

NARELLE OLIVER

Biography:

Narelle Oliver is the author-illustrator of a number of award-winning children's picture books including: *Leaf Tail*, *High Above the Sea*, *The Best Beak in Boonaroo Bay*, *The Hunt*, *Sand Swimmers*, *Mermaids Most Amazing*, *Baby Bilby where do you sleep?*, *The Very Blue Thingamajig*, *Dancing the Boom-cha-cha Boogie*, *Twilight Hunt* and *Home*.

Her most recent Australian picture book, *Home*, (Omnibus/Scholastic 2006) was commissioned by the Brisbane City Council Library Services Division and features the peregrine falcons which inhabit inner-city Brisbane. This book won a NSW Premier's Literature Award (2007), was short-listed for multiple other Australian awards and forms the basis of the design of the new Brisbane City Council children's library in Brisbane Square. Narelle's latest picture book, *Twilight Hunt* undertaken for NY publisher, Starbright Books, was released August, 2007 in the U.S.A.

Narelle was born in 1960 and grew up in Toowoomba, Queensland, Australia, in a family who spent every spare moment pursuing interests in visual and performing arts. While studying for a Bachelor of Education degree, Narelle majored in design and printmaking. Then followed several years teaching at the Queensland School for the Deaf, living and breathing picture books and sign language. Narelle also tutored in Language and Children's Literature subjects offered by the Faculty of Education at the University of Southern Queensland before beginning her first picture book, *Leaf Tail* (1989).

Many of Narelle's books have been inspired by natural environments she has explored, while others have featured historical, social and mathematical themes. The linocut print medium provides a distinctive quality to her illustrations which have been exhibited throughout Australia, including Fremantle Children's Literature Centre, WA, Dromkeen Children's Literature Centre, Vic, State Library of Qld, National Maritime Museum, NSW, and Illustration House, Qld.

Narelle works in a home-based studio in inner-city Brisbane, Australia, surrounded by family, pets, and an array of wildlife which visit their overgrown forest backyard - a pair of azure kingfishers diving into the swimming pool, a scrub turkey and its chick making their mound in a compost heap, and from time-to-time spangled drongos, boobook owls mobbed by noisy minas, tawny frogmouths, lorikeets and rosellas..