

SCHOLASTIC AUSTRALIA & NEW ZEALAND

# PICTURE BOOKS

NEW TITLES  
2026

 SCHOLASTIC

# The Bumlings

By Evan Turner  
Illustrated by Dewy Venerius

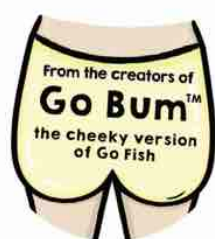


Charming and funny little friends ready to go on a big adventure!

Uh-oh! Teeny Tiny Bum is missing! Where did she go? Luckily, Clever Bum and the Bumlings are here to get to the bottom of it! Can you find the clues too?

### Key Selling Points

- A brand-new picture book from the makers of the hilarious, best-selling card-game sensation, GO BUM! *Go Bum* now has over 75,000 copies in print!
- Meet the Bumlings! There's Clever Bum, Tooty Bum, Super Bum, Beach Bum, Clumsy Bum, Disco Bum and many, many more to discover
- If you loved the game, you'll love the book—cute and funny illustrations with a cheeky and delightful story for the whole family to enjoy. Help Clever Bum crack the case!
- The perfect new series for fans of cosy cute books, *Mr Men* and *Little Miss* books, *The Bum Book* . . . and anyone who just likes a giggle!



**AU RRP: \$19.99**

Publisher:  
Scholastic Press

ISBN: 9781761727979

Format/Binding:  
Hardback

Type:  
Picture Book

Age Level:  
3+

Dimensions:  
(P) 250 x 240 MM

Page Count:  
24 PP

Printing:  
Colour

Publish Date:  
September 2026

Rights:  
World excl. ANZ

**Evan Turner** lives in Canberra and loves joking around and playing games with his wife and kids. He made the hilarious *Go Bum* game with his son Levi, and this cheeky bum-matching game has gone on to become a best-selling, family-friendly favourite around Australia. *Go Bum: Animals Edition* was created with his daughter Maggie for even more giggles. *The Bumlings* is Evan's first book, and he is thrilled to expand the *Go Bum* world and now share with readers, both young and young at heart.

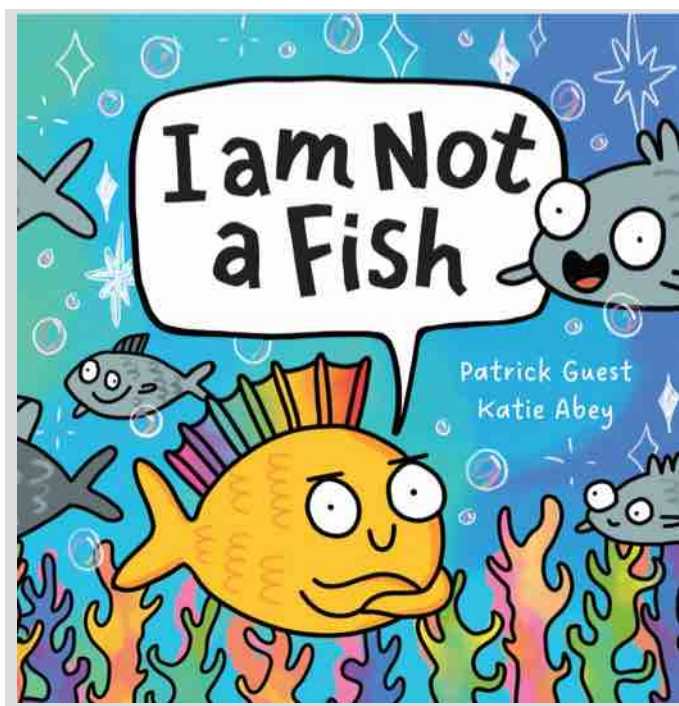
**Dewy Venerius** is a Dutch illustrator and designer living in Zwolle. Dewy's playful, sweet and humorous illustration style is inspired by her love of Kawaii designs. Dewy works full time in her design studio on various print, product and illustration projects, including the popular Australian card game *Go Bum*

# I am NOT a Fish

By Patrick Guest  
Illustrated by Katie Abey

*'I'm NOT a fish. No way.  
That's NOT me.'*

A joyful story about embracing your unique self . . .  
even when you have to swim against the tide.



## Key Selling Points

- A bright, colourful story about confidence, happiness and embracing who you are—even when you have to swim against the tide.
- Delightful, witty text by award-winning author Patrick Guest.
- Illustrated by hugely popular, weird and wonderful artist Katie Abey.
- A dynamic and hilarious book to CELEBRATE the SPARKLE in everyone!
- Themes: confidence, being yourself, uniqueness, identity, animals, humour.



**AU RRP: \$19.99**

Publisher:  
**Scholastic Press**

ISBN: **9781761647628**

Format/Binding:  
**Hardback**

Type:  
**Picture Book**

Age Level:  
**3+**

Dimensions:  
**(P) 250 x 240 MM**

Page Count:  
**24 PP**

Printing:  
**Colour**

Publish Date:  
**April 2026**

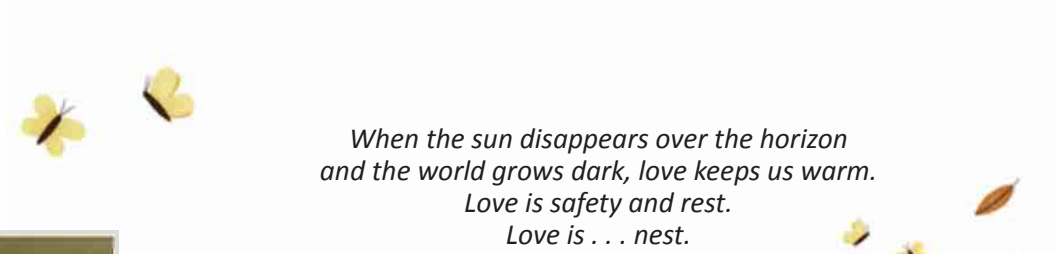
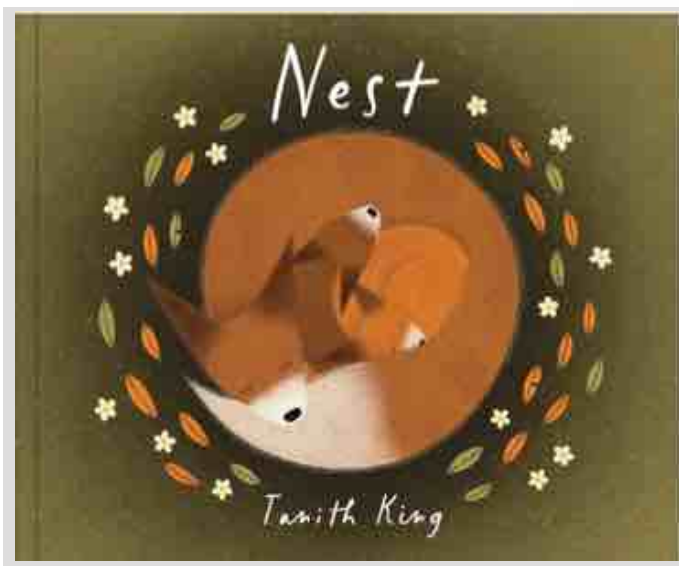
Rights:  
**World excl. ANZ**

**Patrick Guest's** childhood consisted of footy, floundering, running through tea tree, bone collecting, and ten part harmonies in the family's spluttering combi van. Even back then he was writing stories that were a hit with his parents and rabbit Snowball. Patrick found half of his career calling in Sports Physiotherapy, and after his first son Noah was born, followed by Reuben and Grace, he found the second half of his career—as a storyteller.

**Katie Abey** is a creative human committed to the idea that she can make a positive difference to the world by drawing perturbed animals and lots of rainbows for a living. She used to view her deeply sensitive traits as a flaw but has now harnessed those characteristics into the superpower they are! Her work is created to uplift and support and she is passionate about making people feel proud of their individuality and all of the things that set them apart from others. Embrace your weirdness!

# Nest

By Tanith King



*When the sun disappears over the horizon  
and the world grows dark, love keeps us warm.  
Love is safety and rest.  
Love is . . . nest.*

### Key Selling Points

- A beautiful and tender picture-book debut by exciting new Australian talent, Tanith King
- Love can be quiet, love can be comforting, and sometimes love can be shy . . . but love can always guide you to where you belong and are cared for most
- With stunning artwork making this a wonderful perfect collectable gift!
- Perfect book for readers who love Stephen Michael King, *Under the Love Umbrella* and *Can I Cuddle the Moon?*

**AU RRP: \$26.99**

*Publisher:*  
**Scholastic Press**

*ISBN:* **9781761648489**

*Format/Binding:*  
**Hardback**

*Type:*  
**Picture Book**

*Age Level:*  
**3+**

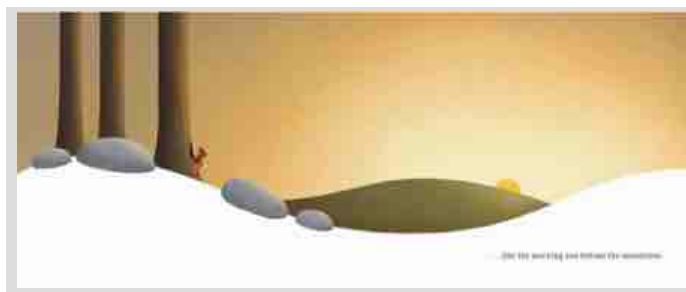
*Dimensions:*  
**(P) 280 x 230 MM**

*Page Count:*  
**32 PP**

*Printing:*  
**Colour**

*Publish Date:*  
**July 2026**

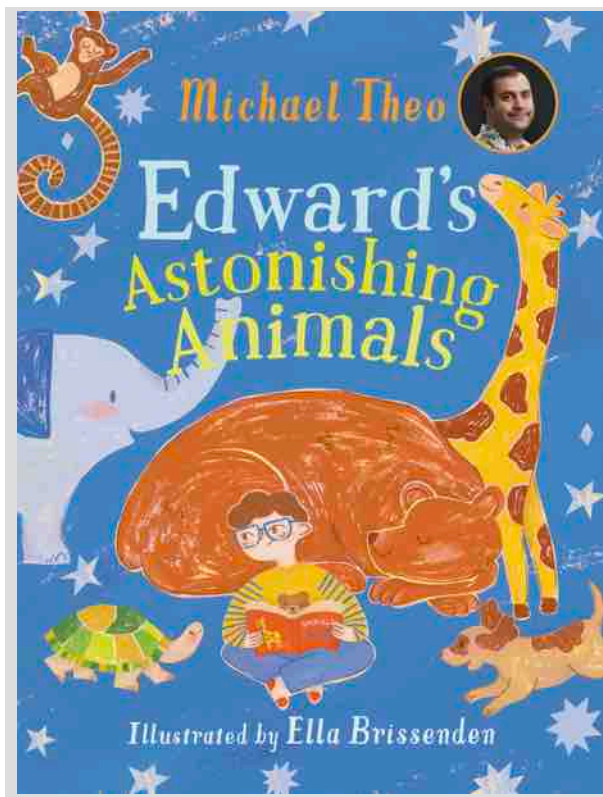
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**Tanith King** is an author and illustrator who grew up in a mud brick house, on an island, surrounded by creativity, art and animals. Trees, tea and dogs are her favourite things. Her art is inspired by the natural world and the gentle life she lives with her dog, River. *Nest* is her debut book. You can find her online @twiggydraws.

# Edward's Astonishing Animals

By Michael Theo  
Illustrated by Ella Brissenden



*This is the story of a quiet young boy named Edward who always knew he was no ordinary child. And then one day he discovered something truly amazing and astonishing and surprising . . . Edward could transform into all kinds of animals!*

A charming, encouraging story about believing in yourself and the differences that make you special, written by the much-loved TV star and animal enthusiast, Michael Theo.

### Key Selling Points

- A gentle story about a little boy called Edward with an amazing, astounding, fantastical ability – he can turn into animals!
- Debut picture book from Michael Theo; a beloved Australian actor and break-out star of the heart-warming ABC series, Love on the Spectrum.
- A perfect gift for all young readers, with enchanting, cosy illustrations by Ella Brissenden.
- Inspired by Michael's own love of and interest in animals, his experiences at school, and the people and relationships in his life that are important and meaningful to him.
- Themes: animals, school, friendship, family, confidence, magic, neurodiversity, kindness, empathy.



**AU RRP: \$19.99**

**Publisher:**  
Scholastic Press

**ISBN: 9781761720949**

**Format/Binding:**  
Hardback

**Type:**  
Picture Book

**Age Level:**  
3+

**Dimensions:**  
(P) 280 x 210 MM

**Page Count:**  
32 PP

**Printing:**  
Colour

**Publish Date:**  
May 2026

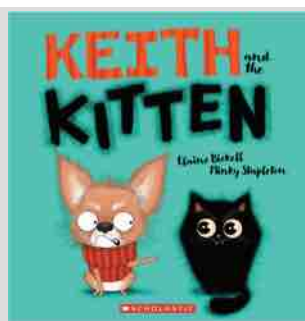
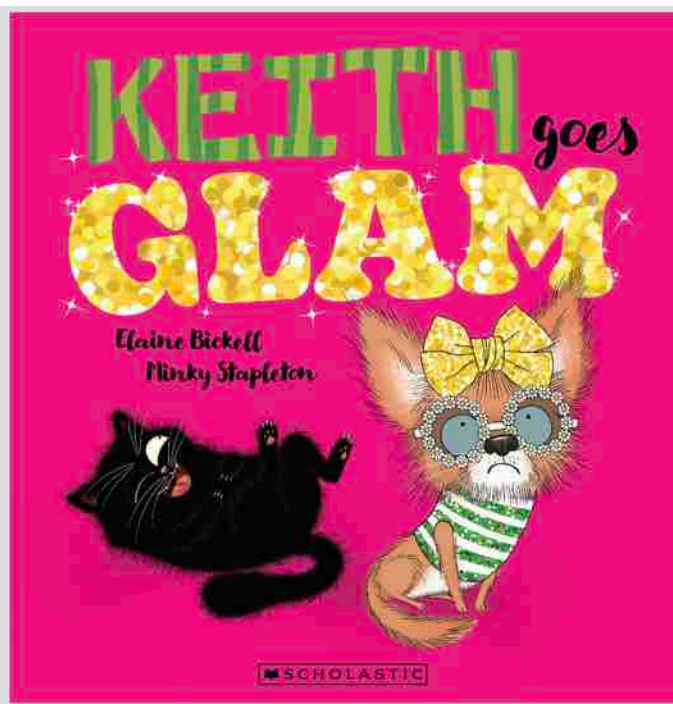
**Rights:**  
World excl. ANZ

**Michael Theo** is an Australian actor and voice-over artist, and stars in the ABC comedy series Austin, which earned Michael a Silver Logie Award nomination in 2025. Michael was the breakout star of the heart-warming, hugely successful ABC documentary series *Love on the Spectrum*, where his humour, dapper style and big heart won him fans worldwide. Passionate about animals and nature, and an avid railway enthusiast, Michael champions inclusion, self-acceptance and neurodiversity, living by his mantra: "It's our differences that make us all special."

**Ella Brissenden** is a neurodiverse illustrator currently based in Naarm/Melbourne. Her work is a bright and playful reflection of the imaginary worlds in her head. She can be found on Instagram @girl.underworld.

## Keith Goes Glam

By Elaine Bickell & Minky Stapleton



### More from Elaine Bickell

*The Little Ghost Who Lost Her Boo!* (2018)  
*The Little Witch Who Lost Her Broom!* (2024)  
*Keith and the Kitten* (2025)

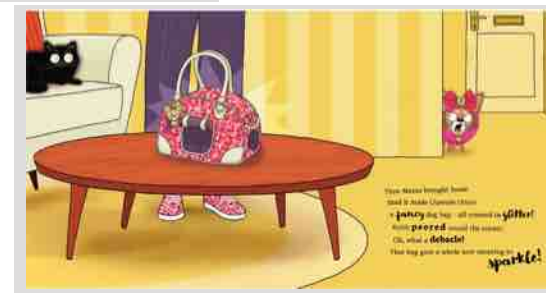
### More from Minky Stapleton

*Keith and the Kitten* (2025)  
*The Terrible Trio* (2025 -2026)  
*Bubbles the Zooting, Tooting Manatee* (2024)  
*Roo and Vladimir* (2022)

Keith the Chihuahua loathes the glittery bows and ridiculous outfits Mama dresses him in. Carted around in her most sparkly pet carry-bag and teased by his kitty sis Queenie, he plots revenge. His clever plan backfires, however, leaving the feuding siblings hilariously stuck together—too close for comfort. A hilarious, rhyming tale about rivalry, pride and unexpected closeness.

### Key Selling Points

- The second book in this series, after Book #1, *Keith and the Kitten*. Readers adore Keith the grumpy Chihuahua and Queenie the 'sweet' kitten, both of whom are full of personality and charm
- Laugh-out-loud rhyming text that is perfect for reading aloud
- A funny and relatable sibling rivalry tale, with a satisfying comic twist



**AU RRP: \$16.99**  
**NZ RRP: \$21.99**

*Publisher:*  
**Scholastic New Zealand**

*ISBN:* **9781775439769**

*Format/Binding:*  
**Paperback**

*Type:*  
**Picture Book**

*Age Level:*  
**3+**

*Dimensions:*  
**(P) 250 x 240 MM**

*Page Count:*  
**24 PP**

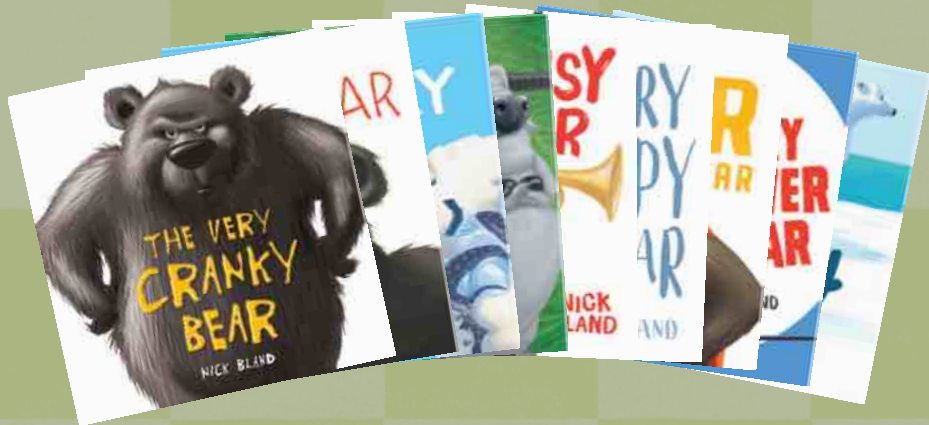
*Printing:*  
**Colour**

*Publish Date:*  
**July 2026**

*Rights:*  
**World excl. ANZ,  
 Canada, China, Dutch,  
 USA**

**Elaine Bickell** grew up in the UK and studied English Literature at Bristol University. She moved to New Zealand in 2005 and worked in advertising. Her debut with Scholastic, *The Little Ghost Who Lost Her Boo!*, won the 2018 Storylines Joy Cowley Award and went on to become a New York Times best-seller. Elaine lives in Wellington with her partner, children and dog, and enjoys football, art, and the outdoors.

