



Penguin
Random House
Australia & New Zealand

London Book Fair

Rights Guide

2021

Fiction Frontlist

FOR RIGHTS QUERIES CONTACT

Nerrilee Weir, Senior Rights Manager

TEL +61 2 8923 9892

EMAIL nweir@penguinrandomhouse.com.au

penguin.com.au/rights

FOR RIGHTS QUERIES CONTACT

Alice Richardson, Rights Executive

TEL +61 2 8923 9815

EMAIL arichardson@penguinrandomhouse.com.au

penguin.com.au/rights



THE RABBITS

Sophie Overett

July 2021

Vintage Australia

Trade paperback – 336pp

Rights held: World

Winner of the 2020 Penguin Literary Prize. A multigenerational family story with a dose of magical realism, about secrets, art, very mild superpowers, loneliness and the strange connections made in the places we least expect.

The disappearance of Bo Rabbit in 1984 left the Rabbit women crippled by grief. Bo's mother, Rosemary, and Bo's younger sister, Delia, became disjointed and dysfunctional, parting ways not long after Delia turned eighteen.

Now a teacher, Delia's life is dissolving. She gave up on her art, began a relationship with a student, and is struggling to raise her three growing children, Olive, Charlie and Benjamin. And now she must also care for her mother.

Despite it all, the Rabbits are managing, precariously. Or, they were, until sixteen-year-old Charlie Rabbit disappears in the middle of a blinding heatwave. The family reels from the loss, and struggles to cope as the children's estranged father, Ed, re-enters their lives.

Only nothing is quite as it seems, and Charlie's disappearance soon proves to be just that – a disappearance, or, rather, an unexpected bout of invisibility he's unable to reverse. With the revelation of Charlie's invisibility, the family world cracks open, and they're faced with their untold story, and the uncanny lives of the people around them.

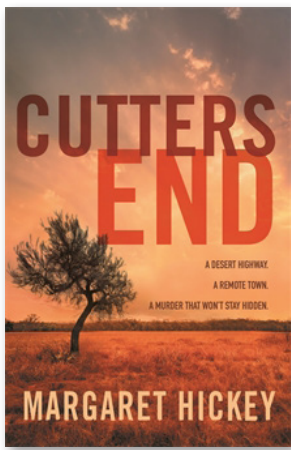
As the family struggles to find a way to make Charlie reappear, they are forced to face the open wounds of their history to save not only Charlie, but also themselves, and to try and mend the fractured relationships they share.

Sales points

- Winner of the 2020 Penguin Literary Prize, now in its fourth year
- Debut literary fiction from an extremely talented new author
- Like Trent Dalton's *Boy Swallows Universe* and Craig Silvey's *Jasper Jones*, this is a family story that will appeal to broad age groups, from late teens through to grandparents



Sophie Overett is an award-winning writer and cultural producer. Her stories have been published in *Griffith Review*, *Going Down Swinging*, *Overland Online*, *The Sleepers Almanac* and elsewhere. She won the 2018 AAWP Short Story Prize, and her work has been shortlisted for multiple awards including The Text Prize and The Richell Prize. Her first novel, *The Rabbits*, is the winner of the 2020 Penguin Literary Prize. Author photo © Sophie Overett



CUTTERS END

Margaret Hickey

August 2021

Bantam Australia

Trade paperback – 352pp

Rights Held: World

A scintillating crime thriller, set in the South Australian outback town of Cutters End. A mysterious death on New Year's Eve 1989 leads to a shocking murder investigation 32 years later . . .

A desert highway. A remote town. A murder that won't stay hidden.

New Year's Eve, 1989. Eighteen-year-old Ingrid Mathers is hitchhiking her way to Alice Springs. Bored, hungover and separated from her friend Joanne, she accepts a lift to the remote town of Cutters End.

July 2021. Detective Sergeant Mark Ariti is seconded to a recently reopened case, one in which he has a personal connection. Three decades ago, a burnt and broken body was discovered in scrub off the Stuart Highway, 300km south of Cutters End. Though ultimately ruled an accidental death, many people – including a high-profile celebrity – are convinced it was murder. When Mark's interviews with the witnesses in the old case files go nowhere, he has no choice but to make the long journey up the highway to Cutters End.

And with the help of local Senior Constable Jagdeep Kaur, Mark soon learns that this death isn't the only unsolved case that hangs over the town...

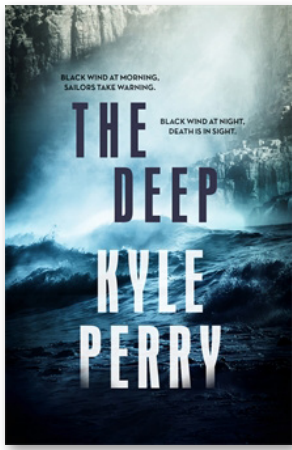
'A pacy, atmospheric thriller that joins the ranks of Australian outback noir' – Jock Serong, author of *The Rules of Backyard Cricket*

Sales points

- Very exciting debut author entering the hugely popular rural crime genre
- Upmarket crime in the vein of Jane Harper, Peter Temple, Chris Hammer and Sarah Bailey
- Perfect for fans of *Wolf Creek*
- Captivating rural crime that transports the reader to a small isolated town in the South Australian outback
- Historical references to infamous cases of the 1980s and 1990s such as Ivan Milat and Lindy Chamberlain
- A feminist angle on the crime genre, exploring domestic violence and the treatment of women in police investigations
- Margaret Hickey is a promotable author with a literary background. She is also a playwright, and a regular guest at festivals



Margaret was born in London to Australian parents and grew up in small country towns across Victoria. She studied in Melbourne and has travelled extensively through the Middle East, South America, Asia and Europe. Margaret has been shortlisted and has won prizes in awards including the Grace Marion Emerging Writer's prize and the Victorian Regional Writing prize. Her plays have been performed in Melbourne (La Mama), Brisbane, New York and regional Victoria. Margaret holds a PhD in Creative writing, specialising in depictions of landscape in Australian literature. A La Trobe valedictorian, her PhD was nominated for the Nancy Millis award for excellence in thesis writing. She works as a lecturer, teacher and public presenter and is a regular guest on ABC radio. Margaret lives in the North East of Victoria with her husband and three sons in a house on the edge of a gorge. Author photo © Benjamin Dowsley



THE DEEP

Kyle Perry

July 2021

Michael Joseph

Trade paperback – 368pp

Rights held: World

Rights sold previous titles: *The Bluffs* – Germany (Atrium), The Netherlands (HarperCollins), Romania (Lebada Neagra), Estonia (Uhinenu), Czech Republic (Host)

From the bestselling breakout author of *The Bluffs* comes a heart-stopping new thriller set on the rugged coast of Tasmania about modern-day pirates, family bonds and betrayals, and the dangers that lurk in the deep...

