

Narelle Oliver

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*, 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 has won and been short-listed for multiple 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, 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. The linocut print medium is a special feature of 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.

The Best Beak in Boonaroo Bay (1993)

Melbourne, Aust: Lothian Books

U.S Edition: Fulcrum Books (1995)

Awards:

Short-listed, Children's Book Council Picture Book of the Year 1994

Finalist, YABBA Children's Choice Awards, Vic 1997; COOL Children's Choice Awards, ACT, 1998; KOALA Children's Choice Awards, NSW 1999

The Hunt (1995)

Melbourne, Aust: Lothian Books

Awards:

Winner, Children's Book Council Picture Book of the Year 1996;

Finalist, YABBA Children's Choice Awards, Vic 1996,1997;

Winner, The Wilderness Soc. Environment Award for Children's Literature, 1996

NB: A North American version of this book, also titled "The Hunt" featuring North American wildlife was commissioned by Star Bright Books, New York.

This book is due for release, April 2007

Sand Swimmers (1999)

Melbourne, Aust: Lothian Books

Awards:

Short-listed, CBC Eve Pownall Awards for information books 2000

Short-listed, Qld Premier's Literary Award 2000

Winner, The Wilderness Soc. Environment Award for Children's Literature 2000

Winner, Royal Zoological Soc. of NSW Whitley Award 1999

Baby Bilby, Where do you Sleep? (2001)

Melbourne, Aust: Lothian Books

Awards:

Honour Book, CBC Early Childhood Picture Book of the Year

Short-listed, The Wilderness Soc. Environment Award for Children's Literature 2002

The Very Blue Thingamajig (2003)
Adelaide, Aust: Omnibus Scholastic

Awards:

Winner, BILBY Children's Choice Awards, Qld 2003; Finalist, YABBA Children's Choice Awards, Vic 2004; KOALA Children's Choice Awards, NSW & ACT 2004

Korean Language Edition: The Choicemaker 2003

Mermaids Most Amazing (2001)
Adelaide, Aust: Omnibus Scholastic

Awards:
Children's Book Council Notable Books, 2002

U.S. Edition: Putnam Sons (2005)

Home (2006)

Adelaide, Aust: Omnibus Scholastic

Awards:

Short-listed, Queensland Premier's Literary Awards, 2006

Dancing the Boom-cha-cha Boogie (2005)
Adelaide, Aust: Omnibus Scholastic

(published with accompanying CD of narration and songs)