



**MEET THE
CREATOR!!!**

STEPH MATUKU

(Ngāti Mutunga, Ngāti Tama, Te Atiawa)

Author



“Writing is hard. Not writing is hard... it’s a dilemma. The best thing about writing is the craft of it: creating beautiful sentences and a logical story. Making something out of nothing is delightful and magical.”

Five Fun Facts...

1. Her favourite writing snack is gummy lollies and lots of coffee.
2. Prince is her most played artist on Spotify.
3. Her favourite word is ‘shrubbery’.
4. She loves the terrifying thrill of trying new things.
5. Being superstitious, she has good luck charms and talismans all around her house.



Steph Matuku is an award-winning author of stories for young people including picture books, junior fiction, YA, short stories, plays and articles. Three of her books have been translated into te reo Māori.

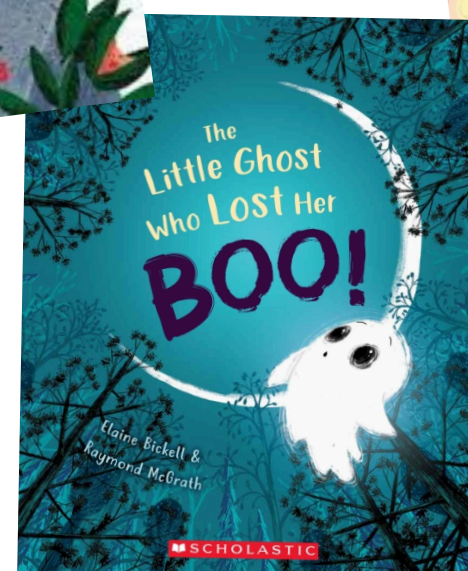
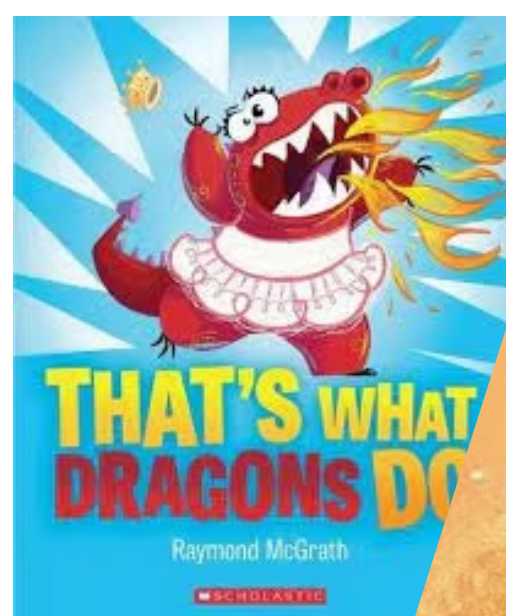
Find out more at: stephmatuku.com

RAYMOND MCGRATH

Illustrator & Author



“The best thing about being a writer and illustrator is when people enjoy what you have made. I’m proud of creating the TV series ‘Bigsies and Littles’... it was hard work, but fun.”



Five Fun Facts...

1. His first concert was Bon Jovi's 'New Jersey' tour.
2. His favourite animal is the Venuzuela Poodle Moth.
3. He finds drawing difficult and works hard at it.
4. He is quite good at ignoring his children when they are annoying him.
5. He swears he never got in trouble at school. Except for that one time...

Raymond is an award-winning, 30-year veteran of the film, TV, advertising and children's publishing industries. Published internationally, he is a New York Times best selling illustrator. He believes reading, writing and creating is much better for wellbeing than social media.

Find out more at: raymondmcgrath.org

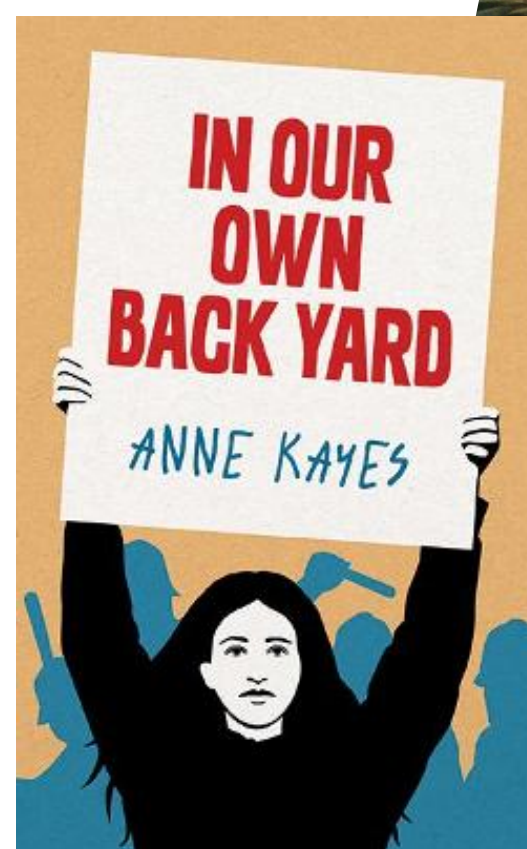
ANNE KAYES

Author



“I love seeing young people enjoying my stories.

