

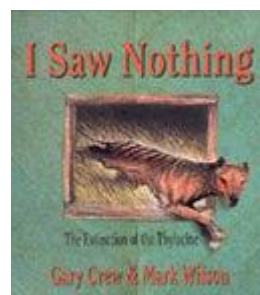
# Australian Animals

for readers aged 9 - 12 years

## I Saw Nothing: The Extinction of the Thylacine

by Gary Crew, Mark Wilson (Illustrator), 2006

Rosie tells the story of the capture and death of the last 'tiger-wolf', Tasmania's doomed thylacine, tragically declared a protected species after the last of its kind had already died... Also in this series on animal extinction in Australia:-



**I Said Nothing: The Extinction of the Paradise Parrot, 2003**

**I Did Nothing: The Extinction of the Gastric-brooding Frog, 2004**

## Red Dog

by Louis de Bernieres 2011 **Book and Film**

Based on a true story Red Dog is a lovable, friendly red kelpie who found widespread fame as a result of his habit of travelling all over Western Australia, hitching rides over thousands of miles, settling in places for months at a time and adopting new families before heading off again to the next destination and another family - sometimes returning to say hello years later.

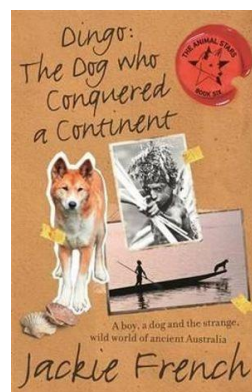


## Dingo: The Dog Who Conquered a Continent

by Jackie French 2012

All of Australia's dingoes may be descended from one south-east Asian 'rubbish dog' who arrived here over 5,000 years ago. This is a story about the first dingo.

It is also the story of Loa, who heads off across the sea in his canoe when the girl he loves marries another. He takes only his spears and a 'rubbish dog', one of the scavengers from around the camp to eat if he gets hungry, or to throw to threatening sharks or crocodiles. But when a storm blows boy and dog out to sea, both must learn to survive in a strange new world as partners - and even as friends. A story about survival in our earliest times.



## The Donkey Who Carried the Wounded

by Jackie French 2010

War is not the adventure Jack Simpson expected. Carrying a wounded soldier down to the beach of the Gallipoli Peninsula on his shoulders, Jack finds a donkey who miraculously survived being thrown overboard as the troop ships sailed away. Jack and the donkey form a partnership that will become the basis of a major event in Australian history, the rescuing of some 300 injured soldiers in war. Based on a true story this book examines the remarkable life of the man and the donkey, Duffy, who became a legend of Gallipoli.



## Spud Series

by John Heffernan 1997

Spud the pet. Spud the companion. Spud the working dog. Spud the mother. Spud the hunted. This dramatic and compelling tale of a blue heeler will touch the hearts of all readers. A vivid portrayal of the life of a working dog in the bush written from the author's first-hand experience. Spud is John Heffernan's own loyal companion on his property in northern New South Wales and was the inspiration for this story. Also in this series **Chips** 2003, and **Pup** 2015. **Tissues required!**



## Bindi Irwin's Wildlife Adventure Series

by Bindi Irwin & Chris Kunz 2011

Titles include: **Surfing with Turtles**, **Croc Capers**, **A Whale of a Time**

A fast-paced adventure series featuring the Jungle Girl herself. The stories are inspired and co-created by Bindi Irwin, daughter of the iconic wildlife expert Steve Irwin. The series features the characters of Bindi, her brother Robert, mother Terri, and Australia Zoo.



## The Magic Pudding

by Norman Lindsay, 1918

This comic fantasy follows the adventures of Bunyip Bluegum and friends Sam Swanoff and Bill Barnacle. Combining humans with anthropomorphic animals, the companions meet a magic pudding – no matter how much or how often you eat him, he will magically reappear as his original size – who they must defend against the Pudding Thieves. With short songs interspersed throughout, the book is divided into four 'slices' instead of chapters – just in case you weren't hungry enough! An iconic classic of Australian children's literature.



## The Horses Didn't Come Home

by Pamela Rushby 2012

The last great cavalry charge in history took place at Beersheba in the Sinai Desert in 1917. It was Australian soldiers and horses that took part in, and won, this amazing, unexpected, unorthodox victory. The men proudly claimed it was their great-hearted horses, Queensland Walers, that won the day. But in the end, the horses didn't come home ... A story about a boy, a horse and the last great cavalry charge in history.



