**World Dementia Month September 2015 Books Encourage Children to Connect.**

A select group of *Australian* children’s authors and illustrators have collaborated to showcase their books about ageing and dementia for September’s World Dementia Month. The helplessness and confusion a growing number of children face when confronted with the decline of an elderly relative prompted local literary professionals to create emotive stories to provide encouragement and hope to families.

Each unique and beautifully illustrated story is based on personal experience and offers practical strategies to connect and share love with elderly grandparents even in difficult, changing, and confusing circumstances.

The power of memory and remembering as a way to sustain a loving connection is a common thread. In *Celia and Nonna*, Celia brings memories of happy times spent together with her grandmother into Nonna’s new aged care home by making pictures and paintings to fill the walls, and the grandchild mouse in *Do You Remember* uses artwork to honour Grandma’s memories.

In *When I See Grandma*, Grandma’s memories are brought to life through her dreams as the granddaughter shares with her everyday things she enjoys doing and in *Harry Helps Grandpa Remember,* Harry shares coping skills to help his grandpa boost his memory and confidence.

In *Lucas and Jack*, Lucas’ encounter with elderly Jack reveals to him what Lucas can’t see on the surface – the rich past of each resident - and in so doing, gives Lucas the key to connecting with his Grandpop through inquiring about his childhood memories.

At times humorous, at times poignant, always heartfelt, these stories will inspire and encourage children and families who are grappling with change and illness in those they love.

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