

# Children's Book Council of Australia (CBCA)

NSW Branch Inc. Hunter



## Book of Local Authors & Illustrators 2024



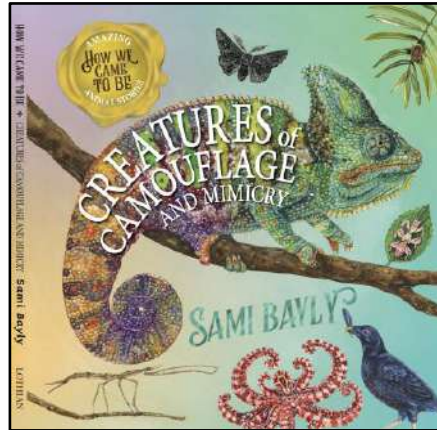
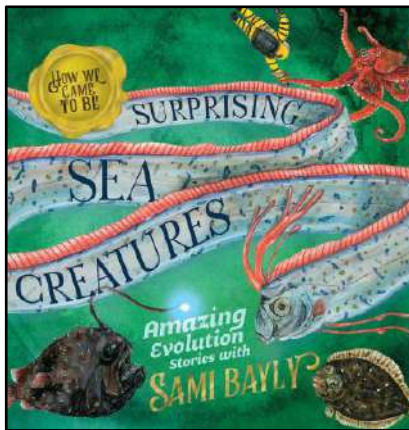
# Sami Bayly

## Illustrator and Author

Sami Bayly is an author and illustrator currently based in Newcastle, NSW. She loves all things weird and wonderful and enjoys painting realistic flora and fauna. After studying a Bachelor of Natural History Illustration, she has published 5 books, three of which are part of The Illustrated Encyclopaedia Series: *The Illustrated Encyclopaedia of Ugly Animals*, *The Illustrated Encyclopaedia of Dangerous Animals* and *The Illustrated Encyclopaedia of Peculiar Animals in Nature*.

Her latest 2 books however, are in a newly released series about animal evolution stories. *How We Came To Be –*

*Surprising Sea Creatures* and *How We Came To Be – Creatures of Camouflage and Mimicry* are both published by Lothian/Hachette Australia. Sami can't wait to see what her future holds!



## Offerings

- School, Library and Festival visits.
- Illustration Workshops

## Awards

Sami has won, and been nominated for, numerous awards including:

2022 Winner Environmental Award for Children's Literature Non-Fiction: The Wilderness Society

2022 Winner Sun Project Shadow Judging: Shadowers' Choice for the CBCA Eve Pownall Award

2021 Winner Children's Indie Book of the Year Award: Indie Book Awards

2020 Winner Best Designed Children's Non-Fiction Illustrated book: Australian Book Design Awards.

## Contact

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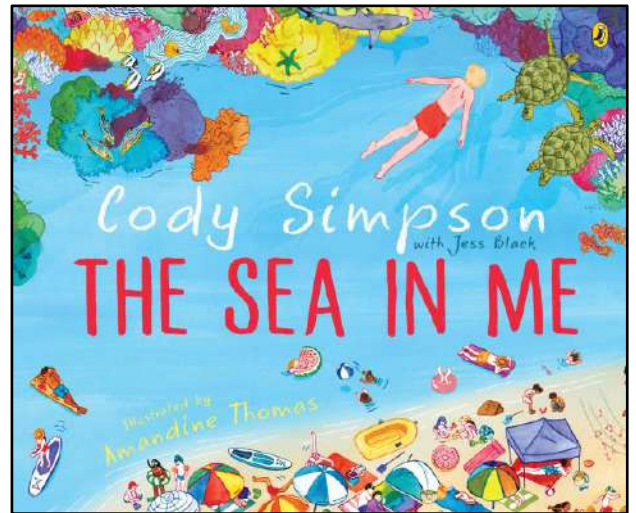
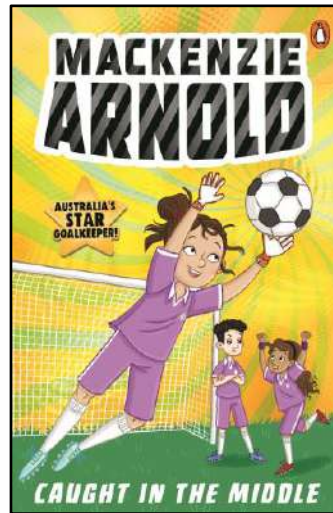
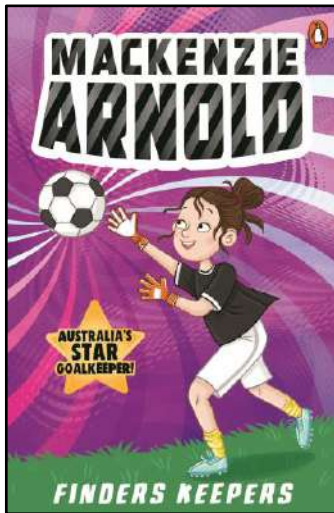
# Jess Black

## Author

Jess Black is an award-winning children's author of over fifty children's books. Jess has written picture books, junior fiction and middle grade level fiction.

Jess has written *The Colourful World of Poppy Starr Olsen*, *Time Out! (Who Dunit, Eddie Woo? series)*, the *Pepper Creek Ponies* series, the *Tales of Mr Walker* series, *The Keeper of the Crystals Series*, *The Little Paws* series. Jess is the co-author of *The Kaboom Kid* series, *The Bindi Irwin*

*Wildlife Adventure* series, and the *Animal Tales* series. Jess has written four picture books - *The Bold Australian Girl*, *Moon Dance*, *Logan's Big Move* and *The Sea in Me*. In 2024 Jess has a new four book junior fiction football series being released with Matilda's goalkeeper, Mackenzie Arnold (published by Penguin Random House).



