



FREMANTLE PRESS
ANNUAL REPORT 2024



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Watch the video! A year in the life of Fremantle Press



Cover page: Sabrina Hahn signs copies of *How to Do It in the Garden* at Beaufort Street Books.
 Above left: Community members at the launch of the anniversary edition of *Benang: From the Heart* by Kim Scott.
 Left: Rebecca Mills and Renae Hayward share *Say Hello* on stage at Fremantle Arts Centre.



VISION AND PURPOSE

VISION AND PURPOSE

Fremantle Press is an independent not-for-profit publisher, with a focus on Western Australian writers and stories, publishing books for a wide and inclusive readership.

Fremantle Press identifies and nurtures a diverse range of storytellers, supporting and championing their work through publications that engage, connect with, and entertain the widest possible audience, enriching Australia's social and cultural capital.

Fremantle Press is at the centre of a diverse and creative ecosystem in WA, that includes writers, illustrators and other creative contributors, publishing professionals, individual and community supporters, and a loyal and engaged readership, which together promote the importance of storytelling and ensure the long-term future of Fremantle Press as an independent WA-based publishing voice.

Left: Kim Scott with the 25th anniversary edition of his Miles Franklin Award-winning novel *Benang: From the Heart*.

CHAIR'S REPORT



Chair Clair Medhurst with the President of the Children's Book Council of Australia (CBCA) WA, Kris Williams, and CEO Alex Allan launching Books for Little Bookaburras at Bentley Primary School.

As one of a handful of independent publishing houses left in Australia, it has never been more important to support local creatives and the stories they tell. As we approach 50 years of independent publishing, I'm proud of the significant role Fremantle Press plays in the cultural and economic life of this country.

In 2024, the dedicated staff of Fremantle Press continued to apply their skills to identifying, editing, publishing, marketing and mentoring talented writers, bringing a broad range of WA stories to the world. Fremantle Press achieved another outstanding year with record sales revenue, as well as recognition of the excellence of our publishing list, via national and international awards.

Our extensive and well-subscribed program of events, author tours, literary awards and pop-up bookstores provided a hub around which readers and writers could congregate and engage. Meanwhile, Fremantle Press

stories inspired other local arts organisations, featuring in productions by Barking Gecko, Spare Parts Puppet Theatre, Theatre 180 and the Perth Symphony Orchestra, leading to new audiences and new opportunities for creatives and organisations alike.

Our major challenge continues to be rising costs, which places the Press and all independent publishers under threat. The Board's focus is on implementing strategies that will enhance the long-term sustainability and growth of the Press as we approach our 50th anniversary in 2026.

We continue to believe that securing a permanent home in Fremantle is the key to securing the future of what is acknowledged to be a critical cultural organisation in Western Australia. The board has been working diligently to this end, and during the first half of 2025 we hope to be in the position to make some exciting announcements about our premises. I wish to acknowledge the hard work undertaken by the Board to date, and to welcome Michael Chappell who joined us in August to provide additional strategic support and expertise.

All that we have achieved so far has been underpinned by the extraordinary generosity of our landlords, Bruce and Marie Wilson. The pair has supported the Press's occupation of 25 Quarry Street on sub-market commercial terms for over 22 years. They have also been private donors as Champions of Literature. We pay our respects to Bruce Wilson, who sadly passed away towards the end of 2024 and will be greatly missed.

Whilst the Press generates most of its revenue through book sales, we could not achieve the scope of activities that we do without our valued funding partners. I'd like to acknowledge the important contributions made in 2024 by the Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries via our recurring VOIP funding; Creative Australia for special grants to support travel and our First Nations Editorship; the Minderoo Foundation for the capacity-building three-year Minderoo Editorship grant which was completed in 2024; the Fogarty Foundation for its funding of the biennial Fogarty Literary Award; and the City of Fremantle for its extended support of the biennial Hungerford Award.

Our Books for Little Bookaburras program is now in its second year. The program delivered mini libraries to thousands of pre-kindergarten children throughout the state, to promote the joy of reading and the importance of books in homes. We were honoured that the program was launched by the Hon Sabine Winton MLA, the Minister for Early Childhood Education, and our Bookaburras Ambassador and author Renae Hayward to a packed classroom of three- and four-year-olds, alongside their carers, parents, teachers and grandparents at the Kindilink at Bentley Primary School. The Bookaburras program is funded by donors who understand the importance of fostering language development and a love of books in the earliest reader. It continues from strength to strength and we welcome more donations to help us expand the Bookaburras program in future years.

Thanks also to our Champions of Literature for their enthusiasm for all things literary. The Champions' annual donation supported the 2024 Champions book, *Cutler* by David Whish-Wilson, and we loved hearing about this gripping tale of corporate crime on the high seas directly from David at our Champions event.

Our CEO, Alex Allan, continues to provide strong, positive leadership and supreme juggling skills dealing with the unique threats to independent publishing, as well as the challenge of finding a new home for the Press – this is no small task!

Thanks also to our Patron Barry McGuire for his continued support, and to my fellow Board members for your valued commitment and contributions during the year.

It's thanks to the investment of all our supporters – both in-kind and financial – that we can grow opportunities for more creatives, build our community of readers, increase WA's publishing expertise, build our national profile, and amplify the voices of new and emerging writers through the stories of our place.

Thank you for being a part of the Fremantle Press story.

Clair Medhurst
Chair, Fremantle Press Board

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT



Alex Allan and Annie Fogarty AM share a moment at the launch of *A Wreck of Seabirds* and *Jasper Cliff* at The Literature Centre in Fremantle.

We approached 2024 with great publishing ambition, significantly increasing the number of West Australian writers we support, by publishing a total of 38 new works and reissuing 16 titles in updated, revised or reformatted editions. These included works of poetry, memoir, non-fiction and fiction, with a focus on strengthening the diversity of our list, building our range of children's titles, and supporting a new full-colour, non-fiction title for the first time in many years, with the publication of Sabrina Hahn's *How to Do it in the Garden*. The 2024 list was full of high points, but I'm particularly proud of the impressive list of reissue titles which saw favourites like *Carousel* by Brendan Ritchie, *Jack's Island* by Norman Jorgensen and *A Sausage Went for a Walk* by Elisha Majid and Peter Kendall re-released with eye-catching new covers, ready to delight a new generation of

WA readers. We brought James Foley's beloved Sally Tinker Inc junior graphic novels into stunning full colour and worked with author-illustrator team Dianne Wolfer and Karen Blair to bring the *Granny Grommet and Me* picture book back into print.

On our adult list we celebrated the 25-year milestone of Kim Scott's Miles Franklin-winning *Benang: from the Heart* with a new edition, including an updated foreword from Kim Scott, an introduction from Philip Morrissey and with a new classic First Nations livery developed by illustrator Jenna Lee. We're looking forward to adding to this list of classics in the coming years. With an amazing crop of frontlist crime in 2024, we were also able to rebrand and re-promote the backlist works of authors like Robert Edeson, Alan Carter, David Wish-Wilson and Dave Warner to create cohesive series

looks for online promotion of print, ebook and audio works. The strength and depth of our backlist across age ranges and genres demonstrates the outstanding literary talent we have here in WA and the impact that Fremantle Press has had on developing and nurturing writers over many years.

Our frontlist in 2024 included 24 works by First Nations authors or authors from other diverse or under-represented groups. *Some People Want to Shoot Me* by Nyikina man Wayne Bergmann and co-author Madelaine Dickie was launched by the Premier of Western Australia. This book, along with *Tossed Up by the Beak of a Cormorant* by Nandi Chinna and Nyikina Warrwa Elder Anne Poelina, are examples of successful creative, collaborative projects by authors from different backgrounds. We explored further opportunities for collaboration with anthology works: *Avast! Pirates Stories from Transgender Authors* edited by Michael Earp and Alison Evans; *Spinning Around: The Kylie Playlist*, featuring 24 authors, a third of which are from the LGBTQIA+ community; and the co-publication of *Right Way Down and Other Poems* with micropublisher Alphabet Soup, which showcased the poetry of 38 new, emerging and established WA children's writers, alongside original illustrations by award-winning illustrator Briony Stewart. We worked alongside arts organisations like Theatre 180, Barking Gecko, Meerkat Studios and Perth Symphony Orchestra to bring WA stories to new audiences, with new works *Courage Be My Friend* by Jenny Davis and *House*

by Dan Giovannini and Charlotte Lane published as part of this collaborative effort. Our writing and reading community continues to grow and we are so proud to be able represent the work of so many talented creatives.

In 2024, we were thrilled to publish the 2023 Fogarty Award-winning *The Skeleton House* by Katherine Allum, as well as the work of two Fogarty shortlisters - *Jasper Cliff* by Josh Kemp and *A Wreck of Seabirds* by Karleah Olsen - and *Last Best Chance*, the second title by 2021 Fogarty winner Brooke Dunnell. The impact of the Fogarty Literary Award on young and emerging WA writers increases each year and we are delighted that the Fogarty Foundation has renewed and expanded its support of this award.

In the second half of 2024 we ran the 33rd Hungerford Award for an unpublished WA writer, attracting 81 submissions from aspiring debut authors. Judging an award like this is no small task, even for the most avid of readers, and we are so grateful for the support of external judges Seth Malacari, Dr Marcella Polain and Richard Rossiter, as well as the unflagging reading enthusiasm of Fremantle Press judges, Publishers Cate Sutherland and Georgia Richter. The winner, Yirga Woldeyes, was chosen from a longlist of 10 and a shortlist of four, and received a \$15,000 cash prize sponsored by the City of Fremantle, a publishing contract with Fremantle Press and a fellowship at the Centre for Stories. His multi-lingual, multi-genre memoir *Trials of Hope* will be published in early 2026.

Our list of award-winning books and authors in 2024 was nothing short of astonishing: *Timeless* by Kelly Canby won CBCA Picture Book of the Year, the bilingual picture book *Nedingar: Ancestors* by Isobel Bevis and Leanne Zilm won the Wilderness Society's Karajia Award for Children's Literature, and was shortlisted for a Speech Pathology Award. Additionally, *Nedingar*, along with *I Am the Mau* by Chemutai Glasheen, were CBCA Notable Books. *An Unexpected Party*, edited by Seth Malacari, was shortlisted for an Aurealis Award, and poetry collection *Spore or Seed* by Caitlin Maling was shortlisted for the Kenneth Slessor Prize. Molly Schmidt's *Salt River Road* was shortlisted for the Readings Prize and the Indie Book Award. *The Map of William* by Michael Thomas won the Western Australian Premier's Prize for an Emerging Writer, while Gail Jones and John Kinsella, whose books were first published by Fremantle Press, were inducted into the Hall of Fame. Seven additional Fremantle Press writers (Molly Schmidt, Chemutai Glasheen, Mark Greenwood, Julia Lawrinson, Laurie Steed, Georgia Tree and Emma Young) were shortlisted for the WA Premier's Book Award.

Internationally, Fremantle Press was shortlisted for the Bologna Prize for the Best Children's Publisher of the Year in the Oceania Region, and *I Am the Mau* by Chemutai Glasheen was one of five titles to make it onto the White Ravens List. Kelly Canby's *The Hole Story* was named a Teachers Favourite by the North American Children's Book Council, while the American Library Association's Rainbow Round Table and Young Adult Library Services Associations announced that the US edition of *Stars in Their Eyes* by Jessica

Walton and Aśka was on the 2024 Rainbow Book List – a 100-strong selection of books for LGBTQIA+ youth. The book was also a Stonewall Book Award Honour Book and made it onto the New York Public Library's Best Books for Teens list.

Throughout the year, our books featured in over 679 stories/reviews, reaching 12M readers, worth \$13.1M. Our authors featured on Channel 9, ABC Radio National, ABC National, 6PR, 3CR, RTRFM, 3RRR, ABC Perth, Melbourne, Sydney and Brisbane, and on podcasts for Better Reading, YKNR and more. Our books were reviewed or had feature stories in the *Guardian*, the *Australian*, *Sydney Morning Herald/ Age*, *WA Today*, *Canberra Weekly*, *Brisbane Times*, ArtsHub, Books+Publishing, Good Reading, *National Indigenous Times*, *Star Observer*, *OutInPerth*, *DNA*, *RM Williams Outback* magazine, *Take 5*, *Australian Gourmet Traveller* and in literary journals *Westerly*, *ABR* and *Island* magazine.

Our authors appeared at major writers' festivals in Perth, Sydney, Brisbane, Melbourne and Ubud and at regional festivals in Byron Bay, Margaret River, Williamstown, Geraldton, the Gold Coast and the Northern Territory. We had authors touring or attending events in all states and territories, and on average, our 73 active authors undertook 26 events, each reaching some 1,100 readers per author per year.

This increased publishing investment and monumental marketing effort reaped rewards for Fremantle Press, allowing us to achieve our strongest ever financial result across book sales and rights deals in all markets. In the

context of rising costs of production and distribution, a challenging market especially for smaller independents and a continuation of declining national reading rates, this result was very pleasing. We continue to be challenged by shrinking margins in our core publishing business, which impacts our profitability and increases our reliance on other income streams. In this context, the ongoing support of the DLGSC and others who underpin our operations, invest in our authors and partner with us to reach our audiences has been critical to achieving our mission in 2024. Our sincere thanks to our paid consultancy clients, both old and new, for entrusting us with your publishing projects, to the many libraries, bookstores and other venues who support us with sponsorship of events and special projects, and to the loyal volunteers and supporters who contribute time and money to help us bring local West Australian stories to readers across the world.

We work with individuals and organisations who help us in so many ways – our talented authors and illustrators, our freelance editorial and design staff, our sales and distribution colleagues at Penguin Random House and United Book Distributors, our many printers and suppliers, writing centres, event programmers, booksellers, reviewers, teachers, librarians – there are simply too many to name individually, but I hope you will see your valuable contribution reflected in this year's Annual Report.

My thanks also to Fremantle Press Chair Clair Medhurst, Deputy Chair Louise Jones, Treasurer Mark Douglas, and the Board of Fremantle Press for your hard work, guidance and

counsel in what has been a busy and complicated year. I think I write on behalf of the entire staff of Fremantle Press when I say that 2024 was a huge year for a small organisation like ours, it was challenging and at times overwhelming, but so much to be proud of – thank you to the whole Fremantle Press team for always going the extra mile.



Alex Allan
CEO, Fremantle Press

PUBLISHING PROGRAM – NEW TITLES

FEBRUARY



KINTSUGI

Marie O'Rourke

In these open-hearted essays, Marie O'Rourke takes up the many fragments of her life – a volatile father, a sister who died young, a faltering marriage – and, just as the art of kintsugi mends broken porcelain with golden seams to make something beautiful anew, O'Rourke's exquisite prose turns her imperfections into art.

She reflects on the beauty of brokenness and the ways time can transform our understanding of truth, forgiveness, and healing, reminding us that memories may paralyse, but they can also preserve.

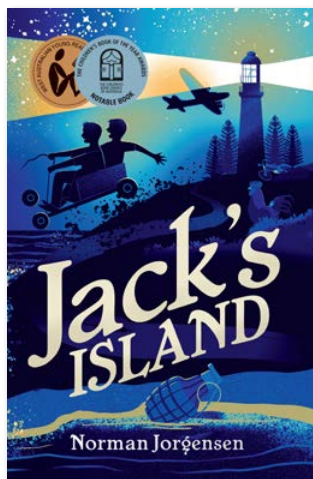
B+, 20.8 x 14 cm • Trade Paper • Narrative non-fiction • 256 pp

'[Marie] has an admirable lightness of touch in dealing with potentially bleak material, but is also thoughtful and emotionally engaging.' *Sydney Morning Herald*

'... explores themes of loss, perfectionism, longing, and healing ...' *Books+Publishing*

'... combines autobiographical moments with essay-like reflections on these ... revealing ways of creating a coherent self from a fractured life.' *Simone Lazaroo*

FEBRUARY



JACK'S ISLAND

Norman Jorgensen

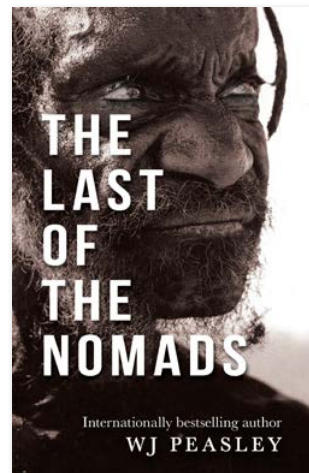
When war comes to Australia, Jack's family moves to Rottneest Island while his father helps the military build an airfield. Jack and his friend Banjo have the run of the island, and a knack for adventure and trouble. But life isn't all fun, and the hardships of war and entrenched prejudices of the time cast a long shadow. Sometimes funny, sometimes sad, always engrossing, this poignant and accessible story for younger readers offers valuable insights into wartime Australia.

B, 19.8 x 13 cm • Trade Paper • Middle reader • 224 pp

'... cheeky but lovable characters are woven well into a riveting storyline with an Australian setting ... to form an exciting and entertaining story. [Four stars out of five]' *Good Reading Magazine*

'... an insightful perspective of life on the Australian homefront as seen through the eyes of its unruly narrator.' *Canberra Times*

FEBRUARY



THE LAST OF THE NOMADS

WJ Peasley

Partners for life, Warri and Yatungka were believed to be the last of the Mandildjara tribe of desert nomads to live permanently in the traditional way. Telling the journey of Mudjon, a Mandildjara elder, and anthropologist W.J. Peasley, as together they searched for the exiled couple, this is the extraordinary story of the rescue of Warri and Yatungka, and how they survived for thirty years in the unrelenting western Gibson Desert.

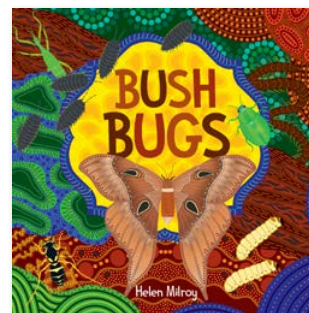
B, 19.8 x 13 cm • Trade Paper • Non-fiction • 176 pp

'Peasley's description of the events ... is informative, compassionate, exciting and, at times, deeply moving.' *Australian Book Review*

'The intriguing story of [Warri and Yatungka] and how they survived alone for the previous 30 years or so in the unrelenting western Gibson Desert region of WA is fascinating reading.' *West Australian*

'... a most remarkable book.' *The National Times*

FEBRUARY



BUSH BUGS

Helen Milroy

From the author of the Backyard series and *Bush Birds* comes an exciting picture book about bugs! This colourful array of Australian insects is sure to delight little ones captivated by all things creepy and crawly. From spiky stick insects to hairy spiders, and from blood-sucking mosquitos to dung-eating blow flies and feasting wasps, this is a fun and easy-to-read book introducing tiny readers to tiny bush critters.

