

MEDIA RELEASE



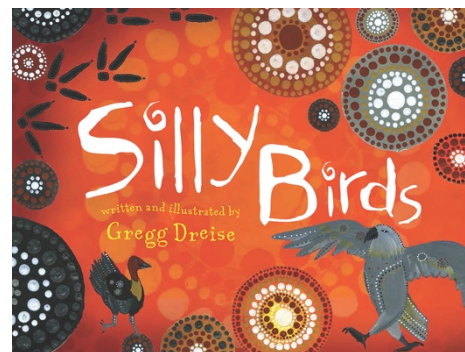
June release

Silly Birds a modern Australian fable for kids

It's hard to soar like an eagle when you are surrounded by turkeys!

This quintessentially Australian truism is at the heart of a wonderful new children's picture book by Queenslander Gregg Dreise.

Released by Magabala Books on June 1, *Silly Birds* recounts the ups and downs of Maliyan, a proud eagle who always looks, listens and sees things from a long way away.



When he teams up with Wagun the turkey, the two friends start doing silly-bird things and life at the billabong takes a decided turn for the worse – the place gets messy, all the food gets eaten and no-one seems to care for each other.

However Maliyan soon comes to his senses, and finds a way to turn things around – well, almost!

Silly Birds is a simple, well-told story in the fable tradition of old.

A Sunshine Coast primary school teacher, Gregg Dreise has produced striking, richly-textured illustrations of Australian animals to illustrate his gently humorous morality tale about choosing your friends wisely and listening to the wisdom and experience of others.

The story was inspired by a yarn told by Gregg's uncle, Reg Knox, about how he worked with some Italian farmers who trained a cockatoo to speak English and Italian.

“Reg often said that if a small-brained bird could do that, then people, especially kids, could learn anything when they put in the effort.”

ends

About Gregg Dreise - Author and Illustrator

Gregg Dreise is a descendant of the Kamilaroi tribe, from south-west Queensland and north-west New South Wales. He was born and raised in St George, Queensland – the youngest of nine in a family that loved sport, music and poetry. Gregg's mother (Lyla Dreise-Knox) has always inspired him to write. Her poetry has entertained the family (as well as the odd magazine and newspaper readers) for many decades. Gregg is currently a teacher in the Sunshine Coast, Queensland.

Magabala Books is an Indigenous not-for-profit publishing house based in Broome. We've been operating since 1987 and aim to promote, preserve and publish Indigenous Australian culture.

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