

LOFTY'S MISSION

by Krista Bell

illustrated by David Miller

first published in 2008 (Lothian)

re-printed in 2011 in paperback

by ANZAC Commemoration Committee (Qld)

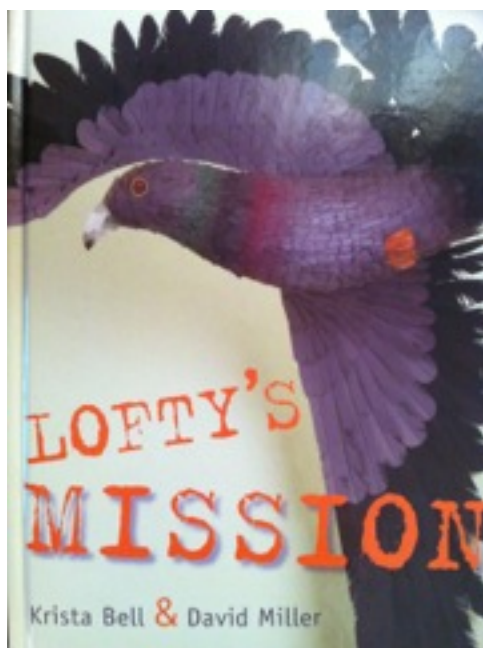
short-listed for the NSW Premier's history awards
suitable for **the whole of primary**

Story outline:

Young Harley McNamara has bred Lofty to be a champion racing pigeon. Now the Army needs strong messenger pigeons to help wing the war and Harley's dreams are shattered when Lofty is taken from him. Will Lofty ever come home?

While Lofty is up north training to fly for the Army, Harley contracts polio and is hospitalised. Will he ever walk again?

- * **PAPER SCULPTURE** illustrations
- * little known Australian **WW2 history**
- * **MESSENGER PIGEONS** that flew for Australian Army in New Guinea
- * **DICKIN MEDAL**, a bravery award for animal and birds in WW2
- * **POLIO** in Australia with reference to 'The Secret Garden'
- * full **GLOSSARY** to clarify pigeon racing and wartime terminology



PEEKING DUCKS

by Krista Bell

illustrated by Sally Rippin

first published in 2010

hardback re-printed in 2012

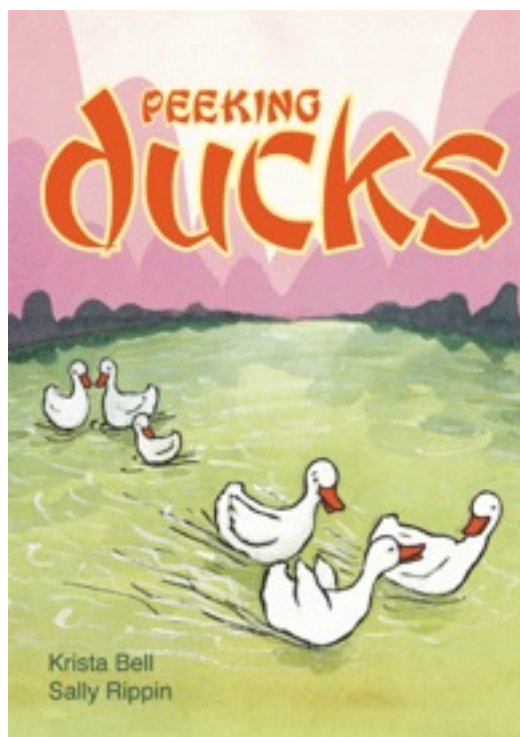
suitable for **pre-school and lower primary**

Story outline:

On an adventure to find the mighty Li River, three little ducks, Zhang, Mulong and Langshi are astonished by the events that unfold. A cautionary tale set in the majestic landscape of China.

Inspired by Krista's trip to China in 2007 when she really did see three little ducks on the Li River, this story has Chinese cultural information.

- * links to the **Australian National Curriculum**
- * recommended reading for lower primary **Asian Studies**
- * good introduction to the topic of **China**
- * cautionary tale, **adventure**
- * **watercolour** illustrations



WARRIORS

by Krista Bell

illustrated with Krista's photos

published in 2012

in hardback

Windy Hollow Books

suitable for the whole of primary

Story outline:

WARRIORS tells two stories of major significance in Chinese history: the confronting story of why and for whom the Terracotta Warriors were created; and the unbelievable one of their chance discovery in Xi'an by farmers digging a well for water some 2,000 years later in 1974.

Vincent is an Australian-born Chinese boy in Xi'an with his father who wants to tell Vincent the historical story behind their visit. Suddenly history and stories are not so boring after all.

- * links to the **Australian National Curriculum: Asian Studies**
- * **hybrid text** with historical facts paralleling fiction text
- * emphasis on the wonder of **historical stories**
- * illustrated with stunning **photos** taken by Krista in China in 2007



BURNING THE BAILS: The Story of the Ashes

by Krista Bell

illustrated by Ainsley Walters

published in 2013

in hardback and paperback

reprinted in 2014

by One Day Hill

(distributed by Scholastic)

Suitable for **5-105 year old readers**, especially cricket tragics!

Story outline:

Several generations of Australian cricket fans have wondered why the Ashes remain in England even when the Aussies win the Test series. Here for the first time is the true story behind the burning of the bails on Christmas Eve 1882 by Janet Lady Clarke after the England team beat a team of local Sunbury lads. Her son, Russell (6), was with her.

- * Australian and English **cricket history**
- * a **child's perspective** in the re-telling of the actual events
- * fictionalised account of **documented events**
- * first time the whole story has been told outside the Clarke family
- * pages of **historical facts and photos** from Clarke family documents
- * **naïve style acrylic** illustrations on board

