



# Kids' Corner

Jan/Feb 2025

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Let's celebrate!

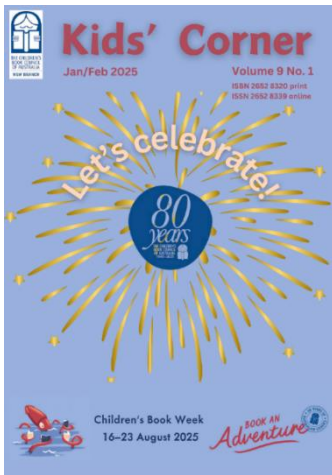
80  
years  
THE CHILDREN'S  
BOOK COUNCIL  
OF AUSTRALIA  
1945-2025

NEW YEAR NEW STORIES



Children's Book Week  
16-23 August 2025





**KIDS' CORNER** for February 2025  
invites you to **CELEBRATE** a  
**NEW YEAR** with lots of **NEW STORIES**  
in books, online, in our daily lives and  
those yet to be imagined.



This issue of **KC** <https://www.cbcanz.org.au/kids-corner> features a heads-up for key **Children's Book Week®** dates and info for 2025.

Congratulations to all Australians who continue to make a difference based on challenges and achievements of the past, the present and the future.

We also share our love of our libraries. They encourage us to **BOOK AN ADVENTURE** with stories, information and imagination.



2025 is a milestone year for the CBCA as we **celebrate 80 years of CBCA Children's Book Week®**. Australians have been celebrating **CBCA CHILDREN'S BOOK WEEK®** since 1945. For eight decades, CBCA has been dedicated to inspiring young minds to journey through the countless worlds that books offer. We look forward to continuing this mission for the next 80 years and beyond!

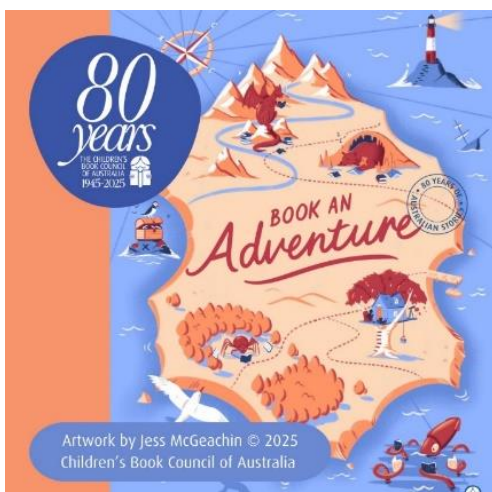
Our January/February **KC** cover has used the BW theme colours to illustrate our link to this celebration of both the 2025 BW theme and the 80<sup>th</sup> CBCA celebrations.... It will be a fantastic year with much to celebrate and enjoy!



Thanks to ... **Maryanne Annon O'Mouse**  
for designing the cover for this issue of **KC**.



❖ ❖ ❖ ❖ ❖ ❖ ❖ **BOOK WEEK BASICS: THEME** ❖ ❖ ❖ ❖ ❖ ❖ ❖



The **2025 CBCA Children's Book Week®** theme is  
**Book an Adventure!**

Come on an adventure with us as we travel across lands, time, and memories.

❖ ❖ **BOOK WEEK BASICS: LAUNCH** ❖ ❖

Check out our **BW 2025 LAUNCH** in this video:

<https://youtu.be/8kvSAFBuP3Q?si=lqpiCvicUaw0WgUy>



**BOOK WEEK BASICS: ANNOUNCING CHILDREN'S BOOK WEEK® DATES**

∴ ∴ ∴ ∴ **SAVE THE DATES** ∴ ∴ ∴ ∴



Mark your calendar with these important dates:

- **Notables:** Tuesday 25 February 2025
- **Shortlist:** Tuesday 25 March 2025
- **Winners and Honours:** Friday 15 August 2025
- **Shadows' Choice Awards:** Friday 15 August 2025

∴ ∴ ∴ ∴ **BOOK WEEK BASICS: FEATURED ARTIST** ∴ ∴ ∴ ∴

**Jess McGeachin** <https://www.jessmcgeachin.com/books> is the artist selected to provide the artwork for **2025 Children's Book Week®**. Jess' illustrations invite young readers to embark on fantastical journeys, inspiring them to travel through the worlds that books open up, and set off on adventures through time, lands, and imagination.



∴ ∴ ∴ ∴ **BOOK WEEK BASICS: SHADOW JUDGING** ∴ ∴ ∴ ∴



You can judge some of Australia's best books of the year.

**READ and DISCOVER** the Short-listed books. **READ and SHARE** your ideas with friends. **READ and TALK** with authors. **READ and CREATE** your own responses to the books. **READ and DECIDE** what really makes a GREAT AUSTRALIAN book!

Registration for **SHADOW JUDGES** is now open.

<https://shadowjudging.cbca.org.au/>

∴ ∴ ∴ **BOOK WEEK BASICS: COLLIDE BOOK TRAILERS** ∴ ∴ ∴

**READ THE LATEST** in NOTABLE books – titles announced February 25.

**MAKE THE MOVIE TRAILER. SHARE THE STORY.** Details coming soon.

Collide! is a competition challenging students to create a unique and original book trailer featuring a book from the CBCA Notables List.

