

MEDIA RELEASE



Magabala Books February 2014 Book Release

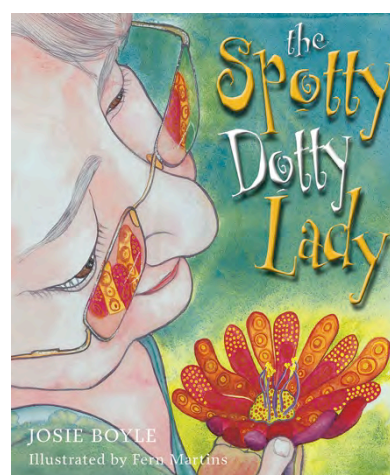
Spotty Dotty environmental message captivates

The transformative power of nature is the message at the heart of Magabala Books' first title for 2014, and its stunning watercolour illustrations are sure to captivate its target audience of younger readers.

The Spotty Dotty Lady is the second book from the creative partnership of storyteller Josie Boyle and illustrator Fern Martins. It tells how a lonely lady paints her way to happiness after being inspired by an unusual flower in her garden.

She starts to paint spots on her cups and saucers, then her kitchen and soon all over her house. She is no longer sad as she paints her way into the hearts of her neighbours and her street becomes the happiest in the neighbourhood.

The Spotty Dotty Lady is a delightful tale of the transformative power of nature, offering a glimpse of how the natural and emotional worlds can connect in making the ordinary extraordinary. A universal story for all ages and cultures, it promotes compassion by looking inside the heart and mind of someone who is different.



The Author

Josie Wowolla Boyle is a Wonghi woman who was born in the desert of Western Australia. She is an acclaimed storyteller, singer and artist who has been enchanting children of all ages since the 1980s. In 2012, Josie published her first children's book, *Bubbay: A Christmas Adventure* with Magabala Books.

The Illustrator

Fern Martins is an artist of extraordinary range and experience working as a sculptor, printmaker and artist in pencil, pastel and watercolour. At the age of 19 she had her first one-woman sculptural exhibition and has exhibited her watercolours and drawings at the National Gallery. Together with other young Aboriginal urban artists, she started Boomalli, the first Aboriginal Artists Cooperative, in Sydney in 1988. Fern also illustrated *Bubbay: A Christmas Adventure* in 2012.

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Magabala Books is an Indigenous not-for-profit publishing house based in Broome. We've been operating since 1987 and aim to promote, preserve and publish Indigenous Australian culture.

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That night the lady started to paint dots all over her tea cup — lots and lots of bright spotty dots. Just like the flowers on the mysterious plant.

She imagined what it would be like if all these dots were her friends!

The Spotty Dotty Lady
 Author Josie Wowolla Boyle
 Illustrator Fern Martins
 RRP \$17.95
 Publication date February 2013
 Publisher Magabala Books
www.magabala.com



The lady was happy and she began to paint more and more dots. Soon her whole house was covered in dots! When the postie arrived he smiled as he delivered her mail.

The spotty dots made the postie feel happy too!

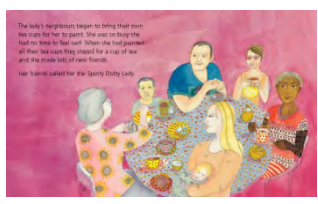
One sunny morning the lady got up and there it was — a wonderful, spotty, dotty flower! "Isn't it beautiful!" she said. And the flower gave her an idea.



In the morning the lady discovered more spotty dotty flowers had opened in the sun.



The postie loved the dots so much that he told the lady up the street. The lady up the street loved the dots so much that she told her neighbours who told ALL her friends.



The lady's neighbours began to bring their own tea cups for her to paint. She was so busy the postie no longer had time to deliver her mail. Instead, all their tea cups they created for a cup of tea and the music of their friends.

Her special guitar for the Spotty Dotty Lady.



It became the happiest street in the whole town.

And the Spotty Dotty Lady never got lonely again.



The party was great fun. The postie brought his guitar, which the Spotty Dotty Lady painted, of course, and everyone danced and sang!