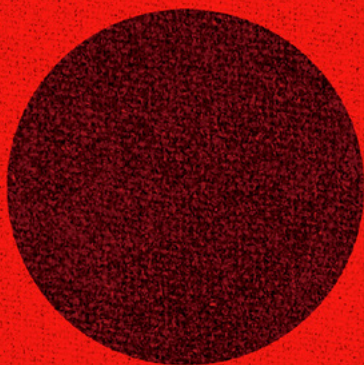


University of Queensland Press



*2026 London Book Fair
Rights Guide*

UQP

2025 Australian Small Publisher of the Year
and Publisher of the 2025 Miles Franklin Literary Award Winner

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Catalogue cover elements from *Phantom Days* by Angela O'Keeffe

***Phantom Days* cover design** by Josh Durham

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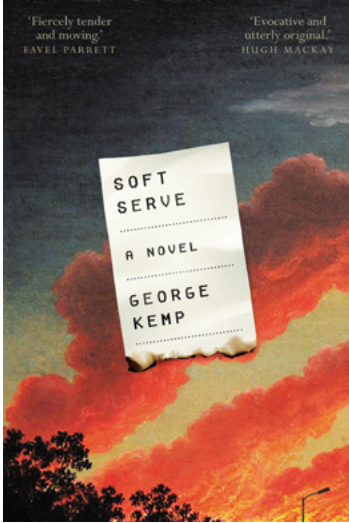
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Adult Fiction

FEBRUARY 2026

George Kemp *Soft Serve*



A gem of a debut novel by award-winning playwright George Kemp, about small-town lives and the search for genuine sustenance in a fast-food world.

Stuck in a regional McDonald's, as bushfires close in, three twenty-somethings and their dead friend's mum all face a reckoning. Fern longs for Ethan, Ethan longs for Jacob, and Jacob struggles to long for anything. Meanwhile, Pat just wants her grief to ease up.

Soft Serve proves that small-town lives are huge, and that anyone can get stuck in limbo between their past and their hoped-for future. From celebrated playwright and actor George Kemp comes this charming and poignant novel: it's drive-thru Chekhov ... full of wit and heart.

RRP AU\$29.99

Category Fiction

Format B-format paperback, 208pp

Rights held World ex film/TV

Rights sold ANZ audio (Bolinda)

“

Full of spark and love,
Soft Serve is fiercely
tender and moving.

**Favel Parrett, Miles Franklin
Literary Award-shortlisted
author of *Past the Shallows***

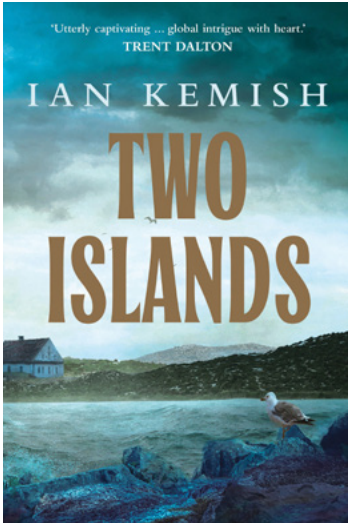


George Kemp is based on Gadigal land in Sydney. He was selected to be part of the Faber Academy in 2023–24, during which he completed the first draft of *Soft Serve*. His award-winning play *Shack* has been performed frequently around the country and internationally, and is included on the new NSW Drama Curriculum. George is also a passionate educator and mentor of actors and writers and is currently Resident Artist at Australian Theatre for Young People.

FEBRUARY 2026

Ian Kemish

Two Islands

**RRP** AU\$34.99**Category** Fiction**Format** C-format paperback, 272pp**Rights held** World**Rights sold** ANZ audio (Audible)

“

Utterly captivating ... the page-turning global intrigue stuff as much as the human heart stuff.

Trent Dalton, internationally bestselling author of *Boy Swallows Universe*

A race against time for justice at the edge of the world.

When a desperate young man arrives on an isolated Scottish isle, the locals view him with suspicion. But Niko is there for a reason – he’s running for his life, pursued by those who want him silenced for what he has seen in the Balkan War. His neighbour is a recluse known to the villagers as ‘Slow Fergus’. As the two men circle each other, Australian war crimes investigator Anita Costello races against sinister forces to locate her key witness.

Against this rugged landscape, where the tight-knit island community holds painful memories close, Niko must weigh his loyalties to his family, his country and himself.

Written with compassion and insight, *Two Islands* explores how the ripples of distant conflicts can wash up on the most remote shores.



Ian Kemish AM is a former Australian diplomat who served as ambassador to Germany, high commissioner to Papua New Guinea, international adviser to the Prime Minister, and head of the consular and crisis management service. He

was appointed a Member of the Order of Australia in recognition of his leadership of the emergency response to the 2002 Bali bombings. Ian’s first book, *The Consul* (2022), offered a personal perspective on Australia’s foreign affairs challenges over two decades – spanning hostage diplomacy, natural disasters and evacuations from war zones.

MARCH 2026

Emily Lighezzolo

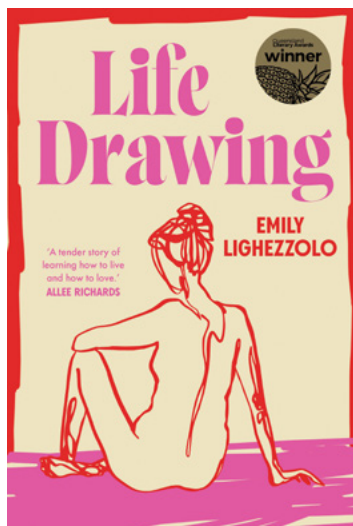
Life Drawing

An award-winning and provocative novel about women's bodies, sex, autonomy – and the power of the image.

Hypothetically, would you want to live forever but invisible, or a short life seen? Hypothetically, would you give up wine forever or sex for ten years? Hypothetically, would you show a friend someone else's nude?

Maisie and Charlie meet at a life-drawing session as undergraduates: she's the model, he's an artist. Their immediate connection carries them across two decades as they navigate the slippery dynamics of friendship, estrangement and family.

Maisie's story is every woman's, and Emily Lighezzolo's bold debut interrogates the collision of art and gaze, desire and consent, muse and meaning. This is a love story. At its core: a woman's body – seen, touched, loved, hated, commodified and reclaimed. *Life Drawing* is an award-winning and unflinching novel for our times.



RRP AU\$34.99

Category Fiction

Format C-format paperback, 352pp

Rights held World

Rights sold ANZ audio (Wavesound)

“

A strikingly bold debut novel that turns an unflinching gaze towards love and women's bodies.

Natasha Lester, *New York Times*
Bestselling author



Emily Lighezzolo has worked in Australian publishing for nearly a decade. *Life Drawing* won the Glendower Award for an Emerging Queensland Writer at the Queensland Literary Awards and is her first book. She lives in Meanjin/Brisbane.

EMILY LIGHEZZOLO

Letter to my readers

“

Dear treasured reader,

I attended my first life-drawing session a few years ago and the moment would become revolutionary for me. I outlined the model's naked body in a dimly lit bar here in Brisbane. The features, that we as women agonise over and try to fix every day, were an artist's dream in this space. Rolls of fat, cellulite, small breasts did not matter; everything became beautiful asymmetry to capture with my crayon.

I walked out of the life-drawing session completely transformed, asking myself: could we, as women, ever reach body neutrality? I'd just managed to do it in that Brisbane bar for two hours. The seed of my debut novel, *Life Drawing*, was sown.



At its heart, *Life Drawing* is a literary love story between Charlie and Maisie, who we first meet at a life-drawing session. We follow them from their uni days into their twenties, parenthood and middle age. We see them come together and break apart, through bad decisions and hurt, and the growing pains of love.

But *Life Drawing* is also a love story between a woman and her body. And how through life a woman's body is loved, hated, sexualised, commodified and ultimately always seen through someone else's gaze. This gaze never leaves us as women. It's constantly put on our body parts: our waists, our breasts, our thighs, our vaginas. Our position in society is dependent on how our bodies are presented.

It's been a preoccupation of mine since my teenage years, when I developed a severe eating disorder. I starved my body and sexualised my body and hated my body because of an external gaze I couldn't quite comprehend at such a young age – but also pre the Me-Too movement, before women like me had the words to properly articulate it.

As I've gotten older, how this 'Big Brother-like' societal gaze affects women has changed. It's in the way women often detest their bodies – after giving birth, after putting on weight, after ageing. It's in our over-sexualised bodies and their complementary online identities. It's in how we navigate dating as objects of desire. It's in the way we consume porn as a society, mostly through the male lens.

EMILY LIGHEZZOLO

Letter to my readers



I've just turned thirty and I want to be that woman who goes grocery shopping braless with unbrushed, greasy hair and in sweatpants, singing to tunes, not caring about anyone's opinion of me – but I'm yet to get there. And for many women, body neutrality will remain out of reach forever.

Life Drawing is my way of navigating these conversations around women's identity and how much it's hinged on our bodies, through the story of two teenagers as they grow up and face these challenges. I want this novel to be a conversation starter between mothers, daughters, fathers, boyfriends, friends, sisters and readers.

But I'm also an idealist. Every story is about love at some point. And that's what this book is about. Because against everything, loving yourself and loving someone else are the true powers with which we navigate the world.

Thank you so much for your time,

Emily Lighezzolo

APRIL 2026

Ingrid Horrocks

All Her Lives: Nine Stories

An interlinked collection of fiction celebrating women's lives and their search for love and freedom.

What if the choices of women centuries apart could echo across time?

A sister haunted by her return from war. A young woman discovering her identity at a Berlin rave in the mid-2000s. A mother whose son's climate activism threatens everything she's built. At the heart of these fictional stories is Mary Wollstonecraft, the radical 18th-century feminist whose own struggles with love, loss and revolution illuminate the threads that connect all their lives.

From quiet moments of caregiving and curiosity to acts of bold rebellion, the women in this striking story collection navigate the eternal tensions between duty and desire, safety and freedom, the past they've inherited and the future they're determined to create.

All Her Lives brings together extraordinary women fighting to define themselves on their own terms.



RRP AU\$34.99

Category Short stories

Format C-format paperback, 272pp

Rights held World ex film/TV

“

A wonderful collection that swims in and out of women's lives across time, exploring the struggle for freedom and love. I'll be thinking about it for a long time – a book of quiet force.

Emily Perkins, Women's Prize-longlisted author



Ingrid Horrocks's books include the memoir *Where We Swim*, *Women Wanderers* and *the Writing of Mobility*, and two collections of poetry. Her writing has appeared in *Lithub*, *The Sydney Review of Books*, and the *Guardian*. She completed a PhD at Princeton and teaches for the Faber Writing Academy. Ingrid lives in Te Whanganui-a-Tara, Wellington, with her partner and twin daughters. *All Her Lives* is her first book of fiction.

APRIL 2026

Melissa Manning

Frogsong



RRP AU\$34.99

Category Fiction

Format C-format paperback, 240pp

Rights held World ex film/TV

When loyalty becomes a burden, how do you learn to let go? *Frogsong* is a tender and delicate tale of love and addiction from one of Australia's brightest literary talents and winner of the Victorian Premier's Literary Award for her debut book.

