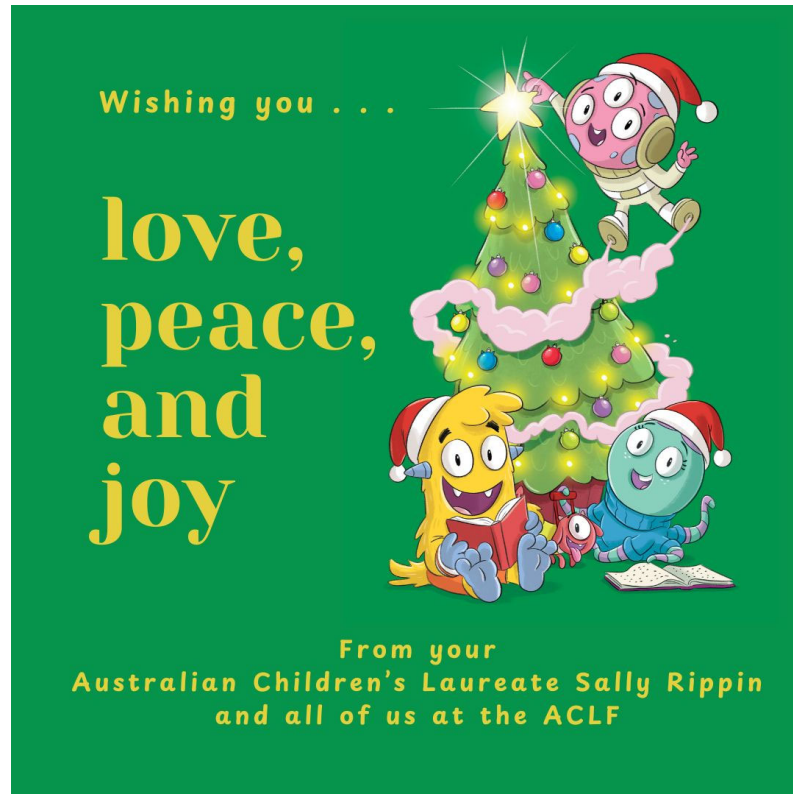




AUSTRALIAN CHILDREN'S LAUREATE



Hello readers,

It's hard to believe we have reached the end of Sally Rippin's first year as Laureate. Your incredible 2024–25 Australian Children's Laureate **has already reached almost 25,000 people** – sharing her important message 'All kids can be readers!'.

But none of our work is done in isolation.

As the year draws to a close, we would like to the opportunity to thank everyone for your support over the past year – our event and industry partners, the teachers, teacher-librarians, parents and of course children we have engaged with in 2024.

The Laureate Program would not be possible without the support of our primary funding partners – the Copyright Agency Cultural Fund and the Australian Government through

Creative Australia, its arts funding and advisory body, and our private sponsors.

Inspiring new generations of readers by enriching the lives of young Australians through the power of story is our mission, and one we are thrilled to be continuing throughout 2025 and beyond.

We wish you all a safe and happy holiday season,

Kristin, Justine and the ACLF Board

ACLF OFFICE HOLIDAY CLOSURE

We will be taking a short break to catch up on our reading from

Thursday 19 December 2024

to

Monday 20 January 2025

If your enquiry is urgent please call Kristin on 0403 492 464, otherwise we will be back in touch when we return.

CREATE IN DECEMBER

With the School Holidays approaching or here already for some students, it's the perfect time to enjoy some creative time.

Billie B Brown is certainly excited.

As you colour in Billy, perhaps think about what sort of story you can create with your picture. What colour are her clothes? Where is she? What has she been doing? You could draw things around her. Perhaps you'd even like to create a Christmas scene.

Sally would love to see what you create ...
so please email your work
to admin@childrenslaureate.org.au

This is just one of the FREE activities on the [Australian Children's Laureate website](https://www.childrenslaureate.org.au), so why not head over and see what else might inspire your imagination.

[DOWNLOAD YOUR FREE ACTIVITY](#)

DECEMBER AUDIOBOOKS

The ACLF is thrilled to be continuing our partnership with Bolinda BorrowBox to share TWO wonderful audiobook resources for children every month.

