

# NARELLE OLIVER

## AUTHOR - ILLUSTRATOR

### CURRICULUM VITAE AND BUSINESS PROFILE

---

ph: (07) 38912858 / 0413 055 703  
fax: (07) 38911229 / [neoliver@pacific.net.au](mailto:neoliver@pacific.net.au)

#### **QUALIFICATIONS**

---

- Bachelor of Education, 1987 (University of Southern Queensland)  
As part of this Bachelor of Education program, Narelle completed a major thesis on the acquisition of language in pre-school and lower primary aged children.
- Diploma of Teaching (Primary and Special Schools), 1980 (Griffith University)  
Major in design and print-making.

#### **AWARDS**

---

##### **ACADEMIC AWARDS**

1980: *'Highest Achievement'* Primary and Special Education Program, Griffith University, Qld  
1987: Faculty of Education prize, Bachelor of Education Programme, University of Sthn Qld

##### **LITERARY AWARDS**

###### ***Sand Swimmers (1999)***

- Short-listed, Children's Book Council Eve Pownall Awards for Information Books, 2000
- Short-listed, Qld Premiers Award for Children's Literature, 2000
- Winner, The Wilderness Society Environment Award for Children's Literature, 2000
- Winner, Royal Zoological Society of NSW Whitley Award: Best Book for Older Readers, 1999

###### ***The Hunt (1995)***

- Winner, Children's Book Council Picture Book of the Year, 1996
- Short-listed, The Wilderness Society Environment Award for Children's Literature, 1996
- Short-listed, Young Australians Best Book Awards, 1996
- Short-listed, Young Australians Best Book Awards, 1997

###### ***The Best Beak in Boonaroo Bay (1993)***

- Short-listed, Children's Book Council Picture Book of the Year, 1994
- Short-listed, Young Australians Best Book Awards, 1997
- Finalist, Koala Awards (Kids Own Australian Literature Awards), 1999
- Short-listed, COOL Awards (Canberra's Own Outstanding List), 1998

###### ***High Above the Sea (1991)***

- Children's Book Council Notable Book, 1992

###### ***Baby Bilby, Where do you Sleep? (2001)***

Honour Book, Children's Book Council Early Childhood Picture Book of the Year, 2002  
Honour Book, Children's Book Council Eve Pownall Award for Information Books, 2002  
Short-listed, The Wilderness Society Environment Award for Children's Literature, 2002

***Mermaids Most Amazing (2001)***

Children's Book Council Notable Book, 2002

***The Very Blue Thingamajig (2003)***

Winner, BILBY Award (Children's Choice Award, QLD),: Younger Readers, 2003  
Short-listed, YABBA Award (Children's Choice Award, VIC), Picture Books 2004  
Short-listed, KOALA Award (Children's Choice Award, NSW, ACT), Picture Books 2004  
Children's Book Council Notable Book, 2004

***Home (2006)***

Short-listed, Qld Premier's Award for Children's Literature 2006  
Winner, NSW Premier's Award for Children's Literature 2007  
Short-listed, Children's Book Council Picture Book of the Year 2007  
Short-listed, Wilderness Society Environmental Award for Children's Literature 2007

---

***EMPLOYMENT & PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES***

---

**Teaching**

Classroom teacher in both primary and special education settings  
Seven years teaching experience (between 1981-1990). Throughout this work, story writing/creating with children was a feature of the classroom activities.

**University Academic Positions**

Senior Tutor in Language and Children's Literature in the School of Education, University of Southern Queensland (1987-89).

