Leaving The Lyrebird Forest
By Gary Crew & Illustrated by Julian Laffan
Publisher: Lothian Children's Books
ISBN 9780734418432  SCIS: 1887427
$16.99

**Blurb:**

'Are you lonely here?' her mother asked. 'Never,' Alice said. 'Not while I am friends with the lyrebird.' Alice has spent her life living on the outskirts of a small town, in a house nestled in bushland. Every other morning, she is visited by a lyrebird. Her bond with this magnificent bird brings her together with her nearest neighbour, Mr Brown, a widower who loves the bush and its treasures as much as she does. But change is coming: Alice is growing up, and having to think about her future (a future which might mean leaving the bush for her education). Mr Brown is getting older, and less able to look after himself. And as the nearby town grows, their beloved lyrebird and bushland are threatened too. A touching story that will resonate with readers everywhere, stunningly illustrated with woodcuts by acclaimed artist Julian Laffan.

**Lamont Review:**

The story follows the quiet life of Alice, who lives on the edge of the forest with her artistic parents and only a lyrebird for friendship.

This changes when Alice ventures onto a neighbouring property where the elderly Mr Brown lives and she discovers that her lyrebird visits them both on alternate days.

It is really the story of an intelligent girl who looks to a future at university, as she is an excellent student, but yearns for the peaceful lifestyle that she currently enjoys. A story of friendship, loss, change and maintaining harmony with nature.

It is beautifully written and eloquent nature story that is ideal for readers 9 - 12 years old.

*Reviewed by Rob*
Elizabella Meets Her Match
By Zoe Norton Lodge and Georgia Norton Lodge
Publisher: Walker Books
ISBN 9781760650544  SCIS:1879277
$14.99

Blurb:
It's hard to be good when your head is practically exploding with schemes! The hilarious Elizabella series is middle-grade fiction at its finest.

Elizabella – ten and a quarter – is a Poet, Fixer of Fairytales and the biggest prankster in the history of Bilby Creek Primary. And when her plans involve making a swimming pool in the playground without consulting a single teacher, the students are behind her every step of the way. But what happens when Minnie, an even bigger prankster, shows up? Can Bilby Creek handle them both? And more importantly, can they handle each other?

Lamont Review:
Life is never dull when Elizabella is around! Her overactive imagination comes up with the most awesome ideas. Which everyone, except the principal, seems to love.

Join Elizabella as she makes a swimming pool filled with juice, sparks a romance between the canteen lady and the principal, and learns to get along with the new girl Minnie.

This is a thoroughly enjoyable story that your students will love. Fun characters and a school setting make this a book that your students will relate to. With lots of laugh out loud moments, this is a fun book to read and will suit those in Year 4 and up.

Reviewed by Michelle
Maxi the Lifeguard: In Deep Water
By Trent Maxwell and David Lawrence, with illustrations by Peter Baldwin
Publisher: Affirm Press
ISBN 9781925584967 SCIS:1888436
$12.99

Blurb:
Maxi joins Buckler Ocean Swimming Club to have a bit of fun with his mates. But then a big prize for the Junior Ocean Challenge is announced. The winner will get money for their club and a day with legendary lifeguard Mick Hawk! Maxi would do anything to win. Especially as it might help save Buckler. Will his hard work and determination pay off, or will Maxi’s arch-enemy ruin his chances?

Lamont Review:
This is the first in a fabulous new series, that sees one of the favourite lifeguards from Bondi Rescue, Maxi, team up with author David Lawrence to produce a book that will hit the mark with your middle primary students.

Maxi makes the brave decision to give up sailing (which his Dad is not happy about), and have a go at lifesaving - the sport his Grandpa Bill is a legend in!

He joins the fledgling Buckler Ocean Swimming Club, where his best friends Felix and Rachel are members. The club is having a tough time, competing against and losing members to the fancy Bay View Club. So when a competition is announced to win $5000 for your club, plus the chance to meet the legend lifesaver Mick Hawk, Maxi and Grandpa Bill set a plan in motion to win, but of course, not all goes to plan - and it turns out not to be as easy as they hoped!

This book really does touch on many topics, including family, friendships, dealing with bullies, setting goals, looking out for others, beach and water safety, as well as the importance of community involvement.

It will thoroughly enjoyed by boys and girls, age 8 and above.

Reviewed by Sam
Gastronauts
By James Foley
Publisher: Fremantle Press
ISBN 9781925591682  SCIS: 1882988
$14.99

Blurb:

Sally Tinker, the world’s foremost inventor under the age of twelve, has an extraordinary new challenge. The brain-enhancing nanobots she is testing have been accidentally swallowed by her baby brother Joe.

The only way to stop Joe turning into a superbaby and wreaking super havoc is to shrink herself and travel inside Joe’s body on a journey to tackle the problem head-on. What could possibly go wrong? As it turns out, this is only the beginning ...

Lamont Review:

Any student with a passion for science and inventing is going to love this graphic novel for primary students.

Sally Tinkler is extremely smart and just loves to invent things! Her latest inventions revolve around a smartCHIP and nanobots, that will make her the smartest person to ever live.

However, her ideas do not always go to plan, and you know that when she says ‘Relax! It’s perfectly safe. When have any of my inventions ever gone wrong?’ that trouble will soon follow!

And trouble soon does, when Sally and her friend Charli, along with the other nanobots, find themselves inside Sally’s baby brother Joe! You just know that this is not going to be pleasant...

With themes of human body, design and technology, family, friends, and responsibility, this is a great fun read for students in Year 2 and up.

Reviewed by Sam

Teacher Notes prepared by the publisher are available for this title on our website.