

Writing a star-studded novel



Poet, author and teacher James Laidler at the 2010 Ex-Libris Festival, Port Fairy. (Image courtesy of Ex-Libris).

[dropcap style="font-size: 60px; color: #A5CECD;"] B
[/dropcap]oy, we have some talented school teachers in South-West Victoria.

Not only do they have the exhausting and often unappreciated task of fronting up to a classroom each day to teach, but they are often also writers, poets, musicians and novelists in their “spare” time.

This week, **Michaelie Clark** from [Warrnambool Books](#) has chosen a book by Emmanuel College teacher, poet and novelist **James Laidler**, who is rapidly building the sort of CV that makes your eyes water, such is the spectrum of his talent. Here is Michaelie’s summary of his latest work:

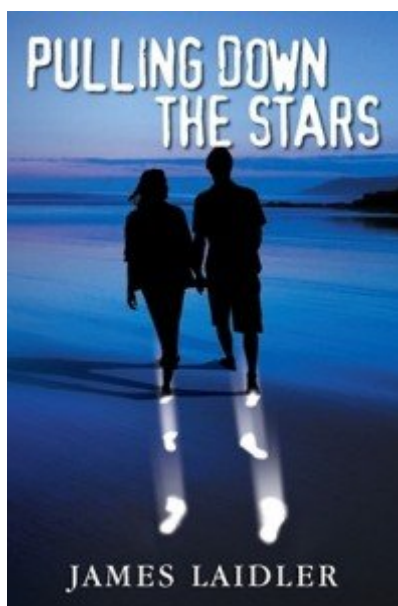
[dropcap style="font-size: 60px; color: #A5CECD;"]

Set in Warrnambool, and incorporating some of the city's most famous landmarks, *Pulling Down the Stars* is the second novel by award-winning local author, James Laidler.

Infused with vignettes and the evocative language that defines Laidler's style, the book bridges teen and adult themes and spans genres with its eclectic mix of humour, romance, drama and suspense.

The story revolves around Charlie, a young psychiatric nurse living with his widower father and stroke-affected grandfather. Burdened with the dysfunction and responsibilities of his family, as well as the guilt of wanting to be free to do as he pleases, shy, deep-thinking Charlie finds an outlet in his song-writing while he waits for life to look up.

Instead, his life is turned upside-down when he meets Maxine, a spiky, hot-blooded surfer-girl who works at the local abattoir in order to rebel against her well-to-do parents. Thrown together by unconventional circumstances, a trust and understanding slowly builds between Charlie and Maxine, but unbeknownst to either of them, there is a dangerous threat lurking in their midst...



Find out more about James via his [website](#).

And congratulations to Warrnambool Books for taking out the social media prize at the recent Warrnambool Small Business Awards!

[box] Keep up to date with new releases from Warrnambool Books [Facebook](#) page. [/box]



Catch up on our other Bookmarks...

[The lighter side of teaching](#)

[At last, a cookbook you can use!](#)

[Ben Sanders: Retro meets whimsy](#)

[Gorgeous working dogs](#)

[Getting fit the fun way with Marie Bean](#)

[Can Paul Jennings put a foot wrong?](#)

Our quiet heroes: the Drylies



Tony and Claire Drylie with some of the St Joseph's Primary School display boxes...and the huge display board!

[dropcap style="font-size: 60px; color: #A02F2F;"] W
[/dropcap]hat we love about our quiet hero section is that we get to celebrate people doing things that might not always make the news: the small things, the little things that often go unnoticed or happen without much fuss.

This week our quiet heroes are **Claire** and **Tony Drylie**, who are well-known around Warrnambool for their kindness, their cheerfulness and, in recent years, their involvement in the grassroots arts scene.

While Claire is an artist, Tony is usually not far from the action, helping keep track of the finances (as he did with the former Quarry studio), or carting some piece of equipment from here to there in his four-wheel drive.

In the past few days, the pair has been involved in putting the final touches to an art project Claire has developed with art teacher **Kathryn McMeel** at **St Joseph's Primary School**, where each of the 180 children in grades five and six have

created small 'portrait' boxes that they have fitted out with objects that they believe capture who they are.

Imagine a chocolate box, without the lid, and a tiny, individual world created inside: a child's world.



Capturing little lives: some of the children's work they have developed with Claire.

[dropcap style="font-size: 60px; color: #A02F2F;"] W
[dropcap]orking from an industrial shed at the back of a Warrnambool business, Tony has assembled and painted a 2-point-something metre display board in bright red, upon which Claire has been methodically gluing the boxes in preparation for their display at the school within the next fortnight.

