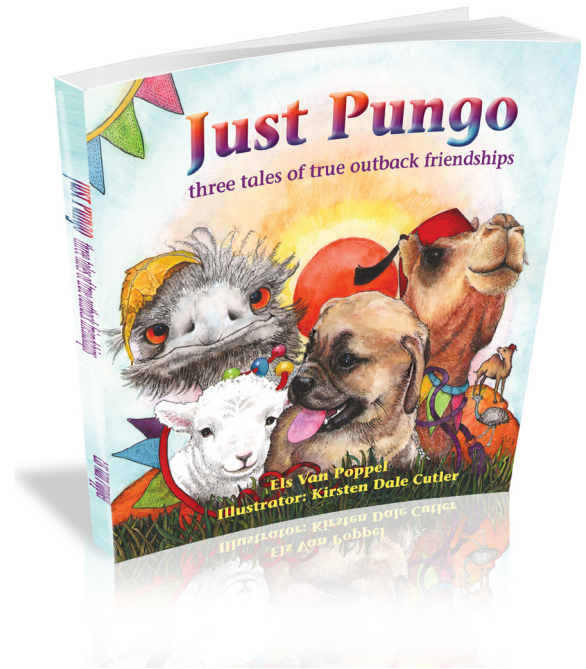


# Just Pungo

three tales of true outback friendships

**Els Van Poppel**

*An irresistible children's book  
Destined to become an  
Aussie classic*



Parents tired of all those books about bunnies and bears can rejoice—there's a new local hero in bookshops and he's a unique Aussie. Pungo happily calls himself "a proud dingo of the Australian bush" but he hasn't got that quite right. He's not sure why but he looks different from his beautiful dingo mum, Bella, and nasty cousins who call him 'Flat Face'.

In these three enchanting tales mixing warmth and humour, the lonely puppy, Pungo, ventures away from his waterhole in search of a friend. He finds one in a little lamb he names Lunch, and the two of them learn the moving truth about the dad Pungo's never known ... and just why Pungo is different from other dingoes.

Join Pungo, Lunch and Bella along with Pyramid, the kind old circus camel, and Skirt, the egocentric ballet dancing emu, as Pungo learns that it's okay to be different. Most importantly, he realises how much family, good friends and home really mean to him.

Author Els Van Poppel grew up in Holland then travelled the world with her first husband before settling in Brisbane 20 years ago. She fell in love with Australia and its wildlife, and that, along with her love for her family's Pug dog, were the inspiration for Pungo—half dingo, half Pug. Els, with a Masters Degree in Feature Film Writing, has taught screenwriting at Griffith University in Brisbane and produced a documentary for SBS Television. She conceived Pungo first as an animated feature film script (developed through the Pacific Film and Television Commission), then realised the story lent itself to a children's picture book, now brought to stunning life by illustrator Kirsten Dale Cutler.

*Just Pungo: three tales of true outback friendships* is published by Wild Wings Productions, and for three books in one is great value at \$29.95.

Publication Date: March 2010, Wild Wings Productions, RRP: \$29.95  
National distribution by Dennis Jones and Associates

**To arrange an interview with Els van Poppel, please contact Bernice Kesbah on  
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