If you encounter the Black Wind while out there at sea, all you can do is race back to shore. There's no predicting it, no sailing it, no living with it. And if you're a Dempsey, it can play tricks on your mind. . .

On the Tasman Peninsula, nestled amidst the largest sea-cliffs in the southern hemisphere, is Shacktown. Here the Dempsey family have run a drug ring for generations, using the fishing industry and the deadly Black Wind as cover. But when thirteen-year-old Forest Dempsey walks out of the ocean, bruised and branded, everything is imperilled – because Forest has been believed dead for the last seven years. Mackerel Dempsey, out of jail on strict bail conditions, is trying to change his fate, doing his best to keep out of trouble before his next court date. His cousin Ahab has renounced the family altogether, in favour of working to keep the town and its fragile tourism economy safe. But in their search for answers about Forest, both Mackerel and Ahab can't help but be drawn back into the underworld. What on earth happened to the boy all those years ago? And does it have anything to do with the infamous drug kingpin Blackbeard, who is rumoured to be moving in on Shacktown?

When secrets long thought buried at sea wash up on shore, generations of the Dempsey family must stand up for what they believe in, even if it means sacrificing everything. But in the gritty fight between right and wrong, blood isn't always thicker than water, and everyone is at risk of being pulled under...

Sales points

- *The Bluffs* was a smash hit last year, selling over 15k copies in Australia since publication in July, and has so far been licensed in five translation territories
- Gritty, contemporary Australian crime, perfect for fans of Jane Harper and Chris Hammer
- Kyle is a young, up-and-coming Australian talent with a big career ahead of him
- Kyle is already working on his next two books, *The Cult* (July 2022) and *The Den* (July 2023)



Kyle Perry is a counsellor and youth worker who has worked extensively in high schools, youth shelters and drug rehabs. In his work he encounters stories and journeys that would fill a hundred books. Kyle's mother grew up in the foothills of the Great Western Tiers, in Tasmania's heartland, where his grandfather was called on for search and rescues in the mountains. Kyle himself has been lost in Tasmanian mountains twice, and once used ripped pages of a journal stuck on branches to find his way back out. He has also seen strange things in the bush that defy explanation and are best not spoken about. Kyle divides his time between his small country hometown in Tasmania's North West and Hobart. His debut novel *The Bluffs* was published in 2019. Author photo © Graham King



THE EIGHTH WONDER

Tania Farrelly

July 2021

Michael Joseph

Trade paperback – 368pp

Rights held: World

The Suffragette meets The Greatest Showman in this story of passion and courage, as a young feminist fights against the rules of society to find her place in the world.

New York, 1897. The richest city in the world.

Beautiful, young and privileged, Rose Kingsbury Smith is expected to play by the strict rules of social etiquette, to forfeit all career aspirations and to marry a man of good means. But she has a quietly rebellious streak, and is determined to become an architect and make her own mark on Manhattan's growing skyline. When the theft of a precious heirloom plunges her family into financial ruin, Rose becomes her family's most tradeable asset. She finds herself fighting for her independence and championing the ideal of equality for women everywhere.

Enigmatic Ethan Salt's inglorious circus days are behind him. He lives a quiet life on Coney Island with his beloved elephant Daisy and is devoted to saving animals who've been brutalised by show business. As he struggles to raise funds for his menagerie, he fears he will never build the sanctuary of his dreams ... until a chance encounter with a promising young architect changes his life forever.

Just when Rose is on the verge of seeing her persistence pay off, the ghosts of her past threaten to destroy everything she holds dear. In the face of heartbreaking prejudice and betrayal, she must learn to harness her greatest wonder within.

From Fifth Avenue mansions to Lower East Side tenements and the carnivals of Coney Island, *The Eighth Wonder* explores the brilliance and brutality of one of the world's most progressive eras and celebrates the visionaries who dare to rebel.

Sales points

- For fans of Fiona McIntosh and Natasha Lester, this is blockbuster historical fiction at its finest
- *The Eighth Wonder* is inspired by the events and the pioneering women of the Gilded Age, and by the author's own family connection to New York and interest in science (thanks to her physics teacher father)
- An excerpt from *The Eighth Wonder* was placed in the top 6 in the Romance Writers of Australia First Kiss Competition



Tania Farrelly is an award-winning advertising strategist who has spent over twenty-five years working in leading advertising agencies, telling stories for the world's biggest brands including Nike, Cadbury, Nestlé and L'Oreal. She has now built her own successful brand consultancy iSPY. With a background specialising in research and brand narrative, she has turned her hand from brand stories to human stories and with the help of creative writing courses at RMIT and Fiona McIntosh's Masterclass, completed *The Eighth Wonder*. Author photo © Tania Farrelly



SECRETS MY FATHER KEPT

Rachel Givney

June 2021

Michael Joseph

Trade paperback – 432pp

Rights Held: World

Rights sold: Germany (Bastei Luebbe)

Rights sold previous titles: *Jane in Love* – Film (Amazon Studios), North America (HarperCollins), Romania (RAO Distributie), Indonesia (Republika), Hungary (Athenaeum), Italy (Sperling), Russia (EKSMO), Turkey (Epsilon), Korea (Hainaim)

Set in Poland on the eve of World War II, *Secrets My Father Kept* is the gripping story of a young woman determined to uncover the truth behind her mother's disappearance and the dark secret from her father's past.

Krakow, Poland, 1939.

As the Führer keeps looking east and total war threatens to break out across Europe, seventeen-year-old Marie Karska dreams of becoming a doctor – something unthinkable for a woman in Poland at that time.

She also longs to know what happened to her mother, who disappeared fifteen years ago. She clashes with her secretive father, Dominik, himself an innovative and well-respected doctor, who refuses to talk about what happened to her mother (or even to tell Marie her mother's name). Dominik has devoted his life to caring for his only daughter. But a black fear haunts him, over the questionable act he committed to keep Marie safe. With German troops now marching to the border, Dominik is far more concerned with finding Marie a husband who will protect her. But Marie has already found the man she wants to marry: her childhood friend Ben Rosen, a kind, clever and handsome man who has returned to the town after a long and unexplained absence. Ben is kind, clever and handsome, and Marie is determined that his Jewish faith won't stand in the way of their future together.