**Workshops**

Narelle has conducted numerous writing and illustrating workshops for pre-school, primary and secondary school students, and also for adult groups. These have been commissioned by a wide variety of clients including:

- The Australian Literacy Educators Association
- The Children's Book Council in conjunction with the Qld. Writers' Centre
- Libraries
- Numerous schools and libraries in Qld, New South Wales, Western Australia, Tasmania, Northern Territory.
- Australian National Botanic Gardens, Canberra (in conjunction with their usage of 'Leaf Tail' in a public information display Dec.1990 - March 1991)
- T.A.F.E Adult Education
- Warana Writers Week Committee '93

**Artist/Author-in Residence**

- Tanglin Trust School, Singapore
- La Trobe Regional Gallery, Morwell, VIC
- Somerville House Junior School, QLD.
- Fremantle Children's Literature Centre, W.A.
- Books Illustrated Gallery, VIC.
- Thursday Island State High School, QLD.
- Urandangie State School and Dajarra State School, North-West Qld.
- State Library of Tasmania
- State Library of Northern Territory
- Daradgee Environmental Education Centre, Innisfail, QLD
- Barambah Environmental Education Centre, Goomeri, QLD

(and numerous state and private schools and colleges in South-East Qld.)

**Community Arts Project:**

Bloomfield St. Streetscape, Cleveland, Qld. (Redlands Shire Council)

Contributing artist for the creation of local children's bronzes from lino blocks

**Fellowships**

May Gibbs' Literature Trust Artist in Residence in the Dept. of Language, Literacy and Arts Education, The University of Melbourne, April, 2001

***Professional Memberships***

---

- Queensland's Writers' Centre
- Australian Society of Authors
- Children's Book Council of Australia
- Society of Book Illustrators
- Australian Conservation Foundation
- Queensland Conservation Council
- Wildlife Preservation Society

***GRANTS***

---

2006 Arts Qld Individual New Work Grant

2002 Arts Qld Individual New Work Grant

1998 – 1999 Arts Qld Individual Project Grant

to create both written and visual texts, including research, for ‘Mermaids Most Amazing’

1998 – 1999 Illustrator’s Project Grant

Literature Board of the Australia Council and the Australian Society of Authors  
to undertake illustrations in children’s picture book, ‘Mermaids Most Amazing’

1995 - 1996 Illustrator’s Project Grant

Literature Board of the Australia Council and the Australian Society of Authors  
to undertake ‘Sand Swimmers - the secret life of Australia’s dead heart’

1989 Writer's Project Grant,

Literature Board of the Aust. Council.

to undertake 'High Above the Sea' - a children's picture book.

**COMMISSION:**

Brisbane City Council Library Services Division commissioned the picture book “Home” . An interpretation of “Home” is located in the Brisbane City Council Children’s Library, Brisbane Square, George St., BRISBANE, QLD

***PUBLICATIONS***

---

**SOLE AUTHOR AND ILLUSTRATOR**

**(children's picture books)**

'Leaf Tail', McCulloch Publishing, MELBOURNE, VIC. 1989

(2<sup>nd</sup> edition), Lothian Books, MELBOURNE, VIC., 1993

'High Above the Sea', Jam Roll Press, BRISBANE, QLD. 1991

'The Best Beak in Boonaroo Bay', Lothian Books, MELBOURNE, VIC. 1993

'The Hunt' Lothian Books, MELBOURNE, VIC. 1995

'Sand Swimmers' Lothian Books, MELBOURNE, VIC. 1999

'Mermaids Most Amazing' Omnibus Books (Scholastic), ADELAIDE, SA. 2001

'Baby Bilby, Where do you Sleep?' Lothian Books, MELBOURNE, VIC. 2001

'The Very Blue Thingamajig' Omnibus Books (Scholastic), ADELAIDE, SA. 2003

'Dancing the Boom-Cha-Cha Boogie' Omnibus Books (Scholastic) ADELAIDE, SA 2005

'The Narelle Oliver Collection' Lothian Books, MELBOURNE, VIC. 2005

'Home' Omnibus Books (Scholastic) ADELAIDE, SA 2006

'Twilight Hunt' Starbright Books NEW YORK, USA, 2007

### **AUTHOR**

**(novel for emerging readers)**

'What a Goat!' (Solo Series) Omnibus Books (Scholastic), ADELAIDE, SA.  
May 2003

