

Susea Spray  
Author Visits



Library  
Information Pack

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## About The Author



A retired classroom teacher who majored in English and Children's Literature, Susea spent 23 years making literacy learning fun for her young students. Her favourite time of day was sitting down with a book or two and immersing her students in the world of storytelling.

Susea has always written in one form or another. A decade ago, she and her husband commenced on an around the world sailing odyssey. Their travels were recorded on Susea's sailing blog.

As she documented the sailing journey, notes and ideas for children's picture books were taking form. At long last Susea had found her passion and a voice. She now shares her love of language, sailing and sea with young and old through the eyes of a big blue boat and a young girl - her Captain.

Susea's first book *A Big Blue Boat*, was released in March 2022. A 2023 Purple Dragonfly Award winner, 2022 Literary Titan Silver Award Winner, 2022 book finalist in the Page Turner Awards, and a 2021 Page Turner Awards writing finalist. *A Big Blue Boat* is the first in the series. Based upon Susea's adventures, the book fills the niche market of realistic sailing stories for young children, particularly girls.

The first sequel about life on the brine was Children's Picture Book Genre Winner and shortlisted in the 2023 Page Turner Awards. It's currently being illustrated by Australian illustrator, Emma Stuart, and is due for release in late 2024.

In her spare time, Susea also loves to research, cook, photograph, quilt, embroider, walk, and work on her sailing blog.



## Contact Details

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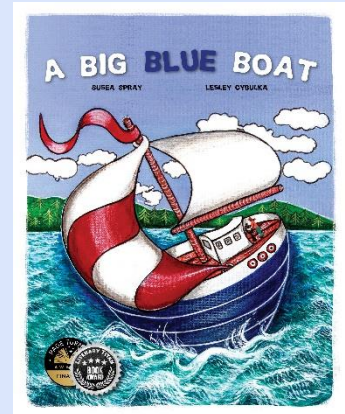
## The Book

Seas are calm, winds gently blowing, when a Big Blue Boat and her Captain head out for a day's sail.

Then winds strengthen, and the sea starts to rollick and frolic.

What are a Big Blue Boat and her brave Captain going to do? Will they find a safe harbour in time?

Early readers just love joining in with the fun wording, rhythm, rhyme and repetition that generate strong imagery in this award-winning story about a boat, a girl and the sea.



It even has a glossary and an activity to do!

If you love Hairy Maclary, The Gruffalo and There Was an Old Lady, you are going to love A Big Blue Boat!

In a world where sailing stories are still very much written for boys, *A Big Blue Boat* also highlights to girls that they too, can dream big and set sail – and they learn a little bit about sailing boats.

## For Librarians

This is an interactive story that children love participating with. Its rhythm, rhyme and repetition make the book perfect for pre and early readers.



I email you a copy of the Librarian Resource Pack prior to my visit. This compliments the book and has activities that cater for children aged 18 months to 8 years.



The Visit

Suitable for ages 18 months – 12 years

In addition to sharing my book with the children and parents, my visit introduces to them the adventure that led to my writing of the 'A Big Blue Boat' books.

The session includes:

- The use of a map and imagery that introduces them to a sailing journey where they learn about rare and extinct animals, ocean life, and the life people on remote islands lead.
- The reading which includes learning the actions for the story and parts of a boat.
- Children and parents are encouraged to join in as I read.
- Children making a boat.
- Q&A
- All activity materials are provided by the author.



Materials Provided by the Library

- A monitor for presenting to larger groups.
- Pencils, textas, crayons, and scissors for the children to use.
- Table for displaying books on sale and for Susea sit for book signing.
- If possible, an area for displaying an A Big Blue Boat quilt.

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Book Prices:

**Hard Cover: \$34.00 RRP**

**Soft Cover: \$19.99 RRP**

**Activity Book: \$15.00 RRP**

Books Available from:

**Spray Publications Direct at: 0419818174 or susea.spray@gmail.com**

**Peter Pal**

**ALS Library Services**

**James Bennett**

**West Books**

**Book Stop, Victor Harbor**

**Tahmoor News and Gifts, Tahmoor**

**The Book Cow, Canberra**

Dates Available

**October – November NSW**

**December – Yorke Peninsula South Australia**

**February – April – Riverland, Victoria, NSW**

Time Duration

**1 hour**

Price:

**\$149 for a 1-hour session for up to 30 children.**

**For childcare, preschool and school groups, there is an additional charge of \$5 for each additional child.**

**In support, I ask that I be allowed the opportunity to offer the books for purchase during my visit. This provides an opportunity for parents to have the books signed.**

**Please note that prices may change.**

Payment

Payment can be made prior to the visit, on the day of the visit, or within 7 working days after the visit.

A credit card facility is available.

Words from Librarians

“What a fantastic presenter! Susea toured all three of our libraries with her book, A Big Blue Boat, presenting the story with incredible style and skill, then leading the children in an excellent craft. Those in attendance were thoroughly engaged with Susea throughout the session, and we can’t wait to have her back again.”

Penny Evans, Childrens and Youth Services Librarian, Port Macquarie Library

“Susea Spray’s story ‘A Big Blue Boat’ takes children on a wonderful adventure. It’s clever use of rhythm and words that roll off your tongue make it fun to read and listen to. I found that even for children who live a long way from the ocean, that aren’t really familiar with boats, were provided with beautiful imagery to trigger their interest and make them want to read more and to go sailing.’

Having Susea Spray visit our regional library branch, to read the book, talk about her inspiration and do some sailboat craft with the children, was a great treat. Local families were delighted to welcome the author, and the children engaged well with her as she passionately read her book.

Children from infants to primary school students were entertained by this reading and delighted to ask her questions – she certainly spurred some interest in sailing.”

Cassie McKenna, Library Services Coordinator and Youth Services Librarian, Walcha Library

“Kempspey Library patrons really enjoyed our visit from Susea Spray, author of ‘A Big Blue Boat’. Susea had the adults and kids alike enthralled with her stories of her travels around the world in her own big blue boat. They also enjoyed learning sailing actions as we read through her story and sang some songs. Susea made her story even more engaging by incorporating the actions and her real-life experiences. Susea provided a range of craft activities suited to different age groups and the kids went home with something nautical inspired.”

Melanie Webb, Librarian, Kempsey

Words from Children

**'I love the dolphin picture you showed us. I liked making the boat. I mostly liked singing the book.'**

**Year 1 Boy**

**'I like the photos and I liked making the boat and the singing and the rhyming words.'**

**Year 2 Girl**

**'I like the rhyming and how it sounds like a song.'**

**Year 1 Girl**

**I liked that you told us about the things that you saw on your journey and how you made the book feel like you're on the boat.'**

**Year 6 Boy**