

# CV

## Narelle Oliver

Author Artist **Illustrator**

### Curriculum Vitae and Business Profile

#### Contact Details

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#### Qualifications

**1987** Bachelor of Education (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.

**1980** Diploma of Teaching (Primary and Special Schools), (Griffith University)  
Major in design and print-making.

#### Awards

##### Academic Awards

**1980** 'Highest Achievement' Primary and Special Education Program, Griffith University, Queensland

**1987** Faculty of Education prize, Bachelor of Education Programme, University of Southern Queensland

## Literary Awards

### *Sand Swimmers (1999)*

Short-listed, Children's Book Council Eve Pownall Awards for Information Books, 2000

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Short-listed, Qld Premiers Award for Children's Literature, 2000

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

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Winner, Royal Zoological Society of NSW Whitley Award: Best Book for Older Readers, 1999

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### *The Hunt (1995)*

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

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Short-listed, The Wilderness Society Environment Award for Children's Literature, 1996

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Short-listed, Young Australians Best Book Awards, 1996

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Short-listed, Young Australians Best Book Awards, 1997

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

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

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Short-listed, Young Australians Best Book Awards, 1997

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Finalist, Koala Awards (Kids Own Australian Literature Awards), 1999

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Short-listed, COOL Awards (Canberra's Own Outstanding List), 1998

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

Children's Book Council Notable Book, 1992

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

Honour Book, Children's Book Council Early Childhood Picture Book of the Year, 2002

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Honour Book, Children's Book Council Eve Pownall Award for Information Books, 2002

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

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### *Mermaids Most Amazing (2001)*

Children's Book Council Notable Book, 2002

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

Winner, BILBY Award (Children's Choice Award, QLD),: Younger Readers, 2003

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Short-listed, YABBA Award (Children's Choice Award, VIC), Picture Books 2004

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Short-listed, KOALA Award (Children's Choice Award, NSW, ACT), Picture Books 2004

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Children's Book Council Notable Book, 2004

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### *Home (2006)*

Short-listed, Qld Premier's Award for Children's Literature 2006

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Winner, NSW Premier's Award for Children's Literature 2007

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Short-listed, Children's Book Council Picture Book of the Year 2007

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Short-listed, Wilderness Society Environmental Award for Children's Literature 2007

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Short-listed, S.A.Literature Festival Awards – Children's Literature 2008.

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### *Fox and Fine Feathers (2009)*

Honour Book, Children's Book Council Picture Book of the Year 2010

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Short-listed, Queensland Premier's Award for Children's Literature, 2010

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### *Don't Let a Spoonbill in the Kitchen! (2013)*

Winner, Qld Literary Award for Children's Literature, 2013

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## Employment and Professional Activities

### Teaching

Classroom teacher in both primary and special education settings

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Seven years teaching experience (between 1981-1990).

Throughout this work, story writing/creating with children was a feature of the classroom activities.

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## University Academic Positions

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

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## 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

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The Children's Book Council in conjunction with the Queensland Writers' Centre

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Libraries

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Numerous schools and libraries in Qld, New South Wales, Western Australia, Tasmania, Northern Territory

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Australian National Botanic Gardens, Canberra (in conjunction with their usage of 'Leaf Tail' in a public information display Dec. 1990 - March 1991)

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TAFE Adult Education

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Warana Writers Week Committee 1993.

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## Artist/Author-in-Residence

Tanglin Trust School, Singapore (2000, 2008)

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Western Academy of Beijing; Dulwich College, Beijing; Yew Cheung School, Beijing

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Australian International School, Hong Kong; Canadian International School, Hong Kong; Chinese International School, Hong Kong

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La Trobe Regional Gallery, Morwell, VIC

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Fremantle Children's Literature Centre, WA

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Books Illustrated Gallery, VIC

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State Library of Tasmania

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State Library of Northern Territory

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State Library of Queensland

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Daradgee Environmental Education Centre, Innisfail, QLD

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Barambah Environmental Education Centre, Goomeri, QLD

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Amaroo Environmental Education Centre, Kleinton, QLD

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Caulfield Grammar School (Malvern Campus), Melbourne, VIC  
plus numerous state and private schools and colleges in all states  
and territories of Australia.

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### Community Arts Project

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

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

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### Fellowships

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

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May Gibbs' Literature Trust Artist-in-Residence, Adelaide, SA, 2003, 2009

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### Professional Memberships

Queensland's Writers' Centre

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Australian Society of Authors

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Children's Book Council of Australia

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Book Links (Qld) Inc.

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Australian Conservation Foundation

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Queensland Conservation Council

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Wildlife Preservation Society

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### Grants

2012 Australian Society of Authors/Australia Council for the Arts  
Children's Picture Book Illustrators' Grant

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2008 Individual New Work Grant,  
Literature Board of the Australia Council

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2006 Arts Qld Individual New Work Grant

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2002 Arts Qld Individual New Work Grant

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#### 1998 - 1999 Arts Queensland Individual Project Grant

To create both written and visual texts, including research, for 'Mermaids Most Amazing'

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#### 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'

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#### 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'

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#### 1989 Writer's Project Grant

Literature Board of the Aust. Council to undertake 'High Above the Sea' - a children's picture book.

