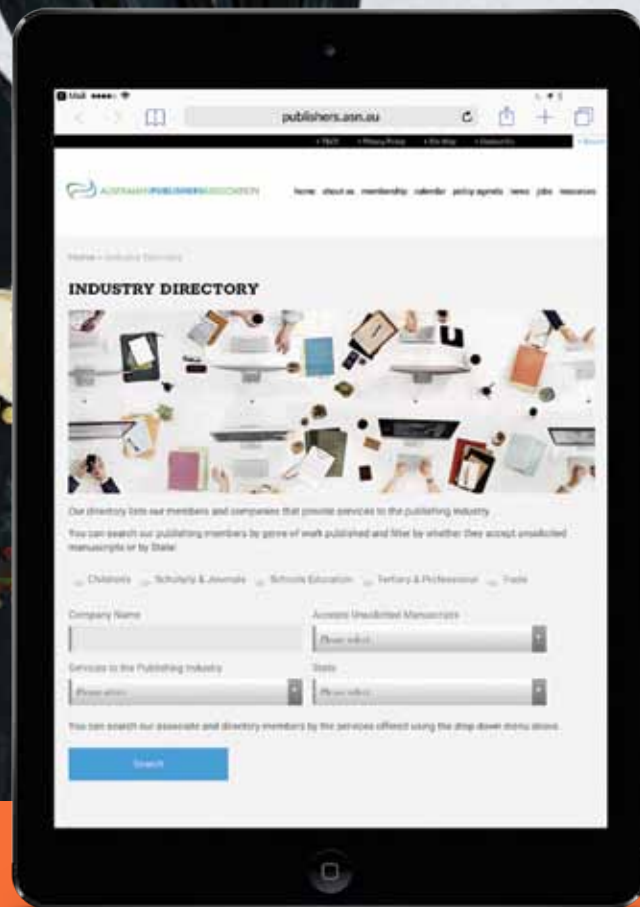




# THINK AUSTRALIAN 2017

YOUR GUIDE TO AUSTRALIAN EXHIBITORS AND  
BOOKS AT THE FRANKFURT BOOK FAIR

BOOKS & PUBLISHING



# THE PLACE TO GO TO FIND AUSTRALIAN PUBLISHERS

[www.publishers.asn.au/industrydirectory](http://www.publishers.asn.au/industrydirectory)

Join us on Thursday at 17.30 for our stand party, Hall 6.2 A60

## BE A VIP IN SYDNEY

Are you an international publisher, editor, rights manager, literary agent or scout interested in acquiring rights to Australian books?

Expressions of interest are now open for the Australia Council's Visiting International Publishers (VIPs) program: a fellowship-style week-long program of business meetings, networking events and industry forums, held alongside the Sydney Writers' Festival from 30 April – 6 May 2018.

For more information visit the Australian Publishers Association stand at Hall 6.2 A60 or our website: [australiacouncil.gov.au/strategies-and-frameworks/2018-vips-expression-of-interest](http://australiacouncil.gov.au/strategies-and-frameworks/2018-vips-expression-of-interest)



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THINK  
AUSTRALIAN 2017

## STAY IN TOUCH

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## INTRODUCTION

Welcome to *Think Australian 2017*, your annual guide to the Australian publishing scene, including the latest rights sales, award-winners, bestsellers and more. This publication is produced by *Books+Publishing* and is brought to you in partnership with *Publishing Perspectives*.

This is the 15th year of publication for *Think Australian* magazine. It's also the launch year for our *Think Australian* newsletters, which provide up-to-date news about the Australian publishing industry relevant to international publishers, agents and scouts. You can sign up to the *Think Australian* newsletters here: [www.booksandpublishing.com.au/think-australian](http://www.booksandpublishing.com.au/think-australian) (there are separate editions for adult and children's/YA titles).

Feel free to share the *Think Australian* magazine and newsletters with your colleagues. If you have any questions, please email us at [think.australian@thorpe.com.au](mailto:think.australian@thorpe.com.au).

We hope you enjoy this insight into our country's publishing industry, and that you have a productive and enjoyable fair!

**Andrea Hanke**  
**Editor-in-chief**  
*Books+Publishing*  
[www.booksandpublishing.com.au](http://www.booksandpublishing.com.au)

## CONTENTS

## 4 The market down under

Our annual overview of the Australian book market

## 7 Selling strong

Australian publishers report on their recent rights successes

## 12 Australian exhibitors

The Australian Publishers Association's guide to Australian exhibitors and locations at the Frankfurt Book Fair

## 14 Australian award-winners

The most-awarded Australian books of the past year

## 18 Australian bestsellers

The top-selling Australian titles of the past year, provided by Nielsen BookScan

## 22 The children's hour

A look at the rights market for Australian children's books

## 23 Title showcase and exhibitors list

More details on some of Australia's titles and exhibitors



## ON THE COVER

The illustrations on the cover of *Think Australian 2017* are by award-winning children's picture-book creator Gregg Dreise, a descendent of the Indigenous Kamilaroi tribe in Australia. Dreise's picture books *Silly Birds* (2014), *Kookoo Kookaburra* (2015) and *Mad Magpie* (2016), published by Indigenous publishing house Magabala Books, are part of a series of morality tales inspired by the wise sayings of his Elders. *Mad Magpie* tells the story of Guluu, an angry magpie who is being teased by a gang of butcher birds. When Guluu seeks advice, his Elders tell him to stay calm like the river, ignore the butcher birds and to be strong on the inside.

# THE MARKET DOWN UNDER

The Australian retail book market posted marginal growth in 2016, with strong children's book sales offsetting the drop-off in adult colouring books, reports **Brad Jefferies**.

**F**or the third year in a row, the Australian retail book market has posted marginal growth, with sales in 2016 up 0.6% in value despite a 3.5% decline in volume.

The decline in volume can be attributed to the more than three million colouring books that sold in Australia in 2015, worth A\$4.1m. A few notable children's titles helped offset the loss of interest in colouring books: *Harry Potter and the Cursed Child* playscript by J K Rowling, Jack Thorne and John Tiffany (Hachette) was the highest selling book in Australia in 2016, with 426,000 copies sold; while Andy Griffiths and Terry Denton's 'Treehouse' children's book series (Pan Macmillan) continues to lead the local bestsellers list, with *The 78-Storey Treehouse* selling over 300,000 copies last year.

Sales tracking service Nielsen BookScan reports the total turnover of the Australian print book market in 2016 was A\$968m from 53.6m books sold. Although the Australian print book market peaked at A\$1.3b in 2010, after three years of successive growth it's continuing to edge away from its low of \$917m in 2013. These figures do not include ebooks and audiobooks, as their sales in Australia aren't tracked in any reliable way.

It is estimated that ebooks make up around 20% of the market in Australia, although this can vary greatly between genres. Similar to the US and UK markets, ebook sales appear to have plateaued in recent years—at least within traditional trade publishing. A recent report estimated around 22.5m ebooks

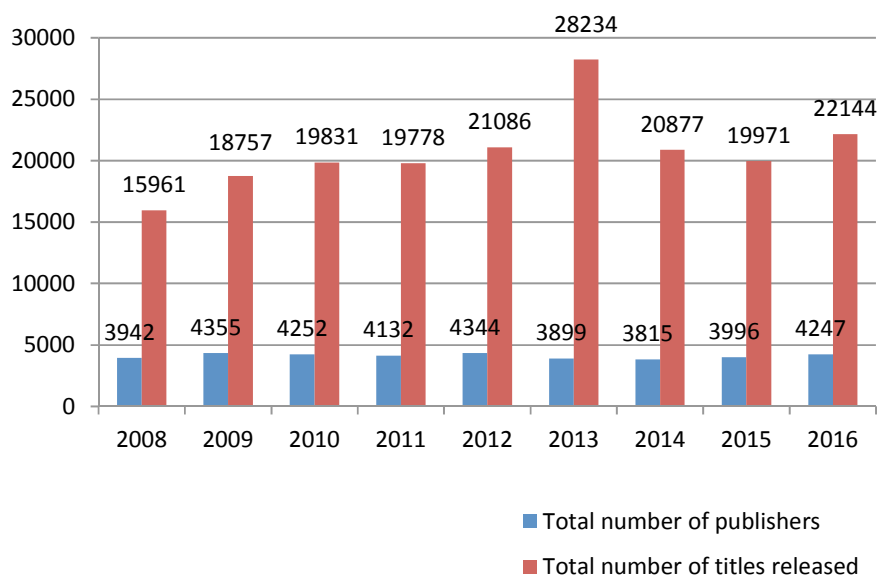
were sold in Australia in 2016, worth A\$164m. Just over two-thirds of all ebooks were sold through the Amazon Kindle store, while another third were sold through Apple's iBookstore. Traditional publishers accounted for around 55% of these sales, with self-published authors and single-author imprints comprising more than a third.

Audiobooks have seen strong growth in Australia in recent years, reflecting similar trends in the US and UK, and while this is partly due to a rising interest in the audio format (through podcasts and digital audiobooks), a lot of this is also attributed to Audible opening an Australian store in 2014. The company has reported triple-digit revenue growth every year since then.

