



Sally Rippin is passionate about her own writing, and also about inspiring young readers, writers and illustrators. The Australian author has had over fifty books published, many of them award-winners, including two novels for young adults. In its first year of release the incredibly popular *Billie B. Brown* series became the highest selling series for 6-to-8-year-olds in Australia and has been short-listed for numerous awards. Sally followed this with the *Hey Jack!* series featuring Billie's best friend, Jack. Now Billie, Jack and their friends are starring in a new series! Kane Miller Books proudly announces the *Billie B. Mysteries!* *Spooky House* and *Code Breakers*, the first two in a planned series of six books, will be available in January 2015.



Sally describes Billie B. Brown as “a feisty tomboy, who I’m hoping will provide a refreshing change for little girls (and parents) tired of princesses and fairies.” Jack, Billie’s next door neighbor and best friend, is “as good at building cubbies [forts] but not as good as Billie on the monkey bars.” Sally created the *Hey Jack!* series for boys as an alternative to action heroes and spies. The Kane Miller list now boasts 26 Billie and Jack adventures with more to come!

Born in Darwin, Australia, Sally spent much of her childhood in Southeast Asia, moving to another country nearly every two years because of her father's work. As a young adult she lived in China for three years, studying traditional Chinese painting. She currently makes her home in Melbourne, but travels the world regularly, speaking at writers' festivals and running workshops in schools. She has had writing residencies in Beijing, Shanghai and Ghana and has toured Hong Kong, New Zealand and Australia. She has taught “Writing For Children” to adults at RMIT University in Melbourne and has run several short courses in writing for the Australian Council of Adult Education and the highly regarded Faber Academy. She is patron of the Pigeons community writing centre for disadvantaged children, based on the Valencia 826 program in the US, and has mentored many writers through the Australian Society of Authors.

Sally is looking forward to another trip to the U.S. before long to visit schools and meet more of Billie's and Jack's many fans. In the meantime, she's open to making virtual visits via Skype, even though it might mean a very early morning wake-up and chatting in her pajamas!