**Minky Stapleton** is an illustrator known for her humorous style and creative range. Originally from Johannesburg, she left a career in advertising to pursue illustration. Minky has illustrated many titles for Scholastic, from hilarious picture books to historical fiction and high-energy, hilariously illustrated junior fiction in graphic novel style.

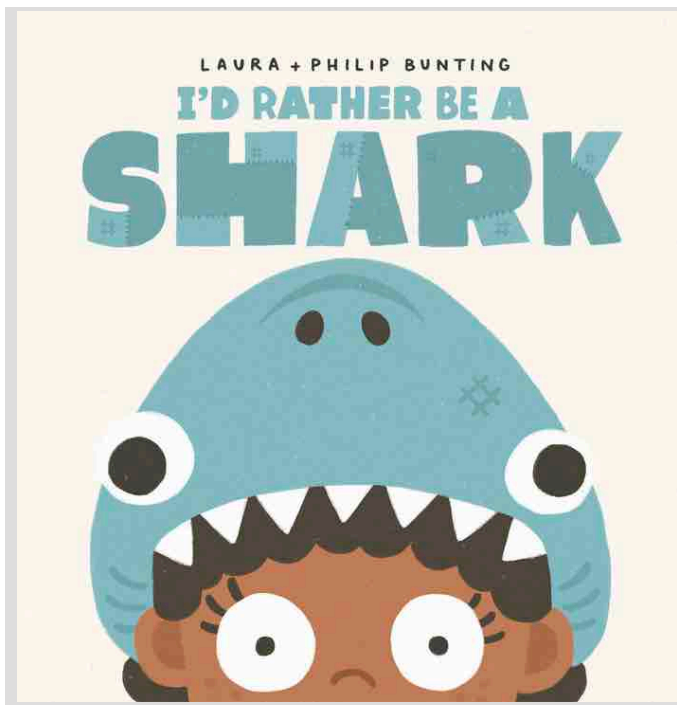
An illustration of a sloth and a unicorn riding a bicycle. The unicorn is wearing a red cape and a blue mask. The sloth is sitting in the basket. A purple planet is in the background.

# BEST-SELLING PICTURE BOOKS SERIES



# I'd Rather Be a Shark

By Philip and Laura Bunting



Being a goodie-goodie  
is the WORST!  
Taking turns? Boring!  
Table manners? Meh.  
Sharing?! Chomp!

Life would be so much better as a romping, chomping shark . . .  
Wouldn't it?

## Key Selling Points

- From the quirky and celebrated author/illustrator duo of *Another Book About Bears* comes this new picture book series about the grass not necessarily being greener on the other side.
- This kid is sick of being a kid. Always having to be polite?! Manners? Sharing? Letting others go first?! Blergh! She'd rather be a romping chomping shark!! But will she find out that being a kid has its upsides?
- Award-winning artist, Philip Bunting.
- For fans of *Don't let the Pigeon Drive the Bus*.

## More from Philip and Laura Bunting

*I'd Rather be a Cat* (2025)  
*I'd Rather be a Dragon* (2025)  
*Another Book about the Easter Bunny* (2025)  
*Wild Life: A Little Bit Lost* (2024)  
*The Wild Life: A Line in the Sand* (2022)  
*The Wild Life: A Berry Long Walk* (2022)  
*Another book about Santa* (2021)  
*Another Book about Bears* (2018)  
*Kookaburras Love to Laugh* (2018)  
*Koala's Eat Gum Leaves* (2017)



**AU RRP: \$19.99**

**Publisher:**  
Scholastic Australia

**ISBN: 9781761528972**

**Format/Binding:**  
Hardback

**Type:**  
Picture Book

**Age Level:**  
3+

**Dimensions:**  
(P) 250 x 240 MM

**Page Count:**  
32 PP

**Printing:**  
Colour

**Publish Date:**  
March 2026

**Rights:**  
World excl. ANZ

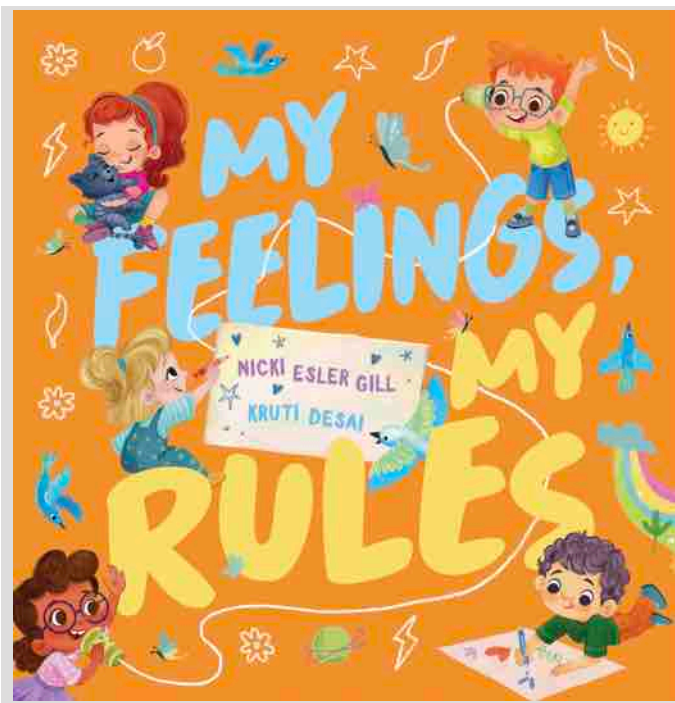
**Philip Bunting's** books have been published in over 35 countries around the world, in almost as many languages. Philip's work has received many accolades, including multiple Honours from the Children's Book Council of Australia, making the list for the Kate Greenaway Medal, representing Australia at the IBBY Awards, and taking home the inaugural State Library of NSW Russell Prize for Humour Writing.

**Laura Bunting (nee Venuto)** is a features writer and sub editor by trade, having spent over 10 years in print and digital magazine publishing, under titles such as *SBS Feast*, *Mindfood*, *Time Out*, *Notebook/HomeLife*, and many more.

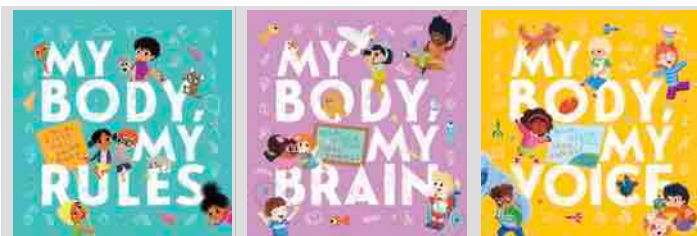
# My Feelings, My Rules

By Nicki Esler Gill

Illustrated by Kruti Desai



Also by Nicki Esler Gill



*You're precious when you're happy,  
and you're precious when you're blue.*

*With all your different feelings,  
it's just part of being you!*

A new picture book series by Nicki Esler Gill, the best-selling author of the super-popular 'My Body, My Rules' series.

### Key Selling Points

- A new picture book series by Nicki Esler Gill, the best-selling author of the super-popular 'My Body, My Rules' series.
- A companion series to 'My Body, My Rules' with an internal focus on emotion, feelings and relationships.
- Joyful rhyming text meets colourful and cosy illustrations.
- Relatable scenarios that touch on familiar scenes of home and school life.
- A wonderful resource for young kids to recognise, navigate and understand how to deal with new or big emotions.



**AU RRP: \$19.99**

Publisher:  
**Scholastic Press**

ISBN: **9781761721786**

Format/Binding:  
**Hardback**

Type:  
**Picture Book**

Age Level:  
**3+**

Dimensions:  
**(P) 250 x 240 MM**

Page Count:  
**24 PP**

Printing:  
**Colour**

Publish Date:  
**May 2026**

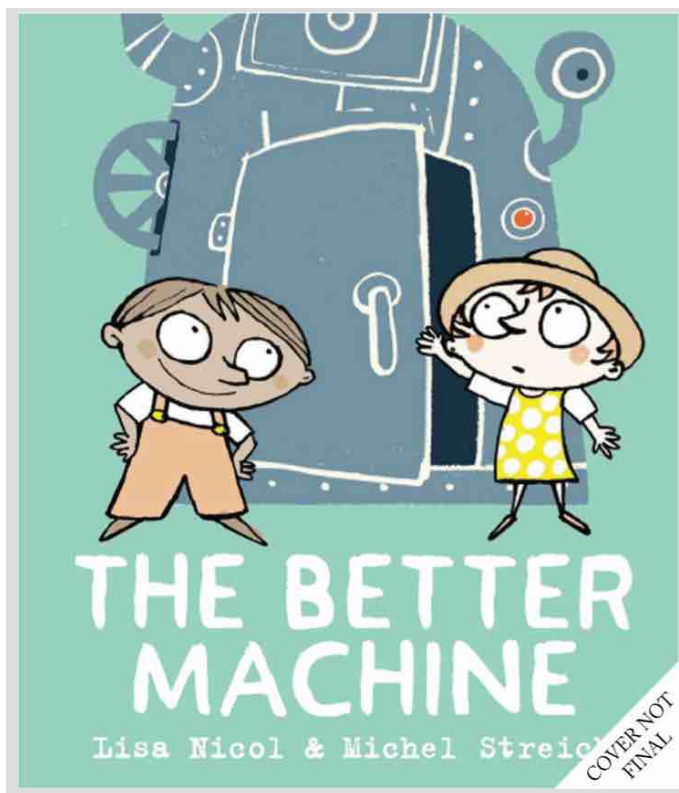
Rights:  
**World excl. ANZ**

**Nicki Esler Gill** writes books for children. She earned a Masters of Fine Arts in Creative Writing from New York University, where she also taught writing. She believes picture books are a special kind of magic. They inspire flights of fancy and snorts of laughter, facilitate precious bedtime rituals of closeness and connection, and engage readers in big conversations. She lives in Melbourne.

**Kruti Desai** is an illustrator and graphic designer based in the UK. With a flair for vibrant colours, playful characters, and a dash of typography, Kruti's illustrations spark joy and wonder, in viting viewers into a world where creativity soars. Whether it's a cheerful scene in a picture book or an engaging editorial illustration, she thrives on crafting visuals that resonate emotionally and inspire curiosity.

# The Better Machine

By Lisa Nicol and Michel Streich



## More from Michel Streich

*The Gang* (2025)

*General Waste* (2024)

*The Worst Dog in the World* (2022)

*Scary Bird* (2020)

*Viv and Moz find a strange machine that promises to make anything placed inside BETTER! Their old bikes emerge transformed, with streamers and a shiny horn! What happens when the whole town discovers this mysterious marvel?*

*A timely and thought-provoking tale about the perilous pursuit of 'better' . . . and the beauty of enough.*

## Key Selling Points

- Hilarious and engaging exploration of consumerism, perfectionism and the pressure to constantly upgrade. Perfectly relatable for children in an era of rapid technology change and constant optimisation.
- Encourages discussion on what really matters and what really makes things 'better'. What if 'better' isn't better at all?
- Celebrates slowing down and appreciating ordinary joys and the beauty of 'enough'.
- Further themes of connection with the natural world, community, sustainability, environmental awareness, mindfulness, needs vs wants.



**AU RRP: \$26.99**

*Publisher:*  
**Scholastic Press**

*ISBN:* **9781761640704**

*Format/Binding:*  
**Hardback**

*Type:*  
**Picture Book**

*Age Level:*  
**3+**

*Dimensions:*  
**(P) 270 x 230 MM**

*Page Count:*  
**32 PP**

*Printing:*  
**Colour**

*Publish Date:*  
**October 2026**

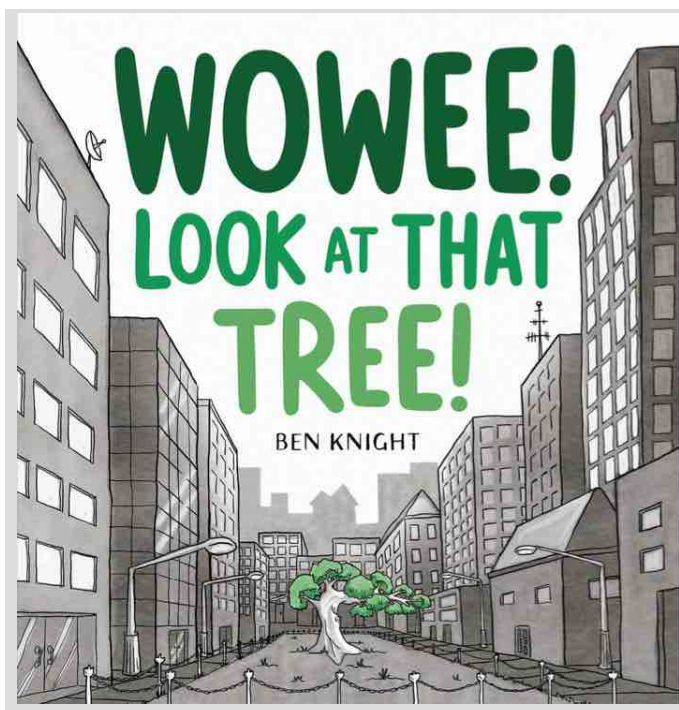
*Rights:*  
**World excl. ANZ**

**Michel Streich** started his illustration career in Germany before settling in Australia. After ten years in Sydney, he now lives in the Blue Mountains.

Michel's illustrations have appeared in publications such as *the Times*, *the Financial Times*, *The Sydney Morning Herald* and ABC Magazines. He has been a regular contributor to the *Australian Financial Review* and *The Economist's* 1843 Magazine. *Scary Bird* was Michel's first solo book with Scholastic Press, shortlisted for the Children's Peace Literature Award and Speech Pathology Book of Year Awards. *General Waste* was recently named a CBCA Notable Book, 2025.

# Wowee! Look at That Tree!

By Ben Knight

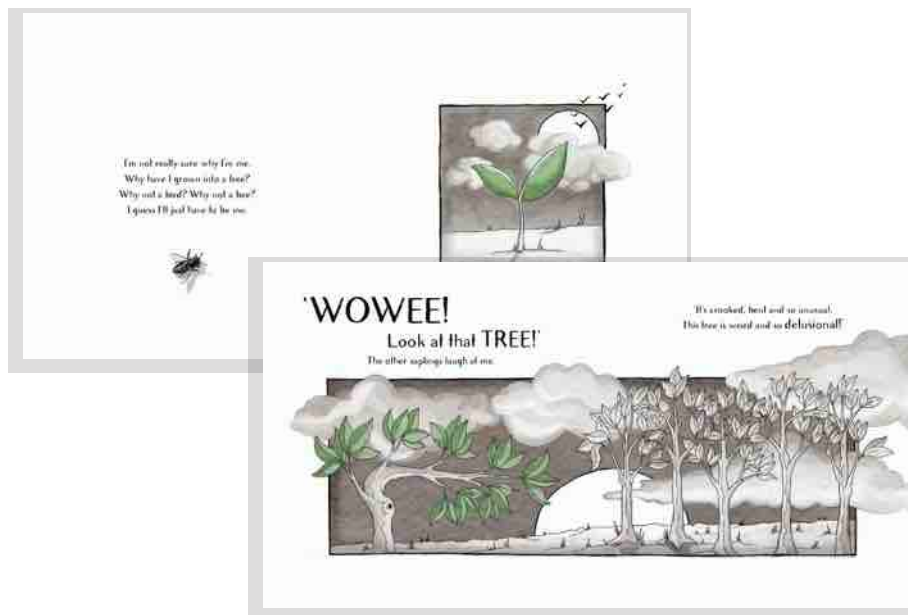


*Not every tree grows straight and tall.  
Some twist and turn, some lean and fall.  
This is the story of one small tree  
who chose to grow a little differently.*



## Key Selling Points

- An original and engaging story about a little sapling, determined to grow its own way
- Debut picture book from actor, comedian and former school teacher, Ben Knight
- Wonderfully addressing themes of resilience, identity and environmental change
- A delightful new story for readers who enjoy books by Peter Reynolds, *The Oak Tree* or *Footprint*



**AU RRP: \$19.99**  
**NZ RRP: \$24.99**

Publisher:  
**Scholastic Press**

ISBN: 9781761723810

Format/Binding:  
**Hardback**

Type:  
**Picture Book**

Age Level:  
**3+**

Dimensions:  
**(P) 250 x 240 MM**

Page Count:  
**32 PP**

Printing:  
**Colour**

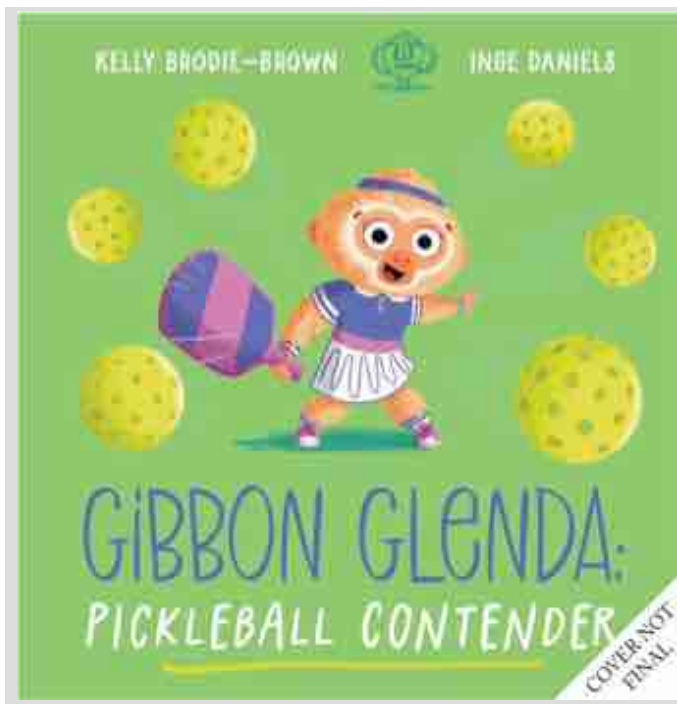
Publish Date:  
**March 2026**

Rights:  
**World excl. ANZ**

**Ben Knight** is a Melbourne-based comedian, actor and former school teacher with a gift for storytelling and connecting with audiences. Drawing on his experiences in the classroom, Ben crafts stories that inspire young readers to embrace their individuality. Known for his wit and heart, Ben brings humour and depth to every page. When he's not performing or writing, you might find him enjoying a good coffee under the shade of a crooked tree.

