MEDIA KIT

TANIA MOLONEY

Founder of Nurture in Nature Australia
& Award-Winning Children's Book Author

Nature Ninja Saves the Natural World

Written by: Tania Moloney Illustrations by: Jelena Sardi
Publisher: Nurture in Nature Books

For more information email tania@nurtureinnature.com.au
0409 843 965 or visit www.NurtureInNature.com.au/books

NURTURE in Nature

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ABOUT THE BOOK

The Story

Nature Ninja and two nature-loving friends - a wise owl named Boobook and a trusty sidekick named Stick - are on a mission to protect the planet. Join them as they strive to make the world a greener place for all.

But wait... they're not actually allowed out of their backyard on their own, so what difference can they REALLY make?

This gorgeous new picture book helps children see that the biggest and best way they can make a difference for the planet is by caring for the nature that's right outside their door - and that their voices and actions can inspire others protect the planet too.

Children will see that when each of us take action to care for nature in our own backyards, balconies, classrooms and neighbourhoods, together our collective actions can make a world of difference.

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ABOUT THE CREATORS

AUTHOR: Tania Moloney

Tania Moloney is the Founder of Nurture in Nature Australia, an award-winning children's book author, and a nature-loving Mum on a mission.

Since 2012 she has been working and playing with children, educators and parents from all over the world to help them nurture strong connections with nature and each other.

She presents at national and international conferences, leads engaging professional development programs for educators, and runs innovative nature play and outdoor learning programs in her mobile classroom, The Nature Bus.

Through her work, Tania teaches children that taking even the smallest actions to care for their nearby nature can make a positive difference for the planet, while helping them to grow and thrive too.

This is Tania's debut children's book, but she has secretly wanted to be Nature Ninja ever since she was 6 years old.
Now she can be!

ILLUSTRATOR: Jelena Sardi

Architect and Graphic Designer, Jelena Sardi has always dreamed of illustrating a children's book.

She is happy to have the opportunity to showcase her skills and creativity in a story that will educate and bring smiles to young children all over the world.

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AWARDS & ACCOLADES

- BEST BOOKS OF 2023 LIST: Kirkus' Reviews
- Kirkus' Starred Review
- 5 STARS: Readers Favorite Book Reviews & Award Contest
- 5 STARS: The Wishing Shelf
- BREW Seal of Excellence
- WINNER: BREW Children's Book Excellence Award 2024 – Children's Book of the Year (Overall Winner)
- WINNER: BREW Children's Book Excellence Award 2024 – Nature Book of the Year
- WINNER: BREW Children's Book Excellence Award 2024 Publisher of the Year - Nurture in Nature Books
- WINNER: 2024 International Readers Favorite Book Awards – Silver Medal – Children Educational
- WINNER: 2024 American Writing Awards Children's Book of the Year – 2 Categories – Education & Nature
- WINNER: 2024 BREW Book Excellence Awards – 2 Categories - Children's Book of the Year & Sustainability Book of the Year
- WINNER: 2024 Book of the Earth Award
- WINNER: 2024 Nautilus Book Awards – Silver Medal – Children's Picture Books/Fiction Ages 2-6 Years
- WINNER: 2024 The Wishing Shelf Book Awards – Silver Medal – Best Cover Children's/YA
- 2024 BRAG Medallion
- WINNER: 2024 Purple Dragonfly Awards – Honorable Mention – 2 Categories – Green/Environmental & Picture Books 6 & Older
- WINNER: 2023 Story Monsters Approved Book Awards – 2 Categories – Picture Book Fiction & Green Living/Environmental Issues
- WINNER: 2023 The Wishing Shelf Book Awards – Silver Medal - Children's/YA Audiobook
- WINNER: 2023 International Firebird Book Awards – Children Nature
- FINALIST: 2023 The Wishing Shelf Book Awards – Books for 6-8 year olds
- FINALIST: 2023 Funky Kids Radio – Children's Audio Story of the Year

This page will be updated as new awards and accolades are received.

