



THE CHILDREN'S  
BOOK COUNCIL  
OF AUSTRALIA  
NSW BRANCH

# KIDS' CORNER

SEPTEMBER 2020



**As we head closer to  
CBCA BOOK WEEK 2020,  
our imaginations run wild  
planning how to  
CELEBRATE READING with**

**humour, techniques,  
creatures and unique  
worlds of authors and  
illustrators**

**stories that are newly  
published**

**and**

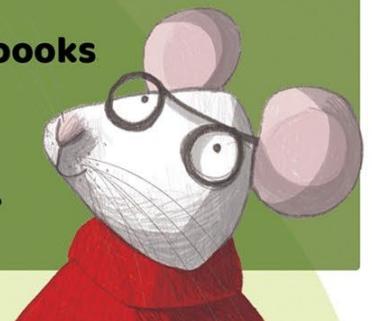
**plans of special happenings  
through our libraries**

**You can**

**Plan reviews of special books**

**Ask your friends RUOK?**

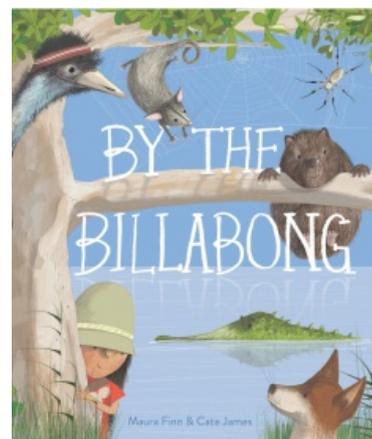
**Read on and on ...**



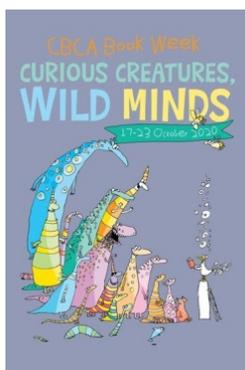
Design © Cate James

Welcome to our **GUEST ILLUSTRATOR - CATE JAMES**

My most recent book is *BY THE BILLABONG* (written by Maura Finn, published by Affirm Press). I love my job illustrating picture books. When I am not in my studio, I teach art to primary-aged kids, or work with patients on artwork at Sydney Children's Hospital. I also teach printmaking to adults, and sometimes get to print my own work. My favourite things to draw are animals and trees. [www.catejames.com](http://www.catejames.com)



Ed.: Cate designed *Morrie*, our KC mascot.



## IMAGINATION - LET YOUR IDEAS GO AND GROW!

Imagination just *IS* part of every story.

The last few issues of *KC* have focused on the 2020 CBCA Book Week theme - *Curious Creatures, Wild Minds*. We've explored real creatures, imaginary creatures and are now ready for **IMAGINATION** and **STORIES**.

For September, we check out versions of **AMAZING!** from some of the best who share techniques, creatures, characters, places and more.

## IMAGINING COLLAGE - THE TECHNIQUES OF JEANNIE BAKER

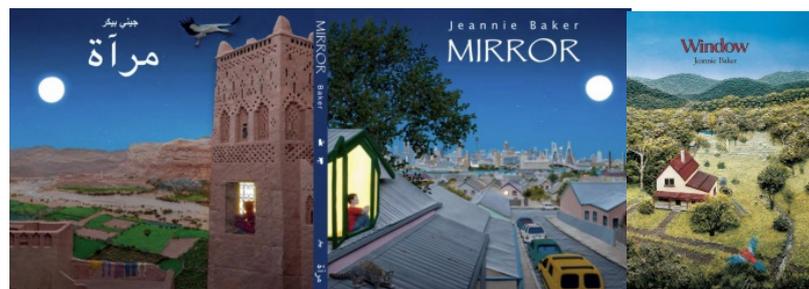
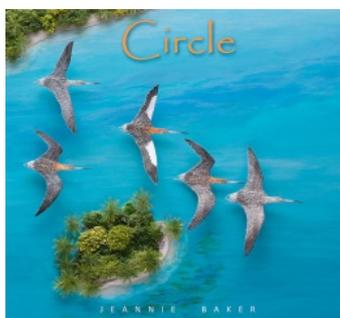
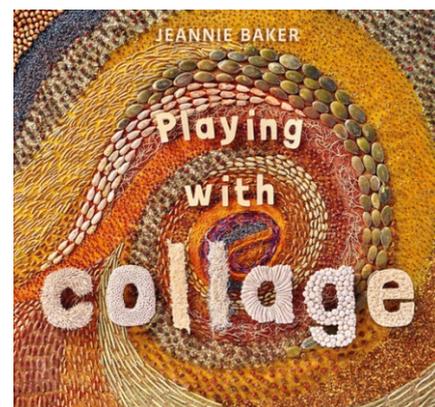
*"A collage is an artwork made from a number of different parts that are stuck together."*

Jeannie's stories take her special love of the natural world and understanding of varied materials and grow them into wonderful story experiences.

