

MidnightSun Publishing

Children's Books 2018



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OLIVIA'S VOICE

**Mike Lucas and
Jennifer Harrison**

Picture book | HB 32 | 210 x 297
ISBN: 9781925227192

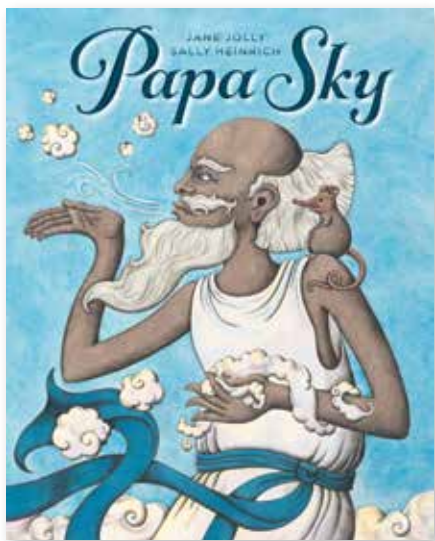
Today, like all days, Olivia wakes to a silent world. Outside her window, birds dance upon the branches of the giant gum tree. She follows the delicious smell to breakfast downstairs, walks to school with her friends and is greeted by her favourite teachers. In the music room, everyone knows which instrument she will choose. This is *Olivia's Voice*.

With evocative language and beautifully detailed illustrations, Lucas and Harrison bring to life the vivid experiences of Olivia, a young deaf girl, as she explores a silent world full of vibrant colour, friendship and fun. *Olivia's Voice* allows underrepresented deaf children to see themselves in a story and gives hearing children an opportunity to expand their understanding of the world.

Mike Lucas is the author of several collections of humorous poetry for children and has had work published in anthologies and literary magazines. Originally from the UK, he now lives in Adelaide, where he works as an engineer and runs an independent book store with his wife, Becky. He has a passion for encouraging children to use imagination and creativity to produce original stories and poetry.

Jennifer Harrison lives in Adelaide with her son, Nathaniel. Since leaving university she has worked as a graphic designer, commercial artist and art director. Her illustrations have been commissioned for book covers, magazines and packaging for overseas and local markets and she has exhibited in Adelaide galleries.





PAPA SKY

**Jane Jolly and
Sally Heinrich**

Picture book | HB 32 | 300 x 250
ISBN: 9781925227291

Another stunning picture book from the award-winning team who brought you *One Step at a Time*, Honour Book in the CBCA Awards 2016.

Papa Sky sits where earth meets sky, until one night the wind blows him down, down, down through the cloud forest, where he lands with a bump.

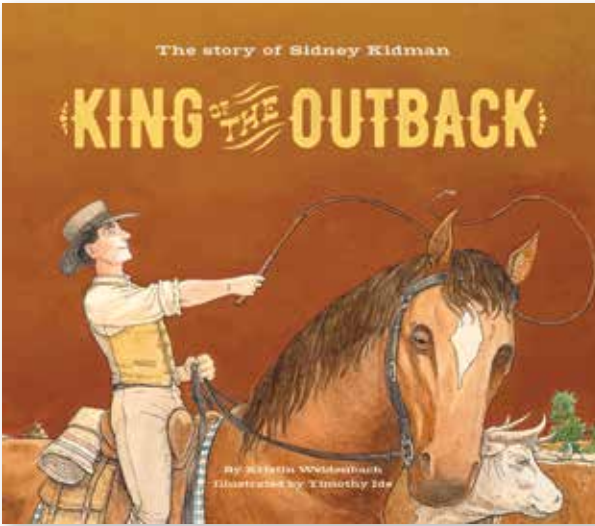
What will happen next? Who will help him?

After being a classroom teacher for 35 years, **Jane Jolly** now works part-time in the Resource Centre at Eastern Fleurieu School teaching creative writing and immersing classes in literature. She has had three CBCA Notable picture books. *Papa Sky* is the second book on which Jane Jolly and Sally Heinrich have worked together.