While bricks-and-mortar book sales have improved over the past couple of years, the country is facing the imminent arrival of Amazon's Australian retail operation. While it's still unclear when Amazon will open an online store with Australian distribution, the company has confirmed it has leased warehouse space in Australia and is hiring employees.

The arrival of Amazon will undoubtedly have an impact on the local book market, with Australian consumers signalling their willingness to shop with the online retailer in recent surveys. However, local bricks-and-mortar and online retailers are still viewed by Australian publishers as critical to the success of many new Australian titles, and are highly regarded for the face-to-face events they offer consumers.

**Growth in titles published in Australia**



## Australia at a glance

Population: 24.6 million (Aug 2017)

Number of books published annually: 22,144 (Australian ISBN records for 2016, including trade and educational titles, Australian editions of overseas-originated titles, and multiple formats of the same title)

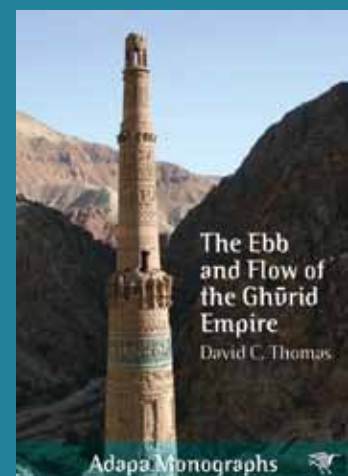
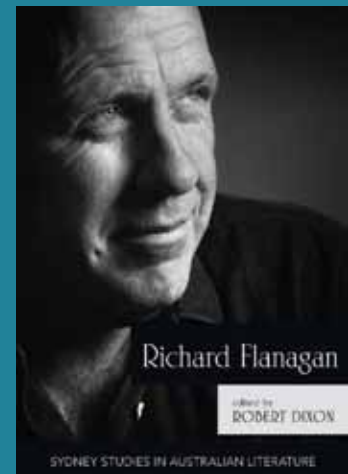
Number of active publishers: 412 (published more than five titles last year)

Book retail outlets: over 1000

Retail print book sales in 2016: A\$968m (53.6m books)

Currency conversion: A\$1 is worth approximately €0.67, US\$0.79 and £0.62 (Aug 2017)

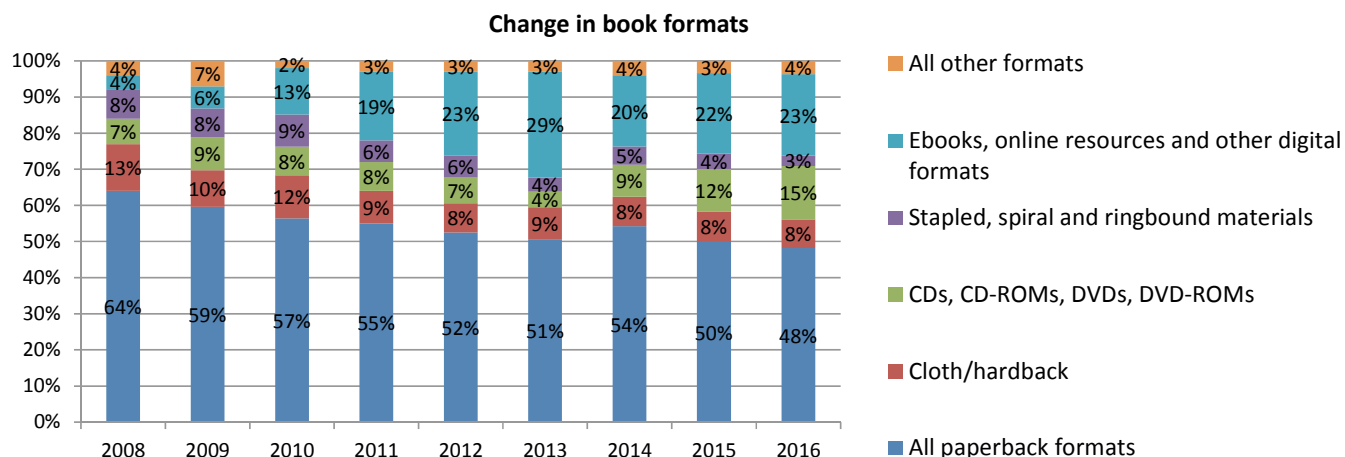
Sources: Australian Bureau of Statistics, Thorpe-Bowker, Nielsen BookScan, Australian Booksellers Association



animal studies  
archaeology  
Australian literary criticism  
China studies  
Indigenous music  
public and social policy  
public health  
urban planning

[sydney.edu.au/sup](http://sydney.edu.au/sup)

# THE MARKET DOWN UNDER



## Book numbers up, digital format steady

In 2016, 4247 different publishing entities in Australia produced 22,144 new titles, according to figures extracted from ISBN records added to Bowker's Books in Print. This is up from 2015, when 19,971 titles were published, but down from 2013 when the number of new titles peaked at 28,234. These figures include both print and ebook editions, which have different ISBNs.

At the big end of town, 26 publishers produced over 100 titles during 2016, down slightly from 27 publishers in 2015. Ninety-one publishers produced between 20 and 99 titles, and another 91 produced between 11 and 20 titles. At the smaller end of the scale, 2479 publishers released just one title in 2016. Many of these are likely to be self-publishers.

When it comes to formats, print continues to dominate the market. Paperback titles made up just under half (48%) of all formats published in 2016, while hardback titles made up another 8%. Ebooks and other digital formats made up 23%, up slightly from 22% in 2015, but down from the market high of 29% in 2013. It is possible there was a spike in 2013 as a number of publishers began to release ebook editions of their backlist titles. Interestingly, CD/DVD formats increased from 12% to 15% from 2015-16. This category includes MP3 and digital audiobooks.

## Legislation and politics

The Australian government is still considering opening the local bookselling market to the global economy, although its plans to repeal parallel import restrictions (PIRs) on books appear to have stalled. The current rule gives Australian publishers 30 days from overseas publication to establish their copyright by releasing a local edition of the book, with booksellers prohibited from importing overseas editions during this time.

More recently, the Australian government passed a law to impose a 10% GST on low-value goods purchased from online overseas retailers from 1 July 2018. Australia currently has a \$1000 GST-free threshold on overseas online imports, which means that most books purchased from retailers such as Amazon are tax-free. The Australian Booksellers Association has long advocated for a zero threshold on overseas online purchases to create a level playing field for local retailers. **TA**



# Selling STRONG

Australian books are attracting rights deals from all over the world. **Andrea Hanke** rounds up some of the most sought-after titles of the past year.

## FICTION

The world (including Hollywood) can't get enough of Australian author Liane Moriarty, with the 2017 HBO TV adaptation of her bestselling novel *Big Little Lies* introducing the author to an even wider readership. Recent rights sales for Moriarty's backlist, negotiated by Curtis Brown Australia, include: *Truly Madly Guilty* to Brazil, China, Bulgaria, Greece, Finland, Turkey, Russia, Italy and Romania; *Big Little Lies* to Hungary, Ukraine, Iceland, and Turkey; *Three Wishes* to Sweden, Germany and Brazil; *What Alice Forgot* to Romania and Brazil; and *The Husband's Secret* to Mongolia (all published locally by Pan Macmillan Australia).

Belinda Alexandra celebrated a big milestone earlier this year when her book sales reached over one million copies worldwide. Alexandra's historical and contemporary fiction titles have been sold into numerous territories, including the US, UK, France, Germany, Spain, the Netherlands, Poland, Greece, Turkey, Hungary, Portugal, Russia and Norway. Her latest novel, *Southern Ruby* (HarperCollins Australia), is a generational saga set in New Orleans that travels between the 1950s and the eve of Hurricane Katrina.

*The Rosie Project's* Graeme Simsion has written a romantic comedy with his wife, author Anne Buist, that is gaining considerable attention overseas. *Two Steps Forward* (Text Publishing) is told in alternating chapters from the point of view of two wounded souls trekking the Spanish pilgrimage route, the Camino de Santiago. It was published in Australia in October 2017 and has already sold in six territories, including to Two Roads in the UK and William Morrow in the US.

Charlotte Nash's contemporary romance *The Paris Wedding* (Hachette Australia)—about an Australian country girl who has been invited to the lavish Paris wedding of her ex-boyfriend—has also been snapped up in the UK (Little, Brown) and US (William Morrow) since its release in Australia in mid-2017, with a pre-empt from Newton Compton in Italy.

The world (including Hollywood) can't get enough of Liane Moriarty.



*The Rosie Project's* Graeme Simsion has written a romantic comedy with his wife, author Anne Buist.

# Selling STRONG

## Crime spree

The profile of Australian crime fiction continues to grow in international territories, with a number of emerging and established Australian crime writers finding markets overseas.

Jane Harper's bestselling crime-fiction debut *The Dry* (Pan Macmillan Australia) continued to reach new territories in the past year, including translation sales in China, Macedonia, Estonia and Indonesia, negotiated by Curtis Brown Australia. *The Dry* has now been sold into 27 territories, with film and TV rights optioned by Reese Witherspoon. Harper's follow-up, *Force of Nature*, was published in Australia in October 2017 and has already been sold into the US, UK and Denmark.

