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Inner West Library & History

Youth Librarian

# CBCA SHORTLIST 2021 EVE POWNALL AWARD



# STRANGERS ON COUNTRY - DAVE HARTLEY AND KIRSTY MURRAY, ILLUSTRATED BY DUB LEFFLER

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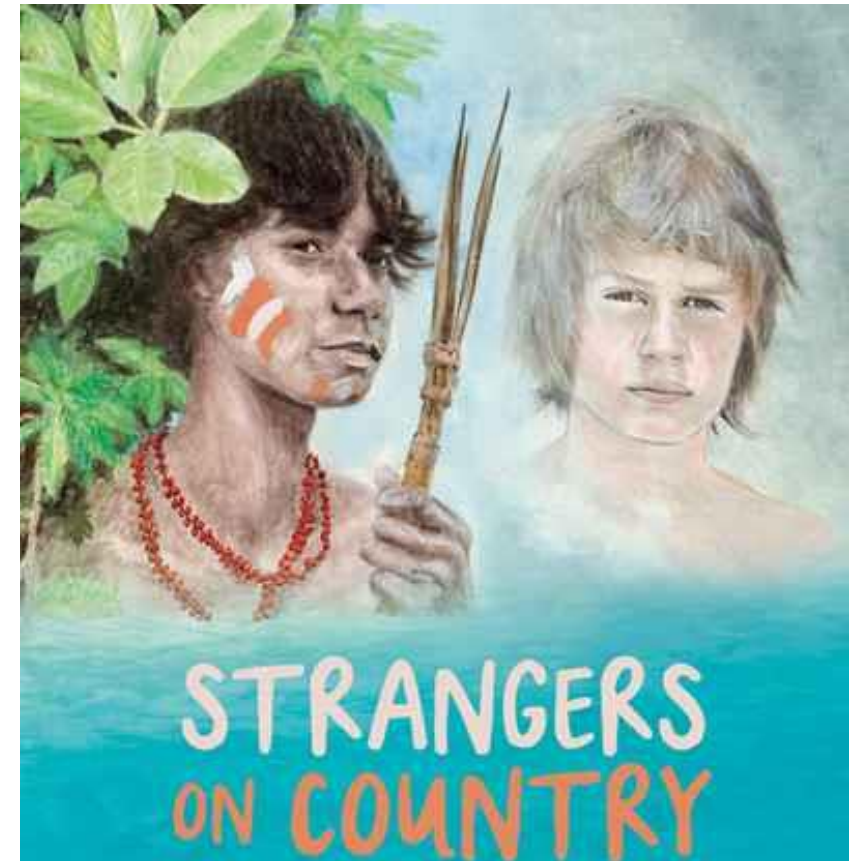
Published by National Library of Australia this book is a beautiful read and would work well for junior book clubs for 8+.

"Based on historical records each story in this book is told through two historical fiction narratives.

The first is from the point of view of an Indigenous person who befriends the stranger in their land.

The second is from the point of view of the castaway or convict who is given refuge.

At the end of each chapter, there is a section of facts and information.



“Too often Australian history is told only from the point of view of the Europeans who sailed here from across the world.

Richly illustrated and drawing on the extensive collections of the National Library of Australia, *Strangers on Country* will inspire young readers to think about how all Australians today can learn from traditional Indigenous ways of thinking and doing.

When we listen to and understand others, work with people, instead of doing things to people, then we can all begin to adopt the wise ways of the past.