I love to escape into a book and, when I write, I hope my readers will enjoy escaping into my book.”



Five Fun Facts...

1. In her twenties, she was very brave, and tried doing stand-up comedy.
2. She comes from a family of very loud laughers!
3. If she wasn't an author, she'd be a jazz singer.
4. At school she was an academic kid who loved performing arts.
5. As well as Aotearoa, she has lived in Britain and Kuwait.

Anne is an award-winning author who loves to write magical, mystery stories; or stories focussing on an event that has happened in New Zealand that many people might not know about. She was a secondary school Drama and English teacher, and holds a Masters in Creative Writing.

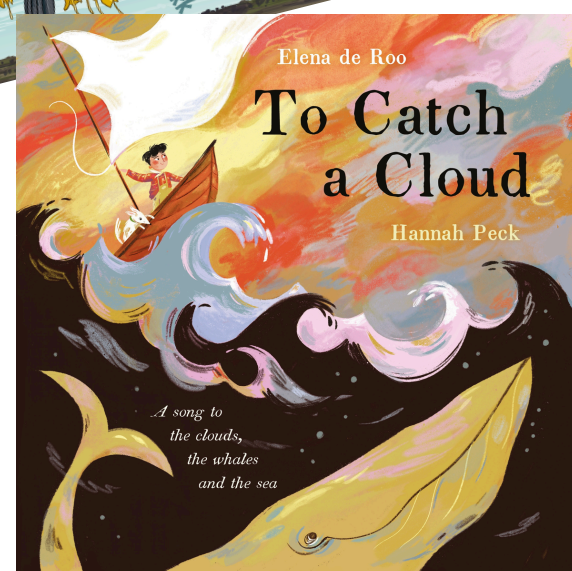
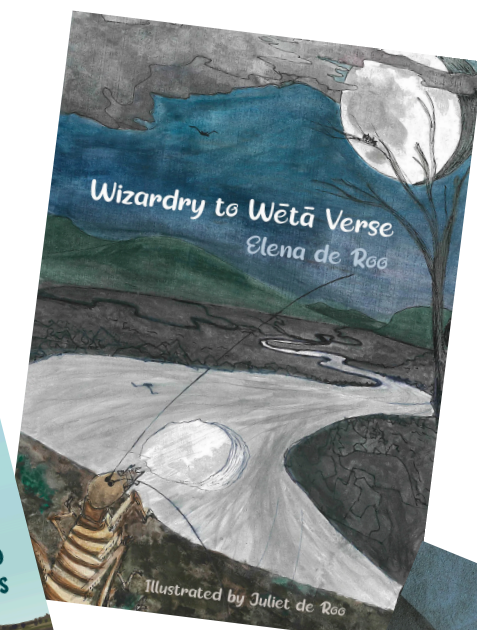
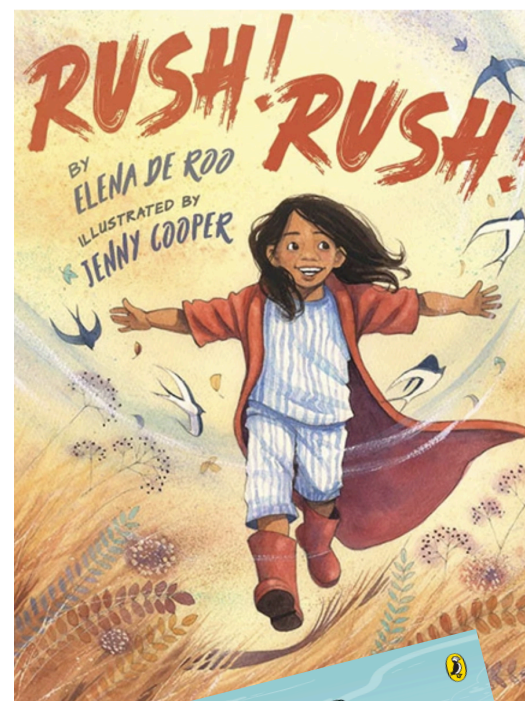
Find out more at: annekayes.com

ELENA DE ROO

Author



“I'm not 100% sure why I write but I think it has something to do with being able to create a world where anything is possible and you, the author, get to decide what happens.”