She combines the textures of nature - plants, seeds, dirt, feathers, shells - and man-made materials for her pictures in ways that reflect her love of the environment. Often, her stories are told purely through the content of her pictures.

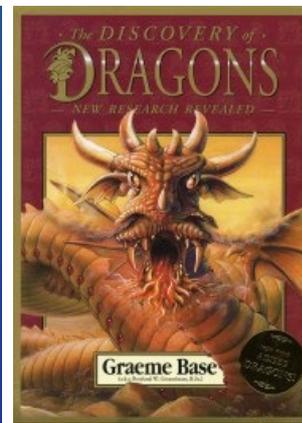
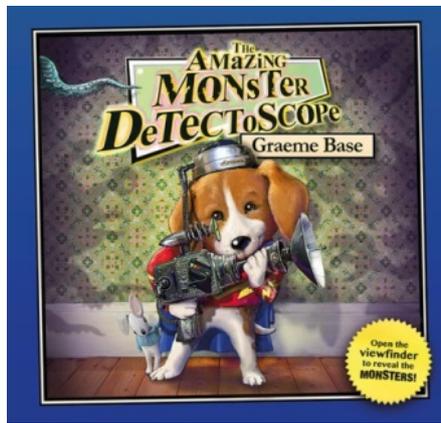
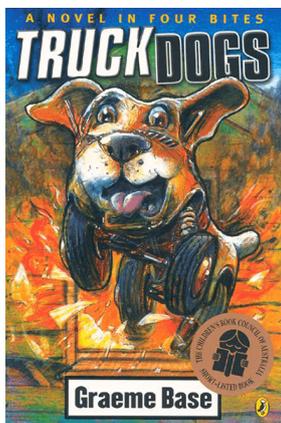
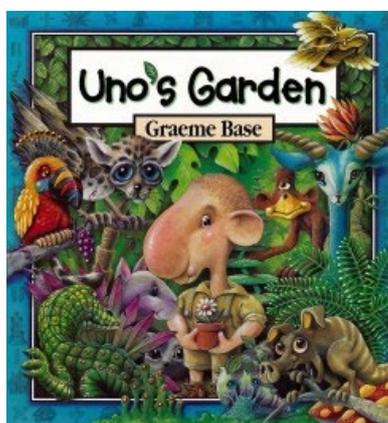
Jeannie becomes very involved with the environments portrayed in each of her books. (See [FOCUS](#) on her website.)

She looks everywhere to collect unique materials that will work for the textures, properties and special details of each picture. Her stories show a unique connection of people to their world and to each other.



She created her latest book, *Playing with Collage* (Walker Books), to share her techniques and "to inspire [us] to look more closely at the world."

<https://www.jeanniebaker.com/>



## CREATING CREATURES with GRAEME BASE

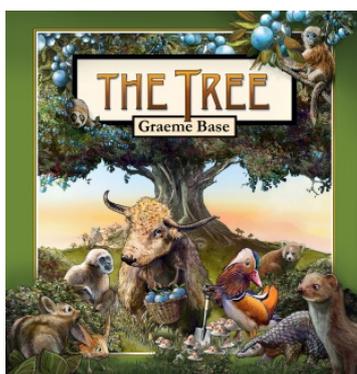
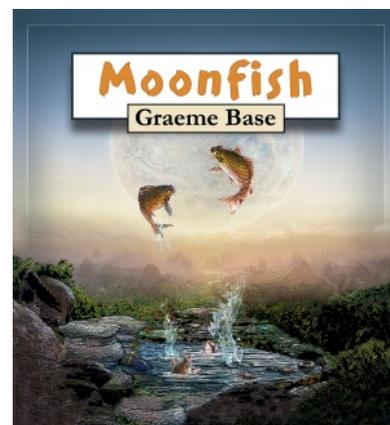
One of the things I enjoy most about my work is making up imaginary creatures.

Ever since I was at school I've been drawing dragons and monsters, so it comes naturally - though my first employers in the advertising industry weren't so keen on them.

It was only when I started writing and illustrating books that they found a home! Often I combine two or more real creatures - rather like the classic mythical gryphon which is half lion, half eagle.

My moopaloops in **UNO'S GARDEN** are half snow leopard, half bird.

In the novel **TRUCKDOGS** I mashed up dogs and vehicles with some pretty weird results - there are also insect/vehicle hybrids and a truckram!



Many years ago I did a book called **THE DISCOVERY OF DRAGONS** and another featuring a whole lot of household monsters called **THE AMAZING MONSTER DETECTOSCOPE**.

