



Australian Society of Authors

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ASA Mentors Register 2009: Children's writing

Goldie Alexander

St Kilda, VIC

Genres: Fiction and non-fiction, mostly children's and Young Adult

Preferred contact: Email, face to face, post, telephone

With 40 published books for children, Young Adults and adults, numerous articles and short stories, plus over a decade of taking Creative Writing workshops and classes, I can offer a wide range of writing experience and marketing to anyone interested in using me as a mentor.

Mark Carthew

Melbourne, Vic

Genres: Children's and illustrated books

Preferred contact: Face to face, email and phone

I have experience in developing, commissioning and writing for primary children's literacy series, play scripts, poetry, wordplay and narrative. I have a number of internationally published and award winning titles in these areas and have worked with numerous authors and illustrators in Australia and overseas in an editorial capacity. My recent focus on children's trade publishing has further strengthened my perspectives and passion as a professional writer. I have worked as a performing arts consultant for the Victorian Education Department, a sessional lecturer in Language Education with Deakin University and, in 2002, as a Development Editor for Pearson Education Australia as part of the Victorian Government's Teacher Release to Industry Program. As a commissioning editor and writer for two of Australia's most highly regarded education series I have worked with many leading Australian and international authors and illustrators including Michael Rosen, Pamela Allen, Peter Gouldthorpe, Margaret Wild, Graeme Base, Allan Baillie, Janeen Brian and Morris Lurie. For more

information go to http://www.showtell.com.au/authors/mark_carthew.htm
or http://www.bookedout.com.au/authors/Mark_Carthew/.

Gary Crew

Maleny, QLD

Genres: Children's and Young Adult novels and illustrated books

Preferred contact: Email

Gary Crew is Australia's most awarded author for Children and Young Adults having won the CBC Book of the Year four times – twice for his Young Adult novels and twice for his illustrated books. He has also won the National Children's Book Award, the NSW and Victorian Premiers' Awards, the Ned Kelly Award for crime fiction and twice been short listed for the Edgar Allan Poe Mystery Fiction Award in the USA. Gary has written more than 40 books which are published all over the world. He has undertaken four ASA mentorships in Young Adult Fiction, all of which have resulted in publication. Gary is an experienced editor. He is also Associate Professor and Coordinator of Creative Writing at the University of the Sunshine Coast.

Hazel Edwards

Melbourne, VIC

Genres: Fiction for children and YA, as well as non-fiction and scripting.

Preferred contact: telephone, email, face to face

Best known for *There's a Hippopotamus on Our Roof Eating Cake*, Hazel writes across media, including YA *FakeID*, *Antarctica's Frozen Chosen* and sequel *Outback Ferals* (Hachette). Recently she co-authored ex blog *Cycling Solo: Ireland to Istanbul* (Brolga) with her son Trevelyan Quest Edwards.

Her web site www.hazeledwards.com <http://www.hazeledwards.com/> has details of her Antarctic expedition publications including animation, scripts, Auslan DVDs and junior fiction. Hazel mentors gifted students, runs Non Boring Writing workshops for genealogists, web-chats in literary festivals and lectures in writing for children and Non-fiction Projects at Holmesglen TAFE. Melbourne-based, Hazel is married with two children, and a grandson for whom she writes a story each birthday. In 2006 she was a national Literacy Champion and is co-portfolio holder of Education & Writing for Children on the ASA Committee.

Kate Forsyth

Sydney, NSW

Genres: Fantasy fiction for children, YA and adults

Preferred contact: Email, face to face, telephone

Kate Forsyth is the author of almost 20 books for children, young adults and adults, most of them in the fantasy Genres. Her books are sold in Australia, NZ, the US, Canada, the UK, Germany, Russia, Japan and Italy, and regularly feature in the fantasy bestselling lists. She is best known for her

Witches of Eileanan books, and her new series for children, *The Gypsy Crown*. She has a BA in Literature and a MA in Writing, and is an experienced teacher, lecturer and mentor.

Nigel Gray

Perth, WA

Genres: Picture books, children's fiction, adult literary fiction

Preferred contact: email, telephone

I regard picture books as a particularly important art form. Because of the limitation of length, a good text is closer to poetry than prose (this is not a reference to rhyming texts). Picture books are usually a child's introduction to the world of books. Books can become a child's friends, a place they can be at home, and this opens doors to a lifetime of pleasure and opportunity. And children's stories, without illustration comprise the next important step in the development of a child's imagination and the ability to empathise. I have published about 65 books, nearly 50 of which have been for children. My books have been published in 25 countries and 22 languages, have won four major awards, been short-listed for 15 more, and have picked up 16 further honours in Australia, Europe and the United States. I have won The Dickens Fellowship Award and The Irish Post Award for Literature. I have previously been mentor to five writers in the ASA scheme. I have had extensive experience in teaching Creative Writing, as well as editing fiction for magazine and book publishing.