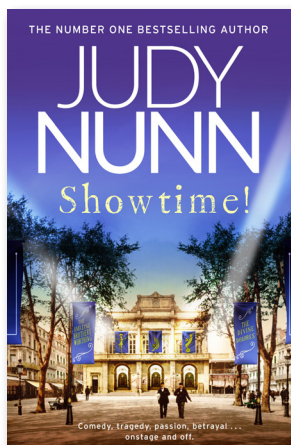
And nor will her father's refusal to explain the past stop her from unpicking his darkest secret. Marie must explore who she is and what she stands for, just as the threat of the German invasion becomes all too real.

Sales points

- Lively, cinematic writing with meticulously researched settings and a sharp plot twist at the end that ties in perfectly with the themes of the book
- Givney's fresh and captivating voice balances lighter moments with suspenseful scenes and darker themes
- Rachel's first novel, *Jane in Love*, has been optioned for film by Amazon Studios. Di Novi Pictures, the Oscar-nominated producers of *Little Women*, are attached to produce. Elissa Down, award-winning director of *The Black Balloon*, will direct. Givney, a respected screenwriter in Australia, will adapt her own novel for the screen
- Crossover historical women's fiction, great for the book club market. Many talking points – the countdown to war before Germany's invasion of Poland, the plight of Jewish people during World War II, pioneering women in medicine and science, father-daughter relationships, and the search for a lost mother



Rachel Givney is a writer and filmmaker originally from Sydney, Australia. She has worked on many of Australia's most beloved TV shows including *McLeod's Daughters*. Givney has lived in the US, the UK and Germany for extended periods, and she still speaks a little German. She travelled to Poland multiple times to research *Secrets My Father Kept*. Her first novel, *Jane in Love*, was published in 2020, and has been optioned by Amazon Studios for a film adaptation. She is currently writing the screenplay and working on her third novel. Author photo © Tegan Louise



SHOWTIME!

Judy Nunn

September 2021

William Heinemann Australia

Trade paperback – 400pp

Rights held: World

Rights sold previous titles: *Maralinga* – United Kingdom (Piatkus), France (Groupe Le Geste), Germany (Kruger Verlag); *Floodtide* – Germany (Kruger Verlag); *Pacific* – United Kingdom (Piatkus), Germany (Kruger Verlag); *Kal* – Czech Republic (Alpress)

Comedy, tragedy, passion and betrayal, both onstage and off...

Judy Nunn's new novel will take you from the cotton mills of England to the magnificent theatres of Melbourne, on a scintillating journey through the golden age of Australian showbusiness.

'So, Will, are you going to come with me and my team of merry performers to the sunny climes of Australia, where the crowds are already queuing and the streets are paved with gold?'

In the second half of the 19th century, Melbourne is a veritable boom town, as hopefuls from every corner of the globe flock to the gold fields of Victoria. And where people crave gold, they also crave entertainment.

Enter stage right: brothers Will and Max Worthing and their wives Mabel and Gertie. The family arrives from England in the 1880s with little else but the masterful talents that will see them rise from simple travelling performers to sophisticated entrepreneurs.

Enter stage left: their rivals, Carlo and Rube. Childhood friends since meeting in a London orphanage, the two men have literally fought their way to the top and are now producers of the bawdy but hugely popular 'Big Show Bonanza'. The fight for supremacy begins!

Waiting in the wings: Comedy, tragedy, passion and betrayal; the 1890s economic depression, the Spanish Flu pandemic and the horrors of World War I...

Sales points

- Judy Nunn is a master at the telling of history, and at bringing past eras alive
- Features a colourful cast of theatrical characters
- A return to the multi-generational historical genre that made Judy's name
- Judy's most recent novel, *Khaki Town*, has sold over 100,000 copies in Australia



After combining her internationally successful acting career with scriptwriting for television and radio, Judy Nunn decided in the 90s to turn her hand to prose. Her first three novels, *The Glitter Game*, *Centre Stage* and *Araluen*, set respectively in the worlds of television, theatre and film, became instant bestsellers, and the rest is history, quite literally in fact. She has since developed a love of writing historically-based fiction and her fame as a novelist has spread rapidly throughout Europe, where she is published in English, German, French, Dutch, Czech and Spanish. Her subsequent bestsellers, *Kal*, *Beneath the Southern Cross*, *Territory*, *Pacific*, *Heritage*, *Floodtide*, *Maralinga*, *Tiger Men*, *Elianne*, *Spirits of the Ghan*, *Sanctuary* and *Khaki Town* confirmed Judy's position as one of Australia's leading fiction writers. She has now sold over one million books in Australia alone. In 2015 Judy was made a Member of the Order of Australia for her 'significant service to the performing arts as a scriptwriter and actor of stage and screen, and to literature as an author.' Author photo © David Hahn



MIRROR MAN

Fiona McIntosh

June 2021

Michael Joseph

Trade paperback – 416pp

Rights held: World

Rights sold previous titles: *The Champagne War* – Germany (Blanvalet); *The Diamond Hunter* – United Kingdom (Ebury), Germany (Blanvalet), Lithuania (Alma Littera); *The Pearl Thief* – United Kingdom (Ebury), Italy (Newton Compton); *The Tea Gardens* – United Kingdom (Ebury), Lithuania (Alma Littera)

On the streets of England, a hunter is on the loose.

Bestselling author Fiona McIntosh's third crime fiction novel featuring the beloved DCI Jack Hawksworth.

'There is a connection, Jack. Find it, or you'll never find him.'

Police are baffled by several deaths, each unique and bizarre in their own way – and shockingly brutal. Scotland Yard sends in its crack DCI, the enigmatic Jack Hawksworth, who wastes no time in setting up Operation Mirror. His chief wants him to dismiss any plausibility of a serial killer before the media gets on the trail.

With his best investigative team around him, Jack resorts to some unconventional methods to disprove or find a link to the gruesome deaths. One involves a notorious serial killer from his past, and the other, a smart and seductive young journalist who'll do anything to catch her big break.

