

# Kids' Corner

August 2019

**August CBCA NSW BRANCH KIDS' CORNER** begins with a huge THANKS to all our authors and illustrators for sharing their secret powers with us throughout the year. Their extra involvement in KC projects and the never ending stories they create - past, present and future - feeds our imagination. August is filled with **Science Week** (August 10 - 18) and **CBCA Book Week** (August 17 - 23). Both grow our imagination and help ideas shape the world. KC for August is full of science, reading, illustration, good books, ideas and more! Enjoy your secret powers. Happy reading as always. Cheers - Morrie & Jackie

## WHAT MAKES A GOOD BOOK?

Join us at our **CBCA NSW BRANCH 2019 KIDS' BOOK OF THE YEAR** event. Guest speakers **Sue Whiting, Jules Faber** and students from Sydney schools review the Younger and Older Reader Short List categories

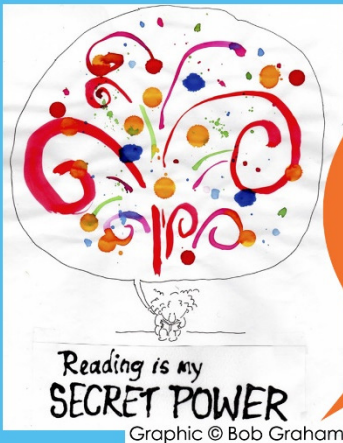


### WHAT'S HAPPENING

**Science Week** helps us shift the focus to aspects of non-fiction. **Jan Latta's** many journeys and books are the result of her knowledge and experiences with endangered animals and her many journeys. Others involved in the Sciences share their knowledge of science through books and comments

### WRITE NOW

Find out from **Jules Faber** why 'a picture is worth 1000 words'. Use his ideas and other KC info to be the catalyst for your own writing.



## BITS OF BOOK WEEK

**Bob Graham** discusses how he translated the 'secret powers' of reading into the remarkable illustrations that help us celebrate **2019 CBCA Book Week**.

See interview inside.

## READ ON AND ON ...

Although **PICTURE BOOKS** are often a special mix of imagination many of the 2019 Notables create a balance of imagination with facts to discover about the 'real world'.



ART & DESIGN:  
LUCIE TOWERS

CONTENT WRITER:  
JACKIE HAWKES

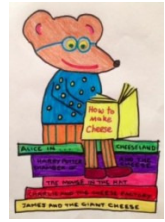
**Happy 2019 CBCA BOOK WEEK - Reading is my Secret Power**

## CBCA NSW Branch KIDS' CORNER for AUGUST



THE CHILDREN'S  
BOOK COUNCIL  
OF AUSTRALIA  
NSW BRANCH

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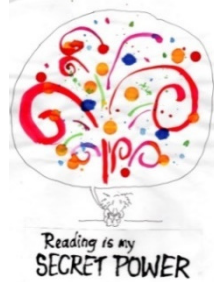
August is filled with **Science Week** (August 10-18) and **CBCA Book Week** (August 17-23). Both grow our imagination and help ideas shape the world. KC for August is full of science, reading, illustration, good books, ideas and more.

**ENJOY YOUR SECRET POWERS. HAPPY READING AS ALWAYS.**

**CHEERS - MORRIE & JACKIE**

### BITS OF BOOK WEEK

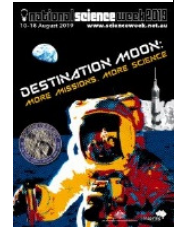
**BOB GRAHAM** discusses how he interpreted the 'secret power' of reading into the remarkable illustrations that help us celebrate 2019 CBCA Book Week. Watch for his special images.



**Join us at our CBCA NSW Branch Kids Book of the Year Event.** Guest speakers Sue Whiting and Jules Faber and students from Sydney schools review the Younger and Older Reader Short List categories.

### WHATS HAPPENING?

**SCIENCE WEEK** helps us shift the focus to aspects of non-fiction. **JAN LATTA'S** books are the result of her personal experiences with endangered animals and many journeys to discover more. Scientists can't help but love what they do and contribute. Watch for other surprises of how they share their types of science through books and comments.



 **national science week 2019**

### WRITE NOW



Find out from **JULES FABER** why '*a picture is worth 1000 words*'. Use his ideas and other KC info to be the catalyst for your

own writing.

### READ ON AND ON . . .

**PICTURE BOOKS** are often a special mix of imagination. Many of the 2019 Notables create a balance of imagination with facts to discover about the 'real world'.



