



# Schools of Fish by Alan Sampson wins the 2015 Finch Memoir Prize

## ‘Every Child Needs A Champion’

When Finch Publishing Manager Samantha Miles phoned Alan Sampson to congratulate him on winning the Finch Memoir Prize, he couldn't quite believe it despite being the author of three previously published education titles.

Alan, a Queensland Public School Executive Principal says, 'I wrote my story to show how life's lessons should shape our education system. The individual should shape the system rather than the reverse. Every child needs a champion.'

He continues, 'This experience has given me a greater understanding and appreciation for the role school and my family have played in making me a better educator and person.'

Samantha says, 'I was captivated from the first page of Schools of Fish all the way through to the very surprising twist at the end.'

### Author Bio

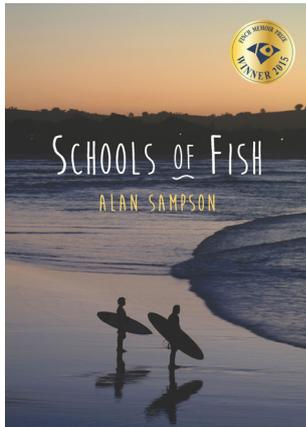


Alan Sampson has worked in the education department in Queensland for 30 years as a teacher, high school principal, Inspector of Schools and Assistant Regional Director. He is the proud father of four children and enjoys spending his spare time surfing, travelling and writing.

*Schools of Fish* is available in good bookshops nationwide and online in paperback and ebook from Thursday, 21 May.

### Media

For interviews and review copies, contact Laura Boon at Finch Publishing. Ph: 02 9418 6247 / 0431 205 177. E: [laura@finch.com.au](mailto:laura@finch.com.au).



At the beginning of *Schools of Fish*, Alan Sampson is very much a man bent on success. As a very strict high school principal he was renowned for transforming weak schools into centres of academic and sporting excellence.

But the long hours took their toll on his home life. As his marriage ended and his family was torn apart, he was given charge of a troubled city high school on a downward spiral; to make matters worse, in this school was one of the most troublesome students he had ever come across ... his own son, Greg.

As Alan strove to find a way to tame his son's behavioural problems at school and at home, he and Greg battled each other as well as the ingrained obstacles in the education system. Only when they both found the courage to step outside the rules did they find their way through to each other ... and realised that the best education in life can often be found outside the school system.

### Sydney Writers Festival appearance

Alan Sampson is speaking on the panel Looking Inwards, Writing Out with Patti Miller and Kate Howarth at the Sydney Writers Festival on Sunday 24 May at 1:30pm. Venue: the Richard Wherrett Studio, Roslyn Packer Theatre, 22 Hickson Road, Walsh Pay. Tickets: \$14.

Bookings: <https://www.roslynpackertheatre.com.au/whats-on/productions/2015/swf15-looking-inwards>.



ALAN SAMPSON



PATTI MILLER



KATE HOWARTH