

# Focus on Books



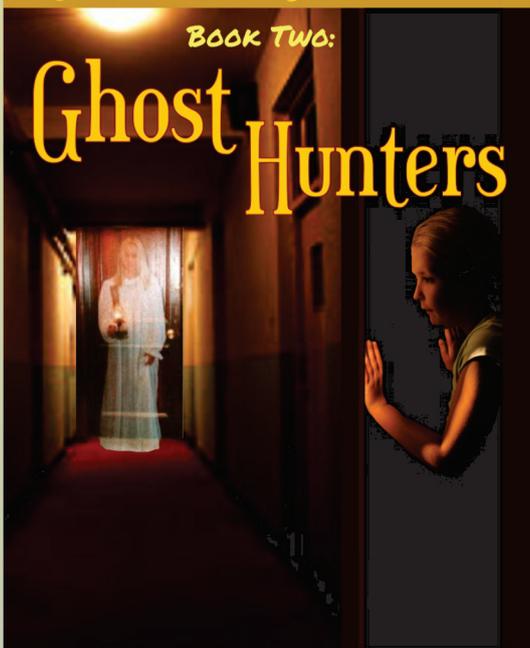
**PREPARE FOR  
CHRISTMAS**  
*Your next best seller  
could be in here!*

**EXCITING  
NEW RELEASE**

## **Fearless Friends**

BOOK TWO:

# Ghost Hunters



**ELAINE OUSTON**

*An entertaining story with an important message  
for early readers. [Read more on page 2.](#)*

**OCTOBER RELEASE**

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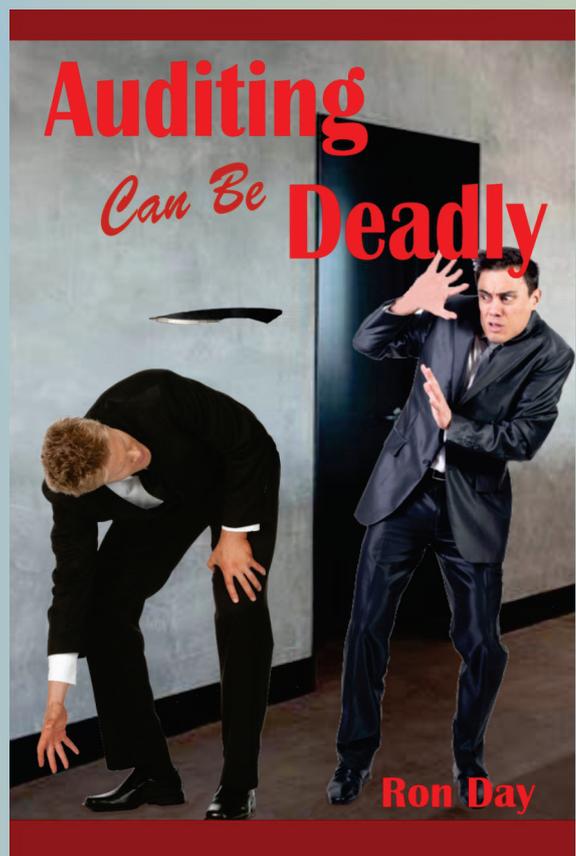
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**EXCITING  
NEW RELEASE**

## **Auditing Can Be Deadly**



**Ron Day**

**OCTOBER RELEASE**

*The first in a series of exciting crime novellas from  
author, Ron Day. [Read more on page 1.](#)*



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# Exciting New Release

**AUDITING CAN BE DEADLY**  
**Exciting crime novella**  
**by author Ron Day.**

**OCTOBER RELEASE**

**SYNOPSIS:** When Sean agrees to audit his friend's winery to find out why profits are rapidly decreasing, he never imagined it would lead to several attempts on his life.

Someone doesn't want him to discover where the money is disappearing.

*Can he survive long enough to find out who?*

**REVIEW:** *Auditing Can Be Deadly*, a thrilling, fast-paced novella by debut crime fiction author Ron Day, is full of conflict, tension, romance, suspense, unexpected twists, and high stakes.

Readers will be able to connect with Sean because he is a strong character who feels genuine. As his investigation progresses, he gathers evidence and witnesses, and suspects and red herrings emerge.

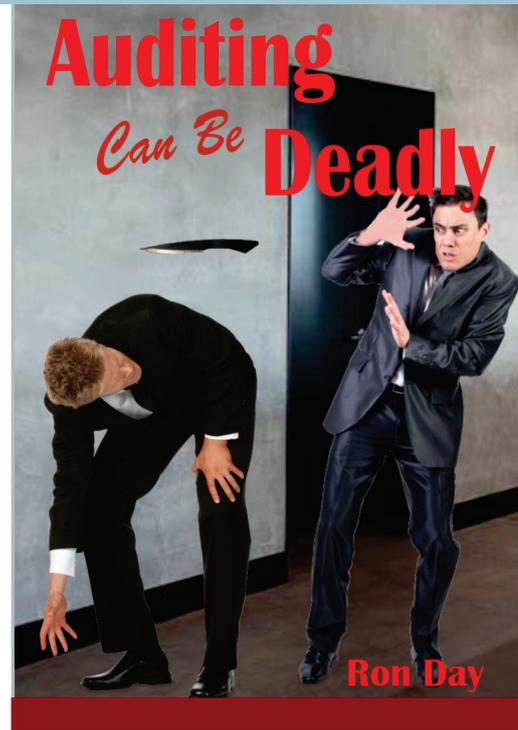
The plot contains compelling characters and captivating events that are interspersed throughout the story to keep the reader's interest. From the very beginning, the tension builds until it reaches an excellent climax.

***Fans of crime fiction will enjoy this highly recommended, entertaining short novel.***

#### **AUTHOR INFORMATION:**

Ron Day is a published author of a series of text books for use in primary, secondary, tertiary schools and colleges and recently had a children's book published.

He has had more than 30 years experience in teaching and writing.



**TITLE:** **Auditing Can Be Deadly**

**AUTHOR:** Ron Day

**ISBN:** 9780645238853

**FORMAT:** Paperback

**EXTENT:** 108 pages

**RRP:** \$17.99

**PUBLISHER:** Morris Publishing Australia.

**PUB DATE:** October 2021

**CATEGORY:** Crime Novella

**AUDIENCE:** Adult

#### **WHOLESALE ORDERS:**

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# Exciting New Release

## FEARLESS FRIENDS - Book Two GHOST HUNTERS

### OCTOBER RELEASE

**SYNOPSIS:** After catching the graffiti bandit, Evie vows to help his brother, Ruben, solve the mystery of the disappearance of the only person who can prove his father is innocent.

Then, while trying to find out more about the magic pen that helped her, she discovers a family secret.

For more information, she sets out to find the ghost who is haunting the old family mansion and keeping her art teacher, Mrs Flowers, awake.

With the help of the magic pen, she enters the mansion while Mrs Flowers is not home.

What she finds there will change her life forever.

*The story concludes in book 3, The Search for the missing Proof of Innocence, which will be released in early December. Preorders are available.*

**REVIEW:** The second instalment of Ouston's *Fearless Friends series - Ghost Hunters*, does not disappoint. In this sequel, we continue where we left off in the first.

Kids will love Ghost Hunters as the determined and courageous Evie, accompanied by her loyal cousin, Willem, continue to gather clues, apply problem-solving skills, and a dash of magic to solve family, criminal and supernatural mysteries.

