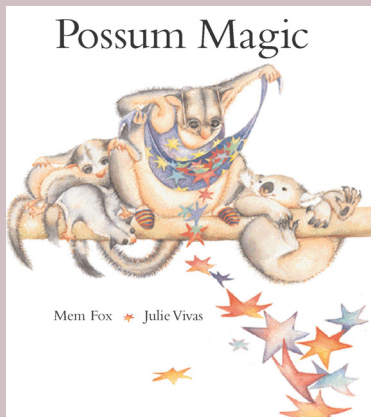


## Books illustrated by Julie Vivas

### Younger readers

#### Possum Magic

Illustrated by Julie Vivas  
Omnibus Books 1983



#### 21st Birthday Edition

Grandma Poss makes bush magic, and her best magic was the one that made baby Hush invisible. But when Hush says that she is sick of being invisible, Grandma Poss must remember what that magic was. She knows it has something to do with food, but which food? Hush and Grandma Poss set off around Australia to find the food that will make Hush visible again.

For the new birthday edition, the book was redesigned and reset in collaboration with Mem Fox and Julie Vivas. Julie also recoloured some illustrations to enhance and finish detail on some of the animals.

#### Possum Magic Limited Edition Boxed Set

The collectors' set, limited to 500 numbered copies signed by the author and illustrator, includes a clothbound *Possum Magic*, a numbered Dancing Possums art print signed by Julie Vivas, and a copy of *From Mouse to Magic: The Making of Possum Magic*, presented in a clothbound box.



JULIE VIVAS

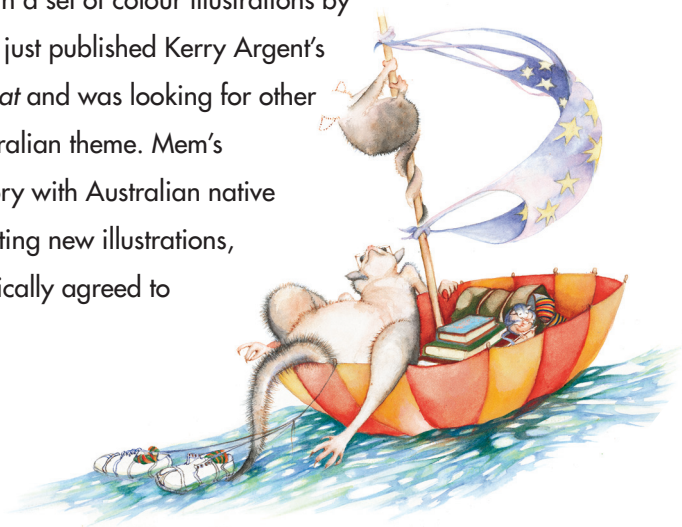


Julie Vivas was born in Adelaide and moved to Melbourne and then to Sydney with her family, where she studied interior design at the National Art School.

Julie began to draw as a child. At design school she developed her sense of controlling shapes in a space and her understanding of the energy of line in a drawing. Her first work using drawing was on an assembly line producing cells for an animated film.

When she was in her early twenties, Julie married painter and fellow student Luis Vivas. During a four-year period living in Spain she completed a body of work based on street life in Madrid and Jerez de la Frontera, concentrating especially on the people who worked in the food markets. On returning to live in Sydney with Luis and daughter Ana, she exhibited these paintings. Libby Hathorn saw an exhibition of the work and suggested that Julie might illustrate a story she had written, *The Tram to Bondi Beach*. This was Julie's debut in the world of Australian picture books. *The Tram to Bondi Beach* was Highly Commended in the Children's Book Council of Australia (CBCA) Picture Book of the Year Award of 1981.

Julie's second picture book was *Possum Magic*, a story that started life as a manuscript by Mem Fox called 'Hush the Invisible Mouse'. Mem had sent the manuscript to many publishers, including Omnibus Books, with a set of colour illustrations by Julie. Omnibus had just published Kerry Argent's *One Woolly Wombat* and was looking for other stories with an Australian theme. Mem's reworking of the story with Australian native animals meant creating new illustrations, and Julie enthusiastically agreed to the project.

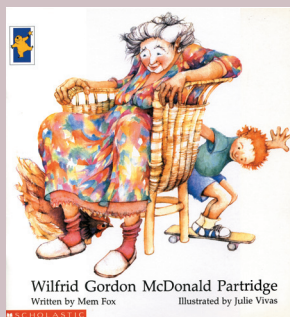


## Younger Readers

### Wilfrid Gordon McDonald

#### Partridge

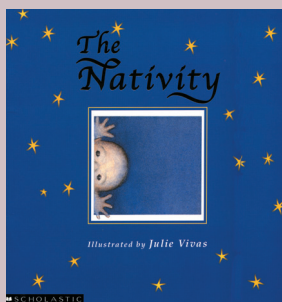
Written by Mem Fox  
Omnibus Books 1984



Wilfrid lives next door to an old people's home. He likes all the people who live there, but his favourite is Miss Nancy Alison Delacourt Cooper, who has four names, just as he does. So when he discovers that Miss Nancy has lost her memory, it is only natural that he should help her to find it ...

#### The Nativity

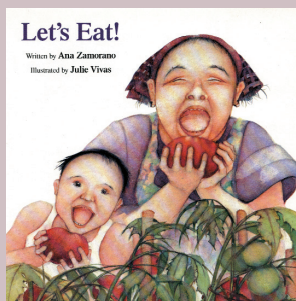
Based on the King James version of the Bible  
Omnibus Books 1986



'This is a book to bring brilliantly home the humanity of the miracle'  
Katharine England, *Advertiser*

#### Let's Eat!

Written by Ana Zamorano  
Omnibus Books 1997



Every day at two o'clock Antonio and his family eat together at the big wooden table that Papa made. Antonio's mother is happy when everyone is there, talking, eating, sharing. Then each day for a week someone is missing from the table, and Antonio goes looking ...

As Julie says of the process that created *Possum Magic*, 'I was lucky to have been in the right place at the right time with the right people ... In the publishers' case, it was their sensitivity to what was in our work that was right. There was a big public response to *Possum Magic*, and its acceptance overwhelmed me at the time and still does, even after 21 years.'

*Possum Magic* was Highly Commended in the CBCA Picture Book of the Year Award for 1984, and was a New South Wales Premier's Award winner and winner of the 1986 IBBY Diploma for Illustration.

Since *Possum Magic*, Julie has brought her particular style to many other picture books, tackling a broad range of subjects with great skill and sensitivity. *Wilfrid Gordon McDonald Partridge*, another text by Mem Fox, appeared in 1984, and Julie's own interpretation of the Christmas story, *The Nativity*, was first published in 1986.

Over the years, Julie continued her association with Omnibus Books with *I Went Walking* and *Let's Go Visiting* by Sue Machin, *Our Granny* by Margaret Wild, and *Let's Eat*, by Ana Zamorano.

With award-winning books by Margaret Wild, *The Very Best of Friends* (CBCA Picture Book of the Year in 1990) and *Let the Celebrations Begin!* (shortlisted for the same award in 1992) also to her credit, Julie was honoured with the Dromkeen Medal in 1992 for her contribution to the appreciation of children's literature.