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

## ::: CELEBRATING AUSTRALIA ::: AUSTRALIA DAY 2025 :::



<https://www.northshoremums.com.au/australia-day-events/>

### DAWN REFLECTION: FIRST NATIONS AT FIRST LIGHT

<https://www.australiaday.com.au/whats-on/dawn-reflection/>

An Aboriginal artwork illuminated the Sydney Opera House as part of an Australia Day dawn reflection. The light show, *River Life* by Indigenous artist **James P Simon**, was followed by traditional Aboriginal dances and ceremonies at Sydney's Barangaroo Reserve.

**Barabiyanga.** In the words of the ancient Eora people, these were the precious moments before the first rays of light painted the shores of our island home.

Dawn Reflection was a quiet time for everyone to recall our country's unfolding story, told in many voices across countless generations.

In the soft light before sunrise, a beautiful piece of Aboriginal art illuminated the sails of the Sydney Opera House, reflecting in the waters of our timeless harbour.

Dawn Reflection was more than just another sunrise. It was a moment where people drew courage and inspiration from each other and committed to shaping Australia into a place of unity and inclusion for all who call it home.

As the two flags rose in unison at the top of the Sydney Harbour Bridge to salute the dawning of Australia Day, people also rose and greeted the day with respect.

Joined by resilience, mateship, and a sense of community, optimism and unity to the future and the opportunities created together.

<https://www.australiaday.com.au/whats-on/dawn-reflection/>

**::: CELEBRATING AUSTRALIA ::: PEOPLE - making a difference :::**



Honouring our most exceptional Australians  
Since its inception in 1960, the Australian of the Year Awards have provided a focal point for Australia Day celebrations and a forum for the recognition of outstanding achievement

The Young Australian of the Year Award celebrates inspiring 16- to 30-year-olds who have accomplished great things in all walks of life.

<https://australianoftheyear.org.au/>

**::: CELEBRATING AUSTRALIA ::: YOU - making a difference :::**

What would make Australia a better place for Young Australians?

What interests do you have?

What talent would you like to develop?

Who can help you?

What have you helped someone learn to do?

(share your ideas through KIDS' CORNER)



**::: ::: ::: ::: CELEBRATING AUSTRALIA ::: ::: ::: ::: :::**

**2025 YOUNG AUSTRALIANS OF THE YEAR**

Source: <https://australianoftheyear.org.au/recipients/listing/2025>



**WINNER**

Dr Katrina Wruck's research is giving back to remote communities.

Katrina's method of converting mining by-products can remove contaminants from water that cause hardness. She is further examining how to break down dangerous 'forever chemicals' into benign ones. Altogether, Katrina's work is a possible foundation for reducing global contamination. A proud Mabuigilaig and Goemulgal woman who has long advocated for First Nations knowledge.



ACT

Daniel Bartholomaeus >

Daniel Bartholomaeus is a young artist who inspires and motivates others, especially within the neurodivergent community. Daniel has autism and ADHD.

Using art for self-expression, he also forges common pathways for people with mental ill-health and those of different abilities. He acts as a mentor with a social group for neurodivergent young people, and has worked with Daydream Machine, the National Gallery of Australia and the United Nations to help young people realise that it's not about what you can't do, but what you can do.



VIC

Aishwarya Kansakar >

**Aishwarya Kansakar**, was raised amidst Nepal's civil war and taught herself computing. Today, she is a globally renowned artificial intelligence (AI) and automation entrepreneur, not-for-profit executive, STEM education innovator and automation engineer.

She heads Syncrowin, building a world-first AI-powered automation system, and as CEO, she leads 300 volunteers, impacting 70 schools and 66,000 women's STEM careers.

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TAS

Ariarne Titmus OAM >

**Ariarne Titmus** is one of Australia's most successful swimmers and a sporting role model.

She has won gold and silver medals at the Commonwealth Games (2018), Tokyo Olympics

(2020) and Paris Olympics (2024).

In 2019, she was named Swimming Australia's Swimmer of the Year and also holds several world records.

Her ultimate goal is to enable young women and girls to stay in sport longer and reduce the rates of girls dropping out of sport. She has called for more money and resources to be directed into research on female athletes and the female body in elite sport.



NSW

Maddison O'Grady-Lee >

**Maddison O'Grady-Lee** knows what it's like to struggle with mental health. Growing up with anxiety, she was inspired to open up more conversations about mental health.

Maddison aims to improve how wellbeing is understood for First Nations youth through her PhD research.



WA

Jack Anderson >

Only 24 years old, Jack Anderson's achievements in the education space and beyond are impressive. He is a keynote speaker, documentary maker, and author and is pursuing a Master of Education.

Jack founded ThrivEd when he was only 18. The student-run charity produced educational materials and donated them to disadvantaged schools. ThrivEd later became Elucidate Education, expanding its reach to tens of thousands of students in Australia and globally.

