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ABOUT DAWN

Dawn Burdett is an award-winning Software Expert and Children's Book Author on a mission to simplify the intricate world of coding and technology and make it not only fun, but accessible to the young.

Above all, Dawn is a firm believer of the future and the up-and-coming generation that will help shape it. This is what drives her to educate children through the power of storytelling.

Born in the UK, Dawn's affinity for the written word began early on. During grade school (while living in Germany), she distinctly remembers the moment when the creative spark officially entered her life. Her 4th grade teacher would read "Day of the Triffids," and have his students write alternative endings. From that point forward, putting that pen down was out of the question.

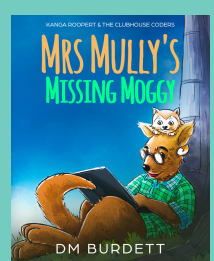
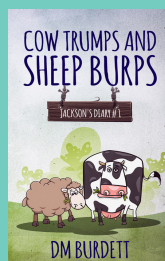
Outside of writing, Dawn serves as the Chief Technical Officer at a prominent software development company. During her free time, she is a voracious reader and avid drummer. Writing and coding aside, her biggest loves, apart from her children and husband, are her furred/feathered children, a Golden Retriever (Alphee), a Labrador (Hunter), two cats (Floki and Ragnar), and three chickens (all named Gertie).

Dawn currently calls Melbourne, Australia home.

CONNECT

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Q&A

WHAT'S YOUR BACKGROUND?

I've been a software developer all of my working life.

I've worked in all sorts of places, for different companies, and on diverse projects.

These days, I concentrate on enterprise web applications, but new technologies come along every day so there's always something new to learn.

WHAT CHALLENGES DO YOU ENCOUNTER?

When you self-publish, every step in the process is your responsibility. There are plenty of skilled people that you can employ to help you - like editors - much of the work is done by you. Fitting in enough time in the day to get your day job done, write and do things like marketing, setting up websites, etc; it takes a lot of hard work.

AS A CHILD, WERE YOU AN AVID READER?

My parents tell me that, from when I could read - about the age of five - I would read anything. Literally anything. I'd pick up my dad's newspaper and read that, even though I didn't understand the context of the articles. I would read the backs of breakfast cereal packets if there was nothing else - I'm not kidding, anything went.

Nowadays, I still read lots - usually two books a week - I read at bed time, it helps me to relax.



WHAT SPARKED THE IDEA FOR KANGA ROOPERT

In the various IT management roles I've had, school children have come for work experience within the IT department. While some of them have great business system tools experience - Word, Excel, Powerpoint, etc - I found that none of them really had any basic coding skills. I started the Kanga Roopert site to try to give more advice

on teaching coding skills to kids, and I'll build it up over the years with projects specifically for the under 8s. The

Kanga Roopert books will build on the foundations of computations skills development, using stories to teach those skills.

HOW DID YOU COME UP WITH YOUR MAIN CHARACTER - ROOPERT

Ah, well that's easy. Kangaroos are my most favourite animal in the entire world!

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