## DESIGNS ON CBCA BOOK WEEK - BOB GRAHAM



**BOB GRAHAM** has illustrated a number of Australia's favourite picture books and shares info about part of the secret powers that helped him create the 2019 CBCA Book Week designs for the theme, *Reading is my secret power*.

What do you like about the 2019 CBCA Book Week theme, "Reading is my secret power"?

**As an illustrator looking for an image to fit that idea it pointed me in the direction of reading being quiet and personal, possibly even life changing.**

How did you go about changing the words of the theme into pictures?

**Reading can take you from where you are and put you in someplace else. It can sometimes make all things seem possible. I played with this idea with words like *transformation, change, aspiration, ideas and dreaming*.**

How did you decide what images to create?

**I used the above thoughts to draw kids and animals in various situations imagining just what Might Be. When the theme was revised, it prodded me to take another look at my old Superhero family and give Max a sister, ('Maxine'), which was something I started a few years back and has been in my bottom drawer.**



Which parts of your designs do you like best?

**I had lots of ideas so instead of using just one we used them all (or most of them anyway).**

How do you think people could be encouraged to read more and share stories?

**People will always share stories in some form or another. Aboriginal people have been doing it for a very long time, way before books came about.**

**They just passed them on down. Now, along with other things we have books. Indigenous stories along with others from all over the world are available in our libraries. Children need good books from an early age along with time set aside to read them. Secret powers can come from that.**

What is your secret power?

**Not sure if I have a power as such but I remain constantly surprised that a new picture story keeps landing on my desk. From where? From somewhere up in my head and my imagination - I think it might be the same place you go while reading!**

(additional draft designs were devised and © by Bob Graham)

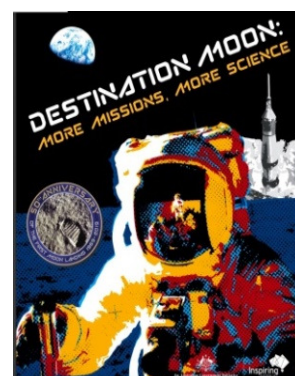


## DESTINATION SCIENCE

Science Week 2019 highlights a future that focuses on the next stages of moon exploration. It also reminds us that humans constantly make discoveries that may begin with the tiniest microbe and range to the most gigantic continuations of the universe.

Science generates endless possibilities for us explore the inter relationships of sciences and reminds us of ways we can become part of the ideas that shape our world. Australian science has developed many unique inventions. The discoveries are as unique as the people behind them. <https://www.australiangeographic.com.au/topics/history-culture/2010/06/australian-inventions-that-changed-the-world/>

For more about SCIENTISTS who develop interests, share ideas, discover surprises and READ and more, read on and on.



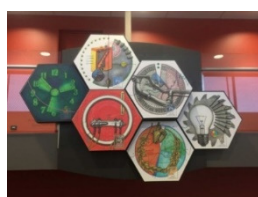
## ART AND SCIENCE

Remarkable art works have been created in Victoria to help mark 2019 as the International Year of the Periodic Table of Chemical Elements.

*"Quantum Victoria, a specialist STEM education centre for primary and secondary students and teachers, commissioned a series of 51 images illustrating the birth of the universe through elements of significance from the Periodic Table".*

<http://art.damon.fastmail.net/project/science/periodictable/perindex.htm>

When you click one of the elements on the website, an enlarged image with details of the element will appear.

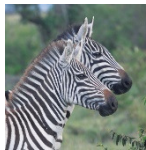


**SCIENCE IN THE WILD - JAN LATTA** is an author and photographer who has used her first hand experience and knowledge of endangered animals to create over 20 books. Visit Jan's website to view videos of her experiences. [www.truetolifebooks.com.au](http://www.truetolifebooks.com.au)



How did you become interested in the sciences?

***25 years ago I had a close encounter with a silverback gorilla in Rwanda, Africa. When my guide said there were fewer than 600 mountain gorillas left in the world, I was inspired to create books for children on endangered animals.***



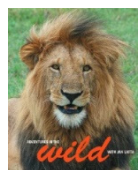
What do you enjoy most about sharing your experiences, photography and ideas? ***I love talking to kids about my adventures in the wild. My animal videos are a bonus because kids get so excited seeing the animals in action in the wild,***

***they want to read my books. To create the True to Life Books I travelled to Sri Lanka, Uganda, India, China, Costa Rica and eleven times to Africa, taking photographs of the animals in the wild to tell their story.***



What surprises you about animals?