Ouston's Ghost Hunters is a well-plotted, gripping kid's read packed with mystery, suspense, and tension that will keep them guessing at every turn.

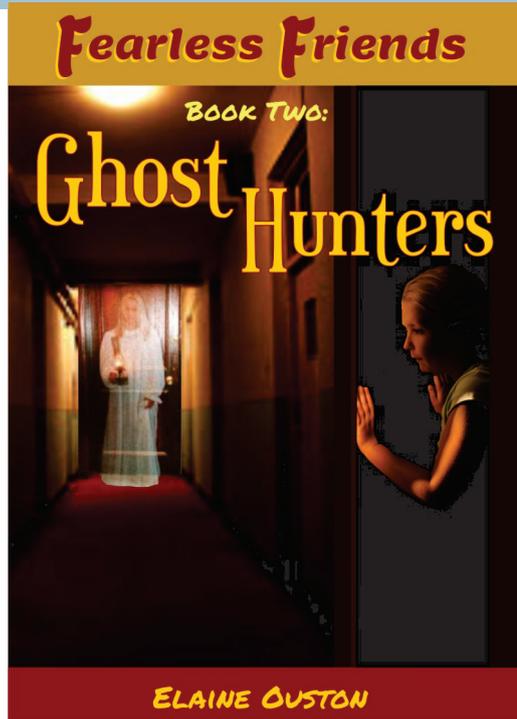
***Awaiting the next book in this series with great anticipation! Robert Favretto author.***

#### AUTHOR INFORMATION:

Elaine Ouston has a Master of Letters in creative writing and has many published books. Her books have an educational theme or element.

Elaine is available for book signings and author talks about her books and the animals, or for writing workshops for adults or children. Her sessions are interactive, educational, and engaging.

[www.elainejouston.com](http://www.elainejouston.com)



**TITLE:** Fearless Friends series, Book two - Ghost Hunters

**AUTHOR:** Elaine Ouston

**ISBN:** 978-0-6452388-4-6

**FORMAT:** Paperback

**EXTENT:** 86 pages

**RRP:** \$14.99

**PUBLISHER:** Morris Publishing Australia.

**PUB DATE:** October 2021

**CATEGORY:** Mystery story with some fantasy elements

**AUDIENCE:** Early readers

#### WHOLESALE ORDERS:

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## **TOBY THE RAINFOREST WARRIOR by Ron Day**

### **BOOK INFORMATION:**

**THEME:** This book teaches the importance of saving the forests to save our environment and our native animals.

**SYNOPSIS:** When Toby the tree kangaroo saw men cutting down their forest home, he knew he had to stop them. With the help from his animal friends, Toby staged a protest.

Can they chase the humans away and save the forest?

### **AUTHOR INFORMATION:**

**Ron Day** has many university degrees, including a PhD from Central Queensland University, and is a published author of a series of text books for use in primary, secondary, tertiary schools and colleges.

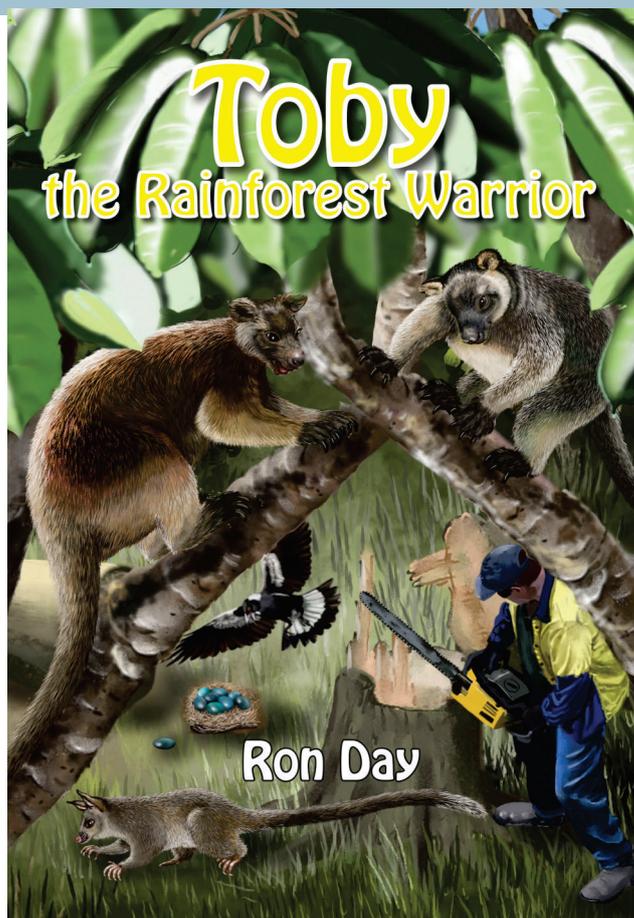
He has had more than 30 years experience in teaching and writing.

He is passionate about teaching children the importance of saving the environment and the native animals by saving the forest. He is working on more books about these important subjects.

He is available for book signings, school visits to talk about the theme of the book, and writing workshops.

Contact:

info@morrispublishingaustralia.com



**TITLE:** **Toby the Rainforest Warrior**

**AUTHOR:** Ron Day

**ISBN:** 978-0-6488782-5-4

**FORMATS:** Paperback

**EXTENT:** Pages 56

**AU RRP:** Paperback: \$14.99

**PUBLISHER:** Morris Publishing Australia

**PUB DATE:** May 2021

**CATEGORY:** Junior Fiction

**AUDIENCE:** Early readers

### **WHOLESALE ORDERS:**

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# May 2021 Release

## FEARLESS FRIENDS - Book One Graffiti Fighters

### BOOK INFORMATION:

**THEME:** With a theme of 'do unto others what you would have done to you', this book teaches the importance of respecting other people's property.

**SYNOPSIS:** When Evie discovered someone had sprayed graffiti on her neighbour's fence her blood boiled from anger and she vowed to find out who it was. And then he made it personal and she became furious.

With help from her cousin Willem, and a special pen from her neighbour, she set out to catch the culprit. But she could never have imagined the danger they would face when they found him and the things she would discover along the way – things like magic, ghosts and witchcraft.

### Extract from review by Anatsasia Gonis:

Ideal for reluctant and early readers. Its short chapters and fast pace add a sense of excitement and anticipation.

### AUTHOR INFORMATION:

Elaine Ouston has a Master of Letters in creative writing and has many published books. Her books have an educational theme or element.

She is available for book signings and author talks about her books and the animals, or for writing workshops for adults or children. Her sessions are interactive, educational, and engaging.

You can see Elaine's other books on her website [www.elainejouston.com](http://www.elainejouston.com) or on her publisher's website [www.morrispublishingaustralia.com](http://www.morrispublishingaustralia.com)



**TITLE:** Fearless Friends - Graffiti Fighters

**AUTHOR:** Elaine Ouston

**ISBN:** 978-0-6488782-4-7

**FORMATS:** Paperback

**EXTENT:** Pages 66

**AU RRP:** Paperback: \$14.99

**PUBLISHER:** Morris Publishing Australia

**PUB DATE:** May 2021

**CATEGORY:** Junior Fiction

**AUDIENCE:** Early readers

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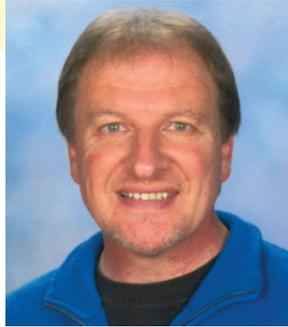


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# Featured Book

## CAT-astrophe

*Robert Favretto is a retired primary school teacher and Victorian based author of children's fiction.*



This book, *CAT-astrophe* is a story along the same lines as the *Just* books and *Captain Underpants* series: crazy, funny and really silly – everything young boys love in a book.

