



CBCA Tasmania Newsletter

September 2021

The Children's Book Council of Australia (Tasmania Branch) Inc.,
PO Box 113, Moonah, TAS 7009 tas@cbca.org.au

From the Desk: Steve Martin, President Tasmanian Branch

Premier's Literacy Awards

Success! After continued lobbying from TAS Writers, Kate Gordon, Anne Morgan and CBCA TAS, the Minister for Arts Elise Archer announced on September 8, International Literacy Day, that the Premier's Literary Prizes will be rebranded to the Tasmanian Literary Awards. Along with an expansion of entry categories it is supported by an increased government contribution of prize money to \$100,000. Significantly, the Awards will now only be open to writers living in Tasmania – another win!

There will be five new prize categories: -

- Fiction - \$25,000 prizemoney
- Non-fiction - \$25,000 prizemoney
- Young readers and children - \$25,000 prizemoney
- Indigenous writing - \$10,000 prizemoney
- Poetry and short stories \$10,000 prizemoney

Whilst listing the Young Writers fellowship - \$5,000 prizemoney as a new category, it was however presented in previous Awards, funded by private philanthropists – now the state government.

The announcement also advises that the University of Tasmania will continue to support prizes as part of the new Tasmanian Literary Awards but is unclear if the previous Mary Scott Prize for the best book by a Tasmanian author - \$5,000 prizemoney or the University of Tasmania Prize for best new unpublished literary work by an emerging Tasmanian writer will be included and additional to the Awards. Let's hope so.

Entries for the new Awards will be open later this year, with judging and announcement of winners taking place in 2022.

Congratulations and thank you to all that fought for these changes.

Help Babies Learn

CBCA TAS has for the past 12 months partnered with the not for profit organisation Toast for Kids Charity Inc (T4Ks) to initiate the formation of a Tasmanian themed picture book, written and illustrated by Tasmanian creators Anne Morgan and Narelda Joy, featuring Tasmanian fauna and printed in Tasmania. The “HELP BABIES LEARN” project, (part of T4K’s program “Books for Babies”), was announced on Sunday 15th August at the East Devonport Child & Family Centre. Narelda Joy was able to attend the launch.

<https://www.facebook.com/toastforkids>



L-R Launching the HELP BABIES LEARN project - Felicity Sly (Treasurer CBCA TAS), Steve Martin (President CBCA TAS) & illustrator Narelda Joy

T4Ks have (over the past 4 years) provided free to families of new born babies a picture book, encouraging parents, siblings and friends to invest in their new arrival by reading aloud to them every night. We hope this encourages a culture of reading aloud in our communities as well as capturing those with low literacy skills to help grow their skills alongside their new born child.

Additional to the picture book, T4Ks have been working with NextSense, formally the Royal Institute for Deaf and Blind Children, to create a braille and dyslexic font companion version. This will also be provided free to those with low vision, libraries, hospitals, along with ophthalmologists and optometrists. According to NextSense a project of this type has not previously been undertaken.

Whilst not a new concept, Tasmania still experiences an illiteracy rate of around 50%, a welfare rate of 33%, high homelessness and poor outcomes. Whilst present issues need to be addressed, the future also needs to be invested in at the so as to not only avoid escalation, but to also provide the knowledge platform for the next generation to continue the work of building safe, connected, vibrant, healthy and positive communities; curing disease; feeding the world; caring for the environment; breaking the cycle of poverty; and importantly to create and discover.

It is believed to be the first pure-bred Tasmanian creation, including a companion version aimed at assisting those with low vision.

The project is seeking additional funding for the project, and has set up the GoFundMe page HELP BABIES LEARN - <https://au.gofundme.com/f/help-babies-learn>

Book Week Afternoon Tea with Christina Booth

It was a great privilege to attend CBCAT's Book Week afternoon tea with guest speaker, multi-award winning author Christina Booth, at the Don College Exposures Restaurant on August 25.



Christina's presentation centred around the art of storytelling - which we used to do before books, TV, radio and social media replaced this real connection between people.