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AWARDS & ACCOLADES

KIRKUS REVIEWS' BEST BOOKSOF 2023

KIRKUS STARRED REVIEW

Educational

Nature

Children's Book of the Year

Nature Book of the Year

Publisher of the Year
- Nurture in Nature Books

Silver Medal Children Educational

Best Book Cover Silver Medal Children/YA

Children's Book of the Year

Sustainability Book of the Year

Silver Medal Children's Picture Books/Fiction 2-6yo

Book of the Earth Award

Honorable Mention Green Living/ Environmental Issues

Honorable Mention Picture Book/ Fiction

Silver Medal Children's Audiobook

Audio Story Finalist

Picture Book Fiction

Green Living/ Environmental Issues

6-8yo Picture Books

Children Nature

B.R.A.G Medallion

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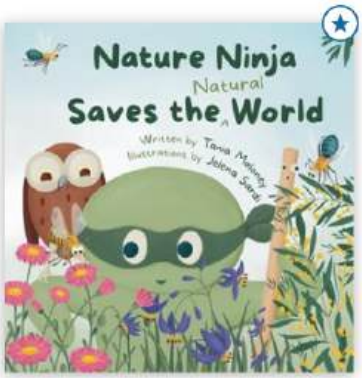
PROFESSIONAL REVIEWS



BEST BOOKS OF 2023 LIST: Kirkus Reviews

“Nature plus ninjas make a winning combination! ... sure-fire inspiration for budding environmentalists.”

– Kirkus Reviews (starred review)

“A small green ninja makes nature a little brighter at the backyard level in this action-centered book for nature warriors.

Nature Ninja is a kid on a mission: The natural world needs saving!

... Luckily, Nature Ninja’s owl friend, Boobook, has plenty of wisdom, and Nature Ninja launches into several kid-friendly backyard projects that empower kids to change the world one small step at a time.

Many books focus too much on the big issues, but Moloney’s three suggestions—planting trees, building a bee hotel, and encouraging parents to let parts of the backyard stay wild—are easy enough to tackle.

Sardi’s final illustration, a two-page spread of the whole neighborhood, swarms with details, showing even more possibilities to spark the imagination.

While each small project won’t save the world on its own (changes on the national and international level are needed, too), the hope offered here—in the accessible tone, repeated vocabulary, and soft pastel digital illustrations—is a sure-fire inspiration for budding environmentalists.

Nature plus ninjas make a winning combination!”

https://www.kirkusreviews.com/book-reviews/tania-moloney/nature-ninja-saves-the-natural-world/

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PROFESSIONAL REVIEWS

“A fast-paced, ENERGETIC picture book showing young readers how they too can help save the natural world. Highly recommended!”

- The Wishing Shelf

I must say, I very much enjoyed this wonderfully illustrated picture book all about a worm-loving, tree-hugging, puddle-jumping ninja who’s determined to save the natural world. The only problem is – the ‘problem’ is so BIG! But, with the help of Stick the Stick (excellent character name, by the way) and Boobook the Owl, they discover everybody can help, even if it's just in a tiny way.

There are many things I enjoyed about this book. Firstly, there's a lot of energy to the writing - and the artwork; in fact, there's never a dull moment. Secondly, I love how this book empowers children to have a go; to try to make a difference. As Boobook the Owl so wisely says, “We must all give a hoot about the Earth.” Thirdly, there's a practical feel to the story, the author showing young readers what they can do to help, whether it's planting a tree in the back garden or making a bee hotel.

All in all, I'm very happy to recommend this book to grandparents, parents and schools looking for fun-filled, energetic picture books that will encourage children to get out there and try to make a difference. I think, like the young readers, they’ll love the colourful artwork, the skilful plotting of the story, and, of course, the very important message.

To sum up. it’s a bit of a gem!