Harper's literary career was launched in 2015 when she won that year's Victorian Premier's Literary Award for an Unpublished Manuscript. This year's winner, Christian White's *Decay Theory* (Affirm Press), is seeing similar international interest prior to its Australian release in mid-2018, with sales into the UK, US, Germany, France, Italy, Holland, Denmark, Poland and Israel.

Other promising debuts include Sarah Bailey's crime novel *The Dark Lake* (Allen & Unwin), which has been sold into the UK, US, China and Italy; and Megan Goldin's crime-thriller *The Girl in Kellers Way* (Penguin Australia), which has been licensed in three markets, including a German pre-empt.

Bonnier Publishing Australia's Echo Publishing imprint has been gaining a reputation for its impressive crime-fiction list. In the past year, the publisher has sold UK and US rights to Emma Viskic's *Resurrection Bay* and its sequel *And Fire Came Down* to Pushkin Press, and UK and US rights to Gary Kemble's *Skin Deep* and *Bad Blood* to Titan Books.

Fremantle Press' crime list also continues to perform well in European markets: Editorial Yulca in Spain has added Alan Carter's *Bad Seed* and *Getting Warmer* to its list, and Bastei Lubbe in Germany has purchased rights to the Ned Kelly Award-winner *Before It Breaks* by Dave Warner.



Jane Harper's debut crime novel *The Dry* has sold into 27 territories.

## Lit-picking

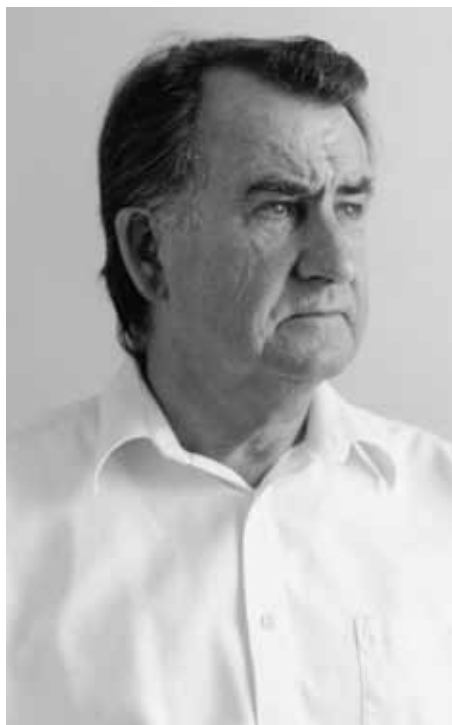
*The Tattooist of Auschwitz* by Heather Morris, a novel based on the true story of Holocaust survivor Lale Sokolov, who was forced to tattoo numbers on concentration camp detainees' arms, will be published by Echo Publishing in Australia in 2018. The international response to the title has been huge, with rights already sold into the US, Canada, Brazil, Estonia, Germany, Greece, Italy, Netherlands, Belgium, Poland, Portugal, Spain, Hungary, Romania, Czech Republic and Slovakia, among other territories.

When Heather Rose's novel *The Museum of Modern Love* (Allen & Unwin) won this year's Stella Prize for Australian women's writing (the equivalent to the UK's Women's Prize for Fiction), international publishers took note. The novel, which reimagines artist Marina Abramovic's 2010 performance of 'The Artist is Present' at the Museum of Modern Art in New York, has been sold to publishers in Greece, China, Korea and Israel.

One of Australia's finest writers, Gerald Murnane, has two forthcoming literary fiction titles that have already been picked up in the US. Murnane's Australian publisher Giramondo will publish his new novel *Border Districts* in November 2017 and his collection of short fiction *Stream System* in March 2018, with Farrar, Straus and Giroux to publish both titles in the US in April 2018.

Hannah Kent's second historical novel *The Good People* (Pan Macmillan Australia)—which tells the story of three women trying to rescue a child from a superstitious community in 19th-century Ireland—has been sold into numerous overseas territories, including the US and UK, Italy, Turkey, Lithuania, Brazil and Spain, negotiated by Curtis Brown Australia. It follows her critically and commercially acclaimed debut *Burial Rites*.

Last year the Aardvark Bureau—which specialises in eclectic fiction from around the world—published Tracy Farr's debut novel *The Life and Loves of Lena Gaunt* (Fremantle Press) in the UK and US. The publisher has now picked up the English-language rights (ex-ANZ) to Farr's new novel about extended family, *The Hope Fault*.



Gerald Murnane's two forthcoming literary titles have already been acquired in the US.



Brooke McAlary, author and creator of the Slow Home Podcast, has a growing international fan base.

## NONFICTION

**H**ealth and wellbeing titles continue to dominate Australian nonfiction publishing—and are also resonating with publishers around the world.

Brooke McAlary, host and creator of the popular Slow Home Podcast, has a growing international fan base. Her book *Slow* (Allen & Unwin)—a guide to living a simpler and more fulfilled life—has been sold in the US, China and Germany; and *Destination Simple* (Black Inc.)—which explores the benefits of daily rituals—has been acquired by Head of Zeus (world English-language rights ex ANZ), as well as publishers in France, Poland and the Czech Republic.

A number of Australian authors who explore health and wellbeing from a personal perspective have also found readers abroad. Meshel Laurie's *Buddhism for Break-Ups* has been sold into Germany, the Czech Republic and Slovakia; Jenny Valentish's study of addiction, *Woman of Substances*, has been sold into the US and UK; and Brigid Delaney's investigation of the wellness industry, *Wellmania*, has been sold to Canada and France (all published by Black Inc.).

Jessica Friedmann's intelligent and insightful account of postpartum depression, *Things That Helped* (Scribe Publications), has been sold to Farrar, Straus and Giroux in the US; Cory Taylor's memoir *Dying* (Text Publishing)—which was written in the weeks prior to Taylor's death from cancer—has been sold into nine territories, including the US, where it has become a bestseller; and Clementine Ford's *Fight Like a Girl* (Allen & Unwin)—a call to arms for feminists new and old—has been acquired by Oneworld in a world rights deal (ex ANZ).

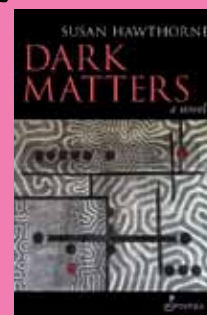
Richard Fidler's father-and-son adventure and ode to a lost civilisation, *Ghost Empire* (HarperCollins Australia), has sold into North America, with Chinese and Romanian translation rights also licensed; while John Pickrell's dinosaur books for grown-ups, *Flying Dinosaurs* and *Weird Dinosaurs* (both NewSouth), have been acquired by Columbia University Press for publication in North America, UK and Europe.

Finally, Spinifex Press co-founder Susan Hawthorne's *Bibliodiversity: A Manifesto for Independent Publishing* has been picked up by a group of independent publishers from Chile, Argentina, Mexico, Uruguay, Colombia, Bolivia and Peru, following German, French and Arabic rights sales.



Cory Taylor's memoir *Dying* has been sold into nine territories, and has become a bestseller in the US.

## SPINIFEX PRESS Books and eBooks



**Dark Matters: A Novel**

ISBN: 9781925581089



**Surrogacy:  
A Human Rights Violation**

ISBN: 9781925581034



**Lady of the Realm**

ISBN: 9781925581133



**Gardasil:  
Fast-Tracked and Flawed**

ISBN: 9781742199931

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[www.spinifexpress.com.au](http://www.spinifexpress.com.au)

# Selling **STRONG**

## CHILDREN'S

### Picture books

Australian picture books are drawing the interest of international publishers.

Marc Martin's richly illustrated picture books continue to find international readers, with *Lots* now sold into 15 territories and *A River* into 13 territories (both Penguin Australia); while Aaron Blabey's picture books have also taken off internationally, with 1.3 million copies of the 'Pig the Pug' series (Scholastic) sold worldwide.

Jedda Robaard's 'Little Creatures' board book series (Five Mile Press) continues its overseas success with new sales into the US, Croatia, Czech Republic, French Canada and Turkey, reaching a total of 11 sales territories.

Allen & Unwin's most sought-after children's title this year is a nonfiction picture book about microbes. *Do Not Lick This Book* by Idan Ben-Barak and Julian Frost was acquired in a six-figure deal by Roaring Brook Press in the US, and has sold into nine translation territories so far. The publisher has also attracted international interest in Mel Tregonning's *Small Things*—a wordless graphic novel about dealing with sadness, anxiety, depression, and finding your way in the world, for readers aged 10 and up—with North American, Spanish, Turkish and Chinese rights sold.

*Molly & Mae* by award-winning picture-book creators Danny Parker and Freya Blackwood, published by Hardie Grant Egmont imprint Little Hare, has been sold into 10 territories. It explores the ups and downs of friendship as two girls meet on a country train journey.

Scribe's picture-book imprint Scribble continues to find new markets for *The Underwater Fancy-Dress Parade* by Davina Bell and Allison Colpoys, including North American and Spanish rights sales. The duo's second book, *Under the Love Umbrella*, which was published in Australia in March 2017, has already sold into France, Korea and Spain.