Jack has published and donated educational materials to the most socio-economically disadvantaged, rural and Indigenous students, empowering them for success. His passion is pursuing greater equity and educational access in Australia and beyond.



SA

Amber Brock-Fabel >

Amber founded the SA Youth Forum in 2021 at just 17 years old. It empowers those aged 14 to 18 to discuss critical issues such as climate change, period poverty, gender equality and youth

loneliness. The insights gathered are then presented to lawmakers and relevant organisations.

Under her leadership, the Forum has secured partnerships and collaborations with various organisations, gaining both national and international recognition. The youth-led initiative won the Connecting Communities Award at the Young Achiever of the Year Gala (2024), while Amber herself received the Governor of South Australia's Commendation for Excellence.

In a world where young people often have laws made for and about them, Amber Brock-Fabel is ensuring youth voices are heard.



NT

Nileshe Dilushan >

Nileshe (Nil) Dilushan is co-founder of two not-for-profit organisations, he fosters youth-driven initiatives for social change.

Nil has spearheaded two successful community initiatives: The Kindness Shake and Rotaract Young Professionals NT, whose focus is on upskilling young people, addressing literacy gaps and creating employment pathways, making a positive impact on their local communities. Their programs, such as FINSMART and Jumpstart, are making a difference by closing service gaps and providing young people with essential financial literacy and substance abuse awareness.

Nil won NT Volunteer of the Year (2023) and the Chief Minister's Youth Volunteer of the Year. From an immigrant grappling with cultural displacement and language barriers, to a community leader inspiring a new generation, his journey embodies the Territory's multicultural spirit.

Source: <https://australianoftheyear.org.au/recipients/listing/2025>



## STOP PRESS!

### Famous Dogs and Wombats and People...

**Elle** is a deaf rescue dog who uses sign language to support anxious children in the classroom, and she has just been crowned Australian Dog of the Year for 2025.

Source: FB: The PROJECT

<https://www.instagram.com/thedogloversfestival/p/DFWKV2cyqL7/>

**'Australia Day? Australia Day?**

**Ask any wombat and they'll say**

**That EVERY day is wombat day!**

**-Jackie French – Facebook**



<https://www.facebook.com/watch/?v=1367301647963628>

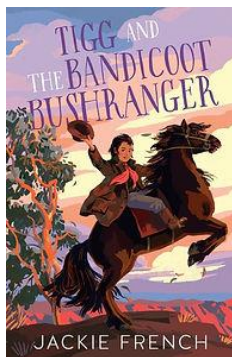
Jackie is the author of over 200 books <https://www.jackiefrench.com/>

plus...she is a reader, writer, wombat negotiator, historian, ecologist, dyslexic, and passionate advocate for the power of story and the right of every child to have access to the books they need to create the future of our planet and to be taught to read.

Jackie French AM ,is also *A/Professor, Senior Australian of the Year and Australian Children's Laureate 2014-2015*

Some of Jackie's latest books... <https://www.jackiefrench.com/>

#### Tigg and the Bandicoot Bushranger



The year is 1859 and the goldfields are filled with diggers – and danger! Orphaned twelve-year-old Tigg is the Bandicoot Bushranger, the youngest bushranger on the Ballarat goldfields in 1859.

When a robbery goes wrong, Tigg must flee in disguise...braving heat, thirst, starvation and murderous attacks...and solve the greatest mystery of all...

#### The girls who changed the world-final books in the series.

Twelve-year-old Ming Qong is convinced that girls must have changed the world, even if they are rarely mentioned in history books

**#4 Ming and Ada Spark the Digital Age (2024)**

**#5 Ming and Maria Explore the Universe (2025) Astronomers**





# LIBRARY LOVERS' DAY



<https://www.myli.org.au/news/celebrate-library-lovers-day-with-myli/>



<http://www.deliciousreads.com/2016/02/printable-bookish-valentines-day-cards.html>

