

Much loved Children's author/illustrator Trace Balla has just self published **The Heart of the Bubble** - a story with 2020 vision set in the time of corona

A touching tale of a family's awakening to what really matters, set during the coronavirus pandemic.

A Graphic Novella for all ages

"It has the feel of an urban fairytale - yet it's exactly what we're living through," Erica Wagner, Children's book publisher

"The Heart of The Bubble is *the* book for our times"

Stella Clifford

"The optimism is a relief." Mark Anstey, manager of Lot 19 arts

teacher notes and free activities on web site

-also available as an ebook

Trace Balla is the much-loved Australian author illustrator of Rivertime, Rockhopping, The Thank You Dish, Shine and Landing With Wings. Her books are about care for the planet and one another. They also explore themes of first nations peoples, death, gratitude, resilience, friendship, community and sustainability, and are popular in schools and for all ages.

www.allenandunwin.com/authors/b/trace-balla

bookedout.com.au/find-a-speaker/author/trace-balla/

www.facebook.com/TraceBalla

traceballa.yolasite.com

Books sales <http://traceballa.yolasite.com/>

<https://au.blurb.com/b/10209706-the-heart-of-the-bubble>

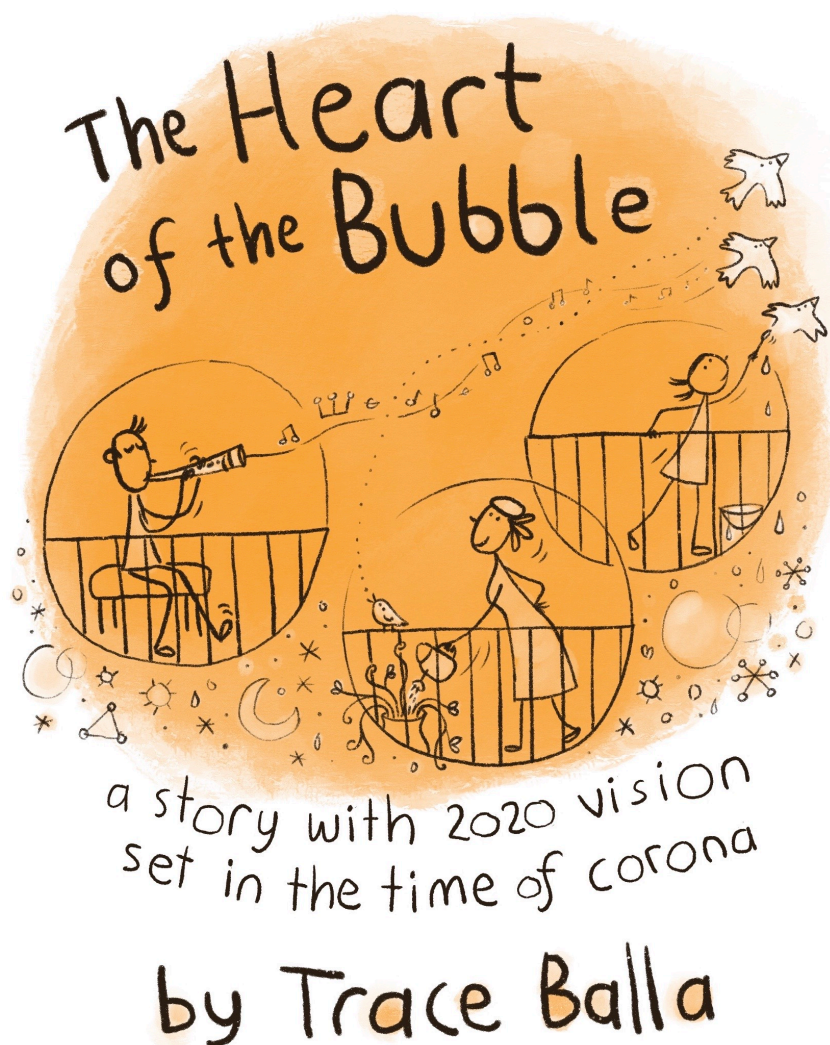
Trace shows you inside the book <https://youtu.be/JiOOlr1Xo74>

