

# Workshops

**Narelle Oliver is an award-winning Australian author, artist and illustrator. Her poignant and beautiful picture books bring endless enjoyment to young readers around the world.**

Award-winning author-illustrator of Leaf Tail, High Above the Sea, The Best Beak in Boonaroo Bay, The Hunt, Sand Swimmers, Baby Bilby, Where do you Sleep?, Mermaids Most Amazing, The Very Blue Thingamajig, Dancing the Boom-cha-cha Boogie, Home, Twilight Hunt

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Bachelor of Education with majors in Special Education, and Design and Printmaking

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18 years experience in conducting writing and illustrating workshops from prep to adult groups in Australia, Singapore, Beijing, and Hong Kong

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Past Tutor in Language and Children's Literature in Faculty of Education, University of Southern Qld

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## Workshop presentations and hands-on writing and illustrating activities:

### 1 'Creation of a picture book' Demonstration

Demonstration of process from inspiration, gathering of ideas to final publication including planning, storyboarding, researching, writing of drafts, editing, various stages of drawing, and completion of finished artwork, using real samples

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Includes a demonstration of the cutting and printing of a linoblock

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45 min - 1 hour

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All year levels - kindergarten and prep, all primary year levels, secondary English/Art students, adults including teachers and librarians (the presentation is tailored to the specific year level and audience)

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Maximum audience number: 60 students (it is preferable that number is 60 or smaller as students gain most benefit from clearly seeing the linoprint demonstration, handling linoblocks and being close to real samples of work)

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Maximum 4 x 45 minute sessions or 3 x 1 hour sessions per day

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## 2 Hands-on Print-making Activity

A follow-on activity from 'creation of a picture book demonstration' which features linocut printmaking

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Hands-on relief printmaking activity using printing inks, rollers and a special compressed white foam which does not require sharp tools

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Emphasis on drawing preparation, patterns and textures.

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Minimum 2 hours (in addition to 'creation of a picture book' demonstration)

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Can be a whole day activity ( or equivalent time spread over days) with upper primary students undertaking larger more detailed prints

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Suitable for year 3 - year 7

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Maximum group size: 30 students

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## 3 Hands-on drawing activity: drawing accurately from real plants and animal specimens

A follow-on activity from 'creation of a picture book demonstration' which shows role of drawing animals and landscape features accurately

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Students draw from real plant specimens and Museum specimens if available

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Students given guidance, tips, common pitfalls for recording these details accurately

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Suitable for year 3 - year 7

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Maximum group size: 30 students

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Minimum 30 minutes (in addition to creation of a picture book demonstration)

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## 4 Hands-on drawing activities: creation of imaginary creatures and landscapes

A follow-on activity from 'creation of a picture book demonstration' based on the character creation in 'The Very Blue Thingamajig' and 'Dancing the Boom-cha-cha Boogie'

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Suitable for prep to year 7

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Maximum group size: 30 students

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15- 30 minutes (in addition to creation of a picture book demonstration)

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## 5 Hands-on writing activity: animal competition posters

A follow-on activity from 'creation of a picture book demonstration' focusing on the language choices used in the poster in 'The Best Beak in Boonaroo Bay'

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Suitable for year 3 - year 5

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Minimum 30 minutes (in addition to creation of a picture book demonstration)

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Maximum group size: 30 students

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## 6 Hands-on storyboarding activity

A follow-on activity from 'creation of a picture book demonstration' focusing on simple plot structures and use of storyboards in story planning

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Suitable for year 5 - year 7

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Minimum 30 minutes (in addition to creation of a picture book demonstration)

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Maximum group size: 30 students

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## 7 Hands-on writing activity: hunting stories (writing narrative from researched information)

A follow-on activity from 'creation of a picture book demonstration' focusing on the narrative form, plot structure, word choices, and use of primary information sources in 'The Hunt', 'Home', and 'High Above the Sea'

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Students are required to undertake a small amount of research before this session using a template provided

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Emphasis is placed on constructing a hunting story which builds suspense, use of figurative language and attention to accurate details, and creation of sensory images

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Minimum 90 minutes (in addition to creation of a picture book demonstration)

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Maximum group size: 30 students

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Suitable for year 5 - year 7

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**Note:** In addition to the writing activity, students may create a 'white lino' print of their hunting animal (see hands-on activity No 2)

Writing the hunting story and illustrating the hunting animal requires a whole day or equivalent amount of time over several days with 30 students.

## 8 Hands-on writing activity: narrative using imaginary creatures

A follow-on activity from 'creation of a picture book demonstration' focusing on the narrative form, plot structure, word choices and creation of sensory images used in 'The Very Blue Thingamajig' and Dancing the Boom-cha-cha Boogie'

Students are encouraged to invent their own imaginary creatures and landscapes which conform to the requirements of a given plot structure.

Minimum 90 minutes (in addition to creation of a picture book demonstration)

Maximum group size: 30 students

Suitable for year 5 - year 7

## 9 Elements of design, media, visual communication in picture book illustration

A specialised workshop for Secondary art students which expands on 'creation of a picture book demonstration'

60 minutes

Maximum group size: 30 students

Suitable for year 9 - year 12 art students

## 10 So, you're creating a picture book...

A specialised workshop for year 6 - year 12 focusing on some of the nuts and bolts of picture book writing and illustrating: choice of plot structure, theme, storyboard planning, editing, research, design... to assist students who are writing and illustrating their own picture books.

60 minutes

Maximum group size: 30 students

Suitable for year 6 - year 12

## 11 Planning a day or a residency

A full day could be 4 x 45 minute sessions OR

A combination of sessions listed above.

Workshops can also be tailored to suit your curriculum needs. (For example, a focus on myths and legends in relation to picture book writing and illustrating could be undertaken with Year 6,7)