The presentation was certainly thought provoking, especially with the fast pace of technology – looking back:-

2000	2001	2004	2005	2006	2007
camera phone, USB Flash Drive	Windows XP	FaceBook	YouTube	The Wii	iPhone

Storytelling is societally important and should be shared in all forms, biased or not. Reading aloud from a book, flipping through pages, is a rewarding way to experience stories, a tactile experience and a sharing opportunity that only requires sight, through eyes or touch, and voice – not battery or power.

I found Christina's presentation thought-provoking and a firm reminder of the best form of communication and connectedness to people; and of course the talent we are privileged to have in Tasmania.

CBCAT Grant Funding

Our committee was fortunate a couple of years back to secure federal grant funding for its activities around children's literature, including our successful author/illustrator workshops. With the grant having a life and dollar expectancy, it highlights the need to lobby now for continued funding of the programs and assistance provided.

Furthermore, it also highlights the high importance of positive feedback from recipients of our support. If your school or organisation has been supported by CBCA TAS, it would be greatly appreciated if you could take the time to provide feedback, (including photos), that we could utilise as supporting documentation for recurrent funding – which in turn will assist your school/organisation, our children and communities.

AGM

The CBCAT's AGM is fast approaching, scheduled for Saturday 30th October at 10.30 am. When details and venue are finalised, please be encouraged to not only attend, but to also become involved. New members and ideas are always welcomed.

Steve Martin
President
CBCA Tasmania



Book Week Theme 2022



The theme is about stepping
into your own story,
dreaming with eyes open...



listening to Country as
the first storyteller...

learning from friends who
help you on your way.



[2022 CBCA Book week Theme Announcement](#) on Youtube

One Loud Voice Network

Join the Conversation

Happening NOW

With so much uncertainty in the world, reading has never been more important. We would love to hear why it is important to you!

The One Loud Voice Network is a combined initiative bringing together all readers and people connected with the Australian children's book industry.

Will you record and post positive messages about reading, its importance and what it means to you?

Separately we are lots of small voices but together we are one LOUD voice and harder to ignore. The Network is a simple yet effective way that our industry can make a difference.

So, tell your friends and colleagues and start recording!

Here are some ideas:

Why is reading so important?
Where is your favourite place to read?
Why do you like to read?

OR

If you could be any book character, who would you choose?

OR

Take a video inside your favourite school or public library and tell us where you are.

Record your answer in a 15 second video on your phone. Add your name and if you are an author or illustrator, reader, teacher librarian, publisher, bookseller, student etc.

Post it on Twitter **@OzLaureate**,
or on Facebook **@childrenslaureate**,
or on Instagram **@ozchildrenslaureate** alongside the hashtag **#readforyourlife**,
or email your video or ideas for other campaigns to
ebanyard@childrenslaureate.org.au

Check out some of the videos already sent [HERE](#).





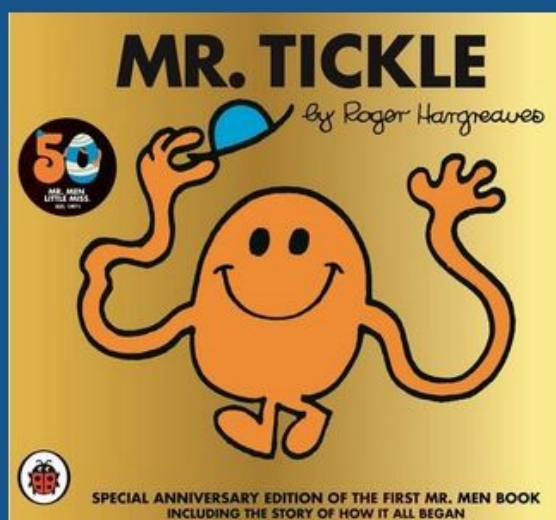
Save the Date Annual General Meeting CBCA Tasmania

October 30 at 10:30am in Hobart. Venue to be advised.

You can also attend via Zoom (link will be supplied to those who RSVP)

Mr Men and Little Miss books turn 50

Mr Tickle turns 50



The Roger Hargreaves book that started it all turns 50 this year. The new special edition also tells you how the series began.

Pictures are brightly coloured and appealing the children of all ages. Discussion topics could include the 1970's - fashion and careers.