## Offerings

- Author talks and school visits for any age
- Writing workshops for grades 2 - 8

## Awards

- *The Tales of Mr Walker* Notable book CBCA Awards for Younger Readers 2019
- *The Tales of Mr Walker* longlisted for ABIA Award for Younger Readers 2019
- *The Tales of Mr Walker* longlisted for an Indie Award 2019

## Contact

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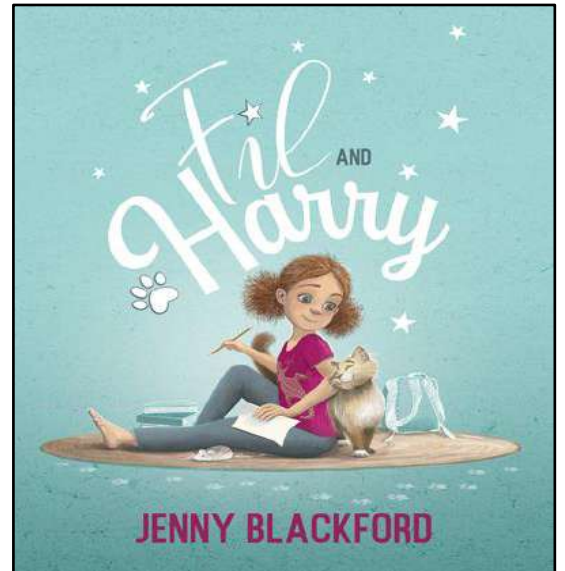
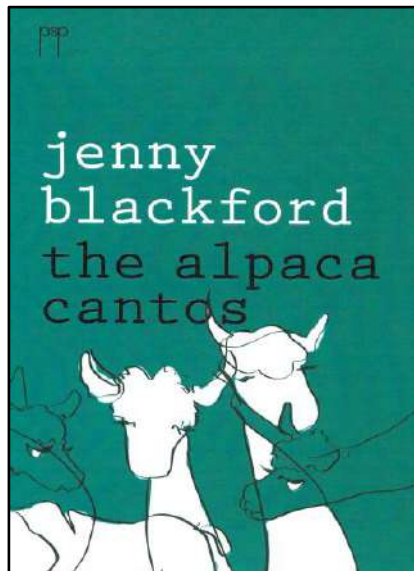
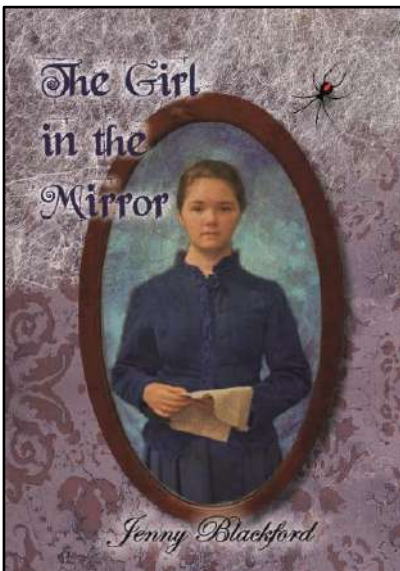


# Jenny Blackford

## Author

Jenny is a prize-winning Newcastle-based author and poet. Her middle-grade historical mystery *The Girl in the Mirror* appeared from Christmas Press/Eagle Books in 2019, and won the 2020 Davitt Award for Best Children's Crime Novel. Christmas Press also published her middle grade novel *Fil and Harry* in 2021. Her poems and stories for children are regularly published in the *School Magazine*, and have appeared in *Our Home is Dirt by Sea: Australian Poetry for Australian Kids*, *Stories for Nine Year Olds* and other great

anthologies. Pitt Street Poetry has published three collections of her poetry: *The Duties of a Cat*, *The Loyalty of Chickens* and *The Alpaca Cantos*, all suitable for teens as well as adults.



## Offerings

- Author talks
- Author workshops for prose or poetry
- School visits

## Awards

- First place in the Long Poem category of the Rhysling Awards 2021
- The 2020 Davitt Award for Best Children's Crime Novel for her novel *The Girl in the Mirror*
- First place Thunderbolt Prize for Crime Poetry 2017
- First place Humorous Verse section of the Henry Lawson awards 2014 and 2017

## Contact

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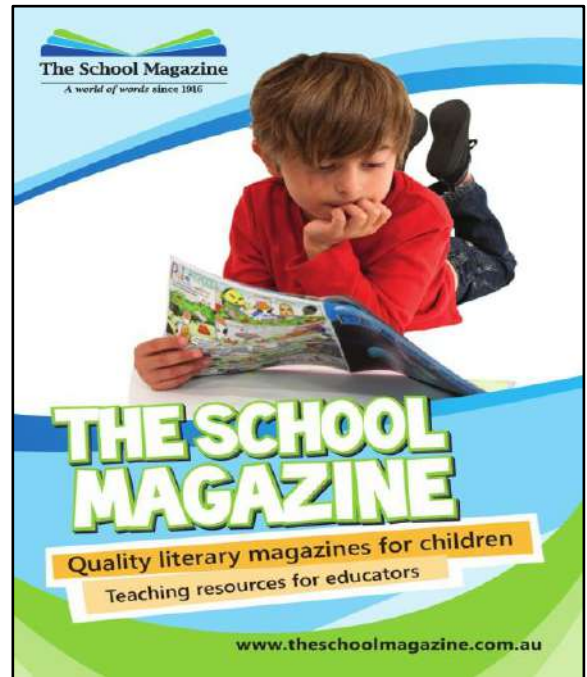
Tw: <https://twitter.com/dutiesofacat>



# Zoë Disher

## Author

Zoë is a children's author who has written mainly for magazines and has over a hundred pieces published in The School Magazine. These are mostly nonfiction articles but also include poems and short stories. She is currently working on longer pieces of fiction in the hopes of one day actually finishing a chapter book.