A ‘Wishing Shelf’ Book Review
www.thewsa.co.uk

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PROFESSIONAL REVIEWS

Readers' Favorite®
Book Reviews and Award Contest

"An entertaining, attractive, and fun book to learn about nature and shows one how to be proactive in a straightforward way."

"Nature Ninja Saves the Natural World by Tania Moloney will appeal to anyone who wishes to make their children more aware of environmental issues. The Ninja asks pertinent questions about nature and the environment. The book mentions deforestation, ocean pollution, and global warming to make the young reader more aware. The Ninja feels passionate about these issues and wishes to do something positive within the confines of his home and garden to make the world a better place. What can one Little Ninja do without even having to leave the backyard? The Ninja pays attention to some kinds of insects and how the bees, flowers, and trees can be affected. The book is an excellent example of how to be practical.

I love the unique pictures that are detailed and the variation of green. These fit well together and convey the message of tranquillity, harmony, and environmental beauty. The layout is impressive and pleasantly engaging. In certain sections of the story, the text is entertaining and would make the reader want to read happily along. I loved the illustrations of the garden wildflowers. The individual flowers stood out, causing the effect of one being close to the Ninja. At the end of the book, there is a pledge that any other young, dedicated Ninja might enjoy reading repeatedly. Nature Ninja Saves the Natural World by Tania Moloney is an entertaining, attractive, and fun book to learn about nature and shows one how to be proactive in a straightforward way."

- Reviewed by Bryone Peters for Readers' Favorite

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PROFESSIONAL REVIEWS

"Nature Ninja Saves the Natural World" makes a significant contribution to children's literature by blending entertainment with education. It not only tells a compelling story but also instils a sense of responsibility and empowerment in young readers. From the detailed Nature Ninja Pledge to the character's journey of turning their backyard into a haven for bees, the book is set to inspire more generations of environmental stewards, making it a valuable addition to any child's library."

Environmental issues are increasingly becoming important in our world. In this reality, Nature Ninja Saves the Natural World" captures the essence of youthful enthusiasm and the power of small actions in making a big difference. Written by Tania Moloney and illustrated by Jelena Sardi, this book is an enchanting journey into the heart of nature through the eyes of a young and adventurous protagonist....

... The book excels in several areas. Its content is both relevant and engaging, presenting complex environmental issues in a manner that is easily understandable for children. The writing style is perfect for the target audience, with simple yet hooking language that keeps readers engaged.

The visual presentation is outstanding, thanks to Jelena Sardi's vibrant illustrations that bring the story to life, like the detailed depiction of Nature Ninja's bee hotel and the lively scenes of their backyard forest growing.

The appeal to the target audience is spot on, with relatable characters and scenarios that encourage kids to connect with nature, such as Nature Ninja's excitement over spotting a Blue Banded Bee.

The uniqueness of the approach, presenting environmental conservation through a child's perspective, makes the book stand out. Additionally, the editing is flawless, ensuring a smooth reading experience.

This book may not appeal to those looking for complex or mature themes, as it is designed specifically for young children. However, it is an excellent fit for families, educators, and anyone passionate about fostering environmental awareness among the younger generation. Children who love nature, adventure, and vibrant illustrations will particularly enjoy this book.

Read the full review here: https://thechrysalisbrewproject.com/2024/08/29/book-review-nature-ninja-saves-the-natural-world-by-tania-moloney/

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WHAT OTHERS ARE SAYING...

"Tania Moloney makes saving the natural world fun!"

— Richard Louv, Author "Last Child in the Woods" and "Vitamin N"

"I found the book enchanting! The illustrations are wonderful, and Nature Ninja's voice is lively. Together they pulled me in as a reader right away.

The story is the right bite-size to captivate young children and give them something they can do at home or in their schoolyard to follow Nature Ninja's inspiration."

— Louise Chawla, Professor Emerita, Environmental Design, University of Colorado Boulder, Co-Author "Placemaking with Children and Youth: Participatory Practices for Planning Sustainable Communities"

"Tania's book, 'Nature Ninja' reflects her passion & love for nature.