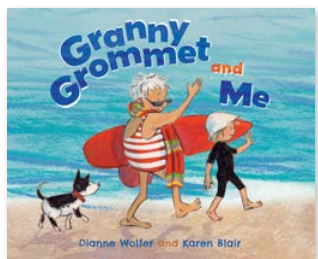
19.5 x 19.5 cm • Hardcover Picture Book • Picture book • 32 pp

'A brightly coloured showcase of some of the bugs that inhabit our bushland, this book is a fascinating starting point for young readers to think about the world around them.' *ReadPlus*

'On the surface this is a rhyming book for little people with the most stunning illustrations, but it has the potential to be so much more.' *The Bottom Shelf*

PUBLISHING PROGRAM – NEW TITLES

MARCH



GRANNY GROMMET AND ME

Dianne Wolfer & Karen Blair

Inspired by the real Granny Grommets – a group of surfing/boogie boarding ladies in Albany, WA – *Granny Grommet and Me* is about the power of our elders to transform scary experiences into exciting ones. Watching Granny and her friends duck and dive and twist and turn, enjoying catching waves and revelling in the bracing and invigorating ocean spray, helps a junior grommet gain confidence to appreciate the wonders that lie beneath the waves.

23.5 x 19 cm • Hardcover Picture Book • Picture book • 32 pp

'... a keeper.' *Kids' Book Review*

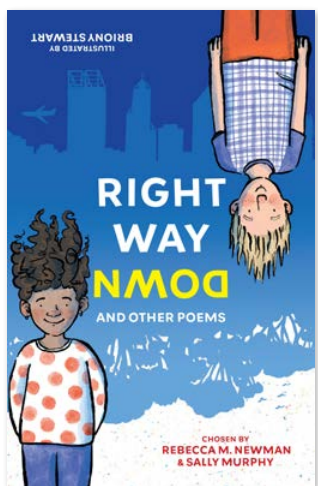
'... a story that's gentle and matter-of-fact, and shows children one reluctant young swimmer's journey.' *The Book Chook*

'... carefully sidesteps stereotypical notions of what a granny is supposed to be ...' *My Book Corner*

'... delightful and entertaining ...' *Buzz Words*

CBCA Early Childhood Book of the Year (Shortlister)

MARCH



RIGHT WAY DOWN AND OTHER POEMS

Rebecca M. Newman & Sally Murphy

Stand on your head with Sally Murphy, explode some dynamite with Cristy Burne or shoot some hoops with Cheryl Kickett-Tucker. Grow a poet-tree with Meg McKinlay, curl up next to your cat with Amber Moffat or watch a bit of Stink-o-Vision with James Foley. These and loads more poems by Australian poets are ready to discover! With striking illustrations by Briony Stewart, these poems will have you laughing, thinking and playing with words – whichever way up you read them.

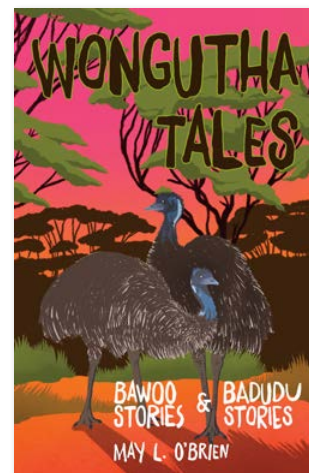
B+, 20.8 x 14 cm • Trade Paper • Poetry • 144 pp

'A collection of poems from WA writers, *Right Way Down* is ideal for primary school libraries.' *Children's Book Council of Australia*

'This is poetry at its very best. It'll get young readers laughing, thinking and playing.' *Better Reading*

'The poems are funny, touching, inspiring, engaging, witty, and more – perfect grab bag for those looking to engage young readers.' *StoryLinks*

MARCH



WONGUTHA TALES

May L. O'Brien

May L. O'Brien was born in 1933 into a life steeped in the language and culture of the Wongutha people of the Eastern Goldfields of WA. Sent to Mount Margaret Mission at the age of five, May experienced the culture shock of a whole new language and a whole new way of life. *Wongutha Tales* represents the stories of May's childhood – from traditional teaching stories to life on the mission – born of her passion for helping children understand the past through the magic of storytelling. This lively collection brings together O'Brien's award-winning tales for the first time.

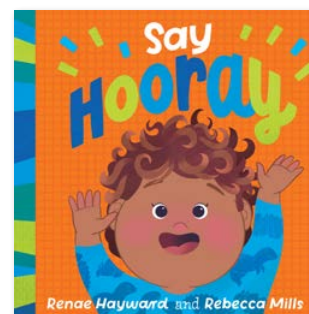
B, 19.8 x 13 cm • Trade Paper • Junior Fiction • 96 pp

'The experiences of the children in the stories and the explanation of the stories by May ... offers students an excellent starting point for classroom discussions.' *Kids Book Review*

'... a fantastic tool to be used in a classroom.' *Pedals*

'Featuring a Wongutha pronunciation guide, this collection is a wonderful addition to any home or library, and a fitting tribute to an extraordinary children's storyteller.' *Readings*

MARCH



SAY HOORAY

Renae Hayward & Rebecca Mills

Explore all the things babies love to do – from splashing to laughing, shaking a rattle to making a mess. This colourful, read-aloud book is designed to captivate babies with simple, high-contrast illustrations featuring recognisable words. Plus, babies can participate – with sounds like zoom and woof, and actions like waving and peek-a-boo. Celebrate with the baby in your life and say 'hooray' for all the things they've done today!

19 x 19 cm • Board Book • Board Book • 13 pp

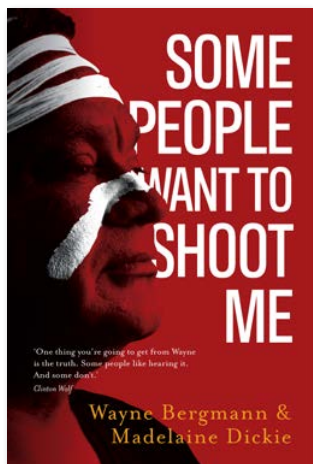
'Right from the get-go, the concentration never wavered and as [my grandson] has grown, the interaction keeps developing ... From an adult perspective, the diversity and connection to milestones in line with a child's development were meaningful.' *Trish Montgomery, CBCA member*

'... ideal for families with young kids welcoming a new arrival into the home.' *West Australian*

Speech Pathology Australia Book of the Year (Shortlisted 2024)

PUBLISHING PROGRAM – NEW TITLES

MARCH



SOME PEOPLE WANT TO SHOOT ME

Wayne Bergmann & Madelaine Dickie

It's Broome, 2010. Nyikina man Wayne Bergmann has just received a death threat. Bergmann is chief executive of the Kimberley Land Council during the controversial James Price Point gas hub negotiations, and it's a moment that will tear the Broome community apart. Wayne's story starts on Nyikina country and is an electrifying tale of resilience, determination and optimism, showing what it takes to be an Aboriginal person walking in two cultures in a country where racism runs deep.

C, 23.4 x 15.3 cm • Trade Paper • Memoir • 224 pp

'This memoir offers unique and fascinating insights into how cultural knowledge and authority, combined with a deep understanding of corporations and governments, can advance the interests of Aboriginal Australia.' *Ciaran O'Faircheallaigh*

'One thing you're going to get from Wayne is the truth. Some people like hearing it. And some don't.' *Clinton Wolf*

'... a pulsating story of resilience, determination and optimism ...' *National Indigenous Times*

APRIL



BROBOT

James Foley

James Foley's much-loved graphic novel series for young readers is now in full colour!

Sally is the world's foremost inventor under the age of twelve, and she just knows she can build a better brother than the messy, smelly version she has. Sally's invention – Brobot – is fantastic, until the remote breaks and Brobot gets out of control. With simple life wisdom alongside a healthy dose of entertainment, Sally learns there may be more to annoying siblings than inconveniences.

21 x 13.8 cm • Trade Paper • Graphic Novel • 192 pp

'Perfect for junior readers both boys and girls.' *Lamont Books*
'... lives up to its promise as "a hilarious graphic novel for young readers".' *Buzz Words*

'Foley has his tongue firmly in his cheek as he documents Sally's crazy plan in delightful drawings that will amuse and entertain young readers.' *Mia Macrossan, CBCA on 4MBS Classic FM*

APRIL



COURAGE BE MY FRIEND

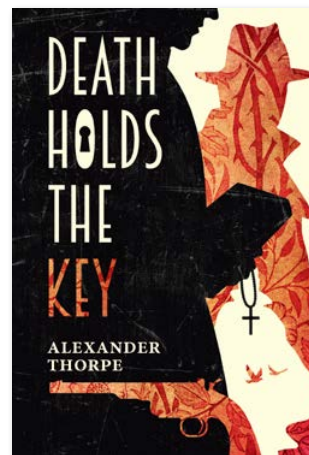
Jenny Davis

Australian Army nurse Sister Vivian Bullwinkel was the sole survivor of the brutal Bangka Island massacre during World War II. Interned in a POW camp, she formed a friendship with fifteen-year-old Edith 'Edie' Kenneison, and together they survived starvation, neglect, sickness and ill-treatment to form an unbreakable, lifelong bond. This evocative retelling of Sister Bullwinkel's story, through the eyes of 15-year-old Edie, is an inspiring ode to her resilience and bravery.

B, 19.8 x 13 cm • Trade Paper • Middle reader • 208 pp

'Davis has created a character who is a worthy role model for younger readers and is a heartfelt tribute to the unsung heroism of women and nurses during wartime.' *Read NZ Te Pou Muramura*
'It is a particularly sensitive tale of women involved in an appalling, brutal war, but it is also [a tale] of their indomitable spirit.' *Colin Burgess, author of Sisters in Captivity*

APRIL



DEATH HOLDS THE KEY

Alexander Thorpe

Step back in time to the late 1920s and immerse yourself in the twists and turns of a seemingly impossible murder case in Alexander Thorpe's latest cosy crime novel.

On a property near Kojonup in country WA, widely despised farmer Fred O'Donnell is found dead in his study with a bullet hole in his chest. But the murder occurred in a locked room, and the weapon and its wielder have vanished. For rookie Detective Hartley, fresh from the city, his only good fortune is that a nameless mendicant has offered to help him investigate a crime in which everybody has a motive, but nobody has the means.

B+, 20.8 x 14 cm • Trade Paper • Crime • 288 pp

'[a] fine period whodunnit featuring the mysterious friar and a good-humoured novice detective who readily admits he's clueless. Silky writing with a whiff of a kero lamp.' *Dave Warner*

PUBLISHING PROGRAM – NEW TITLES

APRIL



LAST BEST CHANCE

Brooke Dunnell

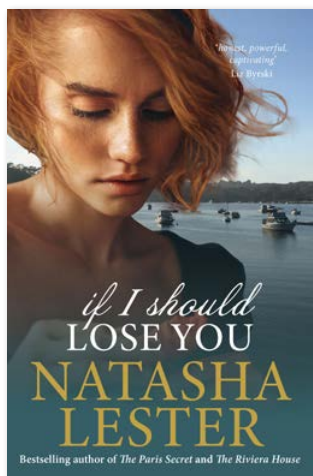
With her biological clock relentlessly ticking, Rachel embarks on a clandestine mission to a fertility clinic in Central Europe. Meanwhile, in the chilly heart of the nation's capital, expat Jess loves her new life with partner Viktor despite their struggle to make ends meet. When a green-energy expo comes to the overlooked city, Jess seizes the moment to ignite a career dream, but Rachel fears that the heightened scrutiny might jeopardise her last chance to become a mother. Will a serendipitous encounter give each woman what she desires?

C, 23.4 x 15.3 cm • Trade Paper • Fiction • 272 pp

'Dunnell has an excellent eye for domesticity and familial relationships.' *Writing WA*

'Dunnell's prose paints vivid landscapes and crafts compelling characters that resonate deeply with readers. The story's emotional depth and poignant moments stay with you long after the final page.' *Better Reading (Juanita, NSW), 5 Stars*

APRIL



IF I SHOULD LOSE YOU

Natasha Lester

From the New York Times bestselling author of *The Three Lives of Alix St Pierre* and *What Is Left Over After* comes a story of resilience and compassion.

Camille is a caring nurse who guides families through the heart-wrenching decisions of organ donation. But her personal and professional worlds collide when her critically ill daughter takes a turn for the worse. As her marriage cracks under the pressure, and an unexpected invitation from her mother's ex-lover wrenches the past into the present, Camille is faced with impossible decisions and wonders how far she will go to save her child – and how much of herself she can give when she has everything to lose.

C, 23.4 x 15.3 cm • Trade Paper • Fiction • 304 pp

'It is a subtle and sensitive work that eloquently tackles loss, love and life.' *West Australian*

APRIL



THE PLAYERS

Deborah Pike

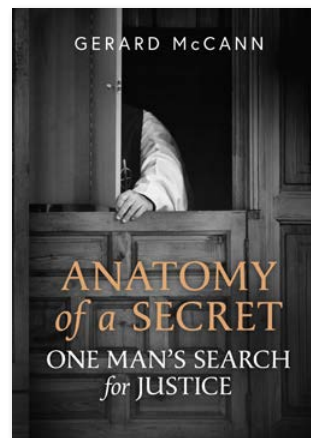
One hot summer, a group of university students gathers in an orchard to rehearse a play. Veronika is born for a life on the stage while Felix seizes his last chance for creative freedom. Sebastian woos Veronika, and Cassie longs for Sebastian. Josh and Gloria each carry a secret they are unable to share. Exploring the complexities of friendship, ambition, passion and rivalry, the enduring connections they form will bind the Players across years and continents, long after the final curtain falls.

C, 23.4 x 15.3 cm • Trade Paper • Fiction • 400 pp

'The Players merge and diverge, make and break one another, caring and careless, fearful and fearless, selfish and selfless. Meanwhile, as they stumble onwards, the mystery and pain of their pasts unfurl, keeping us engrossed to the very end ... A beautiful, ambitious and moving debut. I scoffed it.' *Tim Minchin*

[T]his unusually rich coming-of-age novel ... follows the cast into young adulthood with a Chekhovian sense of life's tragicomedy, and strikingly precise characterisation.' *Sydney Morning Herald*

MAY



ANATOMY OF A SECRET

Gerard McCann

Raw and compelling, this courageous memoir bravely shares long-silenced, unspoken truths. As a boy, Gerard was sexually abused by a Catholic priest at his local church. As a grown man, he confronts the trauma of the abuse he suffered and the psychological aftermath of the experience, grappling with shame, guilt and the devastating impact it had on his family, relationships and sense of self. Despite the pain he endured, Gerard's story is one of hope and healing, of acknowledging pain and seeking support, of honesty and justice.

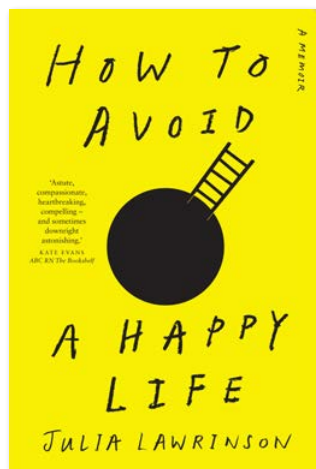
B+, 20.8 x 14 cm • Trade Paper • Memoir • 384 pp

'A profoundly important and moving testimony ... told with the kind of clear-eyed courage, wisdom and compassion that can only come from the deepest loss. This book will never leave me.' *Emily Bitto, author of Wild Abandon*

City of Fremantle Hungerford Award (2022, Shortlister)

PUBLISHING PROGRAM – NEW TITLES

MAY



HOW TO AVOID A HAPPY LIFE

Julia Lawrinson

Some people are born into bad situation, some people have bad situations thrust upon them, and some people find bad situations through their own dodgy choices, lack of information and personal idiosyncrasies. Julia's life sits at the intersection of all three. This hugely entertaining memoir uses disarming honesty to tell a gripping and wickedly funny story of courage, vulnerability, resilience and survival that draws on the power of storytelling as a way to escape tight corners, sticky situations and full-blown chaos.

C, 23.4 x 15.3 cm • Trade Paper • Memoir • 352 pp

'Astute, compassionate, heartbreaking, compelling – and sometimes downright astonishing.' *Kate Evans*

'Julia Lawrinson is that rarest of things: a true original voice. Such an inventively irreverent and fearlessly honest memoir!' *Howard Norman*

MAY



KELPIE CHAOS

Deb Fitzpatrick

Eli and Lexie's new puppy is Zoom by name and zoomy by nature! He's everywhere all at once, and super smart. But when Zoom disappears on a family bushwalk, they are worried sick and set out on a frantic search. As the sun goes down, the whole family is tested, both physically and emotionally. Will they be able to find Zoom? What mischief could a dog get up to in the bush?

B, 19.8 x 13 cm • Trade Paper • Junior Fiction • 112 pp

'Perfect for fans of the ABC's *Muster Dogs* and all families debating whether to adopt a puppy.' *CBCA*

'From introducing the dog to its new home, training the dog and setting boundaries, to the responsibilities of pet ownership, there's a lot packed into the story' *Kids Book Review*

'Even non-dog lovers will get a taste of the joy of loving and caring for a pet and the lengths to which owners will go to demonstrate their love. Readers aged 7-11 will enjoy this simple tale.' *ReadPlus*

MAY



INTO THE BLUE

Cristy Burne & Amanda Burnett

Blair and his cousin embark on an adventurous day out, but their excitement turns to panic when Blair loses his brother's cherished camera. So he tells a lie, but it quickly spirals out of control. Terrified to confess but wracked with guilt, Blair is left floundering in the deep.

B, 19.8 x 13 cm • Trade Paper • Junior Fiction • 112 pp

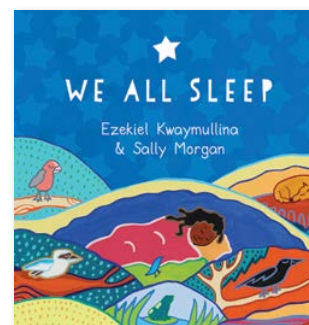
'Valuable lessons about responsibility, integrity and the importance of communication are woven realistically into the story without being didactic.' *CBCA*

'Who hasn't been in a similar circumstance where you see yourself damned if you do and damned if you don't? So many will relate to Blair's dilemma that they will want to read to the finish to see how it is resolved. What would they do if they were him?' *The Bottom Shelf*

'Burne combines a moral message with themes of adventure, and this is a fun way to open discussions on honesty and respecting others' belongings.' *Little Squirrel's Bookshelf*

'... a well-written chapter book that reveals the emotional upheaval of mistakes made without thought for the consequences.' *Kids Book Review*

JUNE



WE ALL SLEEP

Ezekiel Kwaymullina & Sally Morgan

Acclaimed mother-and-son-team Sally Morgan and Ezekiel Kwaymullina take readers on a journey through a day, celebrating the interconnectedness of people and animals in lyrical language and sumptuous colour.

19.5 x 19.1 cm • Hardcover Picture Book • Picture book • 32 pp

'...Takes readers from the "kookaburra calls" of the morning to the "dingo howls" of the evening until all creatures are asleep beneath the stars. The bold, geometric illustrations and will be a great introduction to Indigenous stories for the very young.' *Books+Publishing*

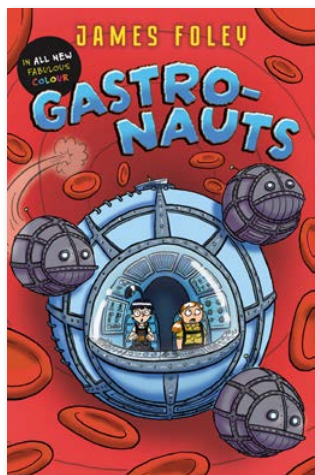
'The beautiful illustrations are diverse and evocative.' *West Australian*

'From the dynamism of the watery endpapers to the flight of the kookaburra, all [Sally's] images resonate with an acute vibrancy.' *Magpies*

'The illustrations vibrate on the page, opulent colours that bring to life country and its creatures.' *National Indigenous Times*

PUBLISHING PROGRAM – NEW TITLES

JUNE



GASTRONAUTS

James Foley

James Foley's much-loved graphic novel series for young readers is now in full colour!

