



***Zou and the Box of Kisses* - Michael Gay**
***The Noisy Book* - Soledad Bravi**
***Bravo!* - Philip Waechter**

Published by Gecko Press, RRP \$19.99 *Zou and the Box of Kisses* and *The Noisy Book*; \$24.99 *Bravo!*

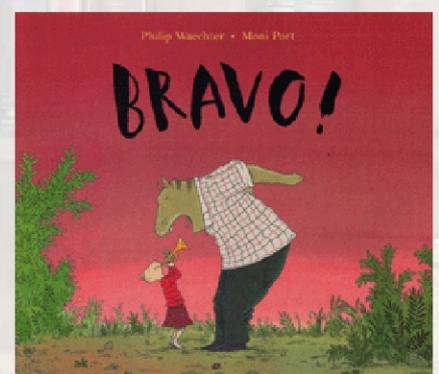
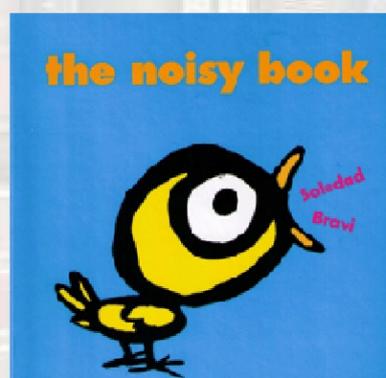
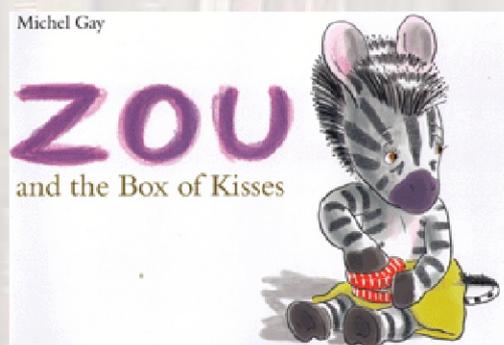
New Zealand Publishers, Gecko Press, specialise in quality books for young readers. These three titles are New Zealand editions of popular European books.

Zou and the Box of Kisses features a young zebra who is going on his first camp. His parents gently encourage him to try new experiences away from home. Supportive adults and friends help Zou to step outside his comfort zone. The 'growing up' theme is developed with insight into youngsters' anxieties about sleepovers. The author's soft-coloured illustrations stand out on the white pages, drawing attention to the expressive Zou. A heart-warming story.

Adults enjoy making sounds to babies. With *The Noisy Book* they're given plenty of scope. This sturdy board book has over 100 pages of objects and animal noises to explore. There's many surprises, for example; "Christmas goes jingle bells", "Pain goes ouch", and "The power socket goes NO!" Bright, eye-catching illustrations focus on each subject. Great fun.

Bravo! gives a unique perspective on the effect of a noisy adult. Young Helena loves her family, but wishes her father wasn't so loud. He shouts about his hot coffee, his lost gumboots and his breakfast egg. His booming voice overshadows everyone else. Helena takes drastic action that eventually leads to a satisfactory solution. Although the characters are illustrated as stylised cats, they wear clothes and live in houses. This allows children to make their own comparisons between imaginary situations and reality. The storyline will prompt varied topics of discussion between adult readers and children.

Reviewed by children's book author, Jean Bennett.



Author's Website:
www.soledadbravi.com (French)

Promoting the enjoyment of children's literature.