Graeme's remarkable illustrations reveal special insight into the world we all share. He has created over 30 books and numerous projects.

More of his books and activities at: <http://graemebase.com.au/books/>

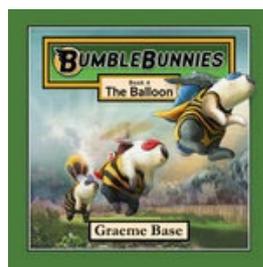
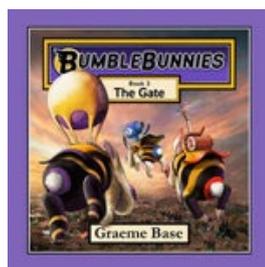
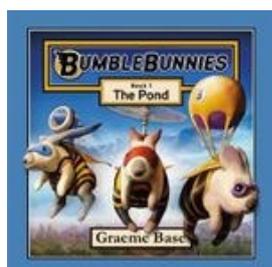
His latest books include:

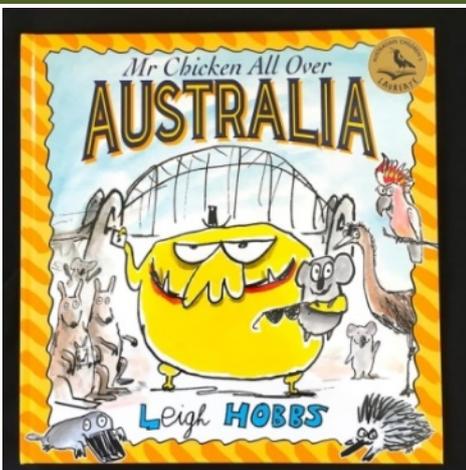
**Moonfish** (Penguin) 2019

**The Tree** (Penguin) Nov. 2020 and

**BumbleBunnies - Superheroes of the Garden:**

a 4 book series for younger children (Angus & Robertson: an imprint of HarperCollins)





## IMAGINING CHARACTERS, JUST FOR FUN

with **LEIGH HOBBS** <http://www.leighhobbs.com/>

Leigh creates unforgettable characters who give us a special nudge to pay attention to our world. His characters have taken us all over the world and are an important part of his work as the Australian Children’s Laureate in 2016 – 2017. He has even appeared on a stamp, in recognition of his talents, along with other Laureates.

I’ve written and illustrated 23 books featuring my characters *Old Tom*, *Horrible Harriet*, *Mr Chicken*, *Fiona the Pig*, *Mr Badger* and *The FREAKS in 4F*.

The books explore each character’s personality. I hope that readers feel they “know” and are fond of the characters, even the naughty ones like Old Tom.

In the **OLD TOM** books I never mention the word “cat” as I write the books as if Old Tom is a seven year old boy and Angela Throgmorton is his mother.

The words in my books often say one thing while the pictures suggest something else. For instance, on one page the text might say “Old Tom tried to be good...” as he eyes off a fish in a fish tank. We can tell by the wicked look on his face that he has no intention of being good. When we turn the page the fish has gone and the text says “sometimes”.

Often there are three meanings per page.

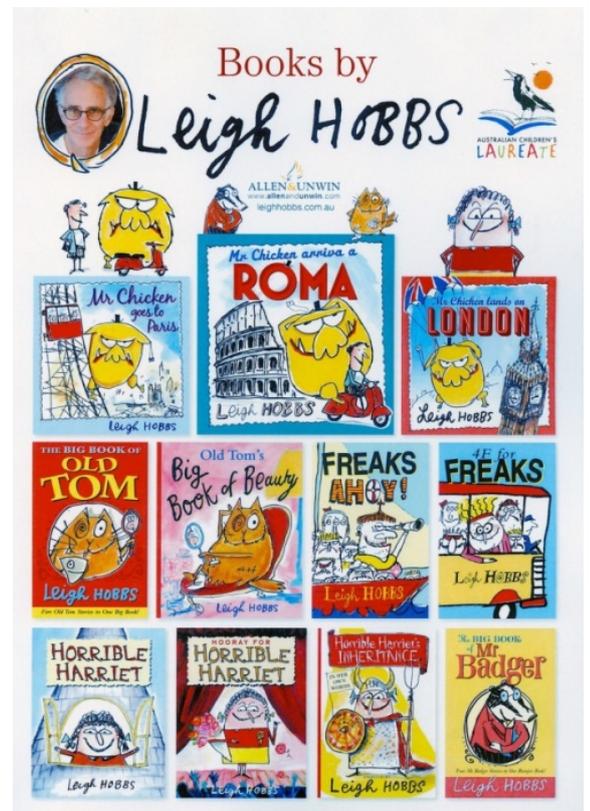
- What the words say
- -What the picture suggests
- -What the combination suggests
- I use the three meanings throughout my stories and often my readers interpret differently what is happening. I leave gaps on purpose so that kids are involved in the telling of the story.