Robert has a Diploma of Professional Children's Writing and has many published books. He has presented writing workshops for primary school aged children and the Hastings Literacy Festival.

*I asked Robert to tell us little about the book.*

Q: How did the idea for this book come to you?

A: The idea for this book came from my primary school days. Writing a story was always par for the course as a first day back at school experience. While most children embraced the task, there were some less inspired. I thought this would make a good starting point for my story. The funny and unusual characters are fictional, and I added a sprinkling of jokes, puns, and wordplay for good measure.

Children love stories, especially funny ones or jokes. That's why I enjoy writing for kids. They have a great sense of humour and love to be entertained. Imaginative stories full of fun and mischief are always popular with young readers – and it encourages them to read more! It's also a great way of getting serious messages across without turning them off.

Q: Does the life of your main character parallel with yours in any way?

A: I suppose some of Rhys's character traits and penchant for jokes and puns parallel mine. But unlike Rhys, I'm happier to step out of my comfort zone and give things a go.

Q: Is there a message in your novel that you want readers to grasp?

A: You don't know what you're capable of until you



### SYNOPSIS:

*Rhys's teacher, Mr Shakespeare, wants him to write a story.*

But it's no easy task – especially when he's got writer's block and doesn't get along with his teacher. Throw in class pest, Alex, and a time out, and he's got a recipe for disaster.

Inspiration comes from an unexpected source, and the story of a cricket match, a new neighbour, and an annoying cat becomes a winner.

*But is it all as it seems?*

**TITLE:** CAT-astrophe  
**AUTHOR:** Robert Favretto  
**ISBN:** 978-0-9859147-9-0  
**FORMATS:** Paperback  
**EXTENT:** 32 pages  
**AU RRP:** Paperback: \$14.99

**PUBLISHER:** Morris Publishing Australia

**CATEGORY:** Juvenile Fiction - Humour

**AUDIENCE:** Early readers - 7 - 10 years

### WHOLESALE ORDERS:

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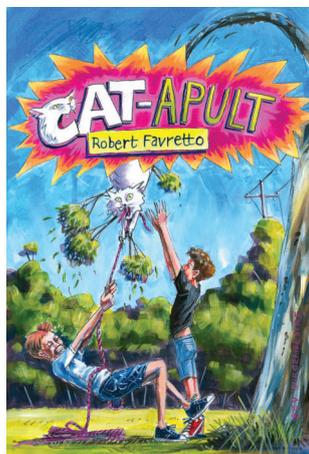
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# Two more popular books by Robert Favretto

## CAT-apult



### SYNOPSIS:

Rhys is in trouble again. Despite his recent Cat-astrophe, his teacher, Mr Shakespeare, still wants him to hand in a story – pronto!

To make things worse, Rhys's friend, Oscar, runs into trouble and

needs his help to rescue Mrs Watt's prize cat – urgently!

Short on time, Rhys has a story to finish that he hasn't started, and needs to find a cat that's gone missing – ASAP!

But things don't always work out as planned.

*Will he save the day? Or is he destined for another catastrophe?*

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**TITLE:** CAT-apult  
**AUTHOR:** Robert Favretto  
**ISBN:** 978-0-9942463-5-6  
**FORMATS:** Paperback  
**EXTENT:** 48 pages  
**AU RRP:** Paperback: \$14.99  
**PUBLISHER:** Morris Publishing Australia  
**CATEGORY:** Juvenile Fiction - Humour  
**AUDIENCE:** Early readers: 7 - 10 years

### WHOLESALE ORDERS:

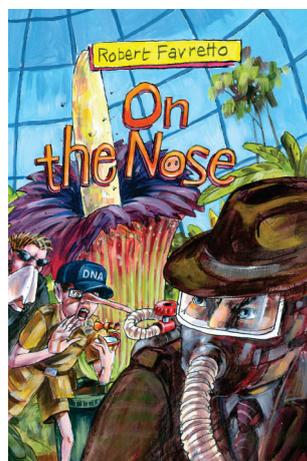
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## On The Nose



**SYNOPSIS:** Justin Credible is a real live Pinocchio with a keen sense of smell. Trained as a super sleuth for the DNA (Department of Nasal Affairs), he is often called upon at the first sniff of trouble. With a nose for those hard to crack smelly

cases, it's no surprise when Justin responds to an urgent call for help.

Someone or something has dropped a stink bomb in the city of Aroma – and the stench is devastating! Gardens are wilting, birds are dropping out of the sky, and the residents are leaving in droves! With sleuth-like determination, Justin follows his nose to solve the mystery of the phantom smell before it wipes Aroma off the map!

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**TITLE:** On the Nose  
**AUTHOR:** Robert Favretto  
**ISBN:** 978-0-9875434-7-9  
**FORMATS:** Paperback  
**EXTENT:** 44 pages  
**AU RRP:** Paperback: \$14.99  
**PUBLISHER:** Morris Publishing Australia  
**CATEGORY:** Juvenile Fiction - Humour  
**AUDIENCE:** Early readers: 7 - 10 years

### WHOLESALE ORDERS:

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# Popular Picture Book

## DIPPY THE DANCING DIPROTODON

### BOOK INFORMATION:

*The The Australian megafauna in this book were first introduced by the author in her fantasy series The Mystery of Nida Valley.*

Many school teachers, librarians, and parents have requested books for younger children with stories and illustrations of the animals. One non-fiction picture book, *Meet The Megafauna*, featuring all of the animals from the fantasy series has been published.

This is the first book in a series of picture books that will feature two of the animals interacting as they would have in the wild. This one features the marsupial lion and the diprotodon.

### SYNOPSIS:

More than 50,000 years ago, Dippy the diprotodon (di-prot-o-don) danced through the dense forest heading for his breakfast of fresh eucalyptus leaves.

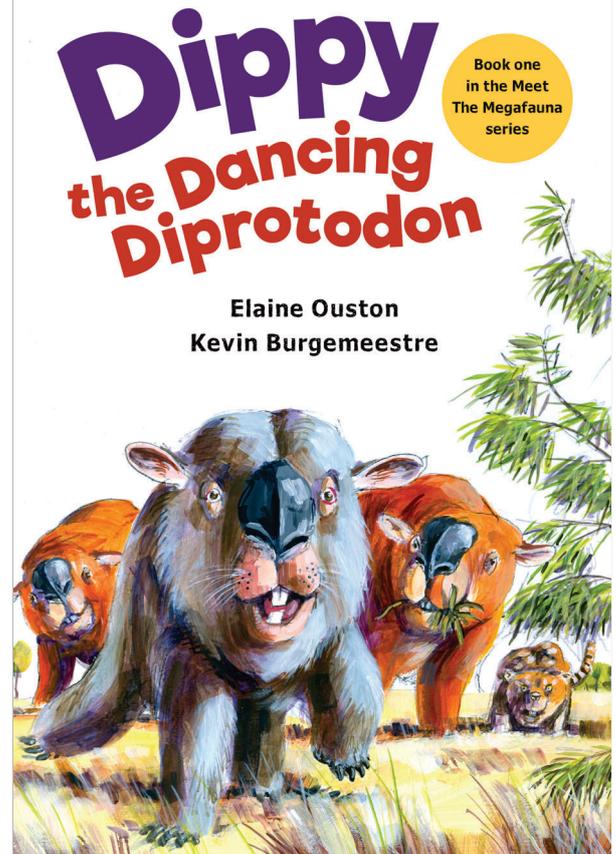
What he didn't know was that right behind him, stalking him, was a marsupial lion wanting to make Dippy his breakfast. Who will win this battle?

