

MidnightSun Publishing
Children's Books 2022



MidnightSun

www.midnightsunpublishing.com

WILD BUSH DAYS

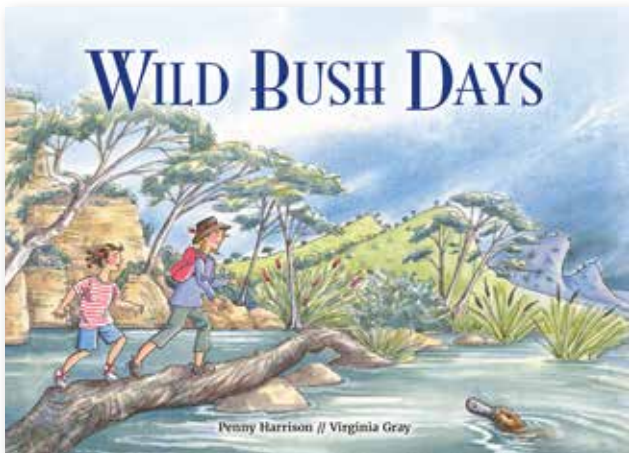
Penny Harrison and Virginia Gray

Picture book | HB 32 | 210 x 295
ISBN: 9780987380906

Rights held: World

In this wild and unruly adventure, we meet Jessie Hickman, the Lady Bushranger, as she soars through the rough Australian landscape. Following her tail (and tale) are two contemporary sisters who feel Jessie in the wind and hear the galloping of her historical horse in every crunch of their footsteps.

An adventurous story that immortalises a bold and daring woman.



Penny Harrison has always lived in a world of stories. A journalist for more than 20 years, her work has appeared in a variety of leading magazines, newspapers and journals. Penny is the author of acclaimed picture books such as *Extraordinary* and the CBCA Notable *Me & My Boots*. *Wild Bush Days* is the story of her childhood. Penny grew up on a farm in the NSW Capertee Valley and spent much of her time exploring the bush, always dreaming up adventurous tales and the possibility of finding the Lady Bushranger's cave. She now lives on the outskirts of Melbourne with her family and an ever-growing menagerie.



Virginia Gray Born on Kangaroo Island in South Australia, Virginia developed at an early age a keen appreciation of nature in all its forms. Her family then moved to Adelaide where she continued her schooling, later training as a fashion illustrator. Moving to the UK Virginia worked in London for many years as a fashion illustrator for Harrods, Selfridges and various advertising agencies. She adapted her style to illustrate children's educational books, focussing on history, where her interest in costume detail and fashion proved very useful. Eventually Virginia returned to Australia, settling in the Blue Mountains of New South Wales. She has continued to work for UK and Australian publishers, on various subject matters and story books. She has illustrated over 65 books to date. Being an avid bush walker with a love for adventure, Virginia enjoys researching local characters and places, bringing them to life through her illustrations.



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THE PLASTIC THRONE

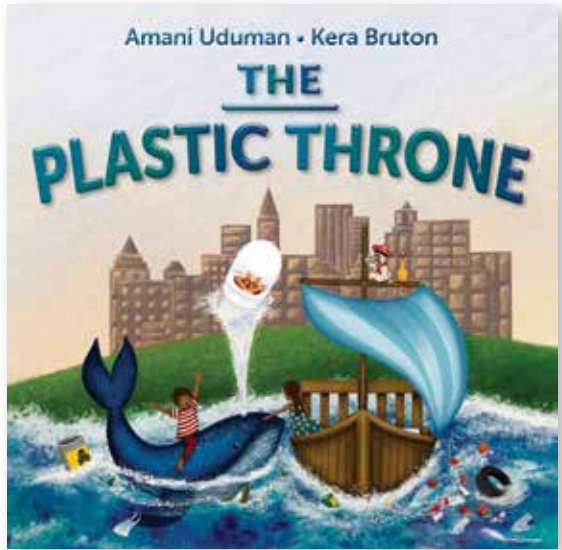
Amani Uduman and Kera Bruton

Picture book | HB 32 | 210 x 210
ISBN: 9781925227802

Rights held: World

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?

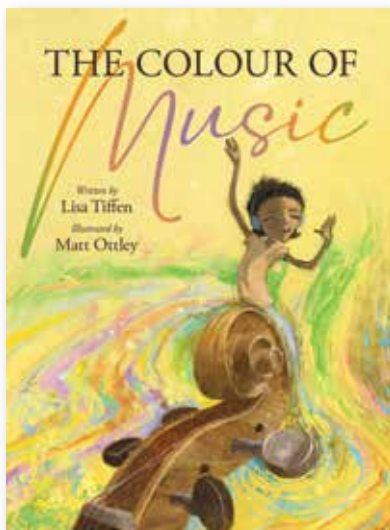
This engaging story touches on the concepts of sustainability and the protection of our natural environment all while keeping a tongue placed firmly in its cheek.



Amani Uduman is a children's author and primary school teacher from Melbourne. In addition to her teaching degree, Amani has graduated with a Bachelor's degree in Applied Science, Health Promotion from Deakin University. She has numerous titles published by a non-profit organisation called Library for All, Australia, and her work has been included in many fundraising anthologies. In her spare time, Amani enjoys reading, writing, walking and listening to R&B music. She also has a keen interest in metaphysics.



Kera Bruton lives on the south coast of New South Wales with her husband, two sons and Italian water dog Alfonzo. From a young age art has always been a major part of Kera's life. Her previous careers saw her working as a special-effects make-up artist and milliner. Kera loves creating illustrations that allow the viewer to enter a new world away from their own, where dreams can come true and new friends can be found. Kera loves to experiment with all media and uses multiple creative techniques in her illustrations. *The Plastic Throne* is her first picture book.



THE COLOUR OF MUSIC

Lisa Tiffen and Matt Ottley

Picture book | HB 32 | 210 x 297
ISBN: 9781925227871

Rights held: World

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 synaesthetic experience.

