

2020 All-Stars Online Conference

The Saturdays

Sessions for children and young adult writers and illustrators will run on the Saturday 11, 18 & 25 July

11 July		18 July		25 July	
8:45 am	Conference Opening: Acknowledgment of Country & CYA Competition Winners Announced	9:00 am	Acknowledgment of Country	9:00 am	Acknowledgment of Country
9:15 am	CYA Success Panel - Ashling Kwok, Brenda Gurr, Dannika Patterson and Heidi Cooper-Smith	9:15 am	CYA Success Panel - Anna Whateley, Kelly Hibbert, Liz Ledden, and Nicola Philp	9:15 am	CYA After Success Panel - Jo Sandhu, Renée Trembl, and Candice Lemon-Scott
9:45 am	Claire Saxby - What's the Problem?	9:45 am	Phil Kettle - How to write to get students interested in reading	9:45 am	Aleesah Darlison - Creating, Writing and Pitching a Successful Children's Series
10:30 am	Break	10:30 am	Break	10:30 am	Break
10:45 am	Belinda and Kate - Soul Sisters	10:45 am	Marc McBride - Creating Creatures	10:45 am	Brian Falkner - Dances with Stories
12:15 pm	Q&A	12:15 pm	Q&A	12:15 pm	Q&A
12:30 pm	Lunch	12:30 pm	Lunch	12:30 pm	Lunch
1:15 pm	Deborah Lee - DIY publishing and global distribution - IngramSpark	1:15 pm	Pam Rushby - Perfect Pitch	1:15 pm	Jacqueline Harvey - Chapter Books - Starts, Structures and Storylines
2:00 pm	Sue Whiting - Keeping the pages turning, writing suspense.	2:00 pm	Meredith Costain - Creating characters for picture books and series fiction		Jacqueline Harvey (Continued)
2:45 pm	Break	2:45 pm	Break	2:45 pm	Break
3:00 pm	Renee Trembl - Graphic Novels	3:00 pm	Paul Collins - Plotting a fantasy	3:00 pm	Peter Carnavas - Pictures with words
4:00 pm	Close of conference for the 11th July	4:00 pm	Close of conference for the 18th July	4:00 pm	Close of conference for the 25th July

The Sundays

Sessions for adult writers will run on the Sunday 12, 19 & 26 July

12 July		19 July		26 July	
8:30 am	Conference Opening: Welcome to Country & Adult Competition Winners Announced	8:45 am	Welcome to Country	8:45 am	Welcome to Country
9:00 am	Heather Cashman - USA state of publishing	9:00 am	Julia Ferracane - Marketing Your Book	9:00 am	Deborah Lee - DIY publishing and global distribution - IngramSpark
9:30 am	Q&A				
9:45 am	Heather Cashman - What exactly is 'voice'?	9:45 am	Marc McBride - Cover Design Concepts	9:45 am	Lauren Clarke - Pacing a Novel
10:30 am	Break	10:30 am	Break	10:30 am	Break
10:45 am	Pamela Rushby - Sizzling First Sentences	10:45 am	Belinda Murrell - Magic, Mystery and Mayhem	10:45 am	Jacqueline Harvey - Screen adaptations
12:15 pm	Q&A	12:15 pm	Q&A	12:15 pm	Q&A
12:30 pm	Lunch	12:30 pm	Lunch	12:30 pm	Lunch
1:15 pm	Michelle Somers - Simply Synopsis	1:15 pm	Anne Gracie - Not Just Costumes & Carriages	1:15 pm	Tony Park - Suspense and Action in the Army
2:45 pm	Q&A	2:45 pm	Q&A	2:45 pm	Q&A
3:00 pm	Break	3:00 pm	Break	3:00 pm	Break
3:15 pm	Alex Adsett - What is an Agent?	3:15 pm	Vicki Bennett - Stop Sabotaging Your Writing Talent	3:15 pm	Kate Forsyth - Writing with Joy
4:00 pm	Close of conference for the 12th July	4:00 pm	Close of conference for the 19th July	4:00 pm	Close of conference for the 26th July

The Presenters

We are currently living in crazy times

While all speakers and tutors have confirmed their appearance, no responsibility can be accepted for any changed circumstances which are beyond our control



Aleesah Darlison

Author

Aleesah Darlison is a multi-published, award-winning Australian children's author. She has written forty-five books for children including picture books, chapter books, novels and series. Aleesah has won numerous awards for her writing including the 2015 Environment Award for Children's Literature (Our Class Tiger - Non-Fiction) and an Australian Society of Authors (ASA) Mentorship. Her picture book, Warambi, was a 2012 CBCA Notable Book and was shortlisted for the Eve Pownall Award and the 2012 Environment Award. Her picture book, Emerald: The Green Turtle's Tale was shortlisted for the 2018 Speech Pathology Book of the Year Awards.

