

MidnightSun Publishing  
Children's Books 2019



MidnightSun

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

# 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.

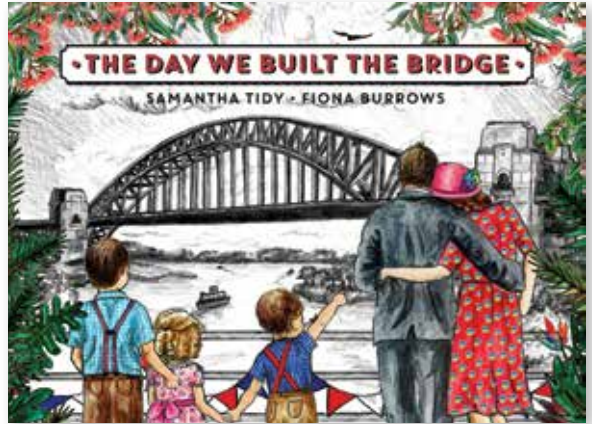
# THE DAY WE BUILT THE BRIDGE

**Samantha Tidy and  
Fiona Burrows**

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

Big dreams, like the Sydney Harbour Bridge, 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.

- Reprinted before release



**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.





## I WOULD DANGLE THE MOON

Amber Moffat

Picture book | HB 32 | 260 x 280  
ISBN: 9781925227529

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.



**Amber Moffat** Amber Moffat is a writer and visual artist based in Western Australia. She believes that being able to share stories is the most magnificent thing about being human. Amber is originally from New Zealand and still has strong ties to her hometown of Dunedin. She is an experienced teacher and a fierce advocate for arts education.

At the end of 2015 Amber was awarded an Emerging Writers' Mentorship by the Australian Society of Authors. The judges said of her work, "*This picture book text was absolutely wonderful - lyrical, evocative, poetic, and quite unusual. It had a really unique voice, and the imagery was very striking.*"

Amber was the recipient of a Paper Bird Fellowship in 2018, and she completed the final artwork for her debut picture book, *I Would Dangle the Moon*, during her residency at Fremantle's Paper Bird Books and Arts.

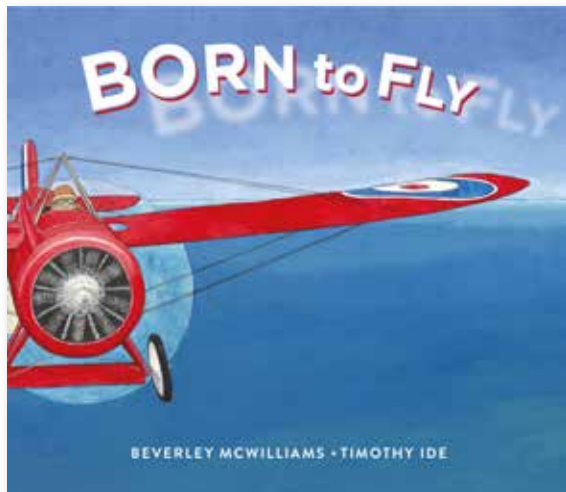
## **BORN TO FLY**

**Beverley McWilliams and  
Timothy Ide**

Picture book | HB 32 | 282 x 245  
ISBN: 9781925227567

Born in 1889 on a farm in rural South Australia, Harry Butler was determined to fly. Follow Harry's remarkable journey from studying the flight of his chickens to becoming one of Australia's most significant pioneer aviators.

*An inspiring true story of a young Australian hero who proved that anything is possible if you believe in yourself and follow your dreams.*



Following a law degree and qualifying as a chartered accountant, **Beverley McWilliams** worked in corporate tax before running her own consultancy business. But she decided life was too short for facts and figures, and she ditched the rat race to pursue her dream of becoming a writer. Now Beverley happily spends her days surrounded by books; writing, reading, pondering and eating way too much chocolate. Beverley's debut picture book *Born to Fly* is being published by MidnightSun mid-2019. She has also published work in children's magazines. Beverley lives in Adelaide with her husband, four children and menagerie of pets, who provide endless inspiration.