### **ILLUSTRATOR**

**(children's picture books)**

'The Well' (Author: Gary Crew), Lothian Books, MELBOURNE, VIC. 1996

### **CONTRIBUTING ILLUSTRATOR**

'The Bunyip and the Night' - an illustrated anthology by Mark Svendsen, Jam Roll Press, BRISBANE, QLD, 1994

'Swamp Soup' - an illustrated anthology by Jeri Kroll, Lothian Books, MELBOURNE, VIC, 1995

### **CONTRIBUTING AUTHOR**

'Educating Young Children – Journal of the Early Childhood Teachers' Assoc. Inc. and School of Early Childhood, Qld. University of Technology', Vol. 3, No. 4 1997

Papers presented at the Aust. Children's Book Council National Conference, 1996  
Paper: 'Show and Tell: Versions of Visual Literacy'

'Viewpoints on Literacy – Papers presented at First Annual Conference of The School Library Association of Victoria, November, 1999,  
Paper: 'Sand Swimmers: Visual Literacy and Non-fiction'

### **AUTHOR/ILLUSTRATOR-IN-RESIDENCE**

'Goanna Jumps High', Magabala Books (Distributed by Scholastic). Broome, WA. 1999  
Creative writing and illustrating project at two remote North West Qld Schools – Dajarra and Urandangi, in conjunction with storyteller Daryll Bellingham, funded by North West PCAP (Priority Country Area Program) Qld

## **EXHIBITIONS**

---

### **INDIVIDUAL EXHIBITIONS**

1989 An Exhibition of Original Illustrations from 'Leaf Tail';  
Mary Ryan Bookshop, BRISBANE, QLD.

1989 An Exhibition of Original Illustrations from 'Leaf Tail';  
Toowoomba Municipal Library, TOOWOOMBA, QLD.

1991 An Exhibition of Original Illustrations from 'Leaf Tail';  
Aust. National Botanic Gardens, CANBERRA, ACT.

1991 An Exhibition of Original Illustrations from 'High Above the Sea';  
State Library of Qld., BRISBANE, QLD.

1991 An Exhibition of Original Illustrations from 'High Above the Sea';  
The Australian Museum, SYDNEY, NSW.

1992 An Exhibition of Original Illustrations from 'High Above the Sea';  
Mary Ryan Bookshop, TOOWOOMBA, QLD.

1993 An Exhibition of Original Illustrations from 'High Above the Sea', 'Leaf Tail', and 'Best Beak in Boonaroo Bay', Lockwood Library and Gallery, TOOWOOMBA, QLD.

1994 An Exhibition of Original Artwork and Works in Progress  
from 'The Best Beak in Boonaroo Bay', Fremantle Children's Literature Centre, FREMANTLE, WA.

1995 An Exhibition of Original Artwork from 'The Hunt'  
Mary Ryan Bookshop, PADDINGTON, QLD

1996 An Exhibition of Original Artwork from 'The Hunt'  
(in association with Artist-in-Residence), Somerville House Junior School, QLD.

1997 An Exhibition of Original Artwork and Works in Progress  
from 'Leaf Tail', 'High Above the Sea', 'The Best Beak in Boonaroo Bay', and  
'The Hunt', Books Illustrated, MELBOURNE, VIC.

1997 An Exhibition of Original Artwork and Works in Progress from 'The Hunt', Fremantle Children's Literature Centre, FREMANTLE, WA.

1998 An Exhibition of Original Artwork and Works in Progress from 'The Hunt', Regional Library, DARWIN, NT.

2000 An Exhibition of Original Artwork and Works in Progress from 'Sand Swimmers', Fremantle Children's Literature Centre, FREMANTLE, WA.

2001 An Exhibition of Original Artwork and Works in Progress from 'Mermaids Most Amazing' and 'Sand Swimmers' (in association with May Gibbs Fellowship), Faculty of Education, University of Melbourne, VIC.

2002 An Exhibition of Original Artwork from "Mermaids Most Amazing", The Book Garden (American Book Store), BRISBANE, QLD.