Aleesah works across various genres including non-fiction, fantasy, and social realism. Aleesah has also written numerous award-winning short stories and non-fiction articles for adults and children. Her novels include the Little Witch Series, Running from the Tiger, Awesome Animal Stories for Kids, the Netball Gems Series, the Unicorn Riders Series, and Ash Rover: Keeper of the Phoenix. Her picture books include Warambi, Puggle's Problem, Stripes in the Forest: The Story of the Last Wild Thylacine and Mama and Hug (koalas).

Aleesah travels throughout Australia and internationally delivering talks and workshops to children and adults at preschools, schools, libraries, literary festivals and writers' centres. She also works as a writing mentor and tutor. Her 8-book fantasy adventure series, Unicorn Riders, has been released in hardcover and paperback in the US, while many of her other books have also been released internationally.

<http://www.aleesahdarlison.com/>



25 July 2020, 9:15:00 am

Creating, Writing and Pitching a Success Children's Series



Alex Adsett

Alex Adsett Publishing Service

Alex Adsett is a literary agent specialising in fiction for all ages, as well as a freelance publishing consultant offering commercial contract advice to authors and publishers. She has more than twenty years' experience working in the publishing and bookselling industry and has managed Alex Adsett Publishing Services since 2008.

As a literary agent, she is focused on finding exceptional fiction and non-fiction manuscripts for adults, young adults and children. She represents more than forty authors including Jodi McAlister, Robert Henderson, Shelly Unwin, and many more. She is often to be found on twitter at [@alexadsett](https://twitter.com/alexadsett) or via her website www.alexadsett.com.au

<http://alexadsett.com.au>



12 July 2020, 3:15:00 pm

What is an Agent?



Anne Gracie

Author

Award-winning Melbourne writer Anne Gracie spent her childhood on the move. The gypsy life taught her that humour and love are universal languages and that favorite books can take you home, wherever you are.

A lifelong bookworm, Anne began writing her first novel while backpacking solo around the world. She's now a full-time writer working on her 23rd book. A nationally bestselling author in the USA (published with PenguinRandom House) her historical romances have been translated into more than eighteen languages.

Anne has conducted writing workshops for most Australian state writers' centres, many tertiary institutions, and has delivered keynotes and workshops in the US, Australia and NZ. Her book, *The Autumn Bride*, has been on the curriculum of several Australian universities.

<http://www.annegracie.com>



19 July 2020, 1:15:00 pm

Not Just Costumes & Carriages

Historical novels are not lightly disguised history lessons; they're about characters and conflict and, if done well, they plunge readers into another world, with all the excitement and uncertainty and richness and drama of the unexpected. Mine the past for stories and, in your own special way, bring them to life for today's readers.



Belinda Murrell

Author

Belinda Murrell is a bestselling, internationally published children's author with a history of writing in her family that spans over 200 years. Belinda has written more than 30 books including *The Sun Sword* trilogy, 13 books in the popular *Lulu Bell* series and her award-winning timeslip novels. Her latest series is called *Pippa's Island* about a group of best friends who start a secret club, which meets after school in a tower on top of a boatshed.

Belinda thinks she has the best job in the world because it brings together three of her greatest loves - writing, reading and travelling the world with her family! And when she's not writing books (or escaping on wonderful travel holidays with her family) she's often out talking to kids at schools, festivals and literary events around Australia.

<https://belindamurrell.com.au>



11 July 2020, 10:45:00 am

Soul Sisters

How do you find the inspiration to write a book that a publisher will love? How do you survive and thrive as an author in a highly competitive industry? What are the hot insider tips to help you achieve your dreams?

In this inspiring masterclass, best-selling, internationally published authors and sisters, Kate Forsyth and Belinda Murrell discuss staring the deadline down, planning for success, nurturing creativity, reinventing yourself, creating time to write and building resilience. Between them Kate and Belinda have written over 80 books which have been published around the world, translated into many different languages, and been recognised by a swag of literary accolades, as well as being the first sisters in history to be shortlisted for the same Australian literary award - the 2017 REAL Awards (Reading & Enjoying Australian Literature).

Together they have written a memoir, which will be published by the NLA in November, about growing up in a literary family and the life of their great-great-great-grandmother Charlotte Waring Atkinson who wrote the first children's book published in Australia in 1841.

19 July 2020, 10:45:00 am

Magic, Mystery & Mayhem

How do you create captivating characters that readers will love? How do you structure your story to keep readers turning the pages long into the night? What are the magical ingredients you need for a successful fantasy book?