Discovering he's following the footsteps of a vigilante and in a race against time, Jack will do everything it takes to stop another killing – but at what personal cost for those he holds nearest and dearest? By the bestselling author of *Bye Bye Baby* and *Beautiful Death* (as well as her many bestselling historical fiction novels) comes this heart-stopping new thriller that questions whether one life is worth more than another.

Sales points

- The third in the DCI Jack Hawksworth series, *Mirror Man* also works as a standalone
- Highly compelling police procedurals, with a dark underbelly, from a blockbuster author with a huge following
- Fiona's fans are known to read widely across genres and this will be no exception



2019



2019



Fiona McIntosh is an internationally bestselling author of novels for adults and children. She co-founded an award-winning travel magazine with her husband, which they ran for fifteen years while raising their twin sons before she became a full-time author. Fiona roams the world researching and drawing inspiration for her novels, and runs a series of highly respected fiction masterclasses. She calls South Australia home. Author photo © Anne Stropin



THE SPY'S WIFE

Fiona McIntosh

November 2021

Michael Joseph

Trade paperback – 448pp

Rights held: World

Rights sold previous titles: *The Champagne War* – Germany (Blanvalet); *The Diamond Hunter* – United Kingdom (Ebury), Germany (Blanvalet), Lithuania (Alma Littera); *The Pearl Thief* – United Kingdom (Ebury), Italy (Newton Compton); *The Tea Gardens* – United Kingdom (Ebury), Lithuania (Alma Littera)

Fiona McIntosh is back with a sweeping escapist adventure-romance set in World War II.

Levisham, Yorkshire, 1935.

Evie, a stationmaster's eldest daughter in a sleepy hamlet of northern England, runs the local cafeteria. She bakes the same cake each day – a favourite with the regular travellers – and helps her father to keep the station winning awards and running on time. While Evie is perceived as a mild woman without ambition, she devours the news and is deeply engaged with the happenings of the world.

When Roger Hall starts visiting frequently to go rambling on the moors, he catches the eye of Evie's younger sister. While jesting over his wastage of the cherries he picked out and discarded from her cake, Evie apologises for her sister's flirtatious behaviour. Evie and Roger begin to look out for each other, eventually acknowledging the strong attraction that has erupted and surprising everyone with the relationship that develops towards marriage.

As Hitler's rhetoric heats up in Germany and the looming war becomes regular conversation, people are warned by the government to be on their guard for anything unusual. Authorities soon release news that an enemy spy is in their region. Local police can offer no clues as to who the spy might be, except that he doesn't like glacé cherries, which were found left behind among cake crumbs at a secret lookout. Evie is shocked. She has just become engaged to Roger Hall and yet, helplessly, she suspects he is the German spy.

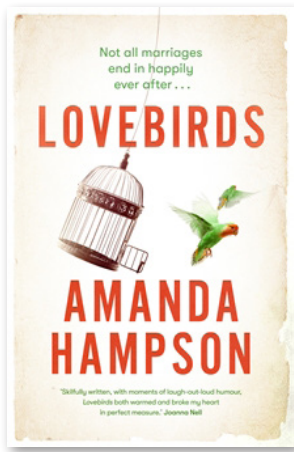
When she contacts police and confronts him, she is devastated to learn the reason why he would betray Britain. It is now up to her to plead his case with Whitehall, who plans to have him executed quickly for treason. And her audacious plan to save his life and to defy Hitler is irresistible to the British Government...

Sales points

- Evocatively described English setting – the very best way to armchair travel
- Fiona McIntosh has sold over 680,000 copies in Australia and New Zealand alone
- As well as being an incredibly successful commercial fiction author, Fiona is also the author of adult fantasy titles (published by HarperCollins) with rights sold in France, and has also written titles for children
- Her books *The Tea Gardens*, *The Chocolate Tin* and *The Perfumer's Secret* have all been shortlisted or longlisted in the ABIA awards



Fiona McIntosh is an internationally bestselling author of novels for adults and children. She co-founded an award-winning travel magazine with her husband, which they ran for fifteen years while raising their twin sons before she became a full-time author. Fiona roams the world researching and drawing inspiration for her novels, and runs a series of highly respected fiction masterclasses. She calls South Australia home. Author photo © Anne Stropin



LOVEBIRDS

Amanda Hampson

May 2021

Viking

Trade paperback – 352pp

Rights held: World

Rights sold previous titles: *Sixty Summers* – Audio (WF Howes); *The Yellow Villa* – Audio (WF Howes), Italy (Newton Compton), Czech Republic (Baronet); *The French Perfumer* – Audio (WF Howes), Czech Republic (Baronet), Italy (Newton Compton); *Two For the Road* – Germany (Random House)

Not all marriages end in happily ever after...

Elizabeth, in her early 60s, is long estranged from her husband Ray, who returned from the war a broken man determined to set her free from a tortured life with him. She rarely sees her two adult sons, and has a strained relationship with her daughter-in-law Claire, now a single parent, and her 15-year-old grandson, Zach, whom she adored as a small child. When Zach gets into trouble with the police, Claire turns to Liz for help.

Liz sets off on a roadtrip with Zach to find his grandfather. Two less compatible travelling companions would be hard to imagine. Everything his Nana does is deeply embarrassing to Zach, and all her attempts to draw him out are met with silent resistance or one-word sentences.

Liz and Zach find that Ray has been living off the grid in a remote and primitive shack. Visitors to his kingdom are tolerated, but not welcome. Upon their arrival, Ray is nowhere to be found. Ray, it turns out, is in hospital battling a terminal illness, with barely weeks to live. Liz insists on taking him home with her to pass his final days. As Liz and Ray begin to open up to each other about the intervening years, they rediscover what drew them together all those years ago and cautiously rekindle their relationship. In the end, it is Zach himself who mends the cracks that have broken his family apart.

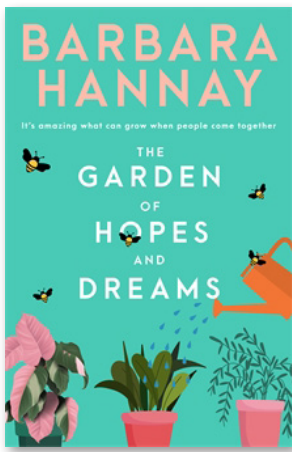
Vignettes from the past alternate with the current-day story, which explores family life and relationships with astute detail and warmth. Amanda Hampson is a master of complex relationships, vivid characters with rich inner lives, and dynamic narratives, in the vein of other powerhouses like Liane Moriarty and Jojo Moyes.