Video link of Trace's many books <https://youtu.be/W3fYWq0G5hg>

Stella gives a review <https://youtu.be/H8kcCiwr7mY>

CBCA article - [http://cbcacas.blogspot.com/2020/07/the-heart-of-bubble.html?](http://cbcacas.blogspot.com/2020/07/the-heart-of-bubble.html?utm_source=feedburner&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Feed%3A+blogspot%2FDjxvO+%28CBCA+Tasmania+blog%29)

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"It has the feel of an urban fairytale - yet it's exactly what we're living through" Erica Wagner



In honour of all the lives
lost due to COVID-19.

Also acknowledging the
immeasurable hardship
and the countless acts of
care and kindness.

May we all wake up
to another way
forward.

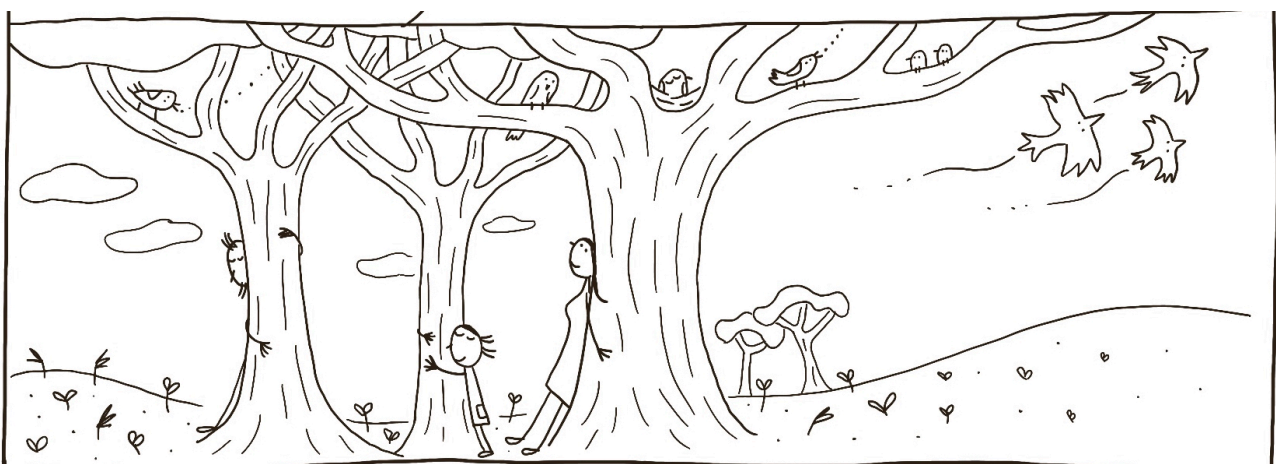
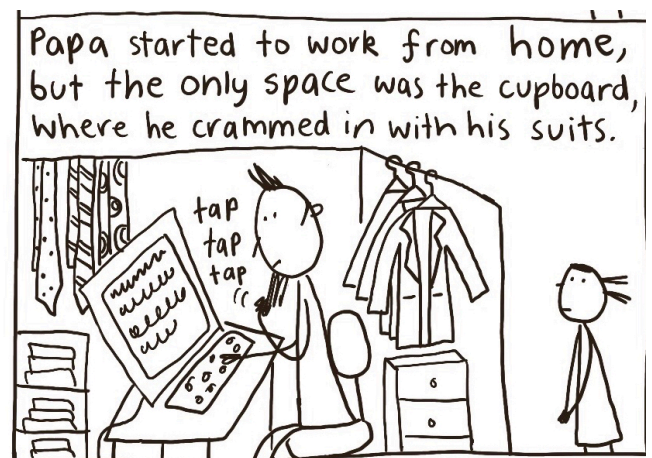
Trace Balla, 2020

Trace Balla's usual editor Elise Jones of Allen and Unwin writes "Trace's new graphic novel with A&U, **LANDING WITH WINGS**, came out *just* as the pandemic shutdown happened. Goodbye launch, goodbye 1 million events supplying financial stability for the next ages...

