



KIDS' CORNER

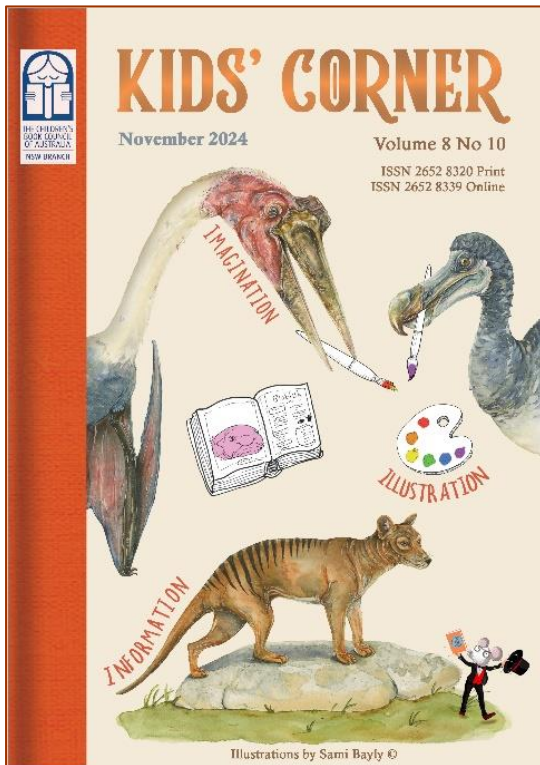
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Illustrations by Sami Bayly ©



WELCOME to Sami Bayly as our **GUEST ILLUSTRATOR** and **AUTHOR** for the November 2024 issue of **KIDS' CORNER**

<https://www.cbcanw.org.au/kids-corner>

With the help of her unusual and special magic menagerie on the cover of **KC**, Sami sets the scene for books that blend reading, writing, imagining, and creating AND share a special package of

IMAGINATION...

ILLUSTRATION...

and INFORMATION.

We hope you enjoy the features on:

- unique illustrations and picture books
- kids and KOALAS
- brain building and reading,
- Australian environment,
- science, sport and stories,
- and of course, more.



Looking ahead to December, we get ready for more magic to wind up the year *with* **BAGS = Books As Gifts**, a special listing of recent and upcoming titles by our CBCA NSW authors and Illustrators – just in time for holiday shopping.

Happy reading always – Cheers- Morrie, Maryanna O'Mouse and Magic Morrie



Sami Bayly has featured over 300 creatures in her books. She shares creatures who may be camouflaged, curious, dangerous, extinct, peculiar, surprising, or ugly. She helped keep others reading by designing the 2024 NSW Premiers' Reading Challenge poster.

Her latest book, ***The Illustrated Encyclopaedia of Extinct Animals*** (Lothian/ Hachette), helps us understand the contributions that extinct and critically endangered animals have made to the natural world and explains some of the reasons behind their extinction status. The more we learn about them, the more we can take care of the environment, and the more the environment can take care of us. Sami's books share the perfect blend of **IMAGINATION, ILLUSTRATION and INFORMATION.**



Sharing a curious, dangerous, peculiar and amazing world with

GUEST AUTHOR and ILLUSTRATOR

SAMI BAYLY <https://www.samibayly.com/>

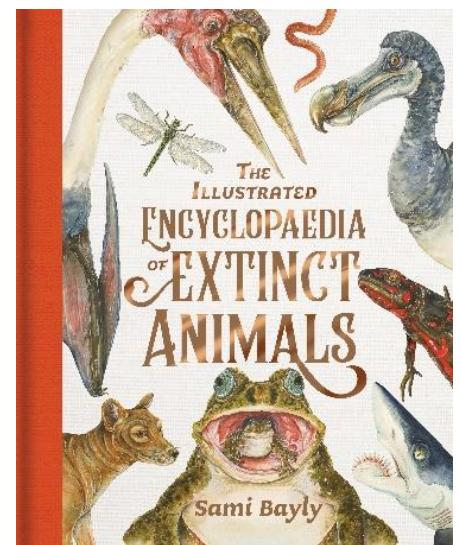
Can we start with a brief summary of your "encyclopedia" books?

Featuring facts and astonishing illustrations about sixty amazing animals, each of my illustrated encyclopaedias explore the adaptations that animals have undertaken over many years to help them survive. Whether it's about ugly, dangerous, peculiar or extinct creatures, each turn of the page uncovers a new animal, with one page showcasing my watercolour illustration and the other providing the information, such as description, conservation status, habitat/location, diet and fun facts.

How did you become interested/involved in art, science and animals?

I grew up just outside of Port Macquarie. From an early age, I found so much joy in seeing the weird and wonderful creatures around me. This included frequent visits from wild animals such as Antechinus, bandy-bandy snakes, goannas, and possums. I also had a vast range of pets including dogs, miniature ponies, donkeys, fish, rabbits, chickens and more. My sister and I were fortunate enough to inherit my mother's artistic skills (sorry Dad). I was quick to sketch everything I could - pets, the room around me and even DVD covers.

After studying art in High School, my mum helped me discover a unique degree named **Natural History Illustration** at the University of Newcastle. It helped me learn about plants, animals, and other organisms in the context of the habitats in which they occur. It also gave me a real focus for my artwork. It was the best decision I have ever made.



How did you learn to combine artistic talent with scientific knowledge and research?

My degree taught me to not only illustrate flora and fauna, but also to research them. My assignments would sometimes consist of painting a portrait of an animal, researching it, and then turning it into an infographic (an information poster). I developed so many of my current skills whilst at university and loved every second of it.

Blobfish © Sami Bayly



Why do you focus on unusual creatures?

Most people spend their lives avoiding unusual animals. I, on the other hand, found myself being drawn towards them. I aim to teach children that it is not fair to judge an animal (or human) based on their appearance. Creatures come in a range of shapes, colours, textures and sizes. Many of the features that we deem as “ugly” or “weird” are actually amazing adaptations that have evolved over many years to assist with their survival. I think by learning this, we can become a more loving, educated and thoughtful society.

Nile Crocodile and Egyptian Plover © Sami Bayly



We tend to think of your works as being visual, but obviously there is a lot of writing involved in your books. Do you think of words or images first?