Her cute little book, Nature Ninja addresses the most pertinent aspect of how everyone can make a difference, irrespective of where one comes from or whether one is an adult or kid. Nature Ninja is fun & reassuring and would resonate with many around the world!"

— Priya Muthukumar, Environmental Storyteller, Educator, Founder of Storipur®

"I am so excited to share Nature Ninja's first adventures with my school students.

My students will be excited that Nature Ninja deep listens like we do at school.

As a Principal whose school philosophy encapsulates nature throughout our whole curriculum, there will be so many teaching and learning opportunities to explore with Nature Ninja."

— Joanne Pegg, Principal, Bullarto Primary School

"This delightful book is sure to inspire a new generation of nature warriors!

The story beautifully illustrates simple activities for children to rewild their gardens, while gathering some environmental pearls of wisdom along the way.

I can't wait to share it with my grandchild and start on our first Nature Ninja project!"

— Tamsin Scott, Grandmother, Landscape Architect, & The WildChild Garden Goddess at Hands Down

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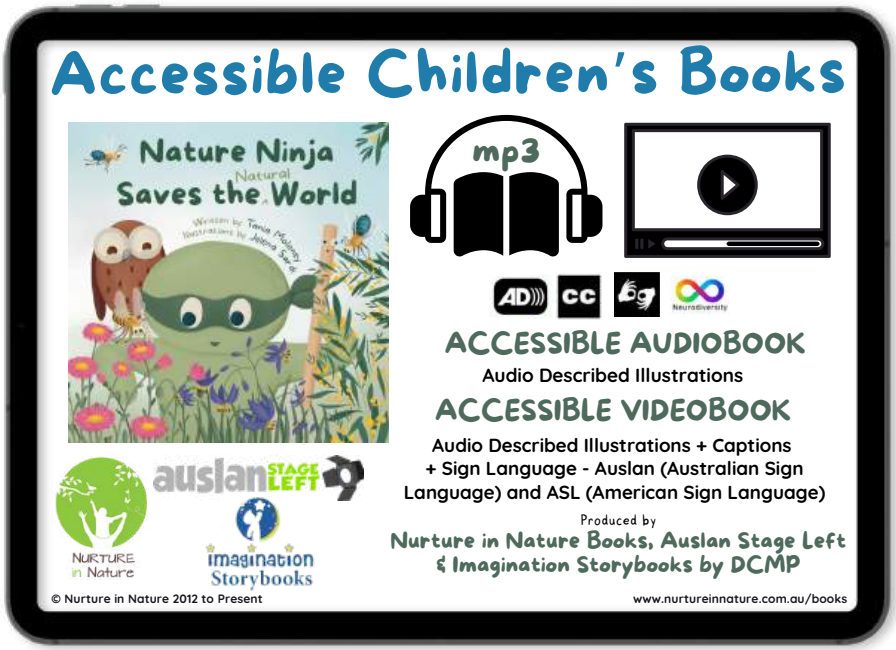
AN INCLUSIVE & ECO-FRIENDLY BOOK

Making the Book Accessible for All Children

Tania is committed to making this book accessible to children who struggle with reading, and children who have dyslexia, or a hearing impairment or visual impairment.

With the collaboration of Imagination Storybooks and Auslan Stage Left, Nature Ninja Saves the Natural World has been created as an **Audiobook with audio described illustrations** and as a **Videobook with captions and both Auslan (Australian Sign Language) and ASL (American Sign Language).**



Locally printed to support small business & be kinder to the planet!