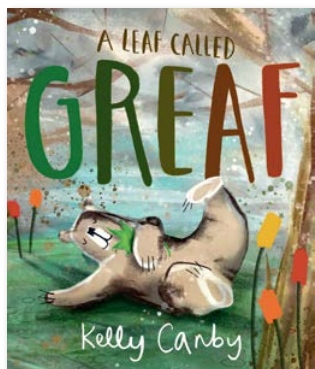
Sally Tinker – the world's foremost inventor under the age of twelve – has developed her greatest invention yet. But when Sally's baby brother Joe swallows it with disastrous gaseous consequences, Sally and her friend Charli must shrink themselves, venture into the very bowels of Joe, and shut down the invention before it's too late. What could possibly go wrong?

21 x 13.8 cm • Trade Paper • Graphic Novel • 192 pp

'... hilariously funny. Short in length, it will be devoured by newly independent and emerging readers ... Perfect for school and public libraries.' *Magpies*

'James Foley's unique characters, crazy situations and unusual adventures engage the young reader. His cartoons capture the grossness of the girl's journey and of course their special re-entry into the real world.' *ReadPlus*

JUNE



A LEAF CALLED GREAF

Kelly Canby

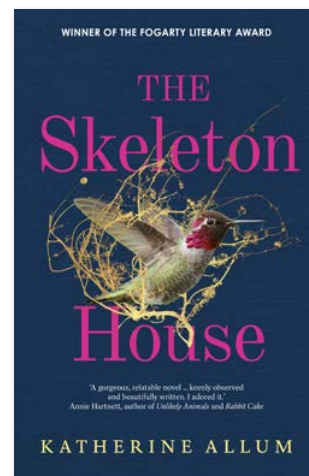
Bear is all alone until he finds the greenest, most beguiling leaf. A leaf he calls Greaf. Bear holds Greaf tight throughout the days and nights that follow. Bear can barely remember a time before Greaf. It is as if things have always been this way. But as Greaf changes, Bear feels a lightness that he had almost forgotten. Greaf has gone, but Bear will hold a special place for it in his heart forever.

Useful for adults looking to help young children address sorrow and loss, this gentle book teaches both young and old how to address the complex emotions of grief.

29 x 25 cm • Hardcover Picture Book • Picture book • 40 pp

'When my friend's father passed away, we couldn't find words to adequately convey our sympathy and love. Then I remembered this picture book and realised we actually had found the right words – they were in Canby's book.' *The Guardian*

JUNE



THE SKELETON HOUSE

Katherine Allum

Tumbleweeds, roadrunners, no stoplights: welcome to St Stephens, Nevada, the tiny desert town Meg has been trying to escape since her teens. As Meg's husband builds the perfect home for his young family, Meg finds herself facing a future she never wanted, with dreams that aren't her own. But when she puts her foot down on a third kid, gets a job, and is empowered by the same book group that was meant to keep her in her place, her marriage begins to disintegrate. This novel about resilience and courage embodies the fierceness of mother-love and the power that comes with never forgetting who you really are.

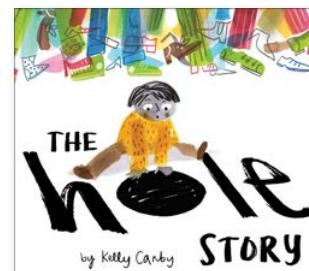
C, 23.4 x 15.3 cm • Trade Paper • Fiction • 320 pp

'... nuanced and raw.' *The Australian*

'... a brisk, well-turned novel about a woman's quest to seize belated agency over her fate.' *Sydney Morning Herald/Age*

Fogarty Literary Award Winner (2023)

JUNE



THE HOLE STORY

Kelly Canby

One day Charlie finds a hole. A hole of his very own! He picks it up and pops it in his pocket. But it doesn't take Charlie long to realise that a hole in your pocket is not a good thing to have ...

This humorous, read-aloud picture book – illustrated with stunning watercolour illustrations by award-winning author-illustrator Kelly Canby – invites inquisitive children of all ages into a world of wonder, laughter and imagination.

19.5 x 22.8 cm • Hardcover Picture Book • Picture book • 40 pp

'One of the joys of early childhood are those moments when you discover the remarkable in the everyday. The Hole Story turns on such uncanny moments.' *Junior Books+Publishing*

'This is a clever story beautifully illustrated. A book for young and old to read share and keep.' *Sunday Telegraph*

'Canby's illustrations have an energetic tactile sensibility with lots of appeal and here she has crafted a visually rich piece of storytelling.' *Readings.com*

PUBLISHING PROGRAM – NEW TITLES

JUNE



BENANG: FROM THE HEART

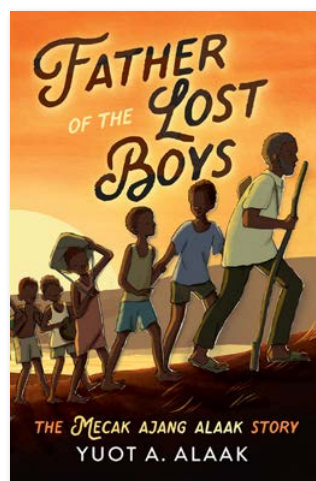
Kim Scott

Winner of the Miles Franklin Literary Award and the Western Australian Premier's Book Award, Kim Scott's epic novel sheds light on the ongoing struggle for cultural preservation and legacy. Raised in a culture of forced assimilation, young Nyoongar man Harley finds himself torn between his country's history, his family and his own identity. In a quest for belonging, Harley embarks on a profound journey to piece together the brutally interrupted history of his people. But with the dark legacy of colonial oppression represented in his own lineage, how can he reconcile the history of his people?

B+, 20.8 x 14 cm • Trade Paper • Fiction • 416 pp

'... a mature, complex, sweeping historical novel which will remind people of Rushdie, Carey and Grenville at their best ... an absolute page-turner, and in the end we are left with a sense of joy and gratitude that such stories are still possible – that the silence has been broken.' *Sydney Morning Herald*

JUNE



FATHER OF THE LOST BOYS FOR YOUNGER READERS

Yuot A. Alaak

Once, there was a man who rescued 20,000 boys from almost certain death. That man was my father. One of those boys was me. This is our story.

During the Second Sudanese Civil War, thousands of boys were displaced or orphaned. In 1989, Mecak Ajang Alaak led the Lost Boys on a four-year journey from Ethiopia to Kenya to protect them from becoming child soldiers. Abridged for younger readers, this is their extraordinary story.

B, 19.8 x 13 cm • Trade Paper • Middle reader • 160 pp

'This is one of the most remarkable stories you are ever likely to read. And yet, it is a story that is true of tens of thousands of other children and their families in a world riven by wars and hunger.' *CBCA*

'An educational resource that introduces young readers to important topics such as refugee experiences, cultural diversity, and global citizenship.' *Better Reading*

JUNE



AVAST!

Michael Earp & Alison Evans, eds.

Get ready to set sail with a crew of rebels and misfits in this thrilling anthology of pirate tales. These stories blur the lines between criminal and separatist, playful and heartfelt and showcase a range of unique characters and found families. Featuring seven long-form pieces of writing, including a graphic novella and a verse novella, this collection has been edited by and features trans and non-binary writers, ensuring a fresh and diverse perspective on the pirate genre.

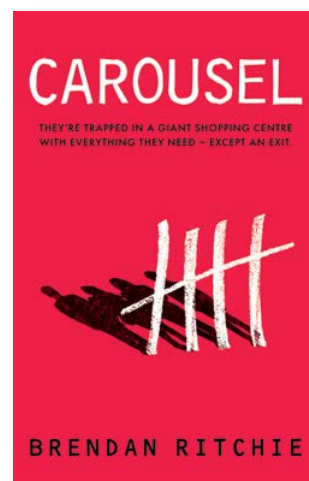
B+, 20.8 x 14 cm • Trade Paper • Anthology • 304 pp

'... vibrant, varied and diverse, a fascinating introduction to some of Australia's best transgender and queer writers. Each compelling take on the pirate theme keeps the reader turning pages, eager to explore new worlds.' *Magpies*

'Being able to read and see your identity through books and characters like these is essential for tamariki [children].' *Read NZ*

'... the first of its kind in the Australian YA space ... this is a diverse and artistic approach to storytelling.' *CBCA*

JULY



CAROUSEL

Brendan Ritchie

The debut YA novel from award-winning author Brendan Ritchie is an apocalyptic adventure full of action, suspense and survival.

Nox is an Arts graduate wondering what to do with his life. Taylor and Lizzy are famous indie musicians, and Rocky works the checkouts at Target. When they find themselves trapped in a giant shopping centre alone, unable to find out what has happened outside, they have everything they need, except a way out. As supplies and sanity run ever lower, will they work out what's happened to the world?

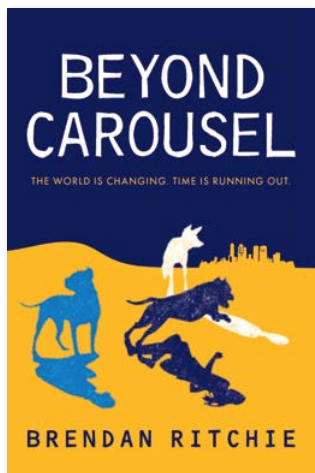
B, 19.8 x 13 cm • Trade Paper • YA fiction • 312 pp

'... re-released for the post-pandemic reader and poses some big questions about how we cope with social isolation, lockdown, change and adversity.' *CBCA*

'Ritchie writes with insight and casual elegance, managing to create a work that ... is rich and moving.' *Westerly Magazine*

PUBLISHING PROGRAM – NEW TITLES

JULY



BEYOND CAROUSEL

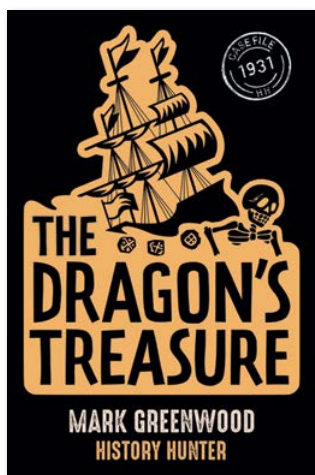
Brendan Ritchie

Nox, Taylor and Lizzy have just escaped a nightmare. After months of being trapped inside a shopping centre, they are finally free. Free to roam the streets of Perth and solve the mystery of what happened. But the city is not like it once was. Looters lurk in the empty streets and packs of dogs are never far behind. Saving those they love will mean risking everything – and time is running out. This is the thrilling sequel to the critically acclaimed YA novel, *Carousel*.

B, 19.8 x 13 cm • Trade Paper • YA fiction • 352 pp

'Ritchie's rich and thrilling conclusion satisfactorily answers some of the questions posed in the duology.' *Read Plus*

JULY



THE DRAGON'S TREASURE

Mark Greenwood

In 1931, four children on a remote beach make a remarkable discovery. But this is only one of many astonishing finds in the same area: silver coins, hidden chests, mysterious stones, strange objects and an unidentified skeleton. Why is it there? Where has it come from? Join the History Hunter to unravel this marvellous mystery.

B, 19.8 x 13 cm • Trade Paper • Middle reader • 112 pp

'A docudrama-style story with a trove of tantalising tidbits and facts. An enticing [series] for young readers interested in mysteries and history.' *Claire Atherfold, Readings bookseller*

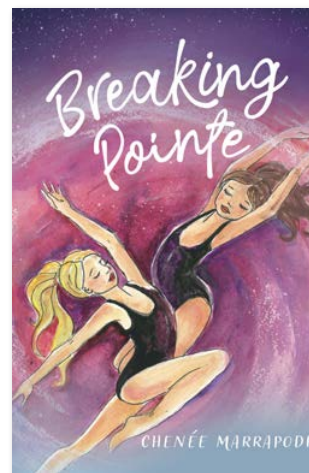
'These history mysteries are well-written, meticulously researched accounts of events that have, as yet, no officially accepted explanation.' *Magpies*

'... worthy reading for potential historians.' *StoryLinks*

'This a new series is going to capture the imagination and perhaps inspire more history hunters like him.' *The Bottom Shelf*

'... an engaging read that will appeal to younger readers who enjoy learning about the past.' *ReadPlus*

JULY



BREAKING POINTE

Chenée Marrapodi

Amelia loves ballet, but when the arrival of an intense new teacher shifts the Academy focus from classical to contemporary dance, Amelia's out of her depth. And she's already trying to cope with a health issue that might bring her life crashing down.

Valentina is completely at home with the new style, but has troubles off the dance floor. As she strives to secure a scholarship, money problems and an unexpected romance have her in a complete spin.

With so much at breaking point, the girls need to decide what really matters before everything falls apart.

B, 19.8 x 13 cm • Trade Paper • Middle reader • 288 pp

'... an uplifting story about family and culture, friendship and connection, teamwork and belonging while initiating much-needed conversations about topics such as financial hardship and chronic illness ... A delightful yet thought-provoking novel for middle-grade and young teen readers.' *Writing WA*

JULY



THE VANISHING

Mark Greenwood

In 1978, a young pilot vanishes during a routine flight over a notorious stretch of water. His radio transmission to airport control is one of the most bizarre ever recorded. What did Frederick Valentich encounter? Where did he disappear to? Join the History Hunter to explore this extraordinary story.

B, 19.8 x 13 cm • Trade Paper • Middle reader • 112 pp

'This is an intriguing story made all the more so because not only is it true, but it is also recent and there will be many parents who remember the publicity surrounding the disappearance.'

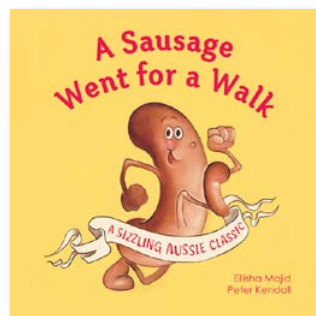
Barbara Braxton, The Bottom Shelf

'... a highly engaging read which may provide an opportunity for intense discussion surrounding the possibility of UFOs as well as Government secrets.' *ReadPlus*

'If this entertaining and well-composed book stimulates a wider interest in history and in pursuing research about the past, then it will have met its aims.' *Reading Time*

PUBLISHING PROGRAM – NEW TITLES

JULY



A SAUSAGE WENT FOR A WALK

Elisha Majid & Peter Kendall

A sausage went out for a walk one day.

'I'll be eaten for breakfast if I stay.'

Want to butter up your young reader? More than 50,000 children have egged on Sausage as he scrambled away from the breakfast table. Find out why Sausage is so full of beans after 30 years spent avoiding poachers and cereal killers who'd like to get him into hot water. This sizzling Aussie classic is now celebrating 35 years in print!

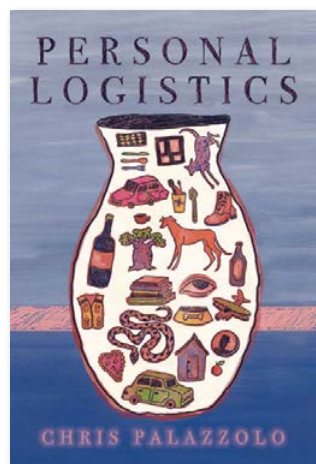
19.5 x 19.1 cm • Hardcover Picture Book • Picture book • 32 pp

'... Kendall has captured the mischievous spirit of the escaping breakfast and given the food chutzpah.' *West Australian*

'Vividly illustrated in comic form by Peter Kendall bringing each food item to life. It is a humorous classic, picture storybook reprinted for a new generation of children to enjoy.'

Little Squirrel's Bookshelf

JULY



PERSONAL LOGISTICS

Chris Palazzolo

From a poet who lives and works in the East Kimberley, this collection focuses on the many shapes of masculinity, and what it is to be an inconsequential human in a massive landscape. Palazzolo's poems consider the vastness of the landscape, the importance of water in an arid place (both rain and hydroelectricity) and of life working in the mines.

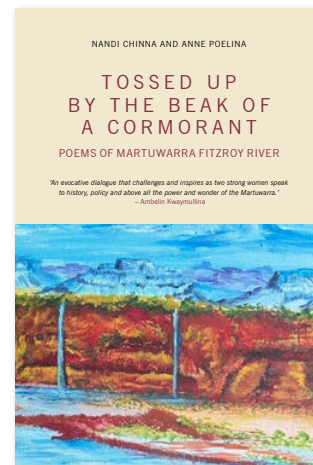
B+, 20.8 x 14 cm • Trade Paper • Poetry • 80 pp

'Palazzolo's musings on the everyday zoom in and out of the political, the cultural, the historical, the sensual and more, effortlessly dancing in the intersection between the mundane and the profound – which are really sides of the same coin.'

Writing WA

'[A book] for poetry readers who are interested in landscapes and portraits of places, perhaps fans of Peter Skrzynecki and Les Murray.' *Books+Publishing*

JULY



TOSSED UP BY THE BEAK OF A CORMORANT

Nandi Chinna & Anne Poelina

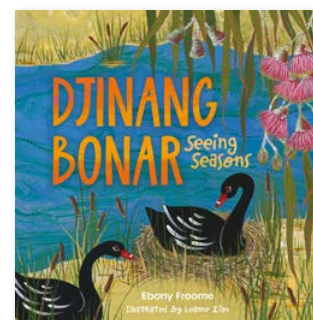
The Kimberley's Martuwarra Fitzroy River is the largest Aboriginal cultural heritage site in Australia, and one of our planet's last great unregulated river systems. It is a Living Ancestor to be nurtured and cherished, but Martuwarra is under threat.

Punctuated by three poems from Wagaba Nyikina Warrwa Elder and Guardian of Martuwarra, Anne Poelina, this collection explores meaningful and respectful responses to place through immersion. Together, they explore the beauty and complexity of the Kimberley region and the importance of a connection to land.

B+, 20.8 x 14 cm • Trade Paper • Poetry • 112 pp

'Urgent poetic conversations with Poelina and Chinna offering insights into this River of life's journey from past to present.' *Charmaine Papertalk Green*

AUGUST



DJINANG BONAR: SEEING SEASONS

Ebony Froome & Leanne Zilm

Taking young readers through the six seasons of the Noongar calendar, the book explores different seasonal indicators to increase readers' awareness of the environment around them and their knowledge of Noongar language. Noongar country is portrayed in spectacular detail with gorgeous illustrations of the plants and animals typically seen in each season of the year.