When writing, I always try to imagine what I would have wanted to read and discover when I was a kid. I know that if I am excited and passionate about my project kids like me, will be intrigued by the strange elements in nature. Since I am not a scientist, I write in a way that is natural for me but also simple enough for primary-aged children to understand. I spend months researching each book, before beginning any artwork. The scientific illustrations are just as important as the facts. If one is lacking, the other will too.

My initial information comes from experts and information from National Geographic, Australian Geographic, the Australian Museum, local government websites, zoo websites, scientific papers, podcasts, books and more! The text drafts are then sent off to be edited, and I begin the illustration side of things.

Sabre-toothed Cat ©Sami Bayly



-Do you draw from real life? Screen? Photos? Other?

I feature over 300 animals/plants across my books and have seen around 20% of them in the flesh, many of which were at zoos or wildlife parks. I did, however, have the pleasure of meeting two ‘ugly animals’ in the wild when I went to Borneo. I travelled to study the ecology of the proboscis monkey and Bornean orangutan, two very special and rare primates. I would love to one day visit more animals across the globe, but until then I must rely on other methods like photographs and videos.

Northern Gastric Brooding Frog ©Sami Bayly



Why are you interested in animals?

I believe that my love of animals when I was young has continued into adulthood and flourished into what now is a love of illustrating and learning about the natural world. I love studying unusual and bizarre creatures and putting together the pieces in my mind as to why certain creatures have evolved their peculiar habits or features. It allowed me to realise that there is almost always a reason as to why something looks the way it does.

Is there a particular creature that you just couldn't wait to paint or learn about?

The hornbill. These prehistoric-looking birds can be enormous, and they have a giant beak to match (called a casque). I've always been intrigued by them but was especially inspired when I went to Borneo and saw a

few flying over us. I decided to include two species in my 'Ugly Animal' encyclopaedia and couldn't wait to paint their unique features and learn more about why they are so intriguing.

Do you have any pets?

I have a pet staffy named Frankie who has been one of my best friends and always provides lots of love and laughs. She often curls up in her bed in my office snoring away while I work on my books.

Why should people care about animals/the environment?

Humans often base an animal's worth on how beautiful, ugly or useful it is. We need to appreciate that each creature fulfils its role purely by existing within its ecosystem. It doesn't need to fit our social structures of beauty or worth to be appreciated and respected. If we understand and care for the whole environment, it will care for us.

NEW ILLUSTRATORS

-CBCA AWARD FOR NEW ILLUSTRATORS

This Award aims to recognise and encourage new talent in the field of Australian children's book illustration. Ages 0-18 years.

While the books obviously include pictures plus language, illustrations must form a significant part of the book's narrative or information content. The author and the illustrator each create slightly different stories. The blend of these stories creates a unique and remarkable version of the overall story.

Entries for this award must be the illustrator's first children's illustrated book.

There were 40 entries in the 2024 CBCA New Illustrator category. Several books were entered in multiple categories including **Picture Book**, **Early Childhood**, and **Eve Pownall**.



ETTA AND THE SHADOW TABOO

-shadows, spirits, friendships

GRACE AND MR MILLIGAN

-loss, love, caring

HOPE IS THE THING

- birds, songs, nature

PHONOBET

- words, sounds stories

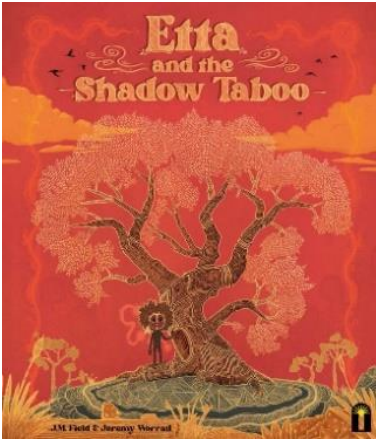
RAISED BY MOTHS

-worlds, nature, childhood

WHEN YOU'RE A BOY

-nature, kindness, being.

ETTA and the SHADOW TABOO



*The spirit tree knows
The spirit tree cares
Where is my shadow?
And where is theirs?*

ETTA and the SHADOW TABOO
by Jeremy Worrall, Illustrator
and written by Jared Field, Author

(Bright Light (an imprint of Hardie Grant Children's Publishing))

<https://publishing.hardiegrant.com/en-au/books/etta-and-the-shadow-taboo-by-jared-m-field/9781760509798>

The Shadow Taboo is an old Gamilaraay tradition where one must avoid stepping on the shadows of others. Jared Field shares this traditional custom through the story of Etta – a girl who learns this lesson the hard way when she stands on her Baawaa's (sister's) shadow. Etta turns to the spirit tree for guidance and is shown the importance of respecting the personal space of others – and the value of having her own personal space ... Information provided by Hardie Grant Publishing

<https://publishing.hardiegrant.com/en-au/books/etta-and-the-shadow-taboo-by-jared-m-field/9781760509798>

GRACE AND MR MILLIGAN



by Pip KRUGER, Illustrator

www.pipkruger.com

Instagram @pipkruger

<https://www.facebook.com/PipKrugerIllustration>

and written by Caz GOODWIN

Website: www.cazgoodwin.com

Instagram: @cazgoodwin0

Facebook: [Caz Goodwin](https://www.facebook.com/CazGoodwin)

(Marshall Cavendish)

Tell us about the book, Grace and Mr Milligan.

Grace and Mr Milligan is a bitter-sweet story of loss, love and the healing power of friendship lives next door to old Mr Milligan and his goat Charlie. They are the best of friends. But when Charlie passes away, everything changes. Grace is worried about Mr Milligan, who won't come outside. In her childlike way, she tries to help him deal with his grief and venture back into the world.



Caz Goodwin

Why did you write this book?

The book is about death, which can be confusing and confronting. It is often difficult for children to comprehend, and adults can find it a challenging topic to discuss. I wanted to write about a child

struggling as she watches a much-loved adult suffering from the death of his beloved pet. I aimed to keep the tone sensitive, yet light, and show how children often want to help, but don't know how. I hope the book fosters conversations about death and dying, grief, friendship and kindness. ~ Caz

How does Pip Kruger, the illustrator, bring your story to life?