**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.



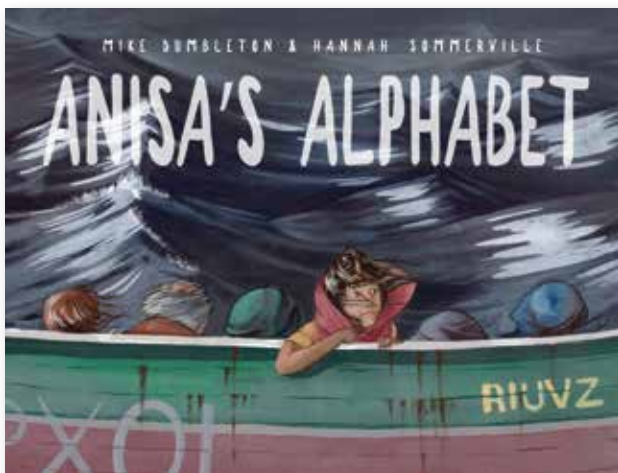
# ANISA'S ALPHABET

## Mike Dumbleton and Hannah Sommerville

Picture book | HB 32 | 280 x 240  
ISBN: 9781925227574

For many refugees the alphabet represents the start of a new language and a new future, but *Anisa's Alphabet* is different.

A poignant and highly imaginative telling of one girl's story which will appeal to children and adults alike ... Come with Anisa, and see things through her eyes.



DRAFT IMAGES ONLY



**Mike Dumbleton** is an award-winning picture book writer with nine 'Notable Books' selected by the Children's Book Council of Australia. His book, *Muddled-up Farm*, was the Speech Pathology Australia Book of the Year, 2004, and *Cat* was a CBCA Honour Book, 2008. Mike has also received a Federal Minister's Award for Outstanding Contribution to Improving Literacy, for his work as an educator and a writer over an extended period of time. In his spare time, Mike enjoys reading, travelling, trying to keep fit, listening to jazz and watching sport.



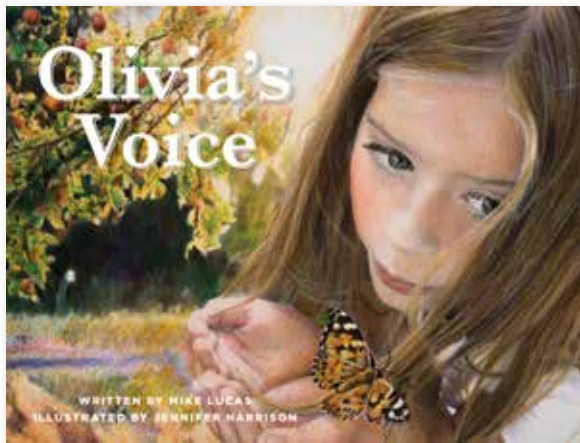
**Hannah Sommerville** creates enchanting watercolour, pen and pencil drawings in her studio on the South Coast of NSW. The daughter of a ceramicist, Hannah earned a bachelor of Bachelor of Creative Arts (Visual Arts and Graphic Design) at the University of Wollongong in 2006. Hannah began illustrating after the arrival of her young children from whom she draws inspiration. Hannah is a storyteller, who enjoys creating picture books that capture the imagination, tenderness and playfulness that surround children and family life. Her picture book *Digby & Claude*, written by Emma Allen, made the CBCA 2019 Notables list.

## 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*.

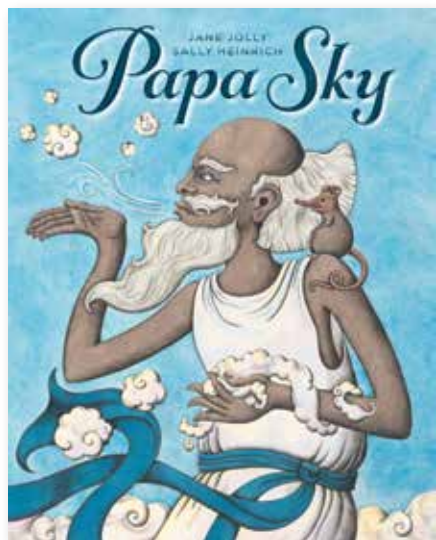


With evocative language and beautifully detailed illustrations, Lucas and Harrison bring to life the vivid experiences of Olivia, a young deaf girl, as she explores a silent world full of vibrant colour, friendship and fun. *Olivia's Voice* allows underrepresented deaf children to see themselves in a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

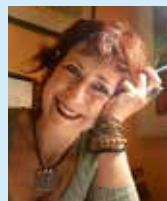
Papa Sky sits where earth meets sky, until one night the wind blows him down, down, down through the cloud forest, where he lands with a bump.

What will happen next? Who will help him?