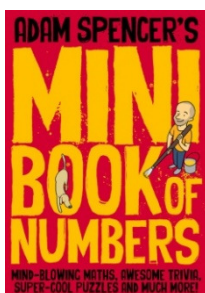
***I learn so much when I'm close to animals in their natural habitat. In Africa a cheetah came up to me and allowed me to touch it, and an elephant said hello by putting its trunk around my face. In Borneo I shared my water bottle with a mother orangutan and her baby. I'm always surprised animals will react to me when I'm calm.***



Why do you enjoy reading?

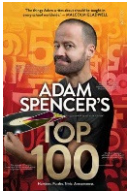
***Reading is my super power. I need to know everything about a wild and dangerous animal when I'm close to it. The lion on the cover of my Adventures in the Wild book was less than two metres from me.***

## **ADAM SPENCER - Mathematician, Author, Reader**



How did you become interested in the sciences?

***My main specialty is mathematics and I can't ever remember not loving it! Maths always made sense to me and I could never get enough. My teacher used to set me extra homework and I would devour it the same way my friends devoured ice cream cake. AND I still ate a lot of ice cream cake too. It was the best of both worlds***



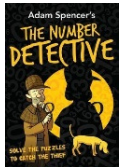
What do you enjoy most about sharing ideas and knowledge about science?

***Watching that look of surprise and happiness on someone's face when they finally 'get it' is just priceless for me. I love thinking I may have helped someone learn something***

NUMBERLAND  
due NOV  
2019

What surprises you about Science?

***I'm often stunned at what an amazing a tool mathematics is for measuring, describing and predicting the world. There is a particular charge we have measured in physics that we can calculate to one part in a trillion accuracy. That's as accurate as if I asked you to estimate the distance around the equator and you guessed it to within one 25th of a millimetre - that's as wide as a couple of human hairs!***



Why do you enjoy reading?

***Books rock. The ability to put some ideas on a page and then inspire people to think, argue, understand, disagree ... is truly wonderful.***

## READ ON and on - NEW BOOKS to discover more and share

	<p><b>PLASTIC, PAST, PRESENT and FUTURE</b></p>		<p><b>WEIRD WILD AMAZING: EXPLORE THE WORLD</b></p>		<p><b>ADVENTURES IN THE WILD</b></p>
	<p><b>KIDS WHO DID</b></p>		<p><b>MINI BOOK OF NUMBERS</b></p>		<p><b>WOO'S WONDERFUL WORLD OF MATHS</b></p>

- \* Eun-Ju Kim and Ji-won Lee - **PLASTIC - PAST, PRESENT and FUTURE** (Scribble) *life cycle of plastic, uses ... control and what we can do about it.*
- \* Tim Flannery - **WEIRD WILD AMAZING: EXPLORE THE WORLD** (Hardie Grant Egmont) *meet the weirdest, wildest and most amazing animals on the planet.*
- \* Jan Latta - **ADVENTURES IN THE WILD** (True to Life Books) *educating children about endangered animals.*
- \* Kirsty Murray - **KIDS WHO DID** (Allen & Unwin) *kids have made their mark on history and are set to change the world.*
- \* Adam Spencer - **MINI BOOK OF NUMBERS.** (XOUM) *mind blowing maths, awesome trivia, super cool puzzles and much more.*
- \* Eddie Woo - **WOO'S WONDERFUL WORLD OF MATHS.** (Pan Macmillan) *mathematics is the ultimate skeleton key. . .it can unlock almost anything.*

## LOOK TO THE STARS

The Observatory at the University of Western Sydney helps us explore:

- answers to the questions about our existence;
- how creatures as small as us can look out to see and understand a universe as big as the one we live in;
- the EMU mapping of the universe; and
- one of the largest telescopes on a university campus.



Discover more in these videos: **Introducing the Penrith Observatory** OR **SETI:**

[https://www.westernsydney.edu.au/observatorypenrith/penrith\\_observatory/Videos](https://www.westernsydney.edu.au/observatorypenrith/penrith_observatory/Videos)

Be part of the Guinness Book of Records Science Week attempt on **August 21** for the most people stargazing at multiple venues

[https://www.westernsydney.edu.au/newscentre/news\\_centre/story\\_archive/2015/celebrating\\_national\\_science\\_week\\_with\\_uws\\_penrith\\_observatory](https://www.westernsydney.edu.au/newscentre/news_centre/story_archive/2015/celebrating_national_science_week_with_uws_penrith_observatory)

## CREATIVITY AND FACTS - Picture books and the real world

We often think of picture books as being about imagination. Some recent titles create a balance of imagination and facts to discover. Sometimes the science or history is part of the story. Sometimes we interpret facts through the illustrations. What other categories of facts do you find here?