## Gibbon Glenda: Pickleball Contender!

By Kelly Brodie-Brown  
Illustrated by Inge Daniels



Also from Kelly Brodie-Brown

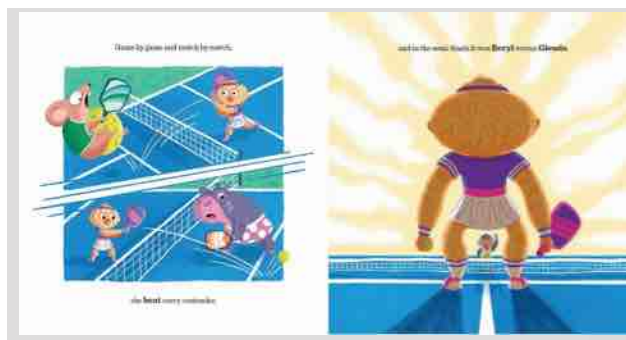


*Glenda was a gibbon with a solid claim to fame;  
when it came to playing pickleball, she'd never lost a game.  
Winning felt so wonderful, it became her sole ambition.  
She was obsessed with being best, she had to WIN every competition!*

But what happens when Glenda meets a new pickleball contender?

### Key Selling Points

- A gloriously fun and upbeat story featuring the worldwide sporting sensation—PICKLEBALL!
- Gibbon Glenda wants to win the Jungle Pickleball tournament more than ANYTHING in the world. But there's a new pickleball challenger in town!
- With an encouraging message for young readers about sportsmanship, healthy competition, and why winning isn't everything!
- For fans of *Thelma the Unicorn*, *The Speedy Sloth*, *Bluey Cricket* and *A Tiger's Roar*



**AU RRP: \$19.99**  
**NZ RRP: \$24.99**

Publisher:  
**Scholastic Press**

ISBN: **9781761721175**

Format/Binding:  
**Hardback**

Type:  
**Picture Book**

Age Level:  
**3+**

Dimensions:  
**(P) 250 x 240 MM**

Page Count:  
**24 PP**

Printing:  
**Colour**

Publish Date:  
**July 2026**

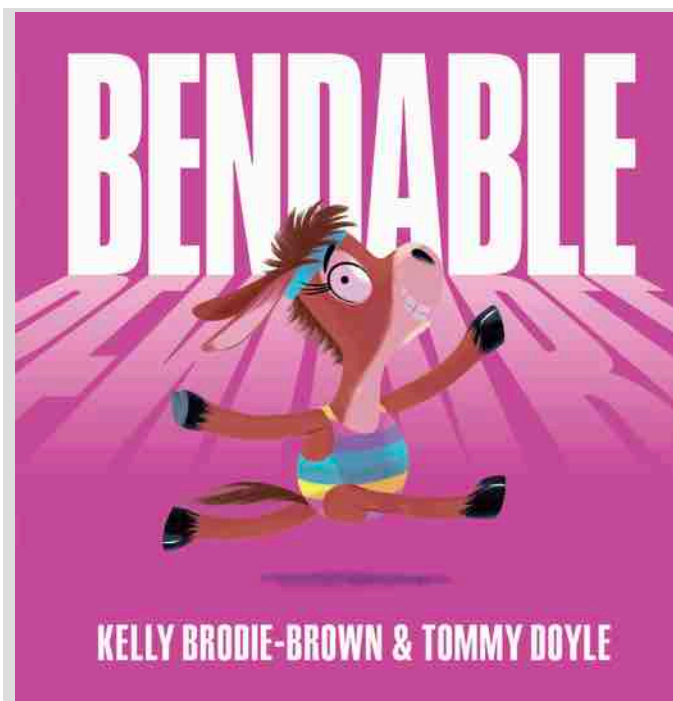
Rights:  
**World excl. ANZ**

**Kelly Brodie-Brown** is a picture-book author based in Melbourne. Kelly worked in marketing and PR for a London-based film studio and completed a course in screenwriting at the London College of Communication. Kelly enjoys stories that impart an optimistic message about diversity, pride and acceptance and hopes to reflect this in her own writing.

**Inge Daniels** is a Dutch illustrator and designer previously based in Melbourne, but currently living in the Netherlands with her Australian partner and cat. Inge has worked as a graphic and packaging designer at various agencies in the Netherlands and Australia. Inge is passionate about writing and illustrating picture books.

**BENDABLE**

By Kelly Brodie-Brown  
Illustrated by Tommy Doyle



*Mules are sturdy creatures, they're resilient and strong.  
Mules are known for hauling heavy burdens all day long.  
Mules are trusty and robust, solid and dependable . . .  
Mules, however, aren't exactly known for being **BENDABLE!***

Can Julie the mule soar into the spotlight? Find out in this adorably inspiring story about reaching your goals, one tumble at a time!

**Key Selling Points**

- Can a clumsy mule do the splits? Or master the perfect cartwheel? With a little bit of hope and a lot of practice and determination, Julie the mule is about to find out!
- A funny, rhyming book with a wonderful message for all readers: you don't have to be the best, just do your best
- An encouraging story about overcoming doubt, nurturing self-confidence and getting up to try, try and try again.
- For fans of *Thelma the Unicorn*, *Giraffes Can't Dance* and *Gymnastica Fantastica*



**AU RRP: \$19.99**  
**NZ RRP: \$24.99**

Publisher:  
Scholastic Press

ISBN: 9781761641954

Format/Binding:  
Hardback

Type:  
Picture Book

Age Level:  
3+

Dimensions:  
(P) 250 x 240 MM

Page Count:  
32 PP

Printing:  
Colour

Publish Date:  
March 2026

Rights:  
World excl. ANZ

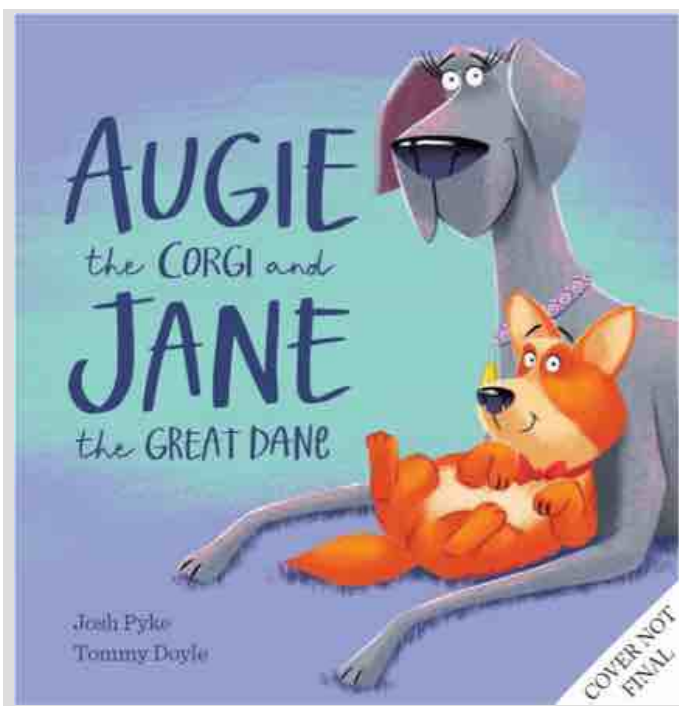
**Kelly Brodie-Brown** is a picture-book author based in Melbourne. Kelly worked in marketing and PR for a London-based film studio and completed a course in screenwriting at the London College of Communication. Kelly enjoys stories that impart an optimistic message about diversity, pride and acceptance and hopes to reflect this in her own writing.

**Tommy Doyle** is an illustrator and graphic designer with over twenty years of industry experience, based in Quebec City, Canada. Driven by his passion for illustration as an effective and creative way to communicate messages and emotions, Tommy specialises in creating engaging, relatable work full of personality.

# Augie the Corgi and Jane the Great Dane

By Josh Pyke

Illustrated by Tommy Doyle



Augie the corgi and Jane the Great Dane live next door to each other in Hummingbird Lane. Through a broken old fence, the friends come and go, until one fateful day, when the fence is repaired . . . OH NO!

Can these puppy pals find their way back to each other?

## Key Selling Points

- A funny, warm-hearted and joyful picture book about companionship, and the great lengths you'll go to for a friend!
- Augie and Jane are the very best of friends, squeezing under and over their rickety old fence every day to play. Until one day when they're suddenly cut off from each other. There's only one thing left to do . . . get DIGGING!
- From award-winning children's book author and musician, Josh Pyke.
- Josh Pyke will be on a whirlwind tour around the country, performing his new album, visiting bookstores and promoting his new picture book!
- For fans of *Bluey*, *Hairy Maclary* and *Pig the Pug*

**AU RRP: \$19.99**  
**NZ RRP: \$24.99**

*Publisher:*  
**Scholastic Press**

*ISBN:* **9781761725364**

*Format/Binding:*  
**Hardback**

*Type:*  
**Picture Book**

*Age Level:*  
**3+**

*Dimensions:*  
**(P) 250 x 240 MM**

*Page Count:*  
**24 PP**

*Printing:*  
**Colour**

*Publish Date:*  
**August 2026**

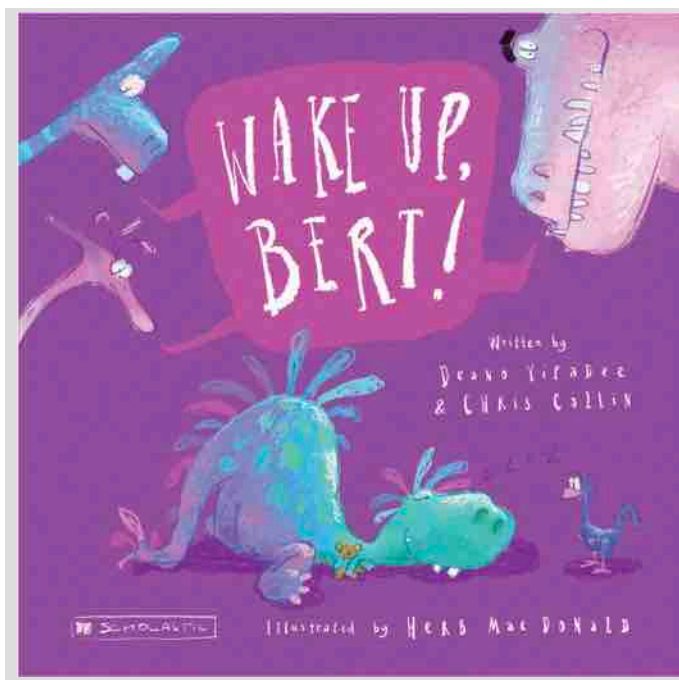
*Rights:*  
**World excl. ANZ**

**Josh Pyke** is a successful and much-loved Australian singer/songwriter, renowned for his unique and wonderful storytelling and lyricism. Josh has won four ARIA awards, and has also written several books for children. He is a lifelong ambassador for the Indigenous Literacy Foundation.

**Tommy Doyle** is an illustrator and graphic designer with over twenty years of industry experience, based in Quebec City, Canada. Driven by his passion for illustration as an effective and creative way to communicate messages and emotions, Tommy specialises in creating engaging, relatable work full of personality.

## Wake Up, Bert!

Written by Deano Yipadee & Chris Collin  
Illustrated by Herb MacDonald



### More from Deano Yipadee

*Nee Naw and Friends Series* (2017 to present)  
*Stink-o-saurus* (2017)  
*Granny's Undies* (2022)

### More from Herb MacDonald

*Grumble's Bridge* (2026)

*It is Bertie Boppit's birthday, but Bert the Dinosnore is fast asleep. The whole village tries everything to wake the snoring Bert, from plumber's plungers to ride-on mowers and leaf-blowers, rock bands—even fireworks! In a hilarious twist, it is the sound of a tiny pin drop that does the trick.*

### Key Selling Points

- With a lively downloadable song, this will turn into a riotous sing-along with popular children's entertainers Deano Yipadee and Chris Collin
- Children will love the outrageously funny story and join in with gusto for the repeated, "WAKE UP, BERT!" shout-out
- Herb MacDonald's lively, colourful illustrations are packed with visual slapstick comedy that kids will adore
- *Wake Up, Bert!* will have great appeal for Yipadee's Nee Naw fans



**AU RRP: \$16.99**  
**NZ RRP: \$21.99**

Publisher:  
**Scholastic New Zealand**

ISBN: **9781759900001**

Format/Binding:  
**Paperback**

Type:  
**Picture Book**

Age Level:  
**3+**

Dimensions:  
**(P) 250 x 240 MM**

Page Count:  
**24 PP**

Printing:  
**Colour**

Publish Date:  
**October 2026**

Rights:  
**World excl. ANZ**

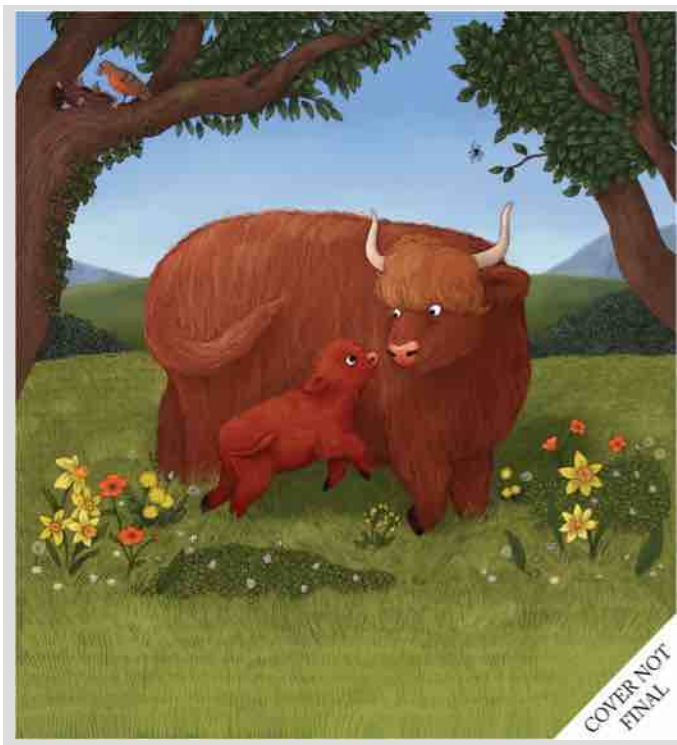
Dean O'Brien, aka **Deano Yipadee**, is a best-selling children's musician, author and producer who was born and raised in Mosgiel, New Zealand, and now lives in Queensland, Australia. His Nee Naw (and Friends) books consistently figure in the Top 10 bestsellers list. He enjoys touring and performing to kids throughout Australia and New Zealand.

**Chris Collin** is a full-time author and publisher of whacky, rhyming, children's books, based on the Sunshine Coast in Queensland. His popular titles include the Funky Chicken series and *A Bug Called Doug*.

**Herb MacDonald** has spent his life in the creative world, beginning with a drawing published at age seven. He worked as a full-time art director before founding his own design studio, with clients across New Zealand, Australia and the USA. Winner of the 2024 Hachette Margaret Mahy Illustration Prize, Herb has also illustrated *Grumble's Bridge* for Scholastic. He lives in Auckland and illustrates alongside his design work.

# Beanstalk

Written and illustrated by H.P. Fryer

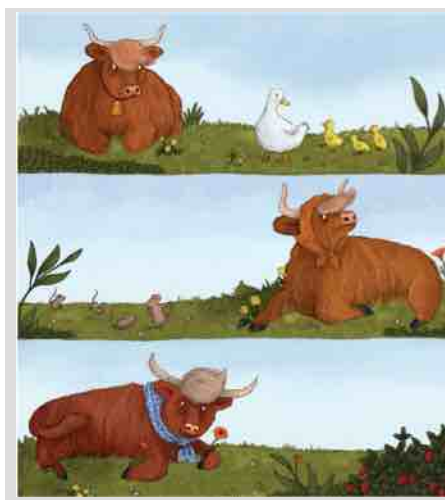


Bo the Scottish Highland calf adores Old Nan's tales of magic beans and towering beanstalks, even when the rest of the herd roll their eyes.

When Bo discovers a mysterious golden bean, he dares to believe. Through changing seasons, Bo's belief in Old Nan's magic grows into something magnificent in this tender, intergenerational story. And when Old Nan mysteriously disappears on a grand and final adventure up the giant beanstalk, the flowers that bloom beneath every year are a special remembrance.