2004 An exhibition of works by Narelle Oliver to celebrate inaugural Whitsunday Voices Youth Literature Festival, Celeber Arts Centre, Whitsunday Anglican School. MACKAY, QLD.

2006 An Exhibition of original illustrations by Narelle Oliver, Miskin Gallery, BRISBANE, QLD

2007 An exhibition of works by Narelle Oliver to celebrate Whitsunday Voices Youth Literature Festival, Celeber Arts Centre, Whitsunday Anglican School, MACKAY, QLD

## **GROUP EXHIBITIONS**

1990 'A Carnival of Animals - An Exhibition of Four Contemporary Children's Book Illustrators using Print-making Media'; Aust. Museum of Childhood, SYDNEY, NSW.

1991 'Covers' Exhibition - An Exhibition of Original Cover Art from Children's and Young Adult Publications; Exhibition Hall, Myer City Store, BRISBANE, QLD., and Queensland provincial centres.

1993 'Illustrators Illustrated' Exhibition; McWhirters Artspace, BRISBANE, QLD.

1993 'Covers' Exhibition - An Exhibition of Original Cover Art from Children's and Young Adult Publications; Exhibition Hall, Myer City Store, BRISBANE, QLD., and Queensland provincial centres.

1993 'Picture Book Illustrators Exhibition'; Customs House Gallery, WARRNAMBOOL, VIC.

1994 'The Not So Short List Exhibition' Books Illustrated, MELBOURNE, VIC.

1995 'Art of the Contemporary Picture Book' State Library of Qld, BRISBANE, QLD.

1996 'Every Picture Tells a Tale' The Contemporary Art and Design Gallery, BRISBANE, QLD.

1996 'Bunyip and the Night'

Qld Performing Arts Complex and travelling throughout Qld.

1997 'Original Drawings and Prints by Contemporary Children's Book Illustrators'

The Contemporary Art and Design Gallery, BRISBANE, QLD

1997 An Exhibition of Original Picture Book Illustrations by Greg Rogers and Narelle Oliver, Maleny Art Gallery, MALENY, QLD.

1998 'Original Drawings and Prints by Contemporary Children's Book Illustrators 98',

The Contemporary Art and Design Gallery, BRISBANE, QLD.

1999 'Children's Book Illustrators 1999: Narelle Oliver, Shaun Tan, Graeme Base, Peter Gouldthorpe', La Trobe Regional Gallery, MORWELL, VIC.

1999 (and travelling to regional NSW galleries in 2000)

'Animal Tales: Animal Images in Australian Children's Books,

Dubbo Regional Gallery in conjunction with Dromkeen Children's Literature Collection, DUBBO, NSW.

2001 'Children's Picture Book Illustration Collection of Gary Crew',

Cooloola Regional Art Gallery, GYMPIE, QLD.

2001 'Five Children's Picture Book Illustrators' exhibition in association with Ipswich Children's Literature Festival, IPSWICH, QLD.

2003 'Oceans of Stories' exhibition,

National Maritime Museum, SYDNEY, NSW.

2005 'My Favourite Things' exhibition of illustrations from a private collection, Sunshine Coast Regional Gallery, CALOUNDRA, QLD.

2005 Marks&Gardner Contemporary Art Gallery @ Secret Garden, MT. TAMBORINE, QLD.

2006 "Feathers and Fur"- Images of Animals in Contemporary Art,

Marks&Gardner Contemporary Art Gallery @ Secret Garden, MT. TAMBORINE, QLD.

2007 "Not-so-short-list Exhibition" Books Illustrated Gallery, MELBOURNE, VIC.

2007 "Strange Places, Funny Faces" – illustrations from six Australian children's picture book illustrators, Ipswich Regional Art Gallery, IPSWICH, QLD.

2007 "Picturing Words" exhibition – Dromkeen Children's Literature Gallery, RIDDELLS CREEK, VIC.

## **COLLECTIONS**

---

Narelle's original illustrations are held in the following institutions:

Aust. Museum of Childhood Permanent Collection, National Trust;  
SYDNEY, NSW.

