

The book cover features a vibrant, textured illustration of a dog named Jack. Jack is depicted with a grey body, brown and yellow fur on his head and ears, and a red collar. He is sitting on a grey stone ledge, holding a large, yellow acoustic guitar. The background is a bright blue sky with a yellow sun in the top left corner. The title 'JACK THE Singing Dog' is written in a stylized font, with 'JACK' in white, 'THE' in yellow, and 'Singing Dog' in white with a grey outline.

JACK THE Singing Dog

Written and illustrated by

Mel Egan

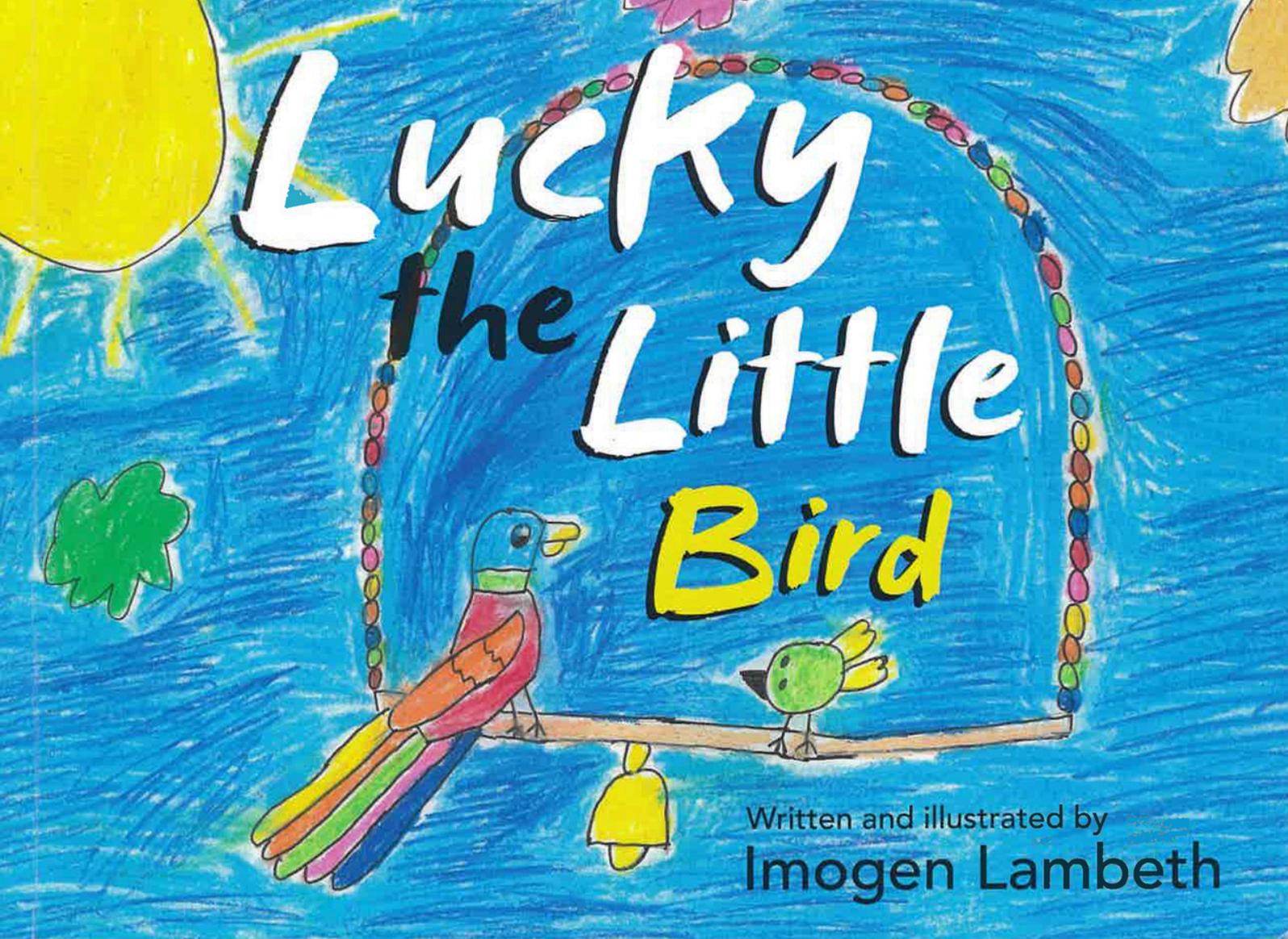
JACK **the** SINGING DOG

SYNOPSIS

Jack the Dog loves to sing, but his family moved away and left him behind because he was too loud. He went to live in a rainforest near the city and learned to sing with the wild dingoes. When Jack wanders back to the city he discovers a band playing. He loves their music! And they love him! The scruffy dog gets a new look, and a new home and his life becomes wonderful.