### AUTHOR INFORMATION:

Elaine Ouston has a Master of Letters in creative writing and has many published books. Her books have an educational theme or element.

She is available for book signings and author talks about her books and the animals, or for writing workshops for adults or children. Her sessions are interactive, educational, and engaging.

You can see Elaine's other books on her website [www.elainejouston.com](http://www.elainejouston.com) or on her publisher's website [www.morrispublishingaustralia.com](http://www.morrispublishingaustralia.com)



**TITLE:** *Dippy The Dancing Diprotodon*

**AUTHOR:** Elaine Ouston

**ILLUSTRATOR:** Kevin Burgemeestre

**ISBN:** 9780994246363

**FORMATS:** Hard cover picture book

**SIZE:** 254 x 178

**EXTENT:** Pages 36

**AU RRP:** \$21.95

**PUBLISHER:** Morris Publishing Australia

**CATEGORY:** Fiction

**AUDIENCE:** Early readers

### WHOLESALE ORDERS:

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# Popular Picture Book

## MEET THE MEGAFAUNA

### BOOK INFORMATION:

*This book is educational and introduces the young reader to Australia's unique megafauna in an entertaining way. It is written as if the animals are presenting themselves to the reader.*

The book was written at the request of school librarians who purchased my fantasy series for middle readers, *The Mystery of Nida Valley*, featuring the megafauna of Australia. They asked for an entertaining book for younger readers with illustrations of the animals.

A series of picture books for early readers will follow. Each will feature a story with two of the animals interacting as they would have in the wild. The first features the diprotodon and the marsupial lion.

**SYNOPSIS:** *Once upon a time, a long, long time ago, many large and unusual animals lived in Australia.*

Some lived with the dinosaurs, but many were still here 50,000 years ago when humans arrived in our land. Some have survived to become the animals we see today. But some, sadly, died out like the dinosaurs.

*Step into Nida Valley, where they still roam. They are waiting to tell you all about themselves.*

### AUTHOR INFORMATION:

Elaine Ouston has a Master of Letters in creative writing and has many published books. Her books have an educational theme or element.



She is available for book signings and author talks about her books and the animals, or for writing workshops for adults or children. Her sessions are interactive, educational, and engaging.

You can see Elaine's other books on her website [www.elainejouston.com](http://www.elainejouston.com) or on her publisher's website [www.morrispublishingaustralia.com](http://www.morrispublishingaustralia.com)

**TITLE:** MEET THE MEGAFAUNA

**AUTHOR:** Elaine Ouston

**ISBN:** 9780992505295

**FORMATS:** Soft cover picture book

**ILLUSTRATIONS:** Full colour

**EXTENT:** Pages 24

**AU RRP:** \$19.99

### WHOLESALE ORDERS:

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# Popular Books for Early Readers

## Mr Leap Frog Saves The World

### BOOK INFORMATION:

Mr Leap Frog Saves the World is a fascinating and enjoyable fantasy story of a quest by two animals to save the world from an evil toad who is trying to take it over and create chaos.

Many other animals help along the way.

Its theme is that by working together we can overcome evil.

**SYNOPSIS:** When Mr Leap Frog from Frog's Hollow set out to fetch a plumber to fix his taps he had no idea that his life was going to change forever.

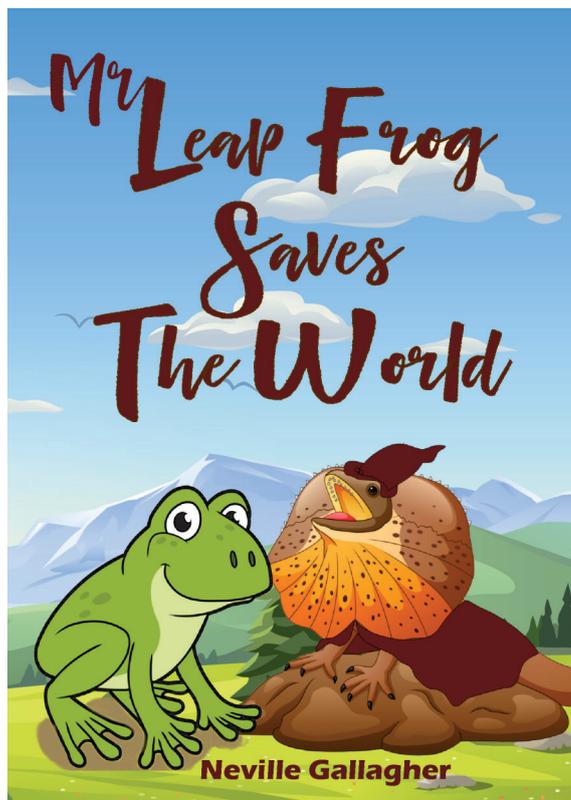
After getting lost and meeting many strange creatures, he was enlisted to help Frillneck the Wizard return the Peace Crystal to the Forest of Peace and save the world.

They encounter many obstacles on the way but by working together and with other animals, they arrive just in time.

### AUTHOR INFORMATION:

This book was the passion of Mr Neville Gallaher.

Unfortunately, he didn't live to see it published.



**TITLE:** Mr Leap Frog Saves The World

**AUTHOR:** Neville Gallaher (deceased)

**ISBN:** 9780987635358

**FORMATS:** Paperback

**EXTENT:** Pages 160

**SIZE:** 178 X 127

**AU RRP:** Paperback: \$13.95

**PUBLISHER:** Morris Publishing Australia

**CATEGORY:** Fantasy fiction - quest - animal adventure story

**AUDIENCE:** 7 - 12 years

### WHOLESALE ORDERS:

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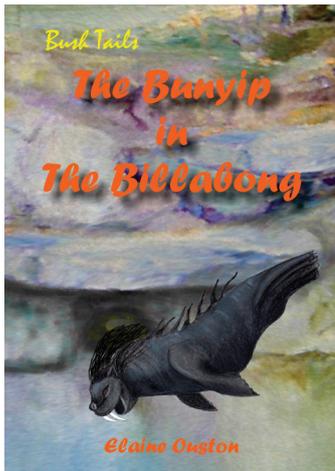


# Popular Books for Early Readers

## Bush Tails

Book One

### The Bunyip in The Billabong



**SYNOPSIS:** The newborn lambs are going missing and Matthew thinks the bunyip that lives in a cave under the water in their billabong is taking them. His grandfather told him about it. His mum, dad and big brother say bunyips don't exist, but Matthew is not so sure.

He and his grandfather Matthew sees a dark shape dive into the waterhole. Now he is sure it is the bunyip. His big brother brings home his scuba gear to find out once and for all what Matthew saw diving into the billabong.