As well as enjoying one of Sally's audiobooks, we are also sharing SALLY'S SPOTLIGHT – a second audiobook chosen for you by our Laureate.

Here are your audiobook selections for December.



Jackie French Reads
Diary of a Wombat
and Other Stories



CREATED BY
JACKIE FRENCH, BRUCE WHATLEY
AND SUE deGENNARO

SALLY'S SPOTLIGHT

Diary of a Wombat and Other Stories

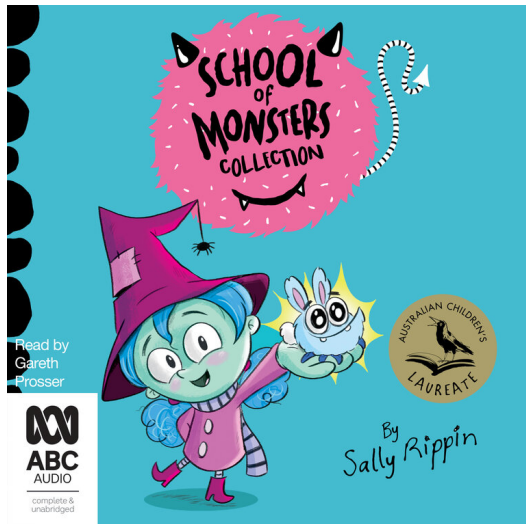
by Jackie French

Narrated by Jackie French

Age 3+

Five of Jackie French's best stories together in one audiobook, ready for a new generation of listeners to enjoy.

Jackie French is an award-winning author whose books are adored by children and parents alike. She was the Australia Children's Laureate for 2014–2015 and was Senior Australian of the Year for 2015. To celebrate these fantastic achievements, this special audiobook contains five of her most-loved children's books including *Diary of a Wombat*, *The Hairy Nosed Wombat Finds a New Home*, *Josephine Wants to Dance*, *Pete the Sheep* and *Queen Victoria's Underpants*.



Deb and Dot and the Mix-up

Plot

by Sally Rippin

Narrated by Gareth Prosser

Age: 7+

Welcome to the School of Monsters – the funniest, silliest and most accessible series from one of Australia’s bestselling and most-beloved children’s authors, Sally Rippin.

Some kids play well and some do not. Some look the same, like Deb and Dot! Deb and Dot are twins and complete opposites. Deb is friendly and everyone likes her – but Dot doesn't quite know how to play nicely with the other monsters! Can Teacher Ted help the twins out with a plan?

[FIND OUT HOW TO ACCESS THE AUDIOBOOKS HERE](#)

Laureate Events



Sally Rippin
All kids can be
readers!

In Conversation
The Australian Children's Laureate
Sally Rippin
&
Author, Artist and Songwriter
Gregg Dreise

Sally Rippin *Gregg Dreise*

childrenslaureate.org.au



The ACLF is proud to be supporting The 2024 Foundation for Learning and Literacy Symposium #We all like a good story – with a very special In Conversation between your Australian Children's Laureate Sally Rippin and Author, Songwriter & ACLF Board Member Gregg Dreise.

You can watch Sally and Gregg's conversation now by following the links below.

[Register now to watch, see the rest of the Symposium and past videos](#)

This is part of a series of video presentations and podcasts produced by representatives of organisations whose primary work is with children and young people, literacy and drama.

More Laureate Resources

Your Australian Children's Laureate is taking a well-earned break, making it the perfect time to catch up on any online events you may have missed.

 International Children's Laureates talk about the International Literacy Day theme

2024

Australian Children's Laureate Sally Rippin, UK Waterstones Children's Laureate Frank Cottrell-Boyce & Laureate na nÓg Patricia Forde.

[WATCH HERE](#)

 **Vision Australia Webinar: All kids can be readers!**

Sally Rippin joins the Vision Australia team and special guests to talk about access to stories and the different ways we read.

[WATCH HERE](#)

 **The Need to Read: Sally Rippin and NZ Reading Ambassador Alan Dingley In Conversation**

Sally and Alan speak about the power of reading, and the importance of libraries in the lives of children and young people.

[WATCH HERE](#)

 **Raising Wild Readers**

Megan Daley interviews Sally Rippin on Your Kids Next Read. This in-depth discussion looks at the joys and challenges of getting – and keeping – kids reading, and offers valuable insights, tips and advice.