## Contact

W: [www.zoedisher.com.au](http://www.zoedisher.com.au)

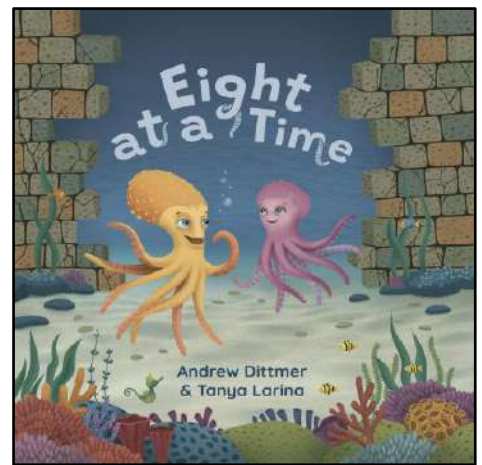
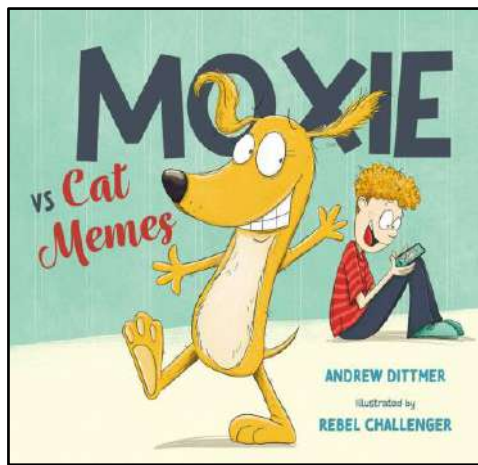
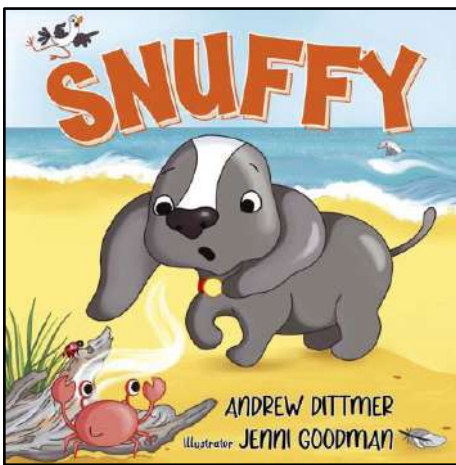
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# Andrew Dittmer

## Author

Andrew Dittmer writes stories for you to share with your loved ones from picture books to middle grade fiction. He writes about the value and capability that children have.



## Offerings

- School Visits
- Workshops

## Awards

- *Snuffy* - Shortlisted for the Speech Pathology Australia Book of the Year Awards, 2022

## Contact

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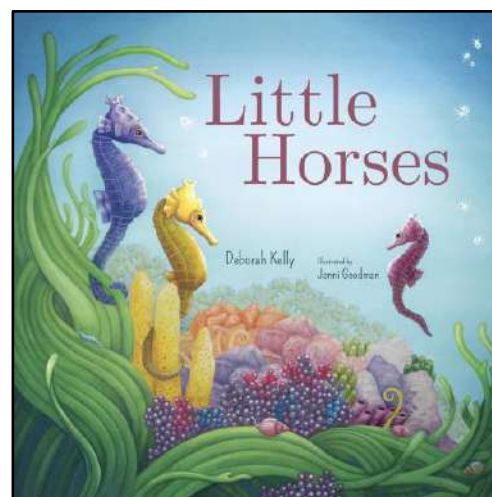
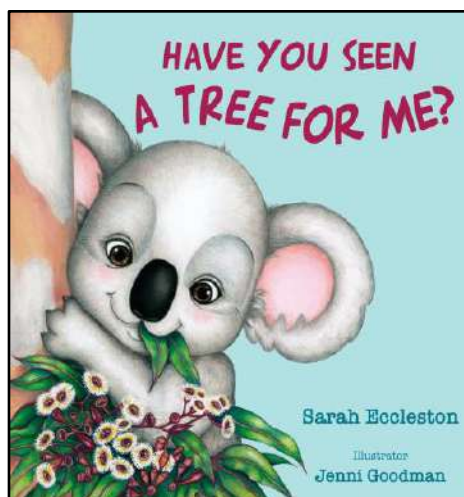
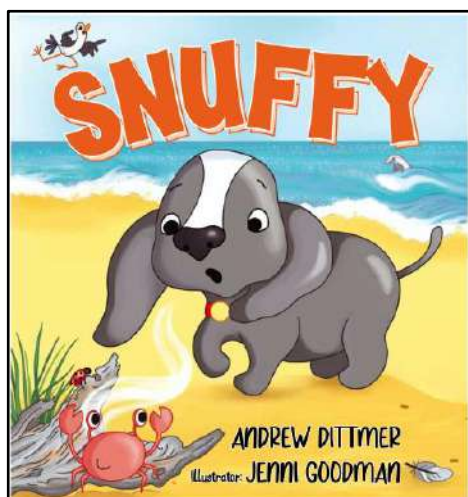


# Jenni Goodman

## Illustrator & CBCA Newsletter Coordinator

Jenni Goodman is a children's book illustrator who lives in beautiful Caves Beach, a lovely seaside town just south of Newcastle, Australia. Jenni uses different mediums to create her artworks including watercolour paints, coloured pencils, graphite pencils and digital media. She loves capturing the beauty of nature and expressive characters in her illustrations.

Most of Jenni's illustrating hours are spent creating picture books - a dream come true! Her latest book, *Little Horses*, with local author Deborah Kelly, is a colourful underwater celebration of seahorse conservation inspired by true events. Jenni has also helped champion koala conservation through the 2020 release of *Have You Seen A Tree For Me?* In 2022, her sweet and playful picture book *Snuffly* created with her older brother, author Andrew Dittmer was Shortlisted for the Speech Pathology Australia Book of the Year. Jenni is currently working on her 9th book.