## Storm Boy

by Colin Thiele 2004 **Book and Film**

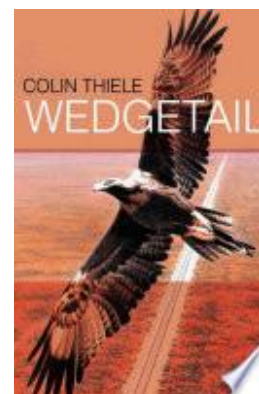
Mike (Storm Boy) is an 11-year-old boy living with his dad near a wildlife sanctuary in the Coorong, South Australia, which is a haven for bird life. When he meets Fingerbone Bill, Mike's eyes are opened to his surroundings, as he learns about the land, the sea and the Aboriginal people. However, it is his unique friendship with a wild pelican that will change his life forever. Mike and Mr Percival the pelican become inseparable friends and spend their days exploring the wave-beaten shore and the drifting sandhills. A classic work of Australian children's literature.



## Wedgetail

by Colin Thiele 2012

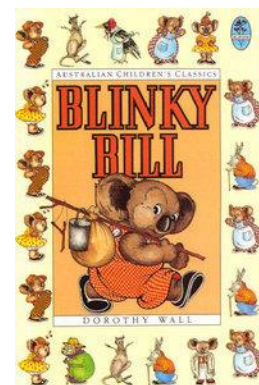
One day a wildlife ranger brings Andy an orphaned eaglet so tiny that it seems unlikely to survive. This is the story of Andy's struggle to save it, to nurse it and feed it - and to protect it from danger, human and otherwise and finally to watch it grow into a proud and beautiful eagle.



## Blinky Bill

by Dorothy Wall 1933, 2019 **Book and Film**

One of the best-known and best-loved characters to ever appear in Australian children's fiction is the mischievous little koala known as Blinky Bill. This anthropomorphic koala first appeared in his self-titled book [Blinky Bill](#), and quickly gained a devoted following. Following this success, Blinky Bill Grows Up (1935) and Blinky Bill and Nutsy (1938) quickly followed, and the popular omnibus edition, The Complete Adventures of Blinky Bill, was published in 1939 and has never been out of print since. Considered to be a quintessential Australian classic, Blinky Bill has made his way into our hearts and our screens.



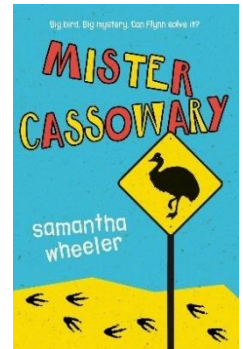


## Mister Cassowary

by Samantha Wheeler 2015

'Cassowaries are not just birds,' Dad growled. 'They're the most dangerous birds in the world.'

City boy Flynn is taken to Mission Beach by his dad to ready his Grandad 's banana farm for sale. Flynn has never been north before, even when his grandad was alive, and the last thing he wants to do is to be stuck in the middle of nowhere with his dad who thinks he is too young to be trusted with anything! But when Flynn meets local girl Abby and two lost baby cassowaries things become interesting.



## Smooch and Rose

by Samantha Wheeler 2013

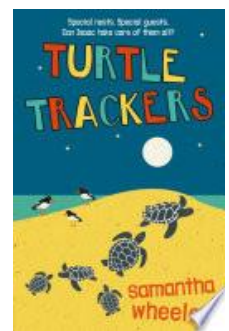
When Rose and Gran save a baby koala from a pack of blood-hungry dogs, he's named Smooch because he loves to cuddle. With the help of wildlife carer Carol, Rose and her dog Lizzie look after Smooch until he is old enough to make the trees on their strawberry farm his home. Rose is deliciously happy caring for bush babies, it's her dream come true. But things change for the worse when Gran gets a letter from the bank. Does this mean they have to sell the farm? Then Uncle Malcolm mentions bulldozers and Rose realizes it's not just her home that's at stake. Rose has a voice and wants to make a difference but what can one girl and her koala do?



## Turtle Trackers

by Samantha Wheeler 2018

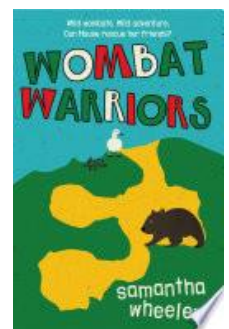
Ten-year-old Isaac is flat out. Helping his mum run a caravan park on the Queensland coast means no time for fun. So, when he finds a sea turtle nesting on the beach, he's disappointed that he can't volunteer as a turtle tracker to watch over her eggs and hatchlings. How can he when summer holidays are their busiest time? To make matters worse, famous travel blogger Eddie Eastwood and his mischievous dog come to stay. Isaac must pull out all the stops because a zero-star review from Eddie would spell disaster for his mum and the park. Can Isaac keep everyone happy while still finding the time to protect his turtles?



