

## Author Biography 1

Sue Whiting is an award-winning children's and YA author and editor who has worked in publishing for two decades.

Sue's passion for children's literature started during her time as a primary school teacher. She enjoyed connecting children with books that would help them become lifelong readers. Ultimately this turned to an ambition to write her own books for children. Her first break was as a contract writer for the Contract Publishing Company writing text for novelty books and then later for the education market. Her first published trade middle grade novel was *Battle of the Rats* in 2004.

Sue was the senior commissioning editor and publishing manager for Walker Books Australia for many years before leaving in 2016 to concentrate on her writing.

As a storyteller and schools' performer, Sue has informed, inspired and entertained thousands of kids across the country.



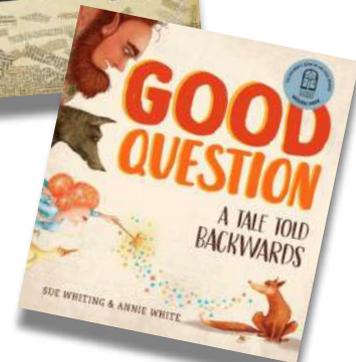
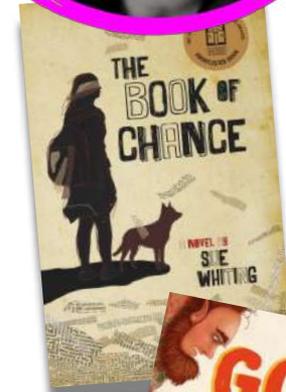
## Author Biography 2

Sue is also a freelance children's book editor and writing coach, and the author of numerous books. These include the bestselling *Missing*, the award-winning *A Swim in the Sea*, and a number of CBCA Notable Books.

Sue has written over 60 books for a variety of ages. Her latest books are *The Book of Chance* a mystery/suspense novel for readers 10+, which was shortlisted for the 2021 CBCA Book of the Year Awards and Highly Commended in the 2021 Davitt Awards; and the picture book, *Good Question*, illustrated by Annie White, which was named a CBCA Notable Book.

"I love sharing my passion for story and storytelling, reading and writing with people of all ages." Sue Whiting.

- Learn more about [The Co-author Program](#).
- Website: <https://suewhiting.com>



## Author Biography 1

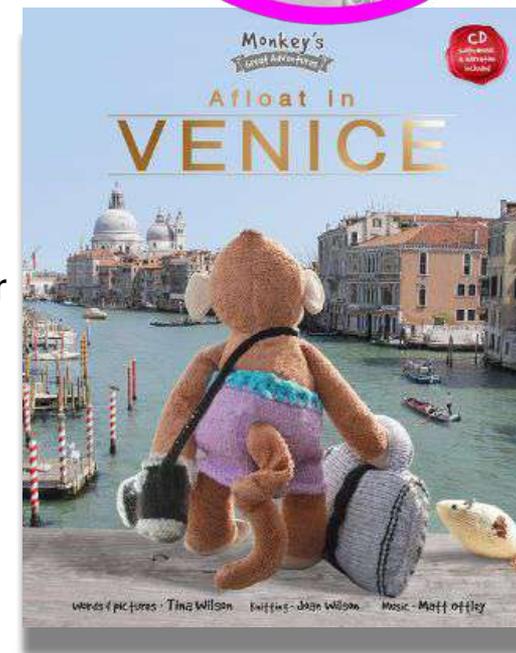
Tina Wilson is an author/illustrator/artist with a passion for books.

Tina has worked as a freelance artist/designer for publishers and clients across Australia (including Allen and Unwin, Harper Collins and Bryce Courtenay, illustrating her first children's book for renowned author Jill Morris in 2003).

In 2007 Tina created Western Australia's national portraiture prize: the Lester Prize (previously the Black Swan Prize for Portraiture).

Born from her awareness of the limited opportunities for WA artists, suffering the tyranny of distance and isolation, Tina was the founder and executive director of the prize for ten years, as it grew into Australia's third richest portrait prize.