Lots of information and activities at <https://mrmen.com/>

George Ivanoff talks Other Worlds in the classroom



Each year the CBCA Book Week theme opens the doors of possibility, giving teachers and librarians an opportunity to get children engaged with reading. But more than that, these themes can lead to classroom discussions on a wide variety of topics, expanding young minds. As an author who does a lot of school speaking around Book Week, I always look for creative ways in which I can incorporate the theme into my presentations, relating it to my own writing. So it was with utter delight that I greeted the announcement of this year's theme - Old Worlds, New Worlds, Other Worlds - which fits so perfectly with my four-book series OTHER WORLDS.

The OTHER WORLDS series was published by Penguin Random House in 2018 and aimed at mid to upper primary readers. I have since written other books, and it is these newer books that tend to take top spot in presentations. But I have a huge soft spot for the OTHER WORLDS books and am relishing the idea of talking about them once again, and giving them pride of place in CBCA Book Week presentations.

My main aim in writing any story is to entertain my readers. But my interests, my opinions and my worldview will play a part. The OTHER WORLDS books, more than anything else I have written, reflect the way in which I, as a human being, engage with the world. So, while these books reflect my interest in science fiction, fantasy, computer games and history, they also display my views on gender parity and stereotyping, diversity, ethics, and the importance of being true to oneself.



The books are about kids who find mysterious disguised keys that open doorways into other worlds. Each book is about a different kid and a different world, so they can be read as individual stand-alone stories, or together as a

series. And the four worlds manage to correspond to the Book Week theme rather nicely.

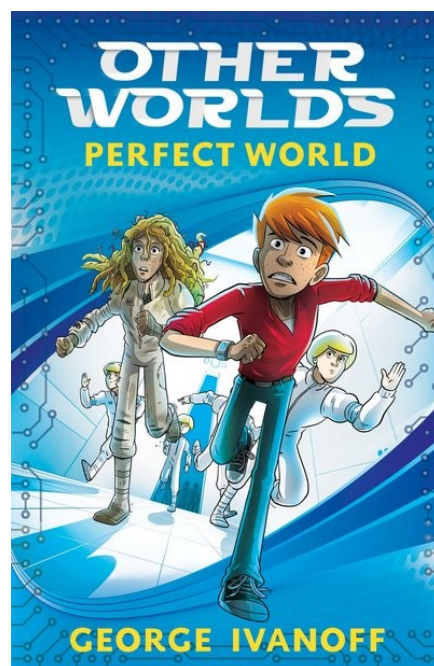
Old Worlds

This aspect of the theme conjures up images of the past, of history, of bygone days. In *Beast World* a wheelchair bound girl named Xandra is pulled through a doorway into a city full of well-spoken, well-dressed anthropomorphised animals. That city, Londinium, is an alternative version of Victorian London. The Victorian period is my favourite little pocket of history, and I spent far too much time researching it during the writing process. My city has the same layout as London, with buildings such as the Victoria and Albert Museum and the Crystal Palace featuring heavily in the story. And a few of the animal characters are fictitious versions of prominent historical figures, including Nikola Tesla and Queen Victoria herself. Classroom discussions and exercises could easily be centred around which elements of the story are inspired by history and which are pure imagination, and indeed, how the two are interwoven.

There is also the opportunity to talk about disability, how disabled people are portrayed in fiction and how they are treated in our own society. In the book, Xandra has muscular dystrophy and is in a wheelchair. But this is not presented as a weakness, as Xandra is a strong and capable human being. In the strange world of talking animals that she visits, she meets a lion Queen who is struggling with her own disability; and Xandra must convince her that disability is not a weakness and does not define a person.

