theme into pictures?**

The key part of the communication was the poster and it's a poster's job to sell. A good test for whether it works is to reveal it for a few seconds then ask the viewer what was remembered. Because a cartoon is unreal, it must help the viewer understand and not confuse the message with unnecessary detail. We naturally read from left to right, top to bottom, so it makes graphic sense to me to draw the creatures within a triangular shaped block on the left, aimed at the right, lower section of the layout. Because the creatures are all boldly coloured and patterned, the duck character that they are paying attention to is easily noticed if it is plain.



**How did you decide what images to create?**

The shape of the group of creatures on the left determined their relative sizes, their colours and patterns were chosen to help each one stand out from its

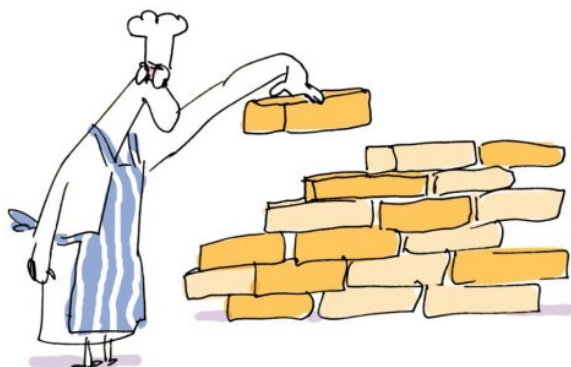
neighbours and they needed to look like they were enjoying themselves. A duck reading them a book from a pedestal with a ladder was just funny enough.

### How do you keep up with all the ideas to draw that words trigger?

I enjoy what I do so it's usually not a task, though sometimes drawings don't turn out properly and I don't understand why. Usually after a break, I discover that my original idea was wrong. Same problem as last time it happened.

### What kinds of books do you like to read?

I've tried a lot of short story collections. That way I get to know new authors and I can follow them up at the library.



### What do you enjoy most about creating stories?

I'm very happy when the adults understand the jokes that the really little kids get.

### What are you curious about?

I'd really like to know why most of the bread I've been trying to bake lately turns out more like a brick.

### How do you think people could be encouraged to read more and share stories?

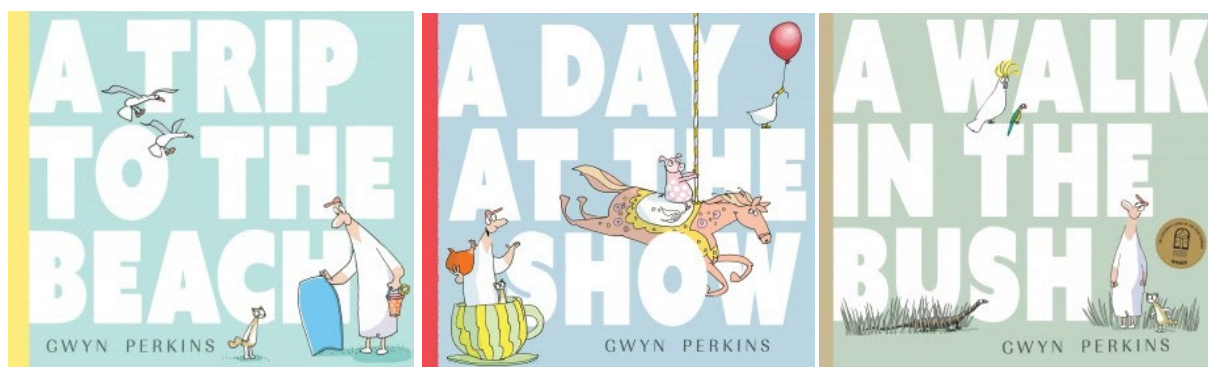
Turn the classroom into a publishing house for a while. Give it a name.

Run a competition to have very short stories published in an A4 book that could be collectively written, illustrated, formatted, designed, and marketed by the students. Have it spring bound. Give credit to the contributors. Show that editing is not just correction, but a way to make the story more appealing. Paginate so that illustrating becomes specific. Collate the pages and separate each student's work. Sell it at CBCA Book Week. Have some students in accounts. Buy the library a book with the profits.

### Learn how to create Gwyn's creatures

<https://cbcacloud.blob.core.windows.net/documents/National/CBCA%202020-%20DRAW%20YOUR%20OWN%20CURIOUS%20CREATURE.pdf>

Enjoy catching up with Gwyn's books <https://affirmpress.com.au/publishing/gwyn-perkins/>



### WRITE NOW

What animals are you curious to learn more about?



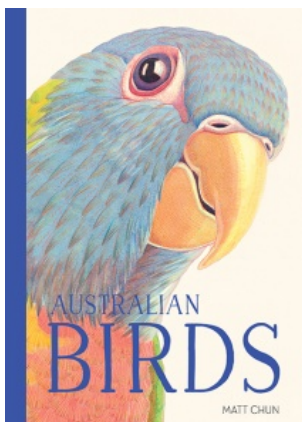


## CREATURE CHUCKLES

What do you call a funny chicken? –A comedi-hen.