• **Multi-award winning illustrator**



Lisa Tiffen is a children's picture book author, illustrator and composer. She has previously published a family of four quirky books; *Grumps*, *Lovelies*, *Sorrows* and *Frights*. A piano teacher for many years, Lisa has recently commenced writing orchestral music to accompany her books. Being able to combine her love of music, art and writing makes her heart sing.



Matt Ottley is an award-winning multi-modal artist, working equally across the fields of literature, visual arts and music. Matt has had 37 picture books published and his work also appears in more than thirty nonfiction books. His awards include the CBCA Picture Book of the Year and both the Queensland & NSW Premier's Awards for literature. His international awards include Ibbv Honour Book for Australia and a White Ravens listing, Bologna. He has recorded his music with the Brno Philharmonic Orchestra and the Czech Philharmonic Choir.





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ANISA'S ALPHABET

Mike Dumbleton and Hannah Sommerville

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

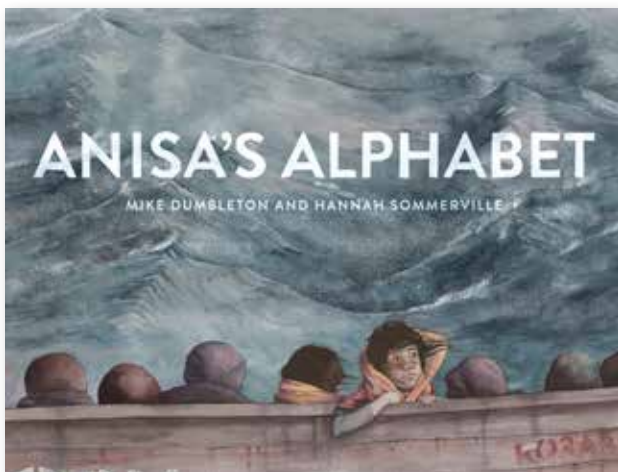
Rights held: World

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.

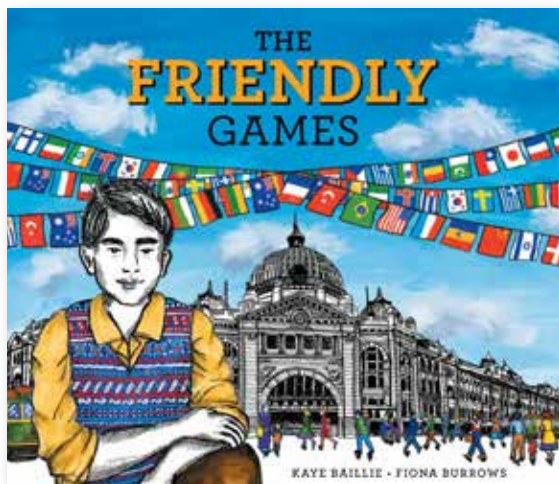
- **NOTABLE BOOK**
CBCA Awards 2021
- **SHORTLISTED** West Australia
Young Readers Book Awards



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 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.



THE FRIENDLY GAMES

**Kaye Baillie and
Fiona Burrows**

Picture book | HB 32 | 256 x 216
ISBN: 9781925227642

Rights held: World

In 1956 Melbourne hosted the Summer Olympic Games. Student John Wing was so proud of his country, one of the friendliest places on earth. But when world tensions dominated the news, John wrote an urgent letter suggesting how to change the Closing Ceremony to bring all nations together as one.



- SHORTLISTED NSW Premier's History Awards
- SHORTLISTED Children's Peace Literature Award

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.



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.





MAMA OCEAN

Jane Jolly and Sally Heinrich

Picture book | HB 32 | 250 x 300
ISBN: 9781925227659

Rights held: World

Mama Ocean had eyes that sparkled, like sunlight on the sea, and tresses which tumbled and trailed through the tides.

But something is troubling Mama Ocean.

Who will help her?

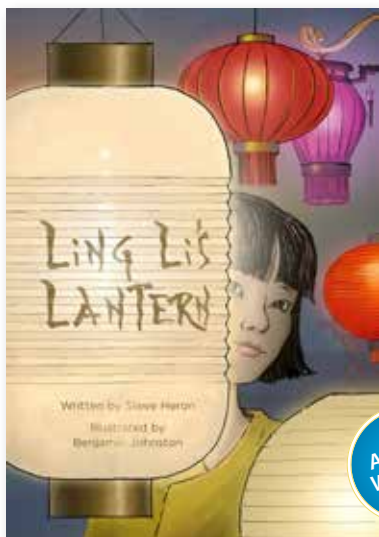
- From the team that created *One Step at a Time*, a CBCA Honour Book, and *Papa Sky*, a CBCA notable book.



After being a classroom teacher for 35 years **Jane Jolly** now works part time in the Resource Centre at Eastern Fleurieu School, immersing classes in literature. She has had three CBCA Notables, one CBCA Shortlisted and two CBCA Honour books. *Mama Ocean* is the third book on which Jane Jolly and Sally Heinrich have worked together.

Sally Heinrich is a writer, illustrator and printmaker, who has published more than forty books and exhibited widely in Australia and Asia. Her commissioned artwork ranges from wine labels to a mural for the Singapore Zoo, painting a life-size baby elephant sculpture for Melbourne Zoo and community arts projects.





LING LI'S LANTERN

Steve Heron and Benjamin Johnston

Picture book | HB 32 | 210 x 297

ISBN: 9781925227673

Rights held: World

After she is set a challenge to test her wisdom, Ling Li returns from the village marketplace with only a lantern to light her way. How will she prove herself to her father?

Ling Li's Lantern is a heart-warming story about compassion, kindness and the true nature of wisdom.