Caro and Danny grew up side by side at the waterhole. Bound by love, loss and a promise Caro made to Danny's mother, their lives become entwined. But as Danny spirals into addiction and self-destruction, Caro is caught between loyalty and the need to save herself.

She becomes haunted by memories, by the stories she told herself of the life they'd have, and by the waterhole that shaped them both. From southern Tasmania to Lisbon's winding streets, she searches for escape from lost dreams, until a return home forces her to confront what it means to let go.

Frogsong is a lyrical and devastating story of love, addiction and the ghosts that bind us.

“

Frogsong is quiet but potent: it pulls you in and holds you with white-knuckled fingers. Elegiac, sexy, and deeply felt. I wanted to swim in the world of this book.

Jennifer Down, Miles Franklin Award-winning author of *Bodies of Light*



Melissa Manning is an Australian writer. Her debut interlinked story collection, *Smokehouse*, won the Victorian Premier's Literary Award for Fiction (2022), and was shortlisted for the USQ Steele Rudd Award for a Short Story Collection. Her short

fiction and narrative non-fiction have been awarded and published in literary journals and anthologies, including *Overland*, *Meanjin*, *Southerly*, *The Big Issue*, *Award Winning Australian Writing*, *To Carry Her Home* (UK) and *Best Small Fictions* (USA).

APRIL 2026

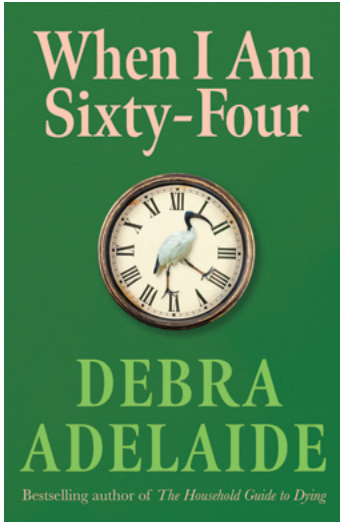
Debra Adelaide

When I Am Sixty-Four

A profound and beautiful masterpiece about a lifelong friendship between two writers.

In this shimmering mosaic of a novel, a writer reflects on the final days of her friend's life. In the decades after they met at school, they shared a passion for books and words, took care of each other's children, received acclaim as authors, and endured failure and disappointment. Yet during these last days together, as she and her friend go on walks through their neighbourhood, she discovers that their paths may have been more different than she realised – and bridging the gulf becomes more vital than ever.

Based on Debra Adelaide's friendship with Gabrielle Carey, *When I Am Sixty-Four* is a work of extraordinary depth and grace. Tender and moving, yet infused throughout with unexpected humour, it captures the human condition in all its complexity: the small but momentous events that can transform a life; the way cherished memories can be rewritten or expunged; the limitations of love, but also its necessity; and the exhilarating, unpredictable world of the creative imagination.



RRP AU\$34.99

Category Fiction

Format B-format hardback, 208pp

Rights held World

“

Here, brilliantly distilled, is a searching account of a friendship and a tragedy. A mesmerising gem of a novel.

Michelle de Kretser, two-time Miles Franklin Literary Award-winning author



Dr Debra Adelaide is the author or editor of eighteen books, including fiction, non-fiction and reference works. Her 2008 novel, *The Household Guide to Dying*, was published to acclaim in Australia and around the world, and was short- and

long-listed for several literary awards, including the international Orange Prize (now the Women's Prize) for Fiction.

MAY 2026

Angela O’Keeffe

Phantom Days

From the award-winning author of *The Sitter* and *Night Blue* comes another mesmerising novel – told, in part, by a book.

Before Isabel has even cracked the spine of a novel she bought on a whim ahead of an overseas trip, she senses something beginning within her. From Sydney to London and back again, the book is a quiet observer. When it’s left in an airport taxi and Isabel’s boyfriend takes it home, the book begins to learn about him – about his family and his past. Soon, it begins to understand: Isabel is not safe.

Angela O’Keeffe is the master of voice, and *Phantom Days* is a marvel: eerie, elegant and unforgettable. With O’Keeffe’s signature emotional depth and narrative quirkiness, this novel explores the unknowability of other people, the mysteries of the body and the strange ways stories shape, complicate and safeguard our lives.



RRP AU\$29.99

Category Fiction

Format B-format paperback, 176pp

Rights held World ex film/TV

Rights sold North America (Dundurn Press)

“

Timeless, ethereal, transcendent
... an homage to the sacred bond
that exists between a book
and its reader.

**Melanie Cheng, Stella Prize-
shortlisted author of
*The Burrow***



Angela O’Keeffe completed a Master of Arts in Writing at UTS, and her first novel, *Night Blue*, was shortlisted for the UTS Glenda Adams Award for New Writing and the Prime Minister’s Literary Awards. She was awarded the 2023 Varuna Eleanor

Dark Fellowship. Her second novel, *The Sitter*, won the 2024 Christina Stead Prize for Fiction and was longlisted for the 2024 Miles Franklin Literary Award. She lives and works on unceded Gadigal land.

JULY 2026

Sally Piper

People Like Us



RRP AU\$34.99

Category Fiction

Format C-format paperback, 272pp

Rights held World

“

A beautiful story of friendship and family. Packed with nuance and warmth, *People Like Us* explores the true value of connections, at any age.

Jane Harper, internationally bestselling author of *The Dry*

Brave, compassionate and humorous, *People Like Us* is a novel about the very best kind of friendships.

After Tina Lamb loses her family home in a bitter divorce, she finds herself living in a caravan on the city's fringes. Having raised four children and nursed her dying mum, she was not anticipating making a new start alone or from scratch. And while some of her new neighbours are welcoming, she soon finds herself getting far more attention than she bargained for.

When Tina finds work caring for a wealthy elderly woman, it is a welcome break from an ageist, sexist job market. But Mrs Bell is anything but predictable. Highly educated, acerbic and intimidating, she is not the straightforward charge that Tina had hoped for. As the two women form an unlikely friendship, they soon discover that financial security is about more than having money.

Topical and absorbing, *People Like Us* celebrates the power of female friendships and the promise of new beginnings found in unexpected places.



Sally Piper is the author *Grace's Table* (2014); *The Geography of Friendship* (2018), which was shortlisted for the ABIA Small Publishers' Adult Book of the Year; and *Bone Memories* (2022), a finalist in the Queensland Literary Awards for a Work of

State Significance and the People's Choice Book of the Year Award, and longlisted for the Dublin Literary Award and a Davitt Award. Her short fiction and non-fiction have been published in Australia and the UK, including *Griffith Review*, *The Saturday Paper*, *The Sydney Morning Herald* and *The Weekend Australian*.

JULY 2026

Mirandi Riwoe

A Short History of Longans

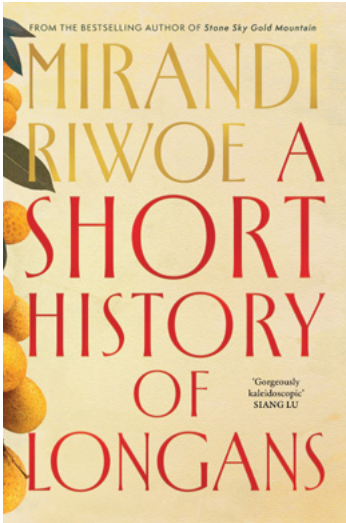
From the award-winning, bestselling author of *Stone Sky Gold Mountain* comes the story of an Irish-Chinese family over four generations in Australia.

‘They said you were a murdering bushranger.’

It’s the winter of 2049 and Daniel is elderly and long isolated. Soon after yet another devastating storm, this time destroying his beloved longan tree, he finds his fragile peace threatened by a growing friendship with a widowed neighbour and the appearance of a young reporter digging into a shameful event buried deep in his past.

As the novel moves back to autumn 2000 and then to summer 1949 and finally to the spring of the mid-nineteenth century, Daniel’s family’s history unspools, until we meet a Chinese bushranger, Ah Yang.

Intriguing and beautifully written, this dazzling novel unravels the secrets and memories of an Irish-Chinese family to explore what it means to belong to place, to ancestors, to ourselves – spanning centuries and generations.



RRP AU\$34.99

Category Fiction

Format C-format paperback, 256pp

Rights held World ex film/TV

“

A multigenerational jewel that traces the roots and bloodlines of one family across centuries in ways only Mirandi Riwoe can.

Siang Lu, 2025 Miles Franklin Award-winning author of *Ghost Cities*



Mirandi Riwoe is the author of *Stone Sky Gold Mountain*, which won the 2020 Queensland Literary Award for Fiction, and was shortlisted for the 2021 Stella Prize and longlisted for the 2021 Miles Franklin Literary Award. Her short story collection,

The Burnished Sun, includes the novella, *The Fish Girl*, which won Seizure Viva la Novella and was shortlisted for the Stella Prize. Her third novel, *Sunbirds*, was shortlisted for the Barbara Jefferis Award.

MIRANDI RIWOE

Praise

“

A staggering recreation of an Australian history too few of us know, and a heart-bruising testament of resilience and love. You'll be gripped – and moved – from the first page

Benjamin Law on
Stone Sky Gold Mountain

“

Reading a Mirandi Riwoe novel I feel the anticipation and delight of knowing I'm about to be transported, enriched and changed. She is a deeply moving storyteller. Her writing is dazzling.

Holly Ringland

“

Evocative, soaring, incredible.

Alice Pung on
The Burnished Sun

“

Riwoe's stories make the ordinary profound. Her prose deftly walks the razor-fine line of spare, yet lyrical. The Australian short story is in masterful hands

Maxine Beneba Clarke

“

The Burnished Sun is a realist beauty that decentres dominant narratives and completely gripped me with every story.

Laura Jean McKay

“

A heart-bruising testament of resilience and love. You'll be gripped – and moved – from the first page.

Benjamin Law on
Stone Sky Gold Mountain

“

Romantic and sweeping, while also clear-eyed about the human cost of colonisation. *Sunbirds* is a triumph.

Toni Jordan

“

Fresh and vivid, absorbing and tragic. Written with great sensitivity for those on the margins of our violent past.

Carrie Tiffany on
Stone Sky Gold Mountain

“

Mirandi Riwoe has a talent for rich, evocative storytelling that illuminates moments in our shared history that have been overlooked or neglected.

Pip Williams

AUGUST 2026

Lenny Robinson

And in the Morning

A prismatic gem of a debut novel that reflects the experiences of three women across three wars and the damage done to the men they love – it is capacious and intimate in equal measure.

In the winter of 1919, Lily and her three-year-old son, Ted, rush through the streets of Melbourne to welcome home Lily's husband, Bert, who has spent the last four years fighting with the Light Horse in the Middle East. Twenty-three years later, as the same city awaits a Japanese invasion, Frankie, a young WAAAF on a night's leave from the service, meets an airman, Ed, at a dance. Almost three decades on, as Melbourne convulses with anti-war protests, a single mother, Fran, prepares a funeral for her only son, a young conscript killed in Vietnam.

And in the Morning is a novel about war and the ways in which its tragedies, both great and small, transform the intimate lives of the mothers, wives and lovers who must live with its consequences.



RRP AU\$32.99

Category Fiction

Format C-format paperback, 320pp

Rights held World

“

A hauntingly beautiful novel of women and war. An exceptional debut.