23.5 x 23.5 cm • Hardcover Picture Book • Picture book • 32 pp

'This stunning nature story beautifully portrays Noongar seasons and champions Noongar language. Suitable for ages 5-7, it is a poetic read-aloud that would also work well in an educational setting.' *Books+Publishing*

'This is a wonderful picture book for everyone to share, and provides insights into the six Noongar seasons.' *ReadPlus*

'The exquisite, full-colour illustrations inspired by the natural environment of Western Australia are like beautiful paintings, and are sure to capture every child's imagination. 5/5'

Little Squirrel's Bookshelf

PUBLISHING PROGRAM – NEW TITLES

AUGUST



QUOKKA FINDS A FRIEND

Katie Stewart

When Quokka meets Seal, he wants to be friends. Quokka thinks that making Seal smile would be a great way to start. But, despite his best efforts, Seal doesn't smile. Can they be friends after all?

This gentle and wise story from bestselling children's picture book author Katie Stewart is perfect to read aloud with young children.

23.5 x 23.5 cm • Hardcover Picture Book • Picture book • 40 pp

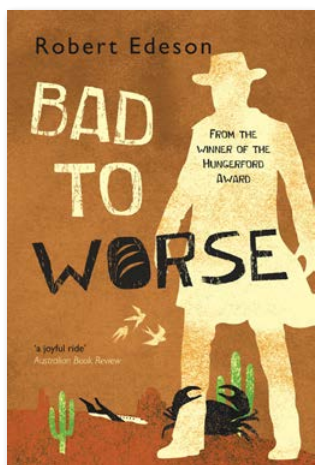
'This book is funny but ends with heart. Quokka certainly gets a smile from the reader, especially with the bold and colourful illustrations that Katie Stewart is known for.' *Good Reading*

'This latest picture book ... features well known Australian animals and uses her stories about animals to teach children the value of understanding each other's differences.' *ReadPlus*

'The lifelike illustrations, particularly the expressions on both Quokka's and Seal's faces, set against a stunning backdrop are a stunning addition to a story with a serious message set in a humorous situation.' *The Bottom Shelf*

'A great read-aloud book for children of all ages with a simple message of understanding each other and building friendships.' *lc3*

AUGUST



BAD TO WORSE

Robert Edeson

In 1877 in Dante, Arizona, two outlaws from the Mortiss family demand a loaf of bread from Tom Worse, the town baker. What they get instead is a bullet to the head.

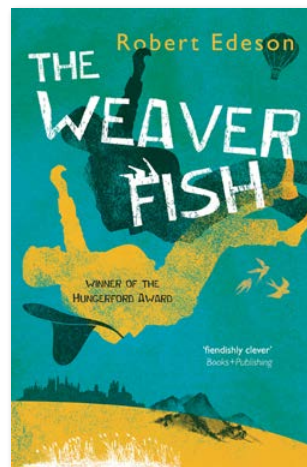
A century later, intelligence analyst Richard Worse is presented with two seemingly unrelated mysteries: a baffling plane crash near Dante, and a strange discovery in a cave across the ocean. As Worse investigates the desert crash, a vendetta against his family reignites – and activity deep in the cave presents its own chilling danger.

Can Worse survive long enough to solve the case and eliminate the threat to his family line?

B+, 20.8 x 14 cm • Trade Paper • Crime • 312 pp

'... intelligently crafted ... provides readers with an intellectual workout, and deserves to be savoured.' *West Australian*

AUGUST



THE WEAVER FISH

Robert Edeson

This Hungerford Award-winning novel is like no other. When linguist Edvard Tøssentern vanishes into thin air in pursuit of an obsession, his companion Anna Camenes flies to the Ferendes to look for him. There, Edvard's colleagues are increasingly disturbed by nefarious activities taking place around their research station. When a second man goes missing, intelligence analyst Richard Worse joins the investigation. Richard and Anna will face cold-hearted villainy – and mysteries more baffling than the mind can conjure.

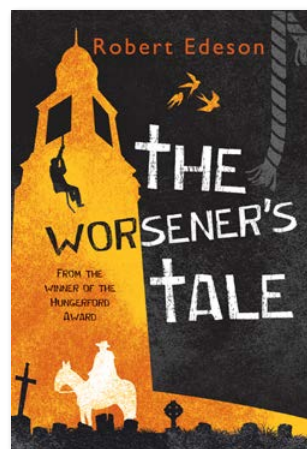
B+, 20.8 x 14 cm • Trade paper • Crime • 272 pp

'... fiendishly clever ... a novel unlike anything you've read before.' *Books+Publishing*

'That Edeson can balance action clichés with gorgeous scientific asides is proof of his unique gifts. [This novel] is not merely ambitious but unclassifiable.' *Australian Book Review*

'... this is a book of a thousand red herrings all of which eventually connect with congenial characters, a good serve of suspense and a dash of romance thrown in. More please.' *Adelaide Advertiser*

AUGUST



THE WORSENER'S TALE

Robert Edeson

One evening in 1369, a group of pilgrims gathers in the village of Stepel Raest. There, a Knight Worsener tells an unsettling tale. The next day, the pilgrims discover an unspeakable evil has occurred in the church of St Eke's. Six-and-a-half centuries later, intelligence analyst Richard Worse accompanies his partner Emily Misgivingston to investigate an attack on her father, and a fresh murder in the parish of St Eke's. As Worse is caught in a series of escalating dangers, he lays bare a secret that will strike at the heart of his own family.

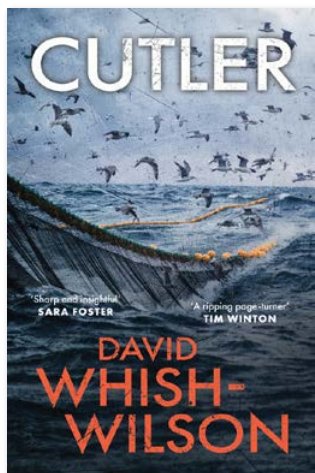
B+, 20.8 x 14 cm • Trade Paper • Crime • 336 pp

'A book for intelligent, urbane readers with a sense of humour.' *Good Reading Magazine*

'The array of scientific discussions and references are beautifully accompanied by a healthy dose of poetry and philosophy ... sometimes sarcastic, sometimes dark, but always intelligent.' *Underground Writers*

PUBLISHING PROGRAM – NEW TITLES

SEPTEMBER



CUTLER

David Whish-Wilson

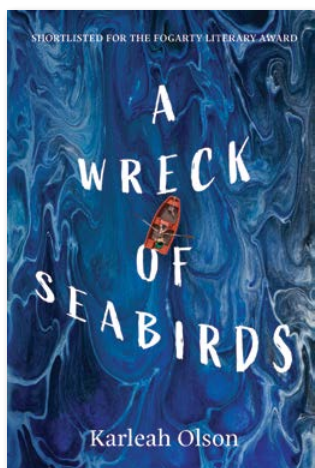
When undercover investigator Paul Cutler boards a Taiwanese deep-sea fishing vessel to investigate the disappearance of Australian marine scientist, his plan is to befriend the crew and learn the truth. But Cutler's attempts to bond with the men take him ever closer to being caught in a net that entangles them all as he realises that the apparent murder he's investigating points to a slew of much darker crimes.

Based on real events, and years of research, this crime novel shines a light on the criminogenic nature of the distant-water fishing industry, and the human and environmental cost of its operations.

C, 23.4 x 15.3 cm • Trade Paper • Crime • 304 pp

'A ripping page-turner about shameful secrets just across the horizon – the subsidised rape of our oceans and the enslavement of the mariners who labour in the ravenous maw of industrial fishing.' *Tim Winton*

SEPTEMBER



A WRECK OF SEABIRDS

Karleah Olson

Each grappling with grief and loss, Briony and Ren are brought together in their hometown, where Ren has returned to care for his dying father and Briony remains hopeful of finding her missing sister, Sarah. Meanwhile, Sarah and her best friend Aria are hopelessly trapped on a remote island off the coast, and nobody has a clue where they have gone. Delving into themes of loss, isolation and entrapment, this tightly written, atmospheric novel captures the natural environment and explores the depths of human emotion.

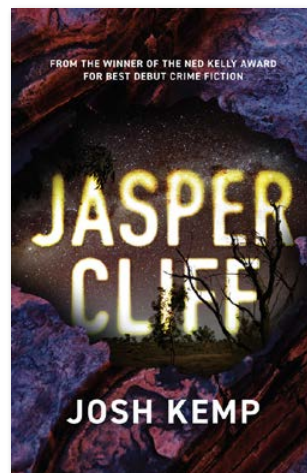
C, 23.4 x 15.3 cm • Trade Paper • Fiction • 320 pp

'An engrossing story brilliantly told.' *Sisters in Crime Australia*
'Filled with moments of hope, healing, and the powerful reminder that change can start with the smallest act of kindness.' *Beauty and Lace*

'This tightly written, atmospheric novel captures the depths of human emotion.' *Judges' report, The Fogarty Literary Award*



SEPTEMBER



JASPER CLIFF

Josh Kemp

When Toby Bowman vanishes, his brother Lachlan retraces a road trip to the last place Toby phoned from – a remote northern town called Jasper Cliff. There, Lachlan finds himself marooned at the dying town's pub, and soon learns that his brother is just one of many to have gone missing in recent years. Like Toby, Lachlan becomes obsessed with finding the Rift, a deep hole in a ravine somewhere in the hills. This gothic thriller reveals the scars of a colonial legacy in a landscape where survival is a formidable challenge, and the line between life and death becomes desperately thin.

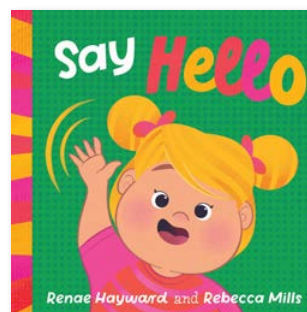
C, 23.4 x 15.3 cm • Trade Paper • Crime • 240 pp

'... plenty of suspense and several gripping moments, all of which add up to a thrilling ending.' *Books+Publishing*

'*Jasper Cliff* works overt horror elements into its psychological suspense, with mysticism and historical violence and eldritch fantasy lurking in the distance. It'll suck you in like a desert mirage.' *Sydney Morning Herald*



SEPTEMBER



SAY HELLO

Renae Hayward & Rebecca Mills

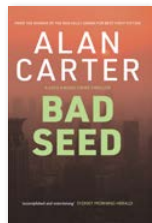
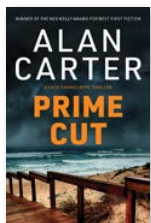
This fun, bold, read-aloud book is designed to captivate children from a young age. Research shows that the more senses you engage while reading to bubs positively impacts the development of their language and comprehension skills. That's why it can be read and sung and has simple, high-contrast illustrations. This interactive book is the second book in the 'Say' series.

19 x 19 cm • Board Book • Board Book • 13 pp

'... the perfect book for read-aloud fun.' *Little Squirrel's Bookshelf*
'This book is a little goldmine of interactive fun for babies and their carers, sparking lots of conversation and activity.' *Storylinks*
'A wonderful book to develop language and comprehension skills.' *lc3*

PUBLISHING PROGRAM – NEW TITLES

OCTOBER



THE CATO KWONG CRIME SERIES (*PRIME CUT, GETTING WARMER, BAD SEED, HEAVEN SENT*)

Alan Carter

Alan Carter's popular crime series, features Detective Sergeant Philip 'Cato' Kwong – a disgraced cop and ex-poster boy for the police force, solving murders across Western Australia and abroad.

C, 23.4 x 15.3 cm • Trade Paper • Crime • 320–352 pp

'*Bad Seed* is hard to beat.' *Weekend Australian*

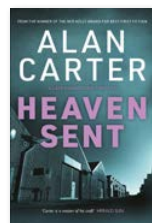
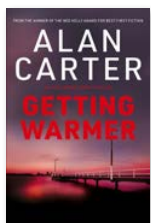
'... accomplished and entertaining.' *Sydney Morning Herald*

'I was gripped from beginning to end.' *Beattie's Book Blog*

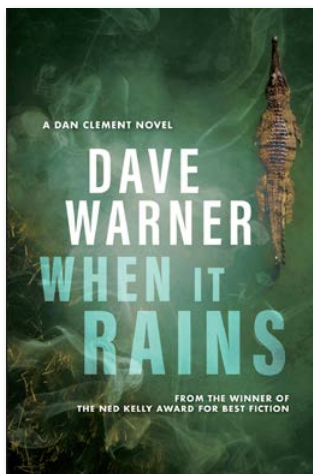
'Carter deftly maintains the suspense throughout.'

Farm Weekly Review

'Alan Carter's Cato Kwong books just get better and better: police procedurals written with tremendous verve, humour and heart, and a wonderful sense of place.' *Adelaide Advertiser*



OCTOBER



WHEN IT RAINS

Dave Warner

For Broome detective Dan Clement crime is as plentiful as wet season rain. When his sergeant is beaten up and a woman is brutally assaulted, it seems like the same two suspects are behind both incidents. But when a woman's hand is discovered in crocodile-infested waters, things take a macabre turn. Is there a hit list – and whose names are on it? The stakes rise sky-high as Dan races against time to solve this complex and puzzling case.

C, 23.4 x 15.3 cm • Trade Paper • Crime • 256 pp

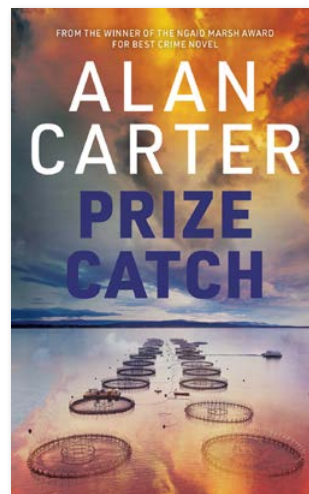
'A wonderfully satisfying example of Australian crime fiction.' *Sandy's Book a Day Blog*

'Gritty with well-realised characters and a taut plot, this is an outstanding crime novel.' *Canberra Weekly*

'The story is fast-paced and intriguing ... Aussie noir at its best.' *Better Reading*

'This is crime fiction with the additional battle against the natural elements. Well worth reading.' *Good Reading*

OCTOBER



PRIZE CATCH

Alan Carter

When Ros Chen's wife, Niamh, is killed in a hit-and-run on a lonely Tasmanian road, the grieving widow begins to wonder if her death was an accident after all. Meanwhile, SAS veteran Sam Willard is hoping for a fresh start with a job at a salmon farm. But as allegations of old war crimes surface and Sam is 'promoted' as a special operative against anti-salmon farm activists, he and Ros form an unlikely alliance.

Forced to retreat into the unforgiving Tasmanian wilderness, Ros and Sam are scrambling for the truth with murderous thugs on their trail.

C, 23.4 x 15.3 cm • Trade Paper • Crime • 312 pp

'... a page-turning thrill ride set on Australia's Emerald Isle.' *Books+Publishing*

'... a very tense read. Carter's characters feel real, their choices on the spur of the moment are felt and regretted and their need to go on unstoppable.' *Good Reading*

OCTOBER



HOUSE

Dan Giovannoni & Charlotte Lane

Once, there was a lonely little house, all by itself, without anyone to open its front door. The lonely little house had a feeling, growing, somewhere deep down inside. A lonely, stormy kind of feeling. And so, the lonely little house went in search of a friend...

23.5 x 29.5 cm • Hardcover Picture Book • Picture book • 40 pp

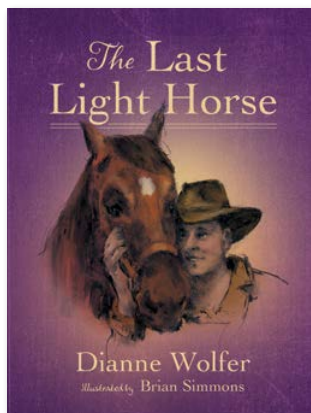
'It is absolutely stupendous, and hopefully will be the CBCA Picture Book of the Year in 2025, and maybe an IBBY Australia Honour Book for 2026. The lyrics are stunning, the illustrations so fabulous, appropriate and relevant, and the whole layout is magnificent. Your links with the theatre world are so productive and inspiring, and ... I doubt that I'll ever be able to part from *House* – it speaks to my heart.' *Jenni Woodroffe, IBBY Australia Life Member*

'This book teaches us that we all have lonely, dark stormy feelings. Sometimes these stormy feelings can feel big. But it is okay as they will pass.' *Good Reading*

'This story has nuanced layers that readers could pause on to ponder more deeply.' *Reading Time*

PUBLISHING PROGRAM – NEW TITLES

OCTOBER



THE LAST LIGHT HORSE

Dianne Wolfer & Brian Simmonds

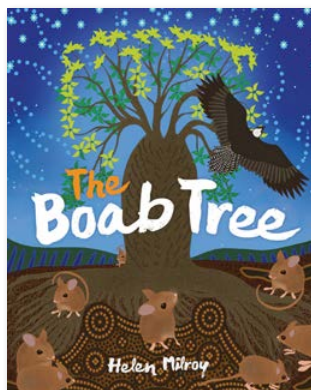
There were 136,000 Australian horses sent to fight during WWI. Just one came home. From the high country of Victoria to the desert sands of Egypt, from the waters off Gallipoli to the battlefields of France, this is the extraordinary story of Sandy, the only returning warhorse.

Stunning charcoal illustrations complement this Australian war story about resilience and heroism, making it an unmissable Australian classic that brings the Anzac spirit to life.

22 x 17 cm • Hardcover • Historical Fiction • 80 pp

'... an excellent book to bring into the classroom and is sure to provoke some intriguing class discussion.' *Better Reading*
'...does a brilliant job in evoking strong emotions from the reader using many different mediums ... This book will be a fantastic addition to libraries everywhere and especially to school libraries when the curriculum looks into the First World War.' *StoryLinks*

OCTOBER



THE BOAB TREE

Helen Milroy

Little Boab is lost and far from home. But the friendship of some small forest dwellers gives him hope. With a little luck, some clever planning and the help of his new friends, Boab might just find his way back to country.

23.7 x 19 cm • Hardcover Picture Book • Picture book • 40 pp

'Young readers will love poring over the paintings, finding the things mentioned in the story, sharing the tale and what it tells them of the boab tree and its place in the environment.' *Read Plus*
'With strong, vibrant illustrations, this is one that needs to be promoted, particularly to those for whom this period of history is in their curriculum.' *The Bottom Shelf*
'Rich browns and blues dominate here in Milroy's signature artwork, which is one of the strengths of this ultimately hopeful story.' *StoryLinks*

OCTOBER



THE SECRET OF THE STONE

Kathryn Lefroy

When Olive and her friends find a mysterious stone that grants wishes, they think their lives are made. Sure, they're going to save the world and all that stuff, but there are fun things they want to do first.

Then they realise other people are looking for the stone. People who will stop at nothing to get it. As the stakes become more dangerous, secrets are kept, loyalties are questioned, and promises are broken. How much are Olive and her friends willing to risk to make all their dreams come true?