Pip's bright, lively illustrations balance the sadness surrounding Charlie's death. The colours used are sometimes subdued, but never dark or morose. The illustrations enhance the readers' understanding of the characters. Grace's appearance and accessories point to her Asian heritage. Mr Milligan loves wearing Hawaiian shirts and shorts, reflecting his colourful personality. I love how carefully the visual details in the book have been chosen, even down to Mr Milligan's retro floral wallpaper. Pip's illustrations are delightful, and perfect for the story. ~ Caz



Pip Kruger

and "Hello to Pip... What influences your art?"

As a keen observer and obsessive notebook carrier; the world around me is constantly recorded in pen and ink drawings. Illustrating Grace and Mr Milligan was a process that totally consumed me. Every detail, down to the tiniest ladybug or the shape of a single little shell was considered, and the first place I would look for inspiration was in my everyday life. Grace wears yellow gum boots, the same as my daughter who is of a similar age; the illustrated coastline in the book is based on the beach scene at the end of the street where I live, and the big apple tree reminds me of my childhood growing up in the Adelaide Hills. ~Pip

How would you describe your techniques?

My illustrations incorporate hand-drawn elements with digital collage, fabric patterns and textured decoration. I celebrate the personal touch and appreciate imperfections and wobbly freehand lines. Having said this, I also do a lot of research to ensure a level of technical correctness! I studied goats for many weeks before putting pen to paper. I drove around McLaren Vale, my local wine region, photographing the vines and grapes as soon as they came into season. And I paid extra attention to the flowers that came into bloom in my garden. Whilst my work begins on paper, it always ends up as a digital illustration as I construct the various layers that form the finished piece. ~ Pip

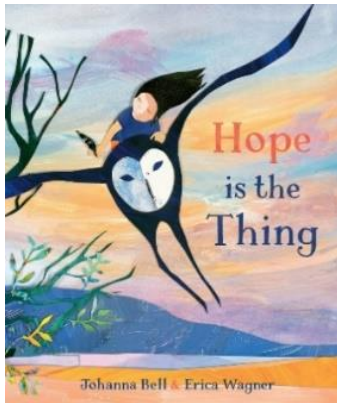
Is there a particular part of the book that you enjoyed working on?

My favourite page to illustrate was the vet scene because of all the fun I had filling the waiting room with extra characters. I wanted to add a lightness to the otherwise sad situation. The three main characters found themselves in by introducing some humour and lots of little details for the viewer to have a chuckle at and enjoy discovering. ~ Pip

What surprises you about how picture books blend art and language to create stories?

What surprises me most about picture books is the sheer volume of information that can be communicated when the words and the pictures work together to tell a story. The illustrations can add what would otherwise need thousands of extra words to describe! When the words and the visuals blend, the reader doesn't just read the words, but they are pulled into another world that has come to life. They discover something new each time they re-visit the book. This is what I hope happens when someone picks up Grace and Mr Milligan. ~ Pip

HOPE IS THE THING



by Erica WAGNER (illustrator) <https://www.ericawagner.com.au/>
and

written by Johanna BELL www.johannabell.com
(Allen & Unwin Children)

The artwork for *Hope is the Thing* is a series of collage images I created to accompany Johanna Bell's poem, riffing on Emily Dickinson's famous poem 'Hope is the Thing with Feathers'.

Our picture-book collaboration asks the question:

If hope is the thing with feathers, what does that look like in our Australia today?



The seed for the book was planted during the six-month Octopus Story Camp that author Johanna and I ran in Darwin in 2019 for twenty-four writers and artists collaborating on illustrated texts. We loved seeing how the participants responded to prompts and took creative risks to develop their projects and ideas. At the end of the project, Johanna and I hatched a plan to play with the creative exercises we'd used with the group on each other, to stay open and flexible, ask 'what if' and see what might emerge. So, we started to meet online with Johanna writing and me drawing, to see what might spark between us.

Then the catastrophic fires of 2019 and 2020 hit, followed by the pandemic, and our focus was drawn to birds and what they can teach us about resilience and adaptation. Gradually, we realised we were making a picture book.

My collage material comes from old work, piles of life drawings, landscape sketches, still life compositions - abandoned or discarded - as well as plain painted backgrounds, monoprints, and fragments of text from books and journals. I paint the backgrounds loosely, using colours that evoke places I love: the wide-open skies of central and northern Australia, misty mountain forests, wild burnt coastlines, tender sunrises, dramatic storms and sunsets. Onto these colour fields, I place torn and cut shapes, looking for angles and contrasts of light and dark, thick and thin, rough and smooth, curves and straight lines.

I draw birds in action and trace their shapes onto the back of the old artworks, so it's a surprise when I turn the cut shape over. I tear a painting I remember doing on a riverbank in the Kimberley, a leaf print from my garden. I cut out shapes with nail scissors and scalpels. I search through piles of paper that have come from all over the place, from long ago paintings and sketchbooks, for just the right scrap of rough moody colour, the right bright red.

I'm greatly influenced by the many inspirational children's book illustrators I've had the privilege of working with over the years. This includes Leigh Hobbs, Chris McKimmie, Ann James, Anne Spudvilas, Greg Rogers, and so many more. I remain in awe of brilliant creators like Patricia Mullins, Jeannie Baker, Shaun Tan - and constantly turn to books from my childhood like *Uhu* by Annette Macarthur-Onslow and the

work of Brian Wildsmith and Eric Carle.

The experience of making this book connected me back to what I loved doing as a child - drawing and making things while listening to stories. As the youngest of five my parents and my middle sister, in particular, used to read stories to me and that was when I felt totally secure and happy. So, in the artwork, I wanted to express the joy of imagination and the fun and transformative power of making things from everyday materials. ~ Erica



-Johanna BELL - Writer/ Producer/ Director

www.johannabell.com

www.storyprojects.com.au

Do other poets inspire your work?

This book was very much inspired by another poet – Emily Dickinson. She wrote a poem in the 1800s called Hope is the thing with feathers. And it starts:

*“Hope” is the thing with feathers -
That perches in the soul -
And sings the tune without the words -
And never stops - at all –*

Birds have always elicited joy and fascination for me. In fact, my first word was 'bored' (which was my toddler attempt to say bird). When I watch birds, as in really pay close attention, I feel the rest of the world shrink away and I always learn something new. Just this morning I was watching a blue wren on the fence and I noticed how he bowed to the females when they landed. Birds, of all kinds, are so well-adapted for their particular ways of living. In this book, I hoped to be able to turn the gaze of readers towards the world of birds and in doing so, evoke a little of the hope that I experience when I pay close attention to birds.