Five Fun Facts...

1. Mackintosh's Licorice Toffees are her go-to writing snack.
2. She was once a contestant on 'Who Wants to be a Millionaire'.
3. At age 10, she won a children's poetry competition.
4. As a child she wanted to be an actor, astronomer or archaeologist.
5. Her most played artist on Spotify is: Ed Sheeran.

An only child who went to seven different primary schools, Elena was always one of the last to be picked for a sports team but loved imagining stories and losing herself in the magical world of a book. She became a librarian and now enjoys writing her own books and poems.

Find out more at: elenaderoo.com

MARY-ANNE SCOTT

Author



“I'm a book-reading, dog-loving, guitar-playing writer from Te Matau-a-Māui, Aotearoa. I have four sons, four daughters-in-law and ten beautiful grandchildren. Family is my reason for living so perhaps that's why I keep writing contemporary family stories.”



Five Fun Facts...

1. She is the second eldest of nine children.
2. Her favourite word is 'succinct'.
3. Mahia Beach is her favourite holiday spot in Aotearoa.
4. At school, she got in trouble for talking too much!
5. Her mother, Joy Watson, wrote the 'Grandpa's Slippers' series of books.

Mary-anne's stories are contemporary and family orientated, and bravery and loyalty are common themes. She believes reading and writing is available for everyone... we all have a story to tell.

Find out more at: maryannescott.com

TOM E. MOFFATT

Author & Publisher



“I write fast, funny adventure stories packed with wild ideas, silly moments, and plenty of chaos. My goal is to hook even the most reluctant readers and make them laugh their way through every page.”



Five Fun Facts...

1. He has visited more than 50 countries (and believes Aotearoa is the most beautiful!).
2. Favourite childhood book: 'Fungus the Bogeyman' by Raymond Briggs.
3. He has a 1,000 day streak on DuoLingo practising Spanish.
4. While at university he was diagnosed with dyslexia.
5. Best concert: Paul McCartney at Glastonbury.

Tom E. Moffatt writes laugh-out-loud books for kids who think reading is boring (until it isn't). His award-winning *Barking Mad* series is full of wacky inventions and chaos. He believes you don't have to love every book... just keep searching for the ones that you do.

Find out more at: tomemoffatt.com

HEATHER HAYLOCK

Author



“Rhyming is my 'first tongue' - it comes naturally. Writing is what gives me joy. When I'm deep into crafting a story, there's nothing else I can think of I'd rather be doing.”

Five Fun Facts...

1. She writes her first drafts in pencil... usually on the back of a supermarket receipt.
2. In her spare time, she takes apart and restores vintage sewing machines. The oldest one is from 1861.
3. Her favourite word is 'pondering'.
4. Best Aotearoa NZ holiday spot: Waikawau Bay.
5. Dave Dobbyn is her most played artist on Spotify.



As a child, Heather could often be found reading a book on the back of a horse, or way up high in a tree. Now, as much as reading books (no longer on a horse and not often in a tree), she loves writing them: picture books, poetry, early readers, anything!