### Key Selling Points

- Author/illustrator Hannah Fryer has produced a heartwarming tale that blends folklore, family and quiet magic
- A loving story of a young calf's special relationship with his great-grandmother, with a nod to *Jack and the Beanstalk*
- Rich seasonal settings beautifully frame themes of growth, change and remembrance
- Featuring the ever-popular and adorable Scottish Highland cows



**AU RRP: \$16.99**  
**NZ RRP: \$21.99**

*Publisher:*  
**Scholastic New Zealand**

*ISBN:* **9781759900032**

*Format/Binding:*  
**Paperback**

*Type:*  
**Picture Book**

*Age Level:*  
**3+**

*Dimensions:*  
**(P) 250 x 240 MM**

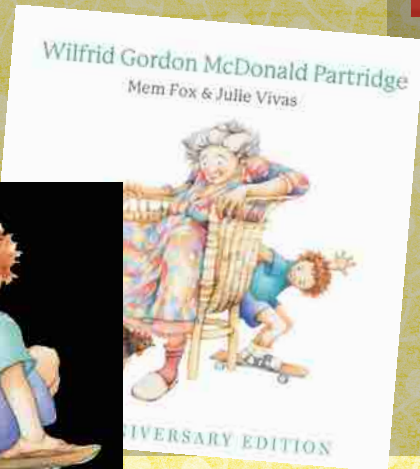
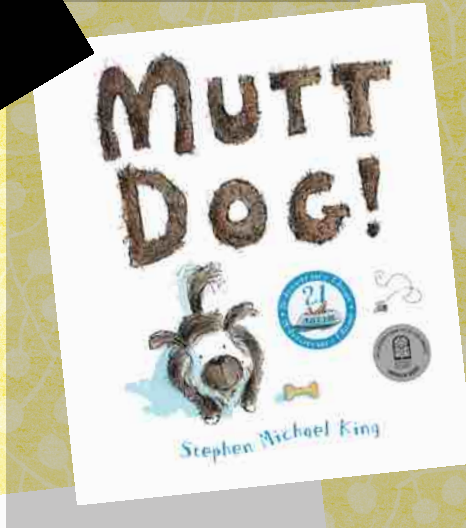
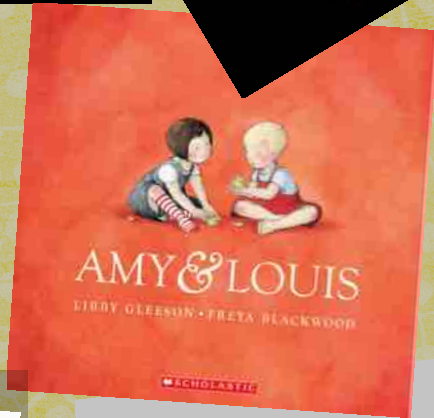
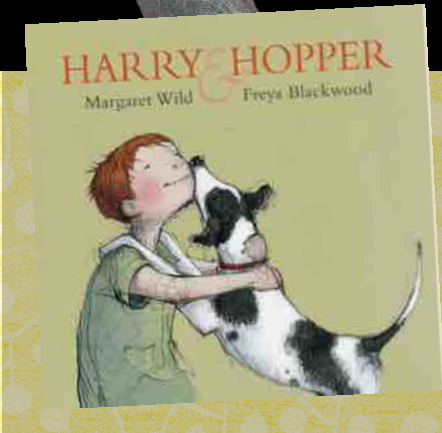
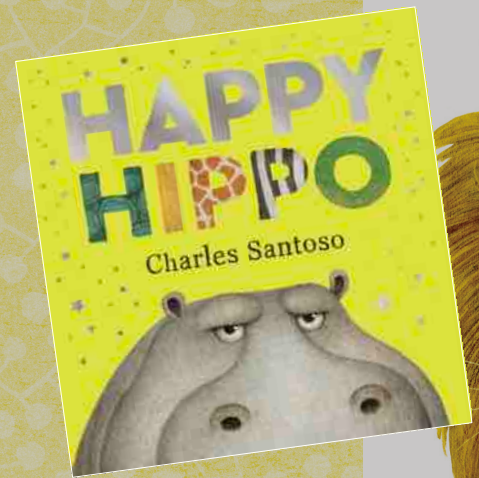
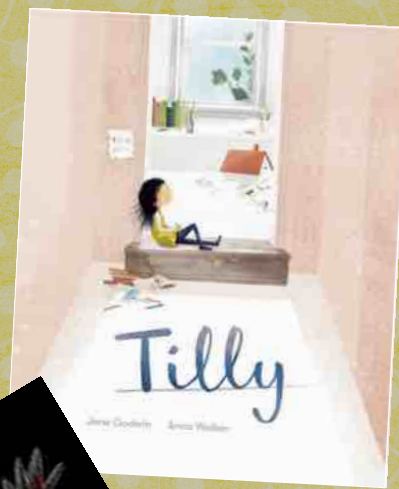
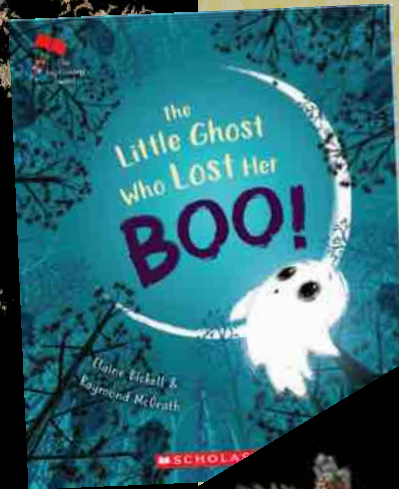
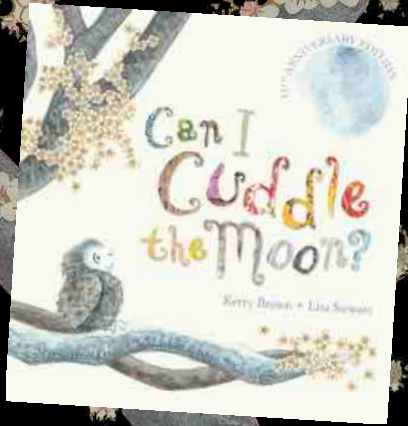
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*Printing:*  
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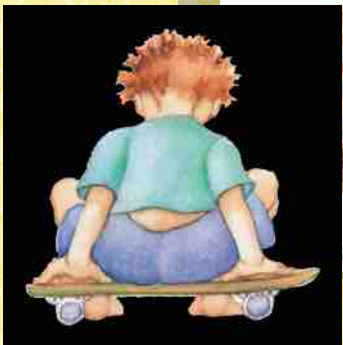
*Publish Date:*  
**October 2025**

*Rights:*  
**World excl. ANZ**

**H.P. Fryer** is an author, illustrator, history lover and puppy pater. Hannah has always been obsessed with stories. Whether fictional or historical, she read them, wrote them and drew them. After studying history and philosophy, Hannah moved to Melbourne to study illustration. There, she explored her love for visual narrative. She is now based in Auckland, New Zealand, where she lives with her family. Her debut picture book, *OGG*, was published in 2025 by Scholastic Australia.



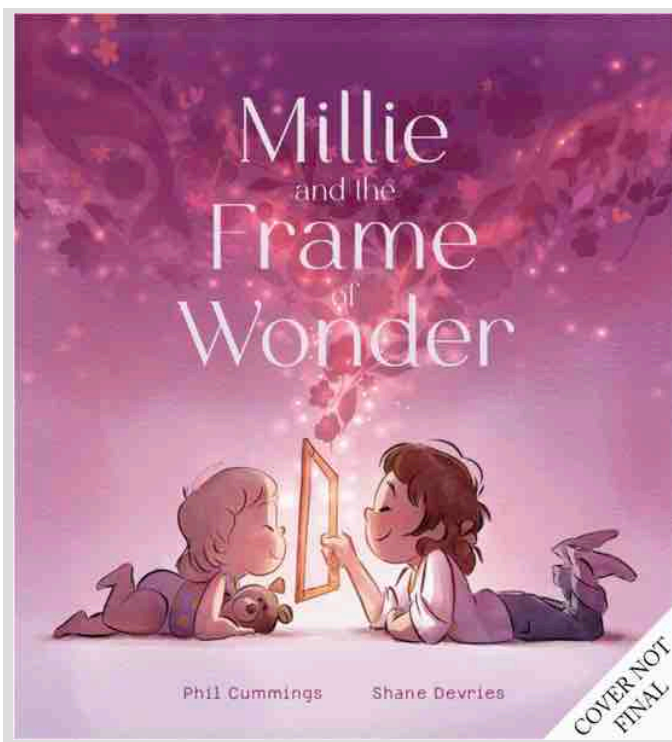
# PICTURE BOOK HIGHLIGHTS



# Millie and the Frame of Wonder

By **Phil Cummings**

Illustrated by **Shane Devries**



When Millie finds an old wooden frame while treasure-hunting with Dad, she starts seeing things in new ways . . .

An award-winning team returns with this heart-warming story of discovering moments of joy and wonder all around you.

### Key Selling Points

- A warm-hearted and joyful picture book about finding hope, joy and hidden magic in the everyday . . . even in the darkest moments.
- With the clever use of a frame to find the glimmers in Millie's day, this inspiring picture book celebrates the power of perspective and optimism.
- Encourages mindfulness, curiosity, optimism and emotional growth
- From the award-winning creators of *Boy*, and *Ride Ricardo, Ride*.



**AU RRP: \$26.99**

*Publisher:*  
**Scholastic Press**

*ISBN:* **9781761645716**

*Format/Binding:*  
**Hardback**

*Type:*  
**Picture Book**

*Age Level:*  
**3+**

*Dimensions:*  
**(P) 250 x 240 MM**

*Page Count:*  
**32 PP**

*Printing:*  
**Colour**

*Publish Date:*  
**August 2026**

*Rights:*  
**World excl. ANZ**

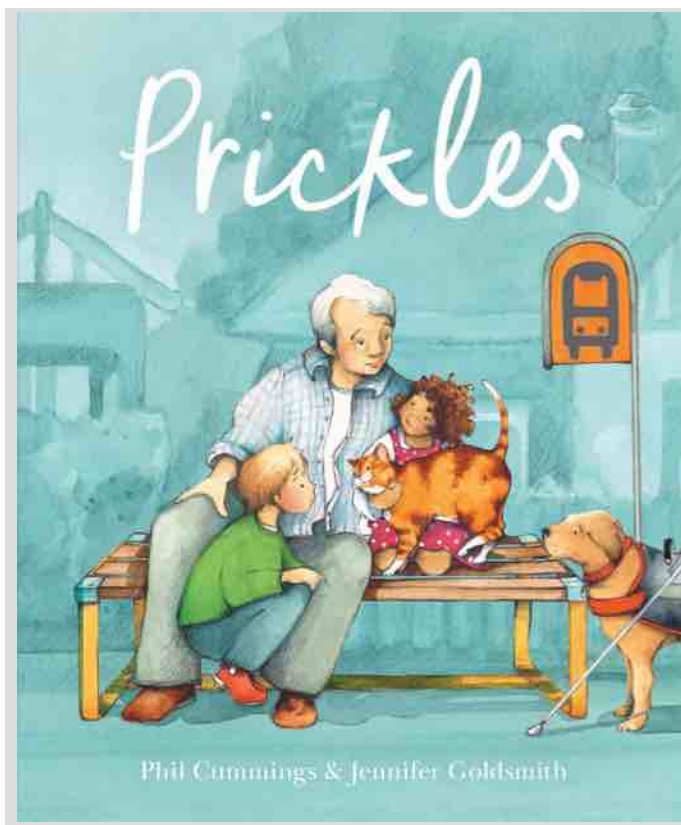
Multi award-winning author **Phil Cummings** grew up in a mid-north town in South Australia. Phil has written countless books for children and his work has been recognised by many awards, including the Children's Peace Literature Awards, the IBBY Selection of Outstanding Books for Young People with Disabilities, the CBCA and the Prime Minister's Literary Awards.

Multi award-winning illustrator **Shane DeVries** is a digital artist and illustrator from WA. He exhibits his work regularly and is inspired by his travels to Africa, Asia and Europe. This is his fourth collaboration with Phil Cummings.

# Prickles

By **Phil Cummings**

Illustrated by **Jennifer Goldsmith**



Prickles lived in a city alleyway. He wandered the streets every day, bringing warmth and joy to everyone he met.

But then . . . the colour in his eyes began fading to shadow. Prickles was afraid and alone . . .

until he met Molly and her family.

*A gentle but powerful story of community, connection and the importance of those who help us find our way.*

### Key Selling Points

- Irresistible story of a connection between a cat and a dog, that celebrates the love, support and acceptance a community can provide.
- Featuring a special bond with Prickles and a working guide dog and her vision-impaired companion
- Positive social messages, appealing to animal lovers.
- Encourages conversation about inclusion, acceptance and helping others, through a gentle, age-appropriate story.
- For fans of *The Truck Cat*, *Mutt Dog*, *Crumbs*

**AU RRP: \$26.99**

*Publisher:*  
**Scholastic Press**

*ISBN:* **9781760266028**

*Format/Binding:*  
**Hardback**

*Type:*  
**Picture Book**

*Age Level:*  
**3+**

*Dimensions:*  
**(P) 280 x 230 MM**

*Page Count:*  
**32 PP**

*Printing:*  
**Colour**

*Publish Date:*  
**April 2026**

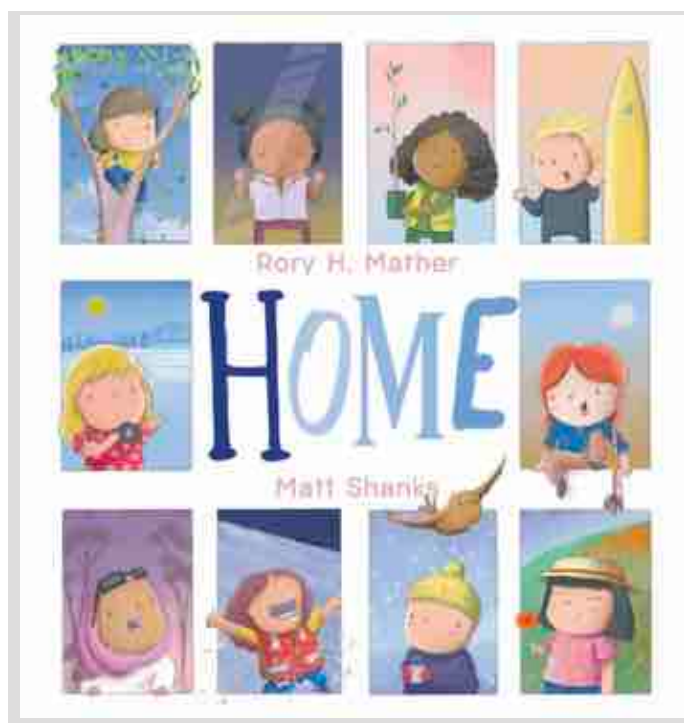
*Rights:*  
**World excl. ANZ**

Award-winning **Phil Cummings** was born in the small seaside town of Port Broughton in South Australia. His interest in writing began with poetry and writing songs, and since his first book—*Goodness Gracious!*—was published by Omnibus Books in 1989 he has written dozens more.

**Jennifer Goldsmith** is an internationally renowned figure in the world of handmade toy characters. Jennifer has always thought of toymaking as a kind of storytelling and her need to build and share characters now finds life through watercolour and pencil illustrations.

## Home

By **Rory H. Mather**  
Illustrated by **Matt Shanks**



*Home is where the heart is,  
and no matter where you roam,  
you are always welcome here.  
There's no place quite like home.*

Some live in the suburbs and others in the city.  
Some by the beach and some in the bush.  
Wherever it is you live, home is where your heart is.

### Key Selling Points

- Stunning new picture book from two of Australia's much-loved creators, Rory H. Mather and Matt Shanks.
- A book about all the types of homes people can live in.
- Themes of diversity and acceptance.
- Sweet, affirming rhyming text.
- For fans of *I'm Australian Too* and *Family Tree*.



**AU RRP: \$19.99**

*Publisher:*  
**Scholastic Australia**

*ISBN:* **9781761648526**

*Format/Binding:*  
**Hardback**

*Type:*  
**Picture Book**

*Age Level:*  
**3+**

*Dimensions:*  
**(P) 250 x 240 MM**

*Page Count:*  
**24 PP**

*Printing:*  
**Colour**

*Publish Date:*  
**July 2026**

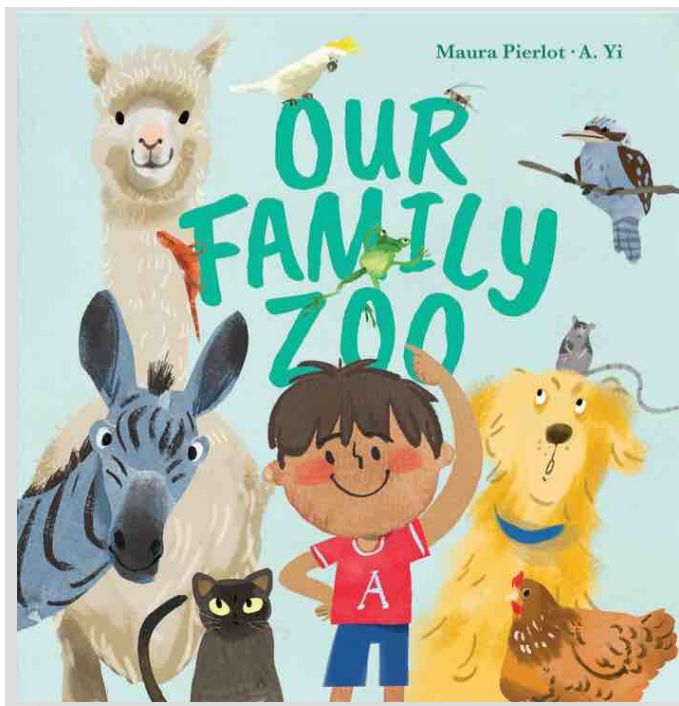
*Rights:*  
**World excl. ANZ**

**Rory H. Mather** is a big kid, who enjoys picture books, fist bumps and words that rhyme. He found reading difficult as a child, so he writes to foster a love of books in young readers. He lives in Toowoomba with his wife, daughter, and two dogs.