Is there a particular part of the book that you enjoyed working on?

I loved everything about working on this book, from the first draft, penned just outside Litchfield National Park in the Northern Territory, to working online with Erica and seeing her magnificent collages come to life, to researching Australian birds and re-working the couplets until I felt they were just right. It's hard to capture the character of a bird in so few words but I always knew that Erica's incredible illustrations would help do much of the work. I just love the way her work embodies each unique species.

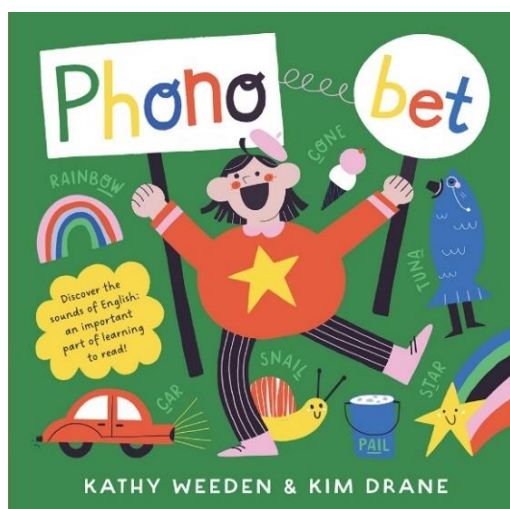
What surprises you about how picture books blend art and language to create stories?

I'm always surprised by the way my words are interpreted. Even when I work very closely with an artist from the outset of a book's inception, as was the case with Hope is the Thing, there are always surprises. Every time Erica sent her newest pages through, it was like unwrapping a gift. I'd take a deep breath and

open the pdf, and birds would fly off the pages. I love the way she hid the lorikeet in the eucalyptus tree and integrated pages from real texts like the newspaper to illustrate the fish and chip wrapping and old maps to illustrate the urban streets where the little girl ducks and weaves to avoid the magpies.

But most of all, I love the way that Erica works, repurposing fragments from older artworks to rebuild something new and beautiful. This regenerative process is very much like the process a forest undergoes after a bushfire. Savvy readers will notice that the charred forest on the cover of the book has sprouted and called back all the birds by the book's final pages. That's something I love about good picture books - *The more you read, the more you see...*

And Erica's art is very much like that, working on a number of literal and metaphorical levels. ~ Joanna



Who knew there are more sounds in reading than just the 26-letter alphabet!



Kim DRANE



Kathy WEEDEN

PHONOBET (National Library of Australia - NLA)

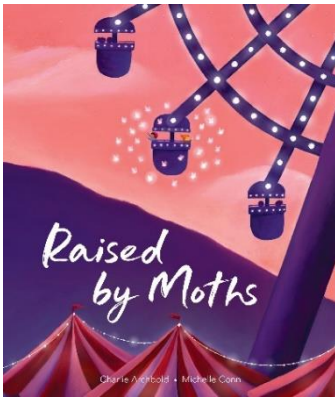
by Kim DRANE, Illustrator <https://www.kimdrane.com/>
and written by Kathy WEEDEN <https://kathyweeden.com/>

Phonobet is a modern-day, Australian answer to Dr Seuss's ABC. This very clever rhyming text takes an onomatopoeic romp through the 44 phonemes of Australian (and British) English, comparing sounds to trees, bees, trains, robots, monkeys, pirates and more. Phonemes are the individual sounds that make up words, for example **Pad/ Bad/ Sad/ Mad**.

*Come and meet the Phonobet, old Alpha Betty's twin,
The set of all the sounds you use when waggling your chin.*

*So, once you know the Phonobet, I'm certain that you'll find
A wacky world of wonder words with sounds of every kind,
The sounds are yours to say and sing and twist and taste and chew.
And then, what should you do with them? Well, that's up to you.*

Adapted from <https://newsouthbooks.com.au/books/phonobet/>



RAISED BY MOTHS

by **Michelle CONN, Illustrator**

Website: www.michelleconnillustration.com

Instagram: @michelleconn_illustration

and written by **Charlie ARCHBOLD**

Website: <https://charliearchbold.com/>

(Midnight Sun Publishing)

Raised by Moths - Illustrator responses by Michelle CONN

Raised by Moths is about the magical idea that children are raised by animals before they find their human family.

How did you become interested in creating through art? language?

From early childhood, I've always loved art and stories. Books and movies are my favourite form of art. I love any art that takes me on an emotional journey, so picture books are perfect for me!

What influences your art? writing?

I'm really interested in how humans behave. How they treat each other and all the big emotions they experience. I love art and stories that make me feel

something.

How would you describe your techniques?

The initial roughs are created with thumbnail sketches on paper. I photograph these images and layer them in a program called Procreate. I like to use brushes that have a traditional look to them so that the finished artwork has lots of texture.

Is there a particular part of the book that you enjoyed working on?

I loved creating the magical atmosphere for the story and choosing mystical colours and different perspectives for the reader to be immersed in.

What surprises you about how picture books blend art and language to create stories?

The way an illustrator interprets the language is always interesting to me. The artwork and language has the ability to stand alone as a work of art but when combined they take on a whole new meaning.



Charlie ARCHBOLD, Author <https://charliearchbold.com/>

Raised by Moths

This story is about Willow. She rides the Ferris Wheel and sees a boy surrounded by moths. As they travel high above the fairground, he tells her the reason why the moths love him so much - moths raised him. At the end of the story, when Willow leaves the fairground followed by horses, she realises she was raised by horses.

I love telling stories, drama and making up worlds. I also love to read fantasy and imaginative books. It was such a liberation when I finally got the confidence to start writing my stories down. I think about the characters in my stories all the time. Creative writing is so much fun.

Raised by Moths was originally a short story I wrote as part of a fairground collection.

I love fairgrounds and circuses. They are special places. I didn't know what to do with it. So, I decided to rewrite it as a picture book. I only sent it to one publisher, and they loved it.

I have published novels, but this is my first picture book.