B, 19.8 x 13 cm • Trade Paper • Middle reader • 296 pp

'... explores thought provoking themes, ethical dilemmas and issues of trust around secret keeping. This makes the book a good choice for a Y5-7 class study and the publisher has provided useful teaching notes.' *Reading Time*
'... an enjoyable and accessible story for readers aged from late primary years through the middle years.' *Read Plus*

OCTOBER



HOW TO DO IT IN THE GARDEN

Sabrina Hahn

With over three decades of horticulture and garden design expertise, Sabrina knows how to get Australians 'doing it' in the garden when it comes to creating and maintaining your green space. From getting down and dirty prepping your soil to doing it organically with edibles (nuts, herbs, fruits and veg) to corralling the suckers and chowers in your life (bugs and other pests, of course), you'll discover how seductive nature can be.

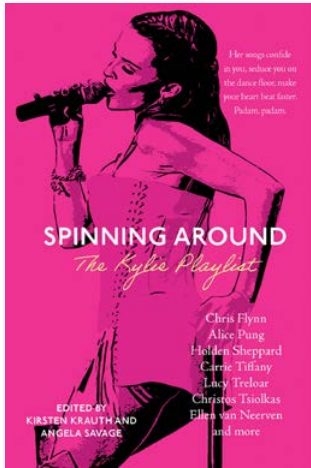
Focusing on sustainability, biodiversity and managing the effects of climate change, Sabrina's endless inspiration, practical problem-solving and cheeky humour will entice you to get things growin'.

240 x 210 mm • Flexibound • Non-fiction • 224 pp

'... accessible and undaunting for even the most novice gardener.' *Sanctuary*

PUBLISHING PROGRAM – NEW TITLES

NOVEMBER



SPINNING AROUND: THE KYLIE PLAYLIST

Kirsten Krauth & Angela Savage, eds.

Australian icon Kylie Minogue is the musical muse for this sparkling new anthology. Some of Australia's best writers (including Alice Pung, Lucy Treloar and Christos Tsiolkas) have responded with stories and poems to their favourite Kylie song, drawing inspiration from the full extent of her songbook. Covering the genres of crime, memoir, speculative fiction, poetry and science fiction, you'll be taken from the sweet pop days of 'I Should Be So Lucky' through to her latest dancefloor anthem 'Padam Padam'.

C, 23.4 x 15.3 cm • Trade Paper • Anthology • 320 pp

'Created and edited by Kirsten Krauth and Angela Savage, the book serves as a follow-up to *Minds Went Walking: Paul Kelly's Songs Reimagined* and *Into Your Arms: Nick Cave's Songs Reimagined*, and it is equally as captivating. Each story carries the reader into different worlds and times as they are offered these brief moments in the lives of their characters before being whisked off to the next.' *Star Observer*

'It's the perfect kind of book to pick up over breakfast each morning and read a tale over cornflakes, or dive into late at night.' *Out in Perth*

'The book's diverse writing styles, strong character development and thoughtful exploration of themes make it a standout collection.' *Newtown Review of Books*



Right: Fogarty Literary Award shortlisters Josh Kemp (*Jasper Cliff*) and Karleah Olson (*A Wreck of Seabirds*) sign copies of their books at Planet Books in Mount Lawley.

PUBLISHING PROGRAM – REPRINTED AND REISSUED TITLES

ADULT FICTION

The Skeleton House
Into Your Arms
Minds Went Walking
Nora Heysen

Katherine Allum
 Kirsten Krauth
 Mark Smith, Neil A. White and Jock Serong
 Anne-Louise Willoughby

POETRY

Beautiful Waste

David McComb

CHILDREN'S AND YA FICTION

Sister Heart
Courage Be My Friend
Wongutha Tales
Cyclones and Shadows

Sally Morgan
 Jenny Davis
 May L. O'Brien
 Pat Dudgeon; Laura Dugeon;
 Sabrina Dudgeon; Darlene Oxenham
 Rafeif Ismail and Ellen van Neerven
 Deb Fitzpatrick
 Deb Fitzpatrick
 Deb Fitzpatrick
 Deb Fitzpatrick

Unlimited Futures
Kelpie Chaos
The Amazing Spencer Gray
The Spectacular Spencer Gray
90 Packets of Instant Noodles

Eagle, Crow and Emu
The Secret of the Stone
Dropping In
Carousel
Beyond Carousel
The Smuggler's Curse
Jack's Island
Right Way Down
I Am the Mau
Meet Me at the Intersection

Gladys Milroy; Jill Milroy
 Kathryn Lefroy
 Geoff Havel
 Brendan Ritchie
 Brendan Ritchie
 Norman Jorgensen
 Norman Jorgensen
 Rebecca M. Newman & Sally Murphy
 Chemutai Glasheen
 Rebecca Lim & Ambelin Kwaymullina (eds)

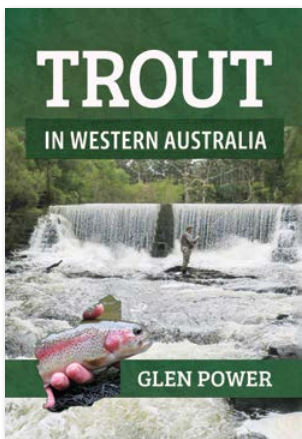
CHILDREN'S PICTURE BOOKS

Nedingar
Timeless
How Frogmouth Found Her Home
House
Stellarphant
Noongar Boodja Waangkan
Quokka Finds a Friend

Isobel Bevis; Leanne Zilm
 Kelly Canby
 Ambelin Kwaymullina
 Dan Giovannoni; Charlotte Lane
 James Foley
 Jayden Boundry; Tyrown Waigana
 Katie Stewart



CONSULTANCY WORK



TROUT IN WESTERN AUSTRALIA

Client: Glen Power

Size and format: Hardback with jacket (qty: 1,000) and leatherbound with case (qty: 150), 270 x 185 mm, 480 pp

As an avid fisherman, client Glen Power was interested in creating a compendium regarding the history of trout fishing in WA, exploring the history of the state's freshwater fishery over the past 150 years. From forested rivers and streams to lakes and farm dams, this meticulously researched book covers every region of the south-west of WA. Glen has reported to us that he's had keen interest in the book, with a number of copies sold to individuals and local bookstores through hand selling, as well as healthy online sales, and may be looking to do a reprint in 2025 or 2026.

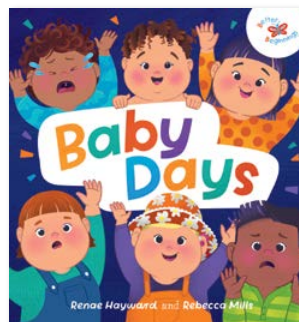


DAMPIER TO BUNBURY NATURAL GAS PIPELINE: THE FIRST 40 YEARS

Client: Australian Gas Infrastructure Group (AGIG)

Size and format: Hardback with jacket (qty: 300), 230 x 280 mm, 208 pp

AGIG approached us to produce a book to celebrate the 40th anniversary of the Dampier to Bunbury Natural Gas Pipeline, the single biggest piece of infrastructure in WA and one of the most important in Australia. With approximately 300 images, the book was provided as a commemorative gift to attendees of the company's anniversary gala dinner, marking the thousands of people who have worked on the pipeline over its 40-year history. Notably, this book was produced with a significantly compressed timeline while retaining the high-quality standard of all our consultancy titles.



BABY DAYS

Client: State Library of Western Australia (SLWA) - Better Beginnings

Size and format: Board book (qty: 32,000), 150 x 150 mm, 10 pp

Better Beginnings (through SLWA) is a Western Australian early literacy program that connects families with books through free reading packs. Their goal is to improve literacy and learning outcomes for all Western Australian children by encouraging families to read, talk, sing, write and play with their child every day. The program targets families with children aged 0-5 years and supports their early literacy by providing free reading packs at certain touchpoints in those early years (baby, toddler and kindy).

Drawing on illustrations from the popular 'Say' Series created by Renae Hayward and Rebecca Mills (*Say Hooray*, *Say Hello* and *Say Goodnight*), this brightly coloured board book was created with the following requested elements: text-free, contains a storytelling element, is culturally diverse in representation but Australian in focus, an engaging tool for parents or caregivers for whom English is not a primary language, and West Australian created.



BABY WAYS (BUGGY BOOK)

Client: State Library of Western Australia (SLWA) - Better Beginnings

Size and format: Board book (qty: 32,000), 90 x 90 mm, includes mirror on inside back cover and attached fabric strap with flexible plastic ring, 8 pp

An integral part of the Baby Reading Pack from Better Beginnings (through SLWA) has been *Baby Ways*. First published in 2006, this photographic board book features a double page spread showcasing a full body shot of a baby engaged in an activity, together with a close-up of the baby's face.

CONSULTANCY WORK

OUT WEST

Client: Colin Barnett

Size and format: approx. 65,000 words

In his political retirement, former Premier of Western Australia Colin Barnett has written a memoir of his time in politics in WA, reflections on his accomplishments and challenges, and his musings on the unique characteristics of business and politics in Western Australia .

The client only requested editorial services, with the possibility of continuing with design and printing in the future.



SPARKY AND THE ZAPPY TAP

Client: Western Power

Size and format: Picture book (ebook and print files only), 295 x 215 mm, 32 pp.

Following the success of our 2021 collaboration with Western Power (*Sparky and the Electric Pillar*), they contracted us to produce a second picture book. *Sparky and the Zappy Tap* educates young readers about the dangers of electric shocks from water outlets and how to avoid them.



THE GET AROUND

Client: Brightwater

Size and format: picture book (ebook and print files only), 203 x 203 mm, 32 pp

With the client providing the text and designed artwork, we assisted them with prepress and print-on-demand (POD) creation, and distribution. This is a wonderful picture book for families learning to adapt when a loved one has an acquired brain injury. Taylor and Dad's favourite thing is to go adventuring – they love camping, exploring and hiking. Then Dad has an accident, and everything changes. Are there ways to get around the many changes and do the things they love again?



THE AMAZING BRAIN ACTIVITY BOOK

Client: Brightwater

Size and format: picture book (ebook and print files only), 203 x 203 mm, 32 pp

With the client providing the text and designed artwork, we assisted them with prepress and print-on-demand (POD) creation, and distribution. This is an activity book for a young scientist who loves someone with a brain injury. It was created by Brightwater Care Group to help people understand what is going on when a loved one is dealing with or recovering from a brain injury.



JORDAN'S MUM

Client: Brightwater

Size and format: picture book (ebook and print files only), 197 x 129 mm, 80 pp

With the client providing the text and designed artwork, we assisted them with prepress and print-on-demand (POD) creation, and distribution. This book tells the story of Jordan, who is busy getting on with the important things in life – school, soccer and mates – all supported by Mum. But little by little, Jordan notices things changing. Mum's hairdressing customers turn up at the wrong time. Then Mum gets lost at the supermarket. As Mum forgets more and more, Jordan has to figure out what is going on and how to help.



GROUND CONTROL

Client: Brightwater

Size and format: picture book (ebook and print files only), 197 x 129 mm, 80 pp

With the client providing the text and designed artwork, we assisted them with prepress and print-on-demand (POD) creation, and distribution. In *Ground Control*, Riley loves science, and rockets in particular. Mum and Dad are his ground control crew, and giving him a helping hand when he needs it. Then Mum has a serious car accident and Riley learns that she has a brain injury. As Mum, Dad and Riley get used to all the changes that brain injury brings into their lives, Riley wonders if anyone even cares about what he wants anymore?

RIGHTS AND PERMISSIONS

FOREIGN AND TRANSLATION RIGHTS

Fremantle Press was shortlisted for Bologna Prize for the Best Children's Publisher of the Year in the Oceania Region. The prize celebrates publishing innovation and creative editorial curation for books published in the previous year. *I Am the Mau* by Chemutai Glasheen featured on the International Youth Library's White Ravens list, which meant it was exhibited at the Bologna Book Fair. Fremantle Press attended Frankfurt Bookfair with the support of Creative Australia and the Australian Publishers Association.

The North American edition of Kelly Canby's picture book *The Hole Story* was named a Teacher Favorite in the 2024 North American Children's Book Council Awards and published in the USA by Starlight Books. Published by Graphix/Scholastic in the USA, *Stars in Their Eyes* by Jessica Walton and Aśka continues to gain fans there. The American Library Association's Rainbow Round Table and Young Adult Library Services Association put it on the Great Graphic Novels for Teens list for ages 12 to 18. The list represents books that have proven or potential appeal to the reading tastes of teens, and each is highlighted on the Association's Teen Book Finder app.

As part of her master's dissertation, Alessia Carbonaro met with author Molly Schmidt and translated some of *Salt River Road* into Italian. *Benang: From the Heart* by Kim Scott became an audio book for the first time since it won the Miles Franklin Award 25 years ago. Wavesound captured the essence

of this epic novel authentically and beautifully. Our reach into the audio book market continued steadily with 26 deals signed.

Locally, key partnerships saw Fremantle Press titles heading into new formats and new regions. After winning the Children's Book Council of Australia (CBCA) Book of the Year, a stage-play version of Kelly Canby's *Timeless* toured Queensland, NSW, ACT, Victoria and Tasmania with Meerkat Productions. The Perth Symphony Orchestra did a musical adaptation of Albert Facey's classic *A Fortunate Life*, and Theatre 180 continued to undertake regional tours featuring Fremantle Press books.



Above: *House* was a Barking Gecko stage play and *A Fortunate life* was staged by Theatre 180.

AUDIO RIGHTS

Salt River Road by Molly Schmidt

If I Should Lose You
by Natasha Lester

What is Left Over After
by Natasha Lester

Jasper Cliff by Josh Kemp

Map of William by Michael Thomas

Benang: From the Heart by Kim Scott

When It Rains by Dave Warner

Prize Catch by Alan Carter

Vertigo by Karen Herbert

Death Holds the Key
by Alexander Thorpe

Cutler
by David Wish-Wilson

CHILDREN'S AUDIO/DIGITAL

Owl and Star by Helen Milroy
(Storybox Library)

Digital audio deal with local WA start-up Joey Books for Helen Milroy titles:

Bush Bugs by Helen Milroy

Backyard Bugs by Helen Milroy

Backyard Beasties by Helen Milroy

Owl and Star by Helen Milroy

When I Can Fly by Katie Stewart

Wombat Can't Sing by Katie Stewart

Where Do the Stars Go? by Katie Stewart

Quokka Finds a Friend by Katie Stewart

Stellarphant by James Foley

Antarctica by Moira Court

Miss Llewellyn Jones Goes to Town
by Elaine Forrestal and Moira Court

Say Hooray by Renae Hayward
and Rebecca Mills

Granny Grommet and Me
by Dianne Wolfer and Karen Blair

Let's Count Wildflowers
by Tracey Gibbs

LARGE PRINT

If I Should Lose You
by Natasha Lester

What is Left Over After
by Natasha Lester

The Disorganisation of Celia Stone
by Emma Young

Jasper Cliff by Josh Kemp

Map of William by Michael Thomas

Vertigo by Karen Herbert

Death Holds the Key
by Alexander Thorpe

STAGE/FILM/TV

Stellarphant by James Foley
(stage with Barking Gecko)

Timeless by Kelly Canby
(stage with Meerkat Productions)

A Fortunate Life (musical adaptation
with Perth Symphony Orchestra)

TRANSLATION

A Leaf Called Greaf, Timeless
by Kelly Canby - Turkey

When I Can Fly, Quokka Finds a Friend
by Katie Stewart - Turkey

Littlelight by Kelly Canby - Portugal

SALES REPORT

Our best-selling titles by volume in 2024 were *Sister Heart* by Sally Morgan (published in 2015), CBCA Picture book of the year *Timeless* by Kelly Canby (published in 2023) and *If I Should Lose You* by Natasha Lester (first published in 2012 and reissued in 2024). Our top-seller via our webstore was the 2022 title *Noongar Boodja Waangkan* by Jayden Boundry and Tyrown Waigana and elsewhere online 9 out of 10 of our combined Amazon/Booktopia top-sellers were backlist titles; and of these four titles were First Nations children's books. In 2024, we trialled print-on-demand distribution on key titles outside Australia/ New Zealand, and the most requested titles via this channel were from our backlist: *In Ecstasy* by Kate McCaffrey, *Invisible Boys* by Holden Sheppard and *Have you Seen Ally McQueen?* by Deb Fitzpatrick. In response to a downward trend on backlist sales over the past few years, we brought renewed energy and innovation to backlist promotions and reissues in 2024, so we were thrilled with these incredibly strong results. Across new titles we saw excellent cross-channel sales of *When It Rains* by Dave Warner, *Prize Catch* by Alan Carter and *Cutler* by David Whish-Wilson, as well as strong debut performances for Fogarty winner *The Skeleton House* by Katherine Allum and our new music anthology, *Spinning Around: The Kylie playlist*. Children's frontlist top-seller by volume was *Bush Bugs* by Helen Milroy, with *House* by Daniel Giovannini and Charlotte Lane leading by value. Special mention to the *Secret of the Stone* by Katherine Lefroy and Sabrina Hahn's *How to Do it in the Garden*, which were published just before Christmas and came in as our top-selling titles by volume via Penguin Random House nationally. For ebook sales the top-performing title was Dave Warner's new title *When It Rains*, and backlist crime and popular fiction dominated in the ebook format.

We saw strong customer growth in online sales with Amazon our top-performing channel across all categories, growing by 36% year-on-year, and with a 10% year-on-year increase via our own webshop. Booktopia was our most challenging channel in 2024, with sales decreasing by 45% from 2023, but with steady recovery from August 2024 when it was acquired by digiDirect. We also saw pleasing growth of just over 30% year-on-year in our education and library channels driven by the combined efforts of publishing, marketing and sales to bring a compelling cross-age range children's list to market in 2024. For the independent retail sector, 2024 was a challenging year, but locally we saw an 8% increase in our sales via the main WA independents and some great local success stories with events, new bookstore openings and a strong and loyal book-buying community supporting WA stories.

Our thanks to all our authors, booksellers and event partners for making 2024 such a stellar year for Fremantle Press.



Top left: Boffins selling copies of *Some People Want to Shoot Me*.
Bottom left: Paper Bird was the bookseller for *Right Way Down and Other Poems*.

CONNECTING WITH BOOK CLUBS AND GENERAL READERS

Fremantle Press continued to connect with book clubs and general readers through events, the media, social media, electronic direct mail (EDM) campaigns, author tours and advertising campaigns.

Fremantle Press published 13 book club stories and released nine sets of book club notes on our website and 18 electronic direct mail (EDM) campaigns. Fremantle Press collaborated with 47 social media influencers targeting book club audiences with a combined reach of 117,647.

Fremantle Press partnered with libraries in Fremantle, Perth, South Perth, Success, Melville and Subiaco to deliver seven Great Big Book Club events. Our authors presented to seven local book clubs and Fremantle Press teamed up with Overdrive to present 10 online book clubs for WA writers and users of the Libby ebook library app. Hosted by David Allan-Petale, the book club featured the following authors and their books: *Cutler* by David Wish-Wilson, *Death Holds The Key* by Alexander Thorpe, *How To Avoid A Happy Life* by Julia Lawrinson, *Jasper Cliff* by Josh Kemp, *Love, Dad* by Laurie Steed, *Salt River Road* by Molly Schmidt, *The Glass House* and *Last Best Chance* by Brooke Dunnell, *The Players* by Deborah Pike, *The Silence of Water* by Sharron Booth, and *The Skeleton House* by Katherine Allum.