This book was inspired by and based on *Living with the Locals: Early Europeans' Experience of Indigenous Life* by John Maynard and Victoria K. Haskins." [Booktopia.com.au](http://Booktopia.com.au)





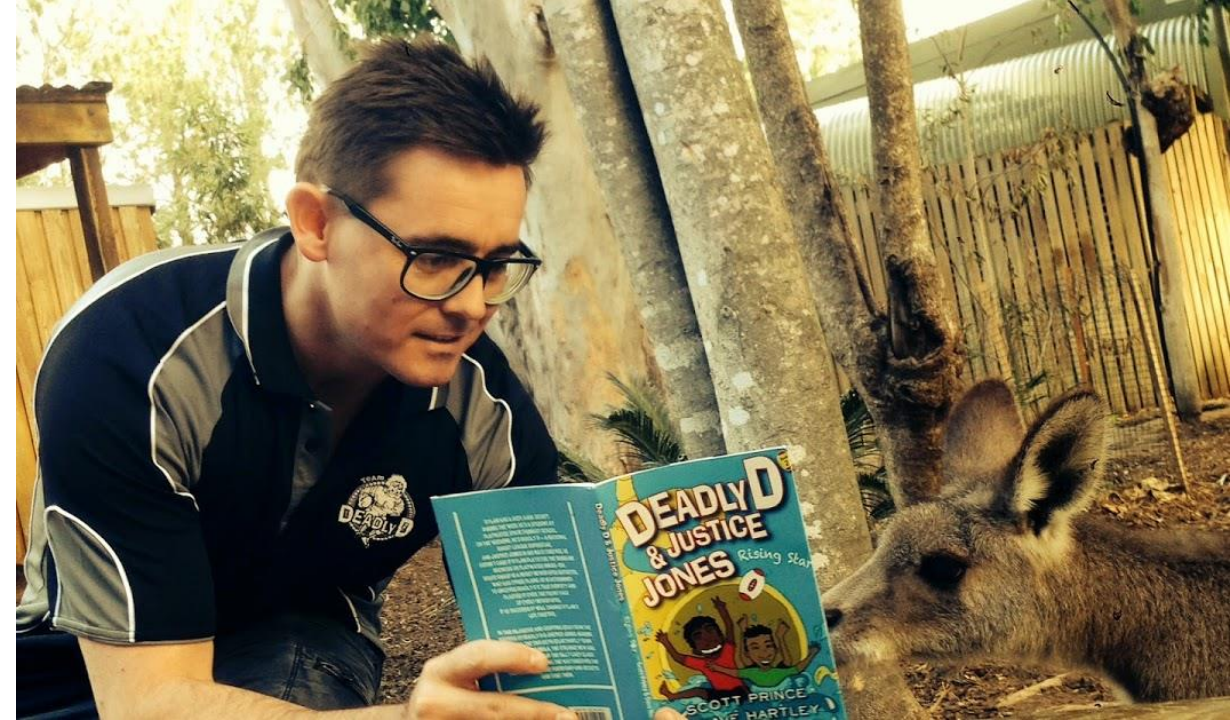
# Authors – Dave Hartley

Dave Hartley, a descendant of the Barunggam people of the Darling Downs/Chinchilla regions of Queensland is Deputy Principal of a Primary School in Logan City, Queensland, and writer.

Hartley has worked in education for many years and had worked across many year levels prior to entering into school administration. In 2009, Hartley was awarded 'Gold Coast Teacher of the Year'

As a writer, Hartley with his co-author Scott Prince, was awarded the Kuril Dhagun Prize in 2013, for their first children's book, Deadly D and Justice Jones: Making the Team.

<https://www.david-hartley.com/>



# Author – Kirsty Murray

Kirsty Murray is a multi-award-winning author of more than 20 books for children and young adults.

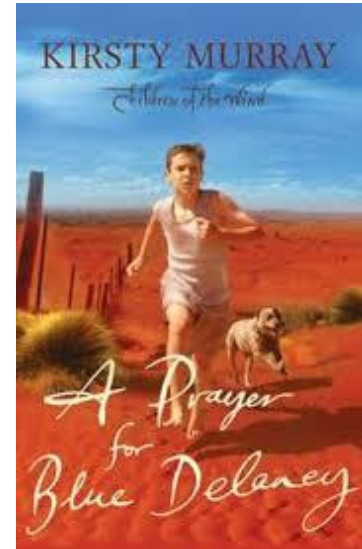
Her works include eleven novels as well as non-fiction, junior fiction, historical fiction, speculative fiction and picture books. Kirsty was nominated for the prestigious Swedish prize, the Astrid Lindgren Memorial Award for her contribution to young people's literature in both 2017 & 2018.