## Wombat Warriors

by Samantha Wheeler 2017

Mouse is not prepared for her last-minute stay at Aunt Evie's. How will she cope at a new school without her parents around? But before Mouse has even unpacked her suitcase, she makes a new friend – a wombat called Miss Pearl! Suddenly, being in a strange cottage doesn't seem so bad, especially when she can snuggle up with a wombat. Mouse soon learns that not everyone in the area loves wombats, including Aunt Evie's landlord, a sheep farmer who destroys them on sight. Can Mouse find her voice in time to keep her furry friends safe?

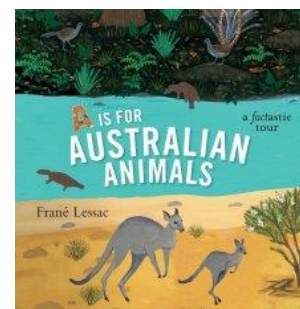


## Useful Non-Fiction books/ Series on Australian Animals: a selection

### A is for Australian Animals

by Frané Lessac 2017.

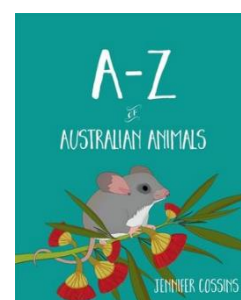
A, a map of Australia surrounded by general facts about the unique qualities of our native fauna. What follows is a detailed, alphabetic collection of fascinating facts and characteristics all the way through to 'Z'. With one or two animals featured on each double page spread, this resource is a compendium of colour and life.



### A-Z of Australian Animals

by Jennifer Cossins 2018

On this expedition through the alphabet, you will encounter some of the Australia's rare and enchanting animals, from the gorgeous azure kingfisher and the sleepy koala, to the shy numbat and the friendly zebra finch.



**Discover and Learn Amazing Facts Books** by Pat Slater, Steve Parish (Photographer), 2002 -

Titles include **Australian Insects and Spiders, Australian Mammals, Australian Frogs and Reptiles, Australian Marine Life, Australian Birds, Deadly and Dangerous**

**Nature Kids Australian Early Learning Collection** by Pat Slater, Steve Parish (Photographer), 2002 -

Titles include **123 of Australian Wildlife, ABC of Australian Wildlife, Australian Frogs and Reptiles, Australian Wildlife, Australian Birdlife, Australian Sea life, Australian Rainforest Animals, Australian Kangaroos and Wallabies, Australian Marine Fish, Australian Rare and Endangered Wildlife, First Picture Book of Koalas, First Picture Book of Frogs, First Picture Book of Kangaroos, First Picture Book of Dolphins**

**The WOW Books** by Pat Slater, Steve Parish (Photographer)

Titles include **Animals in Disguise, Deadly and Dangerous, Predators and Prey, Animals on the Move**

### Nature Storybooks Series

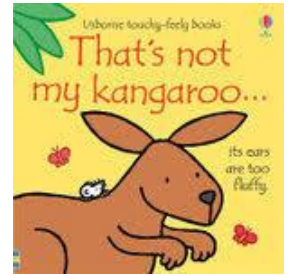
**See Claire Saxby or Sue Whiting in Australian Animals Books for Younger readers**

**Usborne Touchy-Feely Books** include

## That's Not My Kangaroo

by Fiona Watt, Rachel Wells (Illustrator), 2019 **That's not my..Series**

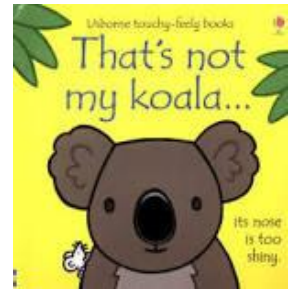
A gorgeous new Australian version of this favourite series. Little ones will love experiencing the vibrant colours of this board book and touching the textured patches as they meet this very familiar Aussie icon. The perfect companion to That's Not My Koala.



## That's Not My Koala

by Fiona Watt, Rachel Wells (Illustrator), 2019 **That's not my..Series**

Babies and toddlers will love experiencing the vibrant colours of this board book and touching the textured patches as they meet lots of adorable koalas. These books are designed to help develop sensory and language awareness.



Compiled by Dajo Finlayson 2020

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