- Paperback
- 32 Page Full-Colour
- Eco-accredited Australian printer
- Eco-accredited materials & process

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FEATURED IN

Tania has been featured in the following media publications (print and online)

Children & Nature Network

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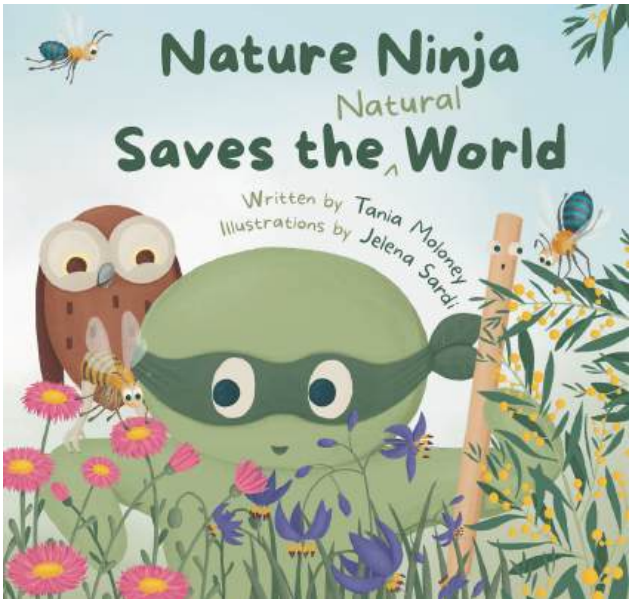

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AUTHOR INTERVIEW

Q&A with Tania Moloney

1. What inspired you to write 'Nature Ninja Saves the Natural World' and what message do you hope young children will take away from the book?

In my work with children in outdoor play and nature-inspired learning, I see their growing concern for the state of the environment. Increasingly they see and hear messages all around them about the 'climate emergency'. These messages are too abstract for young children and often cause them to worry and feel like they have no impact or control over what is happening in the natural world.

I wrote this book to help children to know that their voices matter and the local actions they take to care for their nearby nature do make a difference.

The book is also aimed at inspiring hope, and nurturing feelings of belonging and community connection when children see there are others all over the world making their difference where they live too.

2. Who is this book perfect for?

The book is written for 4-8yo's but it's also perfect for teachers, parents, home-schoolers, libraries, nature reserves and more. I know lots of teachers ready to channel their 'inner Nature Ninja' - in and out of their classrooms!

I have created Teacher Guides and other resources to go along with the book to help go beyond the book and extend the learning and play.

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Q&A with Tania Moloney cont...

3. Can you tell us about any personal experiences or memories that influenced the creation of 'Nature Ninja Saves the Natural World?"

I was really fortunate to grow up on a dairy farm in Boorcan, Victoria, with lots of nature around me and plenty of freedom to roam and play outdoors. We used to play all sorts of imaginary games, and our backyard was full of potential. We also learnt about the natural cycles of nature just by being outdoors and noticing the seasons changing.

I want those same sorts of experiences for my own children - and all children - and just about every kid I know thinks Ninjas are pretty cool. Especially when they're nature-loving kid Ninjas!

Mentors have often played an important role in my life too and I know many incredible Nature Mentors. I wanted to show how powerful having a great mentor/s can be in guiding and helping children find their way in the world. Boobook the Owl is the wise, calm and patient Mentor figure in the story.

We also used to play a lot with sticks as a kid. I still do! So Stick is a very important character in the book. Strong, versatile, helpful and dependable - and very handy for digging and imaginary play. Stick is the kind of friend kids' need and can be for others.

4. Tell us a little about the writing process and did you find any particular challenges in writing a book for young children?

I have always love writing and have been told I am a talented writer, but mostly they've been much longer pieces. I wouldn't say I'm known for brevity!

This is my first children's book and I discovered that writing a whole story that's engaging, makes sense, is age-appropriate, and keeps kids and adults wanting to turn the pages (and come back to it again and again) is challenging as it is.

But given that children's picture books are usually very short, doing all of that in what ended up being just 670 words was a great challenge! I can hear my editor Bobbie Hinman, saying "Don't fall in love with your words!" Having a great editor is definitely one of the best, must-have investments you can make when writing a book.

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Q&A with Tania Moloney cont...