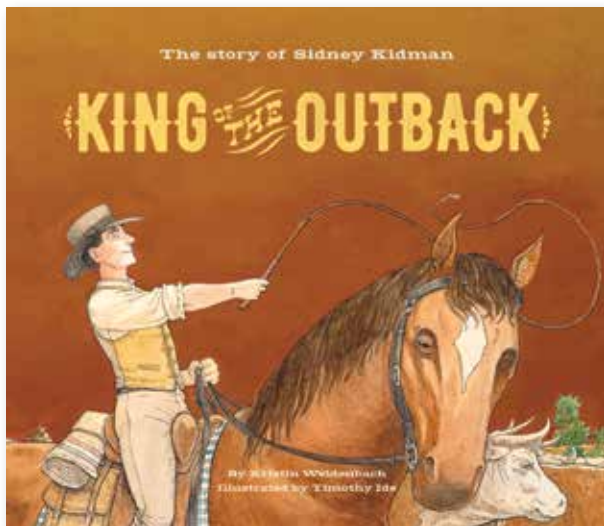
After being a classroom teacher for 35 years, **Jane Jolly** now works part-time in the Resource Centre at Eastern Fleurieu School teaching creative writing and immersing classes in literature. She has had three CBCA Notable picture books. *Papa Sky* is the second book on which Jane Jolly and Sally Heinrich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

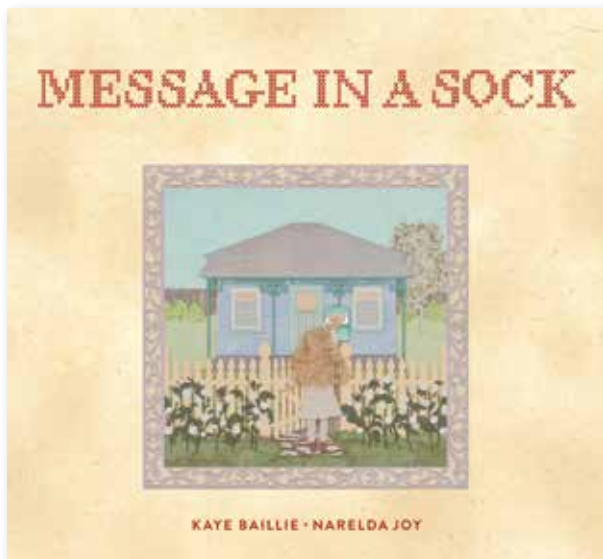
Many years later, when the workers on Sid's cattle station organise a giant rodeo for Sid's birthday party, the cattle from the bush take fright in the city. People panic and horses bolt. Can the Kidman stockmen save the day? *King of the Outback* tells the rags to riches story of one of Australia's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

- Shortlisted for the West Australian Young Readers' Book Award 2019



**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.

## ONE STEP AT A TIME

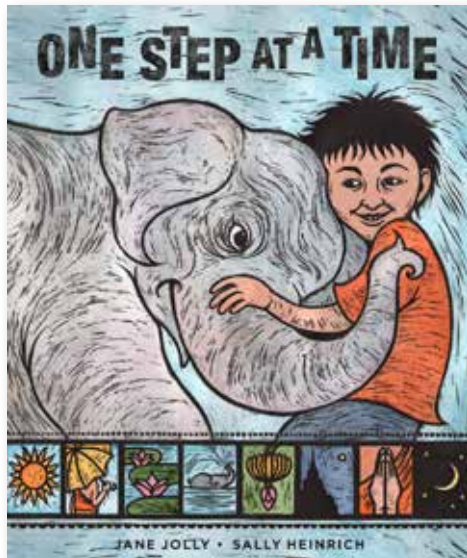
### Jane Jolly and Sally Heinrich

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.



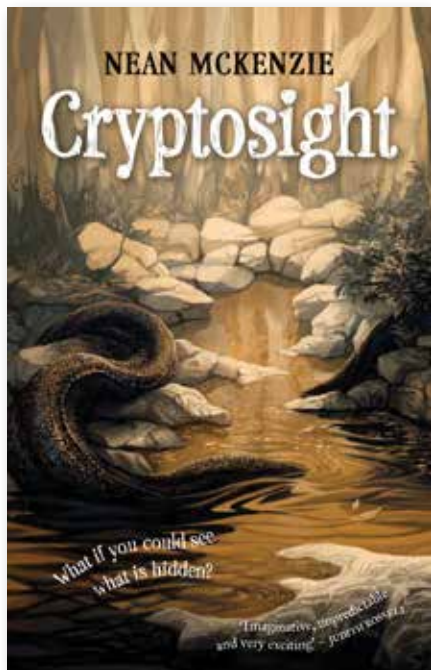
- Shortlisted for the 2016 Western Australian Young Readers Awards
- Longlisted for the 2016 Australian Book Industry Award
- Chosen in 2015 to travel to the Bologna Children's Book Fair with the exhibition *Hello! from Australia*

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.