• WINNER Picture Book All Ages Category in the Northern Lights Awards



Steve Heron's passion is to write quality kids' books that will touch and tickle kids' hearts and foster hope. Steve's first series of picture books that focus on social issues were released in 2007. His first middle-grade novel *Maximus* was published by Serenity Press in 2018. Steve completed a Diploma of Children's Writing and Publishing in 2015 and in 2016 received an Order of Australia Medal for his contribution to the social and emotional wellbeing of children. *Ling Li's Lantern* is Steve's first stand-alone picture book.



Benjamin Johnston works as a mild-mannered architect by day but roams imaginary streets as a masked vigilante-illustrator by night. Add to this that he is also a husband, and dad of two girls...and he is really looking forward to the day he might actually have enough time for everything he wants to get done. Drawing and illustrating for children have always been his passion. He is the illustrator and co-creator of the successful STEM-inspired *Engibears* series.



ESMERALDA'S NEST

**Robert Moore and
Mandy Foot**

Picture book | HB 32 | 215 x 215
ISBN: 9781925227666

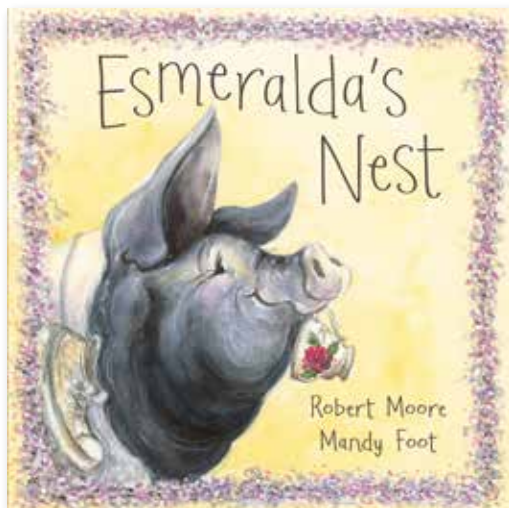
Rights held: World

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 trousers 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.



Robert Moore lives in Adelaide and is a published author of several children's books and fiction as well as numerous poems, articles and short stories. He won the inaugural Feast Short Story Competition and was awarded a special commendation by AsthmaSA for his play *Breathe Easy* which was written and workshopped in conjunction with children and staff from Para Hills Primary School.



Mandy Foot's obsession with drawing animals began when she was two, with chalk, on her grandparents' pavement. Now as a best-selling children's book illustrator and author of over 20 books, her canvas has evolved and her studio is shared with her joined-at-the-hip Border Collies. An Ambassador for Raising Literacy Australia, Mandy shares her passion for literacy and drawing via workshops with thousands of school students every year.

OUR
WORLD

VANISHING

**Mike Lucas and
Jennifer Harrison**

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

Rights held: World

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**

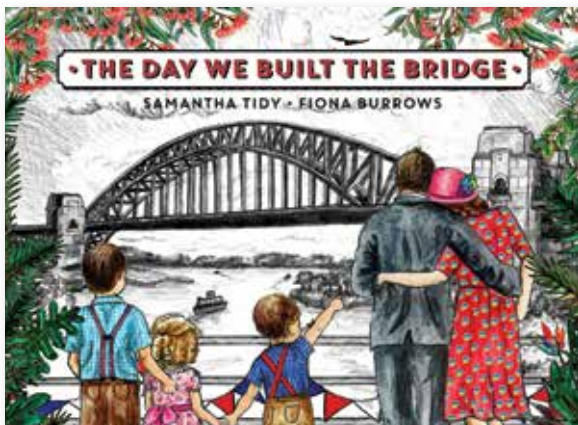
Picture book | HB 32 | 297 x 210
ISBN: 9781925227437

Rights held: World

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

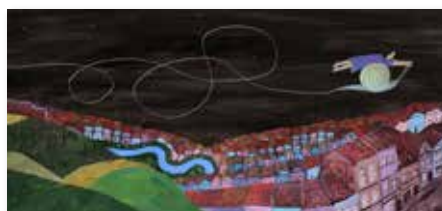
Amber Moffat

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

Rights held: World

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 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**

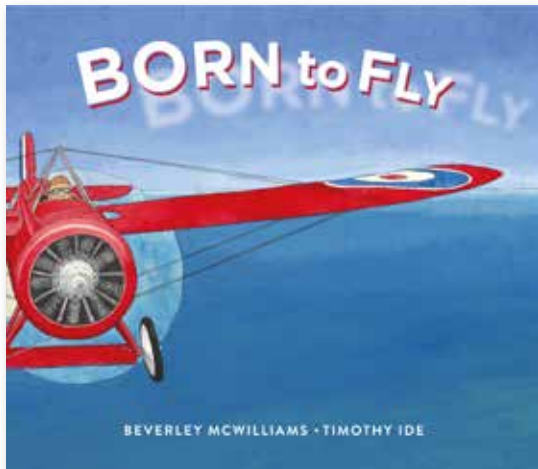
Picture book | HB 32 | 282 x 245
ISBN: 9781925227567

Rights held: World

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.

• NOTABLE BOOK CBCA Awards 2020



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* was published by MidnightSun mid-2019. She has also published work in children's magazines. Beverley lives in Adelaide with her husband, four children and a menagerie of pets, who provide endless inspiration.



Timothy Ide has illustrated a number of children's books, among them award-winning *Tom the Outback Mailman* and *King of the Outback* with Kristin Weidenbach as well as Beverley McWilliam's *Born to Fly*, 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.



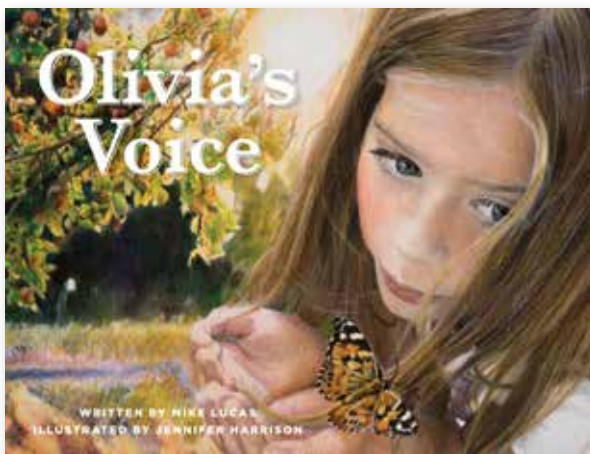
OLIVIA'S VOICE

**Mike Lucas and
Jennifer Harrison**

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

Rights held: World

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*.