Fremantle Press partnered with Better Reading on events for our crime writers, including an online panel session that reached over 100,000 people. Advertising campaigns with *Good Reading Magazine* and *Better Reading* focused on getting early readers and reviewers for Fremantle Press titles with on average 1,000 page views and between 350 and 675 requests to review, with high completion rates and most reviews sitting at 4-5 stars. Fremantle Press titles were selected by booksellers for 61 catalogue placements around the country with distribution of almost 600,000.

Fremantle Press ran monthly Amazon A+ campaigns across the year, with a conversion rate of 14.3%, with Sally Morgan, A.B. Facey and Dave Warner garnering the most views and *A Fortunate Life* and *Salt River Road* the most shipped units in this category.

The entire Fremantle Press team turned out at Christmas to run two pop-up bookstores. Earnings were over \$14,000 across four days at the FAC Bazaar and the FOMO Festive Fair in Walyalup Koort, with editors, publishers and marketers all getting an invaluable opportunity to chat to the reading public about our books and their reading preferences. Fremantle Press picture books and Sabrina Hahn's new gardening book were top sellers, as were our crime novels.



Top left: (from left) Wayne Bergmann, WA Premier Hon Roger Cook, and Madelaine Dickie launching *Some People Want to Shoot Me*. Bottom left: Molly Schmidt (far) and Natasha Lester (near) greeting fans and signing books at the Perth Festival Writers Weekend. Above: The Great Big Book Club event at the Fremantle Arts Centre.



CONNECTING WITH PARENTS, KIDS AND EDUCATORS

Fremantle Press partnered with the CBCA WA on 'A Night With Our Stars', attended by 300 educators. Speakers at the event were Chenée Marrapodi, Isobel Bevis, Katie Stewart, Seth Malacari, Rebecca Newman and Sally Murphy. Fremantle Press authors participated in over 120 CBCA Book Week visits in educational settings, reaching thousands of students across the month of August.

Fremantle Press also partnered with Between the Lines. Run by Dymocks Busselton, this event is for students in the South West Region and included the authors Mark Greenwood, A.J. Betts, Chemutai Glasheen, Aśka, Sally Murphy. Authors also participated in specialist children's festivals and children's programs at Sydney Writers Festival, Awesome, Scribblers, Perth Writers Festival, Telling Tales in Balingup, StoryArts Festival in Ipswich, Margaret River Writers Festival, Victoria Park Writers Festival, Armadale Writers Festival and the Asian Festival of Children's Content. Thirteen Fremantle Press writers were appointed to the Premier's Reading Challenge Cheer Squad in 2024, each participating in events and podcasts.

Fremantle Press titles were promoted through satchel inserts at the English Teachers Association, Australian Library Associations and History Teachers Association conferences Australia-wide, reaching over 3,000 education specialists. Specialist subject-related catalogues were distributed by education suppliers to distribute with their branding on it, with the First Nations catalogue being the most popular.

Georgia Richter presented Fremantle Press titles to secondary English teachers from a range of Catholic and private schools, as well as English teachers and librarians at Perth Modern School and, with authors Deb Fitzpatrick and Sienna Young, once again judged the Leanne Coole Young Writers Award at Spearwood Alternative School.

We published 24 stories on our website about writing for children, produced 15 teaching activities, ten videos and storytimes, and 24 new sets of teaching notes for teachers.

Fremantle Press collaborated with 11 social media influencers targeting parent and education audiences, with a combined reach of 53,820 across 13 posts.

Children's authors undertook videos, podcasts and extracts, which were published on partner websites Better Reading, YKNR, Books+Publishing and Good Reading, with an audience of over 500k.

Fremantle Press ran monthly Amazon A+ campaigns for children with Sally Morgan, Ezekiel Kwaymullina, Helen Milroy, Kelly Canby, James Foley, Ambelin Kwaymullina, Jayden Boundry and Holden Sheppard garnering the most views, and *Sister Heart*, *My Country, I Love Me*, *Timeless* and *Stellarphant* the most shipped units in this category.

Reading Australia, created by the not-for-profit Copyright Agency, chose *Sister Heart* by Sally Morgan for its 2024 curriculum. Year 4 students listened to *Sister Heart* by Sally Morgan, and engaged in a variety of learning activities and conversations.



Left: Deb Fitzpatrick connecting with young readers. Photo courtesy of Deb Fitzpatrick.

Above: Selection of catalogues, teaching activities and merchandise.

BOOKS FOR LITTLE BOOKABURRAS

The Book for Little Bookaburras program ensured that free book packs went home with more than 4,000 children in Western Australia in 2024. Some of those children didn't have homes to take them to, and more than 200 of them had no other access to books at all.

One hundred percent of all participants rated the books as good to excellent, and respondents were 80–95% in agreement with the statements:

- There is a high quality of goods, services and activities
- It helped me feel part of the community
- It engaged people from different backgrounds



Here's what we learned from this year's survey from participants:

Though the books are distributed by and at CPCs and Kindilinks Centres, having books at home really made a difference to families:

- Families that use our services now have the physical resources to engage with their children in booking sharing and, through modelling, can now practice this at home.
- Parents report reading more to their children and enjoy looking at books with their child.

The quality of what we gave away was appreciated:

- Families were so happy they got to keep books they would otherwise not be able to buy. They can start a small library at home, which now has six quality books.

The amazing teachers and families used the program as a jumping-off point for more literacy activities:

- *I have asked teachers to prepare a learning activity for each book for the classroom before sending home the book packs.*
- *Engaging the families with the books at home and in Kindilink sessions provided a strong connection to a joy of books and teachable moments for Noongar language.*

The program had flow-on results:

- *We were able to pass on some of the packs to external providers who gave them to mums with babies experiencing homelessness. The mums were overjoyed at the opportunity to have such beautiful resources for them and their babies while struggling financially.*
- *Many parents who found no interest in reading to their child, when seeing how excited their child was to receive the Bookaburras pack, sat and explored the books with them.*
- *More capable readers were reading to the younger ones. A very special moment.*



Far left: Participants in the Books for Little Bookaburras launch.

Near left: Renae Hayward reading to Books for Little Bookaburras participants.

Above: Chenée Marrapodi connecting with young readers.

isentia AUTHOR: Deborah Shepherd SECTION: GENERAL NEWS ARTICLE TYPE: HIGHLIGHTS AUDIENCE: 3,673 PAGE: 15 PRINTED SIZE: 254,000* REGION: WA MARKET: Australia PUBLISHING FREQUENCY: T-F-W-ASR-AUD: 771 WORDS: 338 ITEM ID: 1026391629

30 JUL 2024
Parallel lives a game of chance
Generation Guardian, Geraldton

Parallel lives a game of chance
AT THE LIBRARY
Old Boy
The Lady Vanishes
Lies and Weddings
Judgment Prey

Her whole life, Georgia's father has told her she will be the one to write his story. It is a story in which living is just a game of chance — they just don't know survive when others didn't? Todd is married to Grant's sister in the life of his friend and doctor Brian Gately by Chambers, known as Charlie, who was executed in Malaysia for drug smuggling.

and painful family rifts. He would need to modernise and adapt, at speed. A book into our new King's reign showing the sort of

of Greshambury and son of a former Hong Kong supermodel has a problem: the legendary Gresham Trust has been depleted by decades of prodigal spending in a gargantuan mountain of debt. The only solution, put forth by their mother, is for Rufus to attend his sister's wedding and

Old Boy
By George Tee
Doubtless
Her whole life, Georgia's father has told her she will be the one to write his story. It is a story in which living is just a game of chance — they just don't know survive when others didn't? Todd is married to Grant's sister in the life of his friend and doctor Brian Gately by Chambers, known as Charlie, who was executed in Malaysia for drug smuggling.

The Lady Vanishes
By Alison Sealy
Prize Crime
When Marion Barter disappeared in 1937, police initially dismissed it as the actions of a divorced mother abandoning her family. In this book, the creators of the addictive global hit podcast The Lady Vanishes detail the writing investigation into Marion's disappearance, from tentative early police efforts to her daughter's search for answers.

Lies and Weddings
By Steve Bates
Rotastaircase Pictures
Ruthie Loung Gresham, future

Judgment Prey
By John Sandford
Alex Sand, a wealthy forensic pathologist, was spending the evening at a local pub when he met two young sons when all three were public pressure mounting and both the local police force and FBI biting dead end after dead end. Flowers are called in to do what others could not: find answers.

Charles III: The Inside Story
By Robert Hardman
No new monarch had spent longer preparing for such a task: Charles III faced many challenges, not least leading a fractious nation, calls for the end of the monarchy in several realms

Page 1 of 1

isentia AUTHOR: Katherine Kraayvanger SECTION: GENERAL NEWS ARTICLE TYPE: NEWS ITEM AUDIENCE: 19,000 PAGE: 5 PRINTED SIZE: 189,000* REGION: WA MARKET: Australia PUBLISHING FREQUENCY: —S— ASR-AUD: 909 WORDS: 308 ITEM ID: 102641844

26 OCT. 2024
Thrilling win
Fremantle Herald, Perth

Thrilling win
Hangerford Award winner Yvga Galloway Winsleys

Thrilling win
BY KATHERINE KRAAYVANGER
YVGA GALLOWAY'S debut novel 'Lies and Weddings' has become more than 90 centimeters to win the 2024 Hangerford Award. Hangerford Prize for his book 'Lies and Weddings'.

Thrilling win
Hangerford Prize for his book 'Lies and Weddings'.

Thrilling win
Hangerford Prize for his book 'Lies and Weddings'.

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MEDIA

Fremantle Press books featured in over 679 stories, reviews and interviews: iSentia estimates an audience of 30.5M readers, at a value of \$11.9M. Authors featured on ABC National, ABC Radio National, 6PR, 4SER, ABC Perth, ABC Melbourne, ABC Sydney and ABC Brisbane, and on podcasts for Better Reading, YKNR and more. Our books were reviewed or had feature stories in the *Australian*, *Sydney Morning Herald/Age*, *Australian Women's Weekly*, *STM*, *Sunday Canberra Times*, *Canberra Weekly*, *The Guardian*, *The Weekend Australian*, *RM Williams Outback Magazine*, *Star Observer*, *DNA*, *Perth Now*, *WA Today*, and *West Australian's Play Magazine*, and in literary journals *Westerly* and *Overland*.



isentia AUTHOR: Katherine Kraayvanger SECTION: GENERAL NEWS ARTICLE TYPE: NEWS ITEM AUDIENCE: 19,000 PAGE: 5 PRINTED SIZE: 278,000* REGION: WA MARKET: Australia PUBLISHING FREQUENCY: —S— ASR-AUD: 1,208 WORDS: 306 ITEM ID: 102641827

26 OCT. 2024
First Pride Fest for Fremantle
Fremantle Herald, Perth

First Pride Fest for Fremantle
Author Holden Sheppard will be holding an "author conversation" as part of the Pride festival.

First Pride Fest for Fremantle
The City of Fremantle, working with the Department of Communities and Learning, is hosting Saturday, November 2 from 12pm at Wharf Kings Quay.

First Pride Fest for Fremantle
The festival will include live music, creative workshops and market stalls including 'Fishes on Fishes', the Youth Pride Network, Living Proud, and Ironstock of WA.

First Pride Fest for Fremantle
Additionally, 2019 Hangerford Award winner Yvga Galloway will be featured in an author conversation about her novel 'Lies and Weddings'. The book, and her upcoming book 'The Kings', are available at the Hangerford award, showcasing the experience and complexity of growing up gay in regional Australia.

First Pride Fest for Fremantle
Sheppard says it's "really inspiring" to see Pride festivals, understood as a local government level, especially in the medical book 'herring' continues to connect the library and community in a healthy way. It's great to have the support

First Pride Fest for Fremantle
down to get identities and recognition," he said. "When you can tell a story about characters with all of their flaws, it's transformative to readers that we are just people, and we're just trying to live our lives."

First Pride Fest for Fremantle
"I think telling those stories gives us a chance to find ways it helps people feel the story just as much as it helps them."

First Pride Fest for Fremantle
Sheppard will be in conversation with Angela Acton as part of the 'Fishes on Fishes' at Fremantle Library on Sat.

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26 OCT. 2024
My gardening secrets
Fremantle Herald, Perth

My gardening secrets
I've brought together 25 years of experience in my new book to help even novice gardeners like a professional!

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I've brought together 25 years of experience in my new book to help even novice gardeners like a professional!

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26 OCT. 2024
New addition to Canterbury Tales
Fremantle Herald, Perth

New addition to Canterbury Tales
Step inside the fabulous house

New addition to Canterbury Tales
Step inside the fabulous house

New addition to Canterbury Tales
Step inside the fabulous house

Page 1 of 1

Above: David Wish-Wilson, Better Reading podcast host Cheryl Akle, Dave Warner and Alan Carter chatting about their latest books.



ONLINE

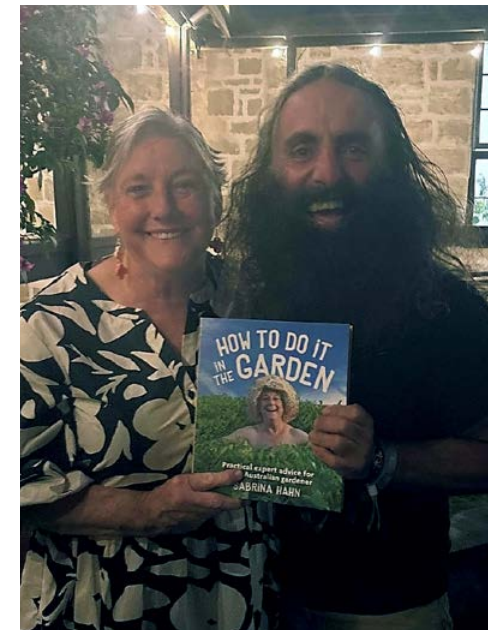
Fremantle Press's online assets include a website with a webstore, a donations portal and a manuscript submissions portal. We are active on LinkedIn, Facebook, Instagram and YouTube.

The website had 353,000 unique views in 2024, a 105% increase on the year before. The total number of sessions was 192,000, an increase of 45%, and the number of unique users was 143,500.

The number of members on the Fremantle Press website increased by 251%. Members get an annual birthday voucher, as well as access to a list of their previous purchases and the ability to create a wish list. Members are engaged with via our EDM and special member-only promotions throughout the year. The aim is to increase the number of repeat customers to our web shop.

Sales on the website increased by 52% in large part due to a new system whereby Fremantle Press authors purchased and paid for author copies online. This made for a substantial saving in costs by reducing the number of administrative hours devoted to the supply of titles to creators. There were 1,158 orders and 4,661 products sold with the top books being *Some People Want to Shoot Me*, *Noongar Boodja Waangkan*, and *How to Do It in the Garden*.

In 2024, a major website update was undertaken on the fundraising and donations pages, as well as the About Us pages. Accessed via a Support Us dropdown link and a Donate Now button from the home pages, these pages were redesigned to align with the organisation's not-for-profit purpose and core vision and mission, thereby keeping this information separate from the webstore. So far, these pages have attracted 1,023 views and 1,560 engagements.



Fremantle Press sent out 11 newsletters to general readers in 2024. Newsletter subscribers number 2,638, which is a decrease of 4.4% on 2023, but we are actively cleaning the subscriber list to keep our plan cost-effective. The general newsletter had an average open rate of 40% and a click-through rate of 5%.

Fremantle Press ran 43 paid advertising campaigns across Google, Facebook and Instagram, reaching a total of 567,000 people and receiving 22,400 engagements. There were 142 purchases made as a result of advertising.

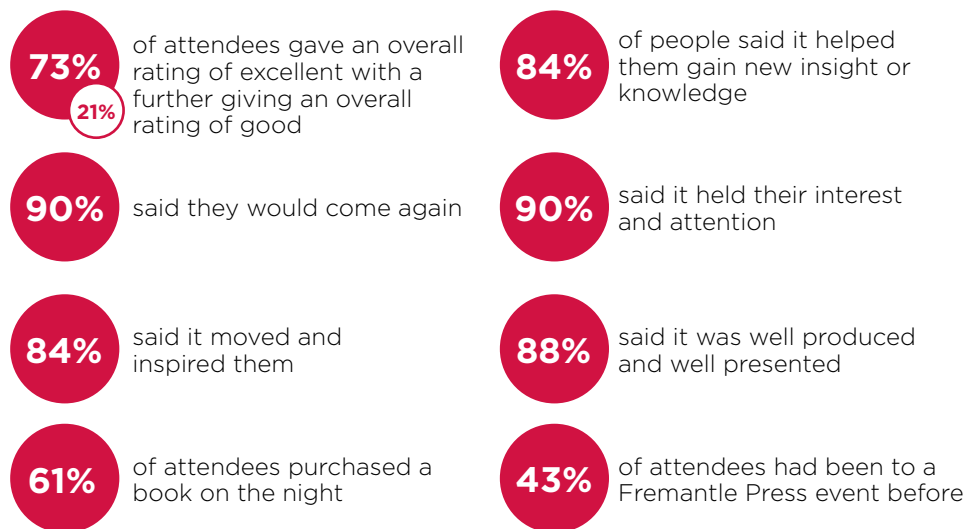
The Fremantle Press podcast, featuring a combination of storytelling by Julia Lawrinson and interviews with Hungerford Award shortlisters, was listened to 4,728 times.

Instagram is still a main focus, and Fremantle Press is using Facebook to deliver more educational content. Fremantle Press's reach on Instagram was up by 130% (80,000), and Facebook up by 56% (562,000). Fremantle Press's reach on LinkedIn was 9,224 impressions with a 6.3% engagement rate and our YouTube channel had 9,900 views, 23,300 impression, 360 hours watched and a click through rate of 6.5%. The Fremantle Press X account is no longer in use after a cyberattack and hacking rendered it off-limits.

Above, left to right: Cristy Burne and Kelly Canby at the Children's Book Council of Australia Book of the Year Awards; Marie O'Rourke signing copies of *Kintsugi* at Crow books; Sabrina Hahn and ABC's Costa Georgiadis at the launch of *How to Do It in the Garden* at the Fremantle Arts Centre.

EVENTS, AUTHOR TOURS AND EXHIBITIONS

Fremantle Press co-produced 13 events in Western Australia, reaching 1,360 readers. Local booksellers often sold books at these events – a mutually beneficial partnership for which we are grateful.



1 FEBRUARY

LAUNCH EVENT *KINTSUGI* BY MARIE O'ROURKE

Sponsors: Bar Orient, New Edition Bookshop

Speakers: Georgia Richter, Marie O'Rourke

Duration: 2 hours, attendance: 90 people

In an intimate evening, local author Marie O'Rourke launched her debut memoir, *Kintsugi*, which was shortlisted for the 2022 City of Fremantle Hungerford Award. Joined by Dr Daniel Juckes, editor of *Westerly Magazine*, Marie discussed her book, the art of life writing, and themes of memory and identity. The event took place at Bar Orient in Fremantle, with cocktails and light food served.