In this masterclass, best-selling, internationally published children's author Belinda Murrell discusses the key ingredients for writing a fantasy book brimming with magic, wonder and adventure: from ideas and inspiration to creating irresistible characters, story structure, imaginative plots and navigating the publishing process. Belinda shares lessons learned from her writing career and dynamic writing exercises to help you write your own dream fantasy book.



Brian Falkner

Author

Brian Falkner was born and raised in Auckland. He is the award-winning, bestselling author of several novels for children and young adults, including *The Flea Thing*, *The Real Thing* and *The Super Freak*. His action-adventure sci-fi novels *The Tomorrow Code* and *Brainjack* were short-listed for the New Zealand Post Book Awards for Children & Young Adults and the Esther Glen Award at the LIANZA Awards.

In 2010 *Brainjack* won the New Zealand Post Book Awards, Children's Choice Award (Young Adult Fiction category) and the Sir Julius Vogel Award, Best Young Adult Novel. The Project was short-listed on the 2011 Storylines Notable Books List. The first book in the Recon Team Angel series, *Assault*, was short-listed for the 2012 LIANZA Award (Young Adult Fiction category) and the third book, *Ice War*, was short-listed for this award in 2014.

<http://www.brianfalkner.com>



25 July 2020, 10:45:00 am

Dances with Stories

Learn how to make your stories dance, do the Cha Cha, the foxtrot and the fandango!

Brian will show you how to make your words waltz off the page and into the reader's hearts.



Claire Saxby

Author

Claire Saxby writes award-winning fiction, non-fiction and poetry for children. From extreme silliness in 'There Was an Old Sailor', to big historical stories with strong curriculum links like 'My Name is Lizzie Flynn', 'Meet the Anzacs' and 'Meet Weary Dunlop', to iconic Australian animals including 'Big Red Kangaroo', 'Emu' and 'Koala', her picture books aim to engage, entertain and encourage curiosity. Claire's work is published in Australia and internationally.

Her picture book 'Emu' (ill Graham Byrne, Walker Books) was shortlisted in CBCA Awards 2015, and won both the Wilderness Award and a Whitley Award. 'Big Red Kangaroo' won the CBCA Crichton Award, was shortlisted for the Queensland Literary Award and was a Whitley Award winner.

Recent books include 'Koala' (ill Julie Vivas, Walker Books) CBCA Notable Book, Bird to Bird (ill Wayne Harris, Black Dog Books) and Dingo (Tannya Harricks Walker Books).

<http://clairesaxby.wordpress.com>



11 July 2020, 9:45:00 am

What's the Problem?

Picture book texts need to tell a story in less than 500 words. Explore ways of developing plot and assessing your own story for clarity and completeness.



Deborah Lee

IngramSpark

Deborah Lee is the Manager, Content Acquisition, Ingram Content Group and Lightning Source Australia.

Deborah joined Ingram Lightning Source in 2014.

She began her publishing career as a sales rep in the trade market 30 years ago, before moving to educational publishing where she became a Publisher of academic and professional texts. She has worked with publishers large and small, from multinationals to independents and from scholarly presses to not-for-profit organisations.

She is delighted to now provide print-on-demand and global distribution solutions to a diverse range of publishers, directly addressing changing market demands.

Note: NO CONTRACTS will be signed during CYA Conference.

<http://www.ingramspark.com/>



11 July 2020, 1:15:00 pm

Self Publishing with IngramSpark

26 July 2020, 9:00:00 am

Self Publishing with IngramSpark



Heather Cashman

Storm Literary Agency

Heather has always loved literature. Surrounded by books from her earliest memories, she read picture books, biographies, poetry, and all genres of fiction. While she devoured any book that told a good story and introduced a new world, she especially loved the ones that made her want to be the heroine of her own life.

As Heather grew up, her work in Biochemistry inspired her imagination for creating worlds. Writing for enjoyment turned into an interest in improving craft. Heather has always loved meeting authors and working on their books as a collaborative partner. She was a professional editor for Cornerstones Literary Consultancy, editing middle grade, young adult, and adult books. She's also helped authors by working as Managing Director of Pitch Wars, #PitMad, and Pitch Madness, as well as being a Pitch Wars mentor.

Before becoming an associate agent at Storm Literary Agency, Heather interned for three years at The Bent Agency and Entangled Publishing. She's helped authors from the pre-query stage to acquisitions, and she's also worked as a freelance editor and consultant for traditional and non-traditional publishing. She's excited to continue helping authors as their agent.

Some of her favorite authors: Anne McCaffrey, Terry Brooks, Judy Blume, Dr. Suess, Shel Silverstein, Gary Paulson, Roald Dahl, Lord Byron (so much love for *Prometheus Unbound*, especially), Orson Scott Card, Beverly Cleary, Dean Koontz, Rainbow Rowell, Pierce Brown, Leigh Bardugo, Maggie Stiefvater, Holly Black, and so many more.