## Offerings

- School Visits
- Illustrator Talks
- Storytimes/Book Readings
- School Holiday Workshops

## Awards

- *Snuffly* - Shortlisted for the Speech Pathology Australia Book of the Year Awards, 2022

## Contact

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# Jade Goodwin

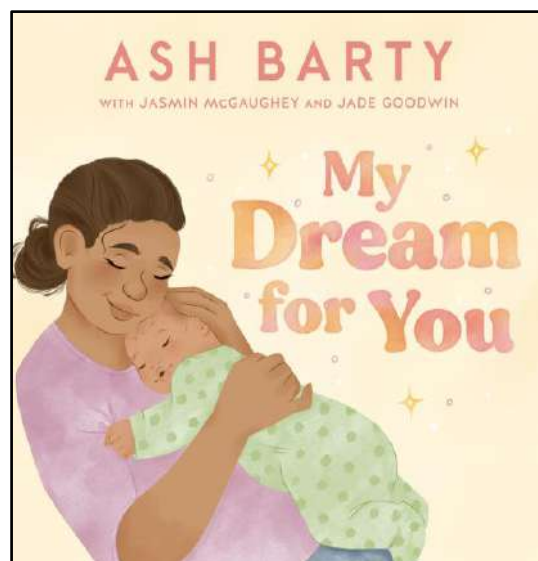
## Illustrator

Jade Goodwin is a First Nations illustrator with curly brown hair and a big imagination. When she was a little girl, she loved spending time in her grandparents' screen-printing studio, creating all sorts of fun things with the studio supplies.

Since her first book was published in 2022, Jade has illustrated a bunch more books and now loves working from home, drawing almost everyday alongside her three furry assistants - *a.k.a her cats*.

Jade is the illustrator of the 10 book series, *Little Ash*. As well as working with HarperCollins, Jade also has illustration contracts with Penguin Random House, Hardie Grant, Magabala, Allen & Unwin, Affirm and Hachette. Totalling 24 books, and counting!

Her sweet and bright illustrations bring imagination to life, and she hopes to inspire both children and adults alike. Jade loves finding magic in everyday moments, dreaming up new worlds and drawing way past her bedtime.



## Offerings

- illustrator talks, workshops and school visits

## Contact

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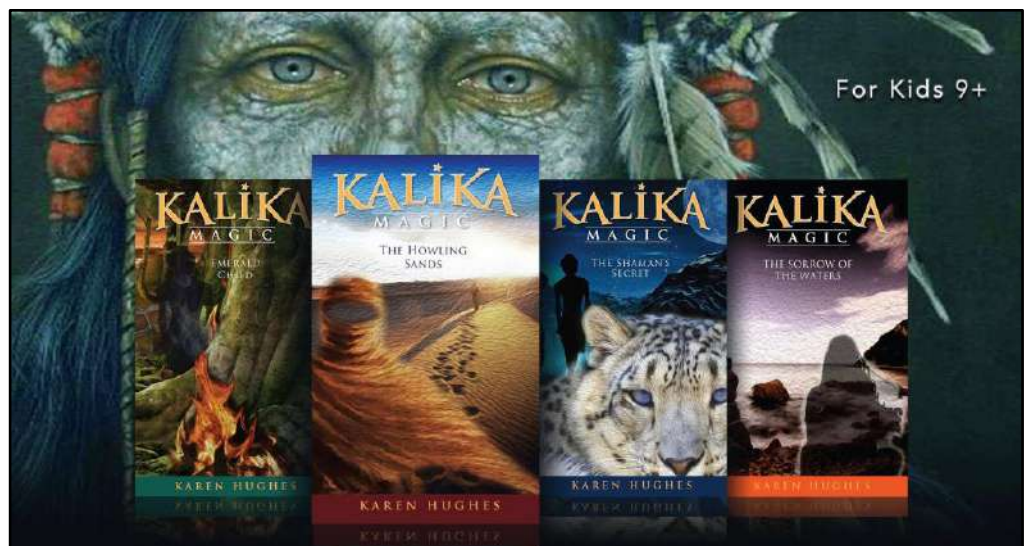
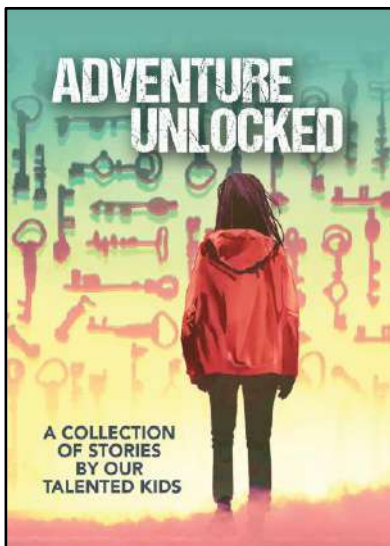




# Karen Hughes

## Author

Karen Hughes is a former corporate lawyer, the mother of four fabulous young adults and the author of four mythic fantasy books in the *Kalika Magic* series, now listed on the NSW Premier's Reading Challenge. Her most recent book is *The Howling Sands* (2017). As the director of Hunter Valley Writers in Maitland, Karen runs the popular Talented Kids Program, publishing an annual anthology of stories written by local kids and delivering author talks, school visits, and creative writing workshops all over Australia. She is passionate about inspiring kids to live a creative life and believes that every child should have the opportunity to shine. Karen has just finished writing an adult science fiction novel as the creative component of her PhD (English) at the University of Newcastle and is currently working on her fifth *Kalika Magic* book.



