

# Media Kit



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**Richard Marman**

**Author / Illustrator**



# Biography

**R**ichard was born in England. His father was a RAF officer so the family moved from base to base including four years in Germany. He attended six primary and three high schools, which made him top of the class in geography.

The family immigrated to Australia in 1962. After complete school in Fremantle Richard enlisted in the RAAF and trained as a pilot. He flew transport planes and helicopters, serving for nine years including an operational tour in Vietnam.

In 1975 Richard joined Ansett Airlines, remaining with the company for twenty-six years until it closed in 2001 at which time Richard was a Boeing-767 captain. Richard then trained Singapore Airlines cadets to fly Learjets at the Sunshine Coast Airport. Between flying duties Richard completed a diploma of commercial art by correspondence.

Leaving aviation in 2006, Richard spent three years at the University of the Sunshine Coast and Tewantin TAFE successfully completing a degree majoring in creative writing and graphic design and a diploma of visual art.

Using ideas gained at university, Richard began illustrating and writing books, publishing eight novels, two novellas and two illustrated children's book as well as illustrating over a dozen books for other authors.

His illustrating credits include cartoons, posters and calendars for the Australasian Ground Safety Council representing All the Australian domestic airlines, Qantas, Singapore Airline, RAAF and Air New Guinea.

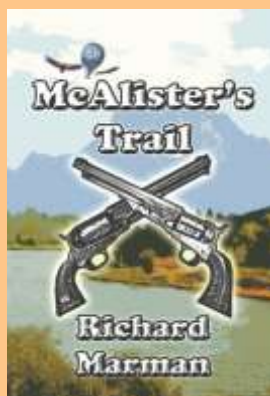
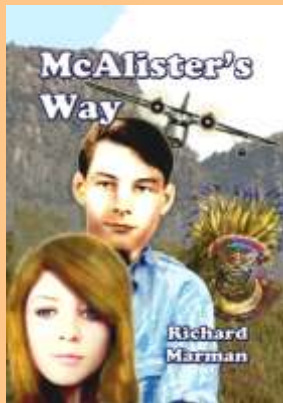
Richard is a ukulele enthusiast and taught advanced and intermediate classes for Sunshine Coast U3A. He now volunteers with a local music group to entertain retirement home residents.





# Bibliography

## The McAlister Line





## The McAlister Line Synopses

In 2010 Zach McAlister goes to stay with his Grandpa Danny who lives on a property near Merimbula in Southern New South Wales. Danny's wife died recently after many years of happy marriage, so Zach is surprised when he finds a shed full of memorabilia from his grandpa's past, including some love letters from a girl called Angela who Danny knew as a teenager.

*McAlister's Way* starts the series in 1950 when Danny tells Zach how he escaped a draconian boarding school in Rockhampton after seriously injuring the principle. Danny flees to north Queensland and endeavours to reach New Guinea and discover what has become of his father missing in action while fighting the Japanese along the Kokoda Track.

Danny takes a job as a cane cutter, becomes embroiled in a union war, joins a trawler crew in the Gulf of Carpentaria and smuggling operations to New Guinea.

After a series of harrowing adventures, Danny teams up with eccentric Afro-American bush pilot Mad Monty and stunning teenager Angela Holyman, an English missionary's daughter in the quest to discover the secret of Danny's missing father.

The sequels follow Danny, Monty and Angela across a truly global canvass including the final throws of the Chinese Civil War, Korea and French defeat in Vietnam. The adventures move to London's gangland, American civil rights struggle and Africa during the Mau-Mau rebellion.

The three adventurers constantly find themselves in the wrong place at the wrong time and must look out for one another until they discover their true allegiance and destiny.

Zach is also able to dig up a mass of information about the McAlister family-tree which he records in the three prequel titles: *McAlister's Trail*, *McAlister and the Great War* and *McAlister's Lady*

Finally *McAlister's Spark* takes Zach, Angela and Danny to a present day apocalypse.