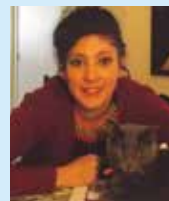
With evocative language and beautifully detailed illustrations, Lucas and Harrison bring to life the vivid experiences of Olivia, a young deaf girl, as she explores a silent world full of vibrant colour, friendship and fun. *Olivia's Voice* allows underrepresented deaf children to see themselves in a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

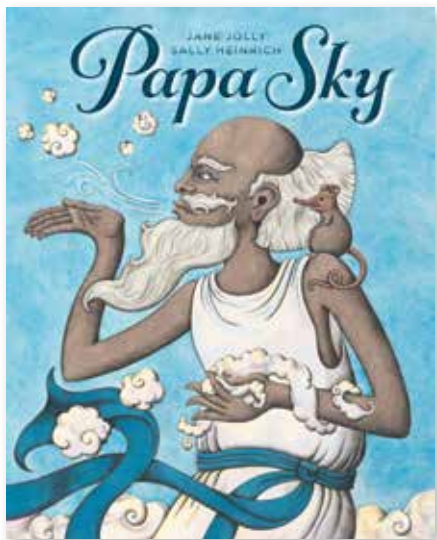
• **NOTABLE BOOK CBCA Awards 2018**

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 | 250 x 300
ISBN: 9781925227291

Rights held: World

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.

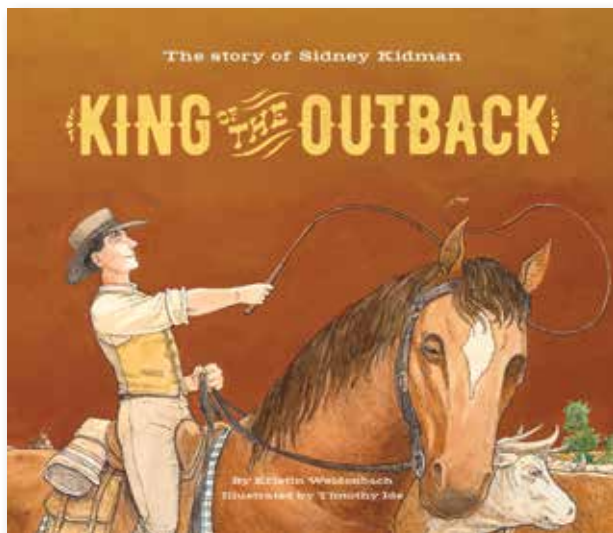
What will happen next? Who will help him?

• **NOTABLE BOOK CBCA Awards 2018**

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

Sally Heinrich is a writer, illustrator and printmaker, who has published more than forty books and exhibited widely in Australia and Asia. Her commissioned artwork ranges from wine labels to a mural for the Singapore Zoo, painting a life-size baby elephant sculpture for Melbourne Zoo and community arts projects.





KING OF THE OUTBACK

**Kristin Weidenbach
and Timothy Ide**

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

Rights held: World

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.

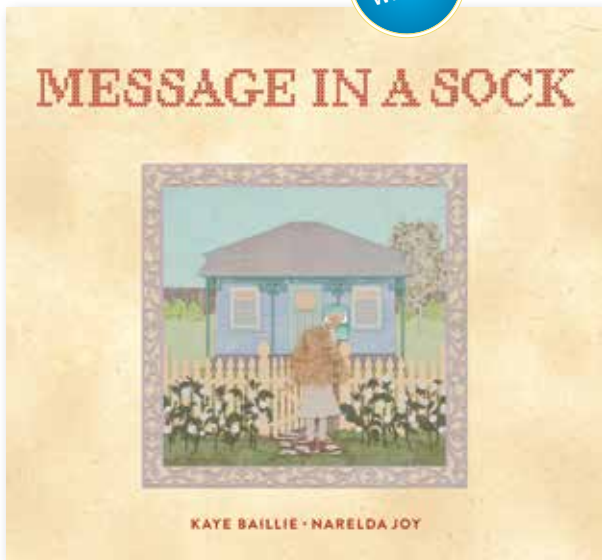
Many years later, when the workers on Sid's cattle station organise a giant rodeo for Sid's birthday party, the cattle from the bush take fright in the city. People panic and horses bolt. Can the Kidman stockmen save the day? *King of the Outback* tells the rags to riches story of one of Australia's 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 award-winning *Tom the Outback Mailman* and *King of the Outback* with Kristin Weidenbach as well as Beverley McWilliam's *Born to Fly*, 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 | 294 x 271
ISBN: 9781925227383

Rights held: World

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.

- **WINNER** Northern Lights Book Awards 2019
- **SHORTLISTED** West Australian Young Readers' Book Award 2019
- **SHORTLISTED** NSW Premier's History Awards 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 | 250 x 300
ISBN: 9780987380951

Rights held: World

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.

- HONOUR BOOK CBCA Awards 2016
- SHORTLISTED Western Australian Young Readers Awards 2016
- LONGLISTED Australian Book Industry Award 2016
- Chosen to travel to the Bologna Children's Book Fair with the exhibition *Hello! from Australia 2015*



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.