New Worlds

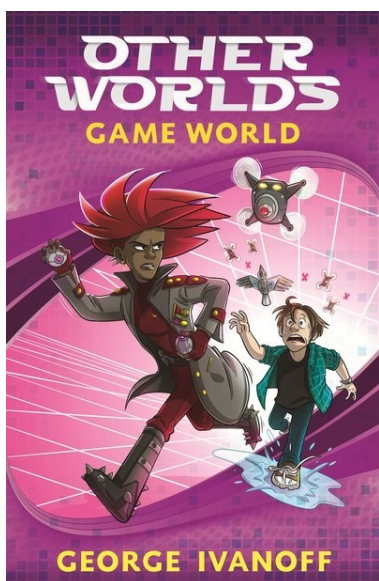
New Worlds makes me think of the future, or technology and what new things might develop. In *Perfect World* a boy named Keegan visits a futuristic city with extraordinary technology, peopled by identical, supposedly perfect clones. In this society, there is no diversity and no tolerance anyone who is different. In order to avoid disaster, Keegan needs to teach them about diversity and difference, and how they are actually strengths rather than weaknesses. The world is new and futuristic to Keegan, but the problems are relatable and human. Classroom discussions could revolve around diversity and acceptance, with students comparing the issues of the world Keegan has



of

entered and the world we live in.

Other Worlds

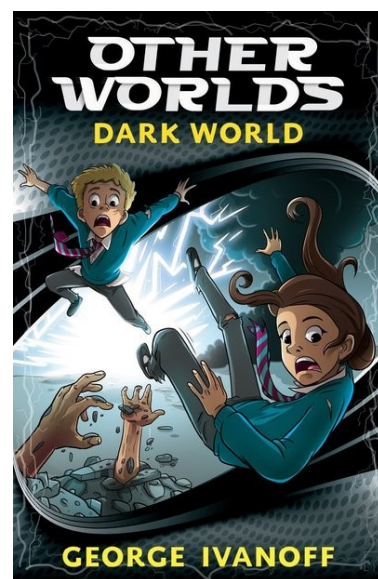


Worlds that are unfamiliar and strange, is what Other Worlds brings to mind for me. In Game World, a video game obsessed boy named Hall is thrown into a world of computer simulations and games within games. He and his game-playing opponent must face various dangerous scenarios, which chip away at the facade they both present to the world, eventually showing them that in order to win, they need to be themselves and cooperate rather than fight. Classroom discussion could stem from the comparison of game avatars to people hiding their true selves. There is also the opportunity to discuss diversity, through the ethnic background of some characters —

Nguyen Thi Bian, Hall's opponent, is Vietnamese and Field Marshal Maheera, although an inhabitant of a virtual world, has an implied Indian background.

Familiar Worlds

Although not explicitly part of the theme, the idea of familiar worlds follows on from Old Worlds, New Worlds and Other Worlds. In Dark World, two school rivals, Newt and Rowan, enter a world very much like their own — identical in fact, except that it has been destroyed, with some of the inhabitants turned into zombies. This familiar yet different world is peopled with counterparts from their own world, with one in particular, Dr Bloom, becoming a very different person because of the choices she made earlier in life. This could lead to a discussion on choice, and how every decision in life has consequences. There is also the opportunity to discuss ethics, as Dr Bloom is a scientist who believes that the end justifies the means.



As you can probably tell by this point, I am rather enthusiastic about the themes and issues that I have woven through these stories. They are things that are important to me as a human being and a member of society, and they are things that I believe should be represented in the stories we write, inspiring young readers to broaden their perspectives. And for me, that's what Book Week allows for - an engagement, not only with the pure joy of reading (although that in itself is both wondrous and wonderful), but a chance to connect with themes and issues on a deeper level.

Teacher Notes for the OTHER WORLDS series are available from the [Penguin Random House website](#) and more information about George and his writing can be found [on my website](#).