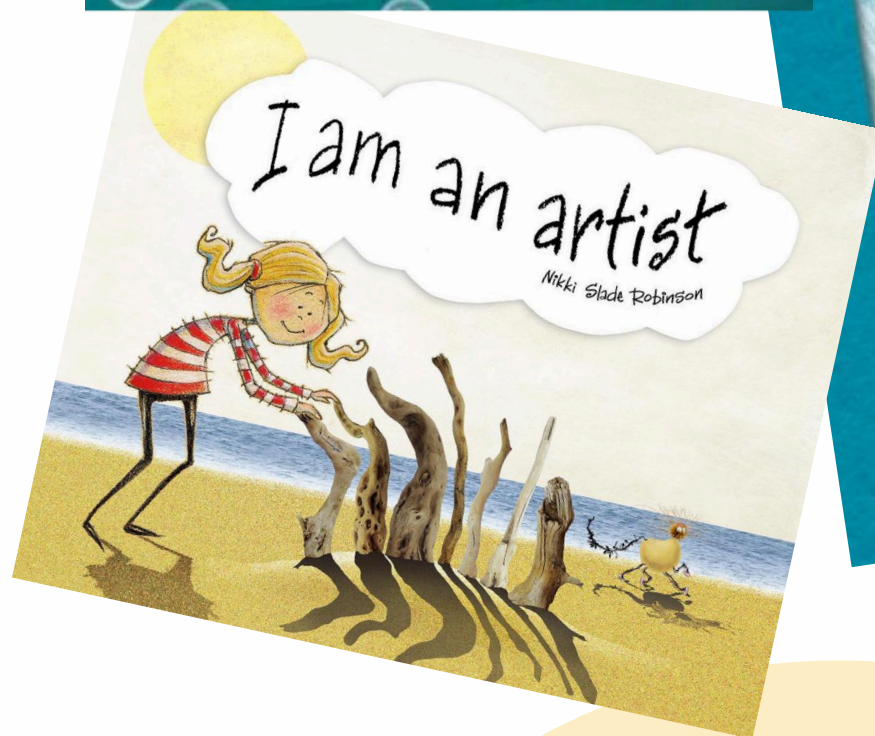
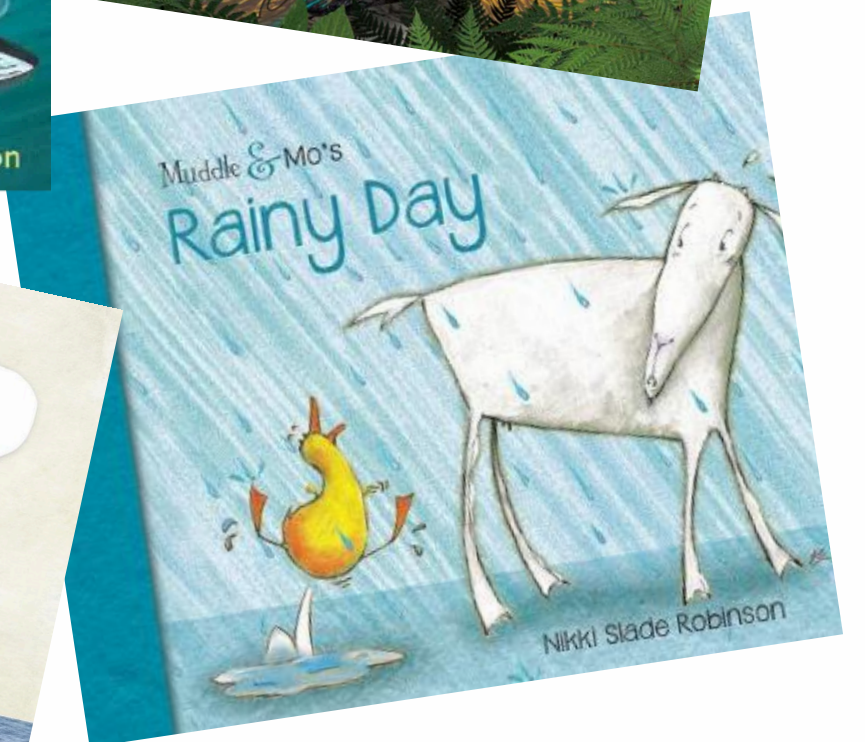
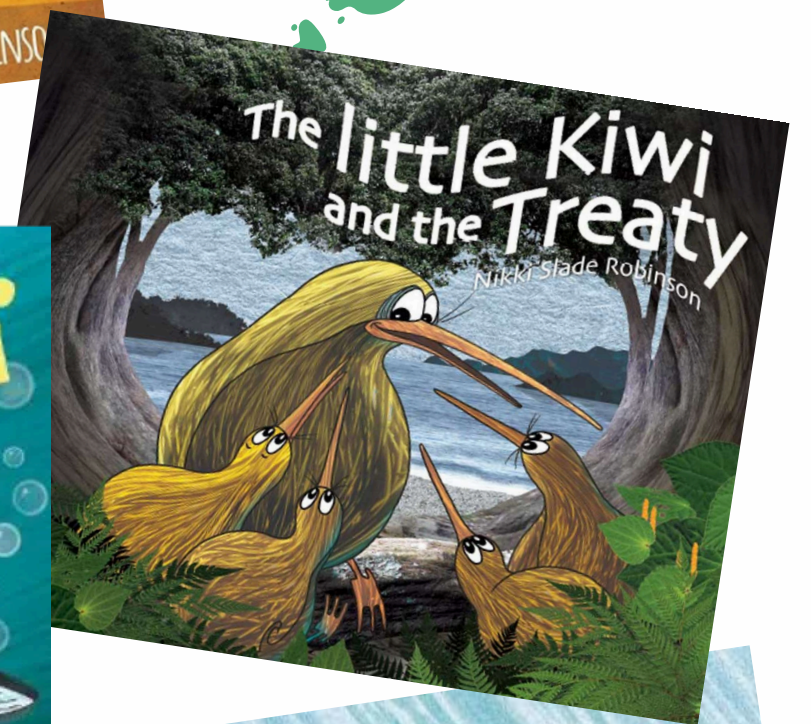
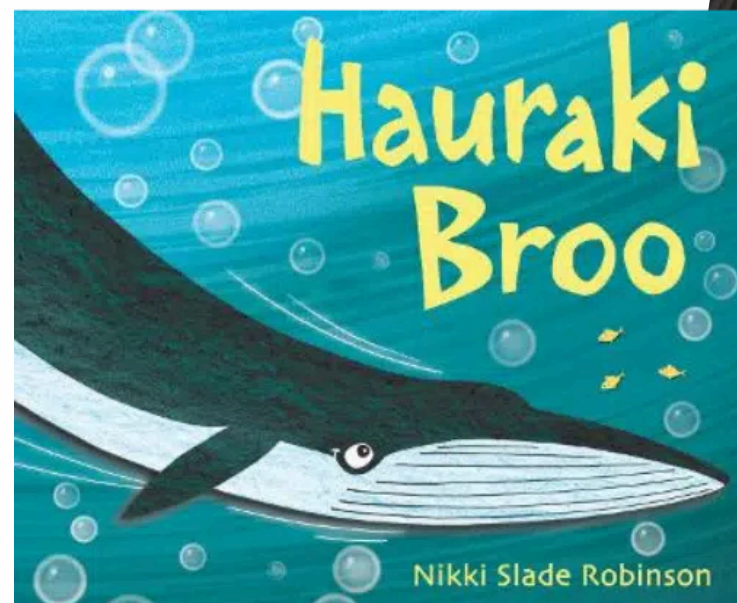
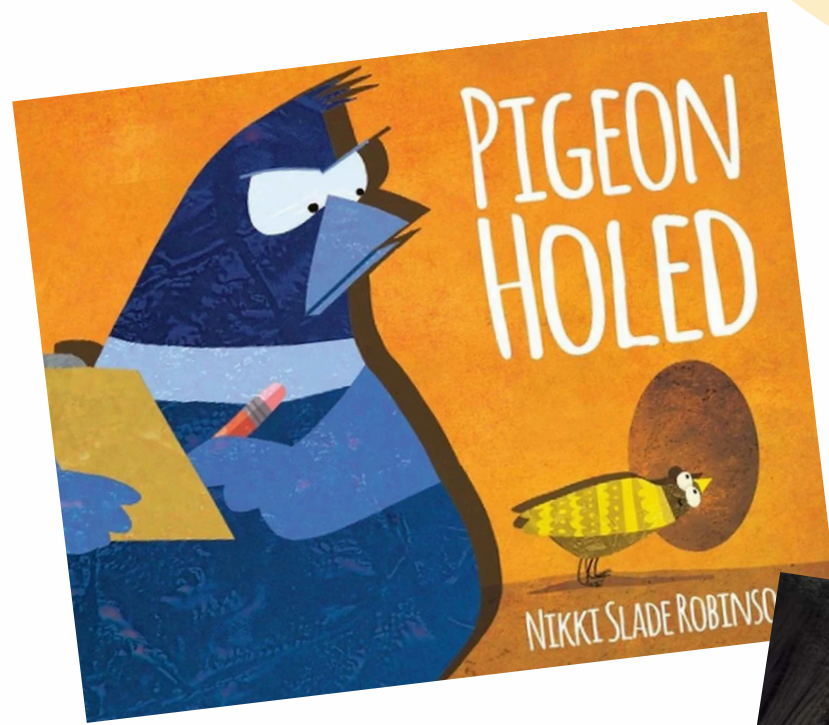
Find out more at: heatherhaylock.nz

NIKKI SLADE ROBINSON

Author & Illustrator



“When writing, I dump all my thoughts down, then edit and pare back until only the words that have really earned their place on the page remain. The pictures happen at the same time in my imagination. I have lots of different styles, it depends on what feels right for the story.”



Five Fun Facts...

1. Her favourite parts of school: Art (of course!) and helping unpack the National Library books for the school library.
2. If not creating books she would probably work in conservation, or a waste educator/reducer.
3. Her favourite movie is 'Labyrinth'.
4. Once, she raised a weka chick to the point of release.
5. She loves lots of words, especially made up ones!

Nikki has always loved drawing and writing, and loves creating picture books. She is passionate about Aotearoa's outdoors, animals, kindness, stepping lightly on the earth... and cheese. She is also involved in the Motu Trails Cycleway.

Find her on Facebook:
Nikki Slade Robinson: Illustrator/Author