<http://www.stormliteraryagency.com>



12 July 2020, 9:00:00 am

USA state of publishing

12 July 2020, 9:45:00 am

What exactly is "voice"?



Jacqueline Harvey

Author

Jacqueline Harvey loves writing books full of adventure, mystery, quirky characters and lots of laughs. With over 40 books published in the past ten years she is one of Australia's most popular authors for children, best known for her Alice-Miranda, Clementine Rose and Kensy and Max series.

In 2020, to celebrate the 10th anniversary of Alice-Miranda at School her publisher, Penguin Random House have produced a beautiful hardback edition of the book that inspired another 18 stories and counting.

Alice-Miranda Friends Forever, the animated movie by SLR Productions in partnership with Screen Australia, ZDF Enterprises and Channel Nine has just premiered in Australia and a second film, Alice-Miranda A Royal Christmas Ball will screen in 2020.

Jacqueline has received numerous short-listings and awards while her picture book, *The Sound of the Sea* was a CBCA Honour Book. A highly experienced teacher and presenter, she has delivered thousands of talks and workshops for children and adults at schools and festivals around the world. Her books have been translated into many languages and she is thrilled that Kensy and Max will be published in the United States in 2020.

She is currently working on lots of exciting new projects including more books in the Alice-Miranda and Kensy and Max series.

<http://www.jacquelineharvey.com.au>



25 July 2020, 1:15:00 pm

Chapter Books – Starts, Structures and Storylines

Having written over forty five chapter books for junior and middle grade, Jacqueline Harvey is well placed to discuss her methods and practice and in this session will look at the process of developing a chapter book from finding a great plot to devising characters and deciding on the structure. The session will take a look at the whole process from ideas through to the finished product.

26 July 2020, 10:45:00 am

Screen Adaptions



Julia Ferracane

Saint Copy

As a former Arts and Publishing Publicist for The Australian Ballet and Penguin Random House Australia, Julia started Saint Copy PR & Communications with clear intentions - To make PR expertise more accessible for creatives, small business owners, entrepreneurs, not for profits and authors.

A champion for those bold enough to pursue their creative endeavours, I could see the leverage that targeted PR coverage could have for small business. With a broad range of clients across the arts, fashion, kids publishing and not for profit scene, she has helped get clients the right coverage, from digital to traditional PR, to be seen, heard and felt by their ideal audience.

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



19 July 2020, 9:00:00 am

Market your book like a pro

Most authors spend 80% of their time writing a book, but only 20% preparing to market their book. Yet, it is marketing and PR that will determine whether your book gets seen and heard by your ideal audience.

In this workshop you will learn how to create a solid book marketing and PR plan as well as teach you the best methods and how to apply them yourself.

We will:

Identify the major tactics to market your book such as email, book influencers, social media, online advertising, and Publicity.

Identifying your target audience and where they "hang out" and driving traffic to your book/ website.



Kate Forsyth

Author

Dr Kate Forsyth wrote her first novel aged seven and has since sold more than a million copies. Her books for adults include *The Blue Rose*, *Beauty in Thorns*, *The Beast's Garden*, *The Wild Girl*, and *Bitter Greens* which won the 2015 American Library Association Award for Best Historical Fiction.

Kate's books for children include the collection of feminist fairy-tale retellings *The Buried Moon & Other Tales of Bright Young Women*, the companion book to *Vasilisa the Wise & Other Tales of Brave Young Women*, which won a silver medal in the 2018 Readers Favorite book awards in the US. Other children's books include *The Impossible Quest* fantasy series which was shortlisted for the the Reading & Enjoying Australian Literature (REAL) Awards; the Aurealis-award winning historical fiction series *The Chain of Charms*, and *The Puzzle Ring* which was short-listed for the 2009 Aurealis Award for Best Young Adult Novel, and named an 'Unsung Hero of 2009' by international bloggers.

Kate has also won the 2017 William Atheling Jr Award for Criticism and been honoured with the 2018 Australian Fairy Tale Society Award for her significant contribution to the field of fairy tale studies. Kate has a BA in literature, a MA in creative writing and a Doctorate of Creative Arts, and is also an accredited master storyteller with the Australian Guild of Storytellers. Kate is a direct descendant of Charlotte Waring Atkinson, the author of the first book for children ever published in Australia.

<http://www.kateforsyth.com.au>



11 July 2020, 10:45:00 am

Soul Sisters

How do you find the inspiration to write a book that a publisher will love? How do you survive and thrive as an author in a highly competitive industry? What are the hot insider tips to help you achieve your dreams?

