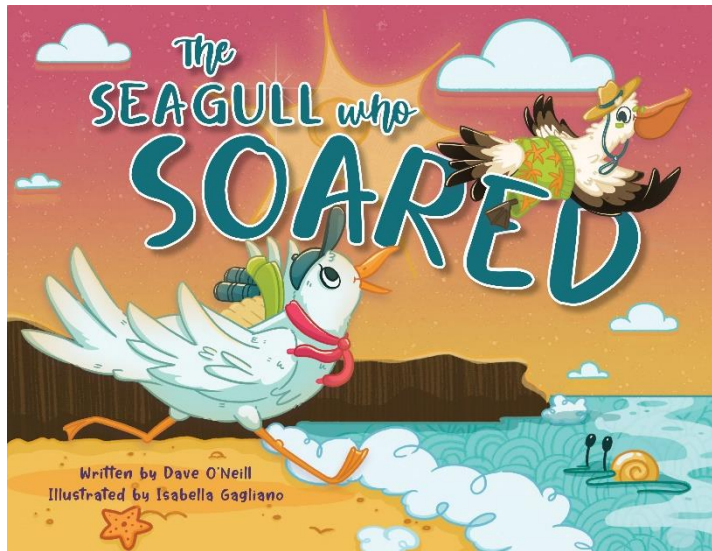


The SEAGULL who SOARED

Written by Dave O'Neill – Illustrated by Isabella Gagliano



Stevie the Seagull often dreams of exciting adventures, but can she find the courage to take to the skies and leave the safety of her beach at Torquay behind?

This is a story to remind us all to ignore the voice of doubt and chase our dreams, no matter how big they are.

"Courage and humour fill the wings of this gorgeous book for all children to know it is okay to dream and all parents to remember those dreams may still happen!"

Gregory, IndieBook reviewer

ABOUT THE AUTHOR



Dave O'Neill has been writing rhymes since he was fifteen and managed to turn his passion into a career in journalism, media and communications. After more than ten years living in Melbourne working in the footy industry, Dave has returned to his roots in Ballarat.

With two gorgeous kids under three, Dave is now chasing his dreams of writing books and hoping to inspire them to always shoot for the stars.

ISBN	9781922851109
Publication Date	20 MAR 2023
Ages	3-8 yrs old
Format	Paperback
Audience	Children
Author Location	Ballarat, VIC

Price available on our website

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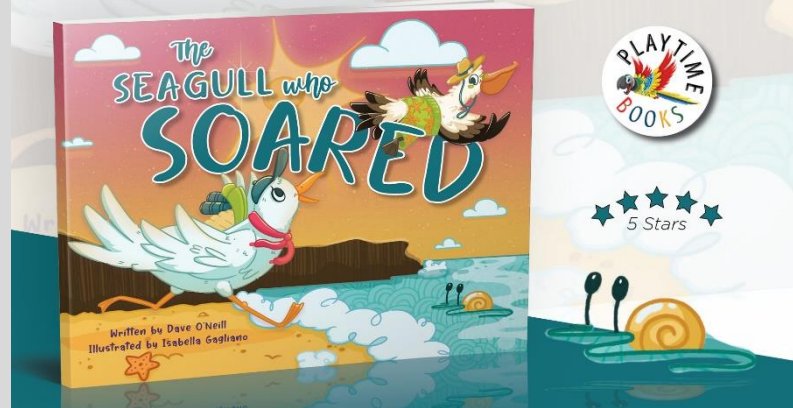
A CONVERSATION WITH THE AUTHOR

WHO DID YOU WRITE 'THE SEAGULL WHO SOARED' FOR AND WHY?
I wrote this book for toddlers and their parents who spend hours reading them to their kids. I wanted to create a beautiful story that filled the parents with as much joy as the kids.

WHAT DOES WRITING MEAN TO YOU?
Writing is an outlet for me and my brain seems to need creative time to keep things exciting. I often find myself writing in my head when I should be asleep. I have also often found myself thinking I have struck gold, only to write the words down the next morning and realise they weren't as good as I thought they would be.

WHAT DREW YOU TO THE SUBJECT MATTER OF THE BOOK AND ALSO THESE CHARACTERS WITHIN?
We spend our holidays at Warrnambool each year and have spent many summers at other beaches on the surf coast. While on holidays at Warrnambool this year, I saw how amazed my daughter was at the massive flocks of seagulls and the story came to me in a matter of days.

"Courage and humour fill the wings of this gorgeous book to remind all children it is okay to dream and all parents to remember those dreams may still happen!" - Gregory, Indie Book Reviewer



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The SEAGULL who SOARED

Written by Dave O'Neill – Illustrated by Isabella Gagliano

Stevie the Seagull hoping to inspire Victorian kids

Victoria's beautiful Surf and Shipwreck coasts are the backdrop for a new picture book hoping to inspire kids to follow their dreams.

Author Dave O'Neill's debut book – *The Seagull Who Soared* – tells the story of Stevie, a young seagull who has grown up on the beautiful beaches at Torquay.

Stevie dreams of taking to the skies to find Stingray Bay (Warrnambool) – rumoured to be heaven on earth for seagulls.

Despite little support from family and friends, she eventually shrugs off the voice of doubt and begins a long journey that takes her to Bells Beach, Anglesea, Lorne, Apollo Bay and the 12 Apostles before arriving at her dream destination.

Mr O'Neill said becoming a dad in 2020, and his annual holidays at both Torquay and Warrnambool, provided the inspiration for his first book.

"I've always written rhymes, and after having our little girl Stevie, we both fell in love with beautifully written picture books," he said.

"Last year we spent a two-week holiday at Torquay and Warrnambool and as my little girl chased seagulls at Stingray Bay, the story came together in my mind."

"I wanted to find a way to speak to my daughter about the importance of sticking to our convictions regardless of what others say."

"Hopefully the book will serve as a reminder to her and everyone who reads it, that we need to be fearless in pursuit of our dreams."

Mr O'Neill said basing the story on the coast he grew up loving was an obvious choice:



Author: Dave O'Neill

"When I looked at what else was out there I struggled to find stories that were obviously set in Victoria."

"By basing the story on the coast and weaving in the towns and places they might be familiar with, the story can be a tool to help children learn more about their state."

Mr O'Neill said that with the support of Ballarat-based publisher Shawline Publishing and Playtime Books, this would be the first of many stories to hit the shelves.

"I'm not quitting my day job as a communications and media professional, but I am hoping this passion of mine will lead to more books," he said.

"I have written a few stories now in a similar style, with one more due to be published later this year."

"I chased my career dreams of working in the AFL industry, and after relishing every second for more than 10 years, we relocated as a family to regional Victoria."

"Writing these rhymes is part of a new dream and hopefully showing Stevie, and our son Oscar, that if you chase hard enough anything is possible."

The Seagull Who Soared will be released on March 20, 2023, and will be available at local book shops and online.

The book is illustrated by Sydney-based illustrator and animator Isabella Gagliano.

Dave O'Neill is a 37-year-old father of two and an eternal optimist.

Please reach out for more information through Dave on 0409 167 298.