Fremantle Press' two best-performing picture books of 2016 also continue to find new audiences internationally: Italian-language rights have been sold for *Pandamonia* (Chris Owen, illus by Chris Nixon) and Spanish- and Catalan-language rights have been sold for *Can a Skeleton Have an X-Ray?* (Kyle Hughes-Odgers).



Marc Martin's richly illustrated picture books continue to find international readers.



## Younger readers

It's impossible to overstate the success of the 'Treehouse' junior-fiction series by Andy Griffiths and Terry Denton (Pan Macmillan Australia), which continues to break sales records in Australia. The series (now up to seven books) has sold over seven million copies worldwide, with over 80 translated editions, negotiated by Curtis Brown Australia.

Aaron Blabey's 'The Bad Guys' junior-fiction series (Scholastic) is also extremely popular, with 1.7 million copies sold worldwide in the past two years; while Matt Stanton's 'Funny Kid' series (HarperCollins Australia), which launched in Australia in June 2017, has already been acquired by publishers in the US and UK.

Ailsa Wild's junior-fiction mystery series 'Squishy Taylor' (Hardie Grant Egmont)—pitched as *Modern Family* meets *Harriet the Spy*—has been sold into the US, UK, Spain and Brazil; 11 territories have acquired rights to Meredith Costain and Danielle McDonald's 'Ella Diaries' series (Scholastic); and Judith Rossell's 'Stella Montgomery' middle-grade series (HarperCollins Australia) has recently sold into Germany and Japan on the back of strong sales in the US and Korea.

## Young adult

Melissa Keil's *The Secret Science of Magic* (Hardie Grant Egmont)—a YA rom-com about a maths genius and the amateur magician who wants to win her heart—has been snapped up in the US, Germany and Turkey. **TA**

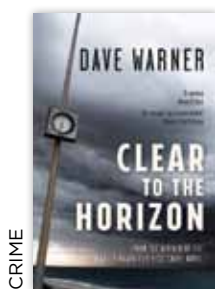


Aaron Blabey's picture books and junior-fiction series are hot properties in international markets.

Andy Griffiths and Terry Denton's 'Treehouse' series has sold seven million copies worldwide.

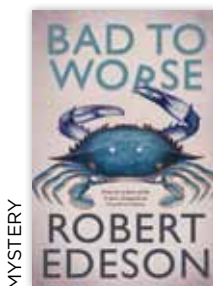


## STORIES FOR THE WORLD



CRIME

In Broome, a spate of local thefts puts Snowy Lane and Dan Clement on the trail of Australia's most notorious serial killer.



MYSTERY

From the Arizona Desert to the South China Sea, brilliant intelligence analyst Richard Worse is dodging bullets and cracking codes.



FICTION

Iris's family gathers in their holiday house for one last time, one last weekend, and one last party - unaware of the secrets in store.



PICTURE BOOK

We are all different. But together we colour our world amazing. A book to celebrate the beauty of our diversity.



PICTURE BOOK

Deep in the heart of the city, Frankie dreams of a thousand trees - enough trees to create a new and greener home.



CHILDREN'S FICTION

From picnicking by the Nile to black smoke on the horizon - Farida's life in 1960s Sudan is about to change forever.

Contact: Jane Fraser, CEO, Rights and Sales [jfraser@fremantlepress.com.au](mailto:jfraser@fremantlepress.com.au)

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# THINK AUSTRALIAN

## 2017 Exhibitors



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## Allen & Unwin

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hall 6.0 stand E54



## Blue Angel Publishing

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blueangelonline.com  
hall 6.2 stand A60



## Bonnier Publishing Australia

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## Book Systems International

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## Brolga Publishing

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## Hachette Australia

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## Hardie Grant Egmont

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## Hinkler

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## Inspiring Publishers

**WILLIAM WEBSTER**  
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## R.I.C. Publications

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## Rockpool Publishing

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## Scholastic Australia

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## Scribe Publications

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## The Images Publishing Group

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## University of Queensland Press

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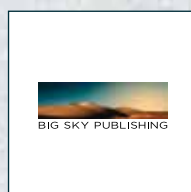
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scholarly.info

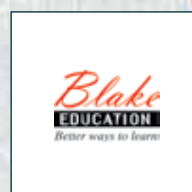
hall 6.2 stand A60

**Bauer Media Books****BRIAN CEARNES**bcearnes@bauer-media.com.au  
awwcookbooks.com.au

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bigskypublishing.com.au

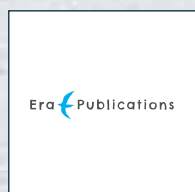
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**Blake Education****NADEEM ANSARI**nadeem@blake.com.au  
blake.com.au

hall 6.1 stand E95

**CSIRO Publishing****JENNIFER GRIGGS**jennifer.griggs@csiro.au  
publish.csiro.au

hall 4.2 stand F27

**Era Publications****ROD MARTIN**rod@erapublications.com  
erapublications.com

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**Exisle Publishing****GARETH ST JOHN THOMAS**gareth@exislepublishing.com  
exislepublishing.com.au

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**Giramondo Publishing****DR. IVOR INDYK**books@giramondopublishing.com  
giramondopublishing.com

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**Macmillan Education Australia****GREG BROWNE**greg.browne@macmillaneducation.com.au  
macmillaneducation.com.au

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**Melbourne University Publishing****LOUISE ADLER**mup-info@unimelb.edu.au  
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**NewSouth + UNSW Press****KATHY BAIL**kathy.bail@unswpress.com.au  
newsouthpublishing.com

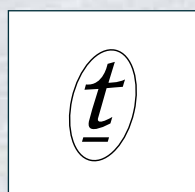
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**Pantera Press****KATY MCEWEN**katy.mcewen@panterapress.com  
panterapress.com.au

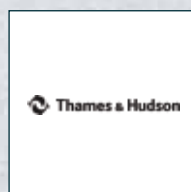
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**Spinifex Press****SUSAN HAWTHORNE**women@spinifexpress.com.au  
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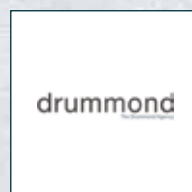
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**Text Publishing****KHADIIJA CAFFOOR**khadija.caffoor@textpublishing.com.au  
textpublishing.com.au

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**Thames & Hudson****KIRSTEN ABBOTT**k.abbott@thaust.com.au  
thamesandhudsonaustralia.com

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**The Drummond Agency****SHEILA DRUMMOND**sheila@drummondagency.com.au  
drummondagency.com.au

hall 6.2 stand A60



# AND THE WINNER IS...

Australia has many book awards, and every year there are standout titles that collect multiple prizes. We highlight some of the most-awarded Australian books over the past year.

## FICTION



**THE DRY**  
(Jane Harper, Pan Macmillan)  
Australian Book Industry Award for Book of the Year  
Indie Book of the Year  
Ned Kelly Award for Best First Fiction  
Davitt Award for Best Adult Novel



**THE MUSEUM OF MODERN LOVE**  
(Heather Rose, Allen & Unwin)  
Stella Prize  
NSW Premier's Literary Award for Fiction  
Australian Literature Society Gold Medal (shortlisted)



**BETWEEN A WOLF AND A DOG**  
(Georgia Blain, Scribe)  
Victorian Premier's Literary Award for Fiction  
Stella Prize (shortlisted)  
Australian Literature Society Gold Medal (shortlisted)



**MUSIC AND FREEDOM**  
(Zoe Morrison, Vintage)  
Australian Literature Society Gold Medal  
Readings Prize for New Australian Fiction

## NONFICTION



**EVERYWHERE I LOOK**  
(Helen Garner, Text Publishing)  
Indie Book Award for Nonfiction  
NSW Premier's Literary Award for Nonfiction (shortlisted)



**FIGHT LIKE A GIRL**  
(Clementine Ford, Allen & Unwin)  
Matt Richell Award for New Writer  
Australian Book Industry Award for General Nonfiction (shortlisted)  
Indie Book Award for Nonfiction (shortlisted)



**OUR MAN ELSEWHERE: IN SEARCH OF ALAN MOOREHEAD**  
(Thornton McCamish, Black Inc.)  
NSW Premier's Literary Award for Nonfiction  
Walkley Book Award (longlisted)



**THE HATE RACE**  
(Maxine Beneba Clarke, Hachette)  
Indie Book Award for Nonfiction (shortlisted)  
Stella Prize (shortlisted)  
Australian Book Industry Award for Biography (shortlisted)

## Funny business

Australians are well known for their sense of humour, so it's perhaps unsurprising that we have a book prize dedicated to humour writing.

This year's Russell Prize for Humour Writing—the second since the biennial prize was launched in 2015—was presented to Steve Toltz for his 2015 novel *Quicksand* (Penguin).

Toltz's 'tragicomic bromance' was praised by judges for the 'beauty of its writing, the complexity of its insights and its sharp, intelligent, wise humour'.

