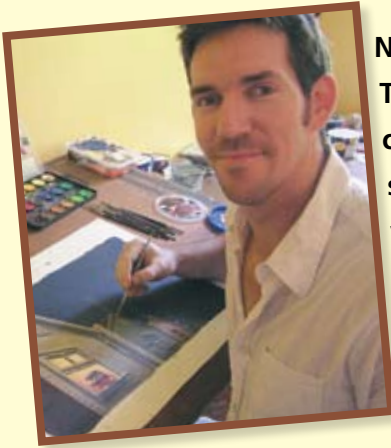


## Nick Bland



Nick Bland was born on a farm in Victoria's Yarra Valley in 1973. The son of an artist and a primary school teacher, he spent his early childhood climbing haystacks and making mischief in his father's studio. When he moved to 'the bush' at age 6, he discovered a wonderful new world and his creativity bloomed.

Nick always told family and friends he was going to be a cartoonist and a writer. It wasn't until 1996, when he stumbled into a bookshop job, that he finally found the medium that would bring those two loves together.

He now lives in Darwin where he works full-time as an author/illustrator. On weekends he works as a guardian for 120 Aboriginal boys who board in Darwin. Nick loves both of his jobs and hopes to combine them in the near future.

### **What were your favourite books growing up?**

I loved *Mr Men* books, *Footrot Flats* and anything by Dr Seuss and Roald Dahl.

### **Where do you get ideas from?**

Everywhere and anywhere. Wherever I am when inspiration strikes, I write the idea down or sketch it on whatever I can find.

### **As a child what did you want to be when you grew up?**

I always wanted to be a cartoonist.

### **How did you become an illustrator/author?**

I am a self-taught illustrator/author and simply observed all the wonderful work done by others and practised my own style until it looked and 'sounded' professional.

