

Book dreams come true

Authors reflect on their books published in the past 12 months in the final part of our series.

Julian and Jennifer Duband

Julian Duband is a musician and director of music at Bialik College. Jennifer is an artist and a kindergarten teacher at The King David School. Their book, *My Incredible Creation*, was published by Duband Books in mid-2018.



JEN is an artist, and I am a composer, but we share not only a common love of the arts, but as teachers, a passion for educating the next generation.

However, when it came time to bring our own child into that

generation, it didn't happen the way we'd hoped. We had to go about it in a more creative way and so began our IVF journey.

Exhibitions and compositions took a back seat as we set about working on our best creation yet. Some years later, our amazing twins, Amichai and Indigo were born.

Soon after, Jen found herself needing to re-connect with her art. This book was her idea. Jen created the illustrations using collage and I wrote the story in rhyme. In 2018 *My Incredible Creation* was born.

It's a "Where did I come from" story for IVF-conceived children. The

challenge was making something thematically so technical, clinical and medical into a story that was accessible, humorous and educational.

IVF pioneer Dr Alex Lopata, who was an embryologist on the team that created Australia's first IVF baby, Candice Reed, spoke at our book launch and praised the book for the way it delivers its message to children and adults in a safe, positive, loving and meaningful way.

However, the most meaningful praise of all came from Candice Reed herself, saying: "In a way, it is very similar in explanation to how

mum and dad told me the story of my conception. I feel lucky to have a copy of this book."

Michael Gorton, who is heading up a review of Assisted Reproductive Technology in Victoria, said: "If you tell children from the earliest possible age, stories and photos, telling them about how they were born, it becomes part of their life, it's never a surprise, they grow up with it, and they just accept it."

Hearing this was validation for our decision to write the book and creatively explain IVF as a natural part of our children's lives.