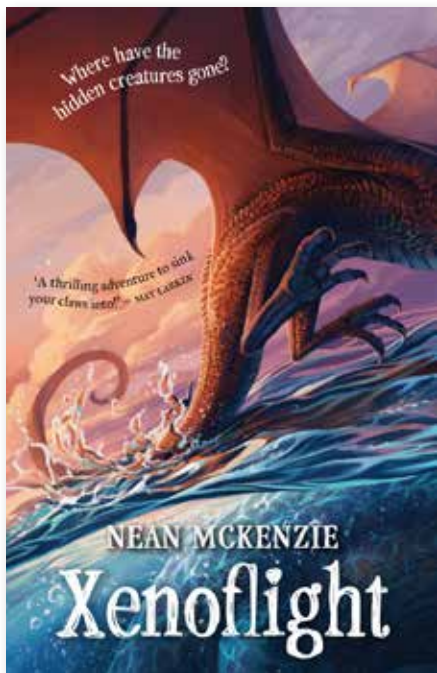


Sally Heinrich is a writer, illustrator and artist who has illustrated more than thirty books. Her work has been recognised through fellowships from Asialink Foundation, The May Gibbs Children's Literature Trust, Varuna – The Writers' House, Arts SA and the Ian Reed Foundation, and her original artwork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









XENOFLIGHT

Nean McKenzie

Middle-grade fiction | PB 240 | 128 x 198

ISBN: 9780987226518

Rights held: World

Apart from her flying pet ferret Fernando and her auntie Carla, 13-year-old Nessa Santiago is alone. Her mother died in a circus accident and she has never known her father. But when the day finally comes for Nessa to meet him, everything goes wrong. Her auntie unexpectedly leaves in a helicopter and a menacing Cryptid Hunter, who captures unusual creatures like Fernando, shows up instead. In order to keep Fernando safe, Nessa must run.

With help from Kep, a boy from her school, Nessa embarks on a wild journey through rural Australia to find her father. Nessa, Fernando and Kep are pursued by the anti-cryptid organisation HARNCESS and a mysterious giant bird in the sky. Along the way, they meet weird and wonderful creatures, but with each new encounter, more questions arise.

What are the visions Nessa gets every time she closes her eyes? And what are they trying to tell her about her parents?

'A thrilling adventure to sink your claws into!'

– Mat Larkin

'A weird and wonderful cryptid mystery that teases out the clues, one by one...'

– Sherry Clark



Nean McKenzie is a children's writer and optometrist who lives in western Melbourne. Originally from Bendigo, Nean lived in New Zealand, Europe and North East Africa before returning to Australia. She lives with her family and a cat called Lemonade who purrs, even when nervous.

Nean's first novel *Cryptosight* came out in 2019. She was awarded a Maurice Saxby mentorship for this story in 2017. Her second published book *Xenoflight* is a companion novel to *Cryptosight*, set in the same world but with different characters. Nean has a diploma in Professional Writing and Editing from RMIT and writes regular children's book reviews for *Buzzwords Books* magazine.

www.neanmckenzie.com

THE RAT-CATCHER'S APPRENTICE

Maggie Jankuloska

Middle-grade fiction | PB TBA | 128 x 198
ISBN: 9781925227949

Rights held: World

It's 1665. Rats have infested homes and alleys in Marie Perrin's provincial French town. Twelve-year-old Marie is set to become a maid, although she hungers for adventure. However, one mistake alters her fate and as punishment she is forced to apprentice for an intimidating rat-catcher.

Away from her parents and twin brother, and handling gnarly rat traps under Gustave Renard's unusual mentorship, Marie must overcome a new set of challenges which come after a plague enters her town.

Are rats responsible for the spread of the illness?
Can Marie find a way out of the bubbling danger around her?

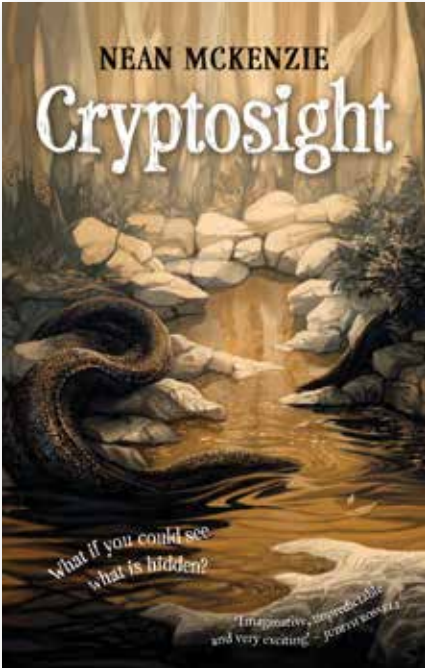
The Rat-Catcher's Apprentice depicts non-traditional families, belonging and female bravery in an atmospheric historical setting.



'An intrepid heroine, a perilous time in plague-ridden France, a society cleaved by class division. ... A compelling and rollicking MG novel!' – **Amra Pajalic**



Maggie Jankuloska was born in Ohrid, Macedonia. She has worked as a teacher/tutor in numerous settings. Maggie was one of the recipients of the 2018 Maurice Saxby Creative Writing Program. Her short fiction and non-fiction pieces have appeared in: *The Age/Sydney Morning Herald*, *SBS Voices*, *Award Winning Australian Writing*, *n-SCRIBE* and more. In 2020 she participated in the Written in the Time of COVID-19 public art display and was featured in the subsequent anthology. *The Rat-Catcher's Apprentice* is Maggie Jankuloska's first published novel. Maggie has a passion for writing historical fiction and is currently working on a new children's novel. She is interested in creating layered and realistic characters who overcome obstacles and impart a message of resilience, tolerance and empathy. Maggie Jankuloska lives in the northern suburbs of Melbourne with her husband and son. To connect, find Maggie's author pages on social media.



CRYPTOSIGHT

Nean McKenzie

Middle-grade fiction | PB 176 | 128 x 198
ISBN: 9781925227536

Rights held: World

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' around country Victoria of creatures Raff doesn't believe in. 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. Originally from Bendigo, Nean lived in New Zealand, Europe and North East Africa before returning to Australia. She lives with her family and a cat called Lemonade who purrs, even when nervous.