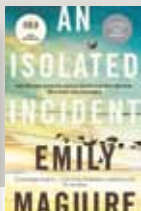


## Small presses find success

In 2017, four of the five novels shortlisted for Australia's most prestigious literary prize, the Miles Franklin Literary Award, were published by small Australian presses: *The Last Days of Ava Langdon* (Mark O'Flynn, University of Queensland Press), *Their Brilliant Careers* (Ryan O'Neill, Black Inc.), *Waiting* (Philip Salom, Puncher & Wattmann) and *Extinctions* (Josephine Wilson, University of Western Australia Publishing). They were joined on the shortlist by *An Isolated Incident* (Emily Maguire, Pan Macmillan).

This year's winner was *Extinctions*, published by Western Australia-based small press UWA Publishing. The judging panel described *Extinctions* as 'compassionate and unapologetically intelligent'. 'Josephine Wilson explores ageing, adoption, grief and remorse, empathy and self-centredness. The novel is a meditation on survival: on what people carry, on how they cope, and on why they might, after so much putting their head in the sand, come to the decision to engage, and even change.'

This is the second year in a row that the Miles Franklin Literary Prize winner has been published by a small press, after A S Patric took out last year's prize with *Black Rock White City*, published by Transit Lounge. Publisher Barry Scott observed at the time that 'independent publishers now publish a large percentage of Australia's literary fiction and are supporting new Australian writers telling Australian stories'.





## CHILDREN'S/YA



### **THE BONE SPARROW** (Zana Fraillon, Hachette)

Australian Book Industry Award for Older Children  
Children's Book Council of Australia Honour Book for Older Readers  
Inky Award (shortlisted)  
Guardian Children's Fiction Prize (shortlisted)  
CILIP Carnegie Medal (shortlisted)



### **WHEN MICHAEL MET MINA** (Randa Abdel-Fattah, Pan Macmillan)

Victorian Premier's Literary Award for Young Adult  
Inky Award (longlisted)  
Indie Book Award for Young Adult (longlisted)



### **WORDS IN DEEP BLUE** (Cath Crowley, Pan Macmillan)

Indie Book Award for Young Adult  
Children's Book Council of Australia Honour Book for Older Readers  
Inky Award (shortlisted)  
Australian Book Industry Award for Older Children (shortlisted)



### **ONE WOULD THINK THE DEEP** (Claire Zorn, University of Queensland Press)

Children's Book Council of Australia Book of the Year for Older Readers  
NSW Premier's Literary Award for Young Adult (shortlisted)  
Inky Award (shortlisted)



### **THE 78-STOREY TREEHOUSE** (Andy Griffiths, illus by Terry Denton, Pan Macmillan)

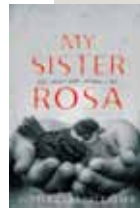
Australian Book Industry Award for Younger Children  
Indie Book Award for Children (shortlisted)

## Teen choice

What sets the Centre for Youth Literature's Inky Awards apart from other YA book awards in Australia is that the titles are chosen by teens themselves.

This year the teen judges shortlisted five titles from Australian women authors for the Gold Inky Award.

The shortlisted titles—including several previous award-winners—are: the psychological thriller *My Sister Rosa* (Justine Larbalestier, Allen & Unwin); the refugee story *The Bone Sparrow* (Zana Fraillon, Hachette); and coming-of-age dramas *Frankie* (Shivaun Plozza, Penguin), *Words in Deep Blue* (Cath Crowley, Pan Macmillan) and *One Would Think the Deep* (Claire Zorn, UQP).



## Reading your greens

The Environment Award for Children's Literature is presented annually to Australian fiction and nonfiction books that 'foster a love of wild places and wildlife in young Australians' and 'encourage a sense of responsibility for our natural world'.

Among the winners this year were two picture books: *Chooks in Dinner Suits* (Diane Jackson Hill & Craig Smith, Museum Victoria Publishing), based on the true story of one man's attempt to save a penguin colony with the help of two dogs; and *Welcome to Country* (Aunty Joy Murphy & Lisa Kennedy, Walker Books), which introduces children to the traditional lands of the Indigenous Wurundjeri people around Melbourne.

Another winner was *Rainforest Camp: Juliet Nearly a Vet Book 12* from Rebecca Johnson's popular series for animal-loving younger readers (Penguin).



Reading opens doors



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Help raise \$200,000  
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Indigenous  
Literacy  
Foundation

# Where will your next reading

## GENERAL FICTION



Fleeing a disastrous marriage, geologist Ann Salter seeks sanctuary amid the volcanic beauty of Lanzarote. Intelligent and insightful, *The Drago Tree* will capture your heart.

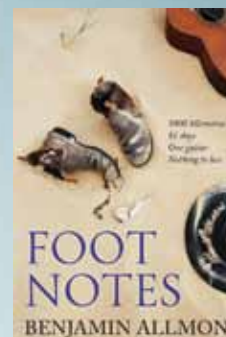
ISBN 9781922200365



The minute disgraced former high flying Obstetrician, Vince Hanrahan, sees his patient dead on the labour ward floor, he knows he's in big trouble. Again.

ISBN 9781922200747

## NON FICTION (MEMOIR)



Armed with a guitar, Benjamin Allmon walked 1000km of Australian coastline to tour his album – a story of sand, songs, survival...and German nudists.

ISBN 9781922200709

## HISTORICAL FICTION



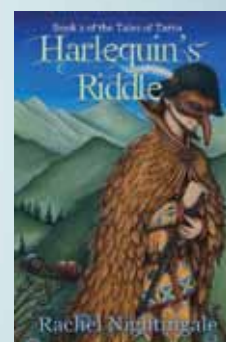
Shocked by a dark family secret, a young girl befriends a mysterious Welsh storyteller. But will his ancient tales bring comfort or shatter her memories?

ISBN 9781925652222



Inspired by a true Australian migration story, follow a family as they flee their Italian city when Yugoslavia takes it in 1945, beginning years of struggle to resettle.

ISBN 9781922200280



When the magic of the theatre threatens to disrupt the real world, a young storyteller has to set things right while searching for her missing brother.

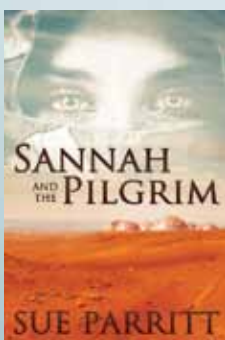
ISBN 9781922200990

## SCIENCE FICTION



Life was safe and orderly inside the Pale, until someone rescued the young human, Hector, from the Outside. Now everything is changing.

ISBN 9781925652024



A gripping futuristic tale of courage, defiance and deceit as a group of disadvantaged Australian women risk their lives to undermine an oppressive regime.

ISBN 9781922200143



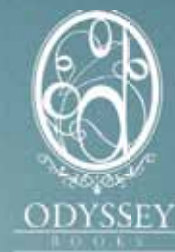
One woman's quest for survival in a future devastated by mining, pollution and war.

ISBN 9781922200624

Contact: Michelle Lovi, Publisher and Rights Management, Odyssey Books  
[contact@odysseybooks.com.au](mailto:contact@odysseybooks.com.au)      [www.odysseybooks.com.au](http://www.odysseybooks.com.au)



# adventure take you?



## YOUNG ADULT FICTION



Described as a strange and lovely creature, *Cassandra* retells the story of the prophetess of Troy in rural 1980s Australia.

ISBN 9781922200785



*Harry Potter* meets *The Golden Compass* in an action-packed sci-fi about a dauntless teen and a centuries-old plan to change the world.

ISBN 9781922200303



Long ago, the Garden of Eden was moved to keep it safe from fallen civilisation. Who are the Cherubim that guard it now?

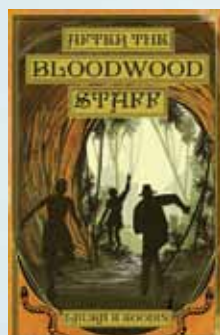
ISBN 9781922200600

## FANTASY



Two young thieves discover their developing magical talents are both a prized and dangerous gift. Book one of a new fantasy series – *The Wraith Cycle*.

ISBN 9781922200822



In this magical tale, a bookish bureaucrat heads to the Australian bush to try living up to the heroes in his favourite stories – and finds his life depends on it.

ISBN 9781922200723



Myth. Magic. Monsters. And a battle to save humanity on Sydney's golden beaches and rugged cliffs. *A Single Light* – an Australian urban fantasy adventure.

ISBN 9781922200464



A fresh take to the epic fantasy genre. With strong female leads and confronting moral complexities, *Altaica* is badass from start to finish.

ISBN 9781922200310



When Emmeline's brass heart malfunctions, she steals the parts to repair it and is transported to Australia as a convict. She escapes and joins the Gold Rush.

ISBN 9781922200587

## ILLUSTRATED FICTION



A young couple, separated by war, find an unusual way to be together.