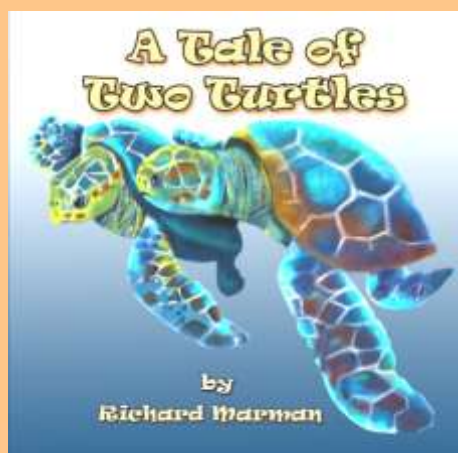


## Other Titles

### Fantasy Adventures for Young Adults

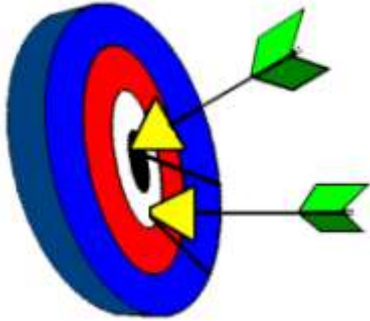


### Illustrated books for young readers

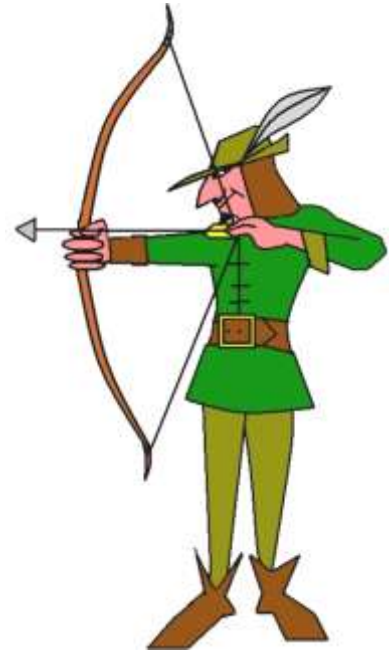




## Target Audience



*The McAlister Line* novels are right-of-passage stories aimed to excite, amuse and entertain teenagers and adults. I'm sure anyone who likes the Indiana Jones and Mad Max genres will enjoy my books.



Although Danny is the male lead, Angela is a tough and highly principled character written so modern girls can identify and empathise with her.

The fast-paced writing style will especially encourage young male readers to take pleasure in *The McAlister Line*.

Apart from sheer enjoyment, *The McAlister Line* is beneficial in many ways covering many social topics including

- Child abuse
- Religious and racial intolerance
- The indefatigable human spirit
- Insights in historical roads less travelled
- Authentic settings taken from the authors travels
- Technical aspects of aviation simply explained

But overall if my books are simply remembered as exciting, can't put down page-turners then I shall be content. Stuff happens in my books.

Each chapter is about 2500 words which is an easy ten-minute read at bead-time — although I hope you won't be able to put the book down. It gives you a nice bite-sized read before putting out the light. Mind you most chapters have a cliff-hanger ending urging you to read on.



## Book Excerpts

### McAlister's Way

**T**he Buick should easily out run the Ford truck, but for how far? Danny had no idea of the car's range or what he'd do when it ran out of petrol. Right now he was heading towards the old Fitzroy Bridge into Rockhampton because it was the only road from *St Ursicinus*. Unfortunately the car's grill and radiator were ruined by the school gate. Water poured onto the road and steam spewed from the bonnet as the engine overheated and faltered, but Danny charged on at full throttle. The pursuing Ford may have been old and battered, but its engine was well maintained and it was closing the gap.

Just as the Buick approached the bridge a cylinder seized with a roar and a belch of oily fumes. Danny lost sight of the road and, choking in the smoke screen, lost control of the car. It swerved and smashed into a small retaining wall at the bridge entrance. Crashing through the barrier, the Buick became airborne then dropped into the river. In a second Danny stood erect and, planting one foot on the door frame, launched himself from the car with all his strength. There was a crack as the Buick hit the surface first. Water sprayed for an instant and the car floated for several minutes before sinking.

