

Dr Gina M Newton: Author/Presenter CV

Contact details:

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Short Listings & Awards for *Amazing Animals of Australia's National Parks* (NLA, 2016):

- CBCA Eve Pownall Award for Information Books 2017 – Short List & Winner
- Royal Zoological Society of NSW Whitley Young Naturalist Award 2017 – Short List & Winner
- ACT Writing & Publishing Children's Book of the Year 2017 Award – Short List & Winner
- Wilderness Society Environment Award 2017 – Short List



Author Bio

I live in Canberra with my two young-adult kids and various pets. With a background in Marine Biology, Ecology, Zoology, and Science Communication, I am passionate about creating children's literature that raises awareness of the Australian environment and wildlife in an entertaining way. My Master's thesis in Science Communication (ANU 2005) was entitled *Communicating Science and Species Conservation Through Children's Literature*. It included a manuscript about Australia's first marine fish to be listed as endangered, the Spotted Handfish. An evolved version of this story is due for release in late 2020.

I've worked in science-policy/program roles in the Australian Public Service for over 25 years, at the Australian Academy of Science for two years, and I am a Past National President of the Australian Marine Sciences Association. I believe children's books are an excellent way to help achieve a more science literate community and to raising awareness of the natural world around us. As a scientist and author, I can combine my twin passions of wildlife conservation and writing for children. I'm grateful that my first picture book sold over 145,000 copies, and my first information book for children won three prestigious awards.

I am a member of the Australian Society of Authors, Children's Book Council of Australia and the Society for Children's Book Writers and Illustrators. To hone my author skills, I've undertaken workshops and courses run by the ACT Writers Centre, the CBCA, and SCBWI. In 2012, I was fortunate to work with the inspirational Bryce Courtney in his last Master Class on writing commercial fiction (5 days), and I undertook Fiona McIntosh's Master Class in 2014 (5 days). I'm also a presenter, and in addition to giving many professional scientific presentations, I've presented talks to children at public libraries and schools and developed and conducted writing workshops for children. I'm currently working on two novel series with environmental themes – one for middle grade readers and one for young adults, and another information book on conservation and recovery of endangered wildlife. I always have a picture book on the go too, with two due for release in late 2020.

Publication/Presentation Record

- **Picture Books:** *Blossom Possum the sky is falling down under* (2006, Scholastic Press) - sold over 145,000 copies; *Blossom Possum and the Christmas Quacker* (2013, Scholastic Press).
- **Information Book:** *Amazing Animals of Australia's National Parks* (2016, National Library of Australia) – won three awards (as above), sold around 10,300 copies to date.
- **Over 60 professional publications** including: papers in refereed scientific journals, articles in technical and lay magazines, and government reports.
- Delivered **over 65 technical oral presentations** at a range of conferences and workshops (national and international), and presentations at various Schools & Libraries on my children's books.
- **'Write Your First Book' workshop** for kids (8-16), wrote/ran for ACT Libraries School Holiday Program.
- **Masters Sci. Comm.:** *Communicating Science & Species Conservation through Children's Literature*