AUTHOR

Mel Egan is a published children's book author and illustrator and visual artist living in Cairns, Australia. 'Jack the Singing Dog' is Mel's first published book. Mel's visual artwork has been featured in local gallery exhibitions and her children's book has been added to the Cairns Library collections, been selected for Cairns Library First5Forever Programs and Exhibition Trails and presented at the Cairns Tropical Writers Festival.



Lucky the Little Bird

Written and illustrated by
Imogen Lambeth

Lucky **the** Little Bird

SYNOPSIS

Lucky, a little bird, lives in a beautiful big house and in a big colourful cage, but he is lonely because his family is always at work. So one fine day, Lucky courageously flies out into the world seeking company. He finds a new exciting world filled with love heart clouds, rainbow caves and kind new friends.

AUTHOR

Imogen Lambeth is a writer and illustrator living in Cairns. 'Lucky the Little Bird' is Imogen's first published book. Imogen loves to write short stories and makes greeting cards. Imogen loves to spend time with her family and friends and her dog, Lucy Pearl, and enjoys ten pin bowling. Imogen's books have been added to Cairns Library collections, been selected for Cairns Library First5Forever Programs and Exhibition Trails and presented at the Cairns Tropical Writers Festival.



In 2022, six members of the Arc Ensemble Storywriting Program wrote and illustrated their own children's books. In 2023, these works were published through ARCincbooks and publicly launched.

Pictured here are two of those Author/Illustrators and their works, Mel Egan (left) and Imogen Lambeth (below).







the
do's & don'ts
of getting married

*"do you want to be married
 for happily ever after
 or not?"*



DIRECTOR

KAREN JACKSON karen.jackson@arcinc.org.au

Karen Jackson is a screenwriter, film, and theatre director/producer based in Gimuy, Cairns. With a bachelor's degree in creative Industries and extensive work and studies in Social Sciences (Intellectual Disability Studies), she currently works as the Creative Arts Coordinator for ARC Disability Services, leading the ARC Creatives, a collective of artists with disabilities whose award-winning work spans across books, stage, and screen. Her notable directive works include the inclusive theatre production "*Beyond the Waves*" (APAX award nominee) and the award-winning inclusive short film "The Do's & Don'ts of Getting Married", which has screened worldwide and been selected for prestigious film festivals and a best director nomination. Karen has also received development funding from Screen Australia and Screen Queensland for two of her feature film projects and a Web Series. Her theatre credits include directing *Over Sea Over Me*, a multicultural and multi-artform theatre new work featuring twenty-two members of the Cairns Refugee and Migrant women's community, and Director for a JUTE Theatre Company creative development of *Wild Orbit* by Rebecca Altaffer, a new work focused on a family's lived experience of children with disabilities.

DRAMATURG/support playwright

KATHRYN ASH kathryn@jute.com.au

Kathryn Ash is a creative producer, playwright and dramaturge. As a co-founder of JUTE Theatre Company, she has been connected to the organisation for over 30 years, currently serving as the Senior Creative Producer. Her contribution is marked by her leadership in JUTE's renowned new works programs, Enter Stage Write(1999—2005), Regional Playwrights Conferences(2000—2005), and Write Sparks(2016 —). She is also a celebrated playwright with 30+ productions to her name, earning her national recognition, national and international awards. She is four-times published with Playlab Press and three of her plays have been listed on Queensland school's curriculum.

As a dramaturge, Kathryn has supported 70+ regional playwrights and spearheaded multiple projects through her innovative courses and workshops, such as Write Sparks, Write Out Loud and Inspiration Sparks. Her dramaturgical projects include award-winning First Nation work *The Longest Minute* by Rob Kronk and Nadine MacDonald and groundbreaking Thai-Australian work, *I is Maggie* by Dennis MacIntosh and Sangethien Klamkaew. Her dedication to fostering diversity on our stages is exemplified through her programming initiatives like Ubuntu, a JUTE theatre performance program for young African-Australian youth. Kathryn's influence on Australian theatre, particularly in regional contexts, is profound. Her work not only uplifts voices from diverse backgrounds but also sets a benchmark for artistic excellence, innovative models of diverse engagements with diverse artists, stories and communities.

