

## Sylvia and the Birds How the Bird Lady saved thousands of birds, and how you can too

JOHANNA EMENEY & SARAH LAING



### \$39.99

CATEGORY: Children's Non-fiction ISBN: 978-0-9951407-8-3 THEMA: YNNK, YXZG, JBSP1, XA, 1MBN BIC: YNNR, YXZG, JFSP2, YFW, 1MBN BISAC: YAN003020, YAN012030, YAN050130, YAN050080 PUBLISHER: Massey University Press **IMPRINT: Massey University Press** PUBLISHED: September 2022 PAGE EXTENT: 176 FORMAT: Hardback SIZE: 270mm x 190mm **RIGHTS: World** AUTHORS' RESIDENCE: Wellington and Auckland, New Zealand

# INSPIRING YOUNG READERS TO HELP AND PROTECT OUR NATIVE BIRDS

Part graphic biography, part practical guide to protecting our bird wildlife, this remarkable book for young readers and their families is fully committed to detailing the wonders of our native birds, the threats they face and how we can help them. Based on the life of 'The Bird Lady', Sylvia Durrant, who helped over 140,000 sick, injured and lost birds during her lifetime, it inspires a reverence for the natural world and is a call to action to all young ecologists and environmentalists.

With charming illustrations by Sarah Laing, an engrossing text, mātauranga Māori insights, activities and how-tos, it offers hours of enchantment and engagement.

Whimsical, loving and layered, *Sylvia and the Birds* makes a unique contribution to children's knowledge of the natural world.

### ABOUT THE AUTHORS

Johanna Emeney teaches creative writing at Massey University, where she gained her PhD. She has published three books of poetry: *Apple & Tree* (2011), *Family History* (2017), and *Felt* (2021), and an academic book, *The Rise of Autobiographical Medical Poetry and the Medical Humanities* (2018). Johanna lives on a lifestyle block in North Auckland with her husband and a menagerie of animals.

**Sarah Laing** is a writer, illustrator, and cartoonist. Her books are *Coming up Roses* (2007), *Dead People's Music* (2009), *The Fall of Light* (2013), *Mansfield and Me: A Graphic Memoir* (2016) and *Let Me Be Frank* (2019), and she co-edited *Three Words: An Anthology of Aotearoa NZ Women's Comics*. In 2010, she was the Sargeson Fellow and in 2013 the University of Auckland/Michael King Writers Centre Fellow. She lives in Wellington with her children.

#### SALES POINTS

- Driven by two visionary authors a highly-skilled poet and creative writing teacher, and one of this country's best-known illustrators and graphic novelists
- Elevates the children's book through rich layering and the cartoon sections, which will tempt even reluctant readers to engage and explore
- Activities in the back of the book add another participatory element





Taking Wing

By the time this hotograph was taken, I was 17 and almost fully clean, stuture and dress vonds, splint robken sones, administer medication, and make sure my patients were pathed and comfortable.



LOVE birds

eacher. We b id and girlfrid for our first n In 1951, when I was 18, we decided to get married. Allan had been offerer a glob in Piogio, nare Te Kuiti, and J agreed to go with lim. I didn't fed angry about having to give up nursing. It was just what happened in those days: when a woman got married — often when he was very young — she would rely on her husband for money, and accompany him wherever he went. Her main job from then on would be to keep the home clean and tdiy, to make the meals; and to look after the children.



By 19, I'd had my first child, Clifford. I found motherhood easy after having looked after so many babies.



Massey University Press Albany Campus, Private Bag 102904, North Shore 0745, Auckland, New Zealand Emaileditor@massey.ac.nzPhone+64 9 213 6886www.masseypress.ac.nz

 Media contact

 Sarah Thornton, Thornton Communications

 Email
 sarah.thornton@prcomms.com

 Phone
 (09) 479 8763 or 021 753744