Book Week Photos

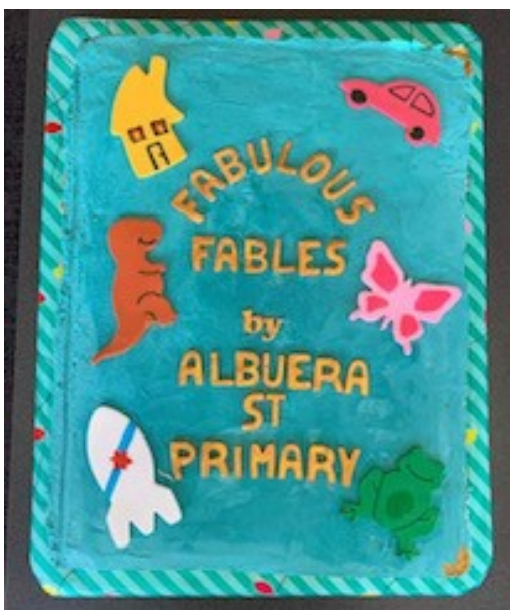
Dominic College



Beaconsfield Child & Family Centre

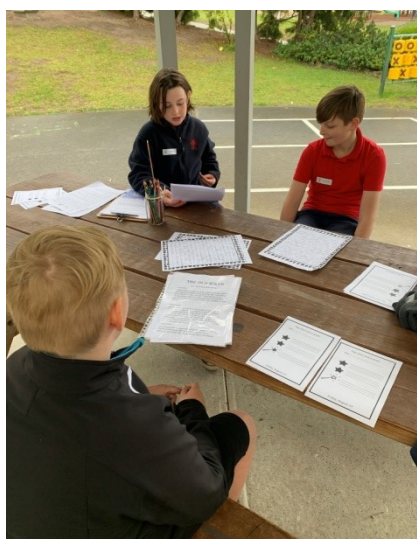


Albuera St Primary School



Dodges Ferry Primary School

Book Week was an amazing celebration at Dodges Ferry. From a daily book quiz, a fantastic outdoor Book Week Parade and a Writers' Camp with Lian Tanner, children were treated to experiences to celebrate both reading and writing.



North West Event

On August 25, Don College's Food & Hospitality Enterprise Class catered for the Book Week afternoon tea.

Attendees from North and North West Tasmania dined on food inspired by picture books: *A Pipkin of Pepper* pumpkin soup, *Schnitzel von Krumm* sausage rolls, *Very Hungry Caterpillar* fresh fruit and fruit kebabs, and *Your Birthday Was the Best* cake. The students researched picture books to match food choices, decorated the venue and received feedback from attendees on the event, which was thoroughly enjoyed by all.

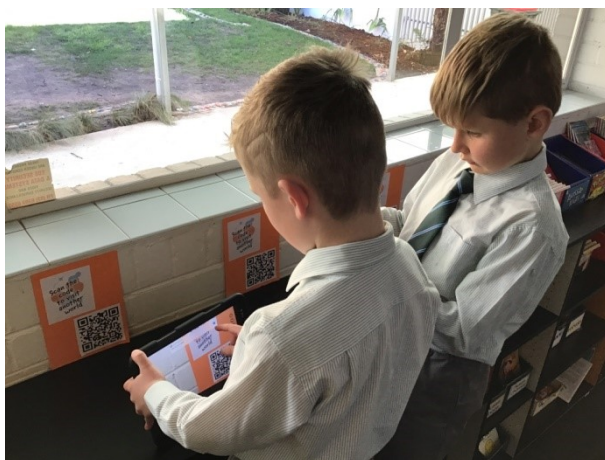


St Thomas More's Catholic School

STM staff and students spent a wonderful week celebrating Book Week. We held our fabulous Readers' Picnic on Monday and, despite the inclement weather, we had a great time sharing our favourite books with our friends, family and buddies.

We looked at the shortlisted and award-winning books during our Library lessons, voted for our favourites and participated in our very exciting Book Week Quiz. We travelled to Old Worlds, New Worlds and Other Worlds using QR codes and swam with manta rays and sharks, visited the ruins in Pompeii, scaled down a crevasse in the Arctic, explored lava tubes in Hawaii, travelled through space and examined a dinosaur in a museum far away. Prep and Kinder students made dog and bird puppets inspired by some of the wonderful shortlisted books.

What a wonderful way to celebrate Book Week!!



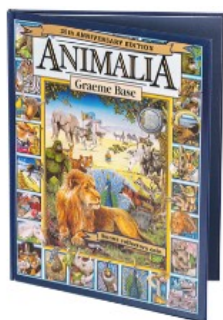
Yolla District High School



Exciting News from the National Office

CBCA has entered into a new five-year partnership with the Australian Mint. CBCA's logo will be featured on special coins, minted to celebrate certain landmarks for particular creatives. This year, a coin has been produced to celebrate the 35th anniversary of Animalia by Graeme Base! Other commemorative memorabilia includes the 35th Anniversary edition of Animalia with a gold minted coin, and a postcard pack, which features the 1989 CBCA Book Week poster, created when Graeme was the joint winner (Picture Book) for the Eleventh Hour. All are available via [CBCA's eStore](#).