*Will they find the bunyip or will it find them?*

**TITLE:** The Bunyip in The Billabong

**AUTHOR:** Elaine Ouston

**ISBN:** 9780994246301

**FORMATS:** Paperback

**EXTENT:** Pages 38

**AU RRP:** Paperback: \$14.99

**SIZE:** 178 X 127

**PUBLISHER:** Morris Publishing Australia

**CATEGORY:** Juvenile fiction

**AUDIENCE:** Early readers

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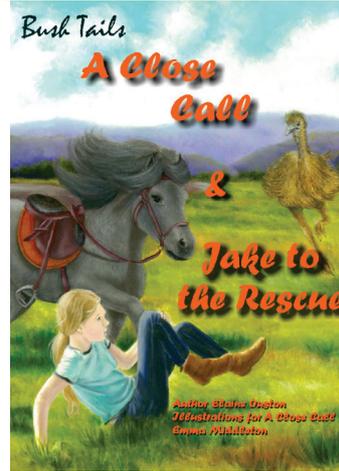
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## Bush Tails

Book Two

### A CLOSE CALL & JAKE TO THE RESCUE



*Two short stories set in the Australian country for early readers:*

#### SYNOPSIS:

*A Close Call:* An afternoon ride becomes dangerous when Courtney's curiosity leads her into a race to safety from an enraged emu.

#### SYNOPSIS: Jake to the Rescue:

Jake's dad hasn't come home for tea. Following his mother's request to use his initiative more often, Jake and his dog Laddie go on a night search for his father that puts them in danger.

**TITLE:** Bush Tails Two: A Close Call and Jake to the Rescue.

**AUTHOR:** Elaine Ouston.

**ISBN:** 978-0-6481647-2-2

**FORMAT:** Paperback

**EXTENT:** Pages 32

**RRP:** \$14.99

**SIZE:** 178 X 127

**PUBLISHER:** Morris Publishing Australia.

**CATEGORY:** Juvenile fiction

**AUDIENCE:** Early readers

#### WHOLESALE ORDERS:

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# Featured Book

## JUST IN TIME FOR THE PARTY SEASON

This collection of unique cocktail recipes will liven up any party.

*The Australian Great Barrier Reef Cocktail Book is a collection of over 100 NEW delicious cocktail recipes. Many are named after the Islands where they were created.*

The beauty and tranquillity of Australia's Great Barrier Reef Island Resorts inspired Mike Summers to create the many appetising and award winning cocktails in this book. The subtle blend of ingredients, as delicate as the ecological balance of the Great Barrier Reef itself, were designed to tempt and delight the resort guests.

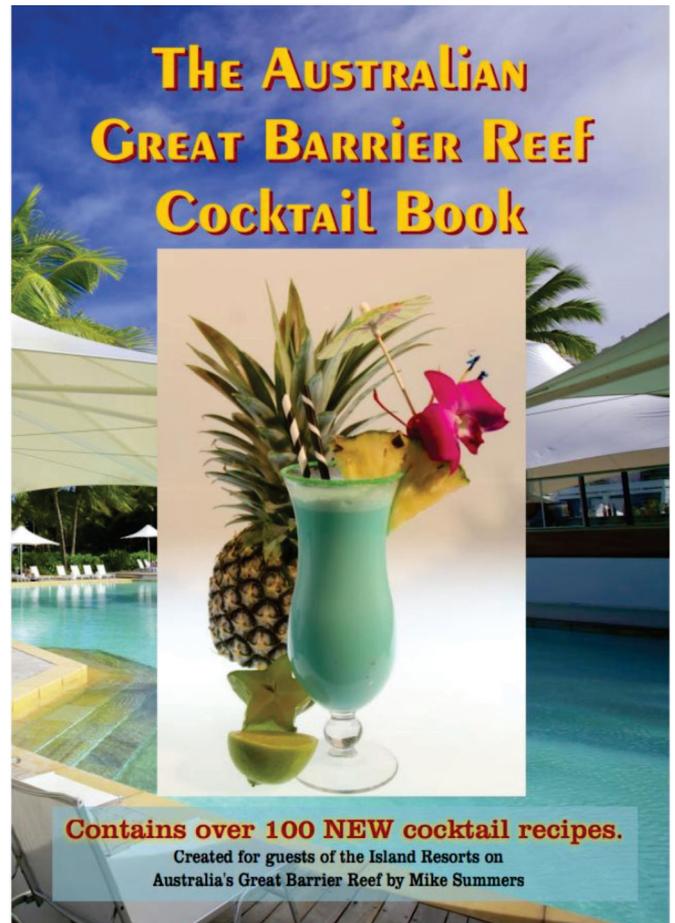
### AUTHOR INFORMATION:

Gold Coast resident, Mike Summers has had an interesting life. He worked for more than fourteen years in the Island Resorts of Australia's Great Barrier Reef and his skill with a shaker became as legendary as the cocktails he created there. He won numerous awards for his creations.

When he left the industry with over 100 cocktails on his list, he decided that he would one day publish his recipes. He typed them out and gave the list to a few of his closest friends.

Then as the years past, and life interfered with this dream, Mike lost his copy. The book forgotten, he worked for a very large telco for the next 16 years.

When he decided to follow-up on the cocktail book, he was lucky one of his friends still had the list. Now everyone can enjoy these delicious beverages.



**TITLE:** The Australian Great Barrier Reef Cocktail Book

**AUTHOR:** Mike Summers

**ISBN:** 978-0-9875434-3-1

**FORMATS:** Paperback and Hard Cover

**EXTENT:** Pages: 66

**AU RRP:** Paperback: \$18.95  
Hard Cover \$20.95

**CONTENT:** High quality gloss pages printed in full colour

**PUBLISHER:** Morris Publishing Australia

**CATEGORY:** Food and beverages

**AUDIENCE:** Adult

### WHOLESALE ORDERS:

Ingram Content

[www.ingramcontent.com/retailers/ordering](http://www.ingramcontent.com/retailers/ordering)

Morris Publishing Australia:

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# Featured Book

## THE SECRET STALKER OF THE PROSTATE

### BOOK INFORMATION:

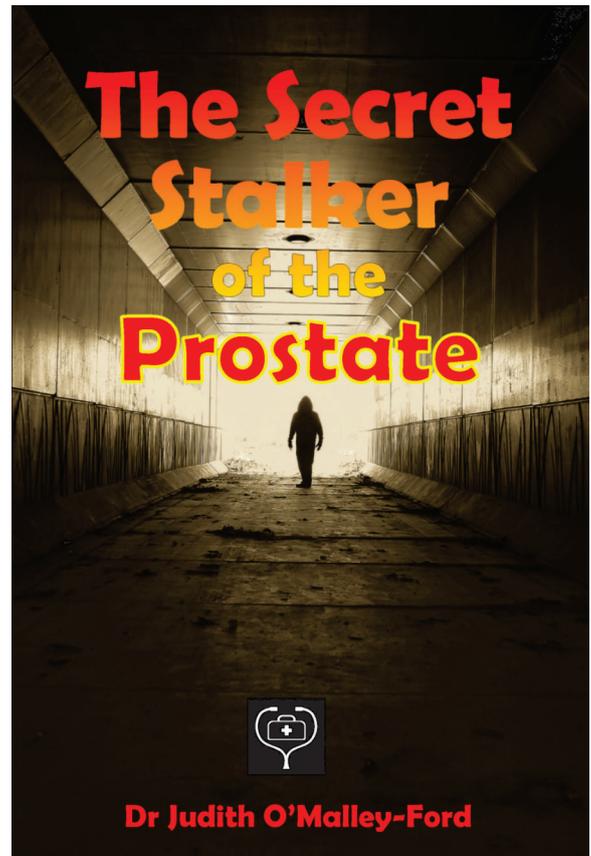
The book contains very detailed information on the common symptoms of not only prostate cancer but other less critical diseases of the uro-genital system. A comprehensive questionnaire will help men or their wives or partners pick up any changes that could be early warning signs. It goes on to explain in great detail the steps that should be taken if a problem is suspected and the steps the medical professional will take to determine and treat the cause.