Sales points

- Perfect for fans of Liane Moriarty
- Warm, witty, wise and wonderful, Amanda Hampson is an entertaining and insightful writer whose novels have broad crossover potential
- Wide demographic appeal with romance, coming of age elements and diverse, multi-generational characters
- Beautifully written, escapist, bookclub-ready fiction



Amanda Hampson grew up in rural New Zealand. She spent her early twenties travelling, finally settling in Australia in 1979, where she now lives in Sydney's Northern Beaches. Writing professionally for more than 20 years, she is the author of the novels *The Olive Sisters*, *Two for the Road*, *The French Perfumer*, *The Yellow Villa* and *Sixty Summers*, as well as two non-fiction books. Author photo © Christian Trinder



THE GARDEN OF HOPES AND DREAMS

Barbara Hannay

August 2021

Michael Joseph

Trade paperback – 352pp

Rights held: World

Rights sold previous titles: *The Sister's Gift* – Bulgaria (Hermes); *Meet Me in Venice* – Bulgaria (Hermes), Czech Republic (Baronet), Estonia (Eram Books); *The Country Wedding* – Czech Republic (Baronet); *The Grazier's Wife* – Czech Republic (Baronet)

From award-winning novelist Barbara Hannay comes a timely and uplifting story about the importance of community and connection.

Can love and friendship blossom on a rooftop?

The residents in Brisbane's Riverview apartment block barely know each other. They have no idea of the loneliness, the lost hopes and dreams, being experienced behind their neighbours' closed doors.

Vera, now widowed, is trying her hardest to create a new life for herself in an unfamiliar city. Unlucky-in-love Maddie has been hurt too many times by untrustworthy men, yet refuses to give up on romance. Ned, a reclusive scientist, has an unusual interest in bees and worm farms. And Syrian refugee Tariq has all but given up hope on ever seeing his beloved family again.

When a couple of gardening enthusiasts from one of the apartments suggest they all create a communal garden on their rooftop, no one is interested. Not at first, anyway. But as the residents come together over their budding plants and produce, their lives become interconnected in ways they could never have imagined.

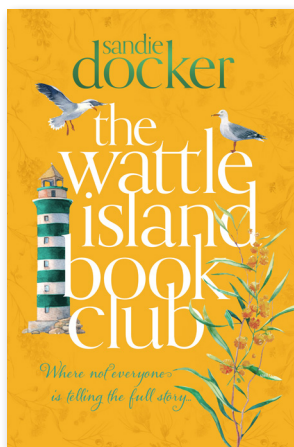
From award-winning novelist Barbara Hannay, *The Garden of Hopes and Dreams* is a timely and uplifting story about the importance of community and the healing power of connection.

Sales points

- Barbara Hannay is one of Australia's most highly acclaimed romance authors, with over six million books sold worldwide
- Hannay is winner of the RITA award and the RUBY award
- For fans of Beth O'Leary and Rachel Johns
- Hannay's books have broad appeal, for women aged 15-95!



Barbara Hannay writes women's fiction, with over twelve million books sold worldwide. Her novels set in Australia have been translated into twenty-six languages, and she has won the Romance Writers of America's RITA award and been shortlisted five times. Two of Barbara's novels have also won the Romance Writers of Australia's Romantic Book of the Year award. Barbara lives in Townsville with her writer husband and enjoys being close to the Coral Sea, the stunning tropical scenery and colourful characters, all of which find their way into her popular stories. Author photo © Barbara Hannay



THE WATTLE ISLAND BOOK CLUB

Sandie Docker

August 2021

Michael Joseph

Trade paperback – 304pp

Rights held: World

Rights sold previous title (*The Kookaburra Creek Café*): Germany (Random House)

A heartwarming story about taking risks and finding a new lease on life, by the bestselling author of *The Banksia Bay Beach Shack*.

Is it ever too late to rewrite your own story?

In 1950, teenager Anne flees Wattle Island, heartbroken and desperate to make her own way in the world. But as she begins to forge a life for herself in the city, a forbidden love returns, and she is faced with a choice that could destroy all she has built. Then, when tragedy strikes, establishing the Wattle Island book club is the only thing that offers her solace.

Spirited librarian Grace Elliot has been writing bucket lists since she was seven, and is ticking off as many challenges as she can now that life has handed her a hefty dose of perspective. Heading to Wattle Island on one of her adventures, she is determined to uncover a long-held mystery surrounding the town's historic book club, unlocking a buried truth that has been trapped between the dusty pages of secrecy for years.

All too aware of how fragile life is, Anne and Grace must come together to help the residents of Wattle Island find the bravery to move beyond the trauma that tore the book club apart. Budding relationships offer new hope, along with a library project for the town's future – but it will take more than a few lively literary debates to break the silence and heal the past.

Welcome to the Wattle Island Book Club, where new chapters begin and end, and not everyone is telling the full story.

Sales points

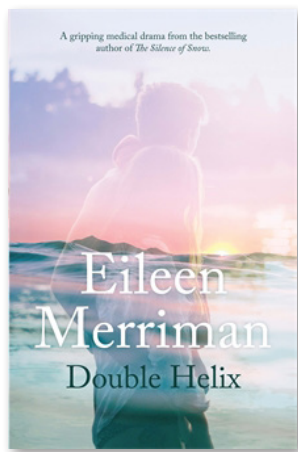
- Docker has developed a strong brand for herself, writing warm, feelgood stories set in evocative places
- Ideal as a gift
- Perfect for fans of Barbara Hannay

Praise for Sandie Docker

- 'Docker soars from the absolute heart' – *Australian Women's Weekly*
- 'The best of heart-wrenching yarns' – *Woman's Day*



Sandie Docker grew up in Coff's Harbour, and first fell in love with reading when her father introduced her to fantasy books as a teenager. But it wasn't until she was taking a translation course at university that her Mandarin lecturer suggested she might have a knack for writing – a seed of an idea that sat quietly at the back of her mind while she lived overseas and travelled the world. Sandie first decided to put pen to paper (yes, she still writes everything the old-fashioned way before hitting a keyboard) when living in London. Now back in Sydney with her husband and daughter, she writes every day. Author photo © Naomi Bartlett Photography



DOUBLE HELIX

Eileen Merriman

August 2021

RHNZ Black Swan

Trade paperback – 366pp

Rights held: World

Rights sold previous titles: *Pieces of You* – Turkey (Indigo); *A Trio of Sophies* – Germany (Oetinger Verlag)

A gripping medical drama from the bestselling author of *The Silence of Snow*.

