



# A case study in using a customised product listing

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WordCamp Brisbane 2025



## About Me

I am a WordPress Developer living in Brisbane. I provide affordable, quality web development, support and maintenance services to small businesses and non-profits who can't afford normal commercial web developers. I charge a nominal monthly rate that includes all development and maintenance activities. I work with clients across Australia.



[www.peweb.com.au](http://www.peweb.com.au)

QR code for presentation  
at the end

# Background

- The website:
  - Wattle Gum Home School – [www.wattlegumhs.com.au](http://www.wattlegumhs.com.au)
  - provides curated educational resources to homeschooling families (members), including a listing of 1,900 educational books.
- The requirement:
  - Build searchable book lists by age group, subject, curriculum, etc. Off-the-shelf solutions were not suitable (insufficient taxonomy fields)

# Detailed Requirements

- 8 taxonomy (category / tag) fields were required
- Book lists had to be displayed in a table format – not a posts grid (easier for customers to view)
- Links to be provided on where each book can be purchased
- Website owner is not highly technical and wanted a solution that she could design

## Solution part 1 - **WooCommerce**

- Astra free theme was used
- WooCommerce provides:
  - Book (product) image
  - Description fields
  - Functionality for external affiliate links
  - One Category field
- Does not provide:
  - The required taxonomy fields
  - Table listings

## Solution part 2 -



# Pods

A Content Development  
Framework for WordPress

- Can create Custom post types and Custom fields in pages, posts, products and custom posts.
  - It is a free plugin
- It was used for adding the additional taxonomy fields to Products:
  - Subject
  - Curriculum Codes
  - Curriculums
  - Illustrators
  - Print Status
  - Series
  - Target Age
  - Writers

# Configuring the extra fields in Pods

Adding values to a taxonomy field is identical to adding category values

| Label            | Name            | Type            | Groups | Fields |
|------------------|-----------------|-----------------|--------|--------|
| Curriculum Codes | curriculum_code | Custom Taxonomy | 1      | 0      |
| Curriculums      | curriculum      | Custom Taxonomy | 1      | 0      |
| Illustrators     | illustrator     | Custom Taxonomy | 1      | 0      |
| Print Status     | print_status    | Custom Taxonomy | 1      | 0      |
| Series           | series          |                 |        |        |
| Target Age       | target_age      |                 |        |        |
| Writers          | writer          |                 |        |        |

Fields

Labels

Admin UI

Connections

Advanced Options

Access Rights

Auto Template Options

REST API

Enable Connections to Post Types ?

☐ Floating Elements (e-floating-buttons)

☐ Pages (page)

☐ Posts (post)

☒ Products (product)

☐ Media (attachment)

## Solution part 3 -

**WOOCOMMERCE  
PRODUCT TABLE**



- Allows you to build a product table with customised columns (instead of using the standard WordPress grid layout)
- Includes integration to the WooCommerce shopping cart (which was not used)
- This is a premium paid plugin



# Product Table Configuration

Tables are inserted onto pages using shortcodes  
e.g. `[product_table  
category="wgc-year-3-  
geography"]`

## [Product Tables](#) > Edit table

Use the following options to edit the table. There are also additional options on the [global settings page](#).

Table name

Give your table a name to help you identify it later (e.g. "Products in the Clothing category")
















Display

- ☒ Add to a page using a block or shortcode  
☐ Display on a shop page (e.g. main storefront, category page, etc.)



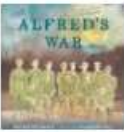


Which products?