Kirsty has also been an Asialink Literature Resident at the University of Madras, a Creative Fellow of the State Library of Victoria and a writer-in-residence at the University of Himachal Pradesh in north India.

Every year, Kirsty teaches creative writing and shares the joy of reading with thousands of young people in libraries, schools and at literary festivals around the world.

Kirsty is a passionate advocate of books for readers of all ages.

Official author site: <https://kirstymurray.com/>





# Illustrator – Dub Leffler

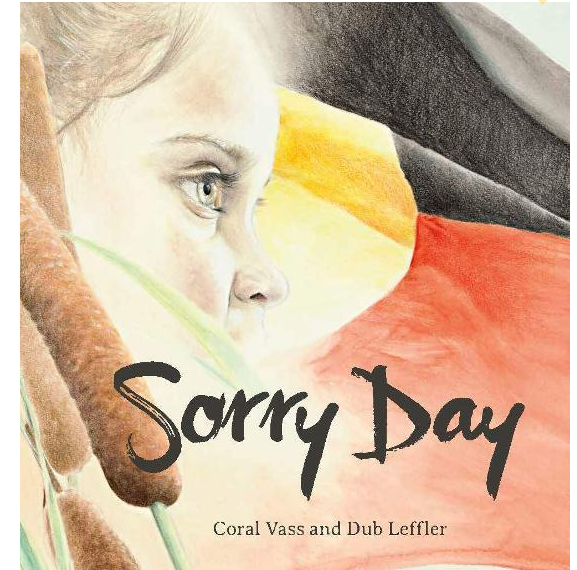
About the Illustrator Dub (David) Leffler is one of thirteen children and grew up in the small town of Quirindi, south of Tamworth in New South Wales.

He is descended from the Bigambul and Mandandanji people of south-west Queensland. He began his visual arts career as an animator and has worked as a muralist and art teacher. He has illustrated several children's books, including *There Once was a Boy* (Magabala Books, 2011) and has collaborated with internationally recognised illustrators such as Colin Thompson, Shaun Tan and Banksy. Highly-acclaimed children's book *Once there was a Boy* (Magabala Books, 2011) was both written and illustrated by Dub.

Dub Leffler and Coral Vass won CBCA Eve Pownall Award in 2019 for *Sorry Day*

Official illustrator site:

<https://www.westwords.com.au/authors/dub-leffler/>



SASSY

(Tom Muir)



Sassy



Sassy



Sassy

# Interview with Dub Leffler

**How did you become involved in this beautiful book *Strangers on Country*?**

*I was asked by The National Library of Australia to illustrate it- something I happily accepted!*

**What drew you to this project?**

*What drew me to this story was the fact that all of the 5 stories in the book are all true! It's a great honour being able to illustrate a part of Australian history not widely known.*

**Did you know Dave Hartley before collaborating on this book? Or Kirsty Murray?**

*No, I didn't know either Dave or Kirsty – and we still haven't met. Looking forward to meeting them one day.:-D*



Can you tell me a little bit about your process for creating the faces, animals, flora and fauna and characters in the stories?