**Matt Shanks** was born in Sydney and now resides in Melbourne. Matt has worked as a Creative Director at some of Melbourne's best design agencies, while also keeping up his 'watercolour hobby'. Matt's illustrations are a unique combination of simplicity, humour and playfulness, and strongly inspired by a love of his country.

## Our Family Zoo

By Maura Pierlot  
Illustrated by A. Yi



*In a home bursting with animals,  
there's always room for one more.*

*But who will it be?*

What's the perfect pet for a home already filled with lots and lots of fun and energetic animals? The biggest and best surprise is just around the corner . . .

### Key Selling Points

- A charming and hilarious new picture book from two award-winning creators, Maura Pierlot and A. Yi!
- Packed with tons of cute and energetic animals!
- A cat, dog, lizard, zebra, kangaroo, or even . . . a dinosaur?! Which will be the perfect new addition to the family?
- Delightful rhyming text, vibrant illustrations and a heart-warming twist ending.



**AU RRP: \$19.99**

*Publisher:*  
**Scholastic Press**

*ISBN:* **9781761643545**

*Format/Binding:*  
**Hardback**

*Type:*  
**Picture Book**

*Age Level:*  
**3+**

*Dimensions:*  
**(P) 250 x 240 MM**

*Page Count:*  
**32 PP**

*Printing:*  
**Colour**

*Publish Date:*  
**February 2026**

*Rights:*  
**World excl. ANZ**

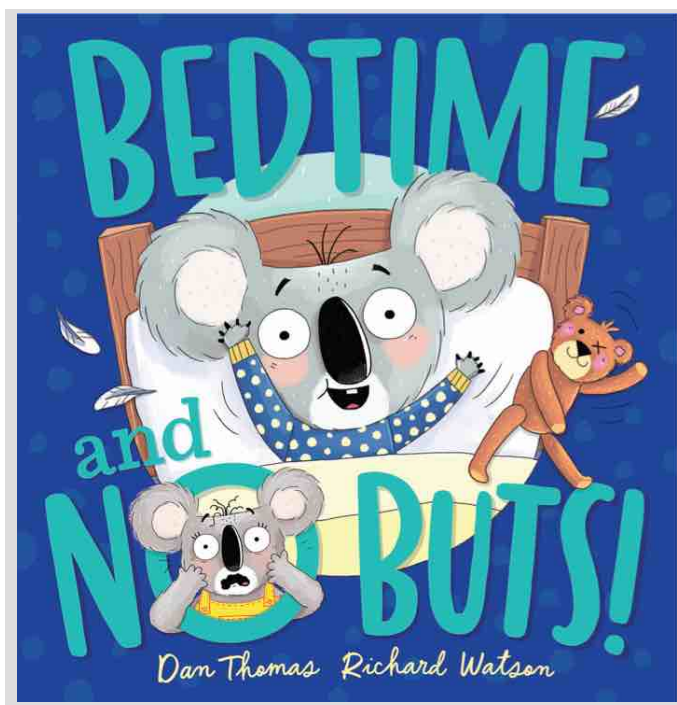
**Maura Pierlot** is the author of five picture books and three young adult titles, and creator of the award-winning web series, 'Fragments'. She's the founder of The Book Bench Project and a qualified art therapist with a PhD in philosophy and ethics. When she's not writing or visiting schools, Maura splits her time between Canberra and her family's avocado and walnut farm on the NSW south coast, where she shares the land with local wildlife and two energetic bordoodles.

**A. Yi** is an illustrator and animation artist. She has illustrated various children's books including the bestselling Alice-Miranda series. Her picture book, *My Friend Fred*, was awarded CBCA Book of the Year for Early Childhood. She likes doodling and wishes all books were illustrated. She is an owner of a dog. Butler to a cat.

## Bedtime and No Buts!

By Dan Thomas

Illustrated by Richard Watson



It's bedtime for Boris . . . but he is NOT ready!

*But I can't find Bear!*

*But we haven't had our story!*

*But I'm thirsty!*

*But, but, BUT!*

Will Boris ever stop with the bedtime buts?!

A cheeky, charming and all-too-relatable story for bedtime wrigglers . . . (and their poor grown-ups!)

### Key Selling Points

- One little boy, a thousand excuses . . . and not a wink of sleep! Bedtime has never been so funny in this familiar tale of bedtime battle!
- Boris has so many excuses for stalling sleep, and every single one begins with a big cheeky 'But...' Familiar to parents and carers . . . and irresistibly funny to children.
- Written by debut author Dan Thomas.
- Illustrated by the award-winning Richard Watson.



**AU RRP: \$19.99**  
**NZ RRP: \$24.99**

*Publisher:*  
**Scholastic Press**

*ISBN:* **9781761640681**

*Format/Binding:*  
**Hardback**

*Type:*  
**Picture Book**

*Age Level:*  
**3+**

*Dimensions:*  
**(P) 250 x 240 MM**

*Page Count:*  
**24 PP**

*Printing:*  
**Colour**

*Publish Date:*  
**May 2026**

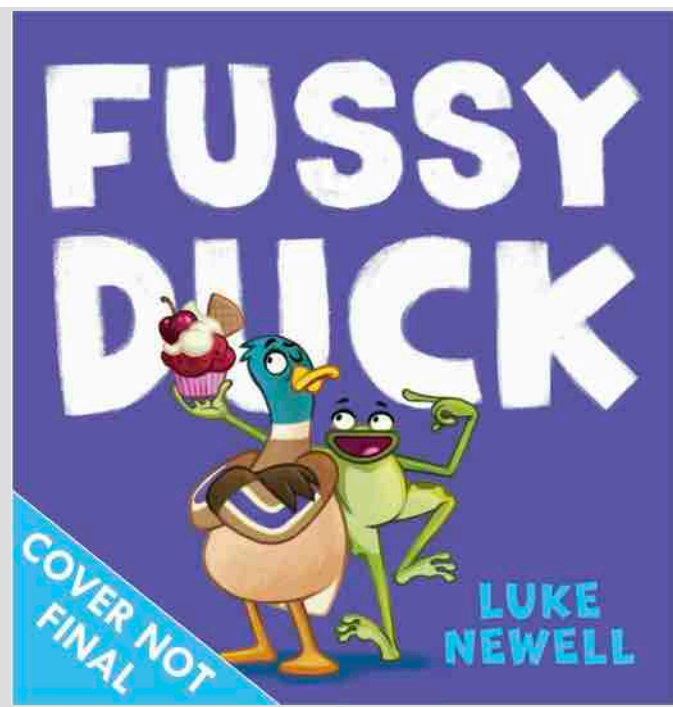
*Rights:*  
**World excl. ANZ**

**Dan Thomas** has written all sorts of stuff, including comedy, commercials, TV and t-shirts! But what he really loves is picture books. He has two children and lives in Melbourne with his wife.

**Richard Watson** is an illustrator based in North Lincolnshire, surrounded by woodland and countryside. As a child Richard could always be found with his nose in a book or with a pencil in hand doodling dragons and knights in battle. Richard has illustrated many children's books including the hilarious 'James Patterson Dog Diaries' series, a New York Times Bestseller.

# Fussy Duck

By Luke Newell



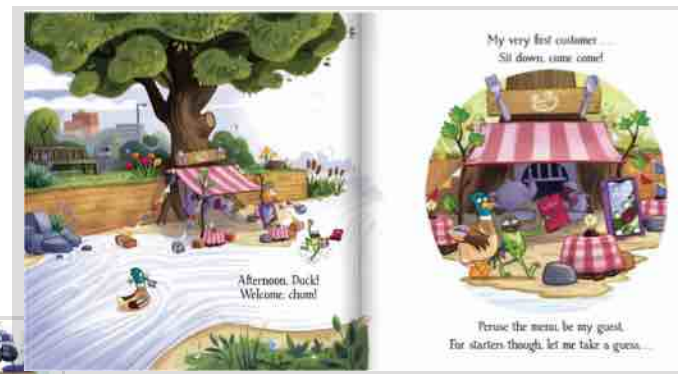
*Duck, it's time to make a call.*

*Does Duck want ANYTHING at all?*

Frog is determined to find the perfect thing for his very first customer, Duck. But no matter what Frog suggests, Duck doesn't seem content. What a fussy Duck . . .

### Key Selling Points

- Wonderfully hilarious read-a-loud for everyone!
- Subtle message of understanding the importance of listening to others.
- Award-winning illustrator, Luke Newell, delivers beautifully vibrant and detail-rich illustrations in a story readers of all ages will love.



**AU RRP: \$19.99**

**Publisher:**  
Scholastic Australia

**ISBN: 9781761725838**

**Format/Binding:**  
Hardback

**Type:**  
Picture Book

**Age Level:**  
3+

**Dimensions:**  
(P) 250 x 240 MM

**Page Count:**  
24 PP

**Printing:**  
Colour

**Publish Date:**  
July 2026

**Rights:**  
World excl. ANZ

**Luke Newell** is an award-winning illustrator, animator and author based in Hertfordshire, UK. With over forty children's books to his name, Luke has worked on both fiction and non-fiction titles. Luke has oodles of enthusiasm for storytelling through pictures. *Fussy Duck* is his first picture book that he has both written and illustrated.

# No-One Really Knows a Capybara

By Laura Sieveking  
Illustrations by Katie Abey



*Capybara  
Snappybara  
Sitting on your lapybara. . .*

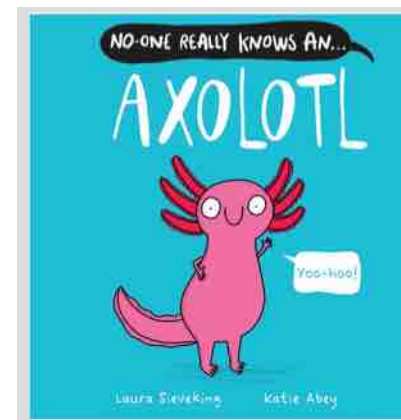
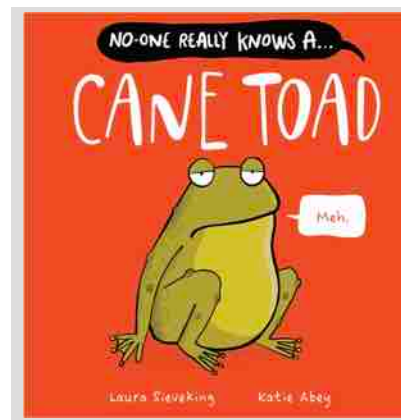
*If you think you know capybaras, then think again! A side-splitting book about capybaras, like you've never seen them before!*



## Key Selling Points

- A hilarious, rhyming wordplay about those popular internet sensations, capybaras.
- The rhythmic text and tongue-in-cheek illustrations make this an entertaining read for all ages and fantastic for reading aloud.
- Written by Laura Sieveking, the bestselling Australian author of the 'Ella at Eden' series and the 'Gymnastics Diaries' series.
- Quirky, colourful and humorous illustrations by Katie Abey, a UK Instagram sensation.
- Themes: rhyming, wordplay, capybaras.

## Other Books in the Series



**AU RRP: \$19.99**

Publisher:  
**Scholastic Australia**

ISBN: **9781761812675**

Format/Binding:  
**Hardback**

Type:  
**Picture Book**

Age Level:  
**3+**

Dimensions:  
**(P) 250 x 240 MM**

Page Count:  
**24 PP**

Printing:  
**Colour**

Publish Date:  
**September 2026**

Rights:  
**World excl. ANZ**

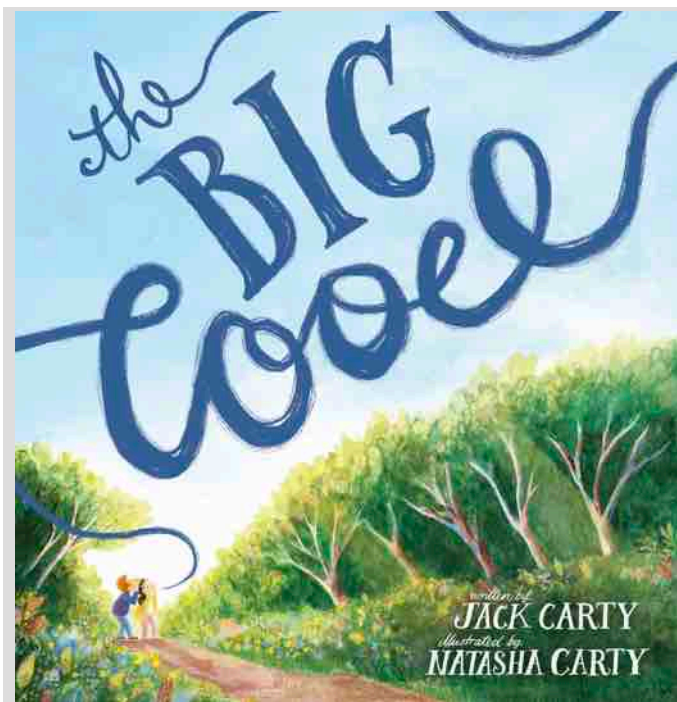
**Laura Sieveking** has loved creating stories ever since she learned to hold a pen. As an adult, Laura spent the majority of her career working in publishing as an editor. Then she decided to put down her red pen and open up her laptop to create books of her own. She has published numerous works for young people, including the bestselling 'Ella at Eden' series and the 'Gymnastics Diaries' series with Olympic gymnast Georgia Godwin. Laura lives in Sydney with her husband and two children, and two fluffy dogs who look like teddy bears.

**Katie Abey** is an illustrator human who lives in a teeny house in Derbyshire, UK with a cat, a hedgehog, a husband and a daughter. Inspired by the weird and wonderful, her work provides illustrative doses of happiness and motivation, along with a little dash of sarcasm.

## The Big Cooee

By Jack Carty

Illustrated by Natasha Carty



### Also Available

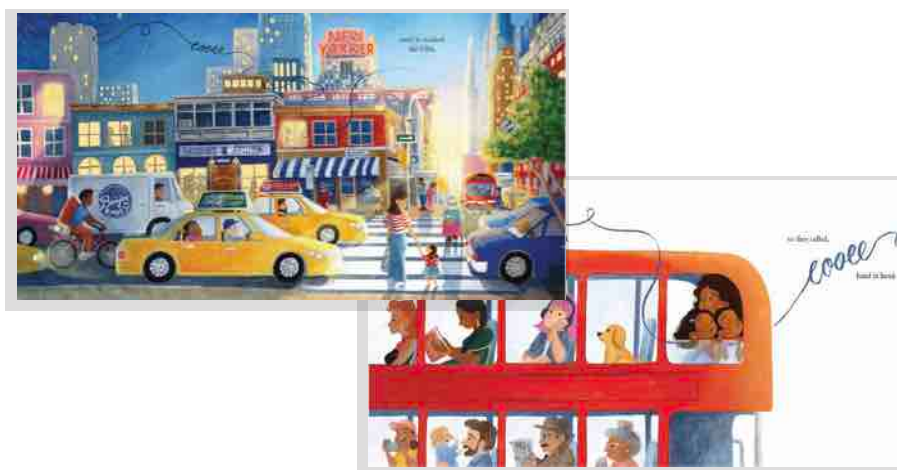


A little boy and girl I know  
took a walk not long ago,  
and there amongst the swaying trees  
they called a really big . . . **COOOEEEEEE!**

Follow as the cooee floats over sparkling oceans,  
through busy city streets and across starry night skies,  
weaving together a world of joy and wonder.

### Key Selling Points

- Take a journey across the world, from the Australian bush to the busy streets of Brazil and London, in this whimsical story of connectedness and universal joy
- Celebrating nature and the unique beauty of our global communities and diverse environments
- A rhyming story with playful lyrical text and a delightful echo for young readers to join in and pass on
- A gentle picture book to enjoy alongside titles such as *Family Tree*, *Bowerbird Blues*, and Jack and Natasha Carty's *Time to Rest*



**AU RRP: \$19.99**  
**NZ RRP: \$24.99**

Publisher:  
**Scholastic Press**

ISBN: **9781761648441**

Format/Binding:  
**Hardback**

Type:  
**Picture Book**

Age Level:  
**3+**

Dimensions:  
**(P) 250 x 240 MM**

Page Count:  
**24 PP**

Printing:  
**Colour**

Publish Date:  
**April 2026**

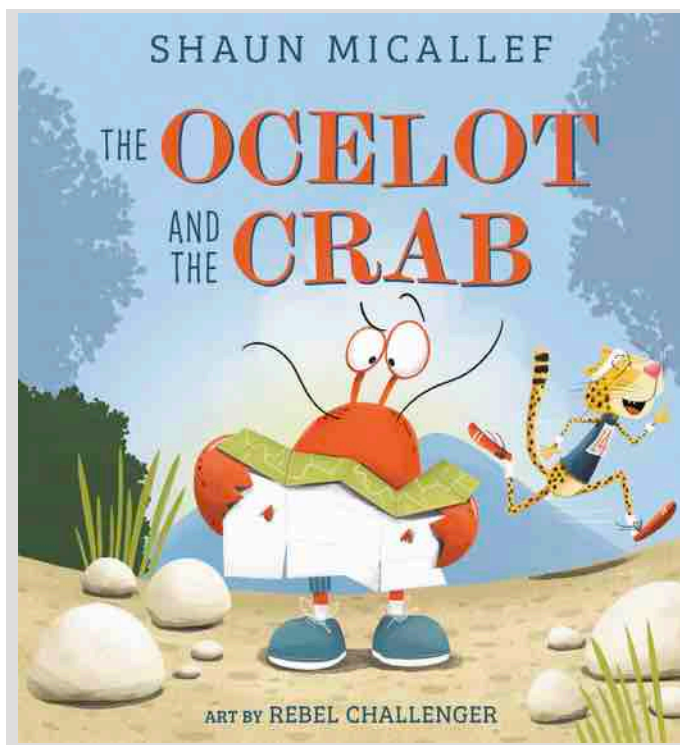
Rights:  
**World excl. ANZ**

**Jack Carty** is an Australian songwriter, poet, author and father who has been making and releasing original music since 2010. Since that time, Jack has released six albums; three EPs, and received an APRA Professional Development Award, as well as toured extensively worldwide. He is one half of The Cardy Club—a fun, vibrant greetings card business he started with his wife Natasha.