At the beginning of creating a book, my head is full of ideas so I draw lots of pictures and experiment with text while I’m feeling inspired. I know from experience that at some point I’ll feel like I’ve run out of ideas. That’s when I have to work very hard, drawing and writing until the ideas begin to flow again.

I draw my pictures using a pen and nib and black ink then add colour using a brush and gouache

Find out about Leigh’s studio and processes

<https://iview.abc.net.au/show/rewind/series/5/video/AC1926H017S00>





Illustrations tell a big part of the story. Characters and situations may be different than they seem.

- -Who are these characters?
- Describe their physical appearance.
- What kind of personality would you expect them to have?
- What are they doing/ thinking/ saying?
- Tell the story of what could be happening before, during and after the picture.
- Which character do you like best? Why?



### THINKING ABOUT WHAT KEEPS YOU READING?

I have avidly read since I was little. The continuous release of new and appealing books keeps me reading as I always find something else I am interested in. I love discussing my opinions with friends about books I have

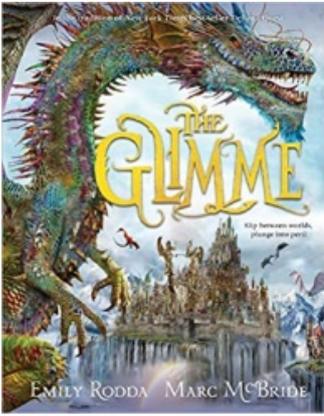
recently read.

– **OLIVIA**

Mysteries and fast-paced stories keep me reading. When I start reading I become invested in the story and the story becomes a part of my daily life. Once the right book is found, there is no going back!

– **BRONTE**

Ravenswood School for Girls



## IDEAS and IMAGINATION - MARC MCBRIDE

Marc has illustrated over 50 book covers, including the *DELTORA QUEST* series written by Emily Rodda. Their latest book, *The GLIMME*, is shortlisted for the 2020 CBCA Book of the Year Awards.

Marc shares with us his ideas about imagination and a new project. Marc may be locked down in Melbourne town but he's still speaking to students and giving online workshops. Check out <https://www.marcmcbride.com/>



Ideas can turn up when you're least expecting them. It isn't always clear what they are!



Sometimes you have too many ideas and you can't carry them all at once.



You try to pick the best ideas but how can you tell which ones are the best? Ideas can all look the same.



Then, you throw an idea to someone else and they throw it back. The idea grows!



Finally, you have a great idea! You sit back, relax and draw it. There's nothing better in the whole wide world than having a great idea to paint!

**WILD MINDS and WRITING**  
with **URSULA DUBOSARSKY**  
**Australian Children's Laureate**



Sometimes when I'm writing, my mind is like a wild animal, prowling quietly around the words, eyes darting, careful and wondering, alert, ready to LEAP when the moment is right.

Ideas can be wild too - unpredictable and sudden, vanishing and then reappearing when you're not expecting them to. It can be hard to catch a wild mind, but it's always exciting!

My Laureate writing activity for this month, September Strides, is all about letting a little wildness into your sentences. Sentences don't all have to be the same length, you know. They can be big strides or little fairy steps.

Here's a challenge. I want you to write **two** sentences that describes your favourite wild animal. Mmm, I wonder - a kangaroo, a cheetah, a grizzly bear, a taipan, a fighting fish? Whatever you like best. I know what I'm going to write about – the Laureate **MAGPIE** of course!

Now, for sentence one, make the sentence really long. Try to reach **40 WORDS** in one single sentence describing things about that wild animal.

Then for sentence two, make it really short. Don't go over **7 WORDS** in your sentence describing the same animal.

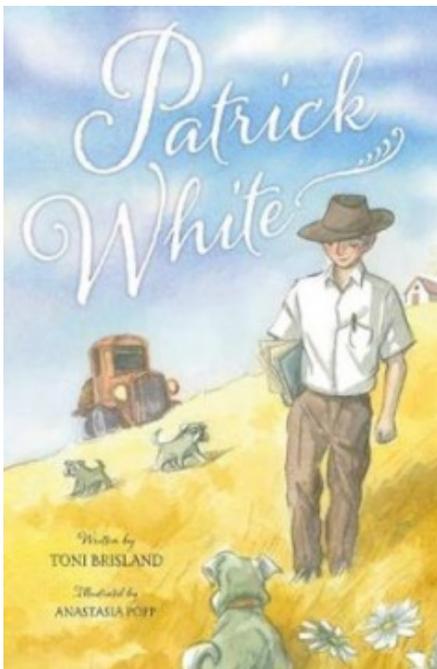
When you've finished, read your two sentences out loud to a friend. They make quite a different impression, don't they? You could say **WILD!**