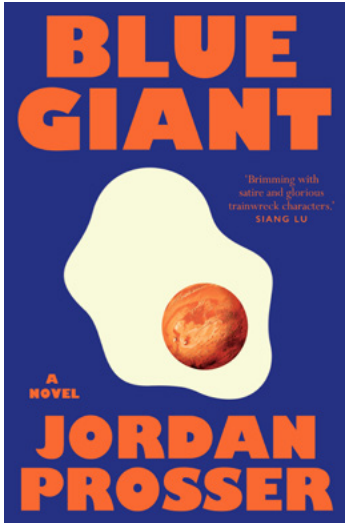
Heather Rose, Stella Prize-winning author of *Museum of Modern Love*



Lenny Robinson has worked as a tutor, university lecturer, freelance writer and teacher. Her short stories and non-fiction have appeared in *Overland*, *Westerly*, *Island* and *The Best Australian Essays*. She is the author of *This Moral Pandemonium* (2009), a short biography of notorious 19th-century figure Madame Brussels, and several philosophy textbooks. Lenny lives with her partner and children in Naarm, Victoria.

AUGUST 2026

Jordan Prosser *Blue Giant*



RRP AU\$34.99

Category Fiction

Format C-format paperback, 288pp

Rights held World

Rights sold UK/Comm ex ANZ (Dead Ink Books); UK/Comm audio (Wavesound)

“

Brimming with satire and glorious trainwreck characters, Jordan Prosser has knocked it out of the park, straight into the stratosphere.

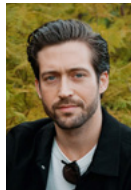
Siang Lu, Miles Franklin Award-winning author of *Ghost Cities*

Planet Earth is cooked. Abby Horne wants off.

Abby always believed she was destined for great things. But her dream career as an industry-disrupting fashion designer went up in smoke, and her aspirations to become a world-renowned yogi and/or save the endangered tigers proved equally fruitless. She's in her early thirties, suffering the unbearable burdens of adulthood and anonymity, when she wakes up after a drunken bender with an all-new, all-consuming purpose in life: to be the first person on Mars.

Perfect timing – Danish tech entrepreneur Tor Skovgaard is currently recruiting for a one-way mission to colonise the red planet. Abby knows this is it: her last-ditch bid for purpose and glory. And if she can't be humanity's saviour ... she'll settle for being its martyr.

Blue Giant is an unruly eulogy for millennial optimism – a deranged love letter to a generation torn between helplessness and selfishness.



Jordan Prosser is an author and screenwriter based in Naarm/Melbourne. He won the Peter Carey Short Story Award in 2022. His debut novel, *Big Time*, was shortlisted for the Matt Richell Award for New Writer of the Year at the ABIAs and the Aurealis Award for Best Science Fiction Novel.

SEPTEMBER 2026

Gillian Hagenus

Common Places



From the 2025 winner of the Glendower Award for an emerging writer comes an impeccably styled and twisty collection Australian suburban gothic short stories.

Common Places explores the dark humourous underbelly of Australian suburbia through a subversive and impressive range of narrative styles and perspectives.

Across fourteen stories, *Common Places* brings to light the ordinary and the extraordinary that lurks in the hearts and homes of suburban Adelaide. Perfectly crafted and inventive, Gillian is a serious new voice in Australian fiction.

RRP AU\$34.99

Category Fiction

Format C-format paperback, 256pp

Rights held World

“

Perfectly crafted and calibrated ...
a serious new voice in
Australian fiction.

**QLA Glendower Award
Judges' comments**

Gillian Hagenus is a Brisbane-based creative writer, researcher, literary festival organiser and book devourer. She holds a Master of Philosophy in Creative Writing from the University of Adelaide, where her thesis wrote into and defined the Suburban Gothic genre in a specifically Australian context. She has worked part-time as an editor at MidnightSun Publishing, where her annoying habit of correcting people's grammar could be put to good use and she is the secretary and program coordinator of the Australian Short Story Festival. After a brief hiatus spent out in the 'real' world as a hotel receptionist, Gillian is currently enjoying a return to the fairy world of academia as a PhD candidate at the University of Queensland, where she is turning her hotel stories into a Gothic novel.

APRIL 2027

Rachel Morton

There Is More Space



RRP AU\$34.99

Category Fiction

Format C-format paperback, 224pp

Rights held World

From award-winning author of *The Sun Was Electric Light* comes another dazzling novel that examines what really matters: how to live an ‘examined life’ in this increasingly complex world and how to make it one you can make worth living.

After the death of her partner, Rose feels overwhelmed by the devastation in her own life and the world around her. She travels far from Australia to the village of Dingle in Ireland, drawn by the idea of cold-water swimming. There she intends to remain isolated from others but soon her life crosses over with eccentric Jakob and the local café owner Lacey, who each separately connect her back into the world.

Rose comes to understand the light and darkness that each of us carries within ourselves, and the preciousness of human life. And how we have to truly face the darkness in order to find the light – no shortcuts.

“

I read this pure, pained, beautiful book in a single burst, and emerged from it with heart and nerves rinsed clean.

Baillie Gifford Prize-winning author, Helen Garner on *The Sun Was Electric Light*

Rachel Morton is a writer living on Eastern Maar/Gunditjmara Country in south-west Victoria. Her poetry has appeared in *Meanjin Quarterly*, *The Moth Magazine* and various other publications. Rachel was shortlisted for the 2019 Australian Catholic University Prize for Poetry.

MAY 2027

Dan Dixon

The Department



RRP AU\$34.99

Category Fiction

Format C-format paperback, 276pp

Rights held World

“

This novel is by turns a son's reckoning with his father upon his death, a send-up of the corporatisation of the humanities in universities, and a paean to our climate-damaged world.

Aviva Tuffield, Publisher

***The Department* is darkly funny, blending elements of realism with an atmosphere of surreal unease, and would be of particular interest to readers of Rachel Cusk, Ben Lerner, Katie Kitamura, and George Saunders.**

The Department follows a narrator who, after witnessing the death of his father in a palliative care ward, finds himself trapped at an academic conference in a flooding hotel where he is coerced by a series of frantically self-interested scholars into delivering a keynote speech about his trauma. The novel opens with the father's death, surrounded by family in a gloomy, cavernous hospital room. The family realise too late that the hospital is threatened by flood. Unable to return home, they flee to a nearby hotel where, despite the rising waters, an academic conference – which, ambitiously and delusionally, aims to reinvent the humanities – is taking place.

The Department is a blazing satire of the decline of the humanities, of our willing ignorance to climate change and to the absurdity of human nature.

Dan Dixon's writing has been published widely in outlets including the *Sydney Review of Books*, *The Guardian*, *Sydney Morning Herald*, *The Saturday Paper*, *Australian Book Review*, *Meanjin*, and *Overland*. In 2020, he was awarded a *Sydney Review of Books* Emerging Critics Fellowship and in 2021, he was shortlisted for *Overland's* Neilma Sidney Short Story Prize. He has a forthcoming academic monograph, to be published in 2026 by the University of Iowa Press, with the provisional title *Do I Know You?: How Authors Enter Our Lives*.



Adult
Non-Fiction

NOVEMBER 2025

Melissa Lucashenko

Not Quite White in the Head

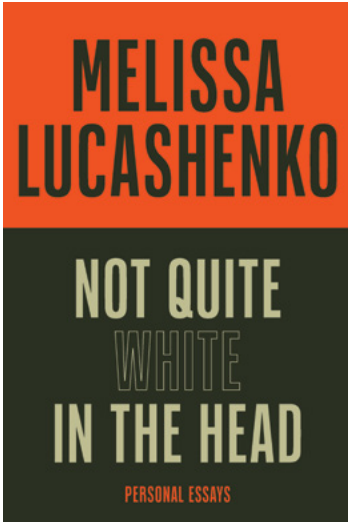
Miles Franklin Literary award winner
Melissa Lucashenko's searing essays and
journalism published together for the
first time.

'For thousands of years, global narratives have had, as their explicit task, the expansion of the human heart.'

Melissa Lucashenko is one of our most admired and awarded novelists. She is renowned for writing about ordinary Australians and the extraordinary lives they lead.

This timely collection of essays and journalism – published together for the first time – spans two turbulent decades. With her trademark wit and wisdom, Lucashenko reflects on being caught in a siege, on the marginalised lives of prisoners and the urban poor, on Blak identity, Australian literature and on meeting her writing idol. Her non-fiction, like her novels, is deeply engaged with politics, activism, culture and social (in)justice.

Not Quite White in the Head offers unprecedented access to one of the nation's greatest writers as she invites us into the conversations that truly matter.



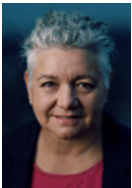
RRP AU\$39.99

Category Non-fiction

Format C-format hardback, 256pp

Rights held ANZ + translation

Rights sold ANZ audio (Audible)



Melissa Lucashenko is a Goorie (Aboriginal) author of Bundjalung and European heritage. Her first novel was published in 1997 and since then her work has received acclaim in many literary awards. Her novel *Too Much Lip* won the 2019 Miles Franklin Literary Award and the Queensland Premier's Award for a work of State Significance. Her most recent novel, *Edenglassie*, won eight major awards, including the Victorian Premier's Literary Award for Fiction, the Indie

Book Award for Fiction, the ARA Historical Novel Prize and the Queensland Premier's Award for a work of State Significance. Melissa is a Walkley Award winner for her non-fiction, and a founding member of human rights organisation Sisters Inside.

NOVEMBER 2025

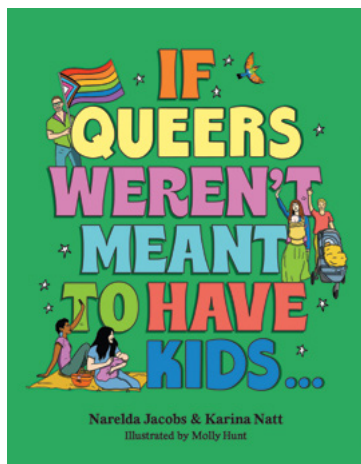
Narelda Jacobs, Karina Natt
& Molly Hunt***If Queers Weren't Meant
to Have Kids ...***

If queers weren't meant to have kids, why do lesbians nest after one week? Why are hot gays called daddy? Why are drag queens so maternal? This stunning, fully illustrated adult picture book is a celebration of the beauty of rainbow families.

In this age of growing censorship and manufactured moral panics, this book cheekily pokes fun at the conservative cultural warriors by asking questions such as: if queers weren't meant to have kids, why do lesbians nest after one week? Why are hot gays called daddy? Why are drag queens so maternal?

Written by renowned Indigenous journalist Narelda Jacobs and her communications specialist wife Karina Natt, and illustrated by award-winning and internationally exhibited First Nations artist Molly Hunt, this beautiful picture book is a loud and proud celebration of chosen family, guncles, the gaybourhood and more.

If Queers Weren't Meant to Have Kids ... is the perfect gift for everyone: those who see themselves and their values reflected in its pages; and, especially, those who don't!



RRP AU\$29.99

Category Non-fiction**Format** Hardback 255mm x 19mm, 32pp**Rights held** World

“

Tongue-in-cheek sense
of humour that comes from
the heart!

