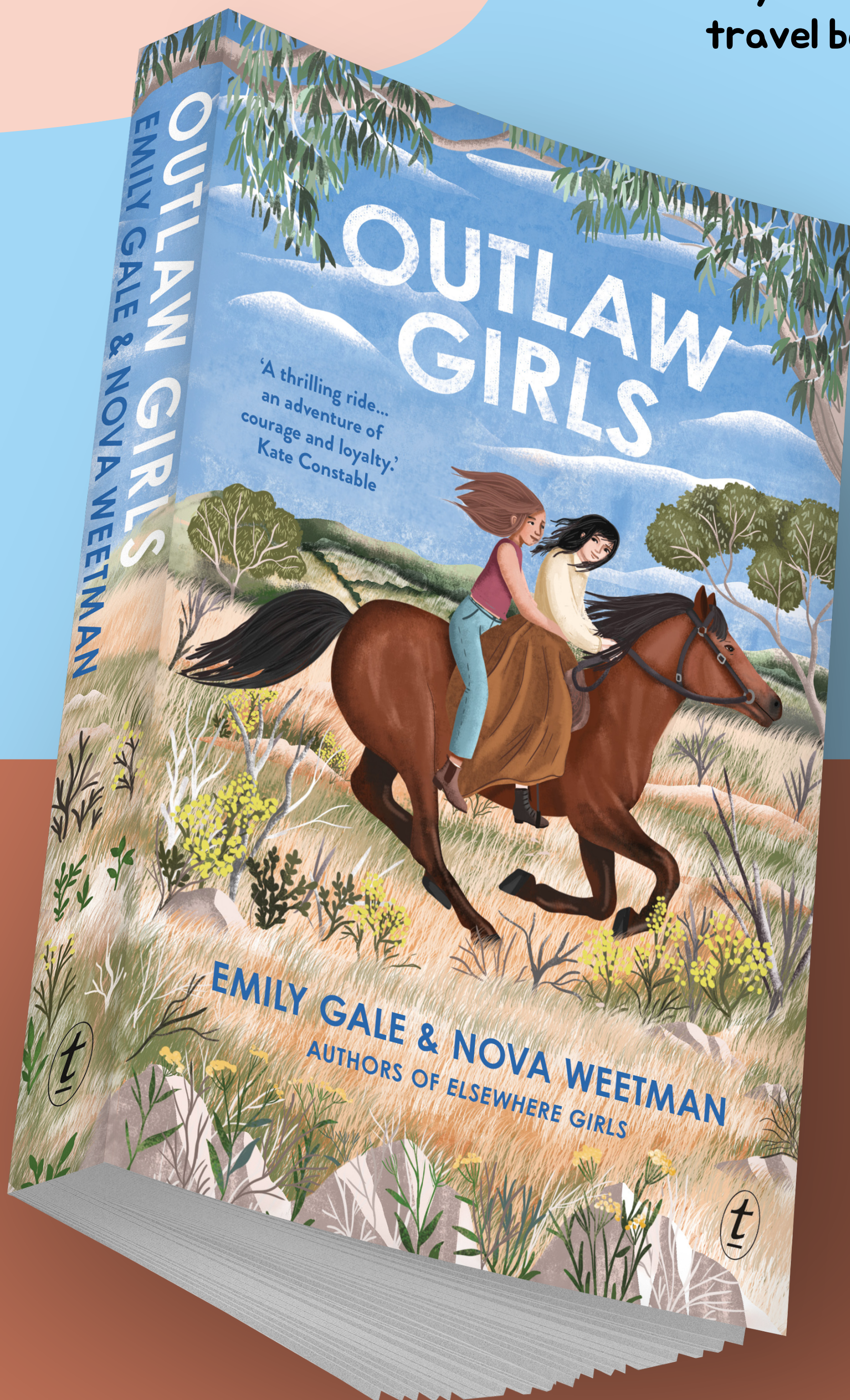


ACTIVITY KIT

Do you like creative writing?

Do you sometimes imagine
what it was like to live in the
'olden days'?

Have you ever wanted to
travel back in time?



Kate and Ruby are about to have the ride of their lives!
Will you join them?



Who was Kate Kelly?



Kate Kelly lived in the 1800s in rural Victoria. She was an excellent horse rider and she had a brother called Ned.