Currently there are two Centenary Ginger Meggs coins available – one is a silver frosted coin for \$130 and the other an uncirculated 'coloured' coin for \$30.



Animalia Coin Competition and Royal Australian Mint Partnership



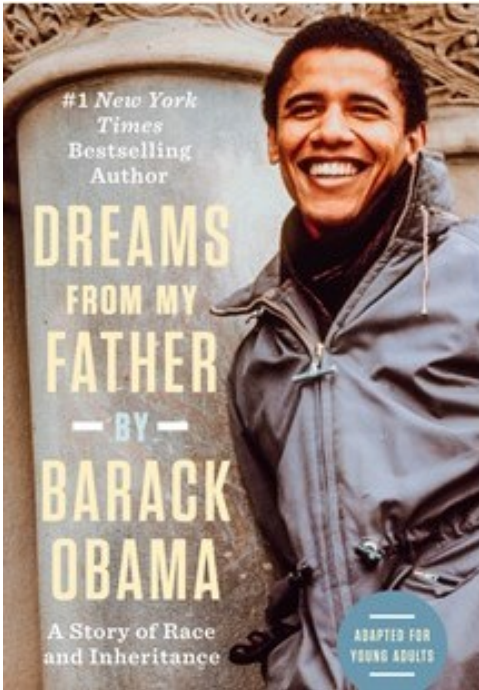
CBCA has a new five-year partnership with The Royal Australian Mint. To kick off this

partnership we are promoting their Animalia Coin Competition, celebrating 35 years of Graeme Base's Animalia. The competition launched on 20 August and runs until **1 November**. They are offering an amazing prize, a bag and coin, for each winning class or family! Two for each State.

[Webpage & competition entry form](#)

President Barack Obama's Dreams from my Father

To be released in young adult edition 5 OCTOBER 2021



DREAMS FROM MY FATHER: Adapted for Young Adults will release on 5 October 2021 as a hardback and ebook. This young adult edition features a new cover and includes a new introduction from the author, a new full-colour plate section and a family tree.

Originally published in 1995, and hailed as ‘quite extraordinary’ by Toni Morrison and ‘provocative’ by the *New York Times*, DREAMS FROM MY FATHER is a revealing portrait of a young Black man asking questions about self-discovery and belonging – long before he became one of the most important voices in America. On his journey to adulthood from a humble background, Barack

Obama forges his own path through trial and error while staying connected to his roots – determined to lead a life of purpose, service and authenticity.

The son of a white American mother and a Black Kenyan father, Obama was born in Hawaii where he lived until he was six years old, when he moved with his mother and stepfather to Indonesia. At twelve, he returned to Hawaii to live with his grandparents. Obama brings readers along as he faces the challenges of high school and college, living in New York, becoming a community organiser in Chicago and traveling to Kenya. Through these experiences, he forms an enduring commitment to leadership and justice. Told through the lens of his relationships with his family – the mother and grandparents who raised him, the father he knows more as a myth than as a man, and the extended family in Kenya he meets for the first time – Obama confronts the complicated truth of his father’s life and legacy and comes to embrace his divided heritage.

This powerful memoir will inspire readers to examine both where they come from and where they are capable of going.

As President Barack Obama writes in the new introduction to the young adult edition: ‘The young man you meet in these pages is flawed and full of yearning, asking questions of himself and the world around him, learning as he goes. I

know now, of course, that this was just the beginning for him. If you're lucky, life provides you with a good long arc. I hope that my story will encourage you to think about telling your story, and to value the stories of others around you. The journey is always worth taking. Your answers will come.'

Barack Obama was the 44th president of the United States, elected in November 2008 and holding office for two terms. He is the author of three #1 *New York Times* bestselling books, *Dreams from My Father*, *The Audacity of Hope* and *A Promised Land*, and is the recipient of the 2009 Nobel Peace Prize. He lives in Washington, D.C., with his wife Michelle. They have two daughters, Malia and Sasha.