Would you want to know what awaits you? Would you want to be in control of your life . . . and death? What would you do for love?

Sooner or later, willingly or unwillingly, he's going to leave you . . . The words cut deep. Emily knows Jake is not like his father, he'd never leave her willingly. But if he has inherited the tainted genes of his mother, then Huntington's disease is more than likely to take him away. He may even make the same request his mother made when Jake Heremaia was still a teenager: to end the suffering for good.

Sales points

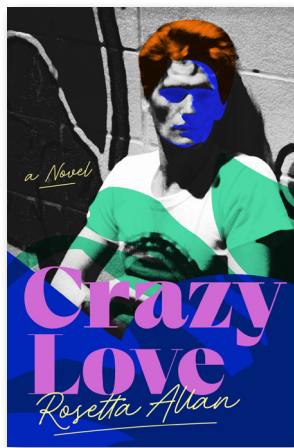
- Eileen Merriman's novel *Moonlight Sonata* was longlisted for the 2020 Ockham New Zealand Award
- A revealing insight into the pressures faced by doctors
- An accessible exploration of complex ethical issues, reminiscent of the works of Jodi Picoult

Praise for *Moonlight Sonata*

- 'The plot is propulsive ... only the most disciplined of readers will put the book down and turn the light off at a sensible time of night' – *Weekend Herald*
- 'The pivotal emotions are those of love and foreboding. Merriman does an excellent job of concealing the dreadful climax until the end, a climax that when it happens, feels entirely right' – *Otago Daily Times*

Eileen Merriman's first three young adult novels, *Pieces of You*, *Catch Me When You Fall*, and *Invisibly Breathing* were finalists in the NZ Book Awards for Children and Young Adults in 2018 and 2019, and both *Pieces of You* and *Catch Me When You Fall* are Storylines Notable Books. Her first adult novel, *Moonlight Sonata*, was released in July 2019, with reviewers calling it 'skilfully crafted', and a 'carefully layered and thoughtful drama, with beautifully observed and believable Kiwi characters'. Her other awards include runner-up in the 2018 *Sunday Star-Times* Short Story Award, third for three consecutive years in the 2014-2016 *Sunday Star-Times* Short Story Awards, second in the 2015 Bath Flash Fiction Award, commended in the 2015 Bath Short Story Competition, and first place in the 2015 Graeme Lay Short Story Competition. She works full-time as a consultant haematologist. Author photo © Colleen Lenihan





CRAZY LOVE

Rosetta Allan

August 2021

Penguin New Zealand

Trade paperback – 304pp

Rights held: World

When love is stretched almost to breaking point.

*'Dear Sir Robert Muldoon,
It's been quite some time, hasn't it? I would send best wishes for your health and that of your wife, if doing so wasn't completely ridiculous. If writing another letter wasn't completely ridiculous. But I do hope you are well, just as I do for my dog who passed not so long ago.'*

So Vicki begins her second letter to Robert Muldoon. It's been 28 years since she last wrote to him, when he was alive and Prime Minister, and she was asking why it was so hard for people like her, who had to live off a pie a day because that was all they could afford. As she writes to him again now, she is desperately alone, lying awake at two in the morning seeking answers, and once again it is Robert she turns to.

Vicki recounts her life from when she first wrote, living with her 'loser-boyfriend', having failed basic army training because of complications from a rushed abortion. She was staying in a rundown boarding house with an assortment of no-hopers, people she called 'Dire-Straighters.' Then she met and fell in love with the irrepressible Billy, and as the two began to make money, start a business and a family, buy an expensive house and mix with different crowds, the past seemed to be far behind them. That is, until the global financial crisis hit and they lost nearly everything.

But they still have each other. They can survive this, start again, make a new home in smaller house, and reinvent themselves with art and writing. But Billy has an unpredictable side that can sometimes go overboard. They've survived so much together, but can they survive Billy's bipolar episode that makes him intent on pulling them apart?

Sales points

- A moving, believable and extremely readable love story
- Brings insight into the impact of bipolar disorder, not only on the sufferer but also on close family and friends
- Captures 1980s Auckland and the global financial crisis, up to the COVID lockdown, as well as a range of New Zealanders, from gang members to the well-heeled, arty crowd
- A multi-award winning author, Rosetta Allan completed a residency at the Museum of Nonconformist Art in Russia



Rosetta Allan is a writer of prose and poetry. Her work is widely anthologised, and she has published two volumes of poetry, *Little Rock* (2007) and *Over Lunch* (2010). Her first novel, *Purgatory*, was published by Penguin in 2014 and was selected by Apple Books as one of the best reads of that year. Rosetta has received the Kathleen Grattan Poetry Award, the Metonymy Best Poem Award, a South Pacific Pictures Emerging Writers' Lab internship, a Sir James Wallace Master of Creative Writing Scholarship, and a Michael King Writers Centre Emerging Writers Residency, and is the 2019 University of Waikato & Creative New Zealand Writer in Residence. In 2016, she was the first New Zealander to take up the St Petersburg Art Residency, located within the Museum of Nonconformist Art in Russia where she spent time researching her second novel, *The Unreliable People*. Author photo © Colleen Maria Lenihan



THE AUTHOR'S CUT

Owen Marshall

June 2021

RHNZ Vintage

Trade paperback – 304pp

Rights held: World



A new selection of stories from a long and distinguished career.

Chosen by the author from his thirteen previous collections, this latest selection of stories includes 'Coming Home in the Dark', the inspiration for a new feature film.

Owen Marshall is regarded as one of New Zealand's finest living writers. His stories capture the imagination and refuse to let go. From dark to funny, acerbic to warm, they probe the national psyche with clear-eyed insight. This selection from a long career ranges across New Zealand and ventures overseas, with stories exploring cruelty and love, looking back to childhood and capturing the world we live in today. Full of unexpected turns, lyrical writing, wry observations and intriguing plots. With foreword by Fiona Kidman.