ISBN 9781925652017



@odysseybooks



# AUSTRALIAN BESTSELLERS

## FICTION

<b>1 Truly Madly Guilty</b>	<b>174,000*</b>
Liane Moriarty (Pan, \$32.99/\$16.99 pb)	
<b>2 Big Little Lies</b>	<b>155,000*</b>
Liane Moriarty (Pan, \$14.99 pb)	
<b>3 The Husband's Secret</b>	<b>117,000</b>
Liane Moriarty (Pan, \$14.99 pb)	
<b>4 The Four Legendary Kingdoms</b>	<b>115,000</b>
Matthew Reilly (Macmillan, \$42.99 hb)	
<b>5 The Good People</b>	<b>81,000</b>
Hannah Kent (Picador, \$32.99 pb)	
<b>6 The Light between Oceans</b>	<b>76,000*</b>
M L Stedman (Vintage, \$22.99 pb)	
<b>7 A Distant Journey</b>	<b>75,000</b>
Di Morrissey (Macmillan, \$34.99 hb)	
<b>8 The Dry</b>	<b>73,000*</b>
Jane Harper (Macmillan, \$32.99/\$16.99 pb)	
<b>9 What Alice Forgot</b>	<b>48,000</b>
Liane Moriarty (Pan, \$14.99 pb)	
<b>10 Jasper Jones</b>	<b>46,000</b>
Craig Silvey (Allen & Unwin, \$23.99 pb)	
<b>11 The Chocolate Tin</b>	<b>38,000</b>
Fiona McIntosh (Michael Joseph, \$32.99 pb)	
<b>12 Three Wishes</b>	<b>34,000</b>
Liane Moriarty (Pan, \$14.99 pb)	
<b>13 The Hypnotist's Love Story</b>	<b>26,000</b>
Liane Moriarty (Pan, \$14.99 pb)	
<b>14 The Art of Keeping Secrets</b>	<b>26,000</b>
Rachael Johns (Mira, \$32.99 pb)	
<b>15 The Last Anniversary</b>	<b>24,000</b>
Liane Moriarty (Pan, \$14.99 pb)	
<b>16 The Last Painting of Sara de Vos</b>	<b>24,000</b>
Dominic Smith (Allen & Unwin, \$32.99 pb)	
<b>17 Burial Rites</b>	<b>20,000</b>
Hannah Kent (Picador, \$19.99 pb)	
<b>18 Southern Ruby</b>	<b>20,000</b>
Belinda Alexandra (HarperCollins, \$32.99 pb)	
<b>19 Sapphire Falls</b>	<b>19,000</b>
Fleur McDonald (Arena, \$29.99 pb)	
<b>20 The Woman Next Door</b>	<b>18,000</b>
Liz Byrski (Macmillan, \$32.99 pb)	

\*Combined sales figures from multiple formats

## 'Women's fiction'

Books by bestselling Australian authors Fiona McIntosh, Rachael Johns, Belinda Alexandra, Fleur McDonald and Liz Byrski tend to be categorised under the imperfect label of 'women's fiction', but the variety between the authors' titles (and indeed often within the authors' own backlists) should not be underestimated. There are historical dramas with romantic elements set in exotic locations, such as Fiona McIntosh's *The Chocolate Tin*, which travels between the battlefields of northern France and the medieval city of York, and on the eve of Hurricane Katrina. Fleur McDonald's *Sapphire Falls* is a romantic thriller with a rural Australian setting; rural romance author Rachael Johns has moved into more general commercial fiction with her latest books *The Patterson Girls* and *The Art of Keeping Secrets*; and Liz Byrski has cornered a niche market by writing about the lives (and loves) of older women.

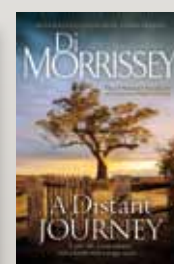
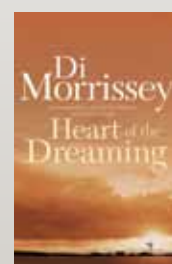


## Australia's favourite storyteller

In a career spanning 25 years, with sales of over three million copies across 24 novels and three children's books, Di Morrissey has well and truly earned the title of 'Australia's favourite storyteller'. Morrissey's novels are sweeping sagas with strong female protagonists, and are often inspired by a particular landscape, such as *Heart of the Dreaming* (a rural station in Queensland), *Tears of the Moon* (the pearling town of Broome), *Monsoon* (post-war Vietnam), *The Reef* (the Great Barrier Reef) and *Blaze* (New York's magazine scene). Her latest, *A Distant Journey*, tells the story of a college girl from the glamorous world of Palm Springs, California, who marries an Australian grazier and moves to an isolated sheep station on the sweeping plains of the Riverina in New South Wales.



Credit: Linda Bryant



# JULY 2016 – JUNE 2017

## NONFICTION

(ILLUSTRATED AND TEXT-BASED)

<b>1</b>	<b>The Barefoot Investor</b>	<b>234,000</b>
	Scott Pape (John Wiley, \$29.95 pb)	
<b>2</b>	<b>Working Class Boy</b>	<b>132,000</b>
	Jimmy Barnes (HarperCollins, \$45 hb)	
<b>3</b>	<b>The Bikini Body 28-Day Healthy Eating &amp; Lifestyle Guide</b>	<b>70,000</b>
	Kayla Itsines (Macmillan, \$39.99 pb)	
<b>4</b>	<b>Basics to Brilliance</b>	<b>68,000</b>
	Donna Hay (HarperCollins, \$55 hb)	
<b>5</b>	<b>The CSIRO Low-Carb Diet</b>	<b>59,000</b>
	Grant Brinkworth & Dr Pennie Taylor (Macmillan, \$34.99 pb)	
<b>6</b>	<b>Lion: A Long Way Home film tie-in</b>	<b>57,000</b>
	Saroo Brierley (Penguin, \$22.99 pb)	
<b>7</b>	<b>Victory at Villers-Bretonneux</b>	<b>50,000</b>
	Peter FitzSimons (William Heinemann, \$49.99 hb)	
<b>8</b>	<b>Songs of a War Boy</b>	<b>40,000</b>
	Deng Thiak Adut & Ben McKelvey (Hachette, \$32.99 pb)	
<b>9</b>	<b>Fight Like a Girl</b>	<b>38,000</b>
	Clementine Ford (Allen & Unwin, \$29.99 pb)	
<b>10</b>	<b>The Complete Gut Health Cookbook</b>	<b>38,000</b>
	Pete Evans (Plum, \$39.99 pb)	
<b>11</b>	<b>First, We Make the Beast Beautiful</b>	<b>38,000</b>
	Sarah Wilson (Macmillan, \$34.99 hb)	
<b>12</b>	<b>Michael Clarke: My Story</b>	<b>38,000</b>
	Michael Clarke (Macmillan, \$44.99 hb)	
<b>13</b>	<b>Dane Swan: My Story</b>	<b>31,000</b>
	Dane Swan (Hardie Grant, \$45 hb)	
<b>14</b>	<b>Ghost Empire</b>	<b>30,000</b>
	Richard Fidler (ABC Books, \$39.99 hb)	
<b>15</b>	<b>The Boy behind the Curtain</b>	<b>29,000</b>
	Tim Winton (Hamish Hamilton, \$45 hb)	
<b>16</b>	<b>I Quit Sugar: Simplicious</b>	<b>28,000</b>
	Sarah Wilson (Macmillan, \$39.99 pb)	
<b>17</b>	<b>Reckoning</b>	<b>27,000</b>
	Magda Szubanski (Text Publishing, \$32.99 pb)	
<b>18</b>	<b>Food for Life</b>	<b>25,000</b>
	Michelle Bridges (Macmillan, \$39.99 pb)	
<b>19</b>	<b>The Art of Cycling</b>	<b>25,000</b>
	Cadel Evans (ABC Books, \$49.99 hb)	
<b>20</b>	<b>Bomber: The Whole Story</b>	<b>24,000</b>
	Mark Thompson & Martin Blake (Michael Joseph, \$45 hb)	

## Immigrant tales

Two famous Australians—Cold Chisel lead singer Jimmy Barnes and comedian and actor Magda Szubanski—released memoirs last year that impressed critics and readers alike.

Barnes' *Working Class Boy*, the first in a two-book deal, is the story of the Australian rock icon's violent upbringing in working-class Glasgow and Adelaide and his eventual escape to join a rock'n'roll band, told with a rawness, compassion and surprising humour.

'If you had met my father you would never, not for an instant, have thought he was an assassin,' writes Szubanski in her memoir, *Reckoning*. This is the story of the much-loved Australian performer's upbringing in suburban Australia, her secret awareness of her sexuality, and her discovery of her father's espionage activities in wartime Poland.

By contrast, Deng Thiak Adut was relatively unknown to Australians until a media campaign for Western Sydney University brought him into the limelight. *Songs of a War Boy* is the true story of Adut's journey from Sudanese child soldier to refugee, who taught himself English watching *The Wiggles*, graduated from university and became a lawyer committed to helping other refugees.



## Bittersweet story

Sarah Wilson famously taught the world how to quit sugar in eight weeks, and then how to quit sugar for life. She has since released seven 'I Quit Sugar' books, including the bestselling *I Quit Sugar: Simplicious*, a 'modern kitchen bible for sugarless, waste-free, nutritious cooking'. But her latest book is something entirely different. *First, We Make the Beast Beautiful* explores Wilson's personal experience with anxiety, as well as the disorder more generally. It has become a bestseller in Australia and has already been picked up by Transworld in the UK.