Alok Vaid-Menon,
internationally acclaimed poet

Narelda Jacobs OAM is a Whadjuk Noongar journalist, presenter, commentator and keynote speaker, who has worked for Network 10 for more than two decades. In 2023 Narelda was awarded a Medal of the Order of Australia.

Karina Natt is a former lawyer and journalist who spent almost a decade working as a senior adviser in federal politics. Karina is now working in media talent, production and advisory.

Molly Hunt is a multitalented Balanggarra and Yolngu artist from Wyndham, Kimberley, Western Australia. Her blend of digital illustrations, animations and mural art has resulted in collaborations with major brands such as The Body Shop, Google, TikTok and FIFA.

OCTOBER 2026

Majeda Awawdeh *The Sky is Concave*



RRP AU\$36.99

Category Non-fiction

Format C-format paperback, 320pp

Rights held World ex film/TV

“

Dr Majeda Awawdeh's story is by turns inspiring and insightful.

With generosity and honesty, Majeda provides a window into growing up constrained by religious patriarchy.

Aviva Tuffield, Publisher

The Sky is Concave is a powerful and poetic memoir by Majeda Awawdeh, a Palestinian woman who survived poverty, patriarchy and domestic violence before rebuilding her life in Australia as an award-winning mathematician and educational entrepreneur.

Born and raised in a village near Nazareth, in the 1948 region of historic Palestine, Majeda grew up as a Palestinian citizen of Israel, tethered by poverty, religion and patriarchy. As a young girl, she bore witness to the rise of the Islamic Movement and its growing influence on her community and her own family, a force that shaped – and constrained – her life and the lives of the women around her. Believing that marriage would provide her with more freedom, Majeda married young but the relationship quickly turned sour. Ultimately it was education, specifically mathematics, that would prove her escape both from a violent marriage and to a new life overseas.

The Sky is Concave is a remarkable story of resilience, one that gives voice to those who are too often silenced: the 1948 Palestinians who remained in Israel and in particular the women who bore a double burden of occupation and patriarchy. It speaks to universal struggles of belonging, of breaking cycles of violence, and of daring to imagine a different life.

Majeda Awawdeh is an academic, writer and advocate for women's education. In 2005 she migrated from the turbulent region of '1948 Palestine' to Sydney after securing a scholarship to study at the University of NSW. She holds a Bachelor's degree in Mathematics, a Master's in Mathematics Education, and a PhD in Mathematics Education and Cognitive Load Theory.

OCTOBER 2026

Daniel Browning & Cheryl Leavy

Blak Love

**RRP** AU\$34.99**Category** Non-fiction**Format** C-format paperback, 304pp**Rights held** World

“

A wide-ranging collection of hope, resistance and resilience featuring Australia's greatest First Nations writers.

Madonna Duffy, Publisher

Grounded by a love of Country, culture and connection, *Blak Love* is a ground-breaking anthology of First Nations writing that celebrate and explore love in all forms.

From familial and political to romantic and sexual, *Blak Love* explores love in all forms through an anthology of essays from a suite of exceptional First Nations writers. This anthology will contain never-before-published pieces from authors Melissa Lucashenko, Jackie Huggins, Bruce Pascoe, Chelsea Watego, Alexis Wright and more as they respond to what love means to them as First Nations Australians.

Edited by renowned Bundjalung and Kullilli journalist Daniel Browning and author Cheryl Leavy from the Kooma and Nguri Nations, *Blak Love* is a moving anthology.

Daniel Browning is a Bundjalung and Kullilli journalist, radio broadcaster, documentary maker, sound artist and writer. Currently, he is Editor: Indigenous Radio with the ABC and produces and presents *The Art Show* for ABC RN, the ABC's specialist arts and journalism network. He also presented *Away!* for many years, a Radio National staple which surveys contemporary Indigenous cultural practice across the arts spectrum.

Cheryl Leavy is from the Kooma and Nguri Nations in western and central Queensland. She is an award-winning poet and writer who loves to tell stories that celebrate First Nations culture, history and Country. Cheryl loves her job as a writer because it gives her endless opportunities to work with friends to make beautiful books together.

NOVEMBER 2026

Larissa Behrendt
***Finding Justice: Law, Lore
 and Baluwaa***



Part memoir, part critical race theory, part literary critique, from award-winning Euahleyai/Gamillaroi author, filmmaker and lawyer Larissa Behrendt comes *Finding Justice: Law, Lore and Baluwaa*.

In this companion to her earlier works *Finding Eliza: The Power of Colonial Storytelling* (2016) and *Achieving Social Justice* (2003), Behrendt explores Australia's racist legal system and the structural change required to transform it. Behrendt meditates on the First Nations stories that have shaped her thinking and draws on learnings from her cultural heritage to challenge how we think about justice.

RRP AU\$34.99

Category Non-fiction

Format C-format paperback, 272pp

Rights held World

“

No-one understands lore and law better than novelist and legal professor Larissa Behrendt. She is one of this country's finest minds.

Madonna Duffy, Publisher

Larissa Behrendt – a Euahleyai/Gamillaroi woman – is an award-winning author and an award winning filmmaker. She is the author of several books and writes and directs for film and television. She is also a lawyer and an academic based at the University of Technology Sydney. She is the host of *Speaking Out* on ABC Radio. Larissa won the 2002 David Uniapon Award and a 2005 Commonwealth Writer's Prize for her novel *Home*. Her second novel, *Legacy*, won a Victorian Premiers Literary Award. Her most recent novel, *After Story*, won the 2022 Voss Literary prize and has been optioned by Jungle Media for development as a television series.

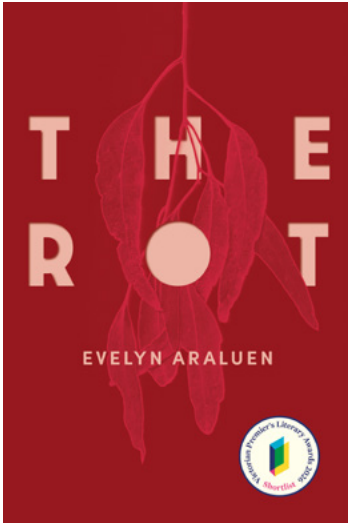


Poetry

NOVEMBER 2025

Evelyn Araluen

The Rot



The scorching, much-anticipated new book from the winner of the 2022 Stella Prize for *Dropbear*.

*It's not that you think you can change this,
but you need something to do with your hands.*

The Rot is a recalcitrant study of the decaying romances, expired hopes and abject injustices of the world. A liturgy for girlhood in the dying days of late-stage capitalism, these poems expose fraying nerves and tendons of a speaker refusing to avert their gaze from the death of Country, death on Country, and the bloody violence of settler colonies here and afar.

Across sleepless nights, fractured alliances and self-destructive coping strategies, *The Rot* is what happens when poetry swallows more rage than it can console, quiet or ironise – this book demands you ready yourself for a better world.

RRP AU\$24.99

Category Poetry

Format B-format paperback, 144pp

Rights held World

Rights sold ANZ audio (Bolinda)

“

Rageful, desireful, artful,
sorrowful, haunting.
A blaze of a book.

**Michelle de Kretser, two-time
Miles Franklin Literary
Award-winning author**



Evelyn Araluen is a Goorie and Koori poet, editor and researcher. Born and raised on Dharug Country, she now lives on Wurundjeri Country where she works as a lecturer at the Wilin Centre for Indigenous Arts and Cultural

Development, co-editor of *Overland Literary Journal* and Chairperson for the Board of the Institute of Postcolonial Studies. Her debut poetry collection, *Dropbear*, won the 2022 Stella Prize.

EVELYN ARALUEN

Praise for *The Rot*

“

The Rot has the scale, intensity, linguistic versatility and critical acuity to become a turning point, a marker in the commitment to repair the damage.

John Kinsella

“

Evelyn Araluen’s poetry and prose is created with a passionate intensity, razor-sharp intellect, beauty and compassion as she turns her mind to the broad sweep of history and a dynamic engagement with the spirit of our times.

Alexis Wright

“

Blistering, brilliant, lacerating, wry, elegiac, *The Rot* is a hymn to girlhood, to resistance, to solidarity. Araluen is a masterful stylist, braiding air-fryer abjectioncore with bathtub meditations on the machinery of colonialism – and the whiplash and fury of witnessing and protesting genocide in the digital age. For all its allusions to mould and decay, *The Rot* is exhilarating in its defiance and staunchness.

Jennifer Down

“

Evelyn Araluen returns with a book of unblinking ferocity and corrosive beauty. She drapes her language across fractured hopes, decaying romances, forcing the reader into complicity with despair. But don’t come here looking for epiphany, resolution or redemption. Araluen dismantles the idea that poetry should soothe or elevate, welding craft as rupture. *The Rot* is not to be read – it is to be reckoned with.

Sara M Saleh

“

Biting, anguished and revelatory.

Melissa Lucashenko

“

Rageful, desirous, artful, sorrowful, haunting. A blaze of a book.

Michelle de Kretser

AWARD
WINNER

FIRST
NATIONS

FEBRUARY 2026

Maria van Neerven

Two Tongues



From the 2023 David Unaipon Award winner comes this powerful, poignant poetry collection that celebrates and reclaims Indigenous voices and language.

Writing with a tender love for her Yugambeh language, Maria van Neerven reflects on the legacy of colonisation and racism, and the aftermath of intergenerational harm. At the same time, she shines a light on the importance of family and culture, celebrating the Indigenous women who guided and taught her – extraordinary women filled with resilience and strength. In this way, van Neerven reclaims the stories of her ancestors, giving a voice to those who weren't allowed one in the past. *Two Tongues* regathers what has been stolen in order to reassemble a life of compassion and – above all – love for family and Blak pride.

ISBN 9780 7022 7103 8

RRP AU\$24.99

Category Poetry

Format B-format paperback, 112pp

Rights held World

“

Van Neerven deftly unpicks the brutal colonial stitches that bind this place to history's lies, and lays bare searing, healing Blak truths.

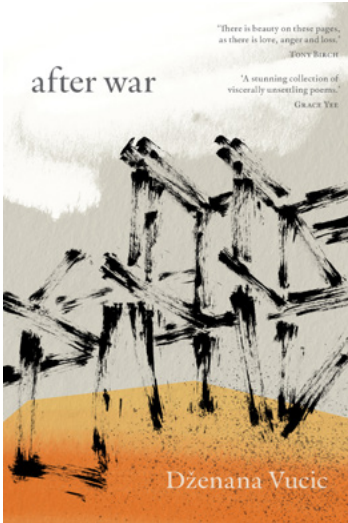
Maxine Beneba Clarke, Stella Prize-shortlisted author of *The Hate Race*



Maria van Neerven is a Mununjali poet from the Yugambeh nation living in Meanjin. Maria was the winner of the David Unaipon Award in 2023 and was a Next Chapter Fellow in 2024. *Two Tongues* is her first poetry collection.

MAY 2026

Dženana Vucic *after war*



RRP AU\$24.99
Category Poetry
Format B-format paperback, 128pp
Rights held World

A vital and urgent exploration of identity, memory and survival – for fans of Safia Elhillo, Hasib Hourani and Ocean Vuong.

after war is an unwavering exploration of brutality and its consequences, moving adroitly between personal experience and the written record to plumb the ‘after’ and ongoingness of war, genocide and displacement. Unfurling from the Bosnian war and its traumas, this searing debut examines identity and un/belonging; language and its elisions; history and how we remember it; violence and how we are implicated in it.