**Australian Birds** - Matt Chun: BIRDS, HABITAT

**Bird to Bird** - Claire Saxby, Wayne Harris (Illustrator): NATURE, HISTORY, RECYCLING

**Dingo** - Claire Saxby, Tanya Harricks (Illustrator): AUSTRALIAN ANIMALS

**Drought** - Jackie French, Bruce Whatley (Illustrator): SENSE OF COMMUNITY, WEATHER

**Good Night Starry** D'Arcy Lewis, Andrew McIntosh (Illustrators): SOLAR SYSTEM

**The Great Barrier Thief** - Dr Suzie Starfish: GREAT BARRIER REEF, CLIMATE CHANGE

**The Happiness Box** - Mark Greenwood, Andrew McLean (Illustrator): CHILDREN, A BOOK, CHANGI PRISON

**Little Spiral** - Pat Simmons, Patrick Shirvington (Illustrator): RAINFOREST, SNAIL

**The Mediterranean** - Armin Greder: HUMANITY, REFUGEES, WAR

**The Rats of Tobruk** - Mark Wilson: DESERT, MATESHIP, WAR

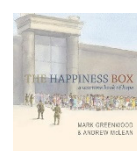
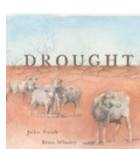
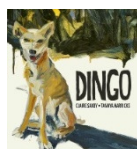
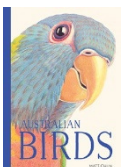
**Room on our Rock** - Kate & Jol Temple, Terri Rose Baynton: BELONGING, MIGRANTS, REFUGEES

**Sorry Day** - Coral Voss, Dub Leffler (Illustrator): FAMILY, STOLEN GENERATION

**Under the Southern Cross** - Frane Lessac: NOCTURNAL LIFE, AUSTRALIAN NATURE & LIFE

**Waves** - Donna Rawlins, Mark Jackson, Heather Potter: MIGRANTS, REFUGEES

**When Water Lost Her Way** - Meg Humphries: RIVER SYSTEMS, WATER CYCLE





## BITS OF BOOK WEEK countdown and criteria



The CBCA Book Week journey travels from the announcement of the **Notables** in February of about 20 titles per category, to the launch of the **Short List** in March of about 6 titles per category, to the final **Book of the Year Awards** announcement of the winning title for each category in August in time for CBCA Book Week celebrations. After the judges have worked through somewhat vocabulary - laden criteria that includes: *Literary merit, cohesiveness in significant literary elements, appropriateness to theme, aesthetic qualities of language and more.*

The category winners for 2019 will be announced on Friday, August 16 at 12:00pm. Details of the official criteria is found here <https://www.cbca.org.au/entry-information>

The CBCA NSW 2019 **KIDS' BOYA** event is held in Sydney on Friday, August 16. It is a celebration of the announcement of the BOYA Winners and the opening of Book Week, and is open to students from all schools.



Jules FABER and Sue WHITING will join school reading teams on stage to join the countdown for the beginning of 2019 Book Week.



Morrie also shares comments from some of the school reading teams who are presenting the book reviews at the BOYA event about "What makes a good book" here in **KIDS' CORNER**.

## MORE THAN 'JUST A PICTURE' - by Jules Faber

Jules is multi-award-winning cartoonist and illustrator, whose new book, *The Quest Diaries of Max Crack*, will be released in August,

Why do you enjoy creating cartoons?

*I've always loved to draw. In kindergarten, I did line drawings of everything – my teddy bear, a whale, a helicopter – all in black crayon. I still love the simplicity of reducing the complexities of our world into a very simple representation.*





What is the difference between cartoons, animation, and caricatures?

***They are closely related but have unique features. Cartoons can be static images or animated sequences. Animation can be hand drawn, digitally created or shot in stop motion with clay models. Caricatures are simple cartoon representations of people or things we clearly recognise, such as certain politicians or astronauts in spacesuits.***

What are some of the techniques that cartoonists/animators use?