**FOR TEACHERS: 'SWEET READS' CANVA TEMPLATE LINKS (Thanks to Melissa Corey)**

**LARGE POSTERS:**

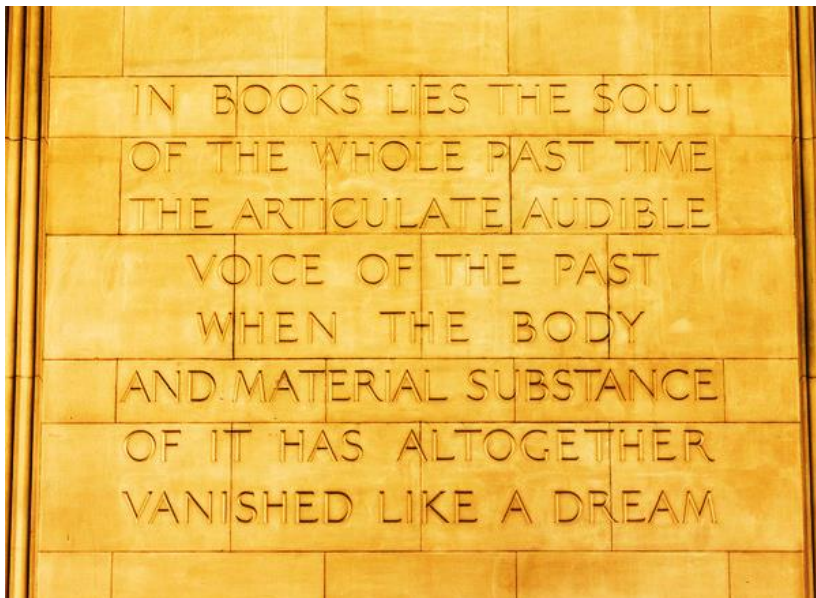
[https://www.canva.com/design/DAGd7cPkp6Q/NLPjhcUL0zFrMGzNgOLzgw/edit?utm\\_content=DAGd7cPkp6Q&utm\\_campaign=designshare&utm\\_medium=link2&utm\\_source=sharebutton](https://www.canva.com/design/DAGd7cPkp6Q/NLPjhcUL0zFrMGzNgOLzgw/edit?utm_content=DAGd7cPkp6Q&utm_campaign=designshare&utm_medium=link2&utm_source=sharebutton)

## GREAT LIBRARIES...GREAT STORIES

The State Library of New South Wales, part of which is known as the Mitchell Library, is a large heritage-listed special collections, reference and research library open to the public and one of the oldest libraries in Australia. Established in 1869 its collections date back to the Australian Subscription Library established in the colony of New South Wales (now a state of Australia) in 1826. [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/State\\_Library\\_of\\_New\\_South\\_Wales](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/State_Library_of_New_South_Wales)

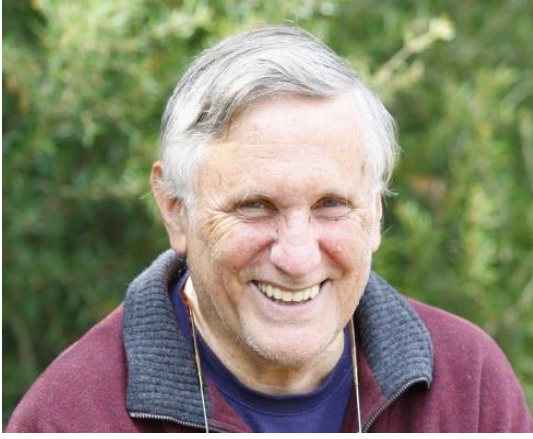


### State Library NSW Mitchell Vestibule Quote



*'In books lies the soul of the whole past time the articulate audible voice of the past when the body and material substance of it has altogether vanished like a dream.'* – Thomas Carlyle, 1840

This famous quote captures the essence of the Library, which the principal librarian William Ifould and the Sydney press often referred to as 'Everyman's Library'. He believed that the wider public, not just the privileged few, should have access to its SOURCES. [https://www2.sl.nsw.gov.au/archive/curio/exhibit/371/index68b6.html?from\\_collection=6&page=1](https://www2.sl.nsw.gov.au/archive/curio/exhibit/371/index68b6.html?from_collection=6&page=1)



## REMEMBERING John Marsden

1950 - 2024

Pan Macmillan Australia is deeply saddened by the passing of John Marsden, a cherished author and beloved member of Pan Macmillan Australia, on 18 December 2024. We know many in the literary community and readers across the world share our grief. This legendary Australian author of more than 40 books over his distinguished writing career leaves a legacy that will forever be remembered and celebrated.

**Author John Marsden** . Credit: Michael Copp SMH Dec 18, 2024

John Marsden profoundly impacted the world of literature, particularly with his enthralling young adult novels such as the 'Tomorrow' series, which ...has been described as 'the best series for Australian teens of all time'. His ability to encapsulate the essence of youth struggles and aspirations in his works has left an indelible mark on readers worldwide. A storyteller like no other, John's books were a masterclass in the creation of characters, plot, pacing and setting.

*John was dedicated to crafting stories that resonate with both young and adult audiences... He earned numerous accolades, endless literary awards, and a devoted following. .. he influenced generations through his writing and ...advocacy for education.*

John Marsden – the great statesman of Australian literature. We honour his legacy and are privileged to have been a part of his remarkable journey.

Sincerely, PAN MACMILLAN AUSTRALIA

Adapted from [Remembering John Marsden](https://www.panmacmillan.com.au/remembering-john-marsden/) <https://www.panmacmillan.com.au/remembering-john-marsden/>

## JOHN MARSDEN: 'The Man Who Spoke to Young People'

by Jackie French <https://www.jackiefrench.com/>

*About a quarter of a century ago, I found myself on shortlists after my first book was published and I was asked to the Children's Book Council Of Australia conference.*

*I was terrified - facing more people than I had seen in a decade. I hid in the loo, dashed out to speak, then began to run- literally- to a taxi...till a man stepped out and touched my arm. He congratulated me on the book and the talk and introduced me to other authors. My terror vanished.*

*That was John Marsden, who had seen I was scared, and at events for the next three years helped me cope in many small ways, like bringing me into conversations.*