Through experiments in form and voice, Dženana Vucic’s deeply humane poetry bears witness not only to suffering, but to courage and strength. Generous and incisive, this extraordinary collection refuses to look away or submit to despair; it compels readers not to either.

“

Each poem asks us to look at, and not away, from destructive violence. There is beauty on these pages, as there is love, anger and loss.

Tony Birch, award-winning and bestselling author of *The White Girl*



Dženana Vucic (she/they) is a Bosnian–Australian writer currently based in Berlin. Her poems have been shortlisted for the Peter Porter, Newcastle and Judith Wright poetry prizes. Her essays, reviews and poetry have been published in *Australian Poetry Journal*, *Cordite*, *Kill Your Darlings*, *Meanjin*, *Overland*, *Sydney Review of Books*, and others. Dženana holds a PhD in English Literature and leads creative writing workshops.

SEPTEMBER 2026

Eva Phillips

borrow or rob



RRP AU\$24.99
Category Poetry
Format B-format paperback, 120pp
Rights held World

From the 2024 winner of the Arts Queensland Thomas Shapcott Poetry Prize comes this outstanding work of Poetry.

borrow or rob examines themes of place, appropriation and extraction through cross-disciplinary considerations of Margaret Preston's printmaking and contemporaneous writing. The graceful and assured lines mount an incisive and astute intervention into the history of 'Australian' art.

With a precise control of language and voice, *borrow or rob* gives rise to a work that cannot be easily defined or contained in anything but poetry. Probing, meditative and insistent, each poem hums with insight, crystalline imagery and consummate skill. Above all, they implore us to look and then look again.

borrow or rob is a superbly crafted and important poetic tool that interrogates its own history.

“

An impressive and dextrous synthesis of theme and form, *Borrow or Rob* implicates the reader in a compelling journey over the ethical topography of making art on stolen land.

Jared Bruinstroop and
Eileen Chong, Thomas
Shapcott Poetry Prize judges

Eva Phillips is a community and arts worker born and raised in Magandjin.

OCTOBER 2026

Georgina Williams

MEKAUWE = TEARS

From the 2021 winner of the David Unaipon Award comes **MEKAUWE = TEARS**, a collection of poetry from Ngankiburka-mekauwe (Senior Woman of Water) Georgina Williams.

This collection of poetry takes you on a profound journey through Georgina's life. Poignant and political, her work is written over 50 years and is at once a wailing and a proclamation. This posthumous collection is Williams' masterwork – an extraordinary body of work.

RRP AU\$24.99

Category Poetry

Format B-format paperback, 96pp

Rights held World

“

A hard-hitting political observation that is incredibly poignant.

David Unaipon Award judges' comments

Ngankiburka-mekauwe (Senior Woman of Water) Georgina Williams

was a Senior/Elder Clan Custodian/Traditional Owner. Georgina grew up on Point Pearce Mission, Yorke Peninsula (her Mother Country: Adgadurah). Georgina was a survivor of the dispossessed–Mullawirra Meyunna (the Dry Forest People) Southern Pangkara, her father's country. Through her Kaurna/Narrunga grandparents Georgina grew up with Aboriginal knowledge and traditional relationship to country, reclaiming the spiritual and cultural responsibility of her clan. Georgina maintained care for country and traditional lore/law of the land by reclaiming the Tjirbruki Dreaming, of her father's country. Georgina was a poet, singer, writer, dancer and theatre director.

NOVEMBER 2026

Ellen van Neerven

Living Line



The highly anticipated third collection by award-winning poet Ellen van Neerven.

Living Line traverses the curves of Country and personal lineages, as well as the line in poetry itself, uncovering what it carries, its' shape, movement and the spaces in between.

Profound and reflective, *Living Line* is a work of poetic artistry by one of Australia's master poets.

RRP AU\$24.99

Category Poetry

Format B-format paperback, 120pp

Rights held World

“

Van Neerven puts a finger to the world's jagged pulse and measures out the beat across time and country, love and loss.

Omar Sakr

Ellen van Neerven is an award-winning writer of Mununjali Yugambeh and Dutch heritage. Ellen's first book, *Heat and Light*, was the recipient of the David Unaipon Award, the Dobbie Literary Award and the NSW Premier's Literary Awards Indigenous Writers' Prize. They are the author of two poetry collections: *Comfort Food*, which was shortlisted for the NSW Premier's Literary Awards Kenneth Slessor Prize; and *Throat*, which won the Kenneth Slessor Prize, the Multicultural NSW Award and Book of the Year in the NSW Premier's Literary Awards. Their latest book, *Personal Score: Sport, Culture, Identity*, won the Victorian Premier's Literary Award for Non-fiction in 2024.

Children's & Young Adult

FEBRUARY 2026

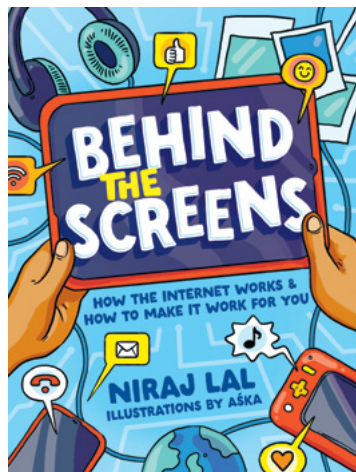
Niraj Lal, illus. by Aśka

***Behind the Screens:
How the internet works and
how to make it work for you***

Getting your first phone is a big moment – this illustrated guide empowers young people aged 9–13 to navigate the online world with awareness, responsibility and confidence.

The internet is one of the most life-changing inventions in history. But there are things happening behind the screens that are changing how we behave: influencing what we buy, what we're interested in and how long we stay online. As we start using the internet and AI to do everything, it's helpful to explore how the tech is using us a little too.

Written by award-winning scientist Dr Niraj (Nij) Lal, host of the ABC's kids' podcast *Imagine This*, and illustrated by comic artist Aśka, *Behind the Screens* is the must-have guide to help young people be online in the best way possible.

**RRP** AU\$19.99**Category** Middle grade non-fiction**Format** 181 x 135mm paperback, 120pp**Rights held** World ex film/TV**Rights sold** North America (Lerner Publishing Group); Turkey (Uyurgezer Yayinlari)**Reading age** 9+

Dr Niraj (Nij) Lal is an ANU Visiting Fellow and host of the ABC's kids' podcast *Imagine This*. He graduated from the University of Cambridge with a PhD in physics as a Gates Scholar in 2012, and his awards include the 2021 Celestino Eureka Prize for Promoting Understanding of Science and the 2022 Royal Societies of Australia and New Zealand Piasecki Prize for Outstanding Writing on Social Change. He lives in Melbourne with his partner Sally and their three kids.



Aśka (pronounced *Ash-ka*) is creative dynamite, an award-winning graphic novelist, an ex-quantum physicist, and a hugely engaging and popular presenter. Having published more than a dozen books and comics, Aśka is passionate about visual literacy and teaching people how to 'write with pictures'. Fun fact: despite being a fan of technology, to this day Aśka has never owned a smart phone. She thinks everyone should read this book!

FEBRUARY 2026

Sara Haddad

***The Sunbird:* Young readers' edition**

Adapted for young readers from her critically acclaimed adult novel, Sara Haddad's middle-grade story about a child's experience of the Nakba is a lyrical ode to sovereignty, freedom and homecoming.

How could a new country be put inside a country that was already there?

It's 1948 and Nabila Yasmien lives a happy life in her village in Palestine. She plays in the hills with her friend Khalil and climbs high in the olive trees to pick the sweetest fruit. But when bombs start falling, Nabila and her family are forced to leave. Where will they go?

With beautiful line illustrations by renowned Palestinian artist Baraa Awoor, *The Sunbird* is the poignant story of a little girl who just wants to go home.



RRP AU\$14.99

Category Middle grade fiction

Format B-format paperback, 96pp

Rights held World

Reading age 8+

“

The Sunbird is a welcome resource. I hope this gentle and evocative story is only the first of a range of narratives that explore the multitude of life experiences and perspectives in occupied Palestine.

Zewlan Moor, author of
Nothing Alike



Sara Haddad is an editor and writer who has worked in publishing for thirty-five years. A Lebanese Australian, she lives on Gadigal land with her husband and two children. She hopes that one day all Palestinians will be free to return to their country and live there without fear. Her debut novel, *The Sunbird*, was an Indie bestseller.



نبيلة

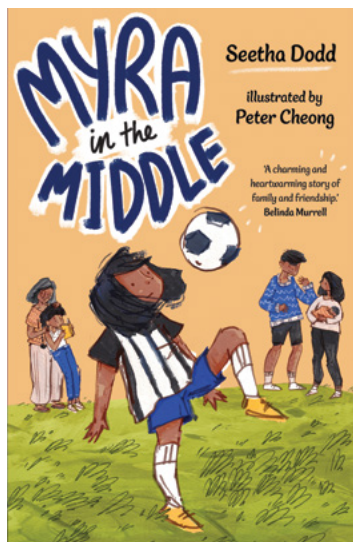


Artwork | Internal illustrations by Baraa Awoor from *The Sunbird* by Sara Haddad



APRIL 2026

Seetha Dodd,
illus. by Peter Cheong
Myra in the Middle



A funny, endearing junior novel about finding your place in your family – and on the soccer field.

Seven-year-old Myra likes maths, football and things staying the same. She lives with her mum, dad, Muthashi (grandma) and big sister, Anya. Her world flips upside down when her family welcomes a new baby. Myra is now a middle child – and everyone knows middle kids always get forgotten. On top of that, Myra tries out for the school's soccer team, only to be put in the midfield. She can't show off her skills when nothing exciting ever happens there!

What will it take for Myra to feel marvellous in the middle?

RRP AU\$14.99

Category Junior reader fiction

Format B-format paperback, 176pp

Rights held World

Reading age 6+

“

A charming and heartwarming story of family and friendship, delicious feasts, and a delightful young heroine whose life is turned upside down by the arrival of a new baby.

I absolutely loved it.

Belinda Murrell, author of the Lulu Bell series



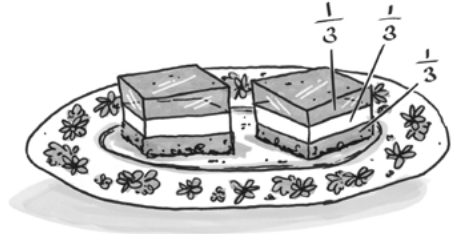
Seetha Dodd is an emerging children's author who loves wordplay, humorous rhyme and lyrical prose. Drawing on her Malaysian-Indian heritage, and themes of family, identity and belonging, Seetha writes stories that empower children to

challenge stereotypes and to celebrate uniqueness in all forms. She lives on Sydney's Northern Beaches with her husband and three children.



Peter Cheong is the illustrator of *I'm a Hero Too*, *Nothing Alike* and *Anh Do's Pow Pow Pig* series, and has written and illustrated his own children's books, *Every Night at Midnight* and *Where We Can Hear the Giants Sing*. Peter lives in

Perth (Whadjuk Country), Western Australia, with his very understanding wife, sons and less understanding cat.