## CRYPTOSIGHT

**Nean McKenzie**

Middle grade fiction | PB 176 | 198 x 129

ISBN: 9781925227536

Rafferty Kaminski is a 13-year-old boy who believes in facts. Not like his Cryptozoologist father, who hunts for creatures not proven to exist.

However, when Raff's father disappears in the Flinders Ranges, strange things start happening. Raff's younger sister Zara receives a warning from a crow about bunyip hunters. A creepy red-handed ranger pursues the children who stow away on a school bus.

Raff is drawn into the weird world of Cryptozoology, as he and Zara follow 'sightings' of creatures Raff doesn't believe in around country Victoria. Will they find their father? And what is the ancient voice that only Raff hears, as they approach the Wombat State Park?

'Imaginative, unpredictable and very exciting'

– **Judith Rossell**



**Nean McKenzie** is a children's writer and optometrist who lives in western Melbourne with her husband and two teenage children. Originally from Bendigo, Nean lived in New Zealand, Europe and North East Africa before returning to Victoria.

Nean has a Diploma in Professional Writing and Editing from RMIT. She currently reviews books for *Buzzwords* books magazine. In 2012 she was shortlisted for a Penguin Varuna Scholarship. In 2016 she was awarded a Maurice Saxby Mentorship for *Cryptosight*, which is her first published novel.

When not writing or testing people's eyes, Nean enjoys running and travelling to interesting places around the world. She also likes bush walking and reading books, especially ones for 8-12 year-olds.



MidnightSun

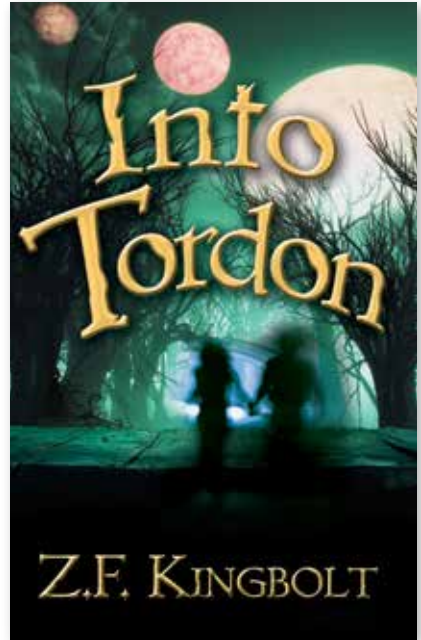
## INTO TORDON

**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 L. Webster

Middle grade fiction | PB 176 | 198 x 128  
ISBN: 9781925227253

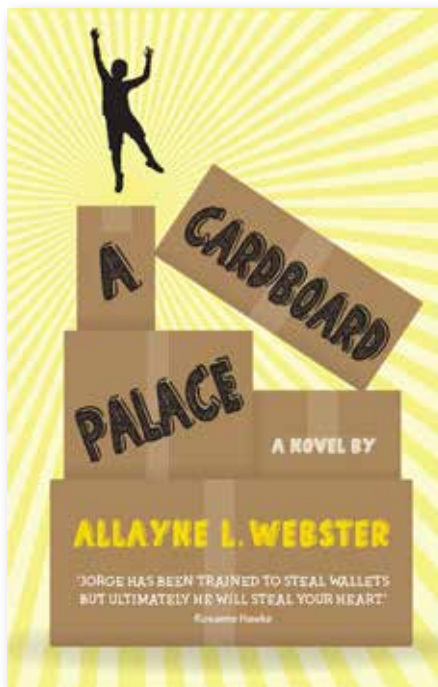
Rights sold: Swedish

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*.



## RIVER STONE

Rachel Hennessy

YA Fiction | PB 368 | 198 x 129

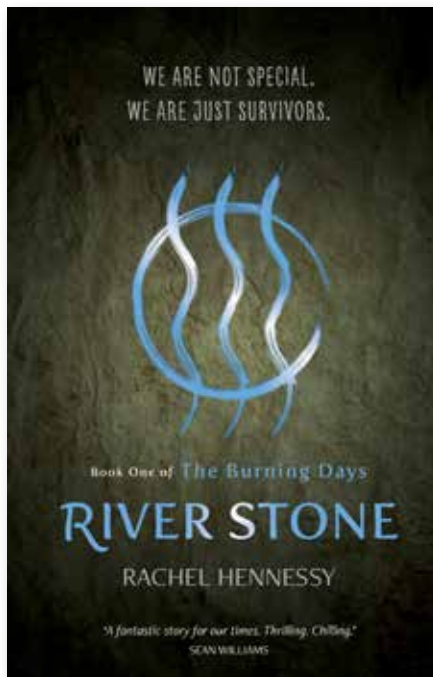
ISBN: 9781925227499

Pandora, of the River People, wants more than her village can provide. When disaster comes to her people, Pan has the opportunity to become their saviour and escape her inevitable pairing with life-long friend Matthew. She wants to make her own choices. Deep in her soul, she believes there is something more out there, beyond the boundaries, especially since she encountered the hunter of the Mountain People.