As a writer, it is amazing to see your words transformed and developed by an illustrator. An illustrator doesn't just illustrate the story they make it come alive with things a writer could never imagine. Michelle Conn made my story so much better. We both love it heaps. Picture books are a unique art form. They blend words and pictures to create magic. ~ Charlie Archbold

WHEN YOU'RE A BOY

by **Blake Nuto** <https://www.blakenuto.com/about>

(Affirm Press)

<https://affirmpress.com.au/browse/book/Blake--Nuto-When-You're-A-Boy-9781922863652>

*Wander through forests,
cross rivers and climb
mountains ...
Discover what it means
... to be a boy ...*



*When you're a boy
you are told how to be
like the white-roaring oceans.*

*But I've learned
the fierceness of flowers
the glory of colour
and the beauty of dreaming.
~Blake Nuto~*

When You're a Boy began as a letter to myself.

It next became a letter to my son, to say, "It's okay to be a boy and not dominate everything". I wrote it on a bus trip, and all the words came together easily. I think the ideas were part of something I had wanted to talk about for a long time.

- How did you become interested in creating through art? language?

I guess what made me most interested was being deeply moved by other people's art and writing. Some things just blow you away, and I wondered if I could be a part of that. There was only one way to find out.

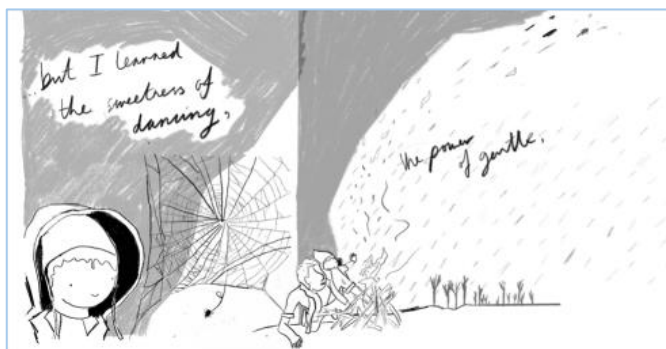
What influences your art? writing?

Most of my work is influenced by whatever is happening in my life. When I wrote *Child of Galaxies* my father had just died, and we'd welcomed our second child into the world. I was a big mess of grief and joy. I wrote that book as a way to try to understand life. I wrote *A Day That's Ours* when my son was about to start school.

I am also really inspired by nature and animals. Living in Tasmania, I go for a walk in the bush nearly every day. I think I can learn a lot from it all.



- Any background or examples of your techniques?



Here is a rough sketch of the cave scene in WYAB. You can see it turned out quite differently from how I first imagined it. Everything starts like this, a black and white sketch and then I recreate it by hand with paint and pencil. After that, I bring it back in digitally to make some changes, if necessary.



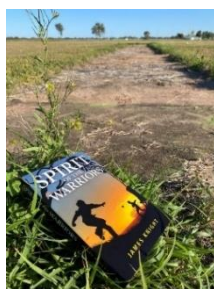
- Is there a particular part of the book that you enjoyed working on?

I really enjoyed illustrating the title page. It was the last picture I painted, and I felt like I definitely knew the characters by then. It felt like I was saying goodbye to special friends as I made that image.

- What surprises you about how picture books blend art and language to create stories?

What surprises me is how many of the best things that happen in picture books are happy accidents. Sometimes things turn out way better than you could originally plan. The only way to see that happen is by working to make the book and facing up to the fact that while you may make a lot of mistakes along the way, you will end up with all these good surprises too. ~ Blake Nuto

SPORT - BE THE STORY . . . There's more to sport than winning. Everyone can



become a better sport on the field and in their own personal story.

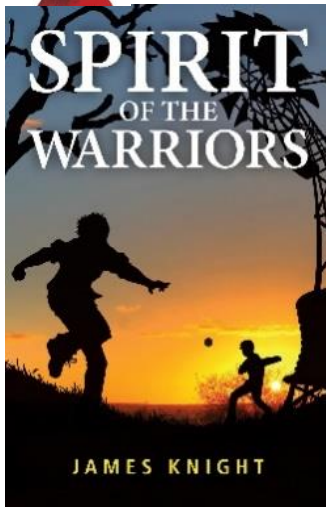
TEAM =Together

Sport LINKS

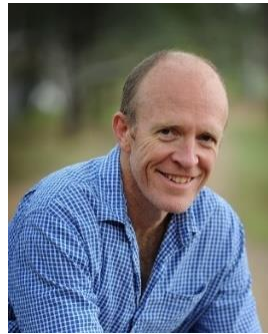
Crack a Story: Spirit of the Warriors Promo <https://crackastory.com/spirit-of-the-warriors/>

-Crack a Story: helping out young people tell their story <https://crackastory.com/>

Like Jack, James shares a love of the Australian bush and cricket. Cricket has led to countless trips to India by James and has grown his love for the country and its people. The young people James has met across the world have convinced him that sport and interaction between many different cultures can help shape a better future for all.



SPIRIT OF THE WARRIORS



by **James KNIGHT**

(Crack-a-Story Publishing) <https://caspublishing.com.au/>

[available through most independent bookstores and on-line <https://crackastory.com/product/spirit-of-the-warriors/>]

Sport. We play, watch, cheer, laugh. And yes, sometimes we cry. . .

In *Spirit of the Warriors*, all these things happen.

In this book, whose settings include the Australian bush, Sydney, and both Delhi and Mumbai in India, we ride the unpredictable fortunes of the fictitious Stony Creek Public School cricket team as they participate in a statewide tournament.

The two main characters are farm boy Jack Riordan, and Ajeet Sharma, who has recently arrived with his family from India to live in drought-ravaged Stony Creek. Initially, the relationship between Jack and Ajeet is affected by jealousies and misunderstandings. However, their love of cricket eventually builds a bridge between them that is strengthened by the support of a kaleidoscope of characters from their team, school, families, and caring communities in both Australia and India.

During the story, we not only see and feel the unfolding of personalities, but we also see the beauty of sport. It can unite us, giving us a sense of belonging among others. It also helps us develop and understand our individual identities. That, in fact, tells us a lot about cricket.

Although it's a team game, individuals can be placed alone in a spotlight and that can vary from being friendly to:

oh-dear-I hope-I never-have-to-go-through-that-experience-ever again!