Sales points

- 'Coming Home in the Dark', the first story in the collection, was recently made into a feature film, selected for Sundance. Its release will coincide with the publication of this collection
- Marshall is widely considered to be New Zealand's finest living short-story writer along with Fiona Kidman
- Marshall's stories appeal to those interested in New Zealand fiction, particularly tourists, as he captures the landscape, voice, small towns, people, and wry humour so beautifully

Praise for Owen Marshall

'Owen Marshall has established himself as one of the masters of the short story' – *Livres Hebdo*, Paris

'I find myself exclaiming over and over again with delight at the precision, the beauty, the near perfection of his writing.' – Fiona Kidman, bestselling author of *All the Way to Summer*

'Quite simply the most able and the most successful exponent of the short story currently writing in New Zealand.' – Michael King

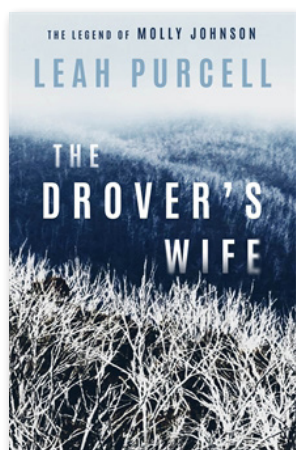
Praise for *Coming Home in the Dark* (feature film)

'A rivetingly nasty ride and an assured debut from a promising new director.' – *The Hollywood Reporter*

'A haunting and suffocating mix of visceral horror and a brooding sense of doom ... features brilliant performances from its cast.' – *Mashable India*



Owen Marshall, described by Vincent O'Sullivan as 'New Zealand's best prose writer', is an award-winning novelist, short story writer, poet and anthologist. Awards for his fiction include the New Zealand Literary Fund Scholarship in Letters, fellowships at Otago and Canterbury universities, and the Katherine Mansfield Memorial Fellowship in Menton, France. In 2000 he became an Officer of the New Zealand Order of Merit (ONZM) for services to literature, in 2012 was made a Companion of the New Zealand Order of Merit (CNZM) and in 2013 received the Prime Minister's Award for Literary Achievement in Fiction. In 2006 he was invited by the French Centre National du Livre to participate in their Les Belles Etranges festival and subsequent tour, anthology and documentary. Author photo © Reg Graham



THE DROVER'S WIFE

Leah Purcell

December 2019

Hamish Hamilton

Trade paperback – 288pp

Rights held: World



Purcell reimagines the Henry Lawson classic as a compelling thriller full of passion and fight, digging into Australia's dark colonial past with a fresh and timely twist.

Deep in the heart of Australia's high country, along an ancient, hidden track, lives Molly Johnson and her four surviving children, another on the way. Her husband Joe is away months at a time droving livestock, leaving his family in the bush to fend for itself. Molly's children are her world, and life is hard and precarious with only their dog, Alligator, and a shotgun for protection. But it can be even harder when Joe's around.

At just twelve years, of age Molly's eldest son Danny is the true man of the house, determined to see his mother and siblings safe – from raging floodwaters, hunger, and intruders, man and reptile. Danny is mature beyond his years, but there are some things no child should see. He knows what it takes to be a drover's wife.

One night under the moon's watch, Molly has a visitor of a different kind – a black 'story keeper', Yadaka. He's on the run from authorities in the nearby town, and exchanges kindness for shelter. Both know that justice in this nation caught between two worlds can be as brutal as its landscape. But in their short time together, Yadaka shows Molly a secret truth, and the strength to imagine a different path.

Full of fury and power, Leah Purcell's *The Drover's Wife: The Legend of Molly Johnson* is a brave reimagining of the Henry Lawson short story that has become an Australian classic. Brilliantly plotted, it is a compelling thriller of our pioneering past that confronts head-on issues of today: race, gender, violence and inheritance.

Sales points

- The film adaptation, starring Purcell, has just been released in North America by Samuel Goldwyn Films
- Fast-paced with a page-turning quality, this is a thriller based on meticulous research that sheds light on Australia's shameful colonial history
- Purcell has a strong profile as an actress, writer and director
- *The Drover's Wife* play, on which the novel is based, took Australian theatre by storm and won eleven awards, including the Nick Enright Prize for Playwriting and the Book of the Year at the NSW Premier's Literary Awards, and Best New Australian Work at the Sydney Theatre Awards



Leah Purcell is a multi-award-winning and self-made author, playwright, actor, director, filmmaker, producer, screenwriter and showrunner. At the heart of her work are female and First Nation themes, characters and issues. *The Drover's Wife* was first a play written by and starring Purcell, which premiered at Belvoir St Theatre in late 2016 and swept the board during the 2017 awards season, winning the New South Wales Premier's Literary Award for Playwriting and Book of the Year; the Victorian Premier's Literary Award for Drama and the Victorian Prize for Literature; the Australian Writers' Guild Award for Best Stage Work, Major Work and the David Williamson Prize for Excellence in Writing for Australian Theatre; the Helpmann Award for Best Play and Best New Australian Work; and the Sydney–UNESCO City of Film Award. Purcell also wrote, directed and starred in the feature film adaptation of *The Drover's Wife*. Purcell is a proud GoA, Gunggari, Wakka Wakka Murri woman from Queensland. Author photo © Marnya Rothe



ABOUT THE ADULT PUBLISHING TEAMS

PENGUIN RANDOM HOUSE AUSTRALIA



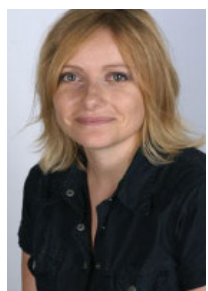
Justin Ractliffe
Publishing Director

Justin Ractliffe is the Publishing Director at Penguin Random House Australia. His previous role was Managing Director of Hachette Australia and he has held a variety of senior executive roles across publishing. Australian authors he has worked with include Geraldine Brooks, Shaun Tan, Maggie Beer, Peter FitzSimons and Michael Robotham. He is the recipient of the 2019 Copyright Agency's Cultural Fund Publisher Fellowship and published his report 'Instinct, Input and Insight: Reader-centricity in publishing' in October of that year.



Nikki Christer
Publisher at Large

Nikki Christer is Publisher at Large at Penguin Random House Australia. Authors she works with include Peter Carey, Tim Winton, Anna Funder, Richard Flanagan, Elliot Perlman, Chloe Hooper, Stephanie Alexander and Evie Wyld. In 2014, Richard Flanagan's *The Narrow Road to the Deep North* won the Man Booker Prize. Nikki also sits on the board of the Sydney Writers' Festival.