## Offerings

- Author talks / workshops / readings
- School / Library / Book Club visits
- Weekly creative writing sessions on Zoom
- Talented Kids Program in our Maitland studio
- Writers Festival workshops / panels
- Homeschool creative writing programs
- School holiday workshops

## Contact

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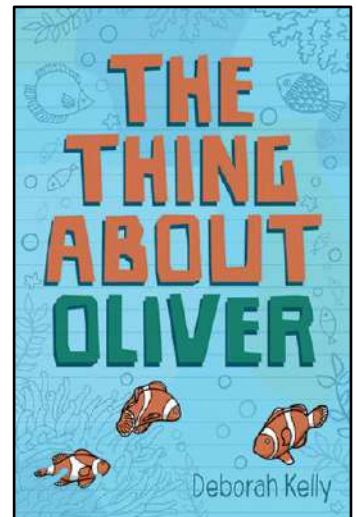
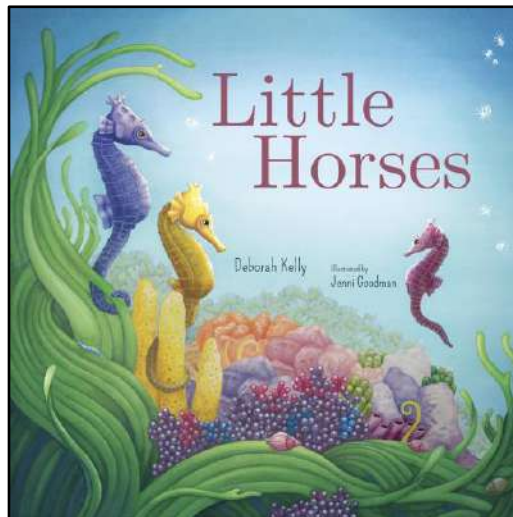
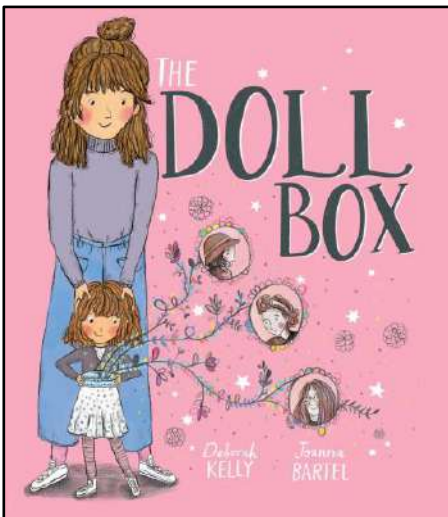
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# Deborah Kelly

## Author

Deb Kelly is a multi award-winning, internationally published author of picture books, junior fiction and middle grade. Deb visits schools, libraries and festival events (including Newcastle Writers' Festival and Sydney Writers' Festival) to share her books with children. Many of her books are included in Premier's Reading Challenge lists around Australia. She is a Role Model for *Books in Homes* and reviews children's books for *Reading Time* magazine.



## Offerings

- School visits
- Readings K – 6
- Festival appearances

## Awards

- *The Thing About Oliver* – winner Australian Association of Family Therapists Award in 2021
- *The Thing About Oliver* – shortlisted for CBCA Younger Readers & Speech Pathology Australia Book of the Year 2020
- *Me and You* – winner Speech Pathology Australia Book of the Year 2017
- *Ruby Wishfingers: Skydancer's Escape, Me and You & The Thing About Oliver* – CBCA Notable books

## Contact

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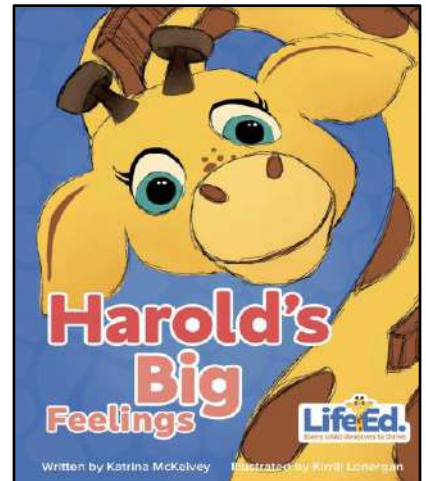
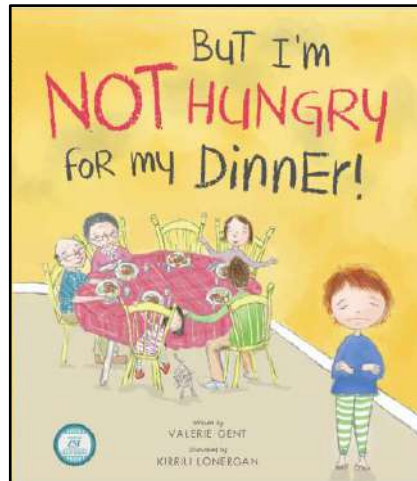
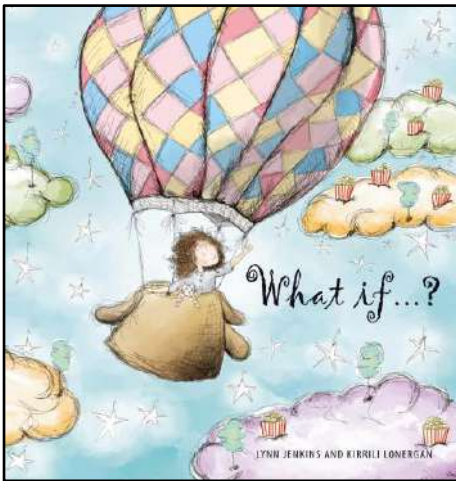
FB: <https://www.facebook.com/DeborahKellyChildrensAuthor>



# Kirrili Lonergan

## Author/Illustrator & CBCA Committee Member

Kirrili Lonergan is a Newcastle based picture book illustrator and art therapist with a passion for visual storytelling and self-expression through art. She loves sharing her skills with children and relates warmly to their needs through her former years working as a paediatric nurse. She is the illustrator for the Lessons of a LAC picture book series and the co-creator of the Lessons of a LAC anxiety management package. She has been shortlisted for the Speech Pathology of Australia Awards in 2018 for *Ollie's Treasure* and in 2022 for *But I'm NOT Hungry for my Dinner!* She is an active member of CBCA and SCBWI.