Nean's first novel *Cryptosight* came out in 2019. She was awarded a Maurice Saxby mentorship for this story in 2017. Her second published book *Xenoflight* is a companion novel to *Cryptosight*, set in the same world but with different characters. Nean has a diploma in Professional Writing and Editing from RMIT and writes regular children's book reviews for *Buzzwords Books* magazine.

www.neanmckenzie.com

INTO TORDON

Z.F. Kingbolt

Middle-grade fiction | PB 256 | 128 x 198

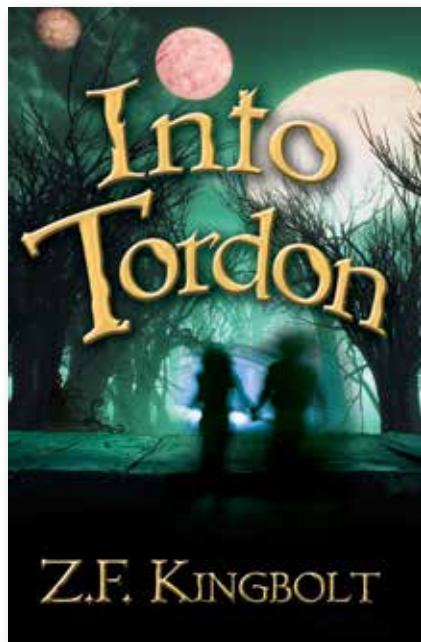
ISBN: 9781925227147

Rights held: World

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 | 128 x 198
ISBN: 9781925227253

Rights held: World

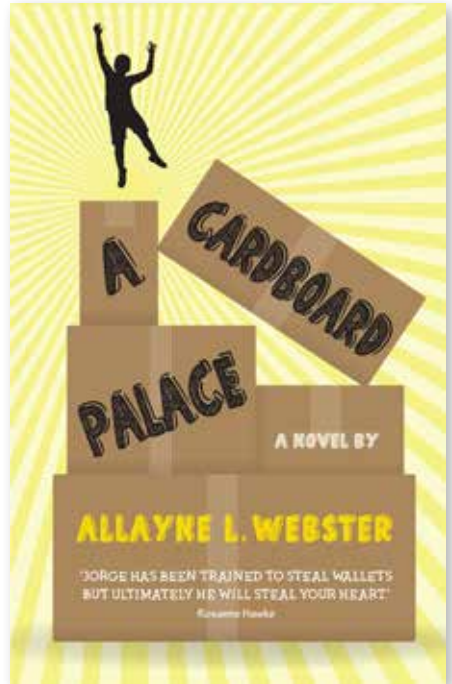
Rights sold: Swedish

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.



• NOTABLE BOOK CBCA Awards 2018

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 - released in February 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*.



SOMETHING ABOUT ALASKA

J. A. Cooper

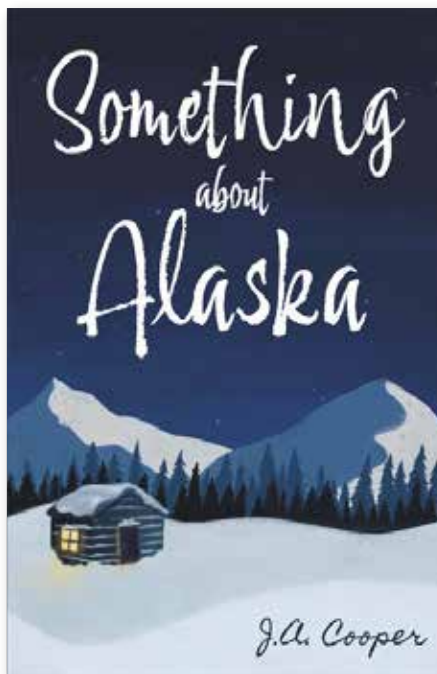
YA fiction | PB TBA | 128 x 198
ISBN: 9780987380975

Rights held: World

'It's a wicked cold, the Alaska winter, and can kill a man in a second...'

Nearing 15, Zac Greene travels to Alaska to re-connect with the father he's only ever known from a distance. But Zac's dad is a lone wolf – a wounded soul who'd rather drown his regrets in a bottle of bourbon than confront the mistakes of his past. As Zac struggles to earn his father's approval, things spiral out of control forcing Zac to take his chances with the Alaskan winter. Whatever hope remains for father and son quickly fades, as Zac is forced to hitchhike to escape the hostile weather and soon finds himself sharing a remote cabin with a total stranger... and his gun.

'They say you don't know your enemies from your friends until the ice breaks beneath your feet...'



J.A. Cooper Years ago, James Cooper travelled the world over and once spent three months tending sled dogs in Alaska. His work as a teacher took him from southern England to the remote Australian outback, and he completed his PhD while living in a tin shed on 40 acres. Nowadays, his adventures mostly take place on the page. He loves reading and writing poetry and stories that reveal the extraordinary in the ordinary, and his work has appeared in such journals as *Dappled Things*, *Light Poetry Magazine*, and *Quadrant* (forthcoming). He is Senior Editor of *inScribe* journal and teaches writing and communication at Adelaide's Tabor College. James counts himself blessed to live in the Adelaide Hills with his wife and two sons. *Something About Alaska* is his first novel.



THE GHOST SQUAD

Sophie Masson

YA fiction | PB 448 | 128 x 198
ISBN: 9781925227772

Rights held: World

Imagine a world where all seems normal and yet nothing is – a world very much like our own, yet jarringly unlike. A world where two clandestine organisations, the Ghost Squad and the Base, are engaged in a secret battle for control of information so dangerous it could literally change life as humans have always known it...