Sally Heinrich is a writer, illustrator and artist who has illustrated more than thirty books. Her work has been recognised through fellowships from Asialink Foundation, The May Gibbs Children's Literature Trust, Varuna – The Writers' House, Arts SA and the Ian Reed Foundation, and her original artwork and linoprints have been exhibited in Australia and Asia.





KING OF THE OUTBACK

**Kristin Weidenbach
and Timothy Ide**

Picture book | HB 32 | 260 x 290
ISBN: 9781925227246

Sidney Kidman runs away from home at thirteen and travels to the outback on a one-eyed horse. He finds stray cows in the scrub, swims across rivers by hanging on to a bullock's tail and dreams of having the biggest herd of cattle in Australia.

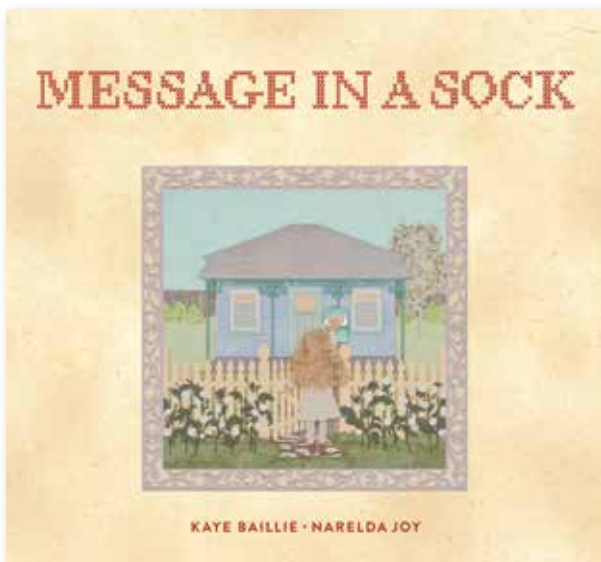
Many years later, when the workers on Sid's cattle station organise a giant rodeo for Sid's birthday party, the cattle from the bush take fright in the city. People panic and horses bolt. Can the Kidman stockmen save the day? *King of the Outback* tells the rags to riches story of one of Australia's greatest pastoral pioneers.

Kristin Weidenbach writes popular non-fiction focused on Australian history. She is the author of the picture book *Meet Banjo Paterson* and the adult titles *Rock Star: the Story of Reg Sprigg* and the Australian bestseller, *Mailman of the Birdsville Track: the Story of Tom Kruse*.



Timothy Ide has illustrated a number of children's books, among them: Max Fatchen's *A Country Christmas* and Fiona McIntosh's *Fantastica: Shapeshifter* series. He is also known for his court sketching work for the Adelaide TV news networks.





MESSAGE IN A SOCK

**Kaye Baillie
and Narelda Joy**

Picture book | HB 32 | 271 x 294
ISBN: 9781925227383

Tammy is safe at home, but her heart is with her father at the warfront. While her mother knits socks for the soldiers, Tammy slips a message inside each pair. But will her one special message find her father, and bring him safely home?

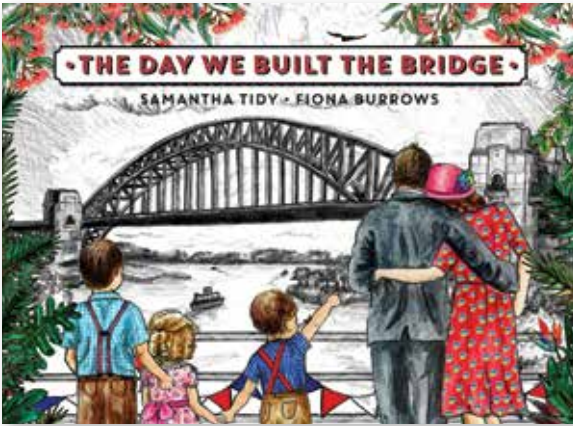
Based on a true exchange between Lance Corporal A. McDougall and a young girl, *Message in a Sock* is a gorgeous collage-style tale which pays respect to the soldiers and their families, a century after the end of World War I.



