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MEDIA RELEASE

## **Debut Children's Book Takes Children on a Funny Farmyard Adventure**

Queensland-based author Karen McKinley is excited to release her first children's book, **'My Dog Bruiser Swallowed a Scooter'** in July 2024.

Set on a farm in the picturesque Sunshine Coast hinterland town of Maleny, the first-time author said she hoped the delightful rhyming picture book would captivate children with its madcap storyline and charming illustrations.

'My Dog Bruiser Swallowed a Scooter' tells the story of Bruiser, a mischievous dachshund with an appetite for adventure – and apparently hot, pink scooters!

When Bruiser swallows a scooter, chaos ensues on the farm as his owners and the dog-next-door Peaches, join in a zany quest to help their furry friend. McKinley's playful rhymes and lively rhythm make this book a perfect read-aloud for parents, older children, grandparents and teachers.

Karen McKinley, a former journalist, drew inspiration for the book from her own farm-life experiences and her love for dogs of all shapes and sizes.

"Bruiser is a cheeky dachshund who is always getting into a pickle," said McKinley, who grew up with a pet German Shepherd Misha and a Kelpie-Border Collie cross called Buzz.

"I wanted to create a story that not only entertains but resonates with the universal joy and occasional trials of owning a pet dog.

McKinley said about 50 percent of Australian households had a pet dog which equated to about 6.5 million dogs.

"Many owners will have had some experience of their beloved pooch chewing a favourite shoe or bag – I decided to take it one step further with Bruiser swallowing a scooter!" laughed McKinley.

The book is beautifully illustrated by Italian-based artist Francesca Quatraro, whose vibrant and engaging artwork brings the Old Brick Lane farm and its inhabitants to life.

Quatraro has been illustrating for about 20 years and for the past five years has been collaborating with a French publishing house to create postcards. Her work has appeared in more than 20 children's books around the world.

*When Quatraro she first read Karen's story, she said she thought of her first little dog who was as small and mischievous as Bruiser.*

“Every day was a little adventure with him, eating everything -- except a moped!  
Illustrating Karen's text for me was a dip into the past, because I spent my childhood in the country, among the vegetable garden and animals.

“Through my illustrations I try to convey the joy of children, their energy full of colours. I hope I succeeded with this book,” said Quatraro.

Together, McKinley and Quatraro have created a world that encourages children to explore the joy of reading and the fun of linguistic play.

“I have always been inspired by American author Dr Seuss, whose work encourages children to think outside the square and develop a love of reading,” said McKinley.

\*My Dog Bruiser Swallowed a Scooter\* is already available for pre-purchase at various bookstores across Queensland online platforms such as Dymocks, Booktopia, Angus & Robertson and Woodslane.

My Dog Bruiser Swallowed A Scooter is published by Little Steps Publishing, a subsidiary of New Frontier Publishing.

Join Bruiser and his farm friends for a fun-filled adventure that promises laughter, learning, and lots of rhyming mischief. Perfect for children aged three to eight, this book is a great addition to any young reader's library.

**For more information and interviews contact:**

Lara McLaren  
Publicist-Agent  
McGruther McLaren Talent Agency  
[Tel:0410445272](tel:0410445272)  
Email: [lara@mcmcl.co](mailto:lara@mcmcl.co)

[www.karenmckinley.com.au](http://www.karenmckinley.com.au)