*We both loved the bush; both agreed to visit each other's property. Neither of us did, in the highly committed years that followed.*

*John not only cared deeply about young people, but he also actually SAW them, as so many adults don't. He spoke to them in person and in his writing as he would to an adult. I have never known an author who understood adolescent young men so well, and who made them feel they were understood, and had a future. I could read a few pages of any John Marsden book to any boy with learning difficulties. They would struggle to read more, identifying strongly with the protagonists. John's work made so many other books with young male protagonists look cliched and facile.*

*As the world changes, John would have noticed and written books that helped rather than simply entertained. John didn't write just to make money in the genre, or to see his name in print, but because young people needed books like his.*

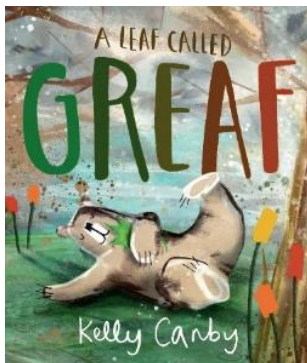
*John was genuine. I'm grieving for his loss, for all the conversations that might have been, and for the books that now won't be written.*

*His passing is a loss for all of us... There is possibly only one John Marsden in a generation. Perhaps there will never be one like him at all.*

by Jackie French

*A/Professor, Jackie French AM , Senior Australian of the Year and Australian Children's Laureate 2014-2015*

Author, Writer, Reader..., and passionate advocate for the power of story and the right of every child to have access to the books they need to create the future of our planet and to be taught to read...



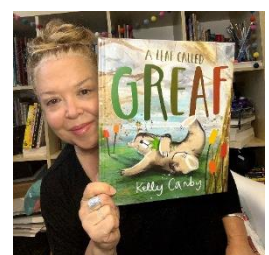
## **A Leaf Called Greaf (Fremantle Press)**

By **Kelly Canby** <https://kellycanby.com/>

I started writing ***A Leaf Called Greaf*** on a very typical autumn evening. It was cold and drizzly, all the leaves had turned brown and fallen to the ground, the sky was dark and there was a light wind. I'd just gone for a walk and while out, I picked up a huge, brown, crusty leaf from one of the London Plane trees in my local park and carried it home.

I wasn't feeling particularly lonely or lost at the time, in fact, I was warm and cozy, safe and loved, but the leaf felt like it had a story. This leaf that was once bright green and juicy and waxy and alive. I started to think about the circle of life and then, the concept of loss. The metaphors began rolling in and before I knew it, I was scribbling notes and writing lines, and a story was forming.

I thought long and hard about who Greaf would meet before deciding on Bear. All sorts of characters ran through my head but there's something about bears, they feel like they'd give the most wonderful hugs (don't try it!), and that's what I wanted this book to be, I think, a big warm hug.





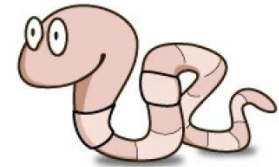
## 2025 - a great year for Bookworms in the Year of the Snake...



### READING FOR LEISURE AND READING FOR PLEASURE ...

with thanks to the NSW PRC team...

<https://artsunit.nsw.edu.au/program/nsw-premiers-reading-challenge>



Welcome back to school and reading with the NSW *Premier's Reading Challenge*

Now is the perfect time to revive good habits and discover new people, places, and ideas - in books and everywhere.

The NSW Premier's Reading Challenge (PRC) is not a competition but a challenge for every student from Kindy to Year 10, to read, read more, and read more widely.

The PRC booklists give easy access to a range of books, including fiction, non-fiction, picture books, poetry and drama, and a wide variety of Australian authors. Choose from PRC lists AND catch up with "extras" you've heard about.

<https://online.education.nsw.gov.au/prc/booklist/home.html>

**READING COUNTS-** These stats are actually about **PEOPLE as READERS** and not **"JUST NUMBERS."**



**The Term 1 booklist is  
now live!**

368 new titles have been added to the booklists for students to enjoy as they complete the PRC.

ARTWORK BY Matt Ottley

**When?** – Registration for 2025 opens **February 24.**

**Who?** – In 2024, over 430,000 students and more than 2,600 government, non-government and home schools were involved with PRC.

Students read a combined total of 9,115,211 books -

**How many?**

Kindy - Year 2 read towards 30 books.

Years 3 and up read towards 20 books.

Watch for more information about Matt Ottley and his featured artwork for PRC 2025.

## ACL: SHARING READING



If you could share a gift with all of Australia, how could you possibly go past SHARING READING?



**Sally Rippin** <https://www.sallyrippin.com/> our current Australian Children's Laureate, knows that not every child finds it easy to read. As the mum of three boys, Sally is particularly passionate about advocacy for kids who may have ADHD, Dyslexia or learning challenges. She believes that given the right support to access reading in the way that suits them, most all kids can be readers!

This past year, Sally has travelled across Australia talking about the many ways we can share stories and support kids who might struggle to learn to read.

She has been busy.



Sally Rippin



Sally has written over 100 books for children and young adults, many of them award-winners. Her books have also sold more than ten million copies in eighteen countries.