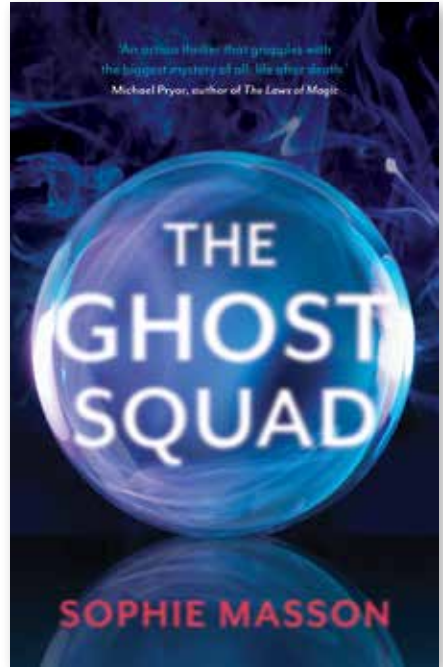
A bold, exciting novel with thrilling twists and turns, *The Ghost Squad* is a novel that will keep readers guessing – and keep them awake at night!

‘Get set for a heart-stopping chase, a stunning near-future world, and a desperate struggle to discover the truth about life, death and what comes next.’

Alison Goodman, author of the bestselling Dark Days series

‘An action thriller that grapples with the biggest mystery of all: life after death.’

Michael Pryor, author of *The Laws of Magic*



Born in Indonesia of French parents, and brought up in France and Australia, **Sophie Masson** is the award-winning and internationally-published author of over 60 books for children, young adults and adults. A former chair of the Australian Society of Authors and current chair of the New England Writers' Centre, in 2019 Sophie received an AM (Member, General Division) award in the Order of Australia.

THE LANTERNIST

Stephen Orr

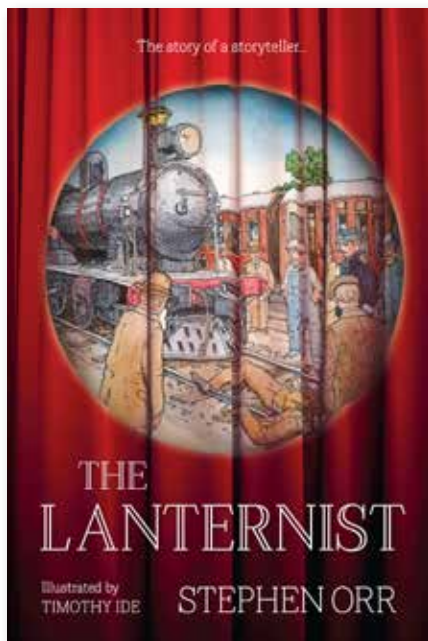
YA / Middle-grade fiction | PB 400 | 128 x 198
ISBN: 9781925227840

Rights held: World

1901. The slide clunks into the lantern, and Phantoms come alive on the wall. The father-and-son Magic Lantern team of Bert and Tom Eliot are masters of The Art of the Story. The only problem is that they are missing a wife and mother. Then one morning eleven-year-old Tom wakes to find his father missing, too.

The Lanternist's apprentice is thrown out of home, forced to work for the arch-criminal Jimmy Sacks, arrested and imprisoned. Will he ever be able to escape with his new friend Max and make the long, flea-bitten, rat-infested journey to Sydney in search of his parents?

The Lanternist is a story about stories, and how they show us a way through life, despite callous landladies, corrupt officials, criminal companions and the problems with living in incinerators. But mostly, it is about searching, and making your own endings.



Celebrated author Stephen Orr's first foray into young adult literature is a thrilling historical adventure.



Stephen Orr has published eight novels, a book of short stories, as well as essays, columns and other scribbles. Thankfully, he has never written a poem, ever. He has taught Science and English in Queensland, Victoria and South Australia and, to be honest, has learnt more in schools than he's taught (especially how to get pen refills to stick into ceiling tiles). He's come second (or third or fourth) in many awards and competitions, so now believes that winning is overrated (although his vegetable soup did help the 1st Hillcrest Scouts win the 1979 Cohen Cup for best bush cooks!).



Timothy Ide has illustrated a number of children's books, among them award-winning *Tom the Outback Mailman* and *King of the Outback* with Kristin Weidenbach as well as Beverley McWilliam's *Born to Fly*, 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.

CITY KNIFE

Rachel Hennessy

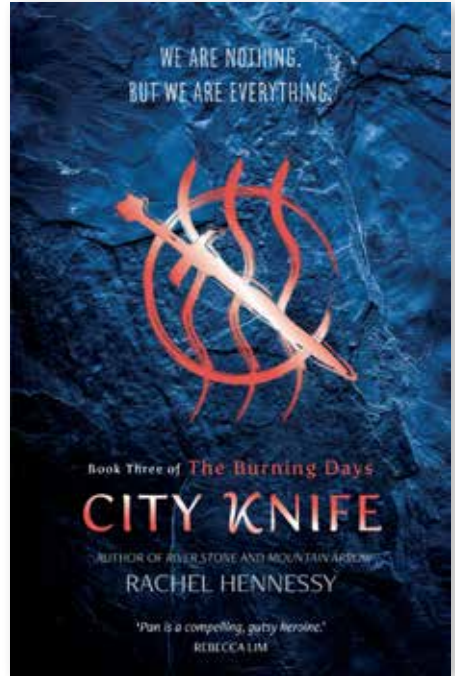
YA Fiction | PB TBA | 128 x 198
ISBN: 9781925227970

Rights held: World

The chimera of the city are on the hunt.

After years of being individually slaughtered, they have come together to make war on Pandora and her people.

In the conclusion to *The Burning Days*, the sins of the past will be revealed and all hope for the future will be under attack.



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.