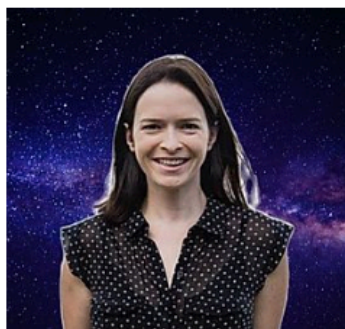
In this inspiring masterclass, best-selling, internationally published authors and sisters, Kate Forsyth and Belinda Murrell discuss staring the deadline down, planning for success, nurturing creativity, reinventing yourself, creating time to write and building resilience. Between them Kate and Belinda have written over 80 books which have been published around the world, translated into many different languages, and been recognised by a swag of literary accolades, as well as being the first sisters in history to be shortlisted for the same Australian literary award - the 2017 REAL Awards (Reading & Enjoying Australian Literature).

Together they have written a memoir, which will be published by the NLA in November, about growing up in a literary family and the life of their great-great-great-grandmother Charlotte Waring Atkinson who wrote the first children's book published in Australia in 1841.

26 July 2020, 3:15:00 pm

Writing with Joy

Ernest Hemingway is meant to have once remarked, jokingly, that there was nothing to writing. All you have to do is sit down at a typewriter, open a vein, and bleed. Although the Hemingway Society refutes this quote constantly, it appears all over the internet. Quotes like this have fostered a misconception that - if writing is to be of any value - it must be made slowly, laboriously, with great suffering and anguish. I prefer the Irish poet Seamus Heaney's view of it: 'I've always associated the moment of writing with a moment of lift, of joy, of unexpected reward.' Writing a book is not easy. It can, however, be something that brings you an enormous sense of joy and creative fulfilment. If you have lost your joy in writing, join Kate Forsyth for this hour long workshop designed to inspire and energise you once again. Learn how to write with mindfulness and flow, how to build up your writing stamina, and how to rediscover your sense of creative wonder and freedom.



Lauren Clarke

Creating Ink

LAUREN CLARKE is an editor of fact and fiction, specialising in the romance genre. She works with a host of traditionally and independently published authors, some USA Today, NY Times, Amazon and iBooks bestsellers amongst them. With more than fifteen years experience in the publishing industry, she is passionate about helping writers create the perfect story.

As well as working in structural and line editing, Lauren hosts a series of workshops and courses for authors and writers' groups both digitally and in person. She is also the creator of a range of tools to help writers create—check out the store for more details.

<https://www.laurenclarkeediting.com>



26 July 2020, 9:45:00 am

Pacing a Novel



Marc McBride

Illustrator

Marc McBride has designed over 200 book covers including the best selling Deltora Quest series, which has sold over eighteen million copies around the world and has become an Anime TV show.

His latest book, The Glimme, was designed by him along with Time Vaulter, released in 2020.

Marc has won design awards for the Deltora Quest and an Aurealis Award twice. He has had work exhibited with the New York society of Illustrators International show and won Best Art Direction at the WA Film and Television Awards.

<http://www.marcmcbride.com>



18 July 2020, 10:45:00 am

Creating Creatures

During Marc's workshops he explains the process of creating artwork, beginning with imagination and where ideas come from. He uses ideas from the audience to paint a dragon and, using simple shapes, he shows how to draw and to 'not be afraid of making mistakes!'

19 July 2020, 9:45:00 am

Cover Design Concepts

Marc McBride has illustrated and designed over 200 book covers.

His Deltora Quest series and picture book Old Ridley have won cover design awards.

In this session he will explain the process from initial sketches to finished art, the changing trends in book covers and working with art directors.

Marc will focus on the different techniques and computer programs used in cover design and show examples of his own work.

He will explain how to make things stand out, how colour can help sell or bring attention to different parts of a cover and how the composition of a book cover is vital!

Marc will also talk about how to get your designs seen by publishers and where to start!



Meredith Costain

Author

Meredith Costain is a versatile writer for children whose work ranges from picture books through to novels, poetry, series fiction and narrative non-fiction. Her books include Doodledum Dancing, Musical Harriet – which was adapted for TV by the ABC, Grandmas are Lovely, and tween series A Year in Girl Hell. Meredith's latest books include the quirky Ella Diaries and its sister series, Olivia's Secret Scribbles. She has worked as an editor for children's magazines and literacy programs, and enjoys presenting writing workshops to children and adults around Australia and overseas.

<http://www.meredithcostain.com>



18 July 2020, 2:00:00 pm

Creating Characters for Picture Books & Series Fiction



Michelle Somers

Author

Michelle Somers is a professional killer and matchmaker, a storyteller and a romantic. Words are her power and her passion. Her heroes and heroines always get their happy ever after, but she'll put them through one hell of a journey to get there.