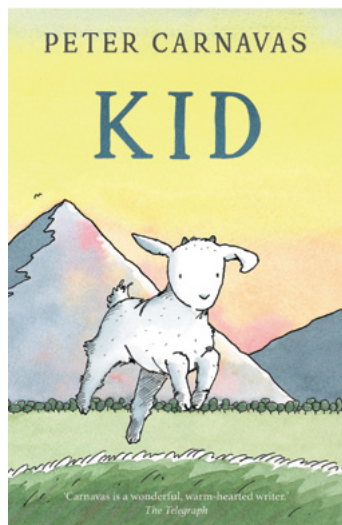
Artwork | Internal illustrations by Peter Cheong from *Myra in the Middle* by Seetha Dodd



CARNAVAS'
BOOKS HAVE
BEEN PUBLISHED
IN OVER 18
LANGUAGES

JUNE 2026

Peter Carnavas *Kid*



RRP AU\$22.99

Category Junior reader fiction

Format B+ format hardback, 240pp

Rights held World

Rights sold UK/Comm (Pushkin Press);
North America (Groundwood Books); ANZ
audio (Bolinda)

Reading age 6+

“

Mark my words, we'll still be reading this book in decades to come.

Cathy Vallance, Publisher

A modern-day classic about a young goat who discovers the meaning of family, in a limited edition deluxe hardcover. Written and illustrated by Peter Carnavas, bestselling author of *Leo and Ralph*.

This is the story of a small goat called Kid. Ever since his parents chased away a fox and never returned, Kid has stayed with Audrey the hen in the chook yard. Audrey tells him stories of his mum and dad's daring and bravery. She says they live on the nearby mountain, and Kid longs to leave the farm to find them.

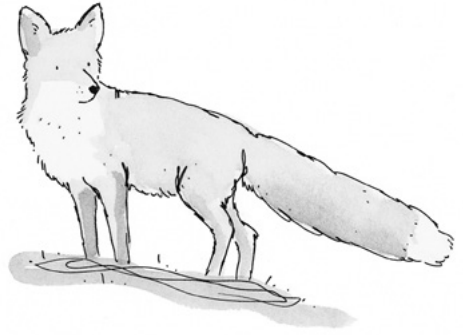
And then, one day, he discovers he is big enough to jump the fence ...

Will a wild adventure up the mountain help Kid find where he belongs?

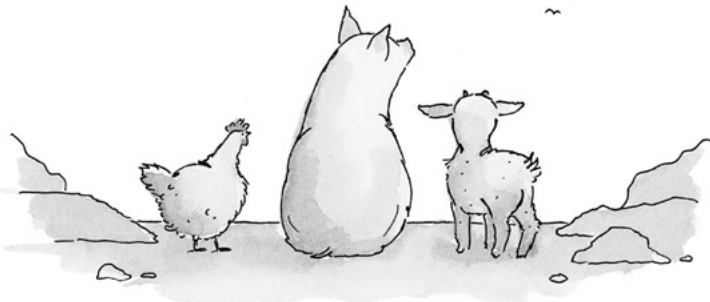
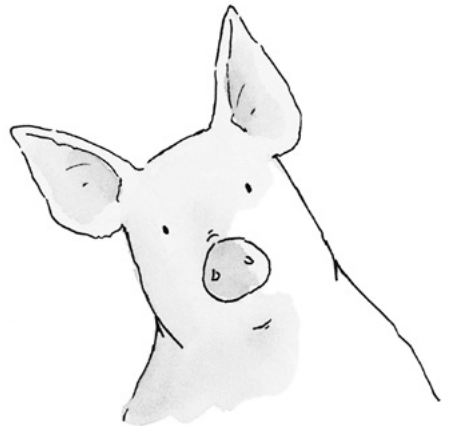
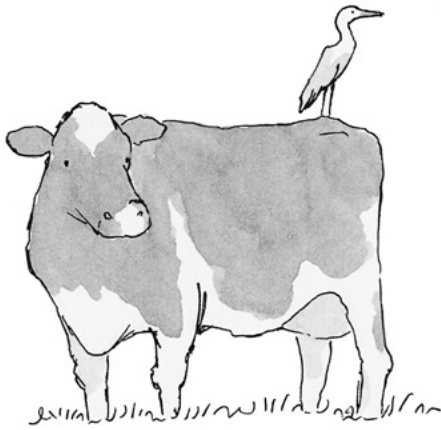
Embellished with Peter's delightful hand-drawn illustrations, this junior adventure novel is reminiscent of other children's classics that feature mostly animal casts, such as *Charlotte's Web* by EB White and *The Sheep-Pig* by Dick King-Smith.



Peter Carnavas writes and illustrates books for children. His books have been published widely across the world and have won many awards, including a Queensland Literary Award and the Patricia Wrightson Prize for Children's Literature at the NSW Premier's Literary Awards. Peter lives on the Sunshine Coast, Queensland, with his wife, two daughters, a dog and a cat.



Artwork | Internal illustrations from *Kid* by Peter Carnavas

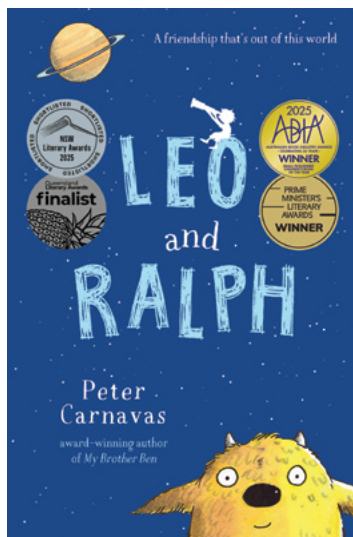


OVER
20,000
COPIES
SOLD IN
ANZ

MARCH 2024

Peter Carnavas

Leo and Ralph



From award-winning storyteller Peter Carnavas comes this stellar novel about space, starting over and the best friend you could ever imagine.

Ralph sat up. His voice was croaky. 'If a shooting star zoomed past right now, what would you wish for?'

'To find another friend like you.'

Leo and Ralph have been best friends ever since Ralph flew down from one of Jupiter's moons. But now Leo's older, and Mum and Dad think it's time to say goodbye to Ralph. When the family moves to a small country town, they hope Leo might finally make a real friend. But someone like Ralph is hard to leave behind...

Perfect for kids who enjoy gentle, thoughtful stories like *The Wild Robot* by Peter Brown and the *Polly and Buster* series by Sally Rippin.

RRP AU\$17.99

Category Middle grade fiction

Format B-format paperback, 276pp

Rights held World

Rights sold UK/Comm ex ANZ (Pushkin Press); North America (Groundwood Books); The Netherlands (Uitgeverij De Vries-Brouwers); Germany (Atrium Verlag); Turkey (Can Yayinlari); ANZ audio (Bolinda); Italy (Edizioni El Srl)

Reading age 8+

“

Carnavas is a wonderful, warm-hearted writer, and manages to filter every nugget of philosophy through the eyes of his child narrator.

The Telegraph



Peter Carnavas writes and illustrates books for children. His books have been published widely across the world and have won many awards, including a Queensland Literary Award and the Patricia Wrightson Prize for Children's Literature at the NSW Premier's Literary Awards. Peter lives on the Sunshine Coast, Queensland, with his wife, two daughters, a dog and a cat.

Literature at the NSW Premier's Literary Awards. Peter lives on the Sunshine Coast, Queensland, with his wife, two daughters, a dog and a cat.

JUNE 2026

Meg Caddy

A Flash in the Dust

**RRP** AU\$21.99**Category** Young adult fiction**Format** B-format paperback, 272pp**Rights held** World ex film/TV**Reading age** 14+

“

I was captivated from the moment I started reading. The plot, pacing, characterisation and historical research have all been expertly executed.

Cathy Vallance, Publisher

A gripping historical YA thriller, with a dash of queer romance. Think the bushranger version of *Fingersmith* by Sarah Waters.

1899, Fremantle Asylum, Western Australia. For three years now, Gilberta Brady has kept quiet and stayed out of trouble, hoping to soon be released. But when Norah Devaney screams into the ward with revenge in her heart and a story no-one believes, Brady's carefully guarded peace is shattered.

On the run and out of options, they collide with Kedalak and Malkar, Nyungar brothers on their own journey home. They form an unlikely gang of bushrangers and embark on a dangerous mission: track down the man who killed Norah's mum.

But little do they know that the Whistling Man is hunting them too.



Meg Caddy is a West Australian YA novelist with three published novels. Meg started their first novel, a standalone YA fantasy titled *Waer*, when they were just fourteen, and *Waer* was acquired by Text Publishing after being shortlisted for the Text Prize in 2013. In 2017, *Waer* was also shortlisted for the CBCA Book of the Year Award. Their second novel, *Devil's Ballast*, was longlisted for the CBCA Book of the Year Award and shortlisted for the Readings Young Adult Book Prize (2020). The sequel *Slipping the Noose* was also longlisted for both the CBCA Book of the Year Award (2023) and the ARA Historical Novel Prize (2022).

JULY 2025

Jazz Money & Jason Phu

The Frog's First Song



RRP AU\$24.99

Category Picture book

Format 265 x 235mm hardback, 32pp

Rights held World ex film/TV

Reading age 3+

“

Playful and surprising ... an exquisite, unique package that will be adored by children aged 3+ and artists.

Books+Publishing

A playful picture book about the joys of belonging and community from award-winning Wiradjuri poet Jazz Money and four-time Archibald Prize finalist Jason Phu.

First, the world is all dark. A little bit muddled and confused. The only sounds dripping water and small bubbles gurgling. In that darkness and quiet, everyone is alone. This is the world in the well.

And so begins the tale of how frogs came to croak in chorus at night-time. Inspired by Chinese parables and First Nations Creation stories, this debut picture book is a unique and melodic ode to taking chances, using your voice and coming together in song and dance.

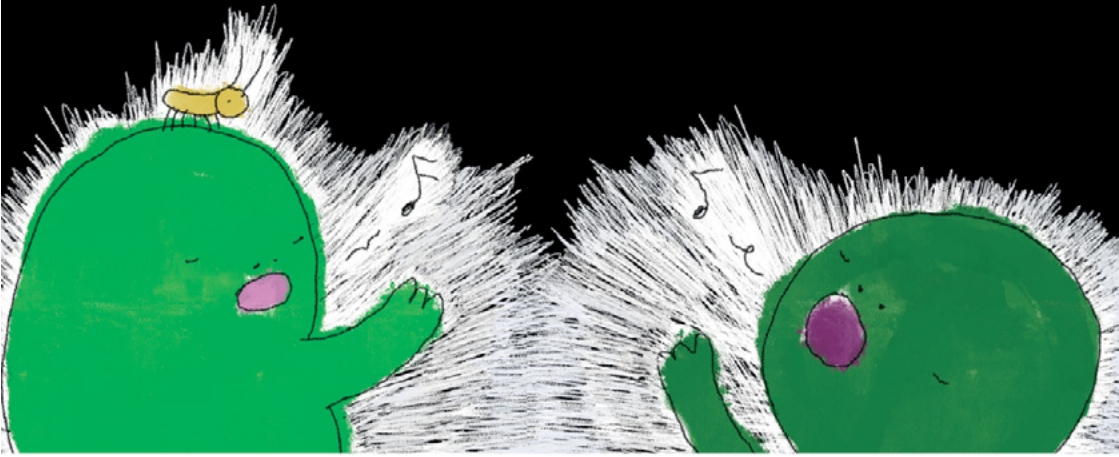


Jazz Money is a Wiradjuri poet and artist whose work spans installation, digital, performance, film and print. Their writing has been widely published nationally and internationally, and performed on stages around the world. Jazz has published two award-winning collections of poetry, *how to make a basket* and *mark the dawn*. *The Frog's First Song* is their first children's picture book.