*My process is basically this-*

*I read the story, then,*

*I create a soundtrack first to any every story I work on- so I can listen to something to inspire me as I work.*

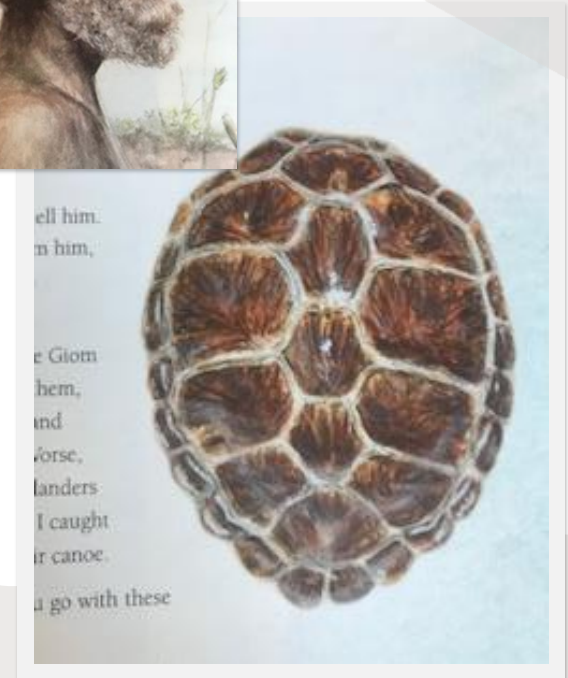
*I then workout and underline which words describe things I could draw from the story and make a list -for instance- whether a certain species of animal is mentioned in the text or a specific type of plant.*

*Also, good to note what time of day the story takes place -helps with shadows etc.*

*Then I begin collecting heaps and heaps of images for reference from the internet, magazines, newspapers, photos etc. sometimes I create the picture I want to illustrate by making miniatures and models to photograph and draw.*

*Then I begin sketching-I do a lot of sketching for each book- in the form of storyboards with quite a lot of detail-miniature versions of the final art. I also workout what pencils/paints ill use in the final artwork too.*

*After all that is done-I pick the best Storyboards for the book (along with the Publisher) and then begin doing the final illustrations.*





Do you have a favourite illustration of yours from *Strangers On Country*?

*I do.*

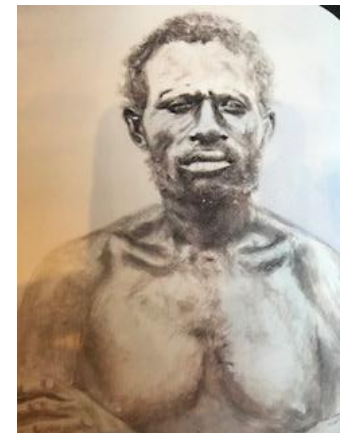
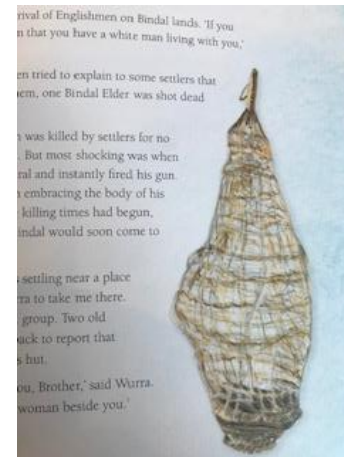
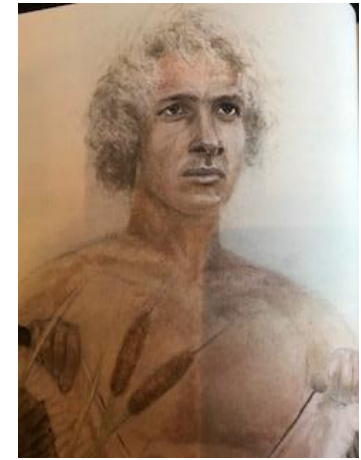
*I like Pamby Pamby.*