Her debut novel Lethal in Love won the Romance Writers of Australia's Valerie Parv Award before publication, then went on to win Romantic Book of the Year in 2016. The sequel, Murder Most Unusual, was released in 2017. The first in her non-fiction Simply Writing Series, Simply Synopsis, was born soon after. Her vision? To demystify the process of synopsis creation.

Michelle lives in Melbourne, Australia, with her real life hero and three little heroes in the making. And Emerald, a black furry feline who thinks she's a dog.

<http://www.michelle-somers.com/>



12 July 2020, 1:15:00 pm

Learn how to construct an engaging and fresh synopsis.

SIMPLY SYNOPSIS formulates the building blocks of the synopsis—the orientation, the major turning points, the resolution and the conclusion—piecing them together in a way that is engaging and exciting for the reader. It covers tone, vocabulary, point of view and pacing. It looks at backstory—how and where does this fit in? Secondary characters and secondary plots—yes or no? World-building—how much is enough?

The SIMPLY SYNOPSIS strategy is simple and straightforward, a step-by-step process that makes the daunting task of synopsis creation much less daunting. At the end of this workshop, each participant will have an in-depth understanding of the building blocks they must use to craft a synopsis that captivates and sells.



Pamela Rushby

Author

Pamela Rushby was born in Queensland more years ago than she cares to divulge. She has worked in advertising; as a pre-school teacher; and as a writer and producer of educational television, audio and multimedia.

Pam has written children's books and television scripts; hundreds of radio and TV commercials; multi award-winning documentaries on Queensland dinosaurs, Australian ecosystems, bilbies, the Crown of Thorns starfish and buried Chinese terracotta warriors; short stories; and freelance journalism. She has won several awards, including a Literature Board of the Australia Council grant to work on archaeological excavations in Egypt and Jordan; a Churchill Fellowship to study educational television in Canada; the Ethel Turner Prize in the NSW Premier's Literary Awards; five Notable Books in the Children's Book Council of Australia awards; and a bag of gold coins at a film festival in Iran.

Her historical novels include *When the Hipchicks Went to War* (Hachette 2009), *The Horses Didn't Come Home* (HarperCollins 2012), *Flora's War* (Ford Street Publishing 2013), *The Rat-catcher's Daughter* (HarperCollins 2014), *Sing a Rebel Song* (Omnibus 2015) and *Lizzie and Margaret Rose* (Omnibus 2016).

Pam lives in Brisbane with her husband and six visiting scrub turkeys. She has two children (plus son-in-law and two gorgeous grandchildren).

She is passionately interested in children's books and television, ancient history and Middle Eastern food.

<http://www.pamelarushby.com>



12 July 2020, 10:45:00 am

Perfect Pitch

18 July 2020, 1:15:00 pm

Sizzling First Sentences



Paul Collins

Ford Street

Paul has been the recipient of the A Bertram Chandler, Aurealis, William Atheling and Peter McNamara awards and has been shortlisted for many others including the Speech Pathology, Mary Grant Bruce, Ditmar and Chronos awards.

He founded Ford Street Publishing in 2007. Since then Ford Street has published around 140 books. Many have either been short-listed or won awards such as the Family Therapists' and Gold INKY Award.

Paul was publishing in the mid 70s. In the early 80s he published Australia's first adult fantasy novels- a decade before the major publishers realised there was an audience for science fiction and fantasy. He began writing full time in the late 90s and is the author of well over 100 books, mostly for children and young adults. He counts among his publishers Penguin, Hachette, The Five Mile Press, Lothian, Macmillan and HarperCollins.

His current title is a middle grade book called *James Gong - The Bit Hit*, due May 2020. It has pre-sold 2000 copies.

Paul also runs literary festivals in schools and libraries and runs the speakers' agency Creative Net.

<http://www.paulcollins.com.au>



18 July 2020, 3:00:00 pm

Plotting a Fantasy



Peter Carnavas

Children's Author & Illustrator

Peter Carnavas writes and illustrates books for children and the grown-ups in their lives.

He has written and illustrated many picture books, including Jessica's Box, Last Tree in the City and The Children Who Loved Books. His novel, The Elephant, won the Children's Book Award at the 2018 Queensland Literary Award and was shortlisted in four other national awards, including the CBCA Awards.

Peter has worked with author Pat Flynn on My Totally Awesome Story, and illustrated Damon Young's series of picture books that celebrate family diversity, including the ABIA winning My Sister is a Superhero. He also illustrated John Williamson's picture book, My Dad Snores.

Peter now divides his time between writing and working as a teacher librarian. He lives in the Sun-shine Coast hinterland with his wife, two daughters, a dog called Florence and a cat named Harry. He's still getting used to the cat.