MOUNTAIN ARROW

Rachel Hennessy

YA Fiction | PB 368 | 128 x 198

ISBN: 9781925227741

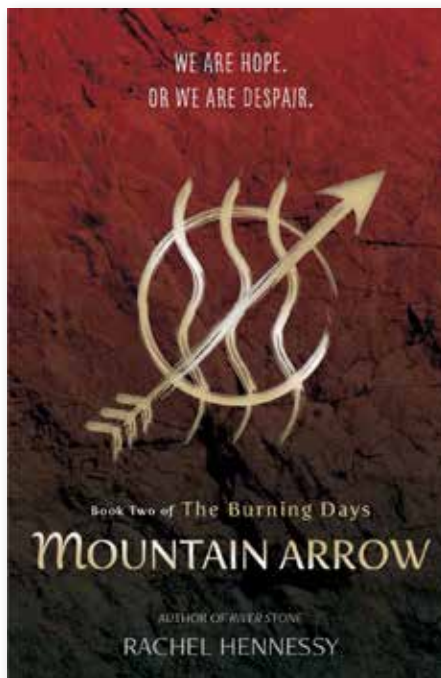
Rights held: World

The River People and the Mountain People have survived for another season. But at what cost?

Pandora has returned to her village. She is haunted both by her failure to bring her friend home and the vision she has seen of the last days, The Burning, when creatures swarmed the city. How did these monsters come into being in the first place? And are the last remnants of humanity really safe from them?

While Pan now knows how to shoot an arrow, she still does not know the shape of her heart and the river stone remains in two pieces ...

'River Stone is a cut above ... I'm sure I won't be alone in eagerly anticipating the next instalment in this stellar new series.' **The Children's Book Council of Australia's Reading Time**



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.



RIVER STONE

Rachel Hennessy

YA Fiction | PB 368 | 128 x 198
ISBN: 9781925227499

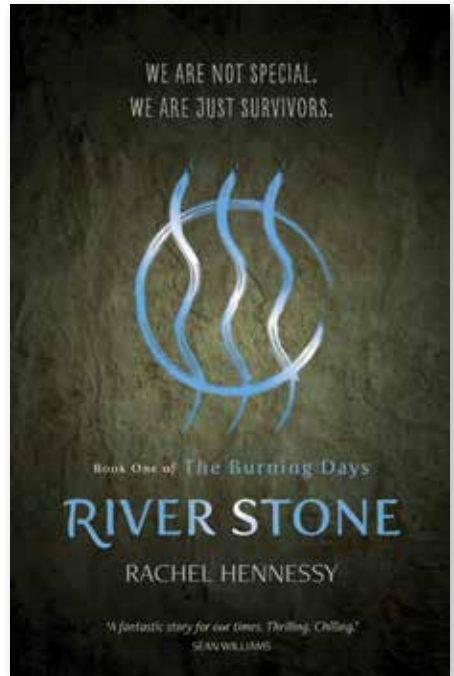
Rights held: World

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 | 128 x 198

ISBN: 9781925227451

Rights held: World

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?

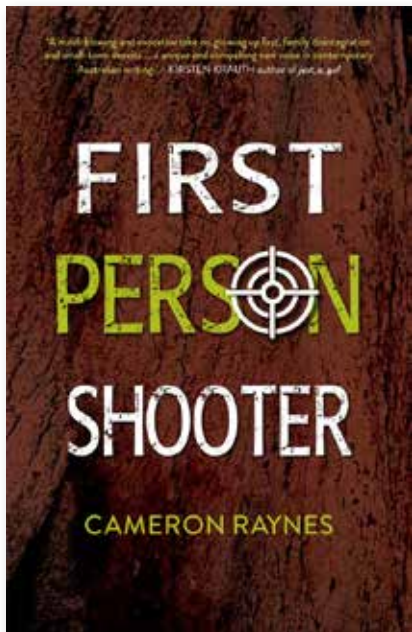
Heaven Sent is a story of love, trust and redemption in a world where not everyone is the perfect fit.

'*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*

'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*



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* was published 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 | 129 x 198
ISBN: 9781925227079

Rights held: World

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*.

Coming in 2023 and beyond

SATIN

Sophie Masson and Lorena Carrington

Satin's collected all kinds of blues, from all kinds of places. He's making something beautiful, with all those blues. But something's missing, and he doesn't know what it is. And then, one day, he comes to a street he's never been in before. And what he finds there will change his lonely life forever.

A beautiful, haunting fable by award-winning writer Sophie Masson and acclaimed illustrator Lorena Carrington.

ALICE'S SHOE

Julie Thorndyke and Jennifer Harrison

Alice's world is covered by a grey blanket that won't lift; she can't hear and she can't see. Her greatest skill is using touch and that's why she hates her shoes as they stand between her and the soft earth. When Alice is old enough, she goes to school where she becomes the first deafblind person in Australia to be educated.

Based on a true story, the inspirational tale of Alice Betteridge is full of compassion, perseverance and bare feet!

BOUND TOGETHER

Beth Dolan and Ronak Taher

The girls of Changi Prison are not free but they share a great bond; they are bound together by their love of their Girl Guide leader, Mrs Ennis. To show their love, they work for months to create an intricate and beautiful quilt for their leader who educates them all during their imprisonment.

A heart-warming story of survival, kindness and motivation.

THE KELLY GANG KIDS

Coral Vass and Deb Hudson

A group of rowdy, brash children turn their town to muck by causing mayhem and skedaddling to places where they're not wanted. Only when one of them is in danger does a hero, Ned, emerge from the raucous group to save the day and clear their name.

Hilarious and fun, this lyrical and upbeat story is an enthralling tale for any reader.

MIZUTO AND THE WIND

Kaye Baillie and Luisa Gioffre-Suzuki

After a terrible tsunami steals Mizuto's father, the young boy is heartbroken. But after learning of a power to speak to a lost loved one through a phone booth, Mizuto is determined to speak to his father again. With his mother in tow, they set out to come to terms with what they have lost.

This is a heartfelt story of grief, acceptance and growth.

FRAN'S FANTASTIC FART

Rita Batshon and Robin Tatlow-Lord

Fran promises to be a good girl at a party, but when she gulps down a scrumptious drink she quickly begins to inflate like a balloon. She drifts up to the ceiling, wondering how she's going to get down, when she suddenly gets the urge to fart! With the party a mess, and her bottom red raw, she can't possibly understand why the crowd shouts for "more!"

Cheeky and hysterical, this is a hilarious story which will leave you giggling.

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