



## This month, we've been talking to . . . Scott Tulloch

Scott Tulloch is the illustrator of the recent Scholastic titles *Wooden Arms*, *On the Road to Tuapeka* and *Tom and the Dragon*. Scott also wrote and illustrated the Willy books (*Willy's Dad*, *Willy's Mum*, *Willy's Grandpa*) and the lovely *Echo and Hush* and *The Naughtiest Puppy*. Scott is based in Queenstown. His newest picture book, *The Silly Goat Gruff*, is out this month.

We asked Scott some questions about himself and his work, and here's what he said ...

*Where were you born?*

Wellington.

*Where do you live now?*

Queenstown.

*Where did you go to school?*

In the Hutt Valley.

*Did you have a nickname?*

Maybe ... !

*What were you like in school?*

Bored!

*What is the naughtiest thing you did?*

I stole a Crunchie bar and got in big, big trouble. Not recommended.

*What was your favourite book growing up?*

*The Living Forest* by Rein Poortvliet. It's basically a collection of wildlife sketches by a Dutch artist, but they are amazing sketches. Also he got to spend his life in the outdoors drawing the animals he saw, which seemed like the coolest job when I was a kid (it still seems pretty cool, actually).

*Who is your favourite children's author?*

Goscinnny & Uderzo, the Asterix guys (whomever of them did the writing) and Richmal Crompton, who wrote a series of books about a boy called William Brown who always got in trouble.

*What is your favourite food/colour/movie?*

My favourite food depends on what I feel like eating at the time, but pizza usually goes down well. Colour: Blue. Movie: My favourite movie changes over time, but when I was a kid it was *Star Wars* for sure (the very first one).

*Who inspired you to write/illustrate?*

The guys who created Asterix, Rien Poortvliet, Raymond Briggs.

*How did you get started?*

When I was 26 I decided I'd like to be an illustrator or artist, so I bought some art materials and began drawing and painting all the time.

*How old were you?*

I became a professional artist at the age of 28, and had my first book as both author and illustrator published when I was 40.

*Why did you want to be a writer/illustrator?*

For the fun of it, and getting lots of people to see what I do.

*How do you think up ideas?*

Randomly mostly, though sometimes it's from watching what's going on in my own life.

*Do you have a special place where you write and illustrate?*

My studio – I used to have a proper one but now it's a spare bedroom.

*What is the best thing about being an author/illustrator?*

Working for myself. Also you can Google your name.

*Have you had a funny or embarrassing moment as an author/illustrator?*

Not really. I'm too hidden away in my studio to get into embarrassing situations. I used to get really embarrassed about speaking in front of lots of people but I'm a bit better now.

What do you do when you are not writing and illustrating?

In winter I drive buses in the snow. In my spare time like to sleep under trees in the great outdoors and go diving in the sea.

What would you have chosen to be if you were not an author/illustrator?

I'd like to have been a wildlife expert like David Attenborough.

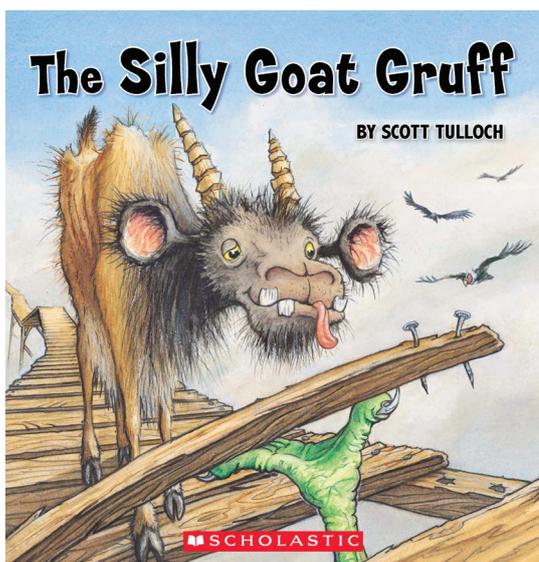
Which famous person from the past would you like to talk to?

I'd quite like to meet a Neanderthal!

Is there anything else you would like to tell us about yourself?

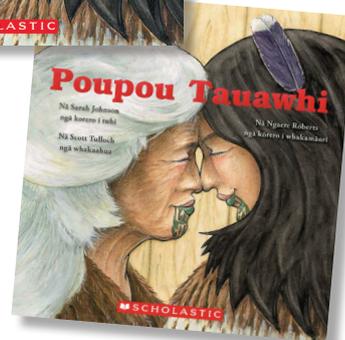
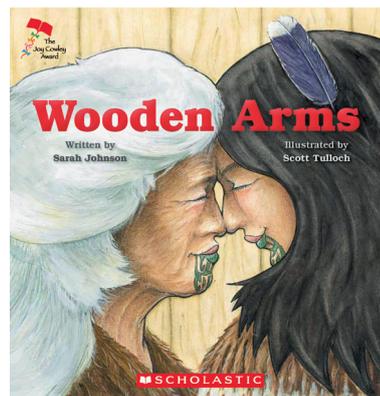
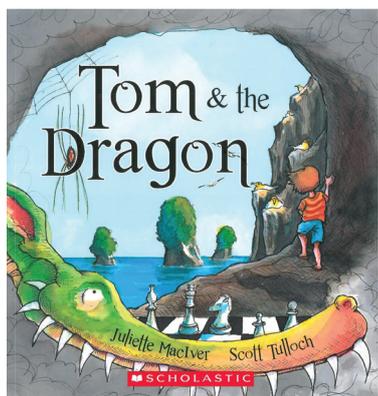
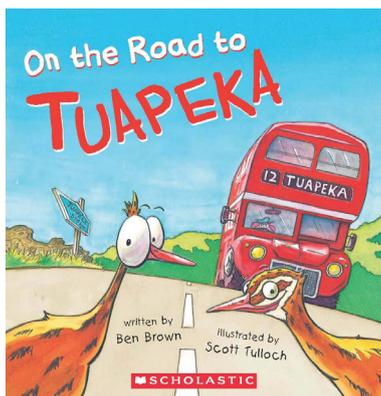
My daughter says I'm a 'man-child' and 'not very sensible' (she's 9).

## SCHOLASTIC NZ BOOKS BY SCOTT TULLOCH



### **The Silly Goat Gruff**

Publication	March 2013
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NZ RRP	\$19.50
Format	250 x 240 mm
Extent	32 pp
Age	3-7 years



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