

About Narelle

A Short 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, Home, Twilight Hunt, Fox and Fine Feathers and Don't Let a Spoonbill in the Kitchen.

Many of these titles have won awards and been distributed internationally. Narelle's picture book, *Twilight Hunt* (2007) was commissioned by US publisher Star Bright Books and is based on North American flora and fauna while *Home* was commissioned by the Brisbane City Council as a picture book which features Brisbane and provided the concept for the interior decoration of the Brisbane Square Library Children's Lounge.

Two of Narelle's books - *Fox and Fine Feathers*, and *Don't Let a Spoonbill in the Kitchen!* - have been launched by the Governor-General of the Commonwealth of Australia, Ms. Quentin Bryce AC; the former being read to students in her televised Australia Day address 2010. Recently, a collection of Narelle's titles featured in the Governor-General's contribution to the Make a Mark Australia Resource Centre in Papua New Guinea.

While studying for a Bachelor of Education degree, Narelle majored in design and printmaking. Then followed several years teaching at the Qld 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 Qld before beginning her first picture book, *Leaf Tail* (1989).

Over the last 20 years, Narelle has conducted countless writing and illustrating workshops for students in places as diverse as Fremantle Children's Literature Centre, under a bark shelter in the desert at Hart's Range, NT, Elcho Island off Arnhem Land, Tanglin Trust International School, Singapore, and the Western Academy of Beijing.

Narelle lives in inner-city Brisbane with her husband and the many birds which visit their overgrown rainforest backyard.