Nette Hilton

Northern Rivers, NSW

Genres: Children's literature

Preferred contact: face to face, email, post, telephone

Nette Hilton is one of Australia's favourite authors. She's written extensively for children (and adults) and has won many awards for her books. *The Web* and *Proper Little Lady* are still sought out after nearly twenty years. Her newest works are just as popular. They're funny and exciting and always have a touch of something different about them. From circuses for young readers to the strange haunting of Ari Greimshaw, her work manages to find a resonance in everyone's life. She lives on the North Coast of NSW where she continues to write books for readers from all ages. She's a frequent guest at Writer's festivals and in classrooms across Australia running workshops for tomorrow's writers.

Elizabeth Hutchins

Adelaide, SA

Genres: Children's stories and novels

Preferred contact: Telephone, email, post and face-to-face

Elizabeth has published a wide range of books for children and young adults, a number of them short-listed for awards. A graduate of Adelaide University, she has lectured in Writing for Children at the Adelaide Institute of TAFE, taught a WEA picture book writing course, run many workshops

with adults that have resulted in publication of their work in anthologies, and undertaken assessments and a mentorship for the South Australian Writers' Centre. Elizabeth keeps in touch with current trends in children's literature as chair of the National Program Committee of the May Gibbs Children's Literature Trust, as a member of the ASA's Committee of Management, and through involvement with the Ekidnas (SA children's authors' network), the Children's Book Council, the Books.Be in It Festival and other organisations. She has been a judge of the Premier's Literature Awards for the Adelaide Festival of Arts and has judged a number of writing competitions for adults as well as children.

Jen McVeity

Melbourne, VIC

Genres: Children's fiction

Preferred contact: email, telephone, face to face

Jen McVeity has published over 20 books for children in five countries. *Dreamcatcher* is a set text in many schools, on the Premiers List and made the New York Library's best books list. Jen's renowned Book Boot Camps (Day 1: Advanced craft & Day 2: Business skills) have run in California, Texas, Florida, Utah, New Mexico, Alabama, the Philippines, Japan, Taiwan and four states of Australia. Jen has also served as board chair of the Society of Children's Book Writers and Illustrators, the largest writing organisation in the world. Warm, witty and empowering, Jen is one of the directors of three companies – www.highlightingwriting.com, www.fasttrackwriting.com and www.sevenstepswriting.com. She is also a Churchill Fellow and the 2006 Federal Government, National Literacy Champion. Personal website: www.jenmcveity.com

Stephen Measday

Blue Mountains, NSW

Genres: Junior fiction, young adult fiction and screen adaptations

Preferred contact: email, face to face, post, telephone

Stephen Measday is the author of fifteen books for younger readers (junior/young adult fiction) and has been published in Australia, USA, UK, South Korea, France and Indonesia. So far, two of his mentored authors have created successful series and stand-alone titles with major publishers. Stephen's novels *A Pig Called Francis Bacon* and *The News They Didn't Use* have been listed as Notable Books by the Children's Book Council of Australia. He conducts creative writing workshops throughout Australia (for all ages) and lectured in scriptwriting for fifteen years at the University of Western Sydney. His scriptwriting awards include an Australian Writers Guild (Awgie) award for radio drama and a United Nations Media Peace Prize for an episode of *A Country Practice*. Recent television work has included editing the Emmy nominated children's series, *Hi-5*. Stephen's strengths in mentoring are one-to-one feedback on turning a concept into a story, plotting, structure, characterisation and dialogue.

Jill Morris

Maleny, Sunshine Coast Hinterland, QLD

Genres: Children's fiction and non-fiction, all age levels; especially picture storybooks

Preferred contact: Email and posted hard copy

I am the author of more than 100 children's books, both fiction and non-fiction. Several have won awards for Educational Publishing, the Environment Award, shortlistings and Honour books for the Children's Book Council of Australia; also one title chosen for the prestigious international White Ravens collection. I am a very experienced editor, having package-published three series of books for Curriculum Corporation and one for Rigby Education. My publishers have included Methuen, Harcourt Brace, Penguin, Jacaranda, Harper Collins, Scholastic, Pearson Education, Wendy Pye etc. I am the publishing director of Greater Glider Productions, an independent publisher working with 20 authors and 25 illustrators, many of who have achieved their first publication via my editing and mentorship. In 2005 I was given the Dame Annabelle Rankin Award for services to children's literature in Queensland. I have attended several international book fairs and understand the international and Australian markets for children's books. I have taught creative writing at all levels: primary, secondary, tertiary and adult students. I am also an experienced journalist, radio & TV scriptwriter and playwright.