Jason Phu is an artist working across a wide range of mediums, including printmaking, painting and performance. His work references folk tales, family history and funny jokes. Sometimes it includes imagery from comics, cartoons and Chan paintings. He is a four-time finalist for the Archibald Prize and won the Sulman Prize in 2015.

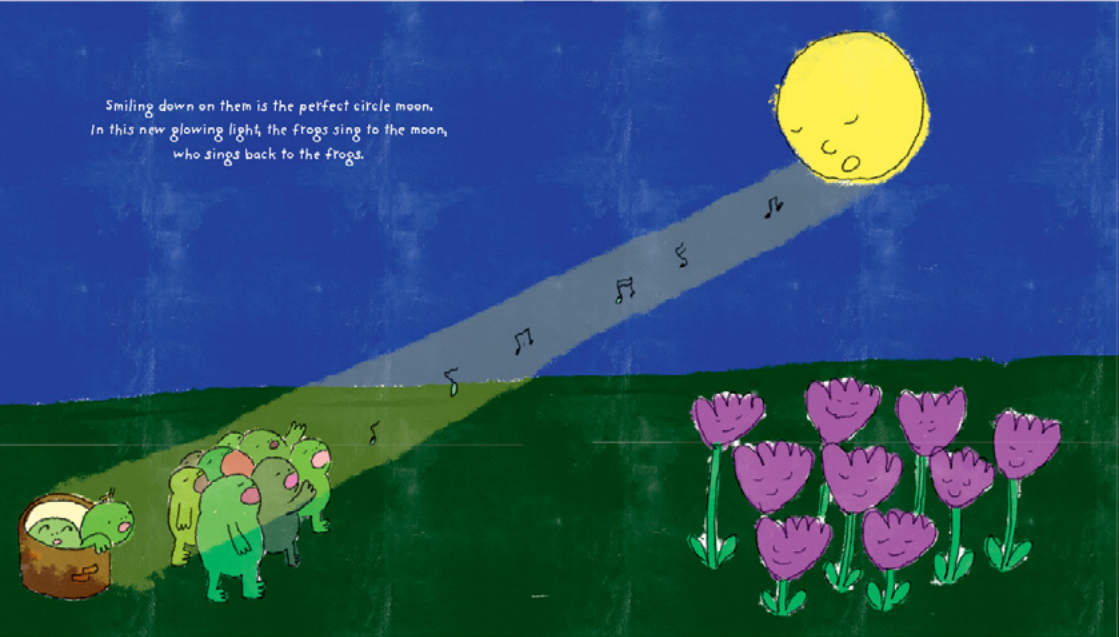
And so, soon, another frog tries this new possibility, a little bit scared, a little bit excited. Another voice joins the first song.



Now the first frog knows they are not alone in the world, and their joy makes the song louder still.

Artwork | Spreads from *The Frog's First Song* by Jazz Money and Jason Phu

Smiling down on them is the perfect circle moon. In this new glowing light, the frogs sing to the moon, who sings back to the frogs.



JULY 2026

Allison Rocca,
illus. by Brenton E. McKenna***Joey and the Junjardy***

A funny, raucous middle-grade romp grounded in First Nations storytelling, featuring a mischievous character brought to life by debut author Allison Rocca.

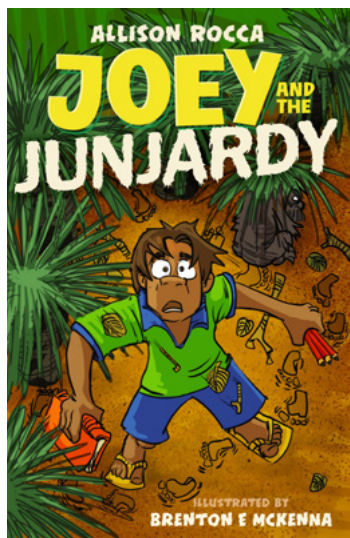
Joey Gibbs is always up for a laugh. What isn't funny: the 'Big Trouble' he caused at his old school that meant his family had to move back home to Coolibah Creek. Joey's going to keep his head down this time. New school, new mates, new start. But trouble seems to have a way of finding him.

When his sister and cousin start getting mysteriously pranked, Joey looks for answers from his Wakka Wakka culture. He discovers he's caught the attention of the Junjardy, a hairy little trickster. Joey can't resist making mischief again with his secret partner in crime. But as the jokes spiral out of control, he must work out what the Junjardy wants with him before disaster strikes.

Action-packed with loads of humour and heart, *Joey and the Junjardy* shows us how the smallest of creatures can help you to stand tall and proud.

Allison Rocca is a primary school teacher who has taught in classrooms from the 'burbs of Australia, to remote villages in Asia and Hogwarts-like academies in Oxford. She is a descendant of Wakka Wakka and Kaanju people and her upbringing was rich in storytelling. She lives and writes on Yuggera/Turrbal country, Brisbane.

Brenton E. McKenna is a Yawuru artist and writer from Broome. When he's not drawing, Brenton dedicates his time to educating young people through creative storytelling workshops.



RRP AU\$17.99

Category Middle grade fiction

Format B-format paperback, 224pp

Rights held World ex film/TV

Reading age 8+

“

I was hooked the moment I started reading. Joey's voice explodes off the page – he's cheeky, creative and full of wild antics. But the story also radiates with heart, through themes of second chances, belonging and caring for Country.

Cathy Vallance, Publisher

AUGUST 2026

Samantha Wheeler,
illus. by Anke Noack

The Lost Island

Bestselling and award-winning Australian author Samantha Wheeler returns with this thrilling desert island adventure with a conservation twist.

Theo thinks there's nothing worse than being stuck on a Pacific cruise with his dad, new stepmum and annoying stepsister. But when he's thrown overboard during a storm and washes up on a desert island, he suddenly has much bigger problems.

As Theo tackles castaway life – finding food, water and shelter – he discovers the island is full of mysteries: spooky noises, possible ghosts and the strangest birds he's ever seen. With survival getting tougher by the day and no rescue in sight, Theo's more desperate than ever to get back to his family. But to escape the island, he must unlock its secrets – and learn a few important truths about the power of nature along the way.



RRP AU\$17.99

Category Middle grade fiction

Format B-format paperback, 240pp

Rights held World

Reading age 8+

“

Samantha Wheeler is well known for her beloved wildlife stories, but this time she's upped the ante. It's got action, adventure, survival tips, a grumpy donkey, and a maybe ghost. Unputdownable!

Cathy Vallance, Publisher



Samantha Wheeler worked with farmers and taught science before writing her first children's book in 2011. She has now written several children's books, which have been shortlisted for the Queensland Literary Awards, the Readings Children's

Book Prize, the Wilderness Society's Environment Award for Children's Literature and the Royal Zoological Society of New South Wales Whitley Awards.

Anke Noack is a German illustrator from Berlin, now based in Melbourne, Australia, where she lives with her partner and their three wild and wonderful kids in a cottage in the bustling neighbourhood of North Fitzroy and a tranquil sunlit art studio in the backyard.

AUGUST 2026

Angie Cui & Anna Wilson

The Festival of Ice and Snow



RRP AUS\$26.99

Category Picture book

Format 285 x 215mm hardback, 40pp

Rights held World

Reading age 4+

“

Cui gives readers a generous glimpse into Chinese culture, dropping small details of tradition and memory like a candy trail, as we celebrate the warmth of family relationships and childhood.

Yasmin Smith, Editor

Based on the author’s treasured childhood memories of attending the Harbin Ice and Snow Festival in China, this bilingual picture book is a spectacular celebration of family, cultural traditions and wintertime splendour.

Every year, Grandpa takes us to the Festival of Ice and Snow – and every year, I can’t wait!

Two children and their beloved grandpa experience the wonder of Harbin’s Ice and Snow World, an enchanting place filled with super slides, tasty treats and huge ice sculptures illuminated by multicoloured lights.

Told in English and simplified Chinese, this picture book captures the fun of the winter festival and spending time with loved ones.

Angie Cui, originally from China, embarked on her Australian journey at eighteen. She lives in Melbourne with her husband and two children, whom she calls the ‘ABC Family’ – a fusion of four individuals and three cultures. Imbued with a profound appreciation for the linguistic richness within her family, Angie finds delight in weaving tales through various languages.

Anna Wilson was born in Australia’s Snowy Mountains, spent her childhood moving houses and schools, and then spent most of her adult life travelling the world. She is inspired by people and places and studied and worked with these concepts for a long time before embarking on a new career as a freelance designer and illustrator. She has illustrated children’s books for Bloomsbury, Hachette UK, Little Tiger & Cameron Kids Books.



We arrive in time.
Grandpa gets in for free
because he's old.
The sculptures glow in the
afternoon sunshine.

我们正好及时到达。
姥爷因为年纪大，免费入场。
雕塑在午后的阳光下闪闪发光。

Artwork | Spreads from *The Festival of Ice and Snow* by Angie Cui and Anna Wilson



As the sun sets, the massive ice sculptures
sparkle with multicoloured lights.
It's like being inside a kaleidoscope.

Yan Yan and I visit the Great Wall and
Forbidden City — not the real ones!
The ones made from ice!

太阳下山时，各色的灯光照亮了巨大的冰雕，
仿佛进入了一个万花筒世界。

岩岩和我有长城和故宫。
当然不是现实中的，而是由冰雕做的！

SEPTEMBER 2026

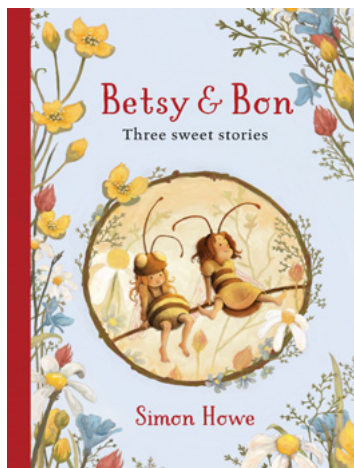
Simon Howe

Betsy and Bon: Three sweet stories

A whimsical and gentle short-story collection – perfect bedtime reading for children transitioning from picture books to chapter books.

Down at the bottom of the garden, where flowers grow tall and roots grow deep, two bees play with their friends. In ‘The Hive’ Betsy and Bon look for other friendly bees to come live with them. In ‘The Good Idea’ they try to decide on a game to play, and in ‘The Sunny Spot’ they work together with their friends to have a picnic in the perfect place.

With exquisite illustrations and low-conflict storylines, this collection has the timeless feel of classics such as Kenneth Grahame’s *The Wind in the Willows* and Enid Blyton’s *The Magic Faraway Tree*.