But we do, because that, in part, is what cricket (and many other sports) is about. It tests who we are, and it also reveals who we are. Jack, Ajeet and their teammates know that. ~ James

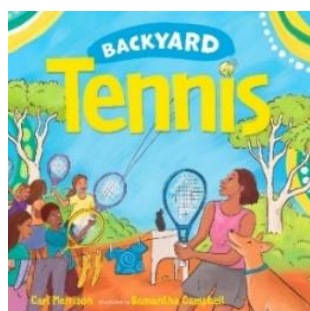
So, play up! Play the game!



Carl MERRISON, Hakea HUSTLER and Samantha CAMPBELL
 keep us moving,
 thinking,
 imagining, and
 winning with
 stories of FRIENDS, FAMILY, FUN and SPORT.



Friends and family and fun and sport = community



Mum loves tennis, but we don't have a court out here. One day, she gets out her old racquets and takes me into the backyard.

'I'll teach you how to play,' Mum says, and our tennis adventure begins.

<https://carlandhakea.com.au/our-books/>

BACKYARD TENNIS

Carl MERRISON and Samantha CAMPBELL,

Illustrator.
(Hachette)

WHAT IS THE STORY BEHIND BACKYARD TENNIS?

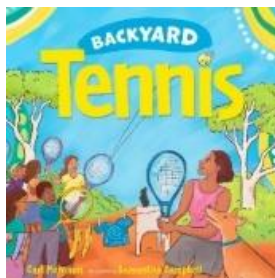
<https://carlandhakea.com.au/the-story-behind-backyard-tennis/>

Friends and family and fun and sport = community

Tennis looks a little different for kids in the outback: the red dirt, the animals in the bushes and trees, the courts and net and grandstand. As the children hit around the ball, more and more neighbours pop their heads over to see what all the excitement is about, before taking the game to the whole community.

This book shows the importance of friendship, community and sports. And serves as a great opportunity for young readers to learn about diversity, difference and First Nations lived experience. Each of the characters is a real-life person from the outback- and one of my little relatives.~Carl

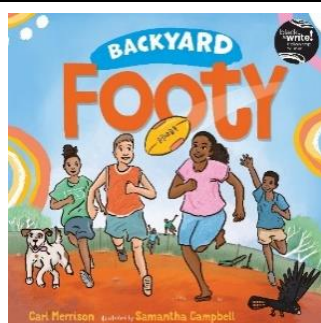
<https://carlandhakea.com.au/books-old-and-new/>



BACKYARD TENNIS

Carl MERRISON and Samantha CAMPBELL,

Illustrator.
(Hachette)



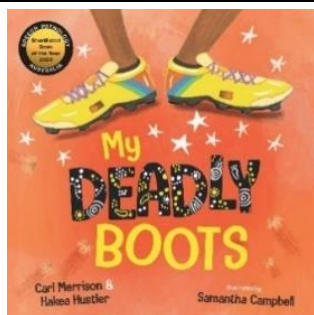
Jy is playing football alone in his small backyard in the Kimberley, but when he accidentally kicks the ball over the fence, a footy adventure begins! Footy by yourself is fun but playing with mates is better.

<https://carlandhakea.com.au/our-books/>

BACKYARD FOOTY

Carl MERRISON and Samantha CAMPBELL,

Illustrator.
(Hachette)



What makes you who you are?

*Spikes on the bottom boots,
my favourite colour boots,
making me too deadly.*

Can the shoes on your feet really
make you jump higher? Walk taller?

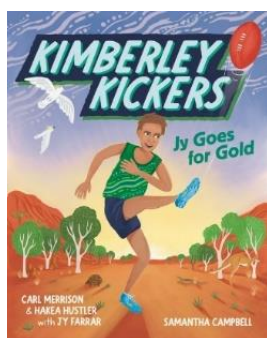
Dream bigger? Boots or no boots. Who can you be?

<https://carlandhakea.com.au/our-books/>

MY DEADLY BOOTS

by Carl MERRISON,
Hakea HUSTLER and
Samantha CAMPBELL,
Illustrator
(Lothian Books)

Sport - A dream come true 1 ...



*I'm about 35 metres out from the goal
and, running on instinct, I do a snap kick
of the ball. I watch as the footy flies
through the air. Will it bend enough?
I can hear the roar of the crowd but my
focus is on that red ball. I'm Jy Farrar.
Can my childhood dream as a kid in
outback Halls' Creek of playing AFL*

come true?

Let me tell you the story of how I got here – about my
mates, my family, growing up in the Kimberley around the
bush *and the red dirt and spinifex and goannas, playing footy
and going to boarding school far away from home.*

<https://carlandhakea.com.au/our-books/>

JY GOES FOR GOLD (Kimberly Kickers series)

[https://carlandhakea.com.au/our-
books/](https://carlandhakea.com.au/our-books/)

by Carl MERRISON,
Hakea HUSTLER, and
Jy FARRAR,
with Samantha CAMPBELL,
Illustrator.
(Harper Collins)

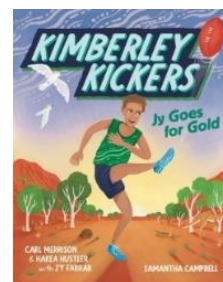
[Notice the different versions of similar info in Sport – a Dream Come True 1 and 2]

Sport - A dream come true 2 ...

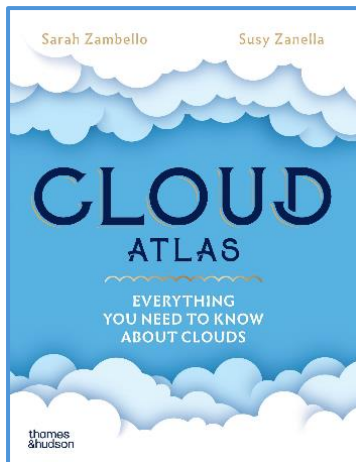
*This series showcases the real-life outback First Nations AFL and AFLW
talent from Kimberley, Western Australia. Best bit? This book is perfect
for those who love AFL and those who don't!*

*The books are fun biographies of life growing up in the Kimberley: the
bull-rides, camping trips, bush walks, swimming in ancient waterholes,
hunting, fishing, rodeos, mustering and more. We get an insight into
where these deadly players got their skills and edge. But also, the
challenges they had to overcome to play AFL and AFLW at an elite level. ~ Carl*

<https://carlandhakea.com.au/books-old-and-new/>



STORIES and SCIENCE – Is your head in the clouds?