**URSULA'S TWO SENTENCES ABOUT THE LAUREATE MAGPIE**

1. Magpie has black and white feathers and a curved grey beak that's very sharp, and round brownish staring eyes that are always on the lookout, wings ready to swoop dramatically, to give someone down below a bit of a shock! (40 words)
2. Magpie is friendly, cheeky and sometimes sneaky. (7 words)

Keep up to date with even more writing ideas as September Strides with Ursula's Writing Ideas <https://www.childrenslaureate.org.au/write-with-ursula> on the Australian Children's Laureate site. Keep adding to your writing journal with lots of hints and ideas as we all celebrate reading, writing and imagining with KC and more.



## A WRITER WRITING ABOUT A WRITER'S WRITING

an interview with **TONI BRISLAND**

Toni writes for children and adults and is the author of **PATRICK WHITE**, illustrated by Anastasia Popp (Little Steps Publishing)

### **Who was Patrick White?**

Patrick WHITE (1912 – 1990) is one of Australia's most famous authors. He won the Nobel Prize for Literature and wrote novels, plays and poetry about Australians who were loners, outsiders or felt they were outcasts from society. The Australian landscape, county and cities are important in his works.

### **Why did you want to write about him?**

As an author myself, I was curious about his writing process and how he went about creating such wonderful characters based on his experiences, the places he visited and the people he met.

### **What was interesting about his life?**

His life reads like one of his novels! He went to boarding school in both country NSW and England and was a very lonely child. He was bullied at school, full of self-doubt and only coped by reading, writing and keeping to himself. Although he was sick all his life with asthma, he didn't let that stop him from doing anything, especially becoming an award-winning author.

### **What was he like as a child?**

He was very talented and imaginative. This story begins with two letters he wrote as a young child. One is a letter to Santa asking for a mouth organ and a butterfly net. The other letter was asking the fairies in the gum forest about their lives and if they could leave him a book as a present.

### **Why did he write?**

Patrick had many talents and interests to share and wanted to be a writer instead of manage his parents' big property. He could speak English, French, German and Greek fluently. He influenced others to speak out against the Vietnam War, uranium mining and actively promoted Aboriginal rights.

### **How did he influence the world?**

Patrick showed that, even though it isn't easy to be talented or different, it doesn't matter what others think or say. Regardless of the date in history, "the decision is yours to follow your dreams." His writing has inspired other authors to excel. His life story can inspire children to grow up to be who they want to be.

### **[www.tonibrisland.com](http://www.tonibrisland.com)**

See the videos from The Hub for Just Kids' Lit at

<http://www.justkidslit.com/presenting-toni-brisland-and-her-latest-biography-patrick-white/>



## MORE THINKING ABOUT WHAT KEEPS YOU READING?

- anticipating what happens next - **ETHAN**
- discovering other people's experiences and ideas. When reading, I feel relaxed and get ideas for my own writing. - **TOM**
- I like reading that is entertaining and keeps me off my screen. - **RUSHI**
- experiencing being in an entirely different world keeps me reading. It's the feelings that whisk my mind away and make reading enjoyable. - **MICHAEL** (KINGS SCHOOL)

. . . being part of more knowledge . . . I don't read . . . books that have an eye-catching front page . . . cliff-hangers . . . character development . . . suspense. . . good storyline and interesting characters . . . cliff hangers . . . action . . . books that have suspense so I want to find out what happens, or I just like it . . . drama continues. . . complications and suspense or its just interesting . . . all the adventures you get from reading. (students from NORTHMEAD CAPA High School)

## READ ON AND ON with more new books

### *BY THE BILLABONG*

with **CATE JAMES, ILLUSTRATOR**

**By the Billabong** (by Maura FINN and illustrated by Cate JAMES - Affirm Press) is about walking through the bush, and the animals we might meet, if we are lucky. They are introduced to us with the collective nouns for their animal groups so it's a fun book that teaches us stuff!

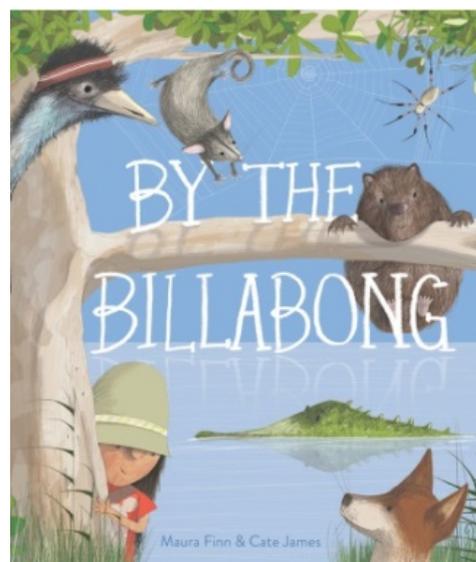
I am not a native Aussie so working on this book taught me a lot about animals that I didn't know much about. I have noisy possums on my roof most nights but I rarely see them, so I had to look them up to make sure I got them right. It was the same for wombats, which luckily don't live on my roof.