Cover not final

RRP AU\$24.99

Category Junior reader fiction

Format 210 x 151mm hardback, 64pp

Rights held World

Reading age 4+

“

Howe’s storytelling style is creative, light-hearted, whimsical and reminiscent of Kenneth Grahame’s *The Wind in the Willows*.

Felicity Dunning, Editor



Simon Howe is an illustrator and author with a broad appetite for children’s literature, animation, storytelling and design. He has worked with several notable Australian authors on books for children, and has designed and directed animation for advertising and television. Simon lives in regional Victoria with his family.

'Are you sure that only bees can live in a beehive?' asked Betsy.

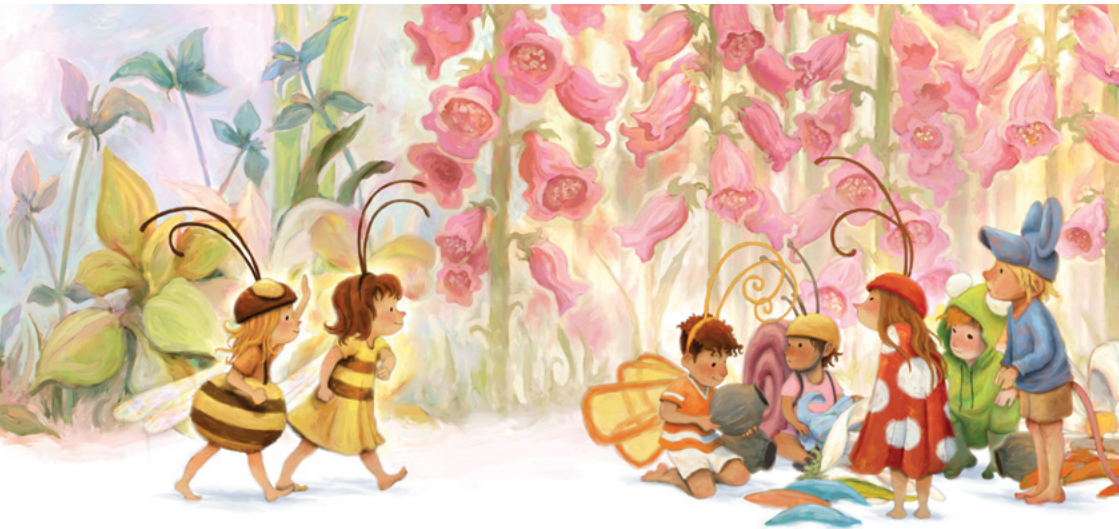
'Of course,' Bon said confidently. 'It's a rule.'

Betsy was quiet for a little while. 'What if we changed the rules?' she said. 'Then our friends could come and live with us.'

Bon thought about it.



Artwork | Spreads from *Betsy and Bon* by Simon Howe



Betsy and Bon wound their way through the garden, looking for their friends.

They found everyone among the foxgloves, deciding what to do with Spencer's collection.

'We have changed the rules,' Bon announced happily.

'Would you still like to come and live with us?' Betsy asked.

SEPTEMBER 2026

Carla Fitzgerald

How to Make the World Cup and Survive Grade Five



RRP AU\$17.99

Category Middle grade fiction

Format B-format paperback, 272pp

Rights held World

In her funniest and most heartfelt middle-grade book yet, Carla Fitzgerald serves up a winning tale about sport, friendship drama, and finding the guts to have a go.

Eleven-year-old Ronni is basically a professional athlete ... at watching sport. If it's on a screen, she's glued to it – just like her parents. But when Ronni and her best friend Kai are invited to secretly coach the Australian women's soccer team during the World Cup qualifiers, she realises life looks very different when you're not holding the remote.

Suddenly, she's running training sessions on the sly and managing suspicious players. Coaching is much harder than it looks! With the team wobbling and her friendship on the brink, Ronni must decide: keep spectating or actually get in the game? After all, having a go is way tougher than being a couch critic.

“

Carla Fitzgerald clearly has a gift for entertaining writing.

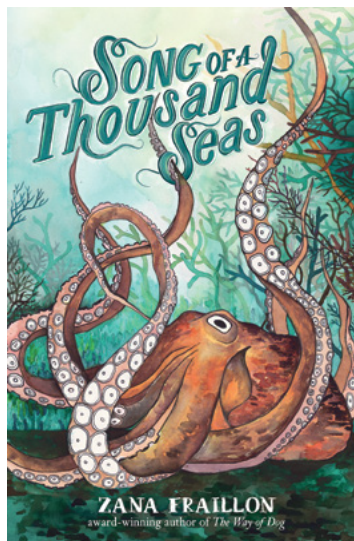
Schooldays Magazine

Carla Fitzgerald is a writer, a recovered lawyer and a mum of three from Sydney. She studied arts and law at university, and worked at the Australian Human Rights Commission. Only after that did she rediscover the great fun of making stuff up. Carla is a tutor at the Australian Writers Centre, a coach at the Harding Miller Education Foundation and a Books in Homes role model. Her favourite things to do are write, walk, read, eat and hang out with her family. Not necessarily in that order.

SEPTEMBER 2025

Zana Fraillon

Song of a Thousand Seas



RRP AU\$14.99

Category Middle grade verse novel

Format B-format paperback, 96pp

Rights held World ex film/TV

Rights sold North America (S&SBYR);
Italy (Giunti)

Reading age 8+

“

Zana’s poignant and witty poems slip you into a world filled with friendship, newfound knowledge, and the power of connection.

Krista Vitola, Simon & Schuster Books for Younger Readers

A lyrical verse novel of homecoming and friendship by Zana Fraillon, the multi-award-winning author of *The Bone Sparrow* and *The Way of Dog*.

*All day long we can hear
that Sea howl prowling wild
inside our brains and every part of us is straining
to feel it taste it twirl it whirl it swirl it
inside our body
again.*

Houdini the octopus lives in an aquarium, but she misses her home in the wild Sea. She doesn’t like the visitors who bang on her tank. Or the way she can’t feel the sun on her skin or the wind rippling the water. It’s a dull existence for a creature with nine brains.

Then one day she meets someone who is different to the other visitors. Juno’s busy brain buzzes with so many questions and thoughts that Houdini’s skin tingles with wonder.

But the singing of the Sea is growing stronger and harder to resist. Can Houdini make Juno understand what she needs before it’s too late?



Zana Fraillon is an internationally acclaimed, multi-award-winning author of books for children and young adults. Her work has been published in over fifteen countries and is in development for both stage and screen. They have a doctorate in creative writing, and degrees in history and teaching. Zana’s passion for empowering young people to find their voice is a feature of both her books and her work with writers of all ages.

FEBRUARY 2027

Dr Anika Molesworth & Bindy James

***Planet-friendly Farms:
How regenerative agriculture
can feed and heal the world***



From the Young Farmer of the Year comes this vibrantly illustrated picture book for readers 7–11 about how to heal the planet through regenerative farming.

Farming affects all of us – even if we live in cities. Every bite of food we take connects us to the farm that grew it. In this detailed yet accessible picture book, award-winning farmer, scientist and storyteller Dr Anika Molesworth takes young readers through the farming and food system. She looks at farming challenges and how these can be solved through regenerative farming techniques like crop rotation, holistic grazing, agroforestry and fire management. The book also includes First Nations approaches to agriculture and caring for Country.

With charming illustrations, fact bubbles, fun activities and a glossary, *Planet-friendly Farms* aims to educate and empower children to take an active role in supporting sustainable farming practices.

RRP AU\$32.99

Category Non-fiction picture book

Format 299 x 216mm hardback, 56pp

Rights held World

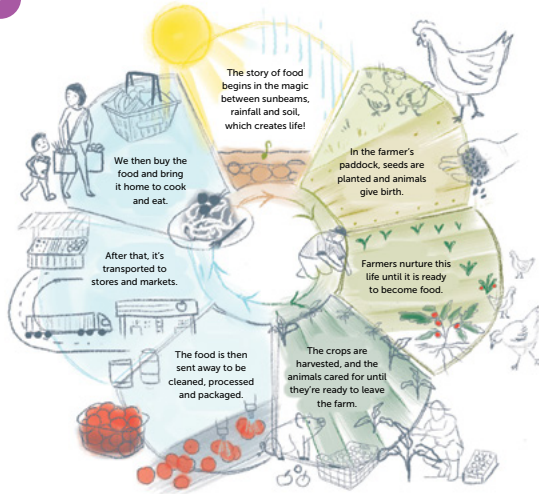
Reading age 7+

Dr Anika Molesworth is a passionate advocate for sustainable farming, environmental conservation and climate change action. Hailing from her family's sheep station near Broken Hill on Wilyakali land, Anika is an agroecologist with a Masters of Sustainable Agriculture, and a PhD in Agricultural Science. She has been working in international agricultural development for the past six years, giving her a holistic perspective of agricultural issues at a global scale.

Bindy James is an illustrator from Yugambah country/Logan, Australia, where she lives with her husband, two kids, and two pugaliers (Ziggy and Moose). After initially completing a degree in environmental science, she retrained as a graphic/motion designer. From there she moved into illustration, which she absolutely adores. Bindy is constantly fascinated by our natural world.

THE FOOD SYSTEM

The food system is everything that happens to food, from how it's grown, to how it's moved and then how we eat it.



Understanding this journey helps us to make better choices about what we eat, where our food comes from, and how it's processed and packaged.



FOOD GLORIOUS FOOD

There are over 50,000 edible plant species worldwide, yet just 15 of these make up 90 per cent of global food energy intake? Rice, corn and wheat are the most commonly farmed crops. In fact, they make up 60 per cent of global food intake. Other key foods, often referred to as food staples, include: millet; sorghum; root crops like potatoes, cassava, yams and taro; and animal products such as meat, fish and dairy.



Artwork | Draft spreads from *Planet-friendly Farms* by Anika Molesworth and Bindy James

FARMING'S SUPER SOLUTIONS

Regenerative farming offers solutions to the climate challenges facing our world. This special type of farming produces nutritious food and looks after the environment at the same time.

Taking care of soil, water, plants, animals and the climate is really important for the future of our food. If we don't take care of them, then land and animals will struggle, and so will we. Regenerative farmers look after ecosystems that grow food by planting different crops and trying not to disturb the soil too much. They also take care of rivers, lakes and dams, making sure they don't waste or pollute water. They encourage pollinators like bees to come to their farms, and they also protect habitats for native wildlife. Healthier ecosystems on farms make them better at growing food, even during tough times like heatwaves, heavy rainfall or drought. When the environment is vibrant and strong, crops and livestock grow quickly. This means the farm can produce lots of good food for us to eat. Regenerative farming also helps fight climate change by sucking carbon dioxide out of the air and storing this carbon in farm soils.

NATURE'S WILD SUPERMARKET

Although most of our food comes from farms, food is found in the natural world all around us. Forests grow nuts, berries and mushrooms, while rivers, lakes and oceans have fish, shrimp and seaweed. First Nations Australians have been caring for Country and enjoying nature's delicious bounty for tens of thousands of years. Looking after land and water ecosystems that grow wild food is essential for our health and the future of our planet.

What is regenerative farming?

The name says it all! Regeneration means renewal, restoration and revival – a process of healing and making better. Regenerative farming is about improving the water, soil, climate, plants and animals so that farms grow the best food!



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UQP

www.uqp.com.au



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