[LISTEN HERE](#)

Industry news

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE 2024 K.O.A.L.A. WINNERS

All of us at the ACLF would like to congratulate the winning authors, illustrators and publishers in the 2024 K.O.A.L.A, judged by the kids of NSW!

☆ Picture Storybooks Winner: *I just ate my friend* by Heidi McKinnon

☆ Younger Readers Winner: *Hot Dog: Beach Time* by Anh Do, illustrated by Dan

McGuiness

☆ Older Readers Winner: *Runt* by Craig Silvey, illustrated by Sara Acton

☆ Fiction for Years 7-9: *Scar Town* by Tristan Banks

The R.E.A.L. Awards (YABBA, KOALA, CROC) are voted on by kids and provides wonderful recognition to Australian authors and illustrators.

We would also like to congratulate illustrator Danielle McDonald – named the 2024 K.O.A.L.A. Legend.

[CLICK HERE](#) to see the full list of winners and honour books.





K.O.A.L.A.
Kids Own Australian
Literature Awards

K.O.A.L.A.
Legend
2024

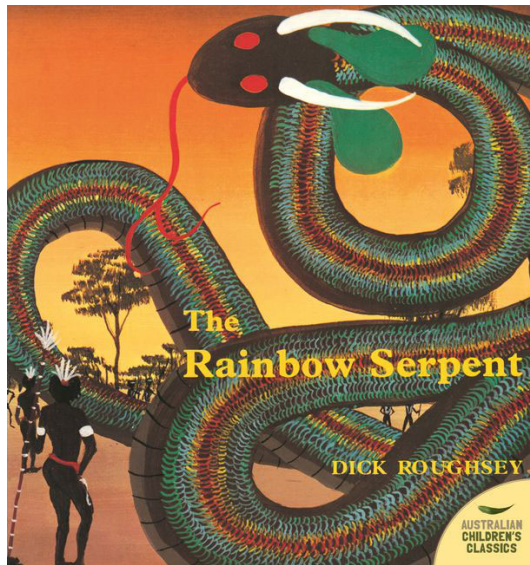


DANIELLE MCDONALD

The image is a celebratory graphic for the K.O.A.L.A. Legend 2024. It features a central portrait of Danielle McDonald, a woman with brown hair, wearing a white top and a vibrant green multi-strand necklace. The portrait is set against a bright blue background decorated with several white starburst effects. The entire graphic is framed by a thick orange border, which is further accented with green eucalyptus-like leaves in the top-left and bottom-right corners. The text 'K.O.A.L.A. Kids Own Australian Literature Awards' is positioned in the top-left, while 'K.O.A.L.A. Legend 2024' is in the top-right. The name 'DANIELLE MCDONALD' is printed in large, bold, black capital letters at the bottom of the central blue area.



Reading Australia is a Copyright Agency initiative to support the teaching and reading of Australian literature in schools. Now 10 years old, the website features almost 300 freely available resources written for teachers and teacher librarians by experienced educators, on books aligned to the Australian Curriculum.



This month's focus resource is [The Rainbow Serpent](#) by Dick Goobalathaldin Roughsey (Year 2).

First published in 1975, *The Rainbow Serpent* is a classic picture book by Lardil artist and storyteller Dick Goobalathaldin Roughsey. In this new and improved unit of work, students will explore different Dreaming stories and respond to the text through drama and writing activities

20 new titles are added to Reading Australia each year, with new resources published regularly online. Join more than 25,000 people receiving the latest units and updates – it's [quick, easy and free](#).

For more ACLF updates you can:

- Tell friends about the [ACLF Newsletter](#) (scroll to the bottom of our homepage)
- Follow the [ACLF on Facebook](#), on Twitter at [@OzLaureate](#), or on [Instagram](#) and share your work with the [monthly calendar themes](#)
- The ACLF's vision is to enrich the lives of young Australians through the power of story. We cannot do this without help. Consider making a [tax-deductible donation](#)



We're constantly looking to improve the content and resources we produce as part of the Australian Children's Laureate Foundation. If you have any [feedback we'd love to hear from you](#).

Many thanks – the Australian Children's Laureate team.



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