<http://www.petercarnavas.com>



25 July 2020, 3:00:00 pm

Pictures with Words



Phil Kettle

Author

Phil Kettle is an award winning author of 200 books for younger readers.

His books include the Toocool, Boyz Rule, Girlz Rock, Billy Kool, Get Real, Our Australia, I Can Be, Spike and soon to be released Out Back Clancy and Kidz Rule book series.

Phil is a passionate and popular presenter in schools not only in Australia, but also OSI ..

<https://philkettle.com/>



18 July 2020, 9:45:00 am

How to write to get students interested in reading

Some may consider it a straight-forward question; my concern however, is that it makes an assumption that students aren't interested in reading.

Even when attempting to answer the question for the groups of students whose reading skills are particularly limited, I find that a range of stereotypes and all manner of conflicting generalisations get in the way.

My response to the question "what can we do to get students interested in reading?" is to ask a question straight back. "Are we talking about students who can read - but won't, or are we talking about students who because they struggle to read are considered reluctant readers?"

At this point I need to stress that I don't actually consider the term 'reluctant' to be appropriate. Some students may struggle to read at the level of their peers, however the word 'reluctant' infers that there is a choice. In my experience as a teacher and author children don't choose not to read. The term reluctant also results in children being 'labelled' and having heard trusted adults describe them as reluctant, to my horror I have heard children using the term to describe themselves.

I am also keen to point out that it is really important to acknowledge that there are many students with sound reading skills, who simply refuse to read what their parents and teachers want them to read. They will only read what interests them – surprise surprise! Sadly, many of these students are also labelled in a negative way.

My work with children has evidenced for me over and over again, that it's the type of book that is presented to the students that will most often dictate the students' response. When the response is rejection, be it by the student with sound reading skills, or the student who is struggling to read at the level of his peers – the negative stereotypes and labels emerge impeding the progress we all desire.

Students – irrespective of their reading ability – enjoy pictures, comics, movies and books that place action and happenings ahead of emotion. Students – irrespective of their reading ability – enjoy situations where 'what the characters do' is initially more important than 'what the characters think and feel'.

Mindful of this, I have always believed it essential to introduce students to books that present an environment where it is possible for their imaginations to run wild. More specifically, an environment where they can project themselves into the book, and consider themselves to be the main character!



Renee Trembl
Author

Renee Trembl is the author and illustrator of several picture books for young children, including: Ten Little Owls, Roo Knows Blue and Sleep Tight, Platypup. She is also the creator of the Sherlock Bones graphic novel mystery series for independent readers. Renee has a degree in environmental science and a passionate love of natural history.

<http://www.ReneeTrembl.com>



11 July 2020, 3:00:00 pm

Graphic Novels



Sue Whiting
Freelance Editor

Sue Whiting is an award-winning Australian author who lives and works in a sleepy coastal village near Sydney. Sue has written numerous books in a variety of genres: fiction and nonfiction, picture books through to YA, including the bestselling The Firefighters, and the award-winning A Swim in the Sea. Her picture book Platypus, illustrated by Mark Jackson, was a CBCA 2016 Notable Book.

A former primary school teacher with a special interest in literacy education and children's literature, Sue is a highly experienced speaker who loves sharing her passion for stories and storytelling, reading and writing with people of all ages. Sue has presented at many Writers' Festivals around the country, and is a sought-after freelance editor, writing coach and mentor.

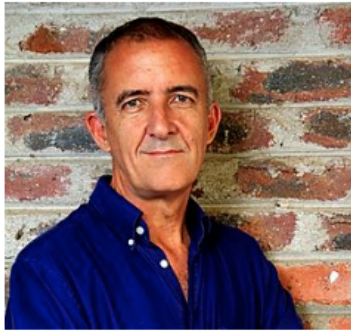
She will also be an on site editor on Saturday. See Sue's Editor Page for more information.

<http://SueWhiting.com>



11 July 2020, 2:00:00 pm

Keeping the pages turning – writing suspense



Tony Park

Author

Tony Park was born in 1964 and grew up in the western suburbs of Sydney. He has worked as a journalist, press secretary and PR consultant and is now a full time author. Tony also served 34 years in the Australian Army Reserve, including six months in Afghanistan in 2002. Tony is the author of 18 thriller novels set in Africa and six non-fiction biographies. A once-in-a-lifetime safari holiday to Africa in 1995 turned out to be anything but, for Tony and his wife, Nicola. They became hooked on Africa and now divide their time equally each year between Sydney and a house in a game reserve on the edge of South Africa's Kruger National Park. In his spare time Tony volunteers with Veterans 4 Wildlife, an NGO whose ex-military members train and support anti-poaching rangers in Africa. His latest novel is 'Last Survivor', about the trade in endangered plants.

