

Jane Smith (Australian author and editor of children's and adults' books)



Jane Smith is a librarian, author and editor with a love of history who writes fiction and non-fiction for children and adults. *Captain Thunderbolt*, from her 'Australian bushrangers' series, was shortlisted for an ABIA in 2015, and two of the popular 'Tommy Bell, Bushranger Boy' series have been shortlisted for significant awards. Jane loves all aspects of book production, from reading and reviewing to researching, writing, editing and proofreading. She enjoys presenting stories of Australia's past to children and adults, and sharing tips on researching history and writing with adults. She believes history is a bunch of stories waiting to be told.

Books from Big Sky Publishing

'Carly Mills, Pioneer Girl' series

(for ages 6-12). #1 *A New World*;
#2 *Emergency!*; #3 *Superstar*;
#4 *The lady with the lamp*.

Carly Mills discovers how strong women of our past helped change the world. Through determination, integrity and courage, women like Caroline Chisholm, Dr Lilian Cooper, Dame Nellie Melba and Florence Nightingale made a difference. In her time-travelling adventures, Carly discovers the timeless value of dignity, kindness and courage. www.carlymillspioneer.com



'Tommy Bell, Bushranger Boy' series (for ages 6-10):

#1 *Shoot-out at the Rock* (CBCA notable 2017); #2 *The Horse Thief*; #3 *The Gold Escort Gang*; #4 *Outback Adventure*; #5 *Gang of Thieves*; #6 *Mrs Thunderbolt*; #7 *The Runaway* (Speech Pathology Australia Book of the Year Award shortlist 2019); #8 *The Masked Man*.

'Australian Bushrangers' series (for children and young adults):

Captain Thunderbolt (shortlisted for ABIA 2015); *Captain Moonlite*; *Captain Starlight*; *Ben Hall*; *Frank Gardiner*

Captain Starlight: The Strange but True Story of a Bushranger, Impostor and Murderer

www.starlightjanesmith.com

Book from Independent Ink

Ship of Death: The Tragedy of the Emigrant.

'I little thought we were about to proceed on so disastrous a voyage...' *Ship of Death* tells the true story of the disastrous voyage and quarantine of the 19th-century typhus-stricken ship *Emigrant*.

'Jane Smith, excellent historian that she is ... has added a rich vein to our understanding of the personal, individual legends of early white settlement in Queensland.'

– Kerry O'Brien.

www.theemigrant.weebly.com



Author talks:

A New World (years 3 to 8). Through role-play, props and readings from 'Carly Mills, Pioneer Girl', children experience the ordeals faced by 19th century emigrants to Australia, and learn how Caroline Chisholm saved them. They will discover how the brave actions of remarkable women of our past helped make the world a better place.

Adventures with Tommy Bell (years 3 to 5). Through readings and role-play from the 'Tommy Bell, Bushranger Boy' series, children learn the stories from our bushranging days: the facts and the fiction.

Conmen and Killers (adult). Jane shares stories of some 'bad guys' of Australia's past. Discover the outrageous escapades of the little-known bushranger, serial impostor and murderer who called himself 'Captain Starlight'.

Ship of Death (adult). Jane recounts the tragic story of the typhus-stricken 19th-century ship *Emigrant* and its quarantine on Stradbroke Island – a particularly poignant tale in light of the current pandemic.

Workshops:

Bail Up! (years 5 to 7) Participants discover some amazing stories from Australia's bushranging past. Through games and stories from 'Tommy Bell' and 'Australian Bushrangers' series, they will learn how to untangle fact from fiction.

Digging Up the Past (adult). Participants will learn how to conduct historical research and how to know what sources to trust. A longer version of the workshop includes tips about how to turn historical discoveries into stories. This workshop is suitable for writers of fiction and non-fiction.

Editing for Writers (adult). How can an editor help you? How can you prepare your work and minimise costs of editing? What are some common writing errors to avoid? These questions and more are answered in this workshop.

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