Sally Rippin

Melbourne, VIC

Genres: children's picture books; writing and/or illustrations, and novels from junior to YA.

Preferred contact: email, face to face

Sally Rippin is an award-winning children's author and illustrator. She was born in Australia but grew up in SE Asia, England and France. She has published over twenty children's books and two Young Adult novels. Currently Sally teaches Writing For Children at RMIT as part of the Professional Writing and Editing program. As well as acting as a mentor for the ASA, Sally runs workshops on making children's picture books and assesses manuscripts for the Victorian Writers Centre. She is a regular speaker at schools and literary festivals around Australia.

Robyn Sheahan-Bright

Gladstone, Queensland

Genres: Literary Fiction and Short Stories; YA Fiction, Children's Fiction and Picture Books

Preferred contact: Telephone, email, post and face-to-face.

Robyn operates justified text writing and publishing consultancy services, and publishes regularly on children's literature, Australian fiction, and publishing history. She also writes reading group and teachers notes for several major publishers. She was inaugural director of and is a Life Member of the Queensland Writers Centre, and was co-founder of Jam Roll

Press. Her publications include *Paper Empires: A History of the Book in Australia (1946-2005)* (2006) co-edited with Craig Munro, *Kookaburra Shells Port Curtis Literature* (justified text press, 2006), and *Hot Iron Corrugated Sky: A Century of Queensland Writing* (2003) co-edited with Stuart Glover. Her PhD thesis traced the development of the Australian children's publishing industry, and she teaches for Griffith University (Gold Coast) and USQ. She was a member of the Literature Board (2001–3), and was Program Manager for the fourth Literature Board funded Residential Editorial Program at Varuna in early 2006. She is a member of the Qld Premier's Literary Awards panel, coordinating judge for the Somerset National Novella Competition for School Age Writers, a member of the ASA Management Committee, and a member of the Organising Committee for the Curtis Coast Literary Carnivale.

Julia Stiles

Far South Coast, NSW

Genres: Fiction, General Non-Fiction, Young Adult, Children's

Preferred contact: email, telephone

Julia Stiles is one of Australia's most experienced and well-respected editors. She has a BA in English Literature from Leeds University and a Masters in Australian Literature from Sydney University. She was Senior Editor at Pan Macmillan and subsequently moved to Random House to as Commissioning Editor. Julia has been freelancing for eight years and works with all the major publishing houses. She is experienced in a broad range of Genres, including – literary and commercial fiction, children's and young adults' fiction, and general non-fiction. Julia has been an ASA mentor to several emerging writers, some of whom have had their work published as a result. She has taught editing and creative writing in schools, and was Editor-in-Residence at the Sunshine Coast University.

Trudy White

Melbourne, VIC

Genres: writing and/or illustrating fiction (children's and adults), short story, picture books and YA novels

Preferred contact: face-to-face, email

Trudy White is an artist and writer. She works with ink and watercolour and computer-based drawing and design techniques. She has published three illustrated books (two for adults/YA readers and one for children) and also illustrates other people's work. She completed a Master of Fine Art by research at Victoria College of the Arts in 2006 and exhibits artwork regularly. Trudy teaches digital imaging at TAFE, illustration short courses at CAE, and runs visiting artist workshops in primary and secondary schools. In 2007 she will teach Writing for Children at RMIT in the Professional Writing and Editing program, and run a creative writing project for students of the different schools at VCA.

Dianne Wolfer

South-west WA

Genres: YA fiction, younger readers fiction and adult fiction.

Preferred contact: email, face to face, telephone

I am author of eleven books for children and teenagers. My novels have won and been short-listed for various awards. They are read and workshopped in schools and universities within Australia and overseas. I am a trained teacher, experienced mentor and spend much of my time working with students of all ages. As a mentor, I see my role as encouraging and gently challenging a writer to dig deep, edit bravely and refine their work. I live in Albany and I'm the WA Regional Advisor for the international Society of Children's Book Writers and Illustrators. Encouraging a love of books and reading in our youth is something I'm passionate about. I'm happy to work via phone, e-mail or, if possible, face to face. I visit Perth regularly. You can find out more about me at www.diannewolfer.com

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