UP IN THE AIR with the Cloud Atlas

CLOUD ATLAS:

Everything You Need to Know about Clouds

<https://thamesandhudson.com.au/product/cloud-atlas-everything-you-need-to-know-about-clouds/>

By Sarah Zambello and Susy Zanella, Illustrator
(Thames & Hudson Australia)

When you think of a cloud, what comes to mind?

A soft puff of whipped cream or a bulky, looming mass?

Perhaps you think of wings tipped with gold, or a warm band of orange.

There is nothing in the world more changeable than clouds. Their shapes, colours and sizes are always shifting, creating endless new displays right above our heads. That's why we're tempted to imagine all sorts of shapes in the clouds and think up stories to go with them.

A cloud is formed from a huge number of tiny water drops floating in the air. Depending on the temperature – the higher it is, the colder the formation. These droplets can be liquid or frozen.

Come on an illustrated expedition across the sky to discover why clouds have always fascinated us. Enjoy blazing sunsets, raging storms, bright blue skies and inky nights while learning the different types of clouds and what kind of weather you can expect from each variation. Enjoy a first introduction for children to the natural phenomena of clouds, weaving scientific fact with literary, historical and artistic notes along the way. It's time to see the skies with new eyes.

[with thanks to Thames & Hudson Australia]

<https://thamesandhudson.com.au/product/cloud-atlas-everything-you-need-to-know-about-clouds/>



Cloud Atlas is a remarkable book that puts your head in the clouds.

It blends sophisticated, but amazing scientific language with beautiful illustrations and masses of info. Clouds play their part in the gentleness of a light breeze and the power behind devastating storms. The book includes information about a full range of clouds and formations. It also incorporates hints of stories and mythology in which weather plays a part in the story.

The images will tempt you to join poets or meteorologists connecting to clouds and the skies above. This book will help you be excited about the next cloudy day! The illustrations were created through the use of a combination of techniques.

Cloud Atlas is an Italian Award-winning book that was translated into English to promote understanding and appreciation of cultures through literature.




Many books from our favourite Australian authors and illustrators are also translated into other languages to share with countries throughout the world.

And ... to share throughout Australia with others whose background is originally based in languages other than English. Imagine information, with clouds.

Discover some of the “language of clouds”.

Combinations of scientific terms may be used to name clouds according to some of the characteristics of their shape and height above sea level.

For example, **CIRUS** = “curl or tuft of hair”; **CUMULUS** = “heap”; **STRATUS** = “spreading”.

Cirrocumulus stratiformis	Cumulus mediocris and cumulus congestus	Stratocumulus lenticularis and stratocumulus castellanus
		



Kids throughout Australia

have been voting

for their favourite books with:

- the **REAL AWARDS** = **R**eading and **E**njoying **A**ustralian **L**iterature,
- the **KOALAS** = the **K**ids’ **O**wn **A**ustralian **L**iterature **A**wards (NSW),
- the **KROCKS** = **K**ids **R**eadin**G** **O**z **C**hoice (the Northern Territory) ,and
- YABBA** = the **Y**oung **A**ustralians’ **B**est **B**ook **A**wards (Victoria)

Artwork by Aaron Blabey



MEET THE **REAL KOALAS** ...

Reading and Enjoying Australian Literature with the **Kids' Own Australian Literature Awards**

Every year, young readers from all over New South Wales judge their very own literature awards. By voting in the **KOALA** awards they can reward the Australian children's books that have most inspired, amused, terrified, enlightened and engaged them.

<https://www.koalansw.org.au/about-koala>

If you like to share and talk about books, the NSW **KOALA Awards (KIDS' OWN AUSTRALIAN LITERATURE AWARDS)**

<https://www.koalansw.org.au/>) give you a chance to tap into and vote for books that kids choose and like

The most popular books are nominated into categories and SHORTLISTED

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

for a final voting by kids.



The following KOALA Winners and Honour Books for 2024 were announced in November.

KOALA	WINNERS	HONOUR BOOKS	HONOUR BOOKS
PICTURE Story Books	I Just Ate My Friend by Heidi McKINNON	Macca The Alpaca by <u>Matt COSGROVE</u>	Brain is (NOT) Always Right by Scott STUART
Fiction YOUNGER READER	Hot Dog by Ahn DOH	Real Pigeons- by Andrew McDonald and Ben Wood	Worst Week Ever – MONDAY by Eva AMORES & Matt COSGROVE
Fiction OLDER READERS	Runt by Craig SILVEY	Wolf Girl by Ahn DO with <u>Lachlan CREAGH</u> (Illustrator)	Funny Kid by Matt STANTON
FICTION YEARS 7-9	Scar Town -by Tristan BANCKS	August and Jones by Pip HARRY	Dragon Skin by Karen FOXLEE



R.E.A.L. Award Shortlist Poster <https://www.koala.org.au/> Artwork by Jules Faber

- **Jules Faber** donated some of his sample artwork to KOALA, KROC and YABBA for use with their Children's Choice Book Awards. He enjoys creating things that don't exist. He was awarded the **KOALA LEGEND AWARD** for 2023-4 for his contributions to the KOALA and the Children's Choice Awards. <https://www.koalansw.org.au/legends>



Hey Jules - How did you become interested in art and illustration?

This began when I was 4 years old and saw Mr Squiggle on television. He was a marionette and came from the moon and he drew with his pencil nose. I thought I was witnessing something magical, which of course, I was. I started drawing and haven't stopped since!

How did you plan this poster/ image?

The characters are all from my book series **The Quest Diaries of Max Crack** which came out right at the start of Covid. Unfortunately, that meant a lot of kids didn't get the chance to read about Max and his adventures, so I thought I'd show everyone that they aren't gone. I'll find a way to bring Max and his friends back yet!

What do you like about using and creating with words? with images?

I love bringing to life things that don't exist. It's a special superpower to be able to create worlds and people and things that have never been and make them sound believable. It's a lot of fun too!

Enjoy some of Jules' artworks with the stories in these books - Riley's Foolproof Guide to Breaking a School Record (author Dani Vee), Prank Wars (authors Louise Park and Mo Johnson), WeirDo 23 (author Anh Do), and The Fartionary 2 (author Andy Jones).

READING ADDS UP!