Why do scientists think humming birds hum? Because they don't know the words.

## AUTHORS and ANIMALS



### AUSTRALIAN BIRDS AND AUSTRALIAN SEA LIFE *Little Hare*

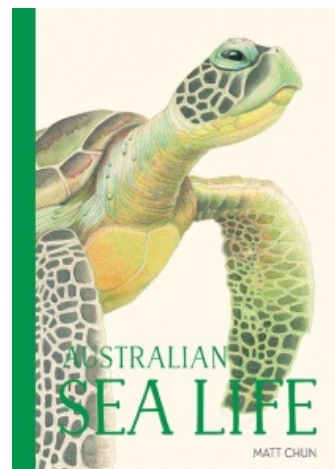
**MATT CHUNN**

<http://www.mattchun.com.au/picture-books>

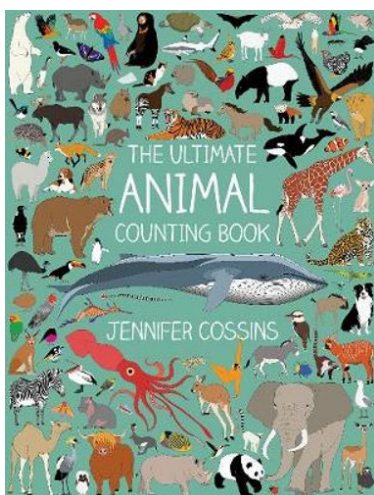
*Matt Chun takes to the oceans to explore Australia's most fascinating sea creatures, from the great white shark to the tiny soldier crab.*

Hardie Grant Publishing

It took millions of years of isolation and a diverse



range of habitats for Australian birds to evolve the way they did. The result is many of the world's most striking and beautiful birds, including some that are stranger than fiction." Hardie Grant Egmont Publisher).



### ANIMALS: A- Z and MORE

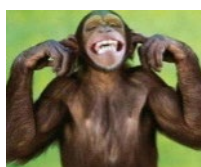
**JENNIFER COSSINS** <https://redparka.com.au/>

All my books are about animals because animals are so strange and interesting to learn about! I've loved animals ever since I was a small child and always wanted to help them. I think by reading, drawing and learning about animals, we can all better understand how amazing they are and why it's important we protect them.

My books are all non-fiction, because animals are such curious creatures you don't need to make things up to write an interesting book - the facts are fascinating!

I have written and illustrated several A-Z books, books about endangered animals and the interesting names for groups of animals in 101 Collective Nouns. My most recent books - The Mummy Animal Book and The Daddy Animal Book - explore the different names that are used for mums, dads and babies of the animal kingdom.

Doing the illustrations is my favourite part of creating a book. I draw by looking at photographs of animals so I can make my drawings accurate spend hours adding details of feathers or fur or scales to bring each animal to life with bright, bold colours.



## CREATURE CHUCKLES

Which kinds of snakes are found on cars? - Windshield vipers

What did one flea say to the other flea when they came out of the movies?

Should we walk home or take a dog?

What kind of ant is even bigger than an elephant? - A gi-ant



## TRUE TO LIFE ANIMAL ADVENTURES

**JAN LATTA** <http://www.truetolifebooks.com.au/>

True to Life Books

Jan is an author and wildlife photographer and she's had some amazing adventures creating her 21 True to Life Books.



My travels have taken me to Wolong, in China, to photograph pandas, the Borneo rainforest for orang-utans, the elusive leopards in Sri Lanka, Uganda for Jane Goodall's naughty chimpanzees, India for the endangered tigers, Costa Rica for the sleepy sloths and eleven times to Africa following the big cats and all the African animals. I photograph animals in their natural habitats so children can see how animals live in the wild.

I've had some scary adventures – a close encounter with a mountain gorilla, a misunderstanding with a big orang-utan, a cranky rhino head-butting my jeep and a terrifying time when a lion chased a wildebeest through the middle of my tent. In contrast, I had a magic moment when two cheetahs walked up to me and allowed me to touch them.

My latest book is **Adventures in the Wild**. I

have also created 15 videos about these animals in action in the wild which you can view through my website <http://www.truetolifebooks.com.au/educational-videos/>

### What am I curious about?

I'm curious about the big cats. Why can I get so close to them and not be harmed.

The answer: I think it's because I'm calm and never frightened. Wild cats can pick up emotions, just like domestic cats. That is the simple answer, because I'm curious about a million facts when I'm in the wild.

