

# Kids' books

Wayward pets, some updated Kiwi classics and reads with singalong CDs **By Frances Chan**

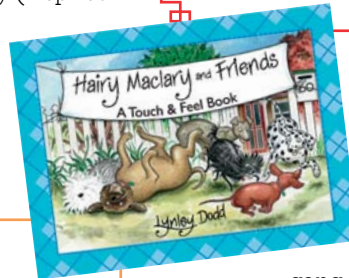


## HANK THE WRESTLING SHARK

By Gerry Paul, illustrations by Tom Armstrong (Wacky Tales Publications) \$24.99 (book and CD), 3 years +

When a pint-sized boy named Gerry swims by Hank the Wrestling Shark, the showdown brings surprising results. This homegrown rhyming story (inspired

by Paul's encounters with sharks while body surfing and free diving) will inspire anyone who's ever felt small and weak, and needed a bit of encouragement. The accompanying music provides fun, lilting listening. Visit [hanktheshark.com](http://hanktheshark.com) for more info.



## HAIRY MACLARY AND FRIENDS

By Lynley Dodd (Penguin) \$19.99 (board book) 0-4 years

Another Kiwi favourite souped up for millennium kids. No story as such but a short rhyme to introduce Hairy Maclary's gang. Each lovable character has a touch and feel texture: Bottomley Potts the Dalmation is spotty and smooth, Muffin McLay is shaggy all over and Scarface Claw lives up to his tough and scratchy persona.

## THE HOUSE THAT JACK BUILT

By Gavin Bishop (Gecko Press) \$19.99 and \$34.99, 4 years+ The 2000 New Zealand Children's Picture Book of the Year is re-released for a new generation, in both English and Maori. Bishop's distinctive artwork and insightful telling of the classic rhyme makes the tale so relevant for Kiwi kids. At face value, Jack moves from London to New Zealand in 1798 and makes a home. In reality, it's about colonialism's effect on the land and indigenous people. You can introduce new levels of meaning as your child grows.



## PIGGITY-WIGGITY JIGGITY JIG

By Diana Neild and Philip Webb (Scholastic) \$13.50 (board book) 0-4 years



Bursting with witty alliterations, this book is both a joy to read aloud and listen to. First published in 2009, this year's board book edition will endure many a turning, as there are lots of cute details in the gorgeous piggy illustrations. But most important is a story about being proud of who you are. Hunt out the other books in the Piggity-Wiggity series.



## OH NO, GEORGE!

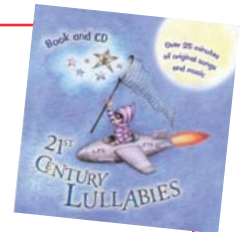
By Chris Haughton (Walker Books) \$27.99 (hardback), 0-3 years

Dogs are so funny and visual in kids' books. And it seems especially so when the author is Irish. Haughton's George wants to be good while Harris is away but ends up being naughty as ever. The true test comes when Harris takes him for a walk. The clever ending is fuel for kids' imagination and conversation. Retro colours and a funky font adds to its high hip quotient.

## 21ST CENTURY LULLABIES

By Steve Edwards, illustrations by Julia Smith (F&E Publishing) \$19.99 (board book and CD), 0-3 years

Edwards specially composed these songs to soothe his son Jakob to sleep - and they worked! The six gentle songs are easy to sing along to and Smith's sweet coloured pencil illustrations provide peaceful visuals. No more crying - just press play and lull junior to dreamland. Visit [lullabies.biz](http://lullabies.biz) for more info.



We have five sets of Disney's *Pocahontas* and *Pocahontas II* on DVD to give away. Enjoy the adventures and songs of the charming beauty in your own home. Just email [treatme-IT@acpmagazines.co.nz](mailto:treatme-IT@acpmagazines.co.nz) with 'Pocahontas' in the subject line by 25 May and include your name, address and phone number.