Kaye Baillie began writing stories and making books during the long, hot summer holidays on the orchard where she grew up in Victoria. With her sister, she sat at the kitchen table coming up with ideas and adding her own (not very good) illustrations. Now she writes stories at her kitchen table near the beach, where she lives with her family and their high maintenance pets. Kaye has a strong interest in researching and writing stories about unique individuals and events.



Narelda Joy grew up in a creative household with an inspired mum and a large sewing room, which contained a plethora of goodies she could use to create. She continues to create anything in two or three dimensions including puppets, models, creatures and illustrations. She considers herself fortunate to be able to create imaginary worlds anytime she wants to. Narelda Joy lives surrounded by beautiful flora and fauna in the Blue Mountains, Australia. She has two dogs and a cat, as well as lots of native birds who visit her garden daily.



THE DAY WE BUILT THE BRIDGE

**Samantha Tidy and
Fiona Burrows**

Picture book | HB 32 | 210 x 297
ISBN: 9781925227437

There are moments in history that connect us and define a country. In our hearts and minds, some moments rely on us to hold onto a dream, face tough challenges, and put in a great deal of effort.

Big dreams can take generations. It can also take six million hand-driven rivets and 53,000 tonnes of steel. *The Day We Built the Bridge* celebrates our connection with one another, and declares that despite the greatest of challenges, together we can make history.

Samantha Tidy is a writer of children's, young adult and adult fiction. She has a Masters in Creative Writing and is the author of *Cappuccino Diva*, *The Blue Polar Bear* and *The Flying Dream*. Her most recent adult novel, *The Happiness Jar*, won the ACT Writing and Publishing Award for Fiction, among several other award nominations.



After completing her BA and PhD in literature at UWA, **Fiona Burrows** is now focusing on her first love, children's picture books. She has had work published in journals including the *Australian Poetry Journal*, *Writ Review* and *Westerly*, exhibited in local galleries, and won awards and commendations including in the Town of Mosman Park's Open Art Prize, the CYA Writing and Illustrating Competition, and the ASA's Ray Koppe Young Writers' Residency.





VANISHING

**Mike Lucas and
Jennifer Harrison**

Picture book | HB 32 | 250 x 295
ISBN: 9781925227444

Once creatures of all shapes and sizes, from the magnificent and mighty, to the tiniest of marvels, wandered this empty land. They had horns and wings and survived in all kinds of lands, from desert plains to icy tundras. But where are they now? *Vanishing* is a striking tale of our natural world and the looming environmental threats to the creatures that call it home.

Mike Lucas is the author of several collections of humorous poetry for children and has had work published in anthologies and literary magazines. Originally from the UK, he now lives in Adelaide, where he works as an engineer and runs an independent book store with his wife, Becky. He has a passion for encouraging children to use imagination and creativity to produce original stories and poetry.



Jennifer Harrison lives in Adelaide with her son, Nathaniel. Since leaving university she has worked as a graphic designer, commercial artist and art director. Her illustrations have been commissioned for book covers, magazines and packaging for overseas and local markets and she has exhibited in Adelaide galleries.