## Offerings

- Illustrator talks/workshops
- Author/illustrator talks/workshops
- Lessons of a LAC anxiety management school visits
- Lessons of a LAC teacher PD sessions
- Art Therapy sessions
- Book readings
- School holiday workshops

## Awards

- *But I'm NOT Hungry for my Dinner!* – shortlisted for Book of the Year Speech Pathology Australia 2022
- *Ollie's Treasure* – shortlisted for Book of the Year Speech Pathology Australia 2018

## Contact

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LI: <https://www.linkedin.com/in/kirrilionergan/>

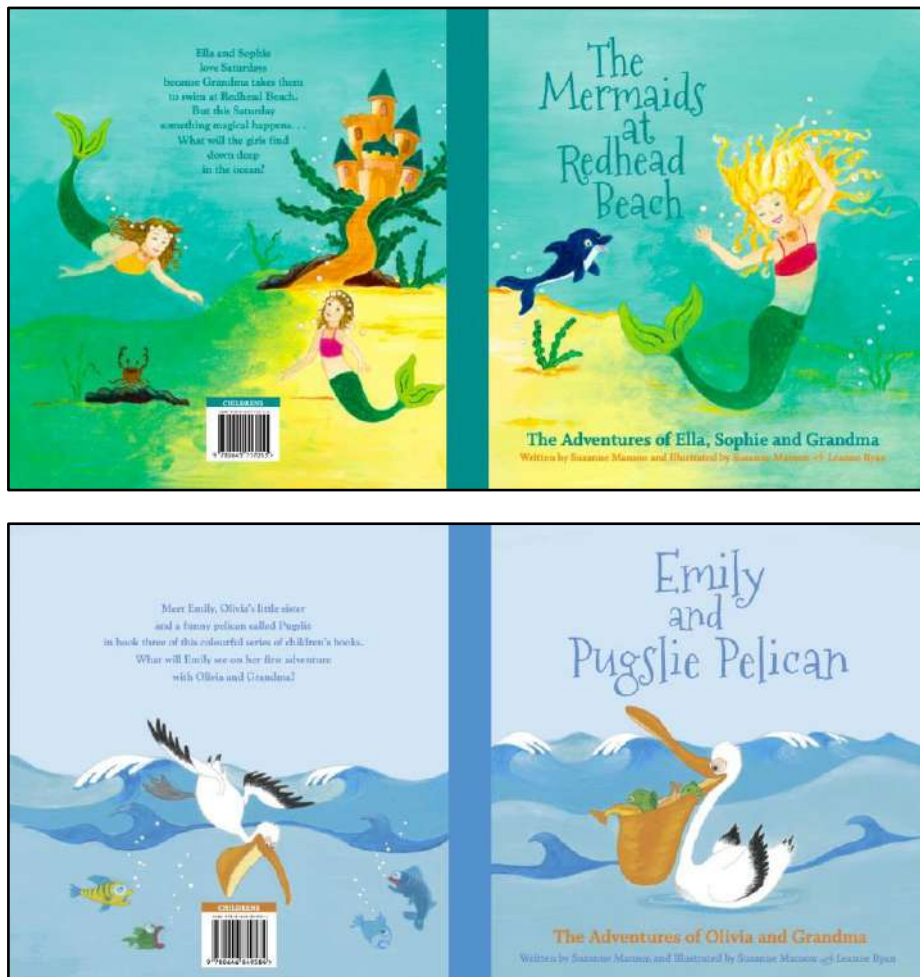


# Suzanne Manson

## Author & Illustrator

I am a Newcastle local author and illustrator and have recently completed my fourth book in The Adventures of Oliver and Grandma series. These colourful books are about a family of children and their adventures at Redhead Beach. I have really enjoyed writing these books and am looking forward to releasing book five, the last in this series, later this year.

Books are available at Creative Village Newcastle in store and online [creativevillagenewcastle.com.au](http://creativevillagenewcastle.com.au). They are also available through my email and Facebook.



## Contact

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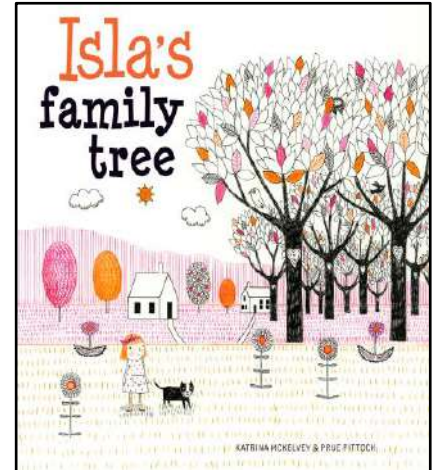
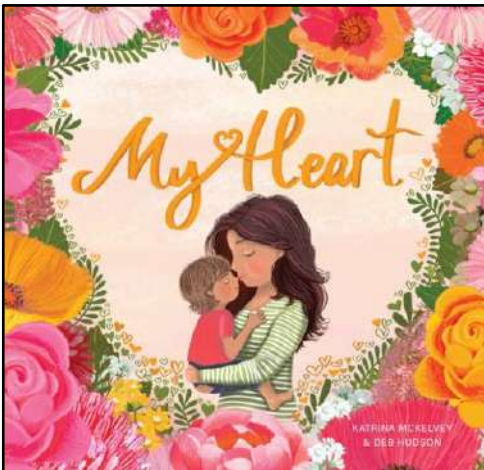
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# Katrina McKelvey

## Author & CBCA Committee Member

Katrina McKelvey is a children's author, picture book manuscript assessor, former primary school teacher, and wife and mother living in Newcastle, NSW. She's highly involved in CBCA, SCBWI, LittleScribe, community events, literary conferences and festivals, and loves visiting schools. She's written many children's picture books and educational readers including her new titles, *Mila and Ivy* and three Healthy Harold big books for the newly released Life Education Australia Early Years program. Katrina is left-handed, loves tea, scary movies and rollercoasters, and is addicted to mint chocolate. When she was little, a hot air balloon accidentally landed in her backyard. Her latest picture book, *My Heart*, depicts the many ways a mother's heart can experience love and emotion while her baby journeys through the milestones of growing up.