State Library of Qld. Permanent Collection,  
BRISBANE, QLD.

Office of Dept. of Housing, Local Government, and Planning,  
Fortitude Valley, BRISBANE, QLD.

Fremantle Children's Literature Centre,  
FREMANTLE, QLD.

Somerville House School Collection,  
BRISBANE, QLD

Dromkeen Australian Children's Illustrators Collection,  
Riddell's Creek, VIC.

Lu Rees Archives of the Children's Book Council of Australia,  
CANBERRA, ACT.

## **BIBLIOGRAPHY**

---

Narelle's picture books have been reviewed and featured in prominent literature journals and magazines.

### **REVIEWS**

The Weekend Australian, The Sydney Morning Herald, The Melbourne Age, Canberra Times, The Courier-Mail, Reading Time, Magpies Magazine, Reviewpoint Magazine, Aust. Bookseller & Publisher, Simply Living Magazine, Primary Focus Journal, Viewpoint Magazine, The Literature Base, React Magazine

### **ARTICLES**

- Sunday Sun Newspaper, Nov. 24, 1991, p.8 Extra
- Toowoomba Chronicle Newspaper, July 12, 1993, p.15

- "Environmentally Friendly Australian Children's Fiction - The 1991 Crop" by John Foster, Magpies Magazine, July 1992,
- pp. 20-22
- The Courier-Mail, April 19, 1994, p.17
- "Every Picture Tells a Story", Sunday Mail Magazine, July 21, 1996
- "Information Books as Literature", Magpies Magazine, September, 1996
- "Background to Sand Swimmers", Magpies Magazine, March, 1999
- Feature Article: "Sand Swimmers", Viewpoint, Winter 1999

## **REFERENCE LITERATURE**

Narelle has been featured in the following reference material:

- 'The Picture People - Contemporary Australian Children's Book Illustrators', Ed. Margaret Hamilton, Margaret Hamilton Books, Sydney, NSW, 1993
- 'The Dromkeen Book - Australian Children's Illustrators', compiled by Susan Scobie, Scholastic, Sydney, NSW, 1997
- 'In the Picture: Perspectives on Picture Book Art and Artists', Author: Dr. Kerry Mallan, Centre for Information Studies, Charles Sturt University, Wagga Wagga, NSW, 1999>
- 'Reading the Visual: Written and Illustrated Children's Literature', Authors: Dr. Michele Anstey and Dr. Geoff Bull, University of Southern Qld, Harcourt, Sydney, NSW, 2000
- 'Word for Word: An Inspirational Workbook for Writers and Teachers of Writing', Ed. Hilary Beaton, Qld Writers Centre, Brisbane, QLD, 2000
- "Book People – Meet Australia's Children's Authors and Illustrators", Ed. Paul Collins, Macmillan, Sydney, NSW, 2002
- 'Art and Illustration in Children's Literature', CD ROM, University of Southern Queensland, Toowoomba, QLD, 1998.
- 'Dromkeen Children's Literature Collection CD ROM Project', Riddells Creek, VIC, 2002

### **INTERVIEWS, DEMONSTRATIONS, BOOK FEATURES**

- 'The 7.30 Report' July, 1989 (Interviewer: Mark D. Hayes) ABC Television, Brisbane.
- 'Wombat' program, filmed July 1989 at Mary Ryan Bookshop, by Channel 7, Brisbane.
- 'The Cartoon Company' program, filmed July 1989 by Channel 9, Brisbane.
- 'Totally Wild' program, filmed December 1997 by Channel 10, Brisbane.
- 'The Book Place', April 9, 1993, Channel 7, feature: 'High Above the Sea'
- 'The Book Place', July 3, 2001, Channel 7, feature: 'Baby Bilby, Where do you Sleep?'

### **INTERPRETIVE PERFORMANCES**

Bookgig: An Interpretive Journey into 'The Hunt',  
Directed by Gillian Gardiner, Penny Lowe, Performed by Backbone Youth Arts Inc.,  
La Boite Theatre, Brisbane, QLD., June 22, 1997