When asked to read and evaluate the book, **Peter Dornan, founder and convenor of the Prostate Cancer Support Group** wrote, "When I was diagnosed with prostate cancer in 1996, at the age of 52, as a health professional, a Physiotherapist, I was embarrassed and angry that I did not know what my prostate was, where it was and what it did. This is the book I would have loved to have at the time.

Every question regarding anatomy, disease processes, decision making procedures for the treatment and considerations of the side effects, psycho-social effects and the impact on relationships, are concisely covered – all in layman terms. The most important section, dealing with the modern research of parametric MRI during diagnosis, is particularly useful."

### AUTHOR INFORMATION:

Dr Judith O'Malley-Ford is a full time General Practitioner, award winning, internationally published author in Australia and in the UK, former Editor of the Prostate Cancer Foundation of Australia monthly magazine, and Committee member of the Asthma Foundation. She has a Master of Public Health and is a Fellow and Examiner of the Royal Australian College of the General Practitioners.



**TITLE:** The Secret Stalker of the Prostate  
**AUTHOR:** Dr Judith O'Malley-Ford  
**ISBN:** 9780994503688  
**FORMATS:** Paperback  
**EXTENT:** Pages 198  
**AU RRP:** Paperback: \$24.99  
**PUBLISHER:** Morris Publishing Australia  
**CATEGORY:** Non-fiction - Men's Health  
**AUDIENCE:** Adult

### WHOLESALE ORDERS:

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# Popular Middle Grade Book

## BARBEN'S MAGIC QUEST

### BOOK INFORMATION:

*This is an adventure story with an environmental theme, sprinkled with magic, and with enough twists, turns and tension to hold the reader's interest throughout the book. It is open-ended which allows more challenges, and more magic.*

### SYNOPSIS:

Enter the world of the Magic Folk. A world of Fairies, Elves, Witches, Warlocks, Gnomes, Trolls and much more... An enchanting world full of magic, both good and evil.

Follow the adventures of four Aussie cousins as they find themselves thrust into this world, given magic powers, and sent on a quest to save the forests of the world from destruction by an evil wizard.

### AUTHOR INFORMATION:

Elaine Ouston has a Master of Letters in creative writing and has many published books. Her books have an educational theme or element.

She is available for book signings and author talks about her books and the animals, or for writing workshops for adults or children. Her sessions are interactive, educational, and engaging.

You can see Elaine's other books on her website [www.elainejouston.com](http://www.elainejouston.com) or on her publisher's website [www.morrispublishingaustralia.com](http://www.morrispublishingaustralia.com)



**TITLE:** BARBEN'S MAGIC QUEST

**AUTHOR:** Elaine Ouston

**ISBN:** 978-0-6481647-8-4

**FORMATS:** Paperback

**EXTENT:** Pages 148

**AU RRP:** \$19.95

**PUBLISHER:** Morris Publishing Australia

**CATEGORY:** Juvenile Fiction

**AUDIENCE:** Middle Grade readers

### WHOLESALE ORDERS:

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# Popular Chapter Book

## LOST IN A STRANGE LAND

### BOOK INFORMATION:

*Lost In A Strange Land - The Adventures of Willamena Wombat* relates the adventures of four unique Australian animals lost in an English forest.

The book has an educational theme. The stories cover the interaction between the unique animals of both countries, who, while very different, live in a similar manner.

**SYNOPSIS:** When Willamena Wombat discovered that she and three of her friends, Katie Koala, Kelly Kangaroo & Penny Possum were being sent to a Zoo in London she was nervous; and sad at leaving her other friends.

She soon forgot her sadness when their cages accidentally fell out of the back of a van during their transfer to the London Zoo. They were lost in an unfamiliar and scary English forest.

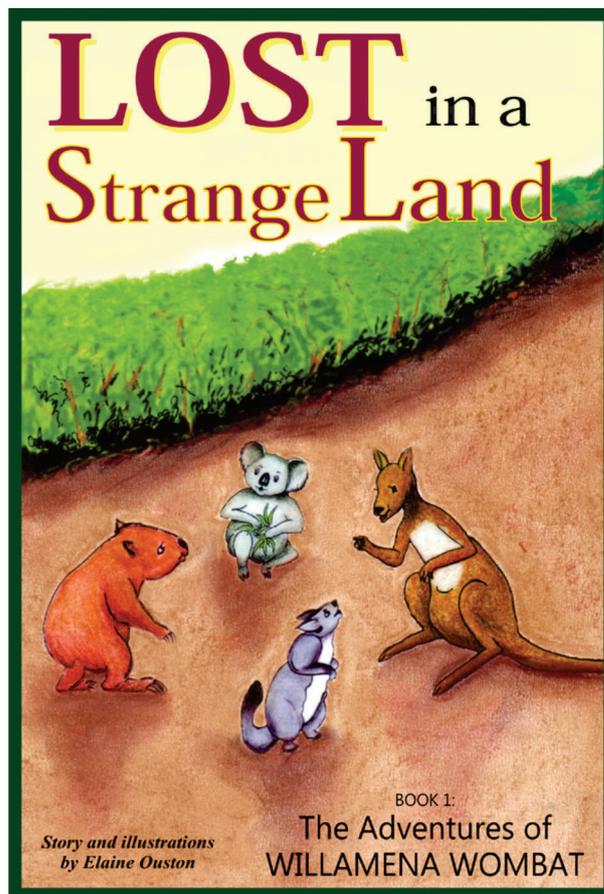
Searching for food in the dark forest, she detected the scent of an unfamiliar animal, and ran for her life with the animal in pursuit. There was no safe wombat burrow to hide in here. Willamena found herself at the mercy of a strange animal that came to her rescue. Can she trust this animal? How will she escape?

### AUTHOR INFORMATION:

Elaine Ouston has a Master of Letters in creative writing and has many published books. Her books have an educational theme or element.

She is available for book signings and author talks about her books and the animals, or for writing workshops for adults or children. Her sessions are interactive, educational, and engaging.