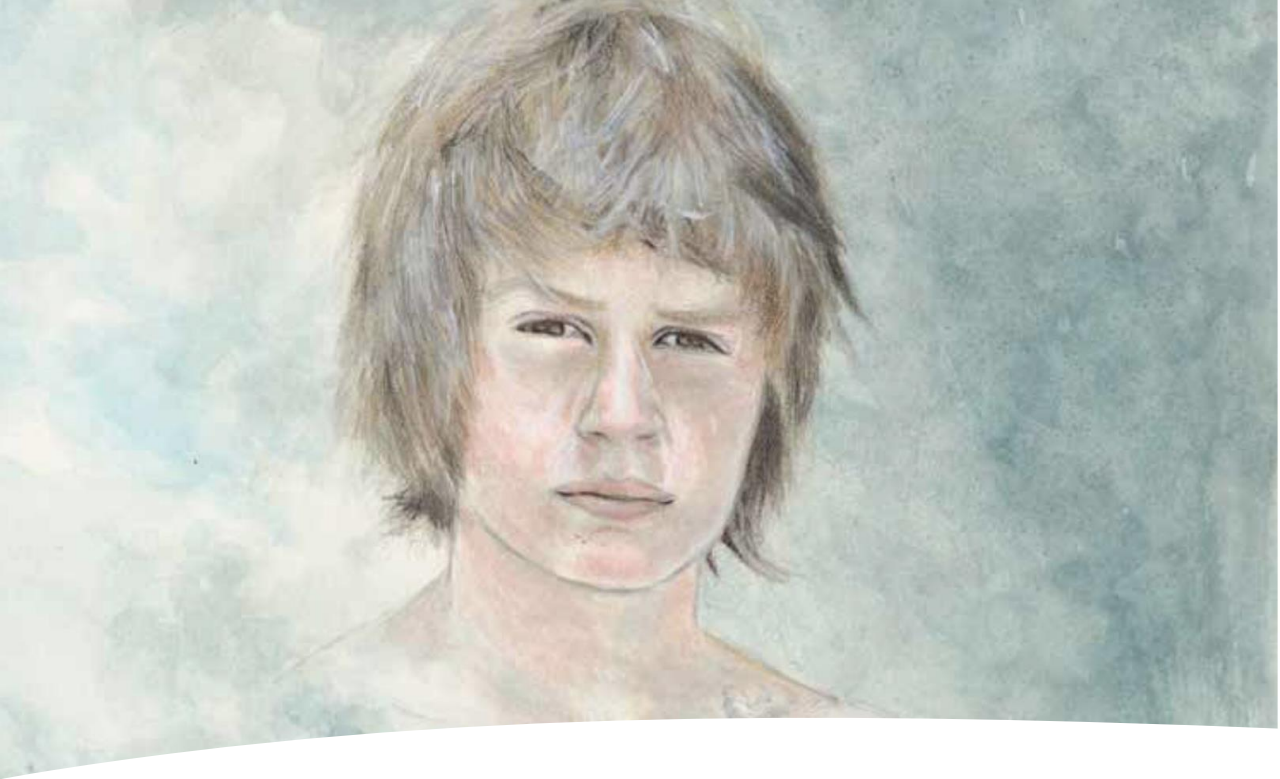
*I also like the turtle shell and the little incidental images in the book.*

*Strangers On Country* blends fact and fiction based on true stories documented in historical records- tell me a bit about how this worked for you as an illustrator...with your art works alongside historical illustrations

*One word- Reference.*

*If you're going to illustrate something historical that actually happened, you need the correct visual reference- for instance - in the illustration of Narcisse/Anco on pg9. of *Strangers on Country*, I consulted with a friend of mine, a fantastic Shipwright who helped me portray the ship correctly- he was able to find out some info about the actual ship in the story that helped me draw it.*





**As a writer yourself, how is it different illustrating someone else's work compared to illustrating your own stories?**

*How is it different? Well, I guess you have to please more people than just yourself – and you have to imagine someone else's (the Writer's) world.*

**What's your favourite story in *Strangers On Country*?**

*I love Narcisse's story- mainly because he wrote it down himself and we are lucky enough to have photos of him to look at.*





- Carved +
- Possums

The way the story is followed by the factual elements form which the story is derived is a lovely way to gently educate young readers and help give understanding. What is your personal response to *Strangers On Country*?