As she packs her energy and suitcase for another year full of books, stories and new ideas to share, she is also making plans for several new books for children as well as adapting her work for the screen.

Keep up with more news from and about Sally:

**Australian Children's Laureate site** <https://www.childrenslaureate.org.au/>

**Sally Rippon website** <https://www.sallyrippin.com/>

**Extra inks to audiobooks** <https://www.childrenslaureate.org.au/audio-books>

## 2025: YEAR OF WOOD SNAKE

What does the Snake symbolise in Chinese culture?

**2025 is the Year of the Wood Snake in the Chinese zodiac. This means that people born in 2025 are said to have traits associated with both snakes and wood.**



Image: [https://www.hola.com/us/horizon/landscape/9b85753c3695-chinese-new-year-snake.jpg?im=Resize=\(960\),type=downsize](https://www.hola.com/us/horizon/landscape/9b85753c3695-chinese-new-year-snake.jpg?im=Resize=(960),type=downsize)

Traits of the **Snake** : People born in the Year of the Snake are said to be calm and able to work independently. Snakes are considered to be intelligent, analytical, and determined. Snakes are known for being charming, captivating, and seductive. Snakes are said to be resilient and independent, and can recover from setbacks.

They are also said to have the traits of **Wood** such as growth, flexibility, and tolerance as well as adaptability.

In addition to their thoughtful demeanor, Year of the Snake babies are also associated with **independence and resilience**. These qualities might mean that a 2025 Snake baby will often try to accomplish tasks alone or find their own way of doing things, which could include methods that are inventive or outside the box.

**Video: The story of the Chinese zodiac Snake** : <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ms46LR492H4>

### MAKE YOUR OWN SNAKE!!!

- Use the links below to download the snake template.
- Colour in the body and head with bright colours
- Cut out and assemble as per instructions.

<https://www.cleverpatch.com.au/ideas/by-occasion/chinese-new-year/year-of-the-snake-paper-chain>



[https://www.cleverpatch.com.au/documents/ideatemplates/92973L\\_2.pdf](https://www.cleverpatch.com.au/documents/ideatemplates/92973L_2.pdf)

## 'PUTRICIA' THE CORPSE FLOWER:

### *Who knows/ nose what plant sent its scent into the air?*

A foul-smelling massive flower that has been nicknamed "Putricia" started its long-awaited bloom at Sydney's Royal Botanic Garden in January.



<https://www.flickr.com/photos/135213460@N06/>

Thousands of people around the world tuned in on an online livestream to witness the event, which marked the plant's first unfurling in 15 years.

The rare *titan arum* — which is a type of carrion flower — has the world's largest and slinkiest flower spike and blooms for only 24 hours, during which it emits an odour that's been compared to wet socks or rotting cat food.



The reason the plant emits such a foul stench, scientists have explained, is to attract pollinators like beetles and flies, which mistake the odour for that of a rotting animal and lay their eggs in it.

Both Melbourne and Geelong Botanic Gardens had corpse flower blooms last year as growers worldwide work to prevent the plant from extinction.

Source: SBS News

VIDEO: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8\\_yrPi72aMc](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8_yrPi72aMc)  
*Putricia the Corpse Flower - Royal Botanic Garden, Sydney 23rd January 2025*

Image: <https://www.usbg.gov/sites/default/files/images/2021corpseflowerusbg.jpg>

### **How many words do you think of that are related to: *Scent? Smell? Aroma? Pong? Gross? ? ? ...***

*Discover the joy and smiles in the garden*

### **COSTA'S GARDEN: Flowers (ABC books)**

by **Costa GEORGIADIS and Brenna QUINLAN**

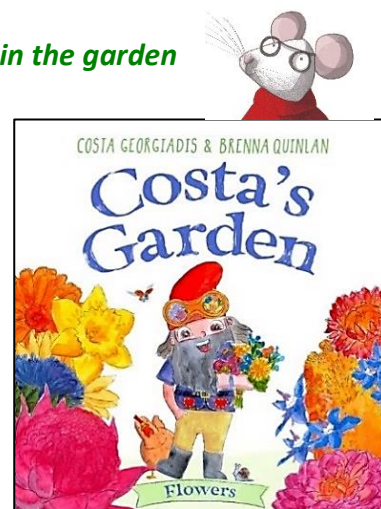
<https://www.harpercollins.com.au/9781460717189/costas-garden/>

*'Hello! I'm Costa, and welcome to my garden. Let's discover the joy of nature together.'*

*Flowers are the part of a plant that smiles. Flowers make us smile too! And there are so many different kinds of flowers – all the colours of the rainbow.*

*Join Australia's favourite garden gnome as he shares the awe and wonder of the natural world with young readers. [Harper Collins]*