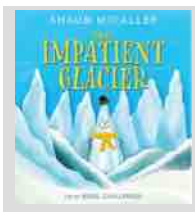
**Natasha Carty** is a Brisbane-based children's book illustrator with four published titles and more on the way. Her creative journey spans farm life, fine art studies, and working in film and television production, designing illustrated props and calligraphy. Now based in her home studio, she balances book illustration with raising her two young children.

## The Ocelot and the Crab

By Shaun Micallef  
Illustrated by Rebel Challenger



### Also Available



*An ocelot can run like the dickens,  
and this is the tale I must tell,  
of a race to the face of Mount Olaf  
against something with pincers and shell . . .*

Ocelot may be fast, but he has a lousy sense of direction—he's Ocelot!  
Can slow-and-steady Crab map out a better way to win the race?



### Key Selling Points

- A brand-new picture book from much-loved, award-winning Australian comedian, writer and TV performer, Shaun Micallef!
- A lively, original retelling of the classic Tortoise and the Hare fable, written with Shaun's brilliant wit and humour.
- A thoughtful tale about competitiveness, honesty and the importance of running your own race.
- A great next read for fans of *The Speedy Sloth* or *The Very Super Bear*



**AU RRP: \$19.99**  
**NZ RRP: \$24.99**

Publisher:  
**Scholastic Press**

ISBN: **9781761641961**

Format/Binding:  
**Hardback**

Type:  
**Picture Book**

Age Level:  
**3+**

Dimensions:  
**(P) 264 x 240 MM**

Page Count:  
**32 PP**

Printing:  
**Colour**

Publish Date:  
**February 2026**

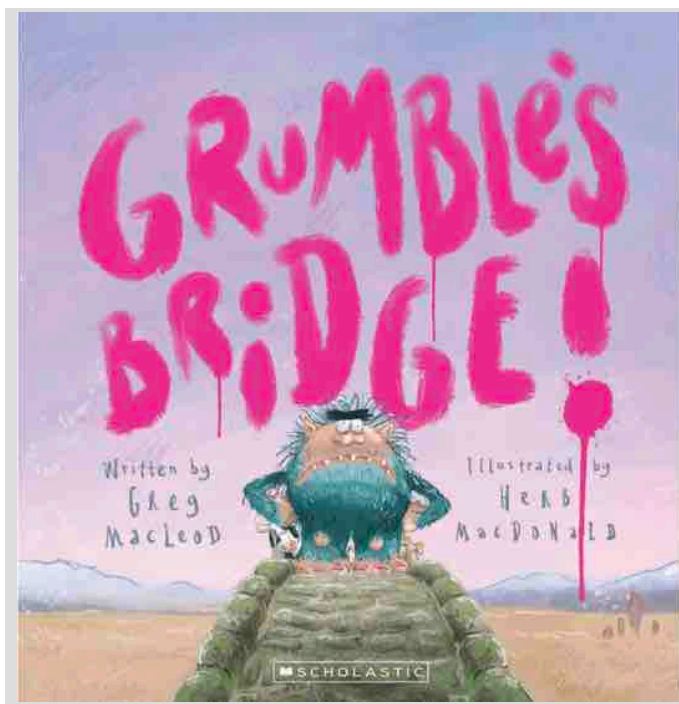
Rights:  
**World excl. ANZ**

**Shaun Micallef** is an Australian writer, performer and TV producer, gracing Australian TV screens in shows including *Micallef Tonight*, *Newstopia*, *Thank God You're Here*, *Talkin' Bout Your Generation* and *Shaun Micallef's Mad as Hell*. He has been nominated for a number of AFI, Logie, AACTA, Auggie and Director's Guild awards and even won some of them. Shaun has written several books for children. This is one of them.

**Rebel Challenger** is an illustrator, art director and graphic designer based in Queensland. Rebel's artwork is colourful, a bit silly and filled with quirky characters. She has written and illustrated several books for children.

# Grumble's Bridge

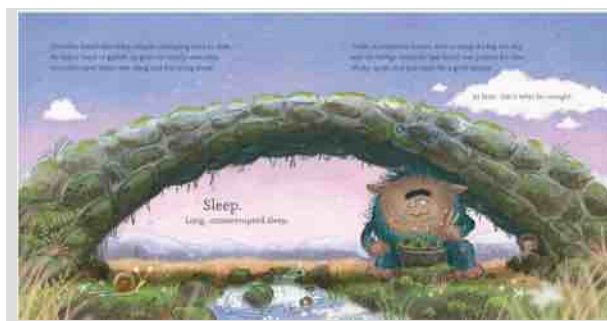
By Greg MacLeod & Herb MacDonald



Grumble the troll wants one thing only. Sleep. Long, peaceful, uninterrupted sleep. But living under a bridge means there is always someone clip-clopping, quack-quacking or squelch-squelching over his head. One by one, Grumble bans every noisy creature he meets . . . then decides to take himself off to find somewhere quieter. Ah, a nice dark cave. Just as he settles in to go to sleep, he finds it might not be the sanctuary he thought. A playful twist on the classic troll tale, full of humour, surprise and very determined animals.

### Key Selling Points

- A fresh and funny reimagining of the troll under the bridge tale, full of playful interruption and strong read-aloud appeal
- Brought to life with Herb MacDonald's funny, warm, and expressive characters that capture the charm of Grumble's world
- A lively cast of noisy intruders keeps the pace brisk, from clompy goats and an impatient duck to the determined snail who, when told to "Go home!" simply disappears inside its shell
- Explores gentle themes of boundaries, belonging, problem-solving and what truly makes a home



**AU RRP: \$16.99**  
**NZ RRP: \$21.99**

*Publisher:*  
**Scholastic New Zealand**

*ISBN:* **9781775439745**

*Format/Binding:*  
**Paperback**

*Type:*  
**Picture Book**

*Age Level:*  
**3+**

*Dimensions:*  
**(P) 250 x 240 MM**

*Page Count:*  
**32 PP**

*Printing:*  
**Colour**

*Publish Date:*  
**April 2026**

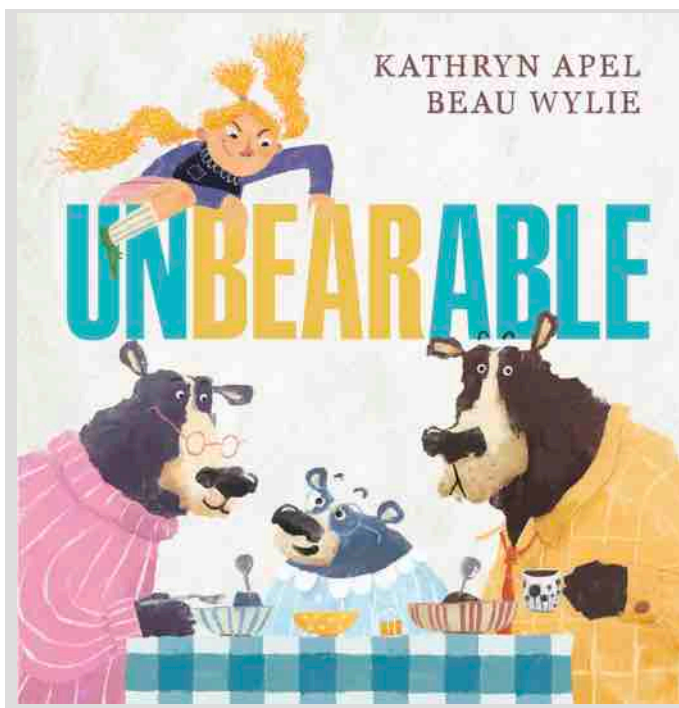
*Rights:*  
**World excl. ANZ**

**Greg MacLeod's** school reports often urged him to save his "thespian behaviour" for the school show, and he flunked seventh-form English. Yet words, music, and storytelling never stopped calling. Over the years Greg has performed, sung, directed, and written, eventually arriving at his debut children's picture book, *Grumble's Bridge*, inspired by playful moments with his nephew, Max. An ex school principal, Greg now works as an art teacher, coach and mentor, supporting people in education and other fields. He continues to perform and direct in the Dunedin theatre community.

**Herb MacDonald** has spent his life in the creative world, beginning with a drawing published in a national newspaper at age seven. He worked as a full-time art director before founding his own design studio, partnering with clients across New Zealand, Australia and the USA. Winner of the 2024 Hachette Margaret Mahy Illustration Prize, Herb lives in Auckland and illustrates alongside his design work.

# UnBEARable

By Kathryn Apel  
Illustrated by Beau Wylie



This is the story of three grumpy bears, who couldn't see anyone's viewpoint, but theirs. Until, with a bowl . . . and a bed . . . and a stool, a little girl taught them the Golden *GRR-RULE!*

### Key Selling Points

- While the three bears are out hunting for honey, a golden-haired girl stumbles upon what they've left behind . . . But who is the real swindler in this tale?
- Written by rhyme-master Kathryn Apel and illustrated by the brilliant Beau Wylie, creators of the popular *Miss Understood*.
- A captivating, colourful and funny adaptation of the classic Goldilocks and the Three Bears story, that plays with perspective and invites readers to look deeper.
- Perfect for fans of *Miss Understood*, *The Cow Tripped Over the Moon* and *Goldilocks and the Three Dinosaurs*



**AU RRP: \$19.99**  
**NZ RRP: \$24.99**

*Publisher:*  
**Scholastic Press**

*ISBN:* **9781761528842**

*Format/Binding:*  
**Hardback**

*Type:*  
**Picture Book**

*Age Level:*  
**3+**

*Dimensions:*  
**(P) 250 x 240 MM**

*Page Count:*  
**32 PP**

*Printing:*  
**Colour**

*Publish Date:*  
**February 2026**

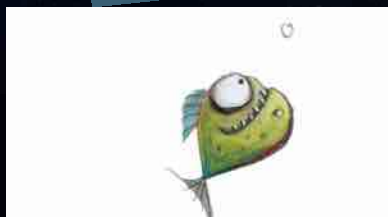
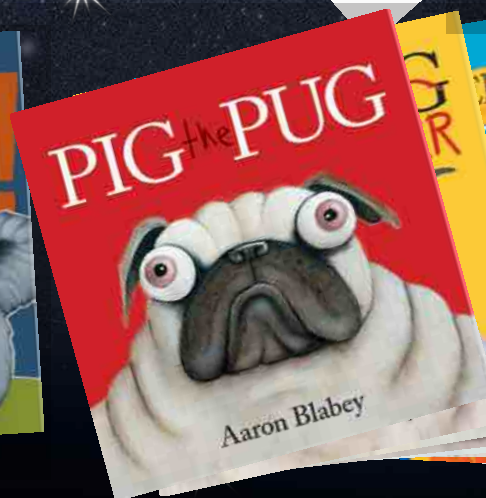
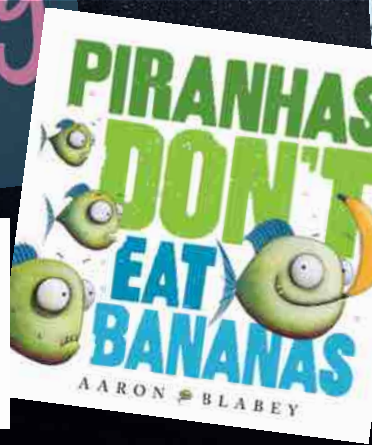
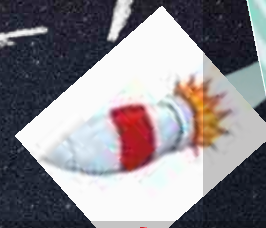
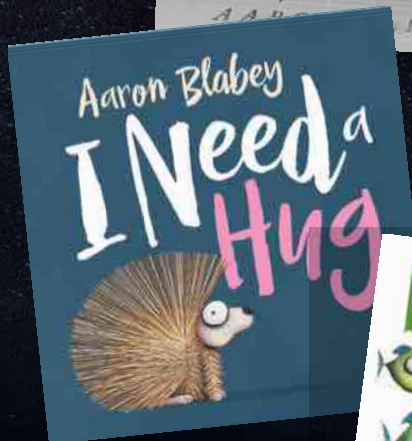
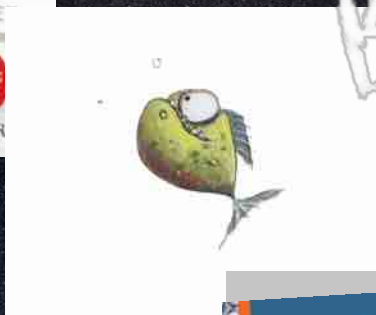
*Rights:*  
**World excl. ANZ**

**Kathryn Apel** is a born-and-bred farm girl who lives among the gum trees, kangaroos and cattle on a Queensland grazing property. Kathryn paints pictures with words, because as much as she'd love to, she can't draw. A trained teacher and literacy consultant, Kathryn shares her passion for words at schools and festivals.

**Beau Wylie** began drawing ridiculous creatures and colourful worlds from the moment he could grasp a pencil. After graduating from the University of NSW with honours in Fine Art, Beau installed shows in art galleries, serviced boats on Sydney Harbour, and 'worked' in a delightful Surry Hills bookshop where he plotted a fanciful future as a children's book creator.

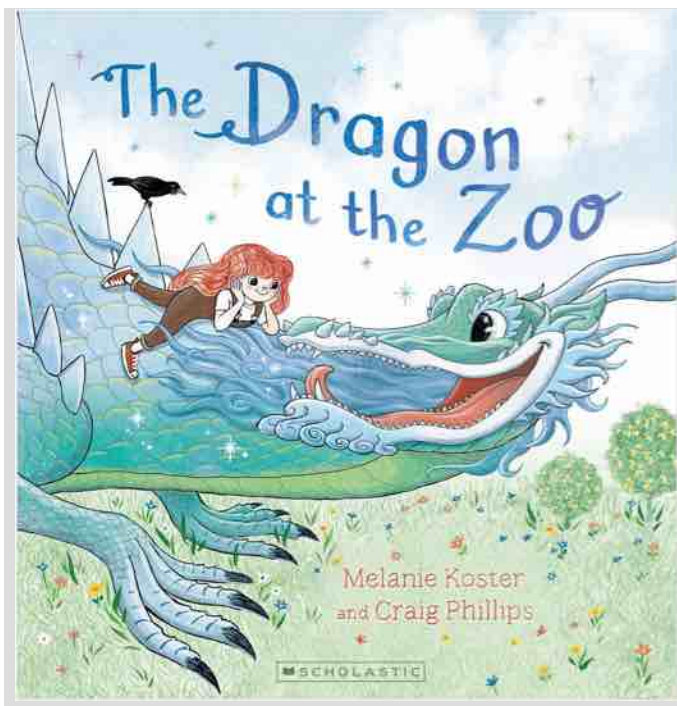


AARON  
BLABEY

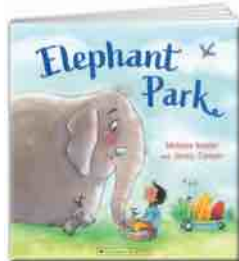


# The Dragon at the Zoo

By Melanie Koster & Craig Phillips



A companion title to *Elephant Park*



Cedric is a dragon like no other. He lives at the zoo, adores children, and is quite possibly the most spectacular dragon Tig has ever known. But when the real reptiles insist he is not a true dragon, Cedric begins to doubt himself. With Tig on his back, he soars far away to find somewhere he belongs, leaving the zoo in chaos. It will take a murmuration of birds, a zoo full of worried animals, and a very big apology to bring their beloved dragon home again. A warm and magical celebration of imagination, belonging and what makes something real.

### Key Selling Points

- Based on the dragon sculpture that decades of children have climbed on at Auckland Zoo, giving this universally appealing story a strong New Zealand sense of place
- Cedric is an instantly endearing dragon character, kind-natured, self-doubting and brave, making him appealing for classroom discussions and family reading
- Beautifully illustrated by Craig Phillips, whose vibrant artwork brings Cedric's and the zoo world to life
- A satisfying ending brings Cedric home to the zoo he loves, where children, animals and zookeepers unite to welcome their dragon back
- A companion title to 2024's *Elephant Park*, by Melanie Koster and Jenny Cooper, written about the elephant slide in Bishopdale Park in Christchurch



**AU RRP: \$16.99**  
**NZ RRP: \$21.99**

*Publisher:*  
**Scholastic New Zealand**

*ISBN:* **9781775439790**

*Format/Binding:*  
**Paperback**

*Type:*  
**Picture Book**

*Age Level:*  
**3+**

*Dimensions:*  
**(P) 250 x 240 MM**

*Page Count:*  
**32 PP**

*Printing:*  
**Colour**

*Publish Date:*  
**April 2026**

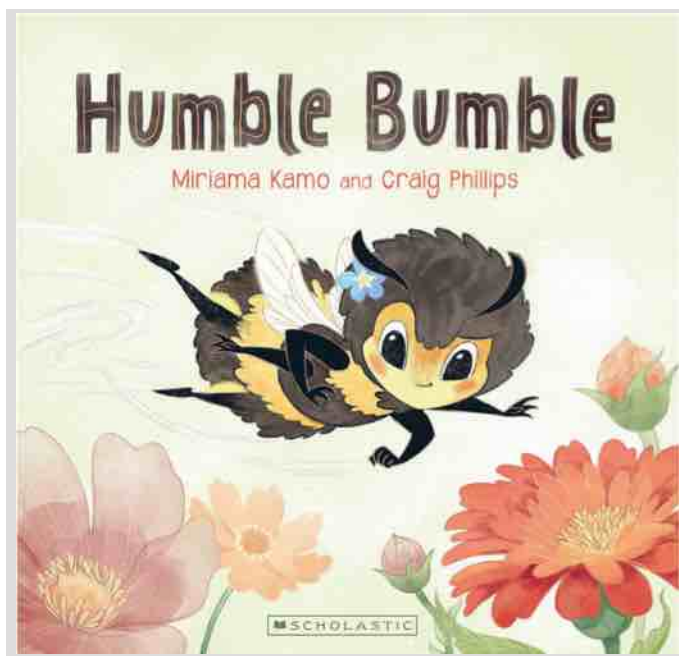
*Rights:*  
**World excl. ANZ**

**Melanie Koster** was born on the wild West Coast of the South Island and brought up in a book-loving, story-telling family. She lives in Christchurch with her whānau of artists, inventors and tinkerers. Melanie is the author of *Elephant Park* and *Milly Maloo and the Miracle Glue* and has been shortlisted six times for the Joy Cowley Award, finally winning the award in 2022 with *Tama and the Taniwha*, illustrated by her daughter Monica. Melanie works as a teacher aide at a local primary school, where she enjoys helping young writers hone their craft.