I am absolutely terrified of snakes, which limits the time I can spend in the bush, but spiders are ok. I have Golden Orb spiders in my garden so I chose to draw them in the book. Although I discovered that they do actually knit, I'm not sure if they actually do knit socks.

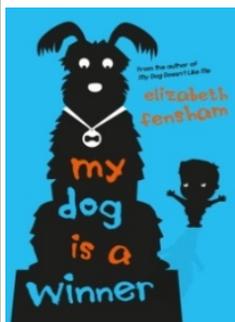
This book has so many trees in it, and luckily, my house is amongst all the trees an illustrator could ever need. My starting point was researching and drawing trees and the rest of the style of the book fell into place to match. My next book also features a fair few trees, so my quest for photographs of perfect trees to draw is never-ending. One day I will be able to go for a walk in the bush without stopping every 2 minutes to take a photo.

There is a surprise at the end of the book but I won't spoil it for the readers!

<https://www.catejames.com/>



## READ ON AND ON with even more new books ...

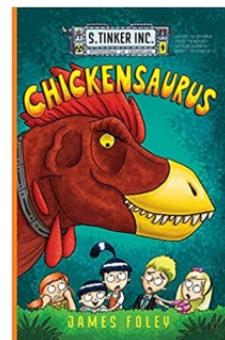


### Elizabeth FENSHAM - My Dog is a Winner (UQP)

When your older sister hides in her room, dancing with her teddy bear, your dog is depressed because he “works” at your school helping kids read and learn English and your friend has meltdowns, how can you save the day? A huge pet show and a dog named Ugly just might turn up with more surprises than ribbons. Or maybe not?

### James FOLEY – Chickensaurus (Freemantle Press)

Why did the dinosaur cross the road? Because it wasn't a chicken. Or was it? As if dinosaurs would lurk around the neighbourhood! Sally's arch-enemy, Dexter Maelstrom, will do almost anything to beat her at the Inventing Championship. Who is in control? See the new trailers from James



<https://jamesfoley.com.au/2020/08/25/2-new-book-trailers/>

### Kate GORDON - The Heartsong of Wonder Quinn (UQP)

Wonder lives in the attic at school with Hollowbeak, the crow and feels like she is invisible with no friends at all. But Mabel Clattersham just bursts on the scene dragging Wonder along with crazy wishes to “throw a pie, leap into the sky, or to feel pure happiness.” Beautiful language and a magic, but unexpected, friendship will bring you along, too.



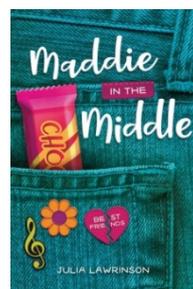
### Michelle KADARUSMAN - The Theory of Hummingbirds (UQP)

Alba is determined that she and her “club foot” that she calls “Cleo” run in the upcoming cross-country race. When she and her nerdy friend, Levi, who specialises in way too many scientific theories, become convinced that their teacher librarian is most likely disappearing into a wormhole space portal during lunchtimes, things really get complicated. They need more than their fascination with hummingbirds to discover what is really going on. (The author actually had her own congenital talipes equinovarus and knows firsthand the trials of a “club foot”.)



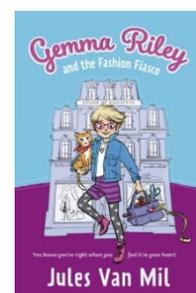
### Julia LAWRENSON - Maddie in the Middle (Freemantle Press)

How can chocolate possibly be related to friendships? And how can it be that Maddie ends up in court because of shoplifting and wondering if she has any friends at all? These are just a few of the questions that complicate Maddie's life. When you add in changing friendships, believing in yourself, family complications and gaining independence things become way more confusing than they should be.



### Jules VAN MIL – Gemma Riley and the Fashion Fiasco (Pan Macmillan)

Can you stitch up this mystery? Gemma's grandmother, Cara Bonafete is a famous fashion designer but how can she come up with some brilliant designs to save her business when she just suffered two broken wrists, windows are mysteriously left open and someone seems determined to steal the latest designs? Gemma is on the trail chasing clues, fine-tuning ideas and racing against deadlines. There are bonus sewing and design hints included in the book.



