

# FUN ZONE



**BOOK**  
**AMAZING AUSTRALIANS IN THEIR FLYING MACHINES**  
By Prue and Kerry Mason, illustrated by Tom Jellett  
★★★★★  
Reviewed by Sandy Fussell  
[sandyfussell.com.au](http://sandyfussell.com.au)

Inspired by the authors' purchase of a vintage plane, this book is stuffed to the seams with amazing information about Australian aviation history, aviators and planes.

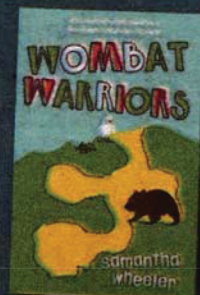
Richard Williams was Australia's first military pilot in 1921, when the Air Force had 149 people, and 153 aircraft sent to us from England. Nancy Bird Walton became Australia's youngest female commercial pilot at 19. Charles Kingsford Smith's aerial skills made him world-famous. He was known as the Monarch of the Air.

A fictional note written by each profiled aviator introduces them. An information box, three amazing facts and a Did You Know story add more detail. A double-page spread maps the England to Australia Great Race in 1919. Six aircraft participated but only two completed the race. Two crews lost their lives.

Historical photos and humorous illustrations complement the text. Rev John Flynn riding a camel, a shipwrecked Lawrence Hargreaves and Charles Kingsford Smith with a boot full of blood.

Did you know the first pilot to recover from a death spin was Australian airman Harry Hawker? Readers young and old will be surprised to discover Australia's leading role in aviation history. Highly recommended. For ages 8+.

**BOOK**  
**WOMBAT WARRIORS**  
By Samantha Wheeler  
★★★★★  
Reviewed by Sandy Fussell  
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When Mum and Dad go to Ireland at short notice for a funeral, Mouse must spend six weeks with an aunt she can't remember and brave a new school. She misses her mum and dad before they've even left.

Within minutes of Mouse's arrival, Miss Pearl barges into the bedroom to take charge. Miss Pearl is Aunt Evie's wombat and Mouse's first new friend.

School is not easy. As a city Queenslander, Mouse has trouble fitting in at a small rural South Australian school. Until she chooses wombat-ology for her school project. Wombats have a way of helping friends find each other.

Mouse discovers wombats cause trouble for local farmers, who then get a licence to eradicate them.

She's determined to save the wombats, beginning with Fatticake, the wild wombat who lives on her new friend Harry's farm.

This book emphasises the need to conserve native fauna while acknowledging the trouble they can cause on farms. To save the wombats, Mouse must solve the farmers' problems. Her project research uncovers an answer and she forms Wombat Warriors to raise the funds to make it happen.

An uplifting book with a positive message about working together. Ages 8 to 12.