## CHILDREN'S PICTURE BOOKS

(ILLUSTRATED AND TEXT-BASED)

1	<b>Pig the Elf</b>	67,000
	Aaron Blabey (Scholastic, \$16.99 hb)	
2	<b>Do Not Open This Book</b>	66,000
	Andy Lee (Lake Press, \$19.99 hb)	
3	<b>Where Is the Green Sheep?</b>	50,000
	Mem Fox (Puffin, \$14.99 hb)	
4	<b>Thelma the Unicorn</b>	50,000*
	Aaron Blabey (Scholastic, \$29.99/\$16.99 hb)	
5	<b>Pig the Fibber</b>	46,000*
	Aaron Blabey (Scholastic, \$29.99/\$16.99 hb)	
6	<b>Possum Magic</b>	45,000
	Mem Fox (Omnibus Books, \$15.99 pb)	
7	<b>Piranhas Don't Eat Bananas</b>	40,000
	Aaron Blabey (Scholastic, \$16.99 hb)	
8	<b>Ten Little Fingers and Ten Little Toes (board book)</b>	25,000
	Mem Fox (Puffin, \$16.95 hb)	
9	<b>What Do They Do with All the Poo from All of the Animals at the Zoo?</b>	24,000
	Anh Do (Scholastic, \$19.99 hb)	
10	<b>Pig the Pug</b>	22,000
	Aaron Blabey (Scholastic, \$16.99 hb)	

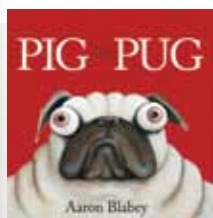
\*Combined sales figures from multiple formats

## CHILDREN'S FICTION

1	<b>The 78-Storey Treehouse</b>	342,000
	Andy Griffiths & Terry Denton (Pan, \$14.99 pb)	
2	<b>Mega Weird! WeirDo</b>	68,000
	Anh Do (Scholastic, \$14.99 pb)	
3	<b>The 13-Storey Treehouse</b>	67,000
	Andy Griffiths & Terry Denton (Pan, \$14.99 pb)	
4	<b>The 26-Storey Treehouse</b>	54,000
	Andy Griffiths & Terry Denton (Pan, \$14.99 pb)	
5	<b>The 65-Storey Treehouse</b>	51,000
	Andy Griffiths & Terry Denton (Pan, \$14.99 pb)	
6	<b>The 39-Storey Treehouse</b>	50,000
	Andy Griffiths & Terry Denton (Pan, \$14.99 pb)	
7	<b>The 52-Storey Treehouse</b>	49,000
	Andy Griffiths & Terry Denton (Pan, \$14.99 pb)	
8	<b>Really Weird! WeirDo</b>	42,000
	Anh Do (Scholastic, \$14.99 pb)	
9	<b>Attack of the Zittens: Bad Guys</b>	39,000
	Aaron Blabey (Scholastic, \$14.99 pb)	
10	<b>The Bad Guys Episode One</b>	38,000
	Aaron Blabey (Scholastic, \$14.99 pb)	

## YOUNG ADULT BOOKS

1	<b>Illuminae: Illuminae Files</b>	6000
	Amie Kaufman & Jay Kristoff (Allen & Unwin, \$19.99 pb)	
2	<b>Black</b>	6000
	Fleur Ferris (Random House, \$19.99 pb)	
3	<b>Gemina: Illuminae Files</b>	6000
	Amie Kaufman & Jay Kristoff (Allen & Unwin, \$22.99 pb)	
4	<b>The Silent Invasion</b>	5000
	James Bradley (Pan, \$9.99 pb)	
5	<b>Our Chemical Hearts</b>	5000
	Krystal Sutherland (Penguin, \$19.99 pb)	
6	<b>The Road to Winter</b>	4000
	Mark Smith (Text Publishing, \$19.99 pb)	
7	<b>My Best Friend is a Goddess</b>	4000
	Tara Eglington (HarperCollins, \$19.99 pb)	
8	<b>Akarnae</b>	3000
	Lynette Noni (Pantera Press, \$9.99 pb)	
9	<b>Swarm: Zeroes Book Two</b>	3000
	Scott Westerfeld, Margo Lanagan & Deborah Biancotti (Allen & Unwin, \$19.99 pb)	
10	<b>Tom Appleby, Convict Boy</b>	3000
	Jackie French (HarperCollins, \$14.95 pb)	



## Introducing Aaron

If you look closely at the children's bestsellers you'll notice that Aaron Blabey appears in both the children's picture book and children's fiction charts. The multi-talented author-illustrator began his career in picture books, striking gold with a series of stories about a selfish, greedy, grumpy pug. More recently, Blabey has launched a series for young readers that turns the traditional 'bad guys' (a wolf, a snake, a shark and a piranha) into the heroes of the story. His cheeky sense of humour is being lapped up by kids in Australia and abroad, and his books are now published in over 29 countries.



## Bright sparks

The first book in Amie Kaufman and Jay Kristoff's *New York Times* bestselling 'Illuminae Files' trilogy tops the Australian YA bestsellers chart, with the second book close behind in third place (the third book is due out in early 2018). Set during an intergalactic war, each title in the trilogy focuses on two different teens (one male, one female) who are experiencing the same invasion, and is told through a dossier of emails, schematics, military files, IMs, medical reports, interviews and more. Expect to see *Illuminae* on the big screen before long; the authors have signed a deal with Brad Pitt's movie production company, Plan B, to turn the sci-fi thriller into a Hollywood movie.



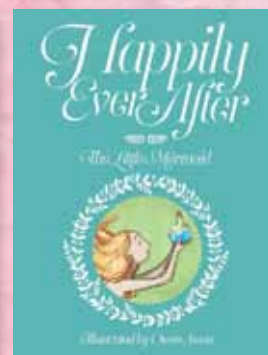
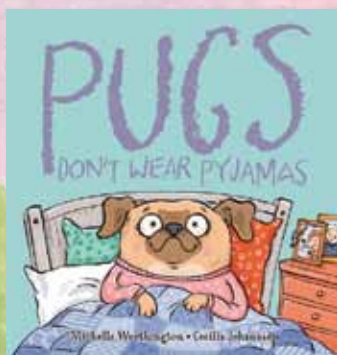
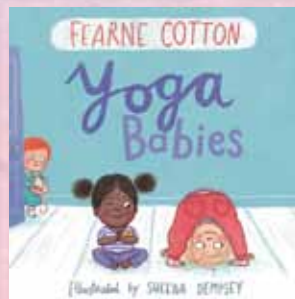
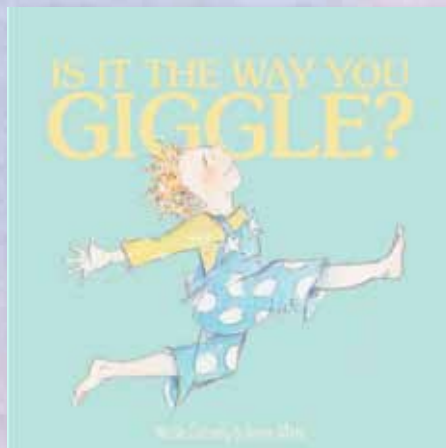
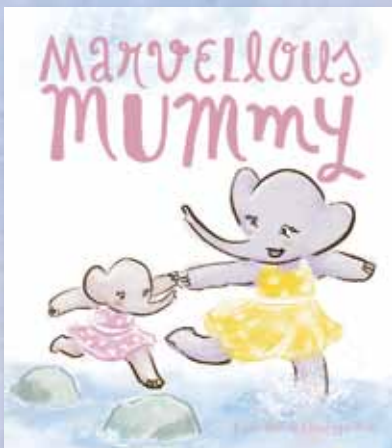
Data supplied by Nielsen BookScan's book sale monitoring system. © Nielsen BookScan 2017. The figure in the right-hand column is the approximate sales volume.

## A NOTE ON PRICES

All prices given are the recommended retail price (RRP) set by publishers. Under Australian law, this is only a recommended price and retailers are free to discount (or in some cases mark up) prices at their discretion. At the time of writing, one Australian dollar is worth approximately €0.67, US\$0.79 and £0.62.



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Frankfurt Book Fair | Literary Agents & Scouts Centre (LitAg) | Hall 6.3, Table 35C



# The children's hour

With children's books driving book sales locally, **Jackie Tang** looks at how children's rights sales are performing for Australian publishers.

Children's books are dominating the Australian market, with children's and YA titles representing almost half (46%) of overall book sales in the country in 2016. Last year, Australian and international children's book authors made up seven of the top 10 bestselling authors.

Demand for Australian children's titles is also significant in the international market for many local publishers. Allen & Unwin (A&U) rights director Angela Namoi says it has been a 'healthy' year for the publisher's children's list, while Charlotte Bodman, international rights manager at children's publisher Hardie Grant Egmont (HGE), says it had been 'a record year of rights sales'.

Asked what trends they have observed, Namoi points to 'authenticity and diversity' across both authors and subject matter. 'You are much more likely to garner interest in a book with a diverse cast of characters if the author/s are authentically qualified to write about them,' she says.