***Traditionally, cartoonists draw in pencil before inking. Many now use digital technology to draw their roughs before digitally inking over in a new layer. While the tools change, the technique usually remains constant.***

Should cartoons be taken seriously?

***ABSOLUTELY! Cartoons may seem a simplified drawing but often make a bigger impact than any photograph or paragraph could. They were the first means of written communication when people were drawing on walls and before anyone had a written language. They were the first media, the first comic book, the first Internet. Their impact through the ages means we still use them in everyday life and will continue to long into the future.***

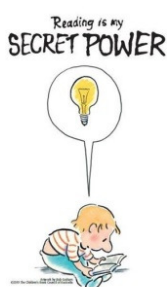
Does every picture tell a story?

***Pictures often convey more emotion and detail than words do. Visual images can summarise a full chapter or a complete movie. Readers often imagine rather than be told how a character looks. A single image can instantly tell what would take 1000 words to share.***

What do you like about stories/ reading?

***When I was little I read to escape from my large, noisy family. I learned that when you read, you can live a thousand million lives. Or, hear and understand people from long ago whose lives are completely different. You can imagine a future you can't reach through time and space.***

***Reading is the amazing gift that can transport you to anywhere and beyond! Or turn you into someone else for a change. What's not to like about that?***



## A GOOD BOOK FOR OUR AGE . . . with thanks to Bexley PS



includes **language to picture the action of the scene, a good story line, with twists and turns and fantasy elements like weird and grotesque animals** and based upon our real animals. It includes a **futuristic setting but not to the point where you can't imagine it.** From Isabella



includes **good language, fantasy elements such as talking animals, magic, heroism, good vs evil and imaginary creatures** It makes us feel the characters and takes **us on an extraordinary journey.** But a real good book could **make a personal difference in the reader's life.** From Ayah



includes **good language and descriptive language, fantasy elements like weird imaginative characters and characters that are our age.** From Ramina



requires **great language and a great storyline.** The **characters have to be interesting and adventurous.** There`s always got to be a **problem.** It has to be **Fiction** and it **has to be creative.** To me personally, it has to have an **attention grabber.** You have to **make the audience have to use their imagination by picturing themselves inside the story.** From Johnny.

Graphic <https://newvitruvian.com/explore/books-clipart-trophy/>

## A GOOD BOOK with thanks to Greystanes PS

**DHISHANA:** *major plot twists that work well in the story . . . an eye catching title . . . starts the page turning journey . . .* **VAANI:** *has suspense, action, mystery, humour, fantasy and reality . . . is written with love and passion . . .* **ERENE:** *makes you not want to stop reading . . . full of humour and suspense . . . tugs at your heart strings...* **SATHANIKA:** *unexpected twists and turns . . . has an engaging introduction . . . simple yet unpredictable occurrences. . . mystery or comedy on every page . . .* **TANVI:** *comedy, adventure, a weird title and mystery. . . be sad and romantic but with a happy ending . . . be enticing . . . part of a series . . .* **VEDANT:** *have description using as many of the senses as possible . . . a twisty storyline with mysteries . . . well-rounded characters . . .* **BELLA:** *the reader cannot put the book down . . . hug for weeks and recommend to anyone and everyone who listens . . .* **AMILIA:** *great storylines and pieces that make sense. . . good villains . . . likeable characters . . . and plot twists that actually work . . . terrible jokes is a big no-no . . .* **ANNABELLA :** *having a meaning or purpose to it . . . a topic which people enjoy . . . a front page which pops out . . . a blurb so the person becomes curious and want to read it.*

## **WRITE NOW:** What is the catalyst for your own writing?

- Choose a random picture. Create the **story behind the picture**.
- You've read the book. **What happens next?**
- Describe your **great discovery**.
- What makes a **good book**?
- How will you tell the world about your **secret power**?



**LINKS 4 U** - HYPERLINKS to further KC info have been included throughout this issue

For the next issue of **KIDS' CORNER** we'd love to hear about some of your secret powers and how your school celebrated CBCA BOOK WEEK 2019. Photos and short comments are welcome. Email them to Jackie at [jackie.hawkes7@gmail.com](mailto:jackie.hawkes7@gmail.com)

**Happy reading always.  
Have a great CBCA BOOK WEEK. Cheers - Morrie**

CBCA NSW Branch KIDS' CORNER is compiled by Morrie, Jackie Hawkes and the KC team.