- Learn more about [The Co-author Program](#).
- Website: [www.tinawilsonartist.com](http://www.tinawilsonartist.com)



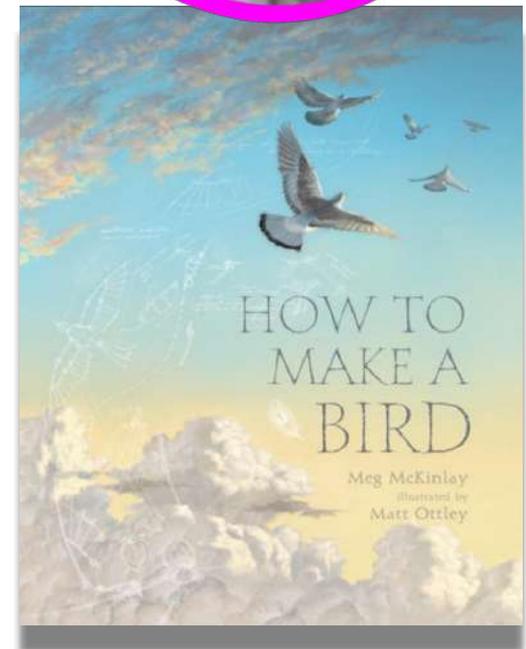
## Author Biography 2

Matt Ottley is an award-winning multi-modal artist, working equally across the fields of literature, visual arts and music.

Matt has had more than thirty-five picture books published and awards include the Prime Minister's Literary Award, CBCA Picture Book of the Year and the Queensland, Western Australia & NSW Premiers Awards for literature.

As a composer Matt is involved in an ongoing collaboration with the West Australian Symphony Orchestra, The Literature Centre and Yamaha, in a multi-modal project called The Sound of Picture Books, which has been performed to thousands of students. In 2014, he was made an Endorsed Yamaha Artist for his work as a composer. His latest multi-modal work, *The Tree of Ecstasy* and *Unbearable Sadness*, is a picture book for adults/young adults and includes a full symphonic and choral work of music.

- Learn more about [The Co-author Program](#).
- Website: <https://mattottley.com/>



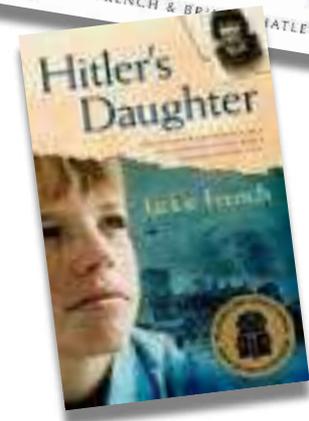
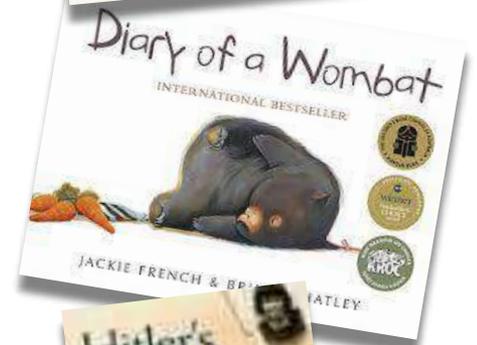
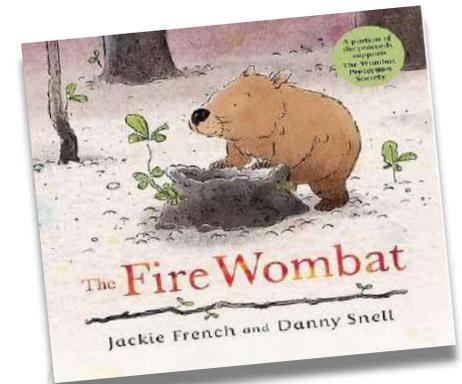
## Author Biography 1

Jackie French AM is an Australian author, historian, ecologist and honorary wombat (part time), 2014–2015 Australian Children's Laureate and 2015 Senior Australian of the Year.

Jackie has written over 200 books, some of which have sold millions of copies and won over 60 awards in Australia and internationally. Jackie is one of the few writers to win both literary and children's choice awards. She has appeared in assorted 'Burke's Backyard' segments, radio shows, newspaper and magazine columns.