What do you think she was like?

We don't know very much about Kate and how she felt about her life. Why do you think this might be?

Write a description of the kind of girl you think Kate might have been.

Read chapter 5 of *Outlaw Girls* for some ideas.

DID YOU KNOW?

Kate marched on the streets of Melbourne in protest after Ned was arrested.

Life in the bush

What challenges do you think Kate might have faced in her daily life?

Do you live in the country or the city? How might your life be different from Kate's?

What are some things you might need to survive in the bush?

Brainstorming

Make a list of five things you would ask Kate Kelly about if she visited your school.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.

Kate Kelly all dressed up



Here is a photo of Kate Kelly all grown up in the 1880s.

It is a '**studio portrait**': Kate is standing in front of a backdrop sheet.

Notice the fashion and how it's different from what we wear today. Kate is wearing a full skirt and riding hat.

Do you think Kate would have dressed like this while riding in the high country? Why/why not?

Kate Kelly in the news

This is an article from a newspaper called the *Illustrated Adelaide* about Kate Kelly. It was published 1 August, 1880.

KATE KELLY.

Kate Kelly—a fine specimen of the native-born bush girl, is unmarried, and is a most skilful horsewoman. She has been instrumental in conveying information and assistance to her outlawed brothers, and it is a wonder she has not been arrested long since, as one of the most prominent of Kelly sympathisers. She possesses great pluck, powers of endurance and energies which, if directed rightly, would be worthy of commendation.

*Native-born here means she was born in Victoria and not an immigrant.

Do you think the writer admires Kate? Why? Why not?

If someone were to write a newspaper article about you, what might it say?



This is an artist's sketch of Kate, which accompanied the article.

The Kelly family



Here is an old photo of the Kelly family and their house at **Eleven Mile Creek**. It shows Kate with her mother and sisters. The man on the right is **Reverend William Gould**, who conducted the wedding ceremonies for the family.

This is an oil painting of Ned Kelly (centre) and his gang. Can you spot someone special in the bottom right corner?



This painting is titled 'Oil Painting Marony', and is by Patrick Marony (1894).

Creative Writing

- Read the newspaper articles below.
- Draw a map showing where Kate might have ridden her horse to evade the police.
- Write a short story about her daring escape. How do you think she felt as she galloped away?
- Reflect on how reading these articles helped you write your story.

'Kelly Rumours' is from the *Newcastle Morning Herald*, published 26 April, 1879.
'Ned Kelly's Sister' is from the *Herald*, published 26 December, 1878.

KELLY RUMOURS.

THE following rumours were widely circulated about Benalla and its neighbourhood on the 21st April, says the *Melbourne Herald*, but from inquiry into the matter, I am not prepared to vouch for the veracity of the statements:—The police received information yesterday that Miss Kate Kelly, the sister of the outlaws Ned and Dan Kelly, was seen leaving Benalla at about midnight, mounted on a high-spirited horse, and leading two others. She galloped off, and as soon as it became known to the police, a party of troopers and black trackers, numbering 18 in all, started in pursuit, as they considered it probable that Miss Kelly was going out on an expedition of conveying news to her brothers, and rendering them assistance.

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NED KELLY'S SISTER.

The movements of Miss Kelly, who exhibits so strong an attachment to her brother Ned, are being closely watched by the police. In spite of all their vigilance, however, she contrives to elude them, nor can they discover whither she goes or whence she returns. It appears that frequently she leaves her home at midnight on a fleet horse, and rides at full gallop through the bush. To follow her in these perilous rides is impossible. She is seen to appear rapidly in various places which are miles apart. Morning finds her in Wangaratta, mid-day at Benalla, and evening at Violet Town. She is reported as having been seen up the King River and in the Strathbogie almost simultaneously. No one doubts but that Miss Kelly is in constant communication with the outlaws, but it is difficult to procure legal evidence of the fact. Could this be done, her arrest under the Outlawry Act would certainly be accomplished without hesitation.

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OUTLAW GIRLS

**You're the
reporter!**

Pretend you're a journalist in 1879 looking for the next big story. You've gone for a stroll down the main street and caught a flash of movement in the corner of your eye...

It's a horse! Galloping through the bush behind the post office!

Where might the rider be going in such a rush?

Could it be Kate Kelly?