ONE STEP AT A TIME

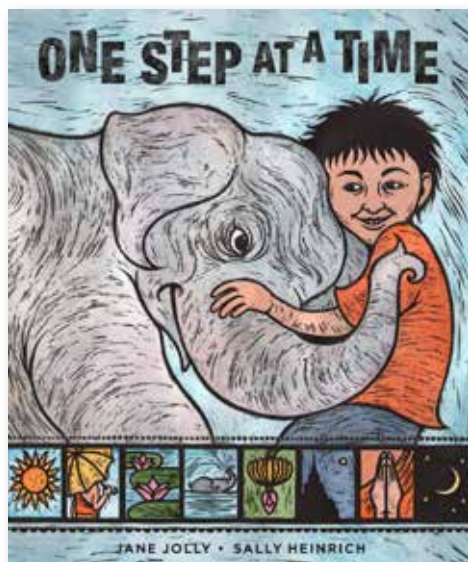
Jane Jolly and Sally Heinrich

Picture book | HB 32 | 300 x 250
ISBN: 9780987380951

Rights sold: Simplified Chinese,
World Spanish

One Step at a Time is the touching story about a relationship between a young boy, Luk, and his elephant, Mali. One day on the border of Thailand and Burma, Mali steps on a landmine. Luk supports her during her recovery, as she is eventually fitted with a prosthesis and gets a second chance at life.

One Step at a Time is a ground-breaking story about courage, friendship and true love. Heinrich's beautiful illustrations match Jolly's light touch when it comes to writing about the sensitive subject of landmines. *One Step at a Time* is a story to enthrall children around the world.



Shortlisted for the 2016 Western Australian Young Readers Awards

Longlisted for the 2016 Australian Book Industry Award

Chosen in 2015 to travel to the Bologna Children's Book Fair with the exhibition *Hello! from Australia*

After being a classroom teacher for 35 years, **Jane Jolly** now works part-time in the Resource Centre at Eastern Fleurieu School teaching creative writing and immersing classes in literature. She has had three CBCA Notable picture books. *One Step at a Time* is the first book on which Jane Jolly and Sally Heinrich have worked together.



Sally Heinrich is a writer, illustrator and artist who has illustrated more than thirty books. Her work has been recognised through fellowships from Asialink Foundation, The May Gibbs Children's Literature Trust, Varuna – The Writers' House, Arts SA and the Ian Reed Foundation, and her original artwork and linoprints have been exhibited in Australia and Asia.





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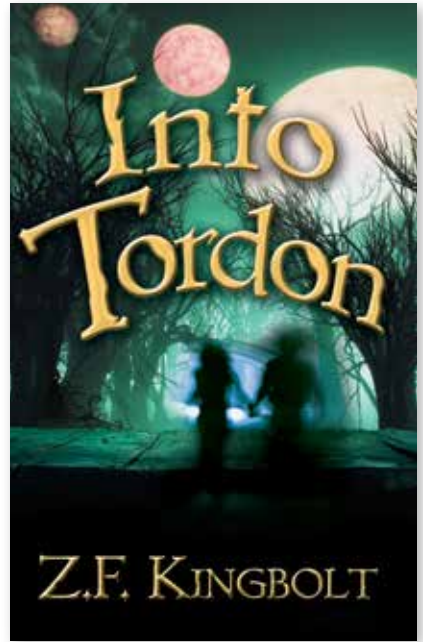
INTO TORDON

Z.F. Kingbolt

Middle grade fiction | PB 256 | 198 x 128
ISBN: 9781925227147

Thirteen-year-old Beth has been waiting for weeks to play in the championship of her favourite online game, Tordon. Now tribes of beastmen roar through her speakers. Game on! She plays to win, until her gaming nemesis Zane challenges her to a real-life risk that has them sucked into a strange world. Here they must push their skills to the limit just to survive! Faced with riddles, a multitude of dangerous creatures, exotic cultures and scientific impossibilities, Beth and Zane are forced to take on challenge after challenge if they're ever to return home.

'a pacy, exciting read' **Books+Publishing**



Z.F. Kingbolt has had a varied career including lawyer, scientist, engineer, journalist, biologist and teacher, so it took a while to discover that writing books was the best thing ever. A slitherphobe, Kingbolt hates snakes and burnt toast, but loves gaming, technology, geology and skateboarding.