Jackie writes for adults, young adults, and children, on history, ecology, and her award-winning historical fiction for all ages. Her titles include *Hitler's Daughter* and *Diary of a Wombat*.

Her first children's book *Rain Stones* was written in a shed with a wallaby called Fred, a black snake called Gladys and a wombat called Smudge. It was shortlisted for the NSW Premier's Award and CBCA Younger Reader's Book of the Year.



## Author Biography 2

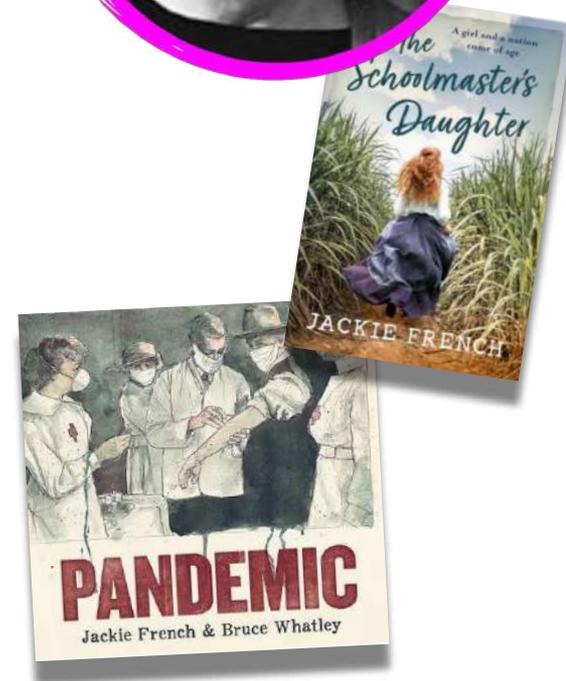
Jackie is dyslexic and a patron of literacy programmes across Australia with a wide and deep experience in learning differences and methods, and their outcomes for students.

She is a passionate advocate of equal education opportunity, help for children with learning difficulties and the conservation of wildlife.

“When I read a sentence... what I see isn't going to be the same as what you see. Every time I write a book, it is co-authored with the person who reads it. That's why a book is so powerful.” Jackie French.

Children can work with Jackie's LittleScribe program where she has shared the first few pages of her book *Oracle* for students to co-author.

- Learn more about [The Co-author Program](#).
- Website: <https://www.jackiefrench.com/>

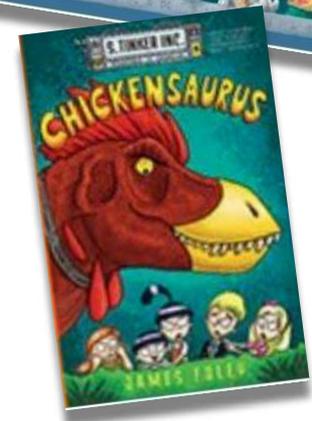
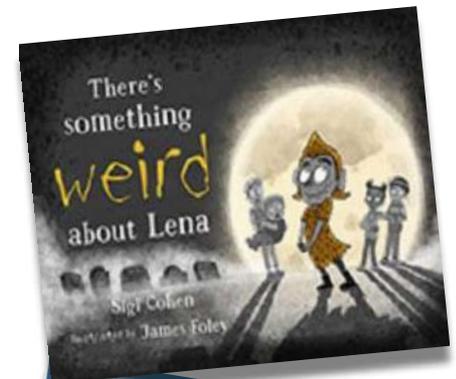


## Author Biography 1

James Foley is a children's author and illustrator. He makes picture books, middle grade novels and comics for kids. He created the graphic novel series: Brobot, Dungzilla and Gastronomats starring Sally Tinker, the world's foremost inventor under the age of twelve.

James' earlier books, *My Dead Bunny*, *In The Lion*, *The Last Viking* and *The Last Viking Returns* have all scored several honours, including children's choice awards. His books *There's Something Weird About Lena* and *Chickensaurus* are among his recent offerings and showcase his humorous, illustrative style. His latest picture book, *Stellarphant*, is about the world's first elephant astronaut

As writer and illustrator, James loves being able to pull the whole story together from scratch. James started his career in primary school, drawing cartoons for the school newspaper, and in year 7, won third prize in a state-wide 'Make Your Own Storybook' Competition.