A story of confused love, difficult friendships and clumsy attempts at heroism, Pan's fight for her village will bring her into contact with a whole new world, where the truth about the past will have terrifying reverberations for her people's future survival.

*'A fantastic story for our times. Thrilling. Chilling.'*

**Sean Williams, bestselling author of the *Twinmaker* series**



**Rachel Hennessy** is the award-winning author of two novels of contemporary fiction: *The Quakers* (Wakefield Press, 2008) and *The Heaven I Swallowed* (Wakefield Press, 2013). Her first novel, about a group of obsessive teenagers, was described by John Birmingham as 'un-put-down-able' and was winner of the Adelaide Festival's Best Unpublished Manuscript Award. Her second novel was Runner Up in the *Australian/Vogel* Award, long-listed for the Nita B Kibble Award and described by *Australian Aboriginal Studies* as 'an important book'. Rachel lives in Melbourne with her partner and their two young daughters.



## 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.

'It's a little hard to place this one in a sub-genre because of its superb uniqueness. It's got romantic themes, but it's not a romance-focused story. It has mysteries to uncover and truths to be found, but it's not a typical mystery story either. It's just really good YA fiction!' *Kids' Book Review*

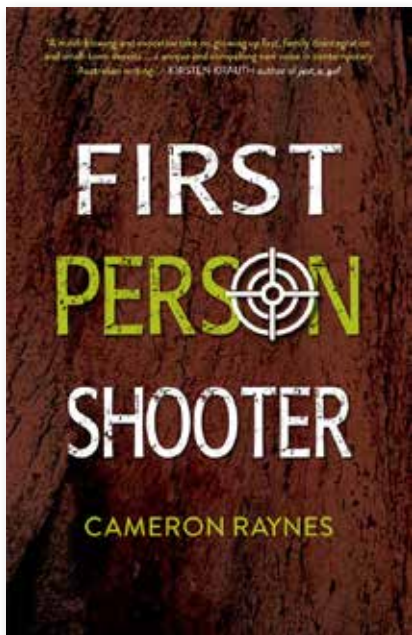


'*Heaven Sent* accomplishes dealing with multiple serious themes through intelligent dialogue and a quirky otherworldly edge. A very impressive and enjoyable YA novel with scope for deeper study.' *Reading Time*



**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 adult novel *Hide* is due for release by MidnightSun in October 2019. She lives in the Adelaide Hills with her partner, daughters and two slovenly greyhounds.





## 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 deceptions ... 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*.

# Coming in 2020 and beyond

## MAMA OCEAN

**Jane Jolly and Sally Heinrich**

Mama Ocean had eyes that sparkled, like the sunlight on the sea, and tresses which tumbled and trailed through the tides. But something is wrong. The ocean isn't the clear, pure, silver mirror it used to be.

What is troubling Mama Ocean?

An imaginative and lyrical story which tackles the world-wide problem of plastics in the ocean.

## LING LI'S LANTERN

**Steve Heron and Benjamin Johnston**

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.

## THE COLOUR OF MUSIC

**Lisa Tiffen and Matt Ottley**

Molly can see the music. Colours flash brilliantly as she listens. The music takes her on a journey into places filled with colour, revealing connections between music, emotions, and the world we live in.

*The Colour of Music* mixes art, music and the written word in a truly synesthetic experience.

## ESMERALDA'S NEST

**Robert Moore and Mandy Foot**

Each day Esmeralda collects a variety of objects and waddles down the hill.

Everyone wonders why the Saddleback sow is carrying a bottle, fencing wire and a pair of sneakers in her mouth.

Only Esmeralda knows.

Nothing will stop her.

A sweet story introducing children to the days of the week and the way that animals nest.

## THE PLASTIC THRONE

**Amani Gunawardana**

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.

## THE FRIENDLY GAMES

**Kaye Baillie and Fiona Burrows**

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.

MidnightSun Publishing is represented by

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