You can see Elaine's other books on her website [www.elainejouston.com](http://www.elainejouston.com) or on her publisher's website [www.morrispublishingaustralia.com](http://www.morrispublishingaustralia.com)



**TITLE:** LOST IN A STRANGE LAND

**AUTHOR:** Elaine Ouston

**ISBN:** 9780992505288

**FORMATS:** Paperback

**EXTENT:** Pages 50

**AU RRP:** \$14.99

**PUBLISHER:** Morris Publishing Australia

**CATEGORY:** Juvenile Fiction

**AUDIENCE:** Early Readers

### WHOLESALE ORDERS:

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## The Girl in The Basement

*The sales of this book by popular and multi-award winning author, Di Bates, have surged again with the release of a movie of the same name.*



### THE GIRL IN THE BASEMENT

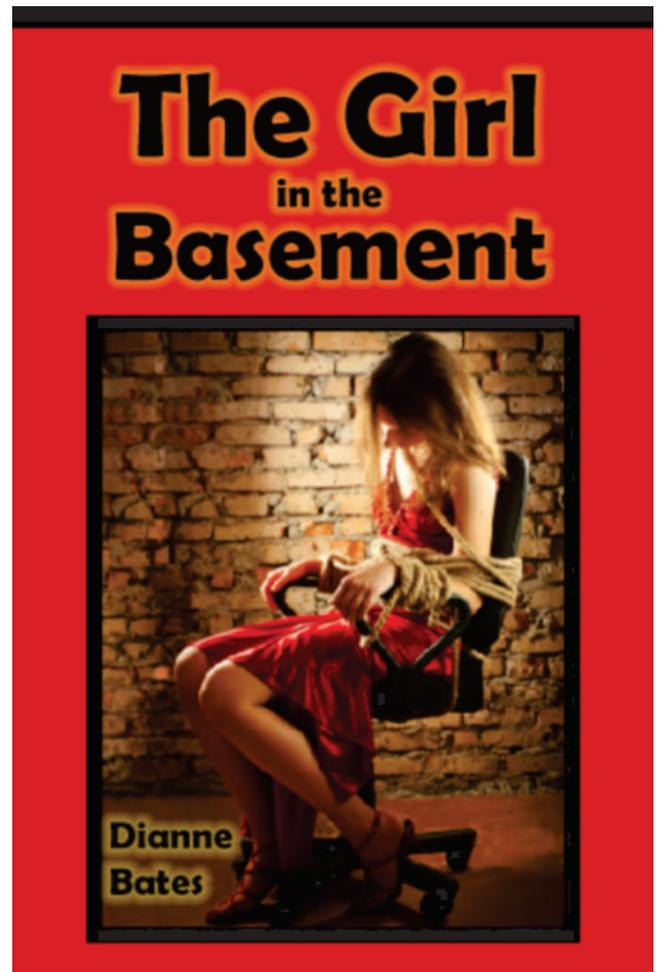
*Reviewed by Vicki Stanton*

Dianne Bates' new thriller *The Girl in the Basement* is a page turner that once started you will not be able to put down. Sixteen-year-old Libby is snatched off the streets by a man and spends the next few months swinging between terror and calculating her escape. Extra dimensions are added when Psycho Man, as Libby thinks of him, kidnaps a young boy to complete his family.

Bates pulls off a major writing coup: she successfully flits between the heads of Libby and her kidnapper giving us insights into the motivations and emotions of both. A lesser writer would have failed in this but it is testament to Bates' skill that the head hopping enhances the story. I identified strongly with Libby's ordeal. Memories of her own loving family strikingly contrast with Psycho Man's warped version.

The mind of a psychopath is an unnerving thing to delve into. The accommodation of his distorted sense of reality into his life view is chilling, and fatal to others. Since I always hate to know the ending of a book, I won't tell you whether Libby survives or not but if you are after a light read then this is not the book for you. There is violence, brutal at times, and more than one death (but no sex). The violence is always in context and never gratuitous.

This is definitely a book for older YA readers and adults. While the events in this book are fictional, it is a disturbing reminder of the depths humans can plunge to. Fortunately, it is also a reminder of the strength of character and tenacity we can summon in the face of the most cruel circumstances.



**TITLE:** The Girl in the Basement  
**AUTHOR:** Dianne Bates  
**ISBN:** 978-0-9875434-1-7  
**FORMATS:** eBook:  
Paperback  
**EXTENT:** 196 pages  
**AU RRP:** Paperback: \$19.95  
**PUBLISHER:** Morris Publishing Australia  
**CATEGORY:** Thriller  
**AUDIENCE:** Young Adult / Adult

### WHOLESALE ORDERS:

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## Kate

by Kevin Burgemeestre

Review by Debbie Cullen

[www.sherfordbear.co.uk](http://www.sherfordbear.co.uk)

Two young lives, Kate and Mal, from two totally different backgrounds, are brought together by one small act. From then on, their lives are inextricably intertwined as the two are forced together because of Mal's past.

Kate's life had been tainted with sadness, but was a fairly normal young girl's life. Mal, on the other hand, had had a very traumatic life for one so young and was living on the edge.

When Kate rescues a pathetic looking dog, tied up and injured outside a rough looking property, she meets Mal for the first time when she knocks on his door to ask about the dog and finds him rude, rough and a bit scary. She decides the dog needs care and steals him and takes him to be cared for at the local pound.

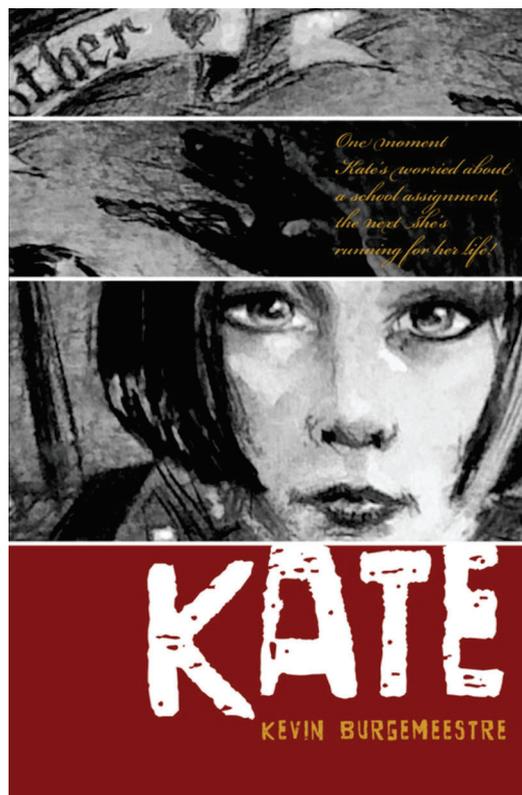
Unbeknown to Kate, Mal's unsavoury past meant he was being watched by some rather nasty characters, and now, she was too.

They meet again when Kate is attacked in the park; Mal comes to her rescue. An unlikely friendship develops and Kate finds herself warmed towards this rough character, but soon his past catches up and Kate is embroiled into a world she didn't know existed. Before she can gather her thoughts, she's thrown into fear and confusion as she and Mal, end up running for their lives.

It's fast moving so no time for page skipping. It kept me reading and wanting to know what happens next, especially toward the end when it seemed impossible for them to escape.

I'd like to know what happened to their friendship afterwards, how they managed to stay friends and where they're at now; always a sign of a good book when the characters stay with you once you've turned the last page!

I would recommend this book as it covers quite a



few spectrums, from loneliness to loyalty and friendship and from regret, failure and anger to achievement, self-worth and encouragement. An exciting journey from the city to the Australian outback, told in a way that will make you feel you're there.