WHAT A DIFFERENCE READING FOR 10 MINUTES A DAY MAKES...

A student who reads for 10 minutes every day typically has a broader range of vocabulary and an increased level of spelling. Reading exposes children to new ideas, facts, and cultures, helping to expand their knowledge and understanding of the world around them. Not only does regular reading help make students smarter, it can actually increase brain power.



365 minutes in one year
2555 minutes by year 6
8000 words in one year!



3650 minutes in one year
25,550 minutes by year 6
600,000 words in one year!



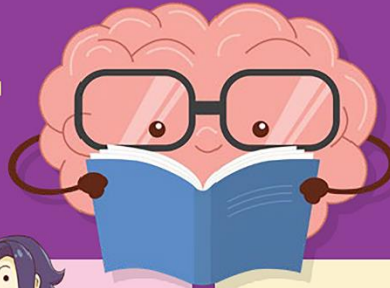
7300 minutes in one year
51,100 minutes by year 6
1,800,000 words in one year!



Adapted from Adams (2006) with baseline data from Anderson, Wilson, & Fielding (1998).

[With thanks to **Scholastic Australia** for permission to include the *Reading Adds Up!* and *Reading Is A Workout* ...posters in CBCA NSW Branch KIDS' Corner November 2024 issue.]

READING IS A WORKOUT FOR YOUR...



READ FOR AT LEAST
10 MINUTES EVERY DAY
TO EXERCISE YOUR BRAIN



Reading is a positive habit that has life-long impacts on your knowledge and your health. It's like exercising or eating your vegetables!

HEART

Research shows that reading about a character's thoughts and feelings make you kinder.



MEMORY

Reading exercises the brain, improving your memory (maybe you'll stop forgetting your lunch at home!)



IMAGINATION

Books can help you see vivid pictures in your mind so you feel like you're actually immersed in another time or place. The whole world comes alive as your reading journey continues through each page!



SCHOLASTIC



Our Australian HeART by Romi Sharp

Director of *Just Write for Kids Australia* www.justkidslit.com

As a community of children's book creators, there's something deeply gratifying about working together to achieve a common goal. One such recent initiative through ***Just Write For Kids Australia (JWFK)*** was to do just that.

In late 2023, together with a selection of eighteen author-illustrators, we proudly released our stunning collaborative picture book anthology, titled ***Our Australian HeART***. This colourful compilation is an inspiring, joyful and heartfelt treasure trove of language, art and culture celebrating the diversity of what makes Australia beautiful.

Young readers and artists, will be encouraged to express their own response to, 'What's in YOUR Australian HeArt?' The book is an invitation to explore a vibrant sensory journey through Australia that ranges from glistening rocky landscapes to magical underwater reefs; the awe of our unique flora and fauna; the significance of historical memorials and childhood memories; and reflections on current cultural and environmental nuances.

Creatives were asked to share a piece of their Australian heart with consideration for a selected colour scheme and a topic, including flora and fauna, landscapes, cultural, social, or environmental factors, and art and design. Our judges (Jennifer Sharp of Daisy Lane Publishing, Mary Anastasiou and Tannya Harricks) chose from a wide range of submissions to compile a book with a unique mix of prose and poetry, and a blend of watercolour, collage, digital and mixed media techniques.

Our community of book lovers and media networks, we have been able to celebrate and help raise the profiles of our talented children's book artists and lay the groundwork for future opportunities for all.

The anthology also enables us to raise much-needed donations through sales proceeds for the national charity, the Indigenous Literacy Foundation. ILF works tirelessly to provide valuable reading, writing and storytelling experiences for remote Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities and their young readers and their families.

We hope our audience will feel a sense of community and belonging, appreciate the environment around them, and be sparked by the curiosity, joy, discovery and creativity on display through the book.

At the end of November, we look forward to celebrating the first birthday of ***Our Australian HeART*** at the end of November, as a special project of *Just Write for KIDS*.

Picture It! 2025 will be open early next year for children's book creators. Information will be available via www.justkidslit.com.

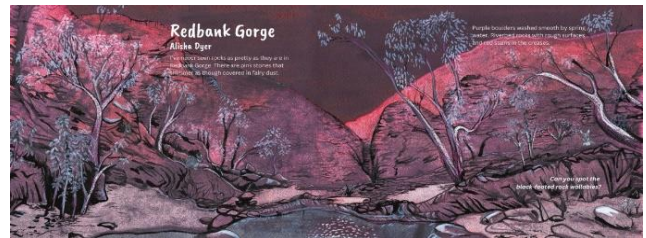
To find out more about **Our Australian HeART**, our goals and our contributors, and details of how to purchase the book, please head to: www.justkidslit.com/our-australian-heart

Information can be found at: www.justkidslit.com/picture-it-anthology-guidelines-2024.



New Life at the Great Barrier Reef by Carla Hoffenberg
... a treasured memory of witnessing turtles gracefully gliding through vibrant coral reefs...

Redbank Gorge by Alisha Dyer –
... pinkstones that shimmer as though covered in fairy dust. Purple boulders washed smooth by spring water...



SO ...

with **KIDS' CORNER** for November 2024

<https://www.cbcansw.org.au/kids-corner>

we have shared:

IMAGINATION, ILLUSTRATION AND INFORMATION

by

- **LEARNING** with **CURIOUS AND SURPRISING CREATURES**,
- **DISCOVERING** how new illustrators help **BLEND WORDS AND ILLUSTRATION** into stories,
- **BECOMING** better sports **IN THE STORIES** and **ON THE FIELD**,
- **EXPERIENCING** the wonder of **CLOUDS**, and **CELEBRATING** special parts of the **Australian heart**.

These are all possible because **READING DOES ADD UP**, and gives our **HEART, MEMORY, and IMAGINATION** a workout!

This issue of **KC** was compiled by Jackie Hawkes jackie.hawkes7@gmail.com with the help of **LOTS of people who LOVE to READ, WRITE, THINK, IMAGINE and CREATE**.

We look forward to hearing your ideas and appreciate your patience in a busy year that was full of surprises.

What next? BAGS = Books As Gifts! - a special listing of recent and upcoming books from our **CBCA NSW** author and illustrator members.

Reminders will be sent soon to our creatives.

Happy reading always. Morrie, Magic Morrie, & MaryAnna O'Mouse