## RUOK? DAY is Thursday 10 September 2020



Everyone has their own story. Sometimes the world becomes complicated and confusing. Sometimes extra help can make it easier to get through situations that don't really make sense or that seem unfair.

A simple question **“Are you OK?”** can be a good place to start if someone in your world is struggling with life's ups and downs.



The **RUOK? site** <https://www.ruok.org.au/join-r-u-ok-day>

has hints to begin helping change what is going on.

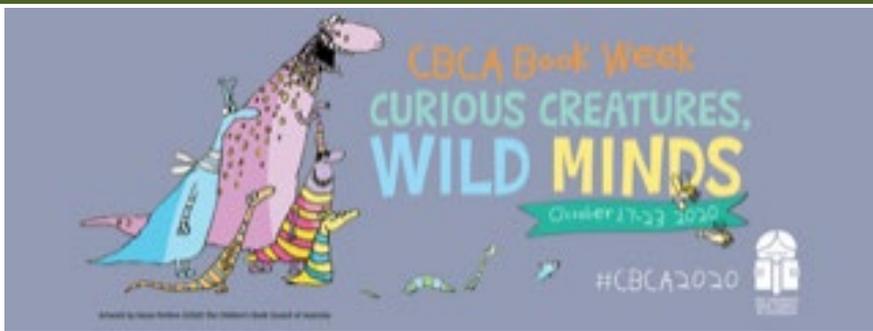
See other hints at <https://au.reachout.com/>



Authors also explore difficult topics:

**DEPRESSION** <https://insideadog.com.au/?search-filter=books&s=depression>

**FRIENDSHIP** <https://insideadog.com.au/?search-filter=authors&s=friendship>



## CELEBRATING READING

There is always plenty to celebrate about reading.

**CBCA BOOK WEEK 2020 –October 17 – 23**



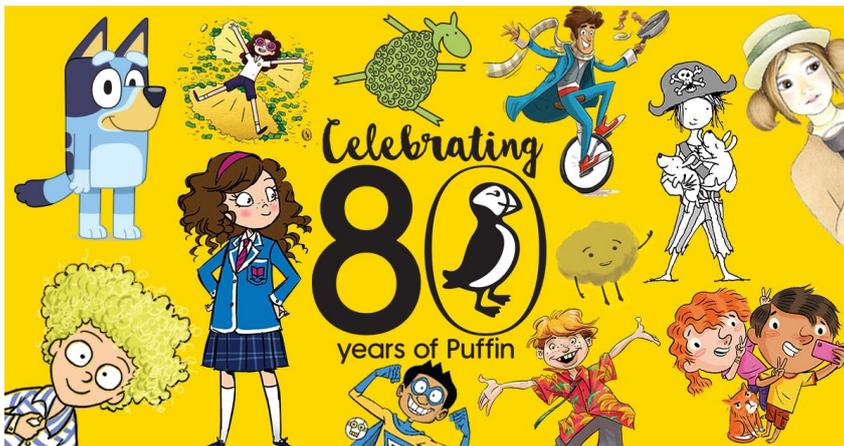
### NSW PREMIER'S READING CHALLENGE

While the PRC for 2020 is winding up, plans are well underway for the beginning of the 2021 challenge. Book lists are frequently updated, so keep reading

<https://online.det.nsw.edu.au/prc/booklist/home.html>



Voting for the KOALA AWARDS is open now. <https://www.koalansw.org.au/voting>



### Puffin books are celebrating 80 years of publishing

See the [History of Puffin](#) for background on how the books have become an important part of the Australian reading scene. How many of the Puffin [Young Readers Series](#) do you recognise?



### THINKING ABOUT- HOW DOES YOUR SCHOOL PROMOTE READING?

Premiers Reading Challenge . . . by having a library and being able to hire books to read . . . having Book Week every year at our school . . . reading times. . . English classes and Library. . . Showing what books are there, have been borrowed so you know and what is there and where it is (students from NORTHMEAD CAPA HIGH SCHOOL)

Internet e-books and a weekly book club - MICHAEL . . . English department . . . Library, book club, reading events – RUSH I. . . stands of books related to a particular topic, like banned books, blind-date with a book. . . the librarians -TOM (KINGS SCHOOL)

updates on new books . . . various themed book displays. . . wide reading in English classes . . . opportunities such as the Youth Book Forum and the Premier's Reading Challenge. . . enjoyable Book Week activities - BRONTE (RAVENSWOOD SCHOOL for GIRLS)