5. How did you work with the illustrator to bring the characters and landscapes of 'Nature Ninja Saves the Natural World' to life?

Jelena Sardi is such an incredibly talented, creative, intuitive illustrator - and an all-round fantastic human. I really could not have wished for a better person to create this book with. It's hard to believe that this is actually her first children's book too. I think we made a pretty good partnership for two newbies to the children's book game!

Jelena's actually from Croatia and lives in Vancouver now, but I honestly think she secretly lives in my backyard.

I really wanted the book to look and feel like it was set in a little Australian backyard, with flora and fauna that would be recognisable for Aussie kids. Jelena and I talked over Zoom and communicated via email, sharing ideas and images of native plants, animals and birds that I wanted included. Everything that's in the book can be found in my backyard or my Noorat neighbours backyards.

She really has brought my words to life in such a vibrant and detailed way, and we had such a lot of fun collaborating.

I obviously had a vision for the illustrations and an idea of some of the elements that were important to include, but I really trust Jelena and her creative mind, I was really happy to give her space and freedom in the creative process.

Sometimes I think she was reading my mind - but of course it looked way better than I could have imagined when she created it!

She'd surprise me with little details in the illustrations that I know will delight children too. There's some pages with clovers on the grass. The first one I saw I immediately thought to myself, "I bet Jelena has included a four leaf clover in here somewhere." Sure enough, there was - just one! There are so many little treasures like this to find throughout the book. Kids will love it - I'm still finding things she's included that I hadn't noticed initially!

One thing I know that kids will love is that there is a cheeky grasshopper hiding on each page. The grasshopper is always doing something related to the text and it's antics are quite funny. "Gardening Grasshopper" is my favourite.

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Q&A with Tania Moloney cont...

5. cont...

I actually created the Nature Ninja, Boobook and Stick characters - and their 'personalities' - a few years ago, on paper and in my head. Then when I met Jelena, I immediately knew she was the perfect person to bring their personalities to life in an illustrated form.

We talked about the look, feel and personalities I envisioned for the three characters.

For example, Nature Ninja is a passionate, young environmental advocate, but right from the start I felt it was really important that the character was relatable and fun for the age group it was created for. This meant than Nature Ninja really had to look 'less environmental-warrior Greta' and 'more nature-loving kid ninja' to be engaging and appealing to 4 to 8 year-olds.

Jelena created four different prototype versions of the three characters. They were all fabulous, but I knew immediately which set of three she'd absolutely nailed the brief with.

6. What advice would you give to parents, teachers and caregivers who want to encourage children to care for nature?

I'd say simply begin where you are, with what you have, doing what you can.

Get out in to your nearby nature to nurture a love and connection for the natural places around you. Children are more motivated to care for what they know and feel connected to.

Do simple things like planting trees and creating a habitat for pollinators (like Nature Ninja does in the book). Allow children to experience first hand how their actions to care for nature where they live actually do create a positive impact.

Then move out into the community to see what others are doing. There are plenty of opportunities to get involved in some environmental-based civic participation too, like tree planting, beach clean-ups and wildlife monitoring, just to name a few.

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Q&A with Tania Moloney cont...

7. Are there any particular themes or ideas you hope to explore in future books for children?

Nature Ninja will be a series, and I've already begun planning and plotting for book two and three - and maybe a prequel!

We're not quite ready to leave the backyard just yet, so there are plenty of ways that Nature Ninja can take action there in the second book. Future books in the series see Nature Ninja venture beyond the backyard, connecting with others who are caring for their nearby nature too, and getting involved in local community environmental activities.

Caring for the environment is such an important theme - and this book provides a very timely narrative - and they're such fun characters to plan and create storylines and a series around. I know there are lots of nature-inspired adventures ahead for Nature Ninja, Boobook and Stick!

8. Why did you decide to self-publish the book instead of trying get signed as an author with an established traditional publishing house?

There are definitely pros and cons of both self-publishing and working with an established traditional publisher.