<https://www.harpercollins.com.au/9781460717189/costas-garden/>

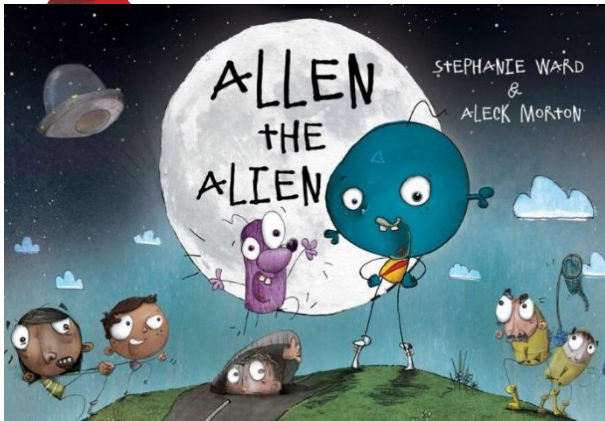






## WHAT'S NEW = I KNEW these books were 'NEW'...

*I can't wait for the aliens to invade.*



**ALLEN THE ALIEN** (Yellow Brick Books/Riveted Press)

by **STEPHANIE WARD**

<https://stephaniemward.com/>

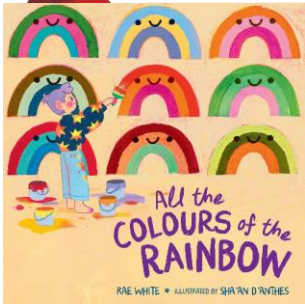
and **ALECK MORTON**

<https://www.aleckm.com/about>

*Allen the Alien* tells two stories: one in words about a friendly alien looking to play and the another in illustrations about a city thrown into chaos at the arrival of a stranger. Savvy reviewers pointed out that Allen perfectly portrays a child who lacks the ability to "read the room", like those that are often reprimanded for speaking out of turn or being too boisterous. Allen never notices the trouble he's causing because he's just being himself. In Aleck Morton's wonderfully frenzied scenes, perceptive readers will spot a hidden message – it's the children who wholeheartedly welcome Allen and want nothing more than to simply play with him. It's their innocence that allows them to see Allen for just who he is – the most amazing playmate in the universe!



*People are like rainbows – each colour is different, and you can choose to be any colour of the rainbow*



**ALL THE COLOURS OF THE RAINBOW**

**RAE WHITE** <https://raewhite.net/>

and

**SHA'AN D'ANTHES- Illustrator**

<https://www.furrylittlepeach.com/about-me>

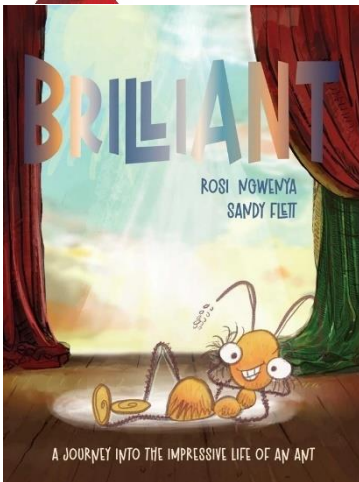
*All the Colours of the Rainbow* follows the story of Jem – a kid who loves wearing yellow dresses and also blue jeans; a kid who feels like a girl when searching for bugs and lizards in the backyard, like a boy when running around in fast circles, and like both a boy and a girl when the clouds have vanished and there's a rainbow in the sky. Some adults in Jem's life only want to see in black and white, but with their Mum's help, Jem learns people are like rainbows – each colour is different, and you can choose to be any colour of the rainbow.

*"When I was growing up, I rarely came across books that explored gender or identity. And if such books existed, they certainly weren't as accessible or as visible as they are today.*

*When I began writing All the Colours of the Rainbow, I knew I wanted to write a book about identity, acceptance and love – for people like me, for my amazing friends, and for all the wonderful rainbow families in my life."*— Rae White (they/them), Author of *All the Colours of the Rainbow*



*"It's a great book," he rANTed!*



## BRILLIANT

by **ROSI NGWENYA** <https://rosingwenya.com/>

and **SANDY FLETT** <https://sandyflettart.com/>

(Riveted Press)

Writing *BrilliANT* was inspired by a fun discovery I had—so many words that describe ants actually contain “ANT” within them!

Told in just 16 words, 14 of them ending in “ant,” this story makes you want to shrink down into the fascinating micro-world of these tiny insects. Sandy Flett’s hilarious illustrations bring to life one brave ant's daring quest to lead her colony to a bountiful feast.

Along the way, you’ll discover that ants are the ultimate team players—strong, resourceful, and mostly female! With their role within the colony already pre-determined from birth, you’ll see the Queen Ant, Soldier Ants and Nurse Ants all playing their part.

Packed with humor, wordplay, and a fun way to expand vocabulary, *BrilliANT* will change the way you look at ants (and words!). Plus, the bonus facts at the end will take your ant knowledge to an ANTastic new level!