**Craig Phillips** is a professional illustrator with two decades of experience. His art has featured in major anthologies and exhibitions. In 2017, he illustrated *American Gods* by Neil Gaiman and released his award-winning solo book *Giants, Trolls, Witches, Beasts*, which earned multiple honours in New Zealand and Australia. His first picture book for Scholastic was Miriama Kamo's *Humble Bumble*.

# Humble Bumble

By Miriama Kamo & Craig Phillips



*“Ko Humble Bumble ahau. I am the Humble Bumble.  
No one is as humble as me.”*

So announces the not-so-humble bee, who proceeds to take credit for all her friends' hard work in collecting pollen. But when she takes it a step too far, trying to claim a whole field of flowers for herself, the Queen Bee herself delivers a lesson in humility and Humble Bumble discovers 'kotahitanga' and the benefits of working together as a team.

### Key Selling Points

- This delightful story from Miriama Kamo gently teaches children about boastfulness and pride, and shows how much more can be gained with kindness and sharing
- Craig Phillips has created a fabulous cast of gorgeous, fluffy little Bumbles, each with their own personalities
- Includes a fact page about bumblebees and their importance

**AU RRP: \$16.99**  
**NZ RRP: \$21.99**

**Publisher:**  
**Scholastic New Zealand**

**ISBN: 9781775439271**

**Format/Binding:**  
**Paperback**

**Type:**  
**Picture Book**

**Age Level:**  
**3+**

**Dimensions:**  
**(P) 250 x 240 MM**

**Page Count:**  
**32 PP**

**Printing:**  
**Colour**

**Publish Date:**  
**September 2025**

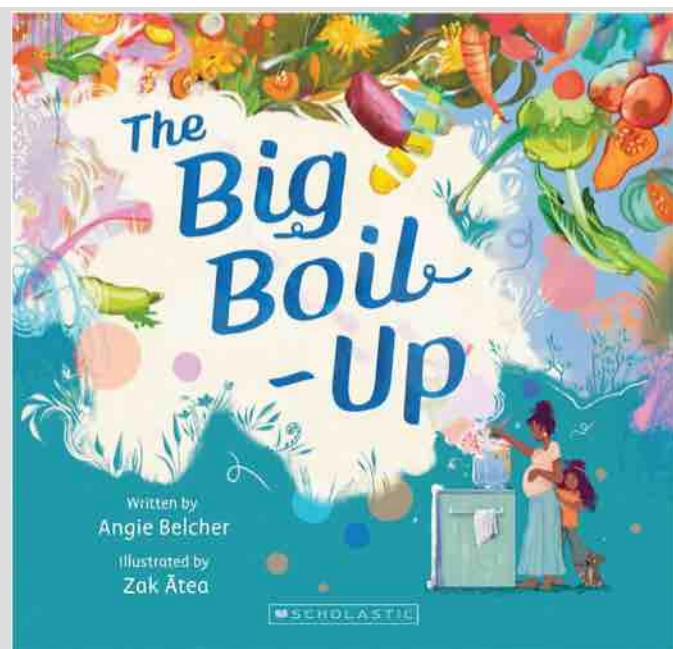
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**Miriama Kamo** is an award-winning journalist. She was the anchor of TVNZ's flagship current affairs programme *Sunday* and Māori current affairs programme *Marae*. Miriama's first children's book with Scholastic was the popular *The Stolen Stars of Matariki*. Her 2022 book, with Rangi Matamua and Isobel Joy Te Aho-White, *Matariki Around the World* was one of the bestselling children's books of 2022.

**Craig Phillips** is a professional illustrator with two decades of experience. His art has featured in major anthologies and exhibitions. In 2017, he illustrated *American Gods* by Neil Gaiman and released his award-winning solo book *Giants, Trolls, Witches, Beasts*, which earned multiple honours in New Zealand and Australia. *Humble Bumble* was Craig's first book for Scholastic, followed by *The Dragon at the Zoo*.

# The Big Boil-Up

By Angie Belcher & Zak Ātea



*Her recipe is not written, but passed on down the line throughout the generations—and now the time is mine!*

Join Bubba and Mum as they prepare a boil-up that brings the whole whānau together. From hunting and gathering to simmering and sharing, *The Big Boil-Up* is a heartwarming story of tradition, family, heritage and aroha, with customs that may be familiar to many cultures around the world.

### Key Selling Points

- *The Big Boil-Up* celebrates a Māori food tradition and the special role kai plays in bringing whānau together
- Written by Angie Belcher, whose authentic storytelling captures the joy and humour of family life through rich language and playful rhyme, making it ideal for reading aloud at home or in group settings
- Illustrated by Zak Ātea in vibrant, expressive artwork that brings the whānau's boil-up feast to life
- A 2025 Storylines Notable Book Award winner

**AU RRP: \$16.99**  
**NZ RRP: \$21.99**

**Publisher:**  
**Scholastic New Zealand**

**ISBN: 9781775439257**

**Format/Binding:**  
**Paperback**

**Type:**  
**Picture Book**

**Age Level:**  
**3+**

**Dimensions:**  
**(P) 250 x 240 MM**

**Page Count:**  
**32 PP**

**Printing:**  
**Colour**

**Publish Date:**  
**August 2025**

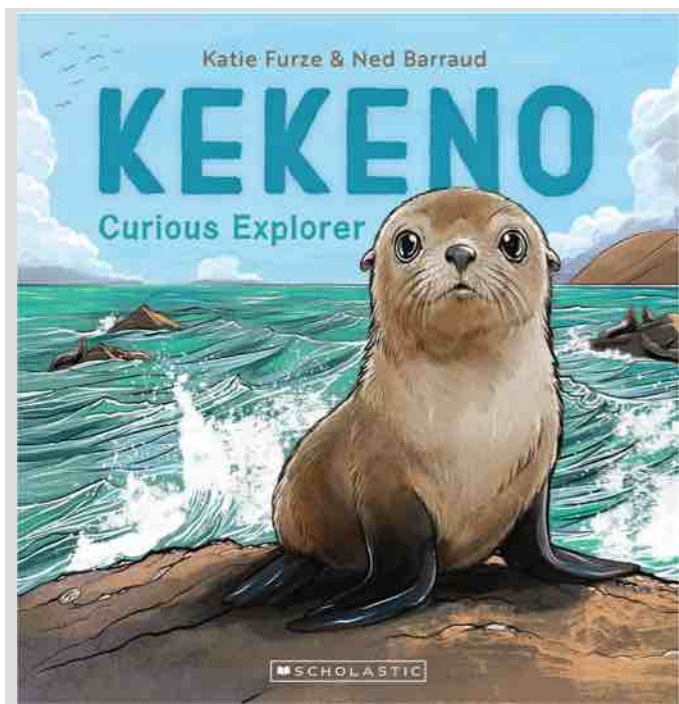
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Canada, USA**

**Angie Belcher** is both a writer and a teacher. Her love of outdoor adventure, including diving, caving, hiking, provide Angie with exciting writing prospects and have become the catalyst for many children's books. Most of her books written for educational publishers can be found in New Zealand schools, but her favourite stories originate from her home at Māketu in the Bay of Plenty. Angie's first book with Scholastic was *Pipi Dance*, illustrated by Lily Uivel, and a companion to *The Big Boil Up*, celebrating the summer, seaside tradition of collecting pipi to boil up for tea.

**Zak Ātea** (she/her), is a published Illustrator and Visual Artist originally from New Zealand, now based in Sydney, Australia. Her work includes editorial illustration, children's book illustration, artist book design and fine art practices created through digital and traditional painting and drawing mediums. This is Zak's first book with Scholastic.

# Kekeno, Curious Explorer

By Katie Furze & Ned Barraud



## Also from Katie Furze & Ned Barraud

*Tuatara, a Living Treasure*

*Ruru, Night Hunter*

*Pekapeka, Secret Forest Bat*

*"Gulls screech. Waves splash.  
Baby Kekeno sniffs the salty air,  
shakes his flippers and looks around."*

Aotearoa New Zealand's fur seals once teetered on the brink of extinction, yet today many have returned to our mainland shores. This story follows one spirited pup through his first year of life as he learns to hunt, survive, and explore both sea and land, offering a vivid window into the secretive world of these remarkable marine mammals.

### Key Selling Points

- A companion to *Ruru, Night Hunter*; *Tuatara, A Living Treasure*, and *Pekapeka, Secret Forest Bat*, this book brings the wild, windswept world of the fur seal, kekeno, to life through lyrical storytelling and fascinating natural history.
- Rich, detailed illustrations by Ned Barraud capture the drama and beauty of Aotearoa's rocky coasts, from crashing waves to strange inland wanderings.
- *Kekeno* is an ideal resource for home, classroom and library, and a perfect gift for young nature lovers and marine explorers.
- Includes a page of fascinating historical and biological facts.



**AU RRP: \$16.99**  
**NZ RRP: \$21.99**

Publisher:  
**Scholastic New Zealand**

ISBN: **9781775439677**

Format/Binding:  
**Paperback**

Type:  
**Picture Book**

Age Level:  
**4+**

Dimensions:  
**(P) 250 x 240 MM**

Page Count:  
**32 PP**

Printing:  
**Colour**

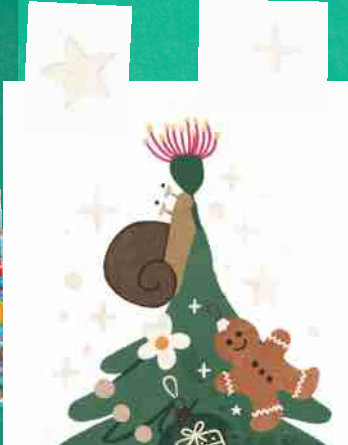
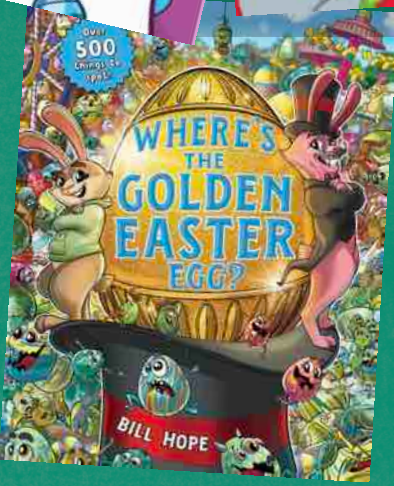
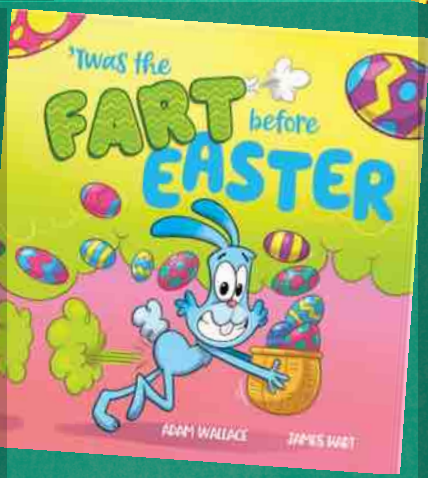
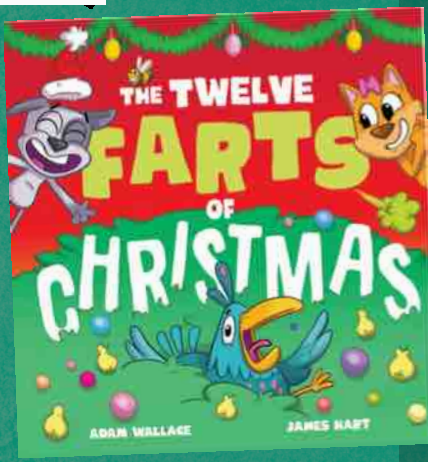
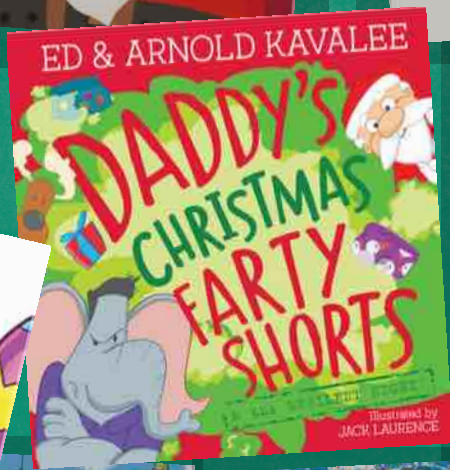
Publish Date:  
**May 2026**

Rights:  
**World excl. ANZ**

**Katie Furze** writes children's fiction and non-fiction, including picture books, short stories, articles, plays, readers and novels. This is her fourth non-fiction picture book with Scholastic. Katie lives in Auckland. She has a master's degree in creative writing and is fascinated by science and nature.

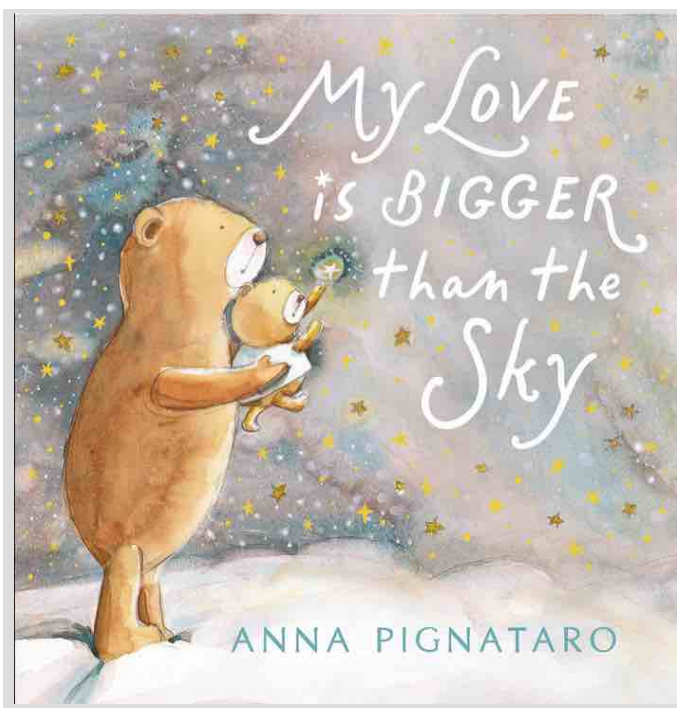
**Ned Barraud** studied art in Otago and Illustration at Victoria University and has since authored and illustrated a multitude of children's books and journals including the 'Explore and Discover' series about different ecosystems in New Zealand. His other books with Scholastic include more in this series: *Tuatara, a Living Treasure*; *Ruru, Night Hunter*; *Pekapeka, Secret Forest Bat*, as well as his own *At Home on the Farm* and the playful *Pu and Ru's Bird Beak Clues* and *Honu and Blue's Sealife Clues* written by Jez Smith. Ned lives in Nelson with his wife and three children.

# SEASONAL PICKS



# My Love is Bigger than the Sky

By Anna Pignataro



*In the brambly forest Oli asked, 'Mummy, how much do you love me?'*

*'More than the whole world and everything in it,' said Mummy.*

From best-selling author and illustrator, Anna Pignataro, comes a tender-hearted story about infinite love.

### Key Selling Points

- From acclaimed, best-selling author and illustrator, Anna Pignataro.
- A follow-up to the beautiful 'Always' series, including the best-selling *Always, Together, Forever* and *Mummy, How Long Will You Love Me?*
- Delightfully poignant text that speaks to the infinite love shared between parent and child.
- Enchanting, heart-warming illustrations.
- Suitable for all ages, from newborns to great-grandparents.



### Also available



**AU RRP: \$19.99**

Publisher:  
**Scholastic Press**

ISBN: **9781761528620**

Format/Binding:  
**Hardback**

Type:  
**Picture Book**

Age Level:  
**3+**

Dimensions:  
**(P) 250 x 240 MM**

Page Count:  
**32 PP**

Printing:  
**Colour**

Publish Date:  
**March 2026**

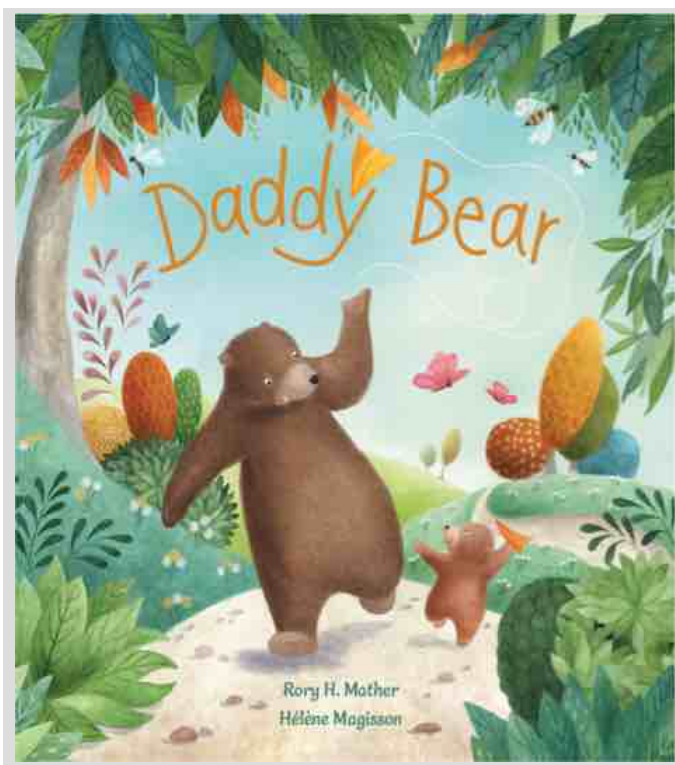
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**Anna Pignataro** is the acclaimed, best-selling author and illustrator of *Always* and the 'Princess and Fairy' series. Anna was the joint winner of the Crichton Award for book illustration in 1998 and shortlisted for CBCA Picture Book of the Year in 1999. Her picture book *The Heart of a Whale* was named the winner of the International Book Award for Children's Picture Books, 2020. Anna lives in Victoria with her husband and daughter.