Danny splashed into the river a heart-beat after the Buick. Water engulfed him then he burst to the surface, shocked and bruised, but not seriously hurt. He gulped a lungful of air and let the current carry him downstream as he slowly swam towards the city-side bank. The river was past its summer flood and Danny was a strong swimmer, but it was still a fair distance and he was exhausted when he reached the far side. Wharves and jetties lined the riverbank and he clambered up a ladder onto a wooded pontoon and sat gasping for breath.

He saw the Ford's headlights on the Fitzroy Bridge. The truck was stationary although he couldn't make out any figures through the bridge's iron girders.

'Now that's something you don't see every night...'

Danny spun around to see Arty Baines and a couple of Aboriginal lads from his gang who were hanging around the wharves looking for mischief.

'Blimey, Arty, you scared the crap out of me.'

'Spectacular, mate...very impressive.'

'I'm in deep strife, mate.'

'You don't say? Was that the Mons's ruddy car?'

'Yeah, I nicked it.'

'He'll give you a right hiding when he catches you I reckon.'

'Worse than that, I clouted him with an altar cross. I think I knocked out one of his eyes.'

### *McAlister's Hoard*

**T**o make matters worse, just as the pirates were recovering, Angela turned around and swam back to Frenchy's junk!

'Ange, what the bloody hell are you playing at?' Danny called, only to swallow a pint of salt water for his trouble.

Angela reached the scaling ladder that still hung over the junk's side. She grabbed the ladder and clambered onto the first rung just as the gunner clamped the spare magazine into the Bren and reefed the cocking lever back. Angela took the last grenade from her shorts pocket, pulled the pin with her teeth and lobbed the Mills bomb onto the deck.

She didn't wait, but spat the pin into the sea and dived back into the water. Several rifle shots zinged past her head, peppering the surface around her. As she swam like a champion towards the Norseman, she was vaguely aware of a boom as the grenade exploded. What she didn't see was the Bren gun ripped from its mounting and the gunner blown to tatters.

### *McAlister's Siege*

**M**onty sat at the bar in Hotel Metropole's main lounge. He'd lost count of the drinks he'd poured down his throat, but nothing could deaden the pain and downright sadness he felt. Other miserable CAT pilots sat around him although they didn't talk much. They were joined by Dr and Mrs Holyman.

'Here's to ya, Danny,' he said raising his glass unsteadily. 'You were a good kid and I'm gonna miss ya. Here's to ya too, Earthquake. You dopey bastard for getting killed on the last day. And Ange, I wonder what has become of you. You may have been a pain-in-the-ass, but you sure were a gorgeous one.'

Mrs Holyman burst into tears.

### *McAlister's Allegiance*

**K**ekio screamed again as an enormous shadow bounded through the village. The spectre growled and snarled as it loped past leaving the rank stench of death in its path. Danny stood riveted to the spot as the creature leapt towards him. He felt his feet buckle as Monty tackled him around the knees. Danny crumpled to the dusty ground as the shadow flashed inches above him and disappeared a second later.



In moments Danny and his companions were surrounded by a chattering, yelling, and outraged crowd. Men, women and children all stood in confusion, babbling at once. Some jumped in agitation as they stared at where the shadow had vanished. Dogs snapped and snarled at the strangers.

Suddenly another shot rang out from Major White's carbine. This time the crowd *did* take notice, but only to become more agitated. Then Kekio was calling for calm and quiet.

'What was that flaming thing?' Danny stammered as he rose to his feet and dusted himself down.

'That, Danny, if I'm not very much mistaken, was a bloody great tiger,' Monty replied as he gasped for breath. 'If it had been a few inches lower, it'd have taken your head clean off.'

