

Alison Lester.

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Alison Lester was born on the 17/11/1952 at Foster in Victoria. She grew up on a farm overlooking the sea and first rode a horse as a baby in her father's arms. She still lives in the country and rides her horse whenever she can.

Her picture books mix imaginary worlds with everyday life, encouraging children to believe in themselves and celebrate the differences that make them special.

Alison lives and works at Nar Nar Goon North in West Gippsland. Summers are spent at Walkerville in South Gippsland and she loves and knows that area of coast well.

Three of her books, "The Quicksand Pony", "My Farm" and "Magic Beach" are set there, and are favourites in many Australian households with "Magic Beach" selling over 150,000 copies.

Alison, a qualified art teacher, spends part of every year travelling to schools in remote areas, using her books to help children and adults write and draw about their own lives.

1979. Began illustrating children's books.

1985. "Clive Eats Alligators", first picture book.

1985 – 2004. Writing and illustrating, see list.

Exhibitions at Books Illustrated, Fremantle Childrens Literature Centre, Des Bunyon Gallery, Dromkeen, Season's Gallery, McClelland Gallery.

1993. Guest speaker at IBBY conference, Manilla.

1996. Writers Project Grant from the Australia Council to the Spanish Riding school in Vienna.

1999. Writer in residence at Tanglin Trust School, Singapore.

2001. Guest speaker at Story Lines Festival, Auckland.

2002. Visiting author at the Bologna Book Fair, sponsored by the Australia Council.

2004. Guest speaker, Simmons College, Boston, USA.

2004. Visiting author to Seoul, Korea for Children's Book Week.

2004. Visiting author, schools in Tokyo.

2005. Australian Antarctic Arts Fellowship.

2005. Workshops and exhibition in Japan as part of the Asialink literature touring program with the Aichi expo.

## List of Alison Lester's Books

"Clive Eats Alligators", Oxford University Press, 1985 .  
*Commended picture book, C.B.C. awards, 1986.*

"Ruby", Oxford University Press, 1987.

"Rosie Sips Spiders", Oxford University Press, 1988.  
*Winner A.B.P.A. design award, 1989.*

The Australian Baby Books.

"Bibs and Boots", "Happy and Sad", "Crashing and  
Splashing", "Bumping and Bouncing",  
Penguin Books, 1989.

"Imagine", Allen and Unwin, 1989.  
*Commended A.B.P.A. design award, 1989.*

"The Journey Home", Oxford University Press, 1989.  
*Honour book C.B.C. awards, 1990.*

"Magic Beach", Allen and Unwin, 1990.  
*Shortlisted book C.B.C. awards, 1991.*  
*Winner ABPA design award, 1990.*

"Tessa Snaps Snakes", Oxford University Press, 1990.

"Isabella's Bed", Oxford University Press, 1991.  
*Shortlisted book, multi-cultural awards, 1992.*

"My Farm", Allen and Unwin, 1992.

"I'm Green and I'm Grumpy", Penguin, 1993.  
"Monsters are Knocking", Penguin, 1993.

"Yikes!", Allen and Unwin, 1993.

"When Frank was Four", Hodder and Stoughton, 1994.

"Alice and Aldo", Allen and Unwin, 1996.

"Celeste Sails to Spain", Hodder Headline, 1997.

"The Quicksand Pony", Allen and Unwin, 1997.

*Winner, West Australian Young Readers Book, 1999*

*Shortlisted 1998 Festival Awards for Literature National Children's Award.*

*Shortlisted 1998 Book Data Australian Booksellers' Association Book of the Year.*

"Ernie Digs the Didgeridoo", Hodder, 2000.

*Shortlisted 2001 CBC awards.*

"The Snow Pony", Allen and Unwin, 2001.

### Work in Progress

"Are We There Yet? A Journey Around Australia", Penguin, 2004. *Shortlisted 2005 CBC awards.*

"Running with the Horses", Penguin, 2005.

Translated editions include Spanish, Japanese, Korean, German, Dutch, French and Swedish.