Beverley Cousins
Publisher, Commercial Fiction

Before moving to Australia with her family in 2007, Beverley Cousins had twenty years of experience in London publishing (first for Pan Macmillan and then Penguin Books UK). Following a year's secondment with Penguin Australia, she moved to Random House Australia as Fiction Publisher. During her career she has published a number of brand-name authors, including Minette Walters, Colin Dexter and Janet Evanovich, and currently looks after bestselling authors Judy Nunn, Loretta Hill, Deborah Rodriguez, Nicole Alexander, Candice Fox and M.L. Stedman, among others.



Meredith Curnow
Publisher, Literary Fiction

Meredith Curnow is a literary publisher working across Knopf, Vintage and Hamish Hamilton, publishing fiction and non-fiction. The authors she is delighted to work with include Thomas Keneally, Julia Gillard and Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala, Yassmin Abdel-Magied, Philipp Meyer, David Malouf, Kate Forsyth, Tara June Winch and Kathy Lette. Meredith is involved in a number of fellowship programs. She is also a member of the board of youth arts organisation Express Media.



Alison Urquhart
Publisher, Non-Fiction

Alison Urquhart is a commercial non-fiction publisher. Before joining Penguin Random House, Alison was Associate Publisher, Non-Fiction at HarperCollins Australia. She has also worked as a literary agent, both in Britain and Australia. Alison broadly publishes across the areas of history, military history, sport, true crime, memoir and biography. She publishes many bestselling authors, including Jesse Fink and Turia Pitt, and highly acclaimed historians Paul Ham, Mike Carlton and Garry Linnell.



PENGUIN RANDOM HOUSE AUSTRALIA CONTINUED



Ali Watts

Publisher, Commercial Fiction and Commercial Non-Fiction

Ali Watts is a publisher of commercial fiction and select non-fiction, publishing into our Penguin and Michael Joseph imprints. With over twenty-five years' experience at Penguin, she has worked with some of Australia's most beloved and successful writers and personalities. She has a particular passion for commercial fiction, and her internationally bestselling authors include Monica McInerney, Fiona McIntosh, Katherine Scholes, Megan Goldin, Josephine Moon and Kyle Perry.



Sophie Ambrose

Publisher, Non-Fiction

Sophie Ambrose moved to Australia from England in 1998 and joined Penguin Books Australia. In 2002 she moved to Random House Australia as a Senior Editor, then Managing Editor, Commissioning Editor and now Publisher. In her various roles she has worked with some of Penguin Random House's biggest authors across all genres. She currently focuses on memoirs, parenting books, gift books and self-help.



Isabelle Yates

Commissioning Editor, Non-Fiction

Having previously worked at Penguin Random House UK, Izzy now commissions non-fiction at Penguin Random House Australia. Her areas of interest are pop culture, health and wellbeing, self-help and personal development, and cookery. She is always on the lookout for inspiring books with a valuable application to real life. Izzy's authors include Professor Valter Longo, plant-based nutritionist Simon Hill, comedian Nat's What I Reckon and the creators of the hit podcast *Shameless*, Michelle Andrews and Zara McDonald.



Brandon VanOver

Commissioning Editor

Brandon VanOver moved from Curtis Brown in the US to Random House Australia in 2004, starting as Editorial Assistant and eventually becoming a Senior Editor and then the Managing Editor at Penguin Random House Australia. After a time as Associate Publisher, Non-Fiction, at Simon & Schuster Australia, Brandon returned to PRH in 2020 as a Commissioning Editor, focusing on narrative non-fiction, memoir, sport, popular culture, history, true crime and humour.



Radhiah Chowdhury

Commissioning Editor

Radhiah Chowdhury has worked as a children's editor with Scholastic Australia, Allen & Unwin and Giramondo, before joining the PRH Australia audio program in 2019. She is currently a commissioning editor in the Young Readers and Adult teams, with a focus on inclusive publishing. Radhiah is also the recipient of the 2019-2020 Beatrice Davis Editorial Fellowship, awarded for her ongoing research project: 'It's hard to be what you can't see: Diversity Within Australian Publishing'.



PENGUIN RANDOM HOUSE NEW ZEALAND



Claire Murdoch
Head of Publishing

As Head of Publishing, Claire Murdoch directs the Penguin Random House New Zealand list across non-fiction, fiction and children's books. With broad experience in the Australian and New Zealand book trade, including roles at Allen & Unwin, Te Papa Press and PRH, her books have won dozens of awards. Claire has particular expertise in illustrated non-fiction and art books, Maori books, popular culture, biography and memoir. Her authors include Chelsea Winter, Ruby Jones and Kyle Mewburn.



Harriet Allan
Publisher, Fiction

Harriet Allan has been working for Penguin Random House and its earlier incarnations for over thirty years. She publishes many of New Zealand's pre-eminent writers, including Fiona Kidman, Owen Marshall, Witi Ihimaera and Charlotte Grimshaw, among numerous others who regularly feature on the New Zealand bestseller list. Over the years her authors have won the New Zealand Book Awards, the Montana Book Awards, the New Zealand Post Awards and the Best First Book in the Commonwealth Writers Prize, and several have been shortlisted for the prestigious Frank O'Connor Award. She publishes both literary and commercial fiction under the imprints of Penguin, Vintage and Black Swan. She also publishes Young Adult fiction.



Margaret Sinclair
Publisher, General Non-Fiction

Margaret Sinclair commissions general trade non-fiction titles, including cookbooks, lifestyle, health and wellbeing, heartland and parenting titles. She also works with a range of organisations including charities, schools and corporates to produce professional and attractive books for and about them. She has worked for several publishers in New Zealand and the UK over the last thirty years, including Heinemann Educational, Macmillan, Fodor's and Random House.



Jeremy Sherlock
Publishing Contractor, Non-Fiction

Jeremy Sherlock (Tainui, Ngati Awa) acquires and develops select titles exclusively for Penguin Random House New Zealand as publishing consultant. Beginning his career in 2005 as an editor at New Zealand's oldest publisher, Reed Publishing, Jeremy's most recent in-house role was as senior non-fiction publisher with Penguin Random House New Zealand working across biography and memoir, pop culture, history and Māoritanga. This included 13 bestselling books with Scotty Morrison, beginning with *The Raupō Phrasebook of Modern Māori* in 2011 and including 2015's *Māori Made Easy*, as well as other works with Hēmi Kelly, Waikato-Tainui, Te Uru Taumata (Ngāi Tūhoe) and *Te Taura Whiri i te reo Māori/The Māori Language*.