



## **SWIMMING WITH STORIES**

**a festival of Australian books & illustration**

**Chengdu, Shanghai, Beijing May/June 2011**

**A children's literature festival in China celebrating Australian books and illustration with a focus on all types of storytelling. Featuring award-winning Australian books and visits by outstanding authors and illustrators.**

*Swimming With Stories* features an extensive exhibition of book illustration, as well as writing and illustration workshops and other story-based performance and activities. The work of 31 of Australia's most prominent authors/illustrators and four visiting artists will offer a sense of the breadth and depth of Australian culture through literature and story for children, including indigenous and multicultural stories.

Eleven local editions of visiting author/illustrators' books will be published to coincide with *Swimming With Stories*, part-subsidised by the project, with English books also available for sale.

**From the curators:**

***Picture books are created for young and old to share; a unique form of literature, inspiring and imaginative, that opens doors to art and story, crossing borders and boundaries.***

**Chengdu**

**The Bookworm, May 18-22** [www.chengdubookworm.com](http://www.chengdubookworm.com)

An exhibition of 30 limited-edition prints showcasing a broad range of Australian book illustration, plus workshops and school visits by author/illustrator Alison Lester.

**Shanghai**

**Shanghai Children's Museum, June 1-5** [www.shetbwg.com](http://www.shetbwg.com)

Celebrating International Children's Day (June 1) this 60+ piece exhibition centres around the delightful picture book about two very different goldfish, *Chester & Gil*, as well as limited-edition prints by another 18 artists. Workshops and in-school visits featuring visiting artists Leigh Hobbs, Ann James, Alison Lester, Sally Rippin and curator Ann Haddon.

**Beijing**

**June 6-9**

Amusing and acclaimed author/illustrator Leigh Hobbs will visit Beijing to promote the Chinese editions of his *Old Tom* books, visiting schools and The Bookworm [www.beijingbookworm.com](http://www.beijingbookworm.com)

***Sally Rippin, Leigh Hobbs, Ann James & Ann Haddon, Books Illustrated av. for interview***  
***Enquiries: [nikki.anderson@ozemail.com.au](mailto:nikki.anderson@ozemail.com.au); mob 0405 539 055***

*Swimming With Stories* is curated by Books Illustrated and project manager Nikki Anderson. Our partners include the Shanghai Children's Museum, the Shanghai Women's Federation, the Australian Consulate General Shanghai, the Bookworm Chengdu and the Australian Embassy Beijing. With thanks to our funders, Australia-China Council and Copyright Agency Limited, as well as supporters Qantas, Western International School of Shanghai and Yew Chung International School.



## VISITING AUTHOR/ILLUSTRATORS



*Leigh Hobbs*



**Leigh Hobbs** is an artist and author who works across a range of media. He was born in Melbourne, Australia, but grew up in a country town called Bairnsdale.

Leigh is perhaps best known for the children's books he has written and illustrated featuring his characters Old Tom, Horrible Harriet, Fiona the Pig, Mr Chicken and most recently, Mr Badger. A highly popular French/Australian animated TV series was made based on Leigh's *Old Tom* books. Leigh has been shortlisted in the Children's Book Council of Australia Picture Book of The Year awards three times.

Daylight Publishing will publish five *Old Tom* books in Chinese to coincide with Leigh's visit to Shanghai and Beijing. [www.leighhobbs.com.au](http://www.leighhobbs.com.au)



*Sally Rippin*



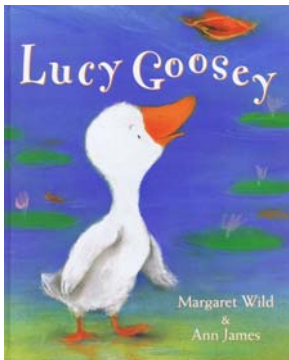
**Sally Rippin** was born in Darwin, Australia and grew up in South-East Asia. As a young adult she studied traditional Chinese painting for three years in Shanghai and Hangzhou. Returning to Australia, Sally began to write and illustrate both picture books and junior novels, influenced by her time in China. She now teaches professional writing at RMIT in Melbourne.

Her collaborations with a variety of prominent authors have resulted in a fascinating range of picture books, each illustrated with a different approach and technique. Recently Sally has written a popular new series featuring a new character, the irrepressible *Billie B Brown*.

Two of Sally's titles are available in Chinese: *Mannie & the Long Brave Day* and *The Race for the Chinese Zodiac*. [www.sallyrippin.com](http://www.sallyrippin.com)



*Ann James*



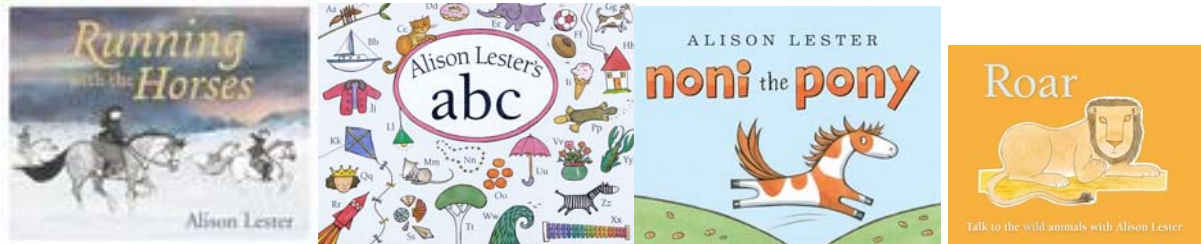
**Ann James** was an art teacher who moved into designing and illustrating education publications while establishing herself as a children's book illustrator. She has been involved in many areas of the Australian publishing industry; currently she represents illustrators on The Australian Society of Authors management committee, and manages their website, The Style File – an online showcase of Australian book illustrators.

Ann illustrates and writes in her studio upstairs at Books Illustrated, a gallery for Australian book illustration, which she co-directs. Two of Ann's books are being published in Chinese by Phoenix Publishing to coincide with Swimming With Stories: *Little Humpty* and *The Way I Love You*. [www.booksillustrated.com.au](http://www.booksillustrated.com.au)

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*Alison Lester*



**Alison Lester** is one of Australia's most popular authors/illustrators. Her picture books mix imaginary worlds with everyday life, encouraging children to believe in themselves and celebrate the differences that make them special. Alison's sure sense of colour and design, her humour, and her keen observation of the details of children's lives make her books lasting favourites and award winners.

Alison lives and works in country Victoria and is involved in many community art projects, spending part of every year travelling to remote indigenous communities, using her books to help children and adults write and draw about their own lives.

Alison's books *Running With the Horses*, *I'm Green & I'm Grumpy*, *Who's that Knocking?*, *Thing* and *Thingnapped* will be published in Chinese to coincide with her visit to Chengdu and Shanghai. <http://alisonlester.net/>

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