



Biography: Jo Rothwell

Jo Rothwell grew up in the Yarra Valley, Victoria, Australia. The travel bug hit her in her early 20s, and the lure of foreign countries led her to work and travel in Europe for many years. She then took her passion for adventure and travelled to outback Australia, where she taught children on cattle stations via the School of the Air.



Her tourism knowledge broadened when she was employed on the management team at El Questro Station Wilderness Park in the Kimberley, WA.

Settling back in the Yarra Valley, Jo established Rothwell Publishing in 2004 and has written and published 19 children's books. The **My Adventure** and **One Yelpy Kelpie** series explore specific Australian themes and destinations.

Continuing this theme, she has launched the **Australian Adventure Passport**. A simple idea that now has thousands of tourists searching for the next outlet on their travels to gain a stamp in their passport.

Her children's books are on the Premier's Reading Challenge list and have sold over 200,000 copies.

She proudly continues to donate thousands of books to charities.

Her **Aloysius the Ram at Chateau de Lalande** picture book raises much-needed funds for research into paediatric brain cancer and raised over \$10,000

Jo was diagnosed with breast cancer in 2011 and a subsequent metastatic, stage four prognosis in 2015. She has regular ongoing treatment, but she recognises the importance of having a purpose and so continues to write stories, encourage children to read, and explore Australia.

Shifting her focus to non-fiction, Jo released **Chasing Normal – Balancing the Ups and Downs of Life and Cancer, A Memoir**. A unique insight into her life and how she uses distraction, mindfulness and humour to put cancer in its place.

Her latest children's book, **One Yelpy Kelpie's Phillip Island Adventure**, is the 6th Yelpy Kelpie book, and there are many more adventures in this series already on the drawing board.



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