### McAlister's Spark

'**W**e can't let you shoot people. We're police officers ...' Karen stammered. 'Not anymore,' the stranger snapped. 'You're just survivors – same as the rest of us.'

He turned back to Tom.

'Now, where were we? Oh yes, the guns. Where did you get 'em?'

'Took 'em off two coppers back in Bright.'

'And they just let you?'

'Naw, we 'ad to persuade 'em, didn't we?'

'You murdered them?'

'Yeah, so what? What's it to you? Like yer said there ain't no cops no more.'

The stranger shot Tom through the temple, turned the gun on Derek and put a bullet into his heart. He rifled through their pockets and collected any spare ammunition he found. It was all the two villains carried that was worth anything. He emptied the magazines, handed one weapon to Mike and pocketed the other along with half the bullets.

'Half each,' the stranger said, 'that seems fair to me.'

Karen just stared at him.

'They were baggage,' he said.

'Who *are* you?' she managed at last.

'Not the Lone Ranger that's for sure. My name's Zach McAlister.'



## Reviews

### *McAlister's Way*

'Masterfully handled and quite eloquent — Wonderful.'

'I like this book it covers issues that need to be addressed.'

2012 Australian CYA writers' awards judges

'With pirates and secrets set amongst the northern tropics, you're in for a delightful read. It has a really good sense of place and from the voice to the detail; it's a fast moving action story that will leave you wanting more'

Lauren Jones, Sunshine Coast hinterland

'*McAlister's Way* is a fast paced page-turning read, the kind of read where you lose track of time. Absolutely enveloping! Highly recommended!'

Reader reviews from YAbookscentral.com

'Waiting for the sequel.'

Kay Bryce, Launceston

Through the non-stop action and the integration of history, new cultures and wars the reader is kept engaged from beginning to end on a literary roller coaster ride they won't soon forget.

Jes Jones, Goodreads

### *McAlister's Trail*

'A decent read and a fun romp across the Southwest.'

Sandy Whiting for Western Writers of America *Roundup Magazine*

'This is a great and interesting novel written in an easy-to-read way. Loved the characters and settings as well as the action-packed events. Really enjoyed reading it.'

Amazon.com review

### *McAlister's Spark*

This is a fast-paced, action-riddled amazing read you will struggle to put down. A great action read for teenagers and great graphics — a great literary effort

Wade Reynolds, Brisbane

### *McAlister and the Great War*

'A very good and well researched read. I enjoyed it very much.'

Squadron Leader Mark 'Cowboy' Willcocks, RAAF ret. Chief Pilot and CEO  
Fubilan Air Transport PNG



# Artwork Sampler

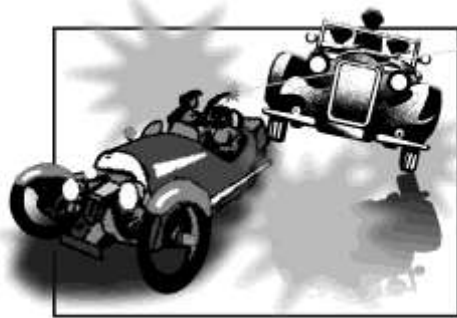
Each chapter of my books is accompanied by a graphic header which gives a sense of what's to come or simply stands alone as an interesting image.



*McAlister's Way*



*McAlister's Hoard*



*McAlister's Siege*



*McAlister's Allegiance*



*McAlister's Spark*



*McAlister and the Great War*



## Interview Questions

Where do you get the inspiration for your stories?

How do you construct your books?

Which authors do you admire?

Do your books have a message?

What is the most important aspect of your work?

What are your thoughts on electronic media?

What do you read in your spare time?

What are your plans for future books?

What advice can you give to aspiring writers?

### Contact Details and Download Photos

**Email:** [rpmarman1@bigpond.com](mailto:rpmarman1@bigpond.com)

**Tel:** +61 7 54376680

**Mob:** +61 439 260 706

[www.richardmarman.com](http://www.richardmarman.com)

website and social

media images are

available on request