***Picture books are booming with such diverse language and visual concepts - definitely for kids of all ages.***



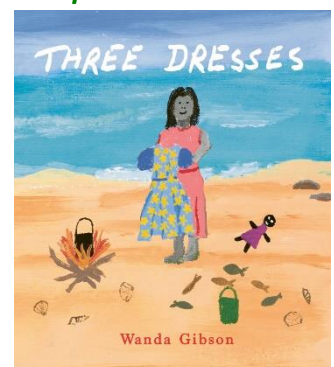
*'Take three dresses ... one to wash, one to wear and one spare.'*

## THREE DRESSES (UQP)

by **WANDA GIBSON**

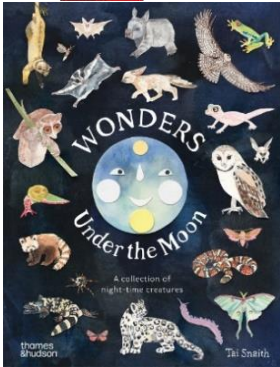
When Wanda was a little girl, her mum would tell her this as they packed to go on holidays. Wanda grew up on Hope Vale Mission in Far North Queensland, and her family were allowed only one short break away from work each year. At their special spot at the beach, they camped in the sandhills, cooked fresh fish on the fire and swam in the ocean.

Her story celebrates family time, connection to place and finding joy in the simple things, like your favourite three dresses. <https://www.uqp.com.au/books/three-dresses>





We **WONDER** under the moon... what happens in the animal kingdom when the sun goes down?



We watch out for the **Biters and Bloodsuckers, Nimble Night-time Ninjas and Prickly Personalities ... AND ...** We ask **Tai Snaith** about her book and how she keeps these creatures and all their info under control...



**WONDERS UNDER THE MOON:**  
**A collection of night-time creatures**  
**(Thames & Hudson Australia)**

**TAI SNAITH** <https://www.taisnaith.com/>

### - ART TECHNIQUES

I use a slightly unusual technique of watercolour on paper. Then I cut the parts of the animal out and glue it together, almost like a tiny puppet! I do that with each creature in the book, Next, they are photographed and laid out over my watercolour and ink background on the computer.

### -PERSONAL INTEREST IN ANIMALS AND SCIENCE

When I make picture books, I try to be in touch with my 9-year-old self. She was very interested in animals of all kinds and had collections of frogs, crickets, lizards, rabbits, horses and more! I have always felt very close to animals, sometimes even closer than my human family. I have a huge amount of compassion for their plight. Many of them are in lots of trouble due to problems that humans have created.

Science is really just the world around us! I have always been curious and fascinated by drawing things, understanding how they work, and how they are put together.

### -WHY ANIMALS?

Honestly, I think I prefer animals to humans! I find the animal kingdom so exciting and beautiful- I feel that humans have lost a lot of our intuition and natural insights. We could probably learn a lot from animals.

### - DEVISING CLEVER HEADINGS/ GROUPINGS FOR CREATURES

I just naturally group things together in a slightly funny way. I started thinking about what I wanted to draw. They were things with big eyes and big ears first- so they were in a group- **Fantastic Features!** I also think kids understand things like being *slippery and slimy*, a *nimble ninja* or a *lively loner*. This makes more sense than being part of a dry taxonomical scientific grouping. It's also a way of making animals a little bit more like people so we can feel empathy towards creatures and help them.

Without the next generation being aware of the plight of animals, they have little hope of surviving our destructive ways. I like to think that this approach might inspire the next David Attenborough or Jane Goodall or more new passionate animal lovers who have the power to draw attention to animals and their lives/habitats.

**- ANY SURPRISES ALONG THE WAY - ART, AUDIENCE OR OTHERWISE...**



I learnt a lot of things! When I set out, I had no idea that all the big cats were nocturnal! We always see these creatures in zoos and on documentaries and we just assume they are out during the day. I also love discovering all the weird species of things like moths and owls and bats. I'm always amazed at how many different varieties there are.

One thing lovely thing is quite a few of my fans have told me that they like using the Wonders books as a drawing reference instead of the internet. This makes me very happy.

**MORE DATES COMING SOON...**



**RU OK?Day** is always a special occasion on the school calendar (*pencil it in for the second Thursday in September*). It's an opportunity for the community to come together and encourage supportive conversations. However, you don't need to wait until then to check in with family, friends or others to see how they are doing,

**Plus: Clean Up Australia Day** (March 3rd), **International Women's Day** (March 8th), **St Patrick's Day** (March 17th), and **Harmony Day** (March 21st)

**We don't really move on from one year and focus to another...**



**It's more like our personal stories and those we read join up to give us more ideas to**

**READ ::: WRITE ::: IMAGINE ::: CREATE::: and ::: SHARE.**



BCBA has been sharing and celebrating stories for 80 YEARS. Congratulations to all Australians who continue to make a difference.

Many thanks to all the Creatives, Authors, Illustrators and Others who give us the magic and adventure of story, information and imagination.

This issue of **KC** was collated by Jackie Hawkes

[Jackie.hawkes@gmail.com](mailto:Jackie.hawkes@gmail.com) and **Marion Anonymous** aka **MaryAnne Anne Ann O'Mouse** and **LOTS** of people who love to READ, WRITE, THINK AND CREATE.



Your ideas and feedback are always welcome to **KIDS' CORNER**.

**HAPPY READING ALWAYS** - Cheers- Morrie, Magic Morrie, MaryAnne, and Jackie