## Offerings

- Storytimes (Preschool to Year 6)
- Author Talks (Preschool to Year 6)
- Author/Illustrator talks/workshops with Kirrili Lonergan
- School Holiday sessions
- Literary events host
- Literary conferences and festivals: host, chair, panel participant, presenter

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Tw: <https://twitter.com/katrinamckelvey>

YT Channel: <https://www.youtube.com/c/KatrinaMcKelvey>

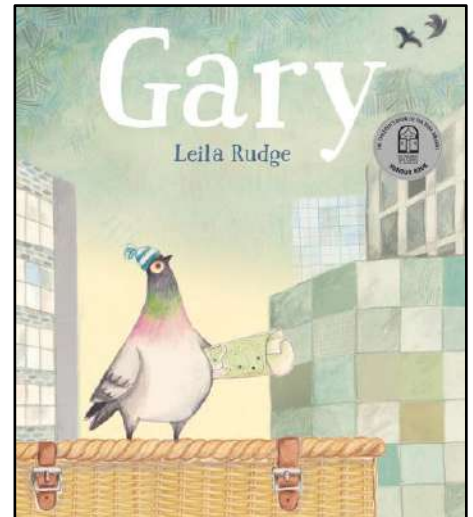
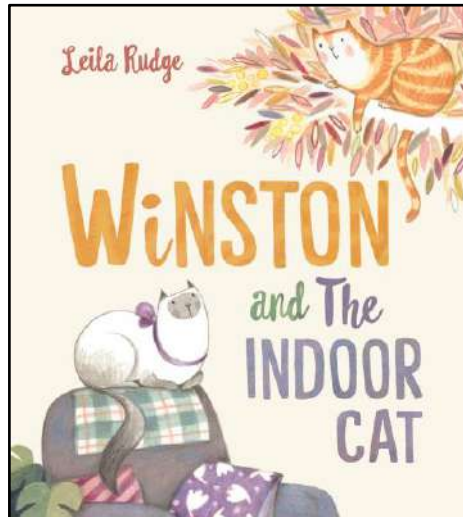
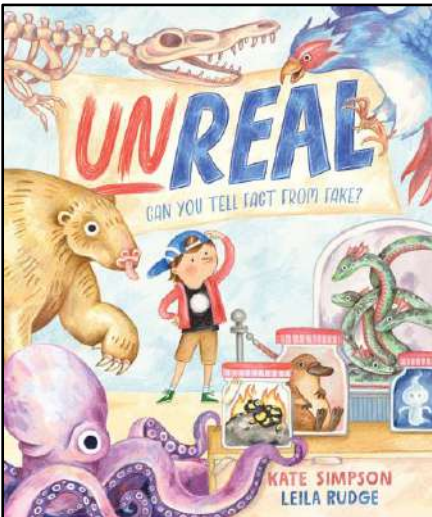


# Leila Rudge

## Author/Illustrator

Leila grew up in England and spent her first few years making mud pies with five siblings. Not long after completing an Illustration Degree at Bath Spa University, she hopped on a plane to Australia with her portfolio.

Leila has now illustrated over ten picture books including three of her own stories. Her writing usually always begins with a sketchbook scribble and she enjoys developing story ideas from her illustrations. Her illustrations are a mixture of pencil, paint, paper and any other bits and bobs found in her studio at home. She loves adding collage to her drawings and often spends a bit too long flipping through magazines to find the perfect pattern. Leila currently lives and works in Newcastle, Australia.



## Offerings

- Author/Illustrator visits and workshops across all ages and abilities

## Awards

- *Winston and the Indoor Cat* – Shortlisted CBCA Early Childhood Book 2022
- *Gary* – Honour book CBCA Early Childhood Book 2017

## Contact

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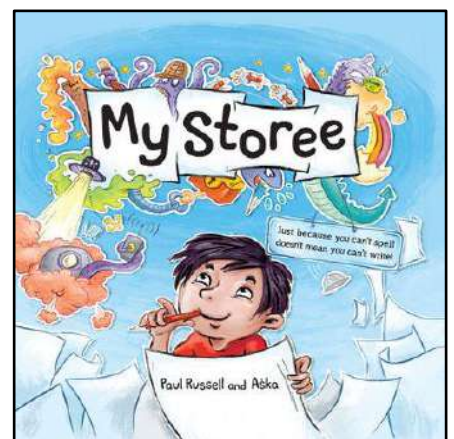
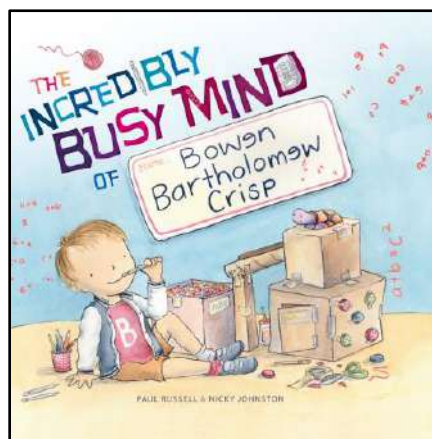
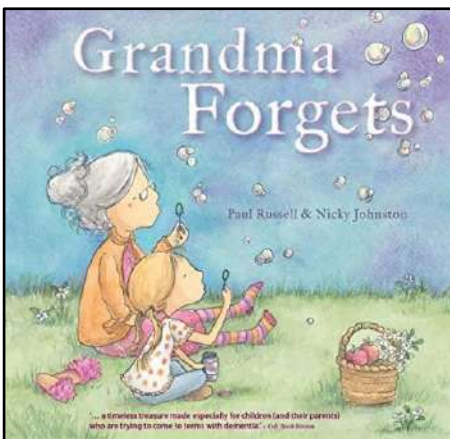
In: [https://www.instagram.com/leilarudge\\_illustration/](https://www.instagram.com/leilarudge_illustration/)



# Paul Russell

## Author

Paul Russell has always been passionate about stories, even before he could read. Determined never to grow up and lose his imagination, he is a teacher, playwright, father, artist and author but maybe not always in that order. He is passionate about children's literacy and in building an appetite within children for the written word. Paul's writing mixes his personal experiences with his imagination, allowing him to write on such diverse topics as dyslexia, dementia, anxiety and neurodiversity. His books combine serious issues with his gentle hand and great humour.



