

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, and Fox and Fine Feathers.

Many of these titles have won awards and been distributed internationally. Narelle's recent picture book, *Twilight Hunt* (2007) was commissioned by US publisher StarBright Books and features North American flora and fauna while her latest title, *Fox and Fine Feathers* (August 2009) is a contemporary fable set in Coachwood forest on the east coast of Australia. *Fox and Fine Feathers* was launched by the Governor-General of the Commonwealth of Australia, Quentin Bryce and was featured in her televised Australia Day Address 2010. It has been awarded Honour Book in the Children's Book Council of Australia Picture Book of the Year Awards, 2010.

Many of Narelle's books have been inspired by natural environments. In other titles, she has explored imaginary, historic and mathematical themes. The linocut print medium, often combined with other media, is a special feature of the illustrations.

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, two children, one dog and many birds which visit their overgrown rainforest backyard.