*I'm disappointed that I didn't know about these stories sooner. They are important and true tales of Australia that all Australians should know. I'm also so glad that I got to work on these stories and can now share them with others.*

This book is unique in that it offers up two sides of the story and deals with the time period with sensitivity, do you think this is important and a point of difference from other books about this time?

*Well, I think that all sides and viewpoints in a story are important to help us ask questions about the bigger picture. About the whole story.*

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I would recommend this book for junior book clubs, such as our Book Worms Kids Club at Inner West Libraries for children 8-12 years, would be good for kids to take turns reading parts of the stories and looking at the illustrations and historical documents. Also good for high school history students and anyone really with an interest in early days of white settlement in Australia.

Teaching resources found at

[https://www.ncacl.org.au/atsi\\_resource/strangers-on-country/](https://www.ncacl.org.au/atsi_resource/strangers-on-country/)

- Living with the locals: Six extraordinary first contact stories of friendship and survival (includes animations from an ABC series) <https://www.abc.net.au/news/2018-04-06/living-with-the-locals-stories-of-first-contact-survival/9613098>
- Irma Gold interviews Dub Leffler [http://www.irmagold.com/picture-book-illustration-dub-leffler/?fbclid=IwAR0bcG\\_kMwiLK2bENTkj8BOv69\\_WIT\\_z-FPRooQ4kESqw8KQPAT4wRQ4E](http://www.irmagold.com/picture-book-illustration-dub-leffler/?fbclid=IwAR0bcG_kMwiLK2bENTkj8BOv69_WIT_z-FPRooQ4kESqw8KQPAT4wRQ4E)
- Glen Park Primary School Teaching Notes 'Strangers on Country' <https://glenparkps.vic.edu.au/wp-content/uploads/STRANGERS-on-COUNTRY.pdf>
- Kirsty Murray 'Strangers on Country' <https://kirstymurray.com/books/strangers-on-country/>
- Reading Time review 'Strangers on Country' <http://readingtime.com.au/strangers-on-country/>



# Azaria : A True History by Maree Coote

Where wild animals and people meet, tragedy can strike, because just like the big bad wolf, the dingo is not afraid of you and me.

A beautifully illustrated non-fiction picture book that sensitively explores the collision of wilderness and civilisation, explains a famous miscarriage of justice, and examines the role of the media in history-telling, in an appropriate manner for children.

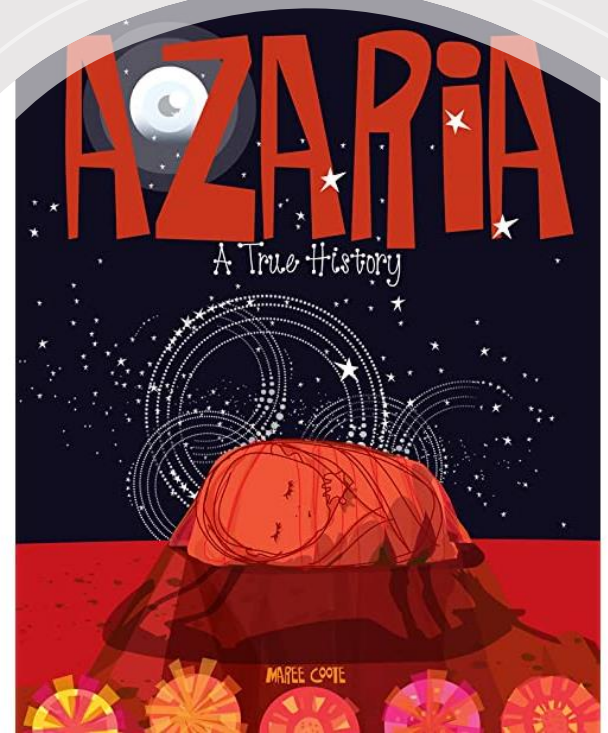
Published by Melbournestyle Australia

<https://www.melbournestyle.com.au/AZARIA.html>

I recommend this book to all ages and love the artwork.