- ☒ All products  
☐ Select specific products

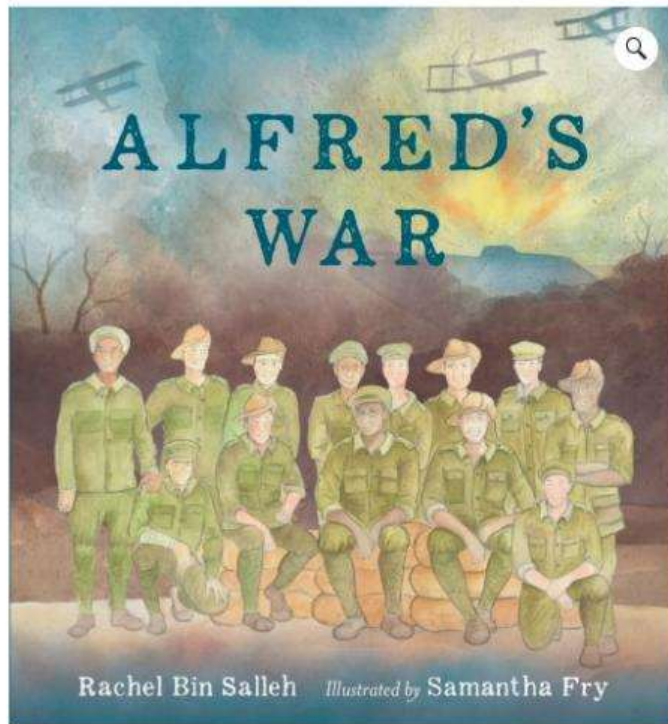
Columns

|   |   |              |  |   |
|---|---|--------------|--|---|
|    |    | Image        | <input type="text" value="image"/>           |    |
|   |   | Name         | <input type="text" value="name"/>            |   |
|  |  | Writers      | <input type="text" value="tax:writer"/>      |  |
|  |  | Illustrators | <input type="text" value="tax:illustrator"/> |  |
|  |  | Tags         | <input type="text" value="tax:product_tag"/> |  |

# The result ... The book listing for a subject

| Image   | Name                                 | Writers                | Illustrators   | Tags   | Series          | Target Age | Print Status |
|---|--------------------------------------|------------------------|----------------|--|-----------------|------------|--------------|
|    | A Cat Called Trim                    | Fenton, Corinne        | Smith, Craig   | Matthew Flinders   |                 | 4-8 Years  | In Print     |
|    | A Soldier, A Dog and A Boy           | Hathorn, Libby         | Lesnie, Phil   | Battle of the Somme, War France, Western Front, World War One                  |                 | 4-8 Years  | In Print     |
|   | Alfred's War                         | Bin Salleh, Rachel     | Fry, Samantha  | War France, War Indigenous, Western Front, World War One                       |                 | 5-12 Years | In Print     |
|  | Amazing Grace : An Adventure at Sea  | Reeder, Stephanie Owen |                | Grace Bussell, Margaret River, Redgate Beach, Sam Isaacs, Shipwreck. Steamship | Heritage Heroes | 6-18 Years | In Print     |
|  | And the Band Played Waltzing Matilda | Bogle, Eric            | Whatley, Bruce | Gallipoli, World War One   |                 | 8-12 Years | In Print     |

# The result ... A sample book description



**Categories:** Aboriginal Picture, Booklist Aust History 6-8 Years, Booklist Aust War Picture, First Nations Survival, OSC Chp 12, War Picture

**Tags:** War France, War Indigenous, Western Front, World War One

[View Booktopia](#)

## Description   Reviews (0)

Alfred's War is a powerful story that unmask the lack of recognition given to Australian Indigenous servicemen who returned from the WWI battlelines. Alfred was just a young man when he was injured and shipped home from France. Neither honoured as a returned soldier or offered government support afforded to non-Indigenous servicemen, Alfred took up a solitary life walking the back roads – billy tied to his swag, finding work where he could.

# Alternate Components for the solution

1. WooCommerce vs a Custom Post type
2. Pods vs Secure Custom Fields (aka Advanced Custom Fields free)
3. Table listings: Alternate plugins include:
  - **Admin Columns** (for WooCommerce & custom posts)
  - **Ninja Tables** (for WooCommerce & custom posts)
  - **Barn2 Posts Table Pro** (if custom posts are used)

**You can download the presentation at ...**