## Awards

- *The Incredibly Busy Mind of Bowen Bartholomew Crisp* – winner of the Speech Pathology of Australia award 2022 for 5 – 8 year olds
- *Grandma Forgets* - CBCA Notable Book 2017
- CONDA Best Playwright 2009

## Contact

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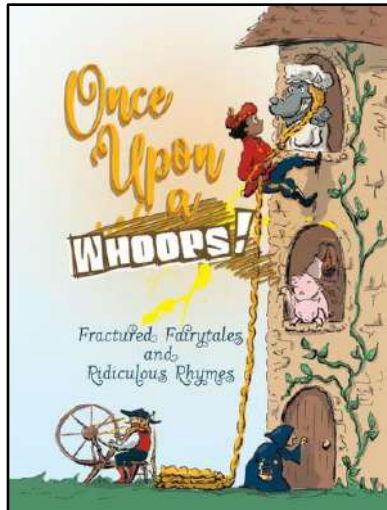
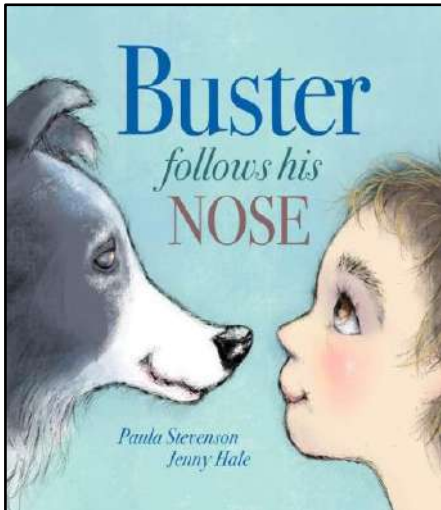
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# Paula Stevenson

## Author

Paula loves to write stories for children that entertain, surprise and inspire. She lives and works on a rural property in the Upper Hunter Valley of NSW, having escaped from the city more than twenty years ago. She writes every day and is inspired by her landscape and environment, writing stories and poems for children about cows, kelpies, roos, echidnas, goannas and even snakes, which occasionally sneak into her house. She is fascinated by bees and passionate about alerting the world to the threats they face. Her picture book *Buster Follows His Nose* was published in May 2022. Her poems have been published in *The School Magazine*, and she has had stories published in numerous anthologies. Paula posts regularly on her website and FB blogging about books, writing and her animal encounters!



## Offerings

- Author talks
- School visits
- Library visits

## Awards

- Short listed Scribbles Creative Writings Awards 2018 & 2019
- Long listed Harper Collins Aspiring Writers Award 2017

## Contact

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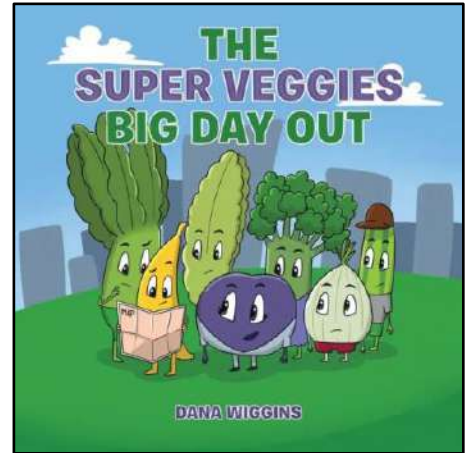
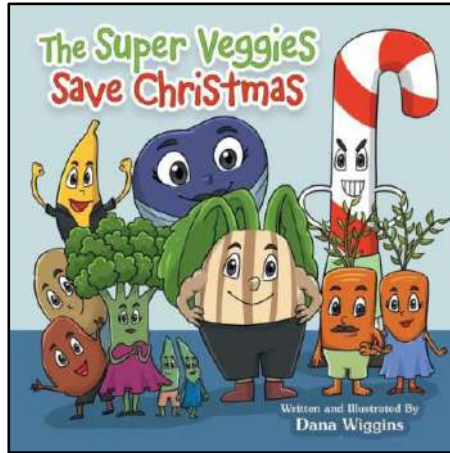
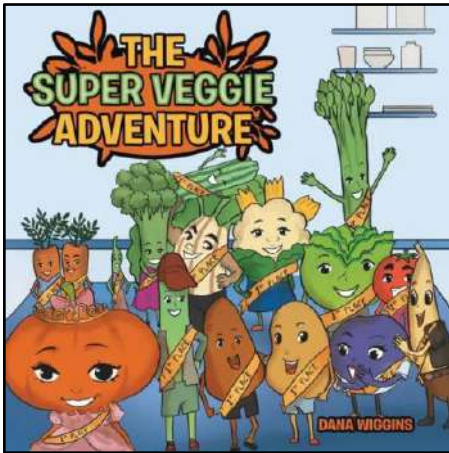




# Dana Wiggins

## Author & Illustrator

I have written three books encouraging children to eat well and discover how tasty and exciting vegetables can be! My books are available from Barnes and Noble, Amazon and Balboa Press.



## Offerings

- School visits K - 6
- Festival appearances

## Contact

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# Enriching Young Lives through Australian Stories

If you would like to know more about CBCA membership  
please visit [www.cbcansw.org.au/about-3](http://www.cbcansw.org.au/about-3)

If you would like to be added to the Hunter Sub-branch  
email list to find out about our regular events and  
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