(**Ryan's Removals** have kindly agreed to deliver the display board which simply won't fit in Tony's four-wheel drive, no matter how hard he tries).

The final display is going to look spectacular.

Artists working with children has to be one of the most mutually beneficial relationships in existence and that is why Claire and Tony, and those like them, are our quiet heroes for

this week.

[box] Our Quiet Hero will receive a coffee and cake voucher from this week's sponsor [Lozzar's Lounge Cafe](#), Warrnambool – thankyou Lozzar's. [/box]



Meet some of our other quiet heroes...

[Susie Alexander fights cancer...and aims for a fun run](#)

[Holden Club helps out](#)

[Caring for the environment](#)

[Embracing diversity](#)

Art as medicine: Glenn Morgan

As one of South-West Victoria's most successful and prolific artists, Glenn Morgan could have easily become pompous and aloof, but instead he remains refreshingly down to earth and committed to his home town.

Take yourself back to 1987...

Let's go back to 1987 – a year when hair was worn high, Bob Hawke was our Prime Minister, Queensland Premier Joh Bjelke-Peterson stepped down after 19 years (!!), the West Coast Eagles joined the AFL, and Hawthorn star Buddy Franklin was *born*. (Yikes, that last one makes me feel old: Carol)

This week's Blue Tunes star was still making music, however, and still is.

On with the show...



Would you like to hear more 'Blue' music? Listen on!

[Joni Mitchell: Blue](#)

[Willie Nelson: Blue Skies](#)

[Indigo Girls: Tangled up in Blue](#)

[Emmylou Harris: Blue Kentucky Girl](#)

[Etta James: Misty Blue](#)

[Flunk: Blue Monday](#)

[Linda Ronstadt: Blue Bayou](#)

Nothing like a fresh coat of paint

[dropcap style="font-size: 60px; color: #DC943C;"] T
[/dropcap]his week from Mum's Drawer we have extracted an attractive brochure detailing how to brighten your home with Dulux paints.

More than 50 years after this pamphlet was printed, the retro-styling of the homes is very much back in vogue.

It is a little hard to read in this image, but the range of colours suggested for the lounge included nasturtium (ceiling), parchment (walls) and golf brown (walls).

Suggestions for the adult bedrooms – including those with two single beds – ranged from Nile green or pumpkin to Cloud pink and pewter.

Inspired?

LOUNGE ROOMS

Above Left: 3 Walls: Parchment Super-Latex. Feature Wall: Suede Super-Latex. Ceiling: Nasturtium Super-Matt. Trim: *White Super-Satin.

Above Right: 3 Walls: Seagrass Super-Latex. Feature Wall: Spanish Blue Super-Latex. Ceiling: Suede Super-Matt. Trim: *White Super-Satin.

Below: 4 Walls: Driftwood Super-Latex. Ceiling: Golf Brown Super-Matt. Trim: *White Super-Satin.

Right Top: 3 Walls: Bamboo Super-Latex. Feature Wall: Capucino Super-Latex. Ceiling: *White Super-Matt. Trim: *White Super-Satin. Doors: Bamboo Super-Satin.

Right Bottom: 4 Walls: Spice Pink Super-Latex. Ceiling: Pearl Super-Matt. Trim: *White Super-Satin. Door, Fireplace & Skirting: Pearl Super-Satin.

Dulux PAINTS FOR COLOUR AND QUALITY



ADULT BEDROOMS

Above: 3 Walls: Mirage Super-Latex. Feature Wall: Starlight Blue Super-Latex. Ceiling: Mink Super-Matt. Trim: *White Super-Satin.

Left Top: 4 Walls: *Nile Green Super-Latex. Ceiling: *Primrose Super-Matt. Door: Pumpkin Super-Satin. Trim: *White Super-Satin.

Left Bottom: 4 Walls: *Cloud Pink Super-Latex. Ceiling: *White Super-Matt. Cupboards & Trim: *White Super-Satin. Furniture: *Olive Super-Satin, *Cloud Pink Super-Satin, *White Super-Satin.

Right Top: 4 Walls: *Glacier Green Super-Latex. Ceiling: Peach Tint Super-Matt. Trim: *Cream Super-Satin.

Right: 3 Walls: Pewter Super-Latex. Feature Wall: Radiant Pink Super-Latex. Ceiling: Tuscan Red Super-Matt. Trim: *White Super-Satin.

Dulux PAINT FOR COLOUR AND QUALITY



Other treasures from Mum's drawer...

[Do you remember the Drive-In?](#)

[To Hoover or not to Hoover?](#)

[A well-travelled junket](#)

[Bowlin, bowlin', bowlin'...](#)

[Lunch order, 1975?](#)

[signed, Fletcher Jones](#)