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## Commissions

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 Street, Brisbane, Queensland, 2007. To celebrate the first birthday of the new library, (2008) an illustration from 'Home' appears on a Brisbane City Council City Loop Bus.

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Dr William Ross Johnston (Associate Professor and past Head of Dept of History, University of Queensland) commissioned an edition of bookplates to accompany a donation to Duke University, USA.

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## Publications

### **Sole Author and Illustrator** (children's picture books)

'Leaf Tail', McCulloch Publishing, MELBOURNE, VIC 1989  
(2nd edition), Lothian Books, MELBOURNE, VIC 1993

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

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'The Best Beak in Boonaroo Bay', Lothian Books, MELBOURNE, VIC 1993  
New edition: Omnibus Books (Scholastic), ADELAIDE, SA, 2011

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

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'Sand Swimmers' Lothian Books, MELBOURNE, VIC. 1999  
New edition: (Walker Classic) Walker Books Australia, SYDNEY, NSW, 2013  
Candlewick Press, SOMERVILLE, MA, USA, 2014

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

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'Baby Bilby, Where do you Sleep?' Lothian Books, MELBOURNE, VIC 2001  
New edition: Omnibus Books (Scholastic), ADELAIDE, SA, 2011

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

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

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

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

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

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'Fox and Fine Feathers' Omnibus Books (Scholastic) ADELAIDE, SA 2009

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'Don't Let a Spoonbill in the Kitchen! Omnibus Books (Scholastic),  
ADELAIDE, SA, 2013

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### Author (novel for emerging readers)

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

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### Illustrator (novel for older primary readers)

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

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### Contributing Illustrator

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

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

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### 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

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Papers presented at the Aust. Children's Book Council National  
Conference, 1996

Paper: 'Show and Tell: Versions of Visual Literacy'

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'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'

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'Word for Word - an inspirational workbook for writers and teachers  
of writing', Ed. Hilary Beaton, Qld Writers Centre, 2000.

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'So You Want to Write a Kids' Picture Book... ', in Writing Queensland  
Magazine, March 2002

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## Publication as a result of Author/illustrator-in-Residence

'Goanna Jumps High', written and illustrated by students of Urandangi State School, Qld, Magabala Books (Distributed by Scholastic). Broome, WA. 1999

Students' text and illustrations created and prepared through a 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

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## Exhibitions

### Solo 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
2009	‘Fox and Fine Feathers’ exhibition of original artworks, Marks&Gardner Contemporary Art Gallery@ Secret Garden, MT. TAMBORINE, QLD
2010	‘Bilbies to Boom-cha-chas, Frogmouths to Foxes: Illustrations from the Picture Books of Narelle Oliver from 1989 to 2009’, Albury Library Museum
2012	‘Fox and Fine Feathers’ exhibition of original artwork, Perc Tucker Regional Gallery, TOWNSVILLE, 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	'Animal Tales: Animal Images in Australian Children's Books, (travelled to regional NSW galleries in 2000) 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
2007	'Brillustration: Children's Picture Book Illustrators in Brisbane', Museum of Brisbane, BRISBANE, QLD
2009	Children's Picture Book Illustration Exhibition, Marks&Gardner Contemporary Art Gallery@Secret Garden, MT. TAMBORINE, QLD
2010	'Animal Kingdom' exhibition of original picture book illustrations, Bribie Island Seaside Museum, Bribie Island, QLD
2012	'Creatures of the Rainforest: Children's Picture Book Art by Australia's Leading Illustrators', Cairns Regional Gallery, CAIRNS, QLD

## Collections

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

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

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State Library of Qld. Permanent Collection, BRISBANE, QLD

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

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Fremantle Children's Literature Centre, FREMANTLE, QLD

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Somerville House School Collection, BRISBANE, QLD

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

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

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Whitsunday Anglican College Collection, MACKAY, QLD

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Caulfield Grammar School Collection, MELBOURNE, QLD

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Western Academy of Beijing Collection, BEIJING, CHINA

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## Bibliography

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

## Reviews

The Weekend Australian

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The Sydney Morning Herald

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The Melbourne Age

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Canberra Times

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The Courier-Mail

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Reading Time

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Magpies Magazine

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Reviewpoint Magazine

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Aust. Bookseller & Publisher

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Simply Living Magazine

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Primary Focus Journal

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Viewpoint Magazine

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The Literature Base

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React Magazine

---

Overland Magazine

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Good Reading Magazine

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## Articles

Sunday Sun Newspaper, Nov. 24, 1991, p.8 Extra

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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

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Feature Article: 'Sand Swimmers', Viewpoint, Winter 1999

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Feature Article: 'Of Murems and Snigs: Detention-centre Narratives in  
Australian Literature for Children and Young Adults', by Dr Debra Dudek,  
Overland Magazine, Summer 2006

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## 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

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'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

---

'Undercover Stories' DVD, Book Links (Qld) Inc. and Arts Queensland, 2008

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### Interviews, demonstrations, book features

'The 7.30 Report' July, 1989 (Interviewer: Mark D. Hayes)  
ABC Television, Brisbane

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'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?'

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'A Current Affair' - the making of picture book "Home", 2006,  
Channel 9, Brisbane

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'Wurrawhy' program, September 2012, Channel 10, feature:  
'The Very Blue Thingamajig'

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### 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

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