Berbay Publishing managing director Alexandra Yatomi-Clarke, who collected this year's Bologna Prize for Best Children's Publisher of the Year in the Oceania category, highlights nonfiction books with an educational and creative edge.

## The bigger picture

Picture books have traditionally been a 'tricky' category, but right sales have flourished in the past year. In a recent survey of Australian rights managers conducted by *Think Australian*, 43% of respondents said picture books was one of the most in-demand categories, although some expressed concern about a 'glut' of titles.

Picture books are doing 'exceptionally well' at A&U, says Namoi. The publisher's biggest successes at this year's Bologna Children's Book Fair were both picture books: *Do Not Lick This Book*, a humorous nonfiction book about microbes, which has sold into 11 territories, including a two-book, six-figure pre-empt to North America; and *Pea Pod Lullaby*, a tender poem written by Glenda Millard and illustrated by Stephen Michael King, which sold into North America and the UK before local release.

At HGE, picture books—along with junior-fiction series—have also generated the most international interest, particularly in Asian markets.

Yatomi-Clarke says it's 'hard to definitively say' why picture books have been generating so many rights sales. 'One potential explanation is that translating picture books often takes less resources than, say middle-grade

and YA books,' she says. 'It may be easier for non-English-speaking editors to assess and translate a picture book.'

Namoi feels the appeal lies in the treatment of picture books as beautiful objects. 'With picture books, so much more depends on the feel and touch of a book,' she says. For this reason, Namoi now avoids showing mock-ups of picture books to prospective buyers and instead presents spreads digitally prior to publication or waits for finished versions—'because unless you can replicate the final look it's dangerous'.

## Middle grade up, YA down

'Middle grade is in high demand—there doesn't seem to be enough to go around', says Namoi. More than half of Australian rights managers agree, with 53% of those surveyed by *Think Australian* nominating it as one of their most in-demand children's categories.

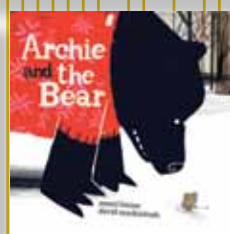
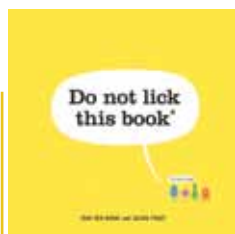
This interest is reflected in the number of new releases in the category over the past year. Recently launched Australian middle-grade series include YA author Jaclyn Moriarty's first middle-grade fantasy novel *The Extremely Inconvenient Adventures of Bronte Mettlestone* (A&U); Jack Henseleit's children's horror title *The Witching Hours: The Vampire Knife* (HGE); and one of this year's most high-profile titles, Jessica Townsend's magical adventure *Nevermoor* (Hachette).

A middle-grade novel also won Text Publishing's annual unpublished manuscript award—the Text Prize for Young Adult and Children's Writing. *The Extremely Weird Thing That Happened in Huggabie Falls* by Adam Cece won't be published in Australia until 2018, but has already sold into Italy.

YA proves to be a tougher category, with both Bodman and Namoi acknowledging it can be a challenge. Namoi feels it's partly due to the shifting boundary between YA and adult categories: 'In my view, adult lists have co-opted YA into their lists. There's no reason they shouldn't, but it does make it a bit harder to maintain the category of YA.'

One Australian rights manager observes that while Australia has many strong YA titles, 'YA seems to be looked after reasonably well by "native" authors especially in Europe and the US—so Australian books are less in demand'. Asian countries have also yet to embrace the category.

However, Bodman says that 'great books will always find a market', and notes that HGE has done well with YA writers that have come through its Ampersand Award, with Melissa Keil's *The Secret Science of Magic* selling into the US, Germany and Turkey. 'The US is a strong market for us with US editors often commenting that they see Australian fiction as a better fit for their market,' says Bodman. 'We find our titles sell well there in picture book, series fiction and YA.' **TA**





## TITLE SHOWCASE

### FREMANTLE PRESS

**DUNGZILLA**  
James Foley



Rights offered: World (ex Australia and New Zealand)  
Category: Junior graphic novel, second book in a series  
Tel: +61 8 9430 6331  
Email: [jfraser@fremantlepress.com.au](mailto:jfraser@fremantlepress.com.au)  
Web: [www.fremantlepress.com.au/products/dungzilla](http://www.fremantlepress.com.au/products/dungzilla)

Sally Tinker—the world's foremost inventor under the age of 12—has built a machine capable of enlarging any object, but when she tries resizing a slice of pizza she accidentally enlarges a dung beetle instead. As the beetle rolls itself a dung ball large enough to crush the town, Sally races to fix the machine. Foley is an award-winning author/illustrator whose credits include *The Last Viking* and *The Last Viking Returns* (with sales of over 21,000 copies). Rights to *Brobot*, the first book in the series, sold to the Netherlands.

## EXHIBITORS LIST

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### CSIRO PUBLISHING



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Fremantle Press is an Australian publishing house renowned for books of high quality and for award-winning literature by new and established authors of poetry, fiction, nonfiction, creative nonfiction and children's literature. Our titles are published in North America, Asia and Europe. Recent rights sales include *Brobot* (Belgium), *Before it Breaks* (Germany), *Pandemonia* (Italy, US, Taiwan, China), *Can a Skeleton Have an X-Ray?* (Spain, China), *My Superhero* (China), *The Hope Fault* (US, UK), *The Two-Hearted Numbat* (China) and *Eye of the Eagle* (South Korea, renewed).

Contact Fremantle Press for a list of agents.

### HACHETTE AUSTRALIA



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Tel: +61 2 8248 0800 / +44 7748 704618  
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 Publisher: Threekookaburras  
 Category: Adult fiction  
 Rights available: World (ex Australia)  
 Tel: +61 411 884 430  
 Email: [info@threekookaburras.com](mailto:info@threekookaburras.com)  
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A romantic night at the zoo ends with a new mystery for milliner and sleuth Catherine Kint. Before you can say 'monkey business' Catherine and her trusted barman Boris are annoying everyone from zoologists to police. This investigation would challenge the best of detectives, but this is Catherine and Boris.



### BROW BOOKS

#### **The Town**

Author: Shaun Prescott  
 Publisher: Brow Books  
 Category: Literary fiction / General fiction  
 Rights available: World (ex Australia)  
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 Email: [rights@theliftedbrow.com](mailto:rights@theliftedbrow.com)  
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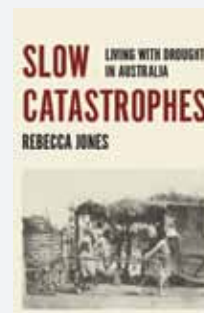
'A bizarre novel—a séance for Kafka, Walser and Calvino—that tackles the ever-disappearing boundaries between youth and aging, between music and silence, the past and present. In a spry and lonely voice, Shaun Prescott has written an ominous work of absurdity.'—Catherine Lacey, author of *Nobody is Ever Missing* and *The Answers*



### MONASH UNIVERSITY PUBLISHING

#### **Slow Catastrophes: Living with Drought in Australia**

Author: Rebecca Jones  
 Publisher: Monash University Publishing  
 Category: Adult nonfiction  
 Rights available: World (ex Australia and New Zealand)  
 Tel: +61 3 9905 4227  
 Email: [nathan.hollier@monash.edu](mailto:nathan.hollier@monash.edu)  
 Web: [www.publishing.monash.edu](http://www.publishing.monash.edu)



As we face an uncertain ecological future, Rebecca Jones, in *Slow Catastrophes: Living with Drought in Australia*, tells how families and communities, going back to the 1870s, stoically and creatively adapted to sustained absences of rain. This is a richly human story, inspiring and instructive.

### CELAPENE PRESS

#### **In the Dark**

Author: Carole Poustie  
 Publisher: Celapene Press  
 Category: Junior fiction  
 Rights available: World (ex Australia)  
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 Email: [enquiries@celapenepress.com.au](mailto:enquiries@celapenepress.com.au)  
 Web: [www.celapenepress.com.au](http://www.celapenepress.com.au)



A forbidden foray into an old cellar leads Ish to unearth a startling discovery. When he opens his late Grandpa's undelivered letter to Mum, Ish is sucked into a vortex of secrets and lies—and one unexpected truth.

### EMPOWERING RESOURCES

#### **Elliott's Rainbow Heart**

Author: Laura Wallbridge  
 Illustrator: Ben Clifford  
 Publisher: Empowering Resources  
 Category: Children's  
 Rights available: World (ex Australia)  
 Tel: +61 413 650 959  
 Email: [jeremy@empowerin-gresources.com](mailto:jeremy@empowerin-gresources.com)  
 Web: [www.empoweringresources.com](http://www.empoweringresources.com)



Elliott only likes to eat blue things. It is his favourite colour. Blue for breakfast. Blue for lunch. Blue for dinner. But when no blue things can be found in the rainforest, Elliott has to make the difficult choice, does he continue to battle his grumbly, rumbly, squelchy tummy, or does he try something new and strange? After a brief encounter with a beautiful creature with a rainbow heart, Elliott sets out on a quest for one of his own.