**TITLE:** Kate  
**AUTHOR:** Kevin Burgemeestre  
**ISBN:** 978-0-9875434-4-8  
**FORMATS:** Paperback  
**EXTENT:** Pages: 200  
**AU RRP:** Paperback: \$19.95  
**PUBLISHER:** Morris Publishing Australia  
**CATEGORY:** Fiction  
**AUDIENCE:** Middle Grade to Young Adult  
**WHOLESALE ORDERS:**  
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# News and Reviews

## THE MYSTERY OF NIDA VALLEY Books 1 and 2

This fantasy/adventure series is very popular with teachers and librarians because of its information on the Megafauna of Australia. It is used in class sets in many classrooms.

Review by Anastasia Gonis:

*This series holds magical and exciting adventures with an environmental theme running through it.*

*There are wonderful sub-stories flowing through and around the central story like streams and rivulets, which lead the reader to other places and other conclusions, then seamlessly draws them back again.*

*The characters are outstanding: cruel and scheming, loving and forgiving, ruthless and daring. The series is ideal for ages 9-16.*

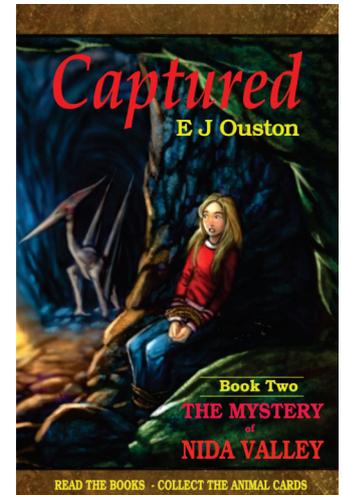
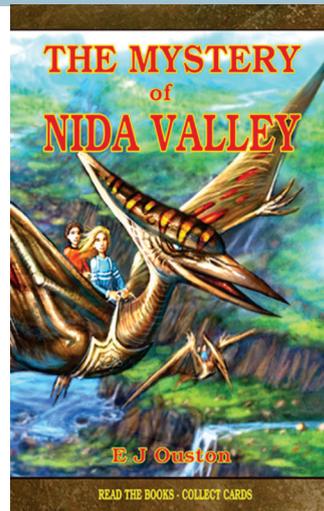
In *Book One, The Mystery of Nida Valley*, we met Meg when her friend Amanda disappeared during a High School excursion. The ghost of Charles leads her to a clue to whereabouts of Amanda.

Meg and her cousin Jaiden discover the handle on the painted gate of a mural opens a doorway that leads them to Nida Valley, a magical place, secret and protected, where megafauna and dinosaurs live. Here Meg first learns of the powers that she has inherited from her ancestors, the Guardians of Nida.

Many puzzling questions need answering, so she is given a Book of Magic left to her by her grandmother. This makes Meg over-eager to learn everything quickly. But there are other people who also have special powers, all belonging to the Founding Families of the Valley. There are wondrous things to discover through these powers, which must only be used for good. But there are dangers at every turn. Things and people are not always what they seem.

Mysterious happenings and sabotages take place frequently. And someone is trying to kill Meg. No one knows who or why. Then there is Grundymere, an insidious person with plans to take over the Valley for money-making purposes. Situations are being sabotaged and the traitor is still to be found.

*Book Two: Captured* continues with Meg passionate about saving the ancient creatures of the Valley from extinction. She's desperate to test the time-travel portal found in the cave. Her plan is to return to the past and bring back company for her beloved Willie, the giant wombat.



But Meg must learn that when something is removed from the past, there are consequences on the present. Meg's skills are increasing daily and she is seen as the next leader of the Guardians. To this end she is being tutored on the Book of Magic, secret potions and spells.

Three pterosaurodon, that they use as transport in the valley, are missing. In the meantime, exciting and dangerous adventures are being undertaken by Meg and her friends.

There is a kidnapping and more attempts on Meg's life. She is a courageous and daring young girl, yet ready to foolishly disobey rules in order to achieve her dream. But it also appears that some of her challenges could well be tests to her ability, skill and courage; a way for her to prove that she is capable of taking on the leadership role when the time comes.

**TITLE:** **The Mystery of Nida Valley.**

**AUTHOR:** Elaine Ouston.

**ISBN:** Book 1: 978-0-870612-7-0

Book 2: 978-0-9872444-4-4

**FORMAT:** Paperback 198 x 129

**RRP:** \$19.95.

**PUBLISHER:** Morris Publishing Australia.

**CATEGORY:** Fantasy Fiction.

**AUDIENCE:** Children 9 - 16

**WHOLESALE ORDERS:**

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# News and Reviews

## Calvus

*"The author Darryl Greer is a Gold Coast lawyer with a passion for writing gripping, murder mystery. With powerful writing and a unique subject, he has the reader engaged from the first to the last word," says Anastasia Gonis*



Author:  
Darryl Greer

Reviewed by Anastasia Gonis

Thirteen days into his constabulary, PC Costain finds his first dead body. It's not so much the body, as how it died. The crucified man is discovered in Verulamium Park in England, by the ruins of an ancient Roman city. Australian DI O'Rourke is called in to head the investigation. This rivetting introduction to the first part, set in modern times, is a strong hook, which draws the reader into this interesting and well-crafted murder mystery.

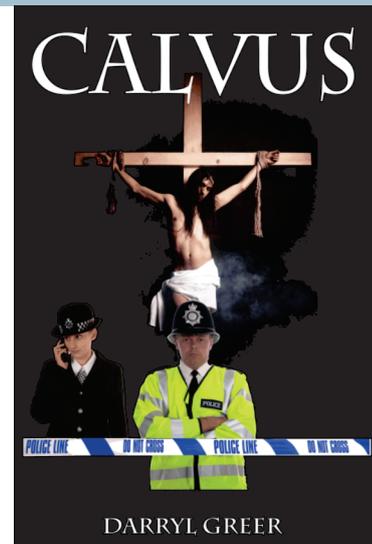
Part I goes back in time to the crucifixion of Christ and gives an intimate view of the life of Calvus, a loyal and ethical centurion in the age of Nero, Ruler of Rome. The young Calvus is amongst the soldiers who cast lots for Christ's belongings, and he reluctantly ends up with His sandals. These sandals are the thread used to connect the past with the present story. The experience of the crucifixion will change Calvus' entire life. It will influence his beliefs and moral attitudes, and reward him with dignity in death.

This is an expansive and well-researched historical thriller/murder mystery. It exposes the class distinctions, corruption, abuse of power, but also the absolute loyalty commanded, before it again returns to modern times, the reason for the crucifixion and how it was connected to Calvus' life.

But who carried out the crucifixion and why? This is the challenge for O'Rourke and his group as they go back and forth in time to find the answers.

### SYNOPSIS:

In modern day St Albans, England there is a grisly discovery in Verulamium Park and Australian DI



is an investigation that baffles even the tenacious O'Rourke.

In a story that spans three continents and two thousand years, what O'Rourke eventually discovers is about to send shockwaves around the globe.

Written in two parts, 2000 years apart, there is a strong link between the events that occur in each setting. This novel is a powerful historical thriller with a spiritual aspect. It has all the mystery and intrigue of a the best selling thriller/mystery novels.

**TITLE:** CALVUS  
**AUTHOR:** Darryl Greer  
**ISBN:** 978-0-9859147-3-8  
**FORMATS:** Paperback 152 x 203  
**EXTENT:** Pages 260  
**AU RRP:** Paperback: \$19.95  
**PUBLISHER:** Morris Publishing Australia  
**CATEGORY:** Mystery / crime / historical thriller.  
**AUDIENCE:** Adult

### WHOLESALE ORDERS:

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