Reading Time is a great source of information and reviews <http://readingtime.com.au/>



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Boundless the festival of Indigenous and culturally diverse writers returns

Saturday 30 October 2021, Bankstown Arts Centre

Boundless, Australia's leading festival of Indigenous and culturally diverse Australian writers, will return to Western Sydney on Saturday 30 October 2021.

Launched in 2017, Boundless was the first Australian festival to focus on Indigenous and culturally diverse writers. After the success of the 2019 festival, which won FBI Radio's SMAC award for Sydney's Best Arts Program, Boundless is back in 2021, with a new approach to programming.

This year's festival is curated by the emerging curators selected for Writing NSW's development program: Zohra Aly, Annie Brockenhuus-Schack and Tina Huang, under the guidance of Sisonke Msimang, curator of the literature and ideas program at Perth Festival.

The festival will bring together established writers and emerging voices, giving space to writing in many forms. Authors, writers for performance, journalists, poets and interdisciplinary practitioners will come together to discuss the important issues of our times and the value of story.

Boundless is a free festival so that as many people as possible are able to discover these amazing writers. The all-day event will include readings, panel discussions, interactive experiences, industry networking, and book signings.

Boundless is presented by Writing NSW and Bankstown Arts Centre, in association with Sweatshop. The festival is supported by Create NSW and the Copyright Agency Cultural Fund.

The festival will be held at Bankstown Arts Centre on 30 October 2021.

The full program, along with the registration details, will be announced in September. Find out more at <https://boundlessfestival.org.au/>

Further information: Writing NSW | (02) 9555 9757 | events@writingnsw.org.au

Media contact: Martyn Reyes | mreyes@writingnsw.org.au

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Supported by:



Kid's Corner

Read the latest Kid's corner magazine here:

<https://www.cbcanw.org.au/kids-corner>



Creators in Schools Workshops

The Children's Book Council of Australia – Tasmanian Branch

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Creators

CBCA Tas 2021 Institutional Members are reminded that they can access a **free** Creator Workshop as part of their 2021 Membership. Emails have been sent with this offer and the guidelines for the workshop to all Institutional Member Schools. These emails may have been blocked by your email provider. If you have not received an email inviting you to use this 2021 Membership Benefit, please email tas@cbca.org.au

A list of our Creators registered for the programme is available on our [website](#).

We encourage you to share this page on our website with your colleagues and encourage them to join CBCA Tas so their school too can enjoy a visit from an author or illustrator.

Save the Date CBCA National Conference 2022



For more information go to the CBCA website at

<https://cbca.org.au/national-conference>

Resources for Parents in the CBCA Tasmania website

One part of the CBCA Tas website which might not be well known is the resources for parents section. If you are a teacher you may want to advertise this to your parents using this link – <https://www.cbcatas.org/guides/>



Guides for Parents

The guides which have been created for parents can be used as needed but the correct acknowledgement is expected. See the website for more details.

Free Digital Book

'Ollie and the Spectral Spectacles' by Jimmy Rees (Giggle and Hoot)

This is a free digital book aimed at primary school students, which provides parents and teachers with a resource to teach us that buying and/or selling pre-loved or unused items is a smart way of being money savvy, whilst also taking care of the environment and reducing the impact on the planet.

[Children's Book Council of Australia - Home | Facebook](#) 26 Aug 2021 16:49

<https://blog.gumtree.com.au/ollie-and-the-spectral-spectacles/>

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Celebrate Reading National Conference October 2021



For all information on this conference use the url below.

<https://www.writingwa.org/event/celebrate-reading-national-conference-2021/>

The CBCA Tasmania Blog

Are you ready to write?

Jennie is always looking for new contributors and expanding ideas and experiences around children's literature. If you have:

- ▶ a story to tell about your engagement with kids' books during lockdown;
- ▶ a writing or illustrating process to share;
- ▶ reviews of some great books shared with the kids whilst shuttered in your house, or;
- ▶ the magic of a return to school and access to a room of books;

why not share it on the blog?

Check out examples on the blog itself — <http://cbcatas.blogspot.com/> — and be inspired.

Contact Jennie via tas@cbca.org.au with “EOI: CBCA Blog Post” in the subject line.

All expressions of interest will be forwarded to Jennie and she will get back with some guidelines (200 to 300 words is a good baseline) and discuss a date.



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