**Write a short newspaper article.
You can use the template on page 8.**

Special Edition

BREAKING NEWS

KELLY GANG SISTER SPOTTED IN THE VICTORIAN BUSH

WHAT WILL HAPPEN NEXT?

THE AUTHORS

Emily and Nova are the best of friends and have been writing stories together for years.

Emily is on the **left**...



And Nova is on the **right**!

Emily Gale and Nova Weetman

Emily and Nova worked together to write ***Outlaw Girls***.

Writing something that's based on history takes a lot of careful planning. Emily and Nova went to the State Library of Victoria to search for **photos**, **newspaper articles**, and **other documents**.

They even went **horse riding** together!

Emily and Nova also agreed to write **one character each** for every chapter. One of them would write down Ruby's thoughts, and the other one would write about Kate...

Which character would you be interested in writing about?

Bushrangers

Bushrangers have played a role in the story of Australia since the British invasion.

More than 1,000 names have been recorded.

What is a bushranger?

A **bushranger** is someone who is running from the police and living in the bush.

These bushrangers are also considered to be **outlaws** (meaning they live outside of the law, so they are considered to be criminals).

The Kelly gang

- The Kelly gang was a group of bushrangers who rode their horses around the Victorian country, robbing banks and even shooting a policeman.
- The Kelly gang's leader was **Ned**, Kate Kelly's brother.
- Ned was often joined by his other gang members: his friend **Joe Byrne**, his brother **Dan**, and Dan's friend **Steve Hart**.
- When a **policeman** came to the Kelly house to arrest Dan for stealing horses, Ned shot the policeman in the wrist to stop him. Ned's mother was also arrested for helping him.
- Eventually, the Kelly gang were cornered in a local pub and captured, but not before Ned appeared wearing his **famous armour** to protect himself.

A note from Emily and Nova

We had another bushranger in mind when we came up with the character of old Mary in *Outlaw Girls*.

When Kate and Ruby get to know old Mary in the book, they're not able to find out everything about Mary's life, but we imagined her story in detail. Now we'll share it with you.

The Imagined Story of Mary in *Outlaw Girls*

Mary was born in the 1820s to a well-off family. Growing up surrounded by horses, she became a strong rider. But when Mary was thirteen, she went through a portal on the back of a time-horse and landed about seventy years into the future. There she met Jessie, who'd been sold by her mother to a travelling circus.

Jessie was being trained as a stunt rider but had been struck down by illness. If Jessie couldn't perform her act by the time the circus reached Sydney, she'd be out of a job and destitute. So Mary trained to perform in Jessie's place while she recovered.

As the circus travelled far away from the portal, Mary became trapped in 1902. She and Jessie escaped the circus together and became as close as sisters. Despite good intentions, Jessie led Mary into a life of petty crime. One day they were caught and sentenced to a year in prison.

Upon release, Jessie chose to become a bushranger but Mary refused to join her. Instead, Mary was determined to buy them a horse each and travel back to Moonlight Trail. She thought they would both be safer in the past with Mary's family. This took years of hard work, but when Mary finally had the horses, Jessie turned her down. Heartbroken, Mary returned to her own time alone.

By now Mary was ten years older. Her family thought her long dead and would not accept her. They even left the colony, accusing Mary of deception. After being turned out, Mary longed to return to Jessie but that wasn't possible either. The time-horse wouldn't come for her again.

Mary has lived a lonely life near Moonlight Trail ever since.

Who was Mary's friend, Jessie?

Jessie is based on the real female bushranger Jessie Hickman, also known as 'The Lady Bushranger'. She was born in 1890 in New South Wales. Her mother sold her to a circus when she was eight, and by the time she was seventeen she was a champion stunt rider.

In 1913 Jessie took to crime. Within a few years, she'd served two sentences in Long Bay Jail. Once released, she headed to Wollemi, a wild area in New South Wales. There she became a famous cattle thief. Jessie evaded arrest by riding into dangerous land where the police could not follow. She lived in caves and formed a gang.

In 1928, she almost went to jail again but managed to convince the jury that she was innocent. After that, Jessie tried to distance herself from her life of crime. She died a few years later, in 1936, and was buried in an unmarked pauper's grave.

For another exciting time-slip story from Emily and Nova, check out *Elsewhere Girls*!

Find out more at
textpublishing.com.au