Pictures provided by Jan Latta - Jan with baby sloth AND A curious chimp looking at his reflection in Jan's camera lens



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School and Festival bookings:

The Children's Bookshop Speaker's Agency <http://thechildrensbookshopspeakersagency.com.au>

Greenleaf Press Kinderfest Team [www.greenleafpress.net](http://www.greenleafpress.net)

Speakers Ink [www.speakers-ink.com.au](http://www.speakers-ink.com.au)



## EXPLORE YOUR WORLD: WEIRD, WILD AMAZING

**TIM FLANNERY** and **SAM CALDWELL**

<https://www.illustrationroom.com.au/artist/new-sam-caldwell/>

Hardie Grant Egmont

*Explore your words and meet some of the weirdest, wildest and most amazing animals on the planet with Tim, one of the world's leading scientists. He has discovered 75 new species of animals – some that are still living, and others that have been preserved as fossils. His world is "bursting with bizarre facts and packed with vibrant illustrations that will make you laugh out loud ... and squirm in disgust."* Hardie Grant Publishing



**MASCOT** - a person, animal, or object adopted by a group as a symbolic figure especially to bring them good luck. Some of our favourite children's literature organisations share background about their mascots with KIDS'CORNER.

### AUSTRALIAN CHILDREN'S LAUREATE - **MAGPIE**



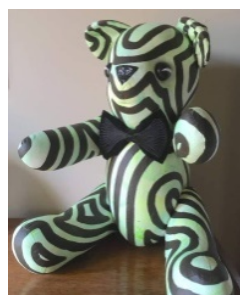
The Australian Children's Laureate has a special companion to travel with - the Laureate Magpie! This cheeky, glossy, black-and-white bird is the perfect mascot for the Laureate. Magpies are found all over Australia, and are beautiful singers. You will have heard them, lifting up their beaks to sing together like flutes, especially just before dawn and at dusk.

Remember to check the Australian Children's Laureate website regularly for updates and ideas

about Ursula's activities, including more info about their mascot: Magpie.

<https://www.childrenslaureate.org.au/copy-of-why-a-magpie-1>

### CBCA NSW BRANCH Inc - BLUE MOUNTAINS Sub-branch - **BLUEY** and **LIONEL**



**LIONEL** (Mr Bear) is a new member of the CBCA NSW Branch - Blue Mountains Sub-branch. He was created by Dub Leffler, author and illustrator, in 2019 for the National CBCA Conference and later joined our Blue Mountains Sub-branch. Dub is descended from the Bigambul and Mandandanji people of south west Queensland, and illustrated Lionel in the Bigambul style of artwork.



While we are just getting to know **LIONEL**, we have discovered that he loves stories and words and is keen to know more about and become part of the stories of the Blue Mountains. We are delighted that he will be joining our events and activities as our mascot along with **BLUEY**, the **DRAGON**.

### IBBY - **KOOKABURRA**



The IBBY (International Board on Books for Young People) Australia logo is a collage Kookaburra. The designer, illustrator and author, Louise Pfanner says: *"I made it as homage to pictures and paper hoping it would look like it was about to lift off the page, and fly away."* Through IBBY, our Australian books fly around the world and from other countries, books fly back to us from awards like the Hans Christian Andersen Medal.


You might like to seek out books by the 2020 winners: Jacqueline Woodson and Albertine. Take a look at the IBBY website to see the books and their creators that we showcase around the world. IBBY has been called "one of the most influential children's literature organisations in the world."

## KIDS OWN AUSTRALIAN LITERATURE AWARDS - KOALA



Koalas are world famous marsupials who love to read Australian books. They hold them carefully in their five-fingered front paws. When you

see a koala hidden high up in a eucalyptus tree it usually means they're reading a bedtime story.

The Kids Own Australian Literature Awards (KOALA) are the children's choice awards that prompt readers to read and celebrate books they've enjoyed. Voting closes at the end of Term 3. Register to vote <https://www.koalansw.org.au/about-koala> or  email [contact@koalansw.org.au](mailto:contact@koalansw.org.au)

The nominated titles for 2020 are online

<https://www.koalansw.org.au/shortlists>

Play the KOALA Guess Who Game by matching the KOALA picture with the correct illustrator. See all the koalas on the website. <https://wordwall.net/resource/3058070/koala-guess-who>

## CBCA NSW BRANCH KIDS' CORNER - MORRIE



Morrie is the nickname of the **KIDS' CORNER News!** mascot. His background has been influenced by **Maurice Saxby**, the treasured Australian author and educator whose life's work focused on children and their books.

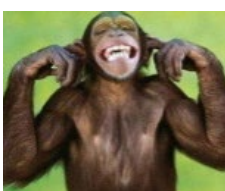
Morrie loves reading, writing and thinking. He is resilient and curious about the world because it is full of ideas and stories that shape our world. He has continued to enjoy developing the info and interests that have shaped the content of **KC** for nearly three years. His favourite instrument is a cool jazz sax (by). He is considering writing up some of his stories to share.