<https://www.tonypark.net/>



26 July 2020, 1:15:00 pm

Suspense and Action in the Army



Vicki Bennett

Author

Vicki Bennett is an author, artist, a corporate trainer for over three decades and an accomplished writer and entertaining speaker. She has written 30 books and written and co-produced a documentary, Never Forget Australia.

Her writing career began with personal development books and has expanded to children's books, young adult and adult fiction. Books include: I've Found the Keys Now Where's the Car? I've Read the Rules, Now How Do I Play the Game? Life Smart - Choices for Young People about Friendship, Family and Future, The Effective Leader, Signposts for Life, Two Pennies, The Little Stowaway and Oliver's First Big Spy Adventure.

The Book of Hope - Antidote to Anxiety released in 2020, came from her personal experience of anxiety. Vicki felt a great need in the marketplace for an accessible book about overcoming anxiety, exploring the antidotes of sacred self-care, values driven behaviour, managing triggers, accessing gratitude, mindfulness and resilience.

<http://www.vickibennett.com.au>



19 July 2020, 3:15:00 pm

Stop Sabotaging Your Writing Talent

Whether it's a novel, biography, non-fiction, autobiography or if you want to develop your blogs into a book, you can learn the skills and the mind-set to stop sabotaging your creative writing. You may be sabotaging your work by being stalled, overcome, disheartened, stuck, putting off what you really want to do, by not making the time to write or giving to everyone else to the detriment of your own creativity. Vicki Bennett will help you unleash the writer within to find the magic in writing with the flow. Participants will walk away with an understanding of the fears that sabotage their writing and the antidote of moving forward with their creative process. They are shown how to channel their talent into their writing projects and how to get into the 'zone' and find the joy of writing.



Anna Whateley
2020

<http://www.annawhateley.com>



Anna will be appearing on the
CYA Success panel on 18 July
2020



Brenda Gurr
2020

<https://brendagurr.com/>



Brenda will be appearing on
the CYA Success panel on 11
July 2020



Dannika Patterson
2019

<http://www.dannikapatterson.com/>



Dannika will be appearing on
the CYA Success panel on 11
July 2020



Nicola Philp
2019

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



Nicole will be appearing on the
CYA Success panel on 18 July
2020



Heidi Cooper Smith
2018

<http://heidicoopersmith.com/>



Heidi will be appearing on the
CYA Success panel on 11 July
2020



Candice Lemon-Scott
2019

<https://candicelemonscott.com.au>



Candice will be appearing on the CYA After the Success panel on 25 July 2020



Kelly Hibbert
2019

<http://www.kellyhibbert.com>



Kelly will be appearing on the CYA Success panel on 18 July 2020



Ashling Kwok
2018

<http://www.ashlingkwok.com>



Ashling will be appearing on the CYA Success panel on 11 July 2020



Liz Ledden
2018

<http://www.lizledden.com>



Liz will be appearing on the CYA Success panel on 18 July 2020



Jo Sandhu
2017

<https://www.facebook.com/josandhu.author/>



Jo will be appearing on the CYA After the Success panel on 25 July 2020



Renée Tremblay

2012

<http://www.ReneeTremblay.com>



Renée will be appearing on the
CYA After the Success panel
on 25 July 2020

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If you're an independent author or publisher looking to publish quality print books and ebooks with global book distribution and free resources to help you self-publish successfully, the Deborah Lee from IngramSpark is one of the people you need to talk to. She will be able to give you guidance and information pertaining to IngramSpark's POD and global distribution services,

Once you've written and formatted your book, IngramSpark makes it possible to share it with the world.



Tadaa is a team of creatives from around the world. They provide self-publishing services for independent authors.

The founders, Ozan and Anil are a designer & illustrator couple based in Brisbane. They started creating children's books together in 2008. After relocating to Australia, they continued doing what they love to do and Tadaa was born in 2013.

As the booksmiths of Tadaa, their primary job is making the self-publishing journey easier, satisfactory and enjoyable for their authors. Focusing on art direction, illustration, and design; they aim to create great-looking books that can compete with all other beautiful books out there.

Faber Writing Academy at ALLEN & UNWIN

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129 DAYS TO THE EVENT

2020 Writers at Sea (maybe online) Retreat

The 2020 Writers at Sea Retreat on the Radiance of the Seas will be departing from Brisbane on 16 November 2020 for 8 wonderful nights.

a 10% discount is available for 2020 conference attendees. Please email info@cyaconference.com for details.

If the cruise is cancelled the retreat will be online.

When

16 Nov, 11:00 am - 24 Nov, 3:00 pm

Where

Radiance of the Seas, Flare Building, Level 1/39 Hercules St, Hamilton QLD 4007, Australia