16 MARCH

LAUNCH EVENT *RIGHT WAY DOWN AND OTHER POEMS*

Sponsors: State Library of Western Australia; Paper Bird Children's Books and Arts; Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries

Speakers: Susan McEwan, Cheryl Kickett-Tucker, Rebecca M. Newman, Sally Murphy, Briony Stewart, James Foley, Barbara Helen Hostalek, Meg McKinlay (MC Alex Allan)

Duration: 2 hours, attendance: 120 people

Attended by teachers, booksellers and 23 of the contributing authors, *Right Way Down*, a collection of children's poetry from 38 talented WA writers, was launched at the State Library of Western Australia. The event featured live readings and a chance to meet editors Rebecca M. Newman and Sally Murphy, and illustrator Briony Stewart, along with light refreshments and an opportunity to explore the book's creative contributions. This successful launch was a collaboration between Alphabet Soup Books and Fremantle Press, with support from the Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries.

Far left: Custom cupcakes shared with booksellers during a local bookstore tour with Sabrina Hahn.

Near left: Behind-the-scenes of a promo shoot for *Kintsugi*.

Above: Georgia Richter at the launch of *Tossed Up by the Beak of a Cormorant* with authors Anne Poelina and Nandi Chinna at the Centre for Stories..



11 APRIL

LAUNCH EVENT *SOME PEOPLE WANT TO SHOOT ME WITH WAYNE BERGMANN, MADELAIDE DICKIE AND WA PREMIER ROGER COOK*

Sponsors: WA Museum Boola Bardip, Boffins Books

Speakers: Hon. Roger Cook MLA, Georgia Richter, Wayne Bergmann and Madelaine Dickie (MC Alex Allan, Welcome to Country by Robyn Collard and Tyrese Rioli)

Duration: 2 hours, attendance: 80 people

Launched at WA Museum Boola Bardip by EXHIBITIONS

Premier Roger Cook MLA, Wayne Bergmann and co-author Madelaine Dickie discussed Wayne's memoir *Some People Want to Shoot Me*, a story of a prominent Aboriginal leader who has often paid a high price for sticking up for his people.

11 MAY

GREAT BIG BOOK CLUB WITH JULIA LAWRIKSON

Sponsor: The Literature Centre

Speakers: Julia Lawrinson, Alex Allan, Georgia Richter, Liz Spencer

Duration: 2 hours, attendance: 110 people

On 11 May, we hosted an engaging in-conversation event with Julia and journalist Gillian O'Shaughnessy, where attendees enjoyed drinks, light refreshments, and the opportunity to purchase copies of Julia's rollercoaster memoir, *How to Avoid a Happy Life*, and to share the highs and lows with its author.

10 MAY

LAUNCH EVENT 25TH ANNIVERSARY EDITION OF *BENANG: FROM THE HEART* BY KIM SCOTT

Sponsors: Fremantle Library, New Edition Bookshop

Speakers: Molly Schmidt and Kim Scott (MC Alex Allan, Welcome to Country by Barry McGuire)

Duration: 2 hours, attendees 70

The 25th anniversary edition of *Benang: From the Heart* by Miles Franklin Literary Award winner Kim Scott was celebrated with a special event at Fremantle Library. Hosted by author Molly Schmidt, the event featured an insightful in-conversation with Kim Scott, as well as a mesmerizing reading of the work from the author, followed by book signings and sales. This celebration highlighted the lasting impact of *Benang* and its significance in telling local, powerful stories of Indigenous identity and history.



Top left: Editor Angela Savage holding a copy of *Spinning Around: The Kylie Playlist*.

Below left: Author-illustrator Kelly Canby, holding a copy of *Timeless* (CBCA Picture Book of the Year 2024), with Abbey's Bookshop Marketing Manager Craig Kirchner in Sydney.



27 MAY

GREAT BIG BOOK CLUB WITH BROOKE DUNNELL AND DEBORAH PIKE

Sponsors: City of South Perth Libraries, Millpoint Café Bookshop

Speakers: Alex Allan, Brooke Dunnell and Deborah Pike

Duration: 1.5 hours, attendance: 80 people

A celebratory event to mark the release of two fiction novels – *The Players* by Deborah Pike and *Last Best Chance* by Brooke Dunnell – from two superb storytellers who have strong female characters and engrossing plotlines.

6 JUNE

GREAT BIG BOOK CLUB WITH KATHERINE ALLUM

Sponsors: Fogarty Foundation, City of Perth Library, Boffins Books

Speakers: Annie Fogarty, Alex Allan, Katherine Allum, Georgia Richter

Duration: 1.5 hours, attendance: 80 people

In June, the Fremantle Press Great Big Book Club presented the launch of *The Skeleton House* by Katherine Allum, winner of the 2023 Fogarty Literary Award. The event was celebrated with a glowing speech from Annie Fogarty, founder of the Fogarty Foundation.

28 JUNE

LAUNCH EVENT *TOSSSED UP BY THE BEAK OF A CORMORANT* BY NANDI CHINNA AND ANNE POELINA

Sponsors: Centre for Stories, Planet Books

Speakers: Georgia Richter, Nandi Chinna, Anne Poelina (MC Alex Allan, Welcome to Country by Gerrard Shaw)

Duration: 2 hours, attendance: 50 people

An intimate evening at the Centre for Stories celebrating a stunning collaboration between poet Nandi Chinna and Martuwarra Guardian Professor Anne Poelina.

24 JULY

GREAT BIG BOOK CLUB WITH NATASHA LESTER

Sponsors: AH Bracks Library + Creative Space, New Edition

Speakers: Lorraine Horsley, Natasha Lester

Duration: 1.5 hours, attendance: 80 people

This evening event, hosted in conversation with AH Bracks librarian Lorraine Horsley, provided a wonderful opportunity to celebrate the new edition of Natasha Lester's sophomore novel, *If I Should Lose You*. The event was well attended by long-time fans of Natasha, many of whom had read the book when it was first released, alongside new readers discovering it for the first time.



Top left: Award-winning author Robert Edeson holding his Richard Worse trilogy. Bottom left: (from left) Rebecca M. Newman; Hon Samantha Rowe MLC; Sally Murphy and Briony Stewart at the launch of *Right Way Down*.



12 AUGUST

GREAT BIG BOOK CLUB WITH ROBERT EDESON AND ALEXANDER THORPE

Sponsors: City of Subiaco Library, Dymocks Subiaco

Speakers: Daisy Lyons, Georgia Richter, Robert Edeson, Alexander Thorpe

Duration: 2 hours, attendance: 120 people

An evening event at Subiaco Library to hear Robert Edeson and Alexander Thorpe speak about their new cosy crime novels, *The Worsener's Tale* and *Death Holds the Key*, with Fremantle Press fiction publisher Georgia Richter, and to explore the anatomy of two original and witty mystery novels.

5 SEPTEMBER

GREAT BIG BOOK CLUB WITH JOSH KEMP AND KARLEAH OLSON

Sponsors: Fogarty Foundation, The Literature Centre, New Edition Bookshop

Speakers: Annie Fogarty, Alex Allan, Brooke Dunnell, Karleah Olson, Josh Kemp

Duration: two hours, attendance: 120 people

An engaging evening at The Literature Centre marked the celebration of two shortlisted authors for the 2023 Fogarty Literary Award: *Jasper Cliff* for Josh Kemp and *A Wreck of Seabirds* for Karleah Olson. The event was launched by Annie Fogarty, founder of the Fogarty Foundation, and featured an atmospherically gothic in-conversation session with 2021 Fogarty Literary Award winner Brooke Dunnell, where Josh and Karleah shared insights into their works and the genre that inspired them.

17 OCTOBER

GREAT BIG BOOK CLUB WITH DAVID WHISH-WILSON

Sponsors: Success Library, New Edition Bookshop

Speakers: Deputy Mayor of Cockburn Chontelle Stone, David Whish-Wilson, Georgia Richter

Duration: 2 hours, attendance: 40 people

An engrossing evening at Success Library to celebrate David Whish-Wilson's superb tenth novel *Cutler*, David and Georgia Richter talked about the wicked crimes that are still being committed in the deep sea fishing industry.

Left: A packed house for the launch of *How to Do It in the Garden* by Sabrina Hahn at the Fremantle Arts Centre.



23 OCTOBER

2024 CITY OF FREMANTLE HUNGERFORD AWARD CEREMONY AND GREAT BIG BOOK CLUB

Sponsors: City of Fremantle, Fremantle Arts Centre, FOUND Bookstore

Speakers: Kelly Canby, Nandi Chinna, Brooke Dunnell, Deb Fitzpatrick, Ebony Froome, Mark Greenwood, Renae Hayward, Josh Kemp, Julia Lawrinson, Gerard McCann, Rebecca Mills, Helen Milroy, Karleah Olson, Molly Schmidt, Alexander Thorpe, Dave Warner, Yirga Gelaw Woldeyes, Alex Allan, Georgia Richter and City of Fremantle Mayor Hannah Fitzhardinge

Duration: Duration: 2 hours, attendance: 160 people

The biennial celebration of Western Australian storytelling brought together emerging and established local talent, with hosts Molly Schmidt and Julia Lawrinson as MCs. Attendees enjoyed readings from notable authors, a musical performance of some of Kylie Minogue's greatest hits by crime writer and punk musician Dave Warner, and the announcement of the City of Fremantle Hungerford Award winner by Mayor Hannah Fitzhardinge. The evening featured a vibrant mix of literature, music and local fare, showcasing the creativity and diversity of the Western Australian arts scene.

29 NOVEMBER-2 DECEMBER

LAUNCH EVENT *HOW TO DO IT IN THE GARDEN* WITH SABRINA HAHN AND 2024 FREMANTLE ARTS CENTRE CHRISTMAS BAZAAR

Sponsors: Fremantle Arts Centre, FOUND Bookstore, City of Fremantle

Speakers: City of Fremantle Mayor Hannah Fitzhardinge, Alex Allan, Sabrina Hahn, Gillian O'Shaughnessy

Duration: 2 hours, attendance: 210 people

Fremantle Press celebrated the release of *How to Do It in the Garden* by celebrity gardener Sabrina Hahn with a launch event at Fremantle Arts Centre. The book was officially launched by Mayor Hannah Fitzhardinge, followed by an in-conversation event with journalist and author Gillian O'Shaughnessy. Attendees enjoyed celebrating a beloved gardening guru, and had the opportunity to purchase copies through FOUND Bookstore, get their book signed and enjoy the Fremantle Arts Centre's annual Christmas Bazaar. Over the weekend, Fremantle Press staff hosted a stall offering a selection of titles, including signed copies of Sabrina Hahn's books and the perennial, multi-generational favourite, *A Sausage Went for a Walk*.



Top left: Nandi Chinna (centre) reading from her book *Tossed Up by the Beak of a Cormorant*, supported by local musicians. Bottom left: Attendees perusing the books for sale at the Hungerford Award Ceremony and Great Big Book Club event at FAC.

AUTHOR TOURS AND EVENTS

EXHIBITIONS

The State Library of Western Australia hosted an exhibition showcasing artwork from the picture book *Crow Baby* by Helen Milroy, which ran from February to June.

In August, the City of Kwinana held an exhibition of *Nedingar: Ancestors*, featuring the original artwork from Leanne Zilm, a descendant of the Wudjari and Goreng Noongar tribal groups. As part of the exhibition, Wilman and Ballardong woman and author of the book, Isobel Bevis, held an insightful author talk, where she discussed the beautiful dual-language book.

In October, The Literature Centre, Paper Bird, and the Society of Children's Book Writers and Illustrators held an exhibition showcasing the remarkable talent and diversity of female Western Australian picture book illustrators, including the works of Briony Stewart, Karen Blair, Kelly Canby, Leanne Zilm, Moira Court and Rebecca Mills.

During the summer, the City of Perth Library featured a Fremantle Press-branded display cabinet, highlighting original artwork by children's illustrators. The display also celebrated alumni of the City of Fremantle Hungerford Award and Fogarty Literary Award, alongside their published works, and displayed a range of both fiction and non-fiction titles from our adult and children's lists.



AUTHOR TOURS AND EVENTS

JANUARY TO MARCH

In January 2022, City of Fremantle Hungerford Award winner Molly Schmidt shared her debut novel *Salt River Road* at the Mandurah Readers & Writers' Festival, as well as with a local author talk at Success Library, alongside 2020 Hungerford winner Maria Papas. In February, the State Library of Western Australia hosted the Perth Festival Writers' Weekend, with authors Emma Young, Caitlin Mailing, Isobel Bevis, James Foley, Laurie Steed, Chemutai Glasheen, Molly Schmidt, Brooke Dunnell, Simone Lazaroo, Natasha Lester, Rebecca M. Newman, Carrie Cox, Chenée Marrapodi, Graham Akhurst, Holden Sheppard, Christos Tsiolkas, A.J. Betts, Maddie Godfrey, Karen Herbert, Kate Larsen and Renee Pettit-Schipp attending as authors on speaking panels.

The Young Writers Program, facilitated by The Literature Centre and held throughout the school year, began in February and featured authors Chenée Marrapodi, Madison Godfrey, Mark Greenwood, James Foley, A.J. Betts, Aśka, Brendan Ritchie and Julia Lawrinson. These authors visited various schools in the metropolitan area and regional WA. In March, Julia Lawrinson and Brooke Dunnell joined forces at Manning Library for an author talk to celebrate International Women's Day. The CBCA invited authors Katie Stewart, Isobel Bevis, Chenée Marrapodi, Seth Malacari, Rebecca M. Newman and Sally Murphy to share their recent publications with an audience of Western Australian educators, booksellers and valued members of the Western Australian writing community. In February, the Blak + Bright Festival was hosted in Melbourne and featured authors Helen Milroy, Kim Scott, Graham Akhurst and Tony Birch.

APRIL TO AUGUST

In April, picture book author Katie Stewart and poet John Kinsella travelled to the York Festival. Children's book author Dianne Wolfer held a Storytime at Albany Library to celebrate the new edition of *Granny Grommets and Me*. In early May, the Margaret River Readers and Writers Festival hosted authors Mark Smith, Tony Birch, Jon Doust and Gillian O'Shaughnessy for a panel session discussing stories and tall tales from *Into Your Arms: Nick Cave's Songs Reimagined*. Molly Schmidt, Marie O'Rourke, Dianne Wolfer, Brendan Ritchie, Isobel Bevis, Laurie Steed and Deb Fitzpatrick also took part in the festival. In June, Deborah Pike participated in the Words on the Waves Writers Festival in New South Wales. Michael Earp, one of the editors of *Avast! Pirate Stories from Transgender Authors*, travelled to Supanova Sydney, the Williamstown Literary Festival, and the Australian Fairy Tale Society's conference in Newport. In July, they attended the South Coast Writers Festival. Just hours after launching her 2023 Fogarty Literary Award-winning novel, *The Skeleton House*, Katherine Allum boarded a midnight flight and flew to Brisbane to attend the

Left: *Avast!* editors Alison Evans and Michael Earp



Brisbane Writers Festival. In July, Chenée Marrapodi travelled to Melbourne to celebrate the release of her second novel *Breaking Pointe*, where she hosted a launch at Readings Carlton. Children's author Mark Greenwood began his journey to the eastern states in July, heading first to South Australia for several school visits to launch the first two non-fiction stories in the History Hunter series – *The Dragon's Treasure* and *The Vanishing*. Mark then travelled to Ipswich for the StoryArts Festival and continued with tours to regional NSW and Victoria through August and early September for Book Week. In August, Kelly Canby headed to Sydney to celebrate her picture book, *Timeless*, winning the CBCA Picture Book of the Year Award. This tour was heavily publicised, with many prominent bookstores in Sydney participating.

SEPTEMBER TO DECEMBER

October saw the release of several crime novels, including Alan Carter's *Prize Catch*, with an author tour across Tasmania, including events at Fullers Bookshop and Devenport Bookshop. Katie Stewart launched her next picture book, *Quokka Finds a Friend*, at Northam Visitor Centre. Dave Warner took his tour for his latest novel, *When It Rains*, to Western Australia, with several events at Planet Books, Strange Company, Mundaring Library and a musical performance at the City of Fremantle Hungerford Award Ceremony at the Fremantle Arts Centre. David Whish-Wilson celebrated the release of his tenth novel, *Cutler*, throughout September and October, travelling to the Ubud Writers Festival in Bali, Albany Library, Festival of Fiction in Joondalup, and Big Sky Readers and Writers Festival in Geraldton. Big Sky also hosted poets Caitlin Mailing and Jake Dennis, and author Deborah Pike. *Spinning Around: The Kylie Playlist*, featuring 24 contributing poets and prose writers from around Australia, was published in November, with launch events held with Holden Sheppard at Fremantle Library, Andrea Thompson and Patrick Marlborough at the Melville Storylines Festival, and a huge reading and musical event at Cinema Nova in Melbourne, featuring commissioning editors Kirsten Krauth and Angela Savage, with authors Alice Pung, Christos Tsiolkas, Dmetri Kakmi, Gracie Chan, Emma Vickic, Jes Layton, Lucy Treloar, Miriam Sved, Nathan Cunrow and Nick Gadd. After the launch, additional events took place at the Australian Short Story Festival at Notre Dame University in Fremantle, celebrating all three of the Fremantle Press music anthologies, with readings from prolific performers involved with LitLive Perth; at the Victoria Price Centre in November with Jes Layton, Miriam Sved, Christos Tsiolkas and Dmetri Kakmi; and in December at Castlemaine's Town Folk Festival with Kirsten Krauth, Angela Savage, Christos Tsiolkas and Lucy Treloar.



Top left: Book launch of Hungerford shortlisted book *Anatomy of a Secret* by Gerard McCann at Kidogo Arthouse in Fremantle.
Bottom left: Holden Sheppard speaking at a Perth Festival Writers Weekend event.



CONNECTING WITH NEW WRITERS

Fremantle Press published 23 new resources on the For Writers section of the website and ran four training sessions for authors in 2024, covering the topics of author preparedness for events and media interviews plus sessions on how best to network with booksellers, and practical tips for social media with Jess Gately. CEO Alex Allan attended Genre Con in Brisbane where she presented to new and aspiring writers. Cate Sutherland and Alex Allan were guests of SCWBI (the Society of Children’s Book Writers and Illustrators), hearing pitches at their annual retreats. At the Festival of Fiction in Joondalup, Kirsty Horton commented on pitches presented by aspiring writers, while Georgia Richter sat on a publishing panel. Georgia also facilitated a panel at the Mandurah Readers and Writers Festival, hosted a Centre for Stories Meet-and-Greet with CEO Alex Allan, participated in the Australian Society of Author’s annual online pitching sessions, presented to a collection of English secondary school teachers from a range of Catholic and private schools and chaired a panel for the City of Melville’s panel ‘The Freedom to Read: Public Libraries, Democracy and Censorship’. Rachel Hanson led two workshops at FAWWA (Fellowship of Australian Writers WA) on submitting your manuscript for publication.

Alex Allan was a judge for the Craig Silvey Award for Young Writers, which celebrates and recognises the talent and potential of WA’s young writers from Year 1 to Year 12. Cate Sutherland and Alex Allan helped judge the children’s section of The Best Australian Yarn in 2024.

Fremantle Press sponsored the CBCA NSW Aspiring Writers Mentorship Program by giving runners-up the book *How to be an Author: The Business of Being a Writer in Australia* and the opportunity to attend Fremantle Press training sessions in person and online. Fremantle Press also sponsored the Rachel Funari Prize for Fiction, and Sisters in Crime Scarlett Stiletto Awards.