## Author Biography 2

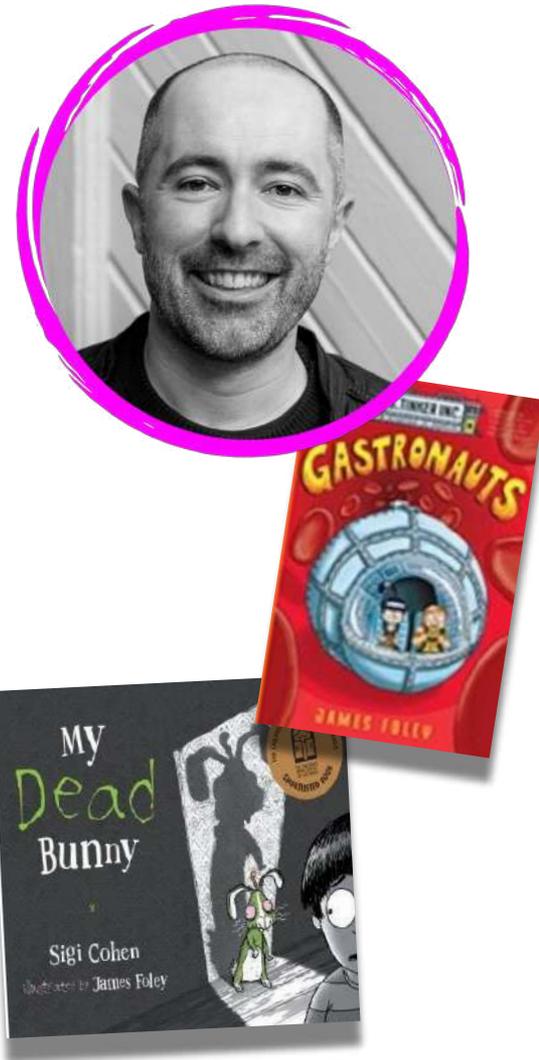
His favourite part of the job is presenting workshops at schools and libraries. He is an ambassador for Books In Homes and Room To Read, and he is a massive Marvel movie nerd.

James makes children's books for children who read books. If you're a child and you're eating his books, you're doing it wrong!

"I'm always amazed at the natural enthusiasm children bring to drawing, especially when they draw just for themselves and don't care if it's 'good enough' or not," James Foley.

Children can co-author with James through his LittleScribe programs, 'Alphabet Soup', 'Mr Head's Head' or 'Super Potato'.

- Learn more about [The Co-author Program](#).
- Website: <https://jamesfoley.com.au/>





## Author Biography 1

Jasmine Seymour is a Darug woman and descendant of Maria Lock, who was the daughter of Yarramundi, the Boorooberongal elder who had met Governor Phillip on the banks of the Hawkesbury River in 1791.

Maria was the first Aboriginal woman to be educated by the Blacktown Native Institute. She was married to carpenter and convict, Robert Lock and their union resulted in thousands of descendants who can all trace their Darug heritage back past Yarramundi. Jasmine is a member of the Darug Custodian Aboriginal Corporation.

It is Jasmine's wish that through her books, everyone will know that the Darug mob are still here, still strong. Jasmine is a primary school teacher in the Hawkesbury area of NSW.





## Author Biography 2

She is also an artist who works with lino print, watercolours and ink. Her work is inspired by the Sydney rock engravings and is a response to the stories they still hold and tell every day.

It is Jasmine's wish that through her art and her books, everyone will know that the Darug mob are still here, still strong. Jasmine is a primary school teacher in the Hawkesbury area of NSW.

In 2019, Jasmine illustrated and authored "Baby Business" and "Cooee Mittigar", both young children's books about smoking ceremony and Darug Country respectively.

In 2020, Jasmine illustrated the book "Family", a second in the series "Our Place" which minds to Indigenous cultural philosophies. "Family" shares ways in which Family makes us whole.

- Learn more about [The Co-author Program](#).