A CARDBOARD PALACE

Allayne Webster

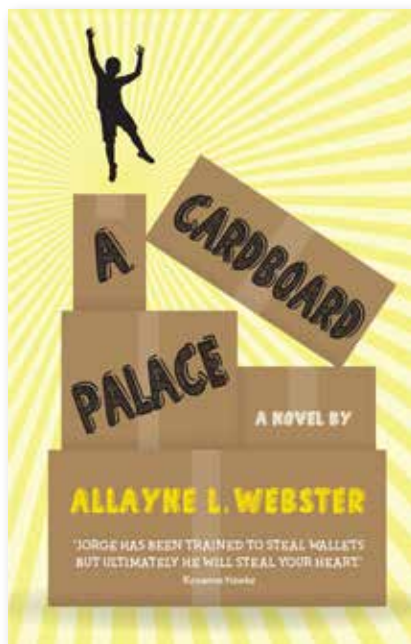
Middle grade fiction | PB 256 | 198 x 128
ISBN: 9781925227253

Jorge lives in a shanty town on the outskirts of Paris. Bill, a controller, has an army of child thieves at his command—and Jorge is one of them.

But soon Jorge faces an even bigger threat. His home is to be bulldozed. Where will Jorge sleep? What will happen to his friends, Ada and Gino? Could a burgeoning friendship with Australian chef, Sticky-Ricky, help Jorge to stop Bill and save the army of child-thieves? And will he do it before he loses Ada forever?

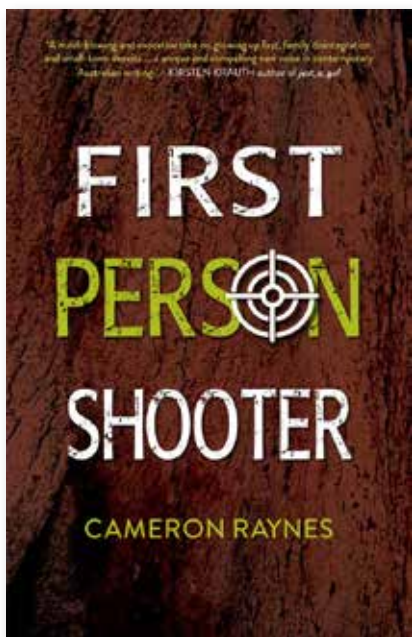
Jorge can't keep fighting to live—now he must live to fight.

A harrowing, humbling story about one boy's desperation to escape a life of crippling poverty.



Allayne L. Webster is an Adelaide based Children's and Young Adult Fiction author who grew up in rural South Australia. Her middle grade title *Paper Planes* was a 2016 Children's Book Council Notable Book and shortlisted for the 2016 Adelaide Festival Awards for Children's Literature. Allayne is the author of two Young Adult novels (plus a third with Penguin Random House - due for release Feb 2018) and the author of two Junior Fiction novels with Omnibus Scholastic. Allayne is also the proud recipient of three South Australian Arts Grants. She travelled to Paris in 2010, and suitably inspired, she wrote *A Cardboard Palace*.





FIRST PERSON SHOOTER

Cameron Raynes

YA Fiction | PB 256 | 198 x 129 | ISBN: 9781925227079

Rights sold: Film/TV

Jayden lives with his father on the edge of a small country town. He stutters and is addicted to video games.

His best friend Shannon knows how to handle a rifle. When her mum is released from prison, the town waits to see whether her sociopathic stepson Pete will exact revenge for the manslaughter of his father.

Caught with ammunition at school and suspended, Jayden's world disintegrates. As a drug war erupts, Pete gears up for his violent assault.

Will it be left to Jayden to stop him?

'A mind-blowing and evocative take on growing up fast, family disintegration and small-town deceits ... a unique and compelling new voice in contemporary Australian writing.' **Kirsten Krauth** author of *just_a_girl*

'Menacing, brilliant, haunting.' **Sally Breen**, author of *Atomic City* and *The Casuals*

'a slice of Australian Gothic' ★★ ★ **Books+Publishing**

- **SHORTLISTED**
Adelaide Festival Awards 2018



Cameron Raynes is a prize-winning author who has chosen in *First Person Shooter* to explore the deeply personal experience of adolescent stuttering. Having survived bruising encounters with three psychopaths by the age of 30, Raynes turned away from welfare work and anthropology to find his voice as a writer. He teaches history at the University of South Australia and is the author of *The Last Protector* and the short story collection *The Colour of Kerosene*.