Top left: Hungerford shortlister Fiona Wilkes (right) with friends at the Hungerford Award ceremony.
Middle left: Authors Rebecca Higgie and Chemutai Glasheen catching up at the Hungerford Award ceremony.
Bottom left: Hungerford shortlisters (left to right), Fiona Wilkes, Jodie Tes, Howard McKenzie-Murray, and Yirga Gelaw Woldeyes.



THE CITY OF FREMANTLE HUNGERFORD AWARD

From a pool of 81 entries, and a longlist of 10, four works by Western Australian writers were shortlisted for the 2024 City of Fremantle Hungerford Award.

The longlist was selected by a panel of judges comprised of Seth Malacari, Richard Rossiter and Dr Marcella Polain, and the shortlist was selected by Cate Sutherland and Georgia Richter.

The shortlist included *Screech* by Jodie Tes; *Far From Wonderful* by Howard McKenzie-Murray; *I Remember Everything* by Fiona Wilkes; and *ፕጥላ ስጦት / Trials of Hope* by Yirga Woldeyes (winner).

McKenzie, Wilkes and Woldeyes will be published with Fremantle Press in 2026.

The City of Fremantle Hungerford Award featured in some 47 stories, reviews and interviews with iSentia, estimating a potential audience of 1.7M (valued at \$241K). Fremantle Press shared 32 social media posts related to the Hungerford Award, garnering 46,923 impressions, with an average engagement rate of 9.36% and 1,032 new followers. Fremantle Press produced four podcasts and shared four interviews with each of the authors.

The City of Fremantle also announced that they would support the Hungerford Award for another six years, ensuring this prestigious biennial award continues to nurture and support future WA writers.



Top left: CEO Alex Allan, City of Fremantle Mayor Hannah Fitzhardinge and Publisher Georgia Richter presenting Hungerford winner Yirga Gelaw Woldeyes with his certificate.

Bottom left: City of Fremantle Mayor Hannah Fitzhardinge (centre) with Publisher Georgia Richter and Hungerford Award alumni.



THE FOGARTY LITERARY AWARD

The Fogarty Literary Award is a biennial prize for an unpublished manuscript by a Western Australian author aged 18–35 for a work of fiction, narrative non-fiction or young adult fiction.

In 2024, the Fogarty Foundation renewed its commitment to the award with an additional funding increase of 73%, recognising the important work Fremantle Press does in publishing and promoting both the winners and shortlisters, with money set aside to boost touring and marketing prospects for books published by the entire community of Fogarty alumni.

Fremantle Press published *The Skeleton House* by Katherine Allum, which won the 2023 Fogarty Literary Award. The book was launched at the City of Perth Library by Annie Fogarty, and Katherine subsequently attended the Brisbane Writers Festival to promote the book and the Award.

Two books from the 2023 Fogarty Literary Award shortlist were also launched: *Jasper Cliff* by Josh Kemp and *A Wreck of Seabirds* by Karleah Olson. Annie Fogarty launched both books, and 2021 Fogarty Award winner Brooke Dunnell hosted an in-conversation with the authors at the Literature Centre in Fremantle. Josh Kemp also travelled to Melbourne to participate in the Emerging Writers Festival.

The Fogarty Literary Award featured in some 51 stories, reviews and interviews with iSentia, estimating 4.1M readers (valued at \$999,000).

Fremantle Press shared 22 social media posts related to the Fogarty Literary Award, garnering 20,400 impressions, an average engagement rate of 11% and 906 new followers.

Top left: Fremantle Press authors join those shortlisted for the 2023 Fogarty Literary Award at the award ceremony, which took place at the ECU Spiegelent.

Left: CEO Alex Allan with Katherine Allum, winner of the Fogarty Literary Award, and Annie Fogarty.

AWARDS

Fremantle Press was shortlisted for the Bologna Prize for Best Children's Publisher in the Oceania Region, and the Australian Book Industry Award for Small Publisher of the Year.

Chris Pash – journalist, editor, information industry pioneer, board director and former CEO – was awarded a Medal of the Order of Australia (OAM). He is the author of *The Last Whale* (2008).

The Map of William by Michael Thomas won the Western Australian Premier's Book Award for an Emerging Writer. In his speech, Michael said he was extremely proud to win an award for a book that was based on his forebears. Michael said, 'For me, to be recognised as an Emerging Writer at the age of 66 is a privilege.'

Gail Jones and John Kinsella were inducted into the Western Australian Writers Hall of Fame, bringing its membership to 20. Gail Jones' debut short story collection won the Hungerford Award in 1991 and John Kinsella has published more than 20 books with Fremantle Press.

Seven additional Fremantle Press writers were also shortlisted for a Western Australian Premier's Book Award: Chemutai Glasheen, Mark Greenwood, Julia Lawrinson, Molly Schmidt, Laurie Steed, Georgia Tree and Emma Young.

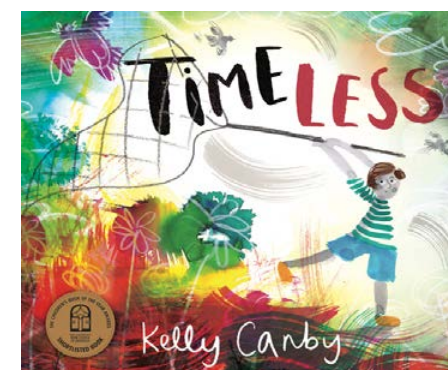
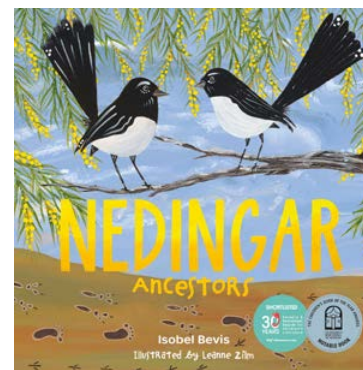
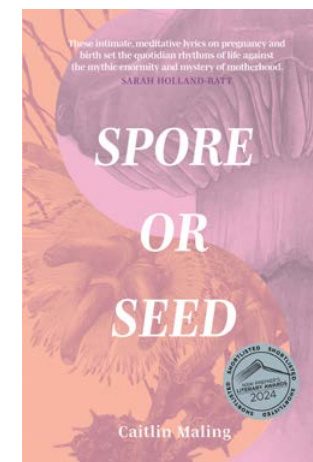
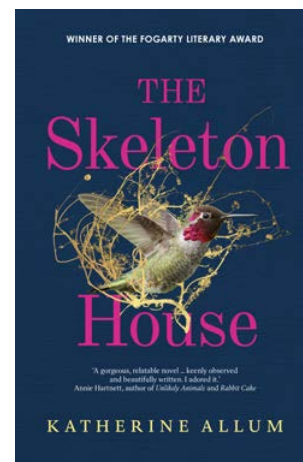
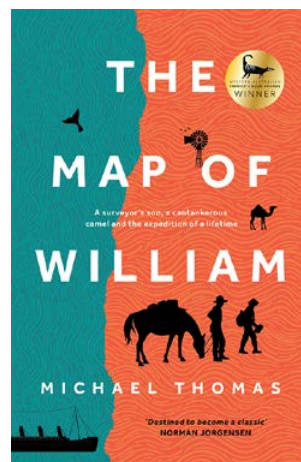
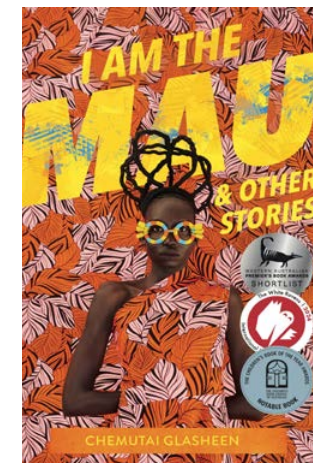
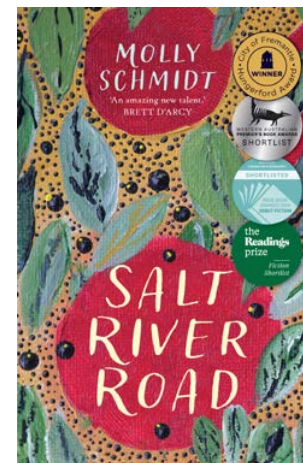
Timeless by Kelly Canby won Australia's most coveted prize for children's literature – the Children's Book Council of Australia Picture Book of the Year. The prize is for outstanding books in which the creators achieve both artistic and literary unity. *I Am the Mau* by Chemutai Glasheen also

received recognition as a CBCA notable book in the Older Readers category.

Nedingar, brought to life by Noongar storytellers Isobel Bevis and Leanne Zilm, inspired by a love of country from an Indigenous perspective, won the hearts of award judges in 2024. *Nedingar* was a Notable book in the Early Childhood category of the CBCA Book of the Year Awards. It was shortlisted in the First Nations Book category of the 2024 Speech Pathology Australia Book of the Year award and won the Wilderness Society of Australia's Karajia Award for Children's Literature. This award honours First Nations storytellers for their stories of connection to Country, language and community.

Books for Little Bookaburras title, *Say Hooray!* by Renae Hayward and Rebecca Mills, was shortlisted for the Speech Pathology Book of the Year Award. Judged by a panel of Certified Practising Speech Pathologists with specific knowledge and skill in children's language and literature development, the 2024 Speech Pathology Book of the Year Award is a trusted guide for families, educators and speech pathologists.

City of Fremantle Hungerford Award winner Molly Schmidt was shortlisted for The Readings New Australian Fiction Prize for her coming-of-age novel *Salt River Road*. Now in its tenth year, and the only award run by an independent Melbourne bookshop, the Readings Prize supports new and outstanding Australian voices. *Salt River Road* was also one of four Australian debut novels shortlisted for the 2024 Indie Book Award.



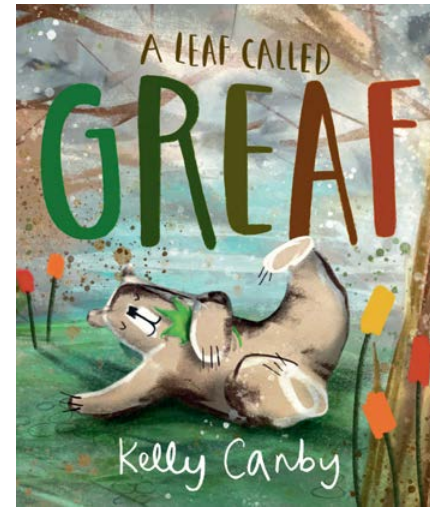
AWARDS

An Unexpected Party, co-published by Get YA Words Out and edited by Seth Malacari, was shortlisted for the Aurealis Awards in their Best Anthology category. Fremantle Press joined with Get YA Words Out in co-publishing this anthology of queer speculative short fiction by emerging Australian writers. Administered by the Canberra Speculative Fiction Guild, the Aurealis Awards were established in 1995 by Chimaera Publications, the publishers of *Aurealis* magazine. They are now administered by the Canberra Speculative Fiction Guild to honour works in science fiction, fantasy and horror written by Australian authors.

Poet Caitlin Maling and her poetry collection *Spore or Seed* was shortlisted for the 2024 Kenneth Slessor Prize for Poetry, as part of the NSW Literary Awards. Reminiscent of the work of Judith Wright and Gwen Harwood, *Spore or Seed* is a beautifully written, deeply moving collection of poetry that explores the transformative power of motherhood, the loss of self and the discovery of a new, expanded self.

I Am the Mau and other stories by acclaimed debut author Chemutai Glasheen was one of five Australian books on The White Ravens: A Selection of International Children's and Youth Literature books for 2024. Selected by the International Youth Library's children's literature experts, they represent literary and pictorial excellence with a particular focus on books that will interest an international audience.

The talented book cover designers of Fremantle Press were recognised at the Whitsunday Writers Festival Published Book Cover Design Award. *The Skeleton House* cover, designed by Nada Backovic, and *Courage Be My Friend* cover, designed by Rebecca Mills, were longlisted. *I Am the Mau*, also with a cover designed by Rebecca Mills, was shortlisted, and *A Leaf Called Greaf* by Kelly Canby finished in second place.



Right: Michael Thompson accepts the WA Premier's Book Award for an Emerging Writer - aged 66. (Image courtesy of the State Library of WA)

FUNDRAISING AND PARTNERSHIPS

GRANTS

Fremantle Press is supported by the State Government through the Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries, and Lotterywest.



Fremantle Press is assisted by the Australian Government through Creative Australia, its arts funding and advisory body, which supported a First Nations Editorship in the second half of 2024.



Fremantle Press attended Frankfurt Bookfair and Bologna Bookfair with assistance from the Australian Publishers Association and Creative Australia.



PROJECT SUPPORTERS

The Fogarty Literary Award for Western Australian writers aged 18–35 is supported by the Fogarty Foundation and Centre for Stories. In 2024, the Fogarty Foundation pledged to support the award for another six years, with a 73% funding increase. The winner of the award will also receive a hot-desk residency from Centre for Stories, along with a stipend of \$1,500.



The City of Fremantle Hungerford Award is supported by the City of Fremantle and Centre for Stories. In 2024, the City of Fremantle pledged to support the award for a further six years as a major, as opposed to naming, sponsor. The winner will also receive a hot-desk residency and \$1500 stipend from Centre for Stories.



Fremantle Press received funding for the development of an anthology of First Nations women's stories to be published in 2026.



The Dorothy and Bill Irwin Charitable Foundation supported the publication of Fremantle Press title *When It Rains* by Dave Warner.

Funding provided by the Minderoo Foundation continued through April 2024, with monies supporting the Minderoo Editorship.



Thanks to the generosity of our donors, Fremantle Press provides entertaining books by local authors to children in Western Australia so they can build their own library.

Fremantle Press authors donating royalties to the Bookaburras program included: Renae Hayward and Rebecca Mills, Helen Milroy, Chris Owen and Chris Nixon, Norman Jorgensen and James Foley, Ezekiel Kwaymullina and Ambelin Kwaymullina, and Kyle Hughes-Odgers.



Louise Jones, in memory of her sister Beverley, a lifelong passionate reader.

Paul Jones, in memory of Allan and Wendy Jones, educators.

Premier's Reading Challenge



FUNDRAISING AND PARTNERSHIPS

PARTNERS

Fremantle Press and THEATRE 180 joined forces on a new book for teens about Australian war hero Vivian Bullwinkel called *Courage Be My Friend*.



Fremantle Press and Alphabet Soup Books collaborated on *Right Way Down*, a new poetry collection for kids



SPONSORS

Fremantle Press receives pro bono legal support from Steedman Stagg Lawyers.



FREMANTLE PRESS CHAMPIONS OF LITERATURE

This year's Champions book was *Cutler* by David Whish-Wilson. Donations made by the Champions of Literature came to \$22,544.30. Fremantle Press was very sad to lose two important, long-standing Champions in 2023 and 2024, respectively. Vale to Jennylee Norgard and Bruce Wilson - passionate supporters who will be greatly missed.

The 2024 Champions of Literature were: Lyn Harding, Georgina Pearce, Annie Fogarty, Gena & Ted Culley, Paul Jones, Clair Medhurst, Helen Millsteed, Rob Millsteed, John Day, Derek Gascoine, Gill Johnston, Graham Forward, Jacqui Gilmour, Sara Wordsworth, Louise Jones, Marie & Bruce Wilson, Lindy Roberts, Deborah Leavitt, Felicity Ruse, Tony & Corinne Barton, Tracie Cielak, Elizabeth Borrello, Megan Enders, Jo Dawkins, Liz Forbes, Mimi Packer

OTHER DONATIONS

Fremantle Press received \$2,081.90 donations from the general public - double that of the previous year.

Right: Deputy Chair Louise Jones in conversation with David Whish-Wilson about his book *Cutler*, at the Champions event held at Open Book.

Fremantle Press partnered with Barking Gecko Arts on the picture book release of *House*, bringing this magical story from stage to page.



Fremantle Press works with the Centre for Stories to create opportunities to expand and diversify the Press's publications in order to reflect the Western Australian community and a broad range of storytellers.



STAFF AND BOARD 2024

STAFF



ALEX ALLAN
CEO
Full-time



CHLOE WALTON
Sales and Marketing Lead
Full-time
(Maternity leave, commenced
October)



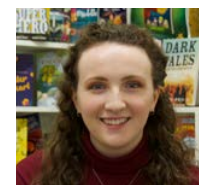
RACHEL HANSON
Senior Editor
Full-time



CATE SUTHERLAND
Publisher
Part-time



ADAM MATTHEWS
Publicist
Full-time



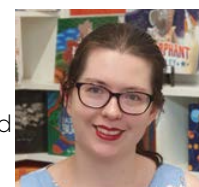
KIRSTY HORTON
Production Editor
Full-time



GEORGIA RICHTER
Publisher
Full-time



BIANCA BREEN
Digital publicist
Part-time
(Maternity leave cover, commenced
5 September)



SIANA LIFFERS
Office/Operations Manager
Full-time (8 October)



CLAIRE MILLER
Head of Sales and Marketing
Part-time



KITTY HE
Bookkeeper and Accounts
Casual



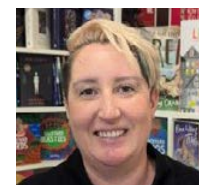
STEPHANIE DUNCAN
Office Assistant
Casual (4 January-18 June)



CASEY MULDER
Editor
Casual (15 July)



FANNY HUANG
Bookkeeper and Accounts
Part-time
(commenced 26 February)



EMILY SAUNDERS
Office Assistant
Casual (commenced 1 August)

SOPHIE WHETTINGSTEEL
Production Assistant
Casual (4 September-31 December)

STAFF AND BOARD 2024

PATRON AND MEMBERS OF THE BOARD



BARRY MCGUIRE
PATRON 2022

Director and advisor experience, cultural leader and chair on several boards.



MARK DOUGLAS
TREASURER 2019

Managing Partner at Fremantle accounting business Francis A. Jones, passionate about helping businesses grow by identifying opportunities and providing clear action plans.



DEBORAH LEAVITT
2019

Vast experience in leadership and building high-performance teams. Began a radio career in Boston before moving to Australia to produce radio programs and podcasts for the ABC.



CLAIR MEDHURST
CHAIR 2016

Lawyer with expertise in legal and commercial risk management, governance, strategic planning, project management and fundraising.



MATT MUELLER
2024

Experienced in technology, governance and risk. He has worked for Deloitte and EY, and held senior roles at Western Power, Origin Energy and Iluka Resources



JOHN HODDINOTT
2017

Business consultant with strong commercial acumen and background in business strategy and financial advice.



LOUISE JONES
DEPUTY CHAIR (APRIL 2023)
2019

Lawyer and former Commonwealth Prosecutor with expertise in corporate communications, politics and fundraising.



MICHAEL CHAPPELL
2024

Managing Director and founder of Pracsys Economics who developed Culture Counts, a system for evaluating the impact of arts and cultural events and programs. Experienced arts board member and chair.



DAVID ANSELL
2020

Originally a teacher, David's career focus has been on improving outcomes for children through work with The Smith Family, the State Government and Telethon.