It is an interesting blend of graphic novel, history and picture book.

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“A beautifully illustrated non-fiction picture book that sensitively explores the collision of wilderness and civilisation, explains a famous miscarriage of justice, and examines the role of the media in history-telling, in an appropriate manner for young readers.” Goodreads.com

“An important story for children about one of Australia’s most dramatic miscarriages of justice.” —The Hon. Justice Lex Lasry, AM

“A modern-day fairy tale, cautionary and unforgettable. Essential reading for students of history and the law, young and old.”

Again, I recommend this book as a great resource for kids book clubs. The content is not suitable for a Storytime with young children but better for primary aged children. This book was written in consultation with Lindy Chamberlain.

Teaching notes are provided by Maree Coote

<http://static.booktopia.com.au/pdf/9780648568407-1.pdf>



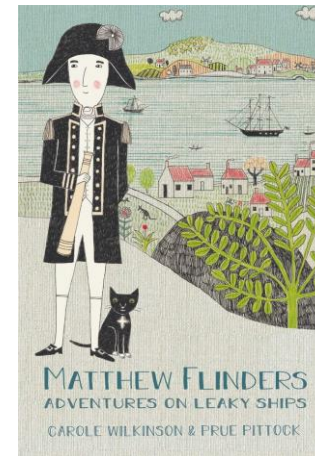
# Matthew Flinders: Adventures on Leaky Ships by Carole Wilkinson & Prue Pittock

“Matthew Flinders was determined to complete the map of the coast of the continent we now call Australia. His maps are so accurate some are still in use today.

His story is packed to the gunwales with adventure – storms and shipwrecks, death and danger, an exciting race to beat the French – but more than this, it is a story of loyalty to his crew, love for his wife, and affection for the brave little cat who sailed with him.” media release blurb.

Carole Wilkinson is an internationally award winning and much loved author of books for children including the hugely popular *Dragonkeeper* and *Ramose series*. She has a long-standing fascination with Dragons and interest in the history of everything.

Prue Pittock is a local artist/illustrator who works mainly in ink, gouache and pencil. After studying Art and Design, she worked in advertising and then for a record company designing album covers. Prue has illustrated a junior fiction novel, and recently finished illustrating two picture books, and has a third picture book underway. A common theme in Prue’s exhibition work is her love of gardens and the creatures who live there.





This beautiful book makes history interesting and fun. With glossary, timelines, maps and beautiful details this book was one of my favourites. The illustrations are stunning. Love this book no less for the fact that it features Matthew Flinders Cat called Trim!!

It brings to life the adventures at sea, life on a boat and coming to NSW and the time period of late 1700's.

“Matthew Flinders was a country boy who wanted to be a sailor. He lived at a time when ocean voyages took months, sometimes years. His life at sea was full of adventure and danger. He was the first to sail all the way around Australia. He drew the first complete map of the continent. Sailing was a dangerous business in Matthew's time that could end in shipwreck, disease or death. He wanted to make it safer for sailors by making his map as accurate as possible.” Google books.



On the return voyage, a litter of kittens was born on board the ship. Matthew adopted one and called him Trim. A fearless kitten, he was soon climbing the masts ... and falling overboard. Matthew rescued him and Trim became his special companion.





Teachers notes

[http://wdog.com.au/wp-content/uploads/2020/08/Matthew-Flinders\\_TN\\_2020.pdf](http://wdog.com.au/wp-content/uploads/2020/08/Matthew-Flinders_TN_2020.pdf)

Bibliography

<https://carolewilkinson.com.au/research/matt-hew-flinders-adventures-on-leaky-ships-bibliography/>

Notes from Carole on historical fiction genre

<https://carolewilkinson.com.au/research/historical-fiction/>

Notes from Carole on research

<https://carolewilkinson.com.au/research/researching/>