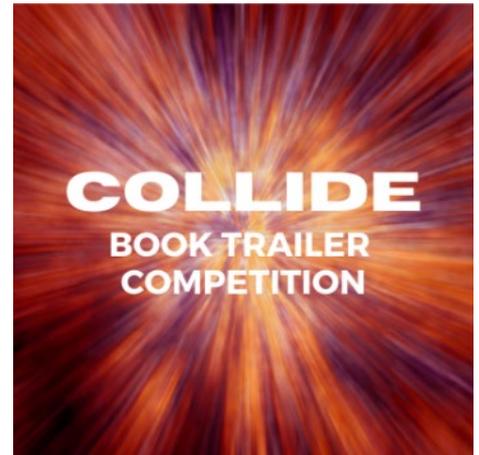
## JOIN IN THE CELEBRATIONS WITH CBCA NSW BRANCH

**VIEW THE TRAILERS! SHARE THE STORIES!**

[CBCA NSW Branch COLLIDE Book Trailers Competition](#)

See a selection of entries online soon.

A winner from each category will be announced at the KBOYE on October 16.



## [KIDS BOOK OF THE YEAR EVENT](#) - **October 16, 2020**

**Good news!**

**Our Kids Book of the Year Event will be held @Taronga Zoo**

**Not so good news!**

**Because of Covid, schools can't come in person.**

**Great news!**

**You can watch online, anywhere.**

**Better news!**

**All schools and interested adults can register.**

**More great news!**

**Our guest authors are  
Will Kostakis & Emily Rodda**

**Even better news!**

**Our school reviewers will be showcasing the Book of the Year Shortlisted titles for Older and Younger Readers.**

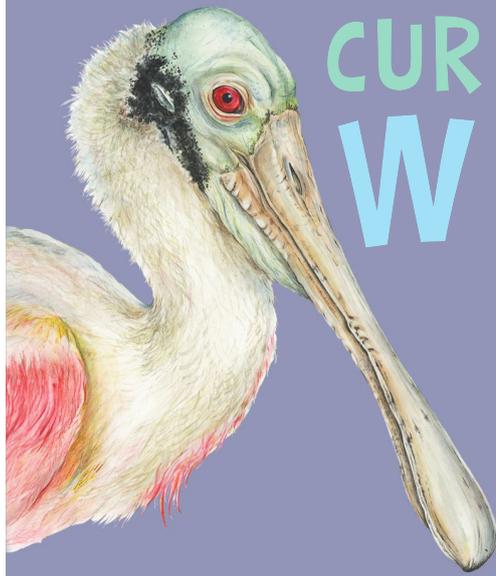
**Good news!**

**Curious creatures and wild minds may / will appear.**

**Schools plan NOW to join us on Friday October 16, 2020  
after which you can applaud and appreciate the winners.**

**FULL DETAILS COMING VERY SOON!**





# CURIOUS CREATURES, WILD MINDS

@Taronga Zoo

SEPTEMBER 29—OCTOBER 23, 2020

JOIN A CURIOUS BUNCH OF CREATORS  
(WRITERS + ILLUSTRATORS)  
SHARING WILD TALES & MORE...



COPYRIGHTAGENCY  
CULTURAL FUND

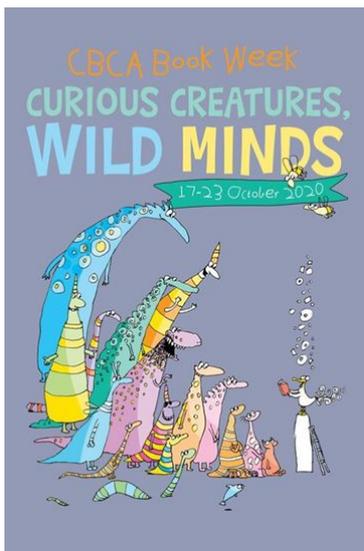
## TALKING TO THE ANIMALS ... JUST GOT A WHOLE LOT MORE REAL!

Presented by the CBCA NSW Branch with the support of a Copyright Agency Cultural Fund Grant and Taronga Zoo

Release your wild minds from Tuesday September 29 through to CBCA Book Week and join us online to watch an awesome group of authors and illustrators getting up close with **TARONGA ZOO** carers and curious creatures. Be inspired by their writing skills tips and tricks.

Are *you* curious? Visit:

<https://www.cbcanw.org.au/post/curious-creatures-wild-minds-at-the-zoo>



## CBCA BOOK WEEK 2020 – October 17 – 23

The countdown is fast approaching! After juggling the date for CBCA BOOK WEEK due to the pandemic, authors, illustrators and readers of all ages are ready to share **creative creatures** AND **wild minds** with a CBCA BOOK WEEK worth waiting for. If you would love to share your school's plans for BOOK WEEK 2020, we'd love to hear from you with comments and pics.

Happy reading always. Cheers - Morrie and Jackie

This issue of KC was compiled by Jackie Hawkes with the help of lots of people who love reading, writing and ideas. THANKS to all.

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