



ANNOUNCEMENT OF EXHIBITION AND ASSOCIATED ACTIVITIES

The Midnight Gang written by Margaret Wild and Illustrated by Ann James, published in Norwood, South Australia by Omnibus Books, 1996 with multiple editions, reprints, and translations

Exhibition and associated activities relating to *The Midnight Gang*

The Mura Gadi Gallery at the University of Canberra Library is holding an exhibition of 36 original artworks from *The Midnight Gang* running from Monday 9 February - Friday 27 Feb 2026. Both author and illustrator will appear at the Opening (date in Feb tba). The National Centre for Australian Children's Literature holds the original and preliminary artwork, papers and manuscripts for this book. The NCACL also holds multiple reviews and articles about this book. These provide additional insights and form the basis for a program of activities based on this collection. Three experienced Canberra teachers are designing programs for group sessions of all ages. The Exhibition is open during University semesters Monday-Friday from 10.30am-4.30pm and by arrangement on the weekends.

Well known and much-loved story

The Midnight Gang is a long-time favourite picture book familiar to many children and their caregivers. The story was written by Margaret Wild and illustrated by Ann James, both well-known, respected and award-winning creators. This particular picture book has won prizes for both literary and artistic high quality. It has garnered several awards given by children across Australia – including Canberra. It has been translated and republished several times in new editions.

The Story

Baby Brenda exits her house via the cat flap to meet up with her toddler gang of three. They enjoy nights of great adventure while their unsuspecting families sleep. What do adventurous babies do at night? They ride high on swings, hurl themselves to the moon, catapult onto stars, and cling to the roller-coaster tail of a comet. And that's just for starters!

Awards for The Midnight Gang

- The Children's Book Council of Australia, Book of the Year Award, Picture Book of the Year 1997, Honour Book
- Books I Love Best Yearly (Bilby) Award – Early Readers 1998, Winner
- Canberra's Own Outstanding List (COOL) Awards, Picture Book 1998, Winner
- Kids Own Australian Literature Awards (KOALA), Picture Book, 1998, Winner
- Young Australians Best Book Award (YABBA) 2001, Shortlisted

Translations and additional formats

- Korean edition, 2000
- British edition, 2000
- ABC Audio cassette including this story (would need transfer to a digital format for use)
- Research material includes reviews and articles about *The Midnight Gang*

Also available—the writer’s creative process

Margaret Wild (the author of *The Midnight Gang*) Papers and Manuscripts are held at the NCACL. Material held about *The midnight gang* includes multiple drafts of manuscripts, correspondence with the publisher, editor, book designer and illustrator, proofs, reviews and publicity

Framed artwork from The Midnight Gang

Below is a link to the description of the artworks for this book

<https://www.ncacl.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2025/12/Ann-James-v2.pdf>

Promotion

Given the exhibition is on the UC campus, UC Public Relations will assist with publicity. Other publicity will be managed through the Centre, the ACT Dept of Education, CBCA ACT Branch, SCBWI, the TLNetwork and other organisations.

Organiser

Dr Belle Alderman AM

Director and Chair

National Centre for Australian Children’s Literature Inc 2025

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9 December 2025