PROJECTION DESIGN and DIGITAL TECHNOLOGIES

RUSSELL MILLEDGE russell.milledge@gmail.com

Russell Milledge has been engaged in producing, presenting and promoting contemporary art for over three decades. Based in Cairns, he has worked closely with visual and performing artists in the context of regional practice. Russell is a founder of Kick Arts Contemporary Arts (now North Site) and Bonemap, and has been associated with the foundation of Tanks Arts Centre, Cairns Art Gallery, the Centre of Contemporary Arts, New Move Network, Cairns Indigenous Art Fair and several other grass roots creative arts initiatives in Far North Queensland. He has a focus on the development of contemporary forms of expression and is co-producer of Bonemap, an independent micro arts outfit that has produced creative outcomes annually since 1999. Milledge has been co-director and technical director for all Bonemap productions since 1998 including tours to Singapore, United Kingdom and Japan presenting in major theatres, art galleries and alternative spaces. Russell has been involved in national and international exchanges that include tours to Asia, Europe and America. Currently, along with ongoing artistic projects, he has research roles with James Cook University, as a fellow with the Cairns Institute, the Tropical Urbanism and Design Lab and the Humanities and Creative Arts Academic Group. He holds a PhD in Creative Arts (JCU, 2017). His area of expertise is also in digital technologies, animation, projection and digital art. He has worked on three JUTE productions as Projection Designer, designed and operated large scale digital projection projects for Shine On Gimuy, Cairns Indigenous Art Fair and Cairns Festival. With a contribution to many seminal site-specific and media-based projects and partnerships recognised within the context of Australian Art. Through Bonemap, he has gained leading expertise in immersive theatre at the intersection of live performance, media arts and audience participation.

ACTORS WITH A DISABILITY (four)

Aaron Lee is a playwright, actor, and self-taught film and theatre technician with a passionate curiosity for software and systems. He lives with a disability. Aaron pours his heart and soul into all of his creative endeavours. In 2024, Aaron was selected for the DARTS Write Sparks, and his RADF-funded original play "True Friends" received creative development and was presented at Bulmba-ja Arts Centre as part of the Tropical Arts "Do You Speak My Language" showcase. Aaron is a member of the ARC Creatives and performed in their recent short, "The Do's & Don'ts of Getting Married", which has won national awards, screened worldwide, and been selected for Academy Award and BAFTA Qualifying Film Festivals.

Adam Reddicliffe is an author, illustrator and actor with a disability living in Gimuy, Cairns, Australia. He has appeared in numerous Arc Ensemble performances as an actor and has read for JUTE Theatre Company's Write Sparks program online. Adam is currently developing one of his children's books into a Screen Queensland funded Web Series. Adam's goal is to be a children's entertainer. He also enjoys his café job, playing Nintendo games and reading books in his spare time.

Gabby Benedetti and Lisa McFarlane.

Also on the team: Actors, Matt Ralieg Holmes and Velvet Eldred.

In Praise of Arc Ensemble and their work: Audience responses

ARC Creatives' Testimonials

Beyond the Waves; a theatre production, ARC Creatives magical puppet theatre production delighted hearts right across Far North Queensland in 2024 with its FNQ regional tour, receiving rave reviews and wonderful feedback across the regions. The play was also performed alongside its book release as part of the 2024 Cairns Tropical Writers Festival (CTWF).

CTWF president, Jules Steer

'The ARC Creatives theatre, books and films brought pure joy to the festival.'

Aaron Lee, Arc Ensemble Actor

'Everyone put in a lot of hard work, effort and passion to this show.'

BTWs Audiences: 'Fantastic. Creative. Sea characters the best. Brilliant props. So vibrant. Sounds wonderful Fantastic! Loved it! So colourful and performers so engaged & committed

Puppeteers spoke so well... So much go, go, go! Such vibrant seashells, great work supporting the puppets and sound effects beautiful...We absolutely loved it! (Trinity Bay State School)

Aaron Lee – WriteSparks (JUTE Theatre Company) participant

ARC Creative, Aaron Lee, was accepted into JUTE Theatre Company's online WriteSparks Program in 2024 facilitated by Kathryn Ash with the support of ARC Creative Coordinator, Karen Jackson. Aaron completed the online course culminating in the writing of a play titled 'The Evolution of Cooperation' and an online live reading of his play read by Adam Reddicliffe.

Kathryn Ash: 'We're thrilled to watch Aaron's journey unfold as his play takes shape, and we look forward to celebrating what's next for him.'

Aaron Lee: 'My goal is to finish the script, turn it into a theatre production, act in it and tour it

Adam Reddicliffe: I did an incredible job reading for young Aaron in his play and I loved the opportunity and the experience.

Karen Jackson 'Congratulations to Aaron L and to Adam R for reading young Aaron in the reading. Great to hear the play out loud. So well formed and so well read.'

WriteSpark Audience: 'Aaron your script captures the hospital process so accurately from the complex terminology to the sterile clinical environment...I could feel Aaron's vulnerability, especially when the doctor was explaining things with so much medical jargon.'

Other Quality Arc Ensemble Projects

- The DDGM short film: [The Do's & Don'ts of Getting Married | An ARC Creatives Short Film](#)
- Behind the scenes making of the DDGM short film:
<https://www.dropbox.com/s/njii2j9fhzvyeqe/Behind%20the%20scenes%20Showreel.mp4?dl=0>
- Beyond the Waves theatre production -
[BeyondTheWaves_Final.mp4](#)