## Daddy Bear

By **Rory H. Mather**

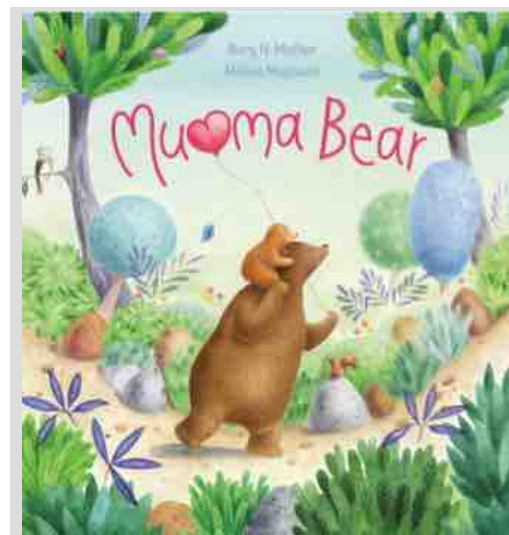
Illustrated by **Hélène Magisson**



A beautiful book that celebrates the daddy bears. For those whose strength can always be relied upon.

### Key Selling Points

- New picture book written by the successful Rory H. Mather and illustrated by the amazing Hélène Magisson.
- A touching story that celebrates fathers and all that they do.
- A story that will resonate with father and their children—perfect for Father’s Day!
- Delightful rhyming text.
- Delicate and detailed illustrations.
- Beautifully intricate cover with embossing and spot gloss embellishments.



**AU RRP: \$19.99**

*Publisher:*  
**Scholastic Press**

*ISBN:* **9781761646034**

*Format/Binding:*  
**Hardback**

*Type:*  
**Picture Book**

*Age Level:*  
**3-7**

*Dimensions:*  
**(P) 250 x 240 MM**

*Page Count:*  
**24 PP**

*Printing:*  
**Colour**

*Publish Date:*  
**July 2026**

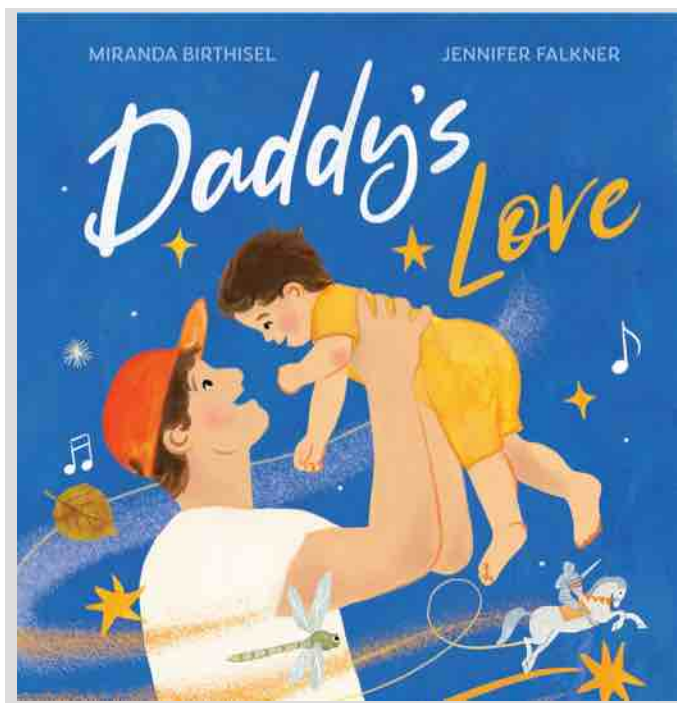
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**World excl. ANZ**

**Rory H. Mather** is a big kid, who enjoys picture books, fist bumps and words that rhyme. He found reading difficult as a child, so he writes to foster a love of books in young readers. He lives in Toowoomba with his wife, daughter, and two dogs.

**Hélène Magisson** is a critically acclaimed Australian illustrator of many books for children. Hélène is frequently recognised by the Children’s Book Council of Australia. Most recently, she was awarded the CBCA 2025 Notable Picture Book Award

# Daddy's Love

By **Miranda Birthisel**  
Illustrated by **Jennifer Falkner**

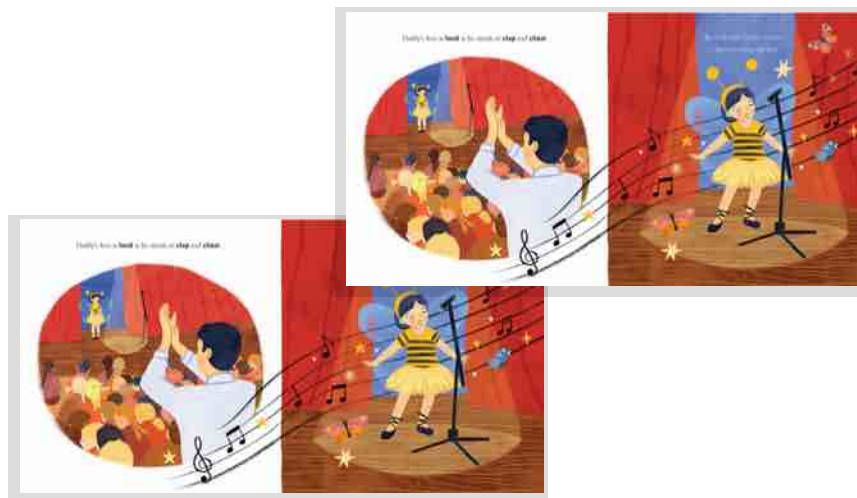


*Daddy's love is always there,  
even when you are apart.  
From the moment you existed . . .  
you have had his heart.*

A gentle and timeless picture book about the everlasting bond between father and child.

### Key Selling Points

- A beautiful and heart-felt new Father's Day book from Miranda Birthisel and Jennifer Falkner.
- Follows the relationship between father and child over the years, from newborn to young child.
- Daddy's love is . . . kind, patient, loud, creative, protective, joyful, and will be with you always.
- Sweet and uplifting rhyming text.
- Stunning illustrations from award-nominated illustrator, Jennifer Falkner.



**AU RRP: \$19.99**

*Publisher:*  
**Scholastic Press**

*ISBN:* **9781761723834**

*Format/Binding:*  
**Hardback**

*Type:*  
**Picture Book**

*Age Level:*  
**3+**

*Dimensions:*  
**(P) 250 x 240 MM**

*Page Count:*  
**24 PP**

*Printing:*  
**Colour**

*Publish Date:*  
**July 2026**

*Rights:*  
**World excl. ANZ**

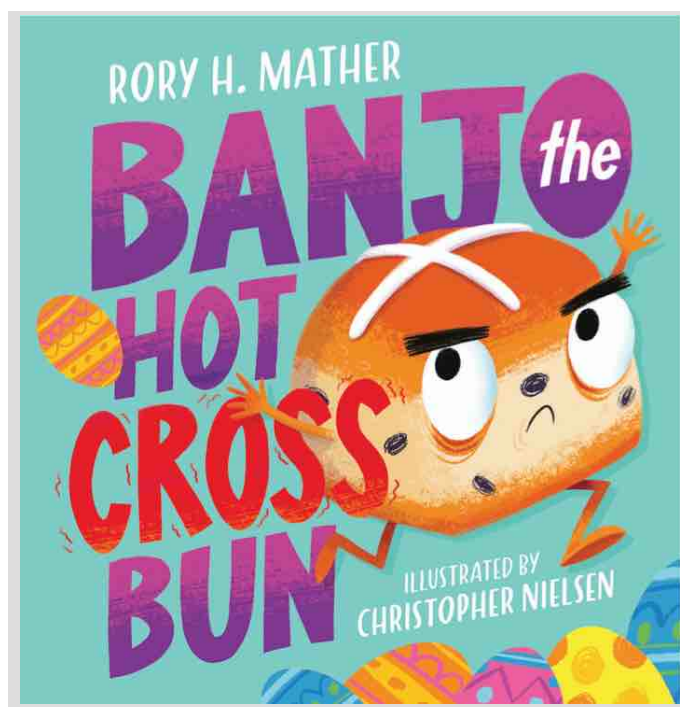
**Miranda Birthisel** is a children's author with a passion for fun stories that make children smile. As a mother and primary school teacher, picture books have always played an important part in her life. In recent years, she decided to try her hand at writing her own and hasn't looked back.

**Jennifer Falkner** is an illustrator and independent designer based in Perth, Western Australia. Since graduating from Curtin university with a major in illustration she has spent the last seventeen years of her career in art direction, textile design, brand development and illustration. Her books include *Fairy Beach* and *The Cheeky Toddler Alphabet*, both of which are ABIA nominees for 2025 picture book of the year.

## Banjo the Hot CROSS Bun

By Rory H. Mather

Illustrated by Christopher Nielsen



*Gather round, children,  
there's a story to tell  
about a **delectable treat**  
with a wonderful smell.  
Prepare to laugh,  
prepare to have fun.  
For this is the tale of  
Banjo the Bun.*

Banjo the Bun has found himself out on the shelves on Boxing Day and he is NOT happy.

Will anyone be able to tame this hot CROSS bun?!

### Key Selling Points

- A new picture book about everybody's favourite Easter treat, the hot cross bun.
- Written by much-loved Australian author, Rory H. Mather.
- Illustrated with bright, funny illustrations by Christopher Nielsen.
- Hilarious rhyming text, perfect for reading aloud.
- An Easter treat for the whole family!
- For fans of *Greg the Sausage Roll*



**AU RRP: \$19.99**

*Publisher:*  
**Scholastic Australia**

*ISBN:* **9781761727924**

*Format/Binding:*  
**Hardback**

*Type:*  
**Picture Book**

*Age Level:*  
**3+**

*Dimensions:*  
**(P) 250 x 240 MM**

*Page Count:*  
**24 PP**

*Printing:*  
**Colour**

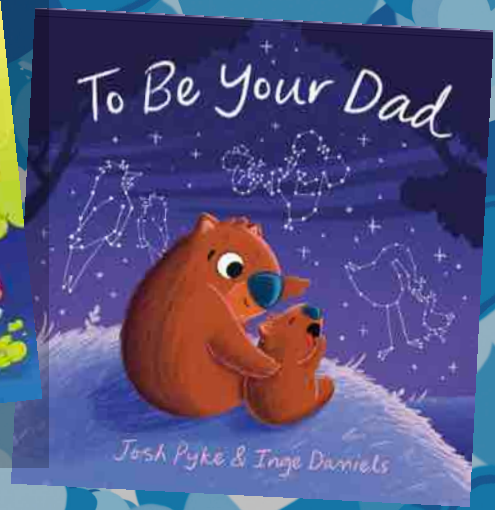
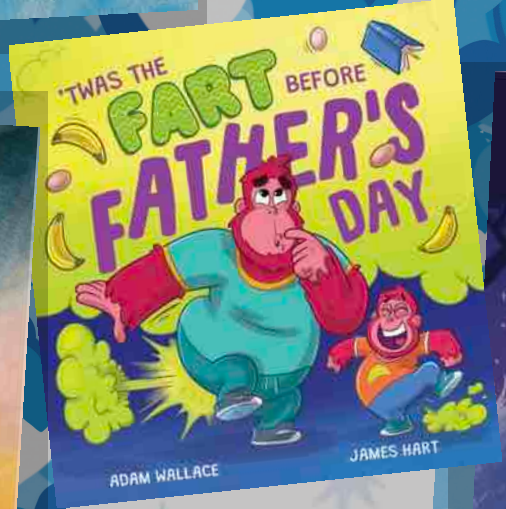
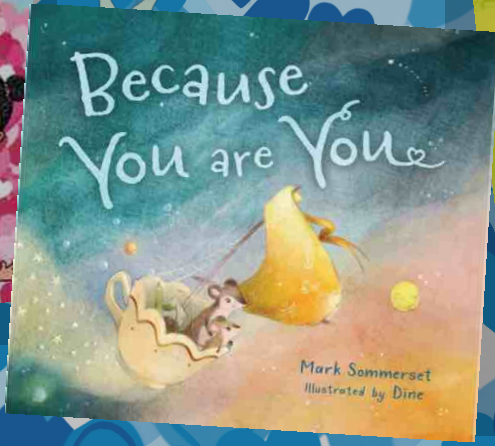
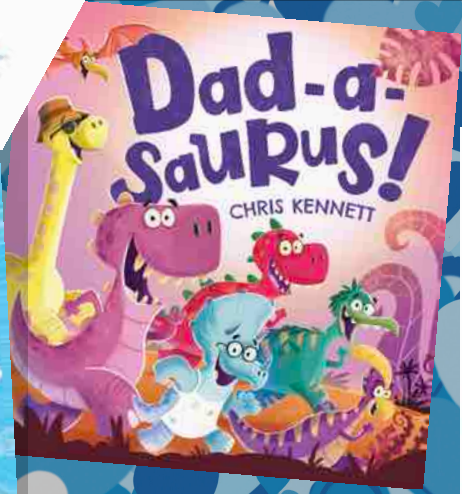
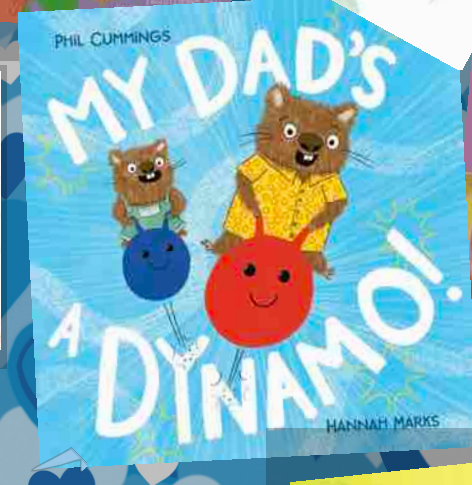
*Publish Date:*  
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*Rights:*  
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**Rory H. Mather** is a big kid, who enjoys picture books, fist bumps and words that rhyme. He found reading difficult as a child, so he writes to foster a love of books in young readers. He lives in Toowoomba with his wife, daughter, and two dogs.

**Christopher Nielsen** is an Australian author/illustrator specializing in bringing joy and wonder to children through his art and storytelling. His illustrations are inspired by a deep passion for mid-century culture and design. When he's not busy with a book he can be found camping with his family in the great outdoors, taking walks with his dingo dog, Rusty and annoying the neighbours with his rock band.

# SEASONAL PICKS

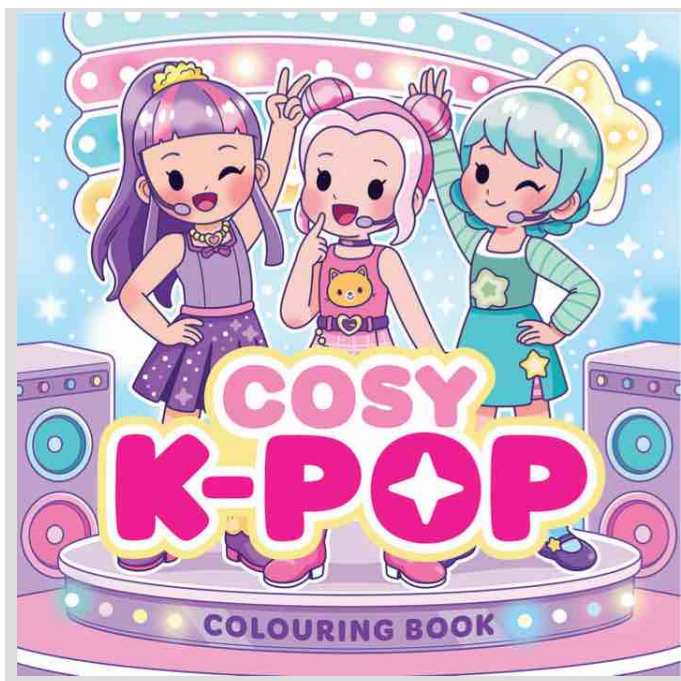


# Cosy K-pop Colouring Book

Illustrations by Pamela Barbieri

Bring the best of K-pop to life!

Follow cute K-pop idols as they perform, record and go on tour in this heart-warming cosy kawaii colouring book.



## Key Selling Points

- 44 kawaii-style illustrations showing everything there is to love about K-pop, hand-drawn by Pamela Barbieri.
- Combines the popular cosy colouring trend with the global phenomenon of K-pop.
- Bold lines and simple designs make for easy, relaxing colouring suitable for all ages.
- Single-sided pages with gatefold prevent colours from bleeding through onto other pages while colouring.



**AU RRP: \$14.99**

*Publisher:*  
**Scholastic Australia**

*ISBN:* **9781761810862**

*Format/Binding:*  
**Paperback**

*Type:*  
**Activity Book**

*Age Level:*  
**5+**

*Dimensions:*  
**(P) 203 x 203 MM**

*Page Count:*  
**88 PP**

*Printing:*  
**B&W**

*Publish Date:*  
**July 2026**

*Rights:*  
**World excl. ANZ**

**Pamela Barbieri** is a freelance illustrator based in a small city of Buenos Aires, Argentina. During the past 6 years she has collaborated with several Argentinian as well as foreign publishers. Her illustrations are packed with fun and colourful characters. She also loves to draw outdoor sceneries, all kinds of cute animals and (of course!) playful kids. Music and fruit-flavoured teas are a must during working hours.