### WRITE NOW

Think of a group you are part of.

What kind of mascot would you choose to lead your group? Why?



### CREATURE CHUCKLES

There were 10 cats in a boat and one jumped out. How many were left?

None, because they were copycats!

What do you call a fish without an eye? Fsh

# READ FOR YOUR LIFE!

## URSULA DUBOSARSKY

### AUSTRALIAN CHILDREN'S LAUREATE 2020-2021



## HELLO AGAIN EVERYONE!

"July Juggles" – that's my Australian Children's Laureate writing activity for July. But what do writing and juggling have to do with each other?

Actually, I think writing is a lot like juggling, except instead of using balls or skittles, writers juggle with WORDS.

I'll show you what I mean. Here are some words of a sentence about one of my favourite CURIOUS CREATURES, the Laureate Magpie. But you'll have to do some juggling for it to make sense!

You can juggle the words inside your head. Or you could write the words down, each on a separate piece of paper, and juggle them about on the table in front of you.

And you may find that different jugglers come up with different sentences. That's the fun of the circus!

Happy juggling until next time, from your friends - Ursula and Magpie

## JUGGLE THESE WORDS AROUND TO MAKE A SENTENCE

a, and, and, Australian, beautiful, black, eyes, golden, has, Magpie, singing, The, voice. white, wings, wondrous, Juggle more by **WRITING WITH URSULA**

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



### CREATURE CHUCKLES

What wears glass slippers and weighs over 400 pounds? Cinder elephant

What was the elephant's favourite sport? Squash

Why did the elephant sit on the marshmallow?

So he wouldn't fall in the hot chocolate



### CREATURE CHUCKLES

What goes tick-tock, bow-wow, tick-tock, bow-wow?

A watch dog.

What do you do if your dog chews a dictionary?

Take the words right out of his mouth!



## AUSSIE ANIMALS – Believe-it-or-not PADLET

Find facts, pictures and video clips with some unusual characteristics of our curious Aussie animals.

# Believe It or Not!

See if you can answer some questions

about our strange and wonderful Aussie animals

To check your answers, go to the padlet: [\*\*Aussie Animals – Believe it or not\*\*](#) and see how many you answered correctly!

EXTRA: For more fun and information, click on the URL Video link at the bottom of each entry to learn even more unusual facts about our wildlife...

- Q1. Which animal is the closest relative to the wombat?
- Q2. Which animal is related to the kingfisher family?
- Q3. Which animal lives on Rottnest Island?
- Q.4 Which animal is said to look like “a meerkat in spotty pyjamas”?
- Q.5 Which animal can eat up to 40% of its own body weight per day?
- Q.6 Which animal walks with a rocking motion?
- Q7. Which animal’s name in Aboriginal language translates as ‘no water’?
- Q.8 Which animal weighs less than a kilo but can survive for up to nine years in the wild?
- Q9. Which animal is an egg-laying mammal and uses its snout to look for ants?
- Q10. Which animal has the largest brain of any marsupial and has cube-shaped droppings?



## AUSSIE ANIMALS MERRY MIX UP

Juggle the parts of names of these animals to create some very curious creatures

If you combined these creatures, what would they be?

Can you imagine

a BILBY

+ an OCTOPUS

+ a WOMBAT

becoming a

**BIL-TO-BAT?**

Try some others:



BIL*BY	E*CHID*NA	FRILL* NECKED *LIZARD	KO*AL*A	KOO*KA*BUR*RA
LEAFY *SEA DRAG*ON	QUOK* KA	QUOLL	SUGAR* GLIDER	THORN*Y* DEVIL
TAS*MAN*IAN* DEVIL	WOM*BAT	TREE*KAN*GA*ROO	PLAT*Y*PUS	OC*TO*PUS



## CREATURE CHUCKLES

Why does a giraffe have such a long neck? - Because his feet stink!

Why don't bears wear shoes? - What's the use? They'd still have bear feet!

How do spiders communicate? - Through the World Wide Web.

## READ ON AND ON

LUNCHTIME STORYTIME has been a fantastic project that has involved nearly 50 authors and illustrators sharing videos of their stories throughout term 2. Catch up with their videos on the CBCA NSW website [Lunchtime, Storytime Live Website page](#) or on Facebook [CBCA NSW Branch Facebook page](#) and happy holiday reading catching up with their books.



# Lunchtime Storytime

# Book Bonanza



Illustration and design by Gemma Patience

**BUY NOW!**

Support participating book shops for discounts on Lunchtime Storytime titles



gleebooks

Visit [www.cbcansw.org.au/storytime](http://www.cbcansw.org.au/storytime) for details

<https://www.cbcan.org.au/storytime>.

**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 ideas. Thanks to ALL. Your ideas are always welcome.