So, what does she do? Makes a **WHOLE NEW GRAPHIC NOVEL** in record time, gets legendary publisher Erica Wagner on board as editor, and self-publishes it!!

This is it: **THE HEART OF THE BUBBLE**. It's a heart-warming, family-friendly story of life under lockdown in Australia, suitable for anyone & everyone who needs their heart warmed right now."

This is the story of a family's unexpected reconnection during the corona pandemic "lockdown". The young girl Bimbi leads her parents from isolation to gradually adjust and reconnect with her, each other, neighbours and the outdoors... to slow down and rediscover what really matters. Bimbi manages to create a sense of community with her neighbours and those she sees regularly on their walks in the parklands. The story is filled with humour as well as poignant moments portrayed in a gentle way. There is also a sense of hope as a portrayal of how they come out the other side of the pandemic, changed to a new way of being.





Trace sees the book as a stepping stone for kids doing their own exploration and stories about this time. It's a conversation starter for kids as there doesn't seem to be a lot around that speaks to families apart from news which is not necessarily what parents want their children exposed to. She hopes to give the kids and a general audience some small gift of inspiration for another way of being with the current crisis... exploring what can we do as opposed to what we cant do...

Teacher notes are available, and schools can contact Trace for bulk discounts, with ebooks being especially easy to give big discounts.

Feedback from readers includes..

Becky Walls - "It is superb! My whole family had tears and excited giggles. We are so inspired! Working on some bird drawings for our neighbours now. This is an absolute treasure and such an important work at this time."

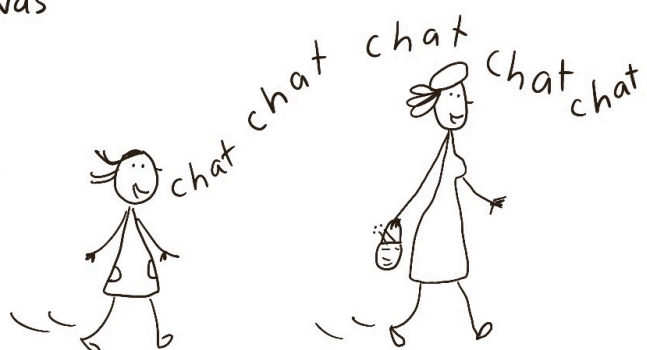
Kerry McNamara
a reflection of this challenging time offering hope for a positive future.

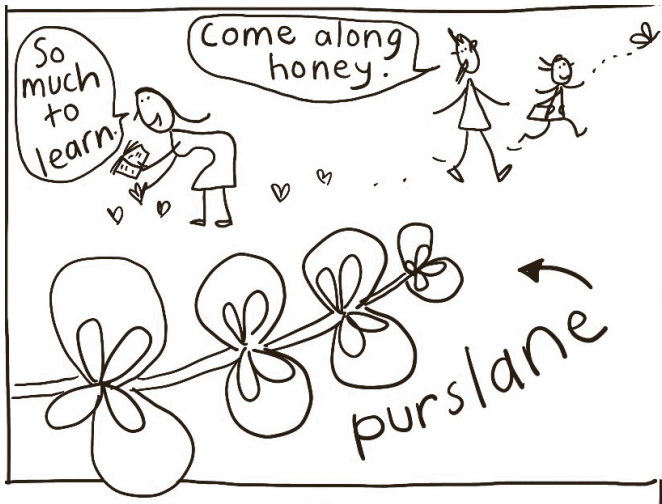


Karen Rounce teacher- What a lovely story and so many little discoveries made collectively bringing everyone together...connection. I have many readers at school who prefer the graphic novel style so they will enjoy this book.

They talked about so many people struggling in the world, and how much kindness there was because of that.

As they walked and talked they felt closer and closer, even though they were keeping their bodies safely apart.





The Mother gets interested in edible weed foraging.