Self-publishing a book is such a huge-learning curve. There's so much too it, but at this stage it feels really right for me because this book really is a natural extension of the work I already do in Nurture in Nature. So I set up a publishing arm called Nurture in Nature Books.

Honestly, I'm also very used to having full creative control of creating resources and programs in my business. Once I have something in my mind, I like to get it happening pretty quickly. Traditional publishing can sometimes take quite a long time to get a book from idea to the published. You also don't tend to have as much creative freedom with illustrations and in creating resources that go with the book.

But, with self publishing, you also have to pay for everything yourself, which can be expensive. So, maybe I wouldn't say no to a big publishing deal in the future if one popped up with a traditional publisher that I really felt was a good fit.

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Q&A with Tania Moloney cont...

9. You pre-launched your book through a crowdfunding platform called Kickstarter. Why did you choose to do this and what was your experience?

Kickstarter is a great online platform for creatives to help bring their projects to life. Essentially I used the Kickstarter as a way that people could pre-order copies of my book and other cool book-related 'rewards'. Those who backed my Kickstarter Campaign, got the very first print copies of the book.

It's not a donation based platform, but rather a way that people can pre-order the book and their orders help fund the creation of the book.

I had already paid for editing, illustrations, book design, and the seemingly endless things that go into creating a beautiful and high quality book. But as a small business, funding a large print run and the other physical rewards up-front is just not possible.

The Kickstarter pre-orders helped fund an offset print run, as well as the creation of the Audio and Videobooks, including the Accessible Versions. It also allowed me to create and send physical rewards such as hand-made Australian character toys.

Kickstarter is all-or-nothing, meaning if your project doesn't reach the funding goal you set, then no one gets charged and their pre-orders are automatically cancelled.

It's a bit nerve-wracking, but thanks to the wonderful backers and community for ordering the book and sharing about it, I reached the $8,000 goal amount I had set for it on Day 11 of the 34 days that the campaign ran.

Then I set some 'stretch goals' that would be unlocked if (and hopefully when) we reached them. Essentially, that would mean extra rewards for all backers, and would allow me to create additional resources that will supercharge the impact of the book and mission.

We reached the first Stretch Goal of $9,500 (character finger puppet patterns) and then reached the second $12,000 (a Nature Ninja Song) on the final day of the Kickstarter! I'm very grateful for the support of those 165 people who supported the Kickstarter and helped me bring the book to life!

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Q&A with Tania Moloney cont...

10. A lot of authors have their books printed overseas where it can be cheaper. Why did you choose to use an Australian-based printer to print your books?

I always love to support other Australian small businesses, especially locally in my own community where I can.

So, I consciously chose to engage Star Printing in Terang - just 7km from my home - for the offset print run. They have printed gorgeous, high-quality books, and I'm thrilled to be able to support another small business. The paper stock and inks they used are Environmentally Friendly and they're Environmentally Accredited too!

Matt, Jane and the Star Printing team were absolutely fantastic, the pricing was really competitive and the turn-around time was so quick. I had the books in my hand almost 3 months ahead of when I had originally planned to be able to publish it.

I also got to go and watch the books being printed right in front of me, which was really special.

Plus, printing locally instead of printing and shipping books from far away places also helps me live my - and the books' - message to be kinder to the planet by reducing the environmental footprint.

11. How can we get a copy of the book?

The book (and other cool book-related resources) are available to order through my Nurture in Nature website, www.nurtureinnature.com.au/books

I'm starting the process of getting it into some libraries and bricks and mortar bookstores, the first of those being my local book store, Collins Booksellers in Warrnambool. Michaelie and her team have been amazing in supporting me as a local author and giving me guidance along the way.

It's also available on Amazon and other online bookstores, but I have to say I love browsing the bookshelves of real-life bookshops. There's just something so lovely about holding a book in your hand and wanting to take it home to dig into.

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GET IN TOUCH

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