DRAFT COVER ONLY

HEAVEN SENT

S.J. Morgan

YA fiction | PB 256 | 198 x 128

ISBN: 9781925227451

Angels come in many guises; some have broken wings ...

Evie's life is in tatters. She has a father she barely knows, a step-dad she'd rather she didn't and a best friend going off the rails. Then there's the brace she has to wear for her wonky spine.

So when the gorgeous Gabe crashes into her world, claiming he's been sent to save her, Evie's desperate to believe him. But Gabe isn't all he seems and Evie is drawn into a whole new set of calamities. Can she ever be saved? Can he?

Heaven Sent is a story of love, trust and redemption in a world where not everyone is the perfect fit.



S.J. Morgan has been writing for over ten years and, in addition to short stories and articles, has written six novels. She won first prize for short fiction at the Salisbury Writers' Festival and was awarded a year-long mentorship by the Australian Society of Authors. Her YA novel, *Heaven Sent*, is due for release by MidnightSun Publishing in September 2018. She lives in the Adelaide Hills with her partner, daughters and two slovenly greyhounds.

MESSAGE IN A SOCK
Kaye Baillie and Narelda Joy



Coming in 2019 and beyond

ANISA'S ALPHABET

Mike Dumbleton

This is an alphabet book with a difference! It tells the moving story of a young refugee's flight from danger. We travel with Anisa on her journey, sharing her experiences, fears and resolute optimism.

The story is told clearly and sensitively in rhyming text and is sure to appeal to children and adults alike.

THE PLASTIC THRONE

Amani Gunwardana

Denver flushes all kinds of things down the toilet but never stops to think about what happens to them once they are gone. One night, while he sleeps, the ocean begins to stir, no longer able to suppress its fury over how it's being treated. Can Denver and his sister Maisy make things right before it's too late?

This engaging story touches on the concepts of sustainability and the protection of our natural environment all while keeping a tongue placed firmly in its cheek.

I WOULD DANGLE THE MOON

Amber Moffat

What would you do if you could pluck the moon from the sky? Would you scoop it up in an ice cream cone, or ride it like a snail shell across the night sky? *I Would Dangle the Moon* is an imaginative and playful story about all the wonderful things a mother would do with the moon for her child if she could do anything in the world.

Lyrical and poetic, this unique and beautifully illustrated story evokes the love and warmth between a parent and child.

THE FRIENDLY GAMES

Kaye Baillie

John Ian Wing couldn't be more excited about the upcoming Melbourne Olympics. From his parents' Bourke street restaurant, he swells with pride watching the hive of activity as Melbourne prepares to welcome its guests. But when world tensions threaten to overshadow the good nature of the games, John knows he must do something to remind everyone of the meaning of friendship and peace.

Based on a true story, *The Friendly Games* is a fascinating tale of one boy's role in one of Australia's most significant sporting events.

TE HUI'S LANTERN

Steve Heron

Set a challenge by her father to test her wisdom, Te Hui spends her day talking to neighbours and strangers at the market. At the end of the day, she returns home wondering how wise she has been when she has nothing left but a lantern to light her way.

A heart-warming story about the compassion and wisdom that we should all share.

RIVER STONE

Rachel Hennessy

'But if there were so few humans left, why did they not stay together?'

'Because they chose not to.'

'Why did they choose not to?'

'Because they were human.'

After the world has been through The Burning Days, people live in clusters in the forest. Pandora has never known any other life but one day circumstances force her to find a way to the old city to save her community.

MidnightSun Publishing is represented by
Helen Binns Literary Agency.



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