



CBCA Tasmania Newsletter

August 2022

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

HELP BABIES LEARN Project: an initiative by Toast for Kids Charity Inc.

Toast for Kids Charity Inc (T4K) conducts an annual Charity Gala, raising funds to support local school breakfast clubs in the Kentish, Latrobe, Devonport & Central Coast municipalities. T4K has the aim to “Break the cycle of poverty, poor health, social exclusion, and helplessness, through and by supporting emergency food relief, food security and education.” This year [T4K Charity Gala](#) celebrated 10 years. (Disclaimer – Steve Martin is the President of Toast for Kids Charity Inc.)

The HELP BABIES LEARN Project (HBL) is an initiative of T4K. The HBL Project has initiated the creation and publication of a 100% Tasmanian authored, illustrated, designed and printed book, that features Tasmanian fauna, with *palawa kani* names (and phonics) and a counting game. The book is to be gifted to parents of newborn babies, residing in Tasmania, with the expectation that it is read aloud EVERY day. Babies will experience the sound of their family’s

voices: introducing the baby to sound, language, expression, colours and letters; helping to create a sense of place and belonging and investing in their future.

To receive a free copy eligible parents will need to register at a Collection Point: Child & Family Learning Centres, Neighbourhood Houses, Bendigo Bank branches, as well as recognised bookshops*. This registration will provide valuable data of the book's reach and enable T4K to contact the families in three years' time when a planned second book may be made available.

This Project's focus is on improving the rate of literacy in Tasmania: that every baby will be read to daily and that every home will have books available.

It is well documented that Tasmania has low levels of literacy. More than half of the state's population having inadequate reading and writing skills and despite efforts to address this, there has been no evident and sustained improvement in educational outcomes. Tasmania continues to have high rates of poverty. Being literate combats disadvantage and poverty and builds a strong foundation for better paid jobs, and for economic and social advancements.

HBL Project commenced two years ago resulting in the creation of "**Tassie Rhymes for little tigers**". The book was launched on Sunday 14th August 2022 by the Hon. Roger Jaensch, Minister for Education, Children and Young People & Aboriginal Affairs.



As first-time publishers, T4K have been on a learning journey: navigating the project's vision, requirements, funding and logistics. Narelda Joy experienced her own journey: working with not-for-profit organisations, meeting their expectations and deadlines, whilst maintaining control of the creative process. The journey, however, has not finished: T4K and Narelda continue to work with NextSense, formerly the Royal Institute for Deaf & Blind Children, to create a braille/low vision companion version that features hard contrast illustrations. This is basically a new production and will soon become available.

To further the reach of HBL, members of the community were asked to organically record a rhyme from "[Tassie Rhymes for little tigers](#)". These clips will support those who are vision impaired and those who need to develop

confidence to read aloud the rhymes. These ‘organic’ videos show that anyone can have a go at reading aloud: farmer, police, fire-fighter, artist, mums, dads, siblings. Each recording can be viewed on the [Toast for Kids Charity Inc](#) Facebook page.

This project would not have gone ahead without the valuable support from the Children’s Book Council of Australia: Tasmania Branch; Tasmanian Community Fund; Harcourts Foundation; Tasmanian Aboriginal Centre; NextSense; Apex Club of Ulverstone; TasFreight; the effervescent Narelda Joy; and the hard-working committee of T4K. A special mention here to CBCA 2023 Judge, Carol Fuller, who provided valuable comment and guidance. Thank you to all those wonderful people who provided a recording as well.

The key message is to **READ ALOUD TO YOUR CHILD EVERY DAY** – please help spread that message – **EVERY DAY**.

One thing that wasn’t anticipated was the demand to purchase the book: grandparents, teachers, early learners and other families wanting to a copy of the book - to send to families interstate or to utilise as a teaching aid - a great issue to have. To cater for this retail demand, recognised bookshops* will have copies for sale; this will also cater for the tourist market. Profits generated from these sales will assist in funding the second book.



President
CBCA Tasmania



*SOUTH: Fullers Bookshop, Hobart Bookshop, Dymocks Bookshop

NORTH: Petrarch’s Bookshop

NORTH WEST: Devonport Bookshop, Window on the World Bookshop (Ulverstone), Not Just Books (Burnie)

Tassie Talent: Tony Flowers

Tony is an international award-winning author and illustrator. His passion for illustration and storytelling spans over sixty Early Childhood and Picture Books. His most recent picture books [*Advance Australia Fair*](#) and [*This Old Thing*](#) deal with topics such as national identity, family, place, history, war and conflict. Tony's humorous chapter book series with Nick Falk: '[*Vognox the Viking*](#)', 'Saurus Street', 'Billy is a dragon' and [*Samurai vs Ninja*](#) have been a favourite of beginner and reluctant readers for many years.

Tony delivers highly engaging and interactive presentations. Working in traditional media, he brings students' ideas to life as he creates illustrations that show how an image can be developed into a story. Tony's workshops cover creative story development, the process behind his books, visual narratives creation, idea generation, publishing experience, design thinking and visual design, and are suitable for both primary and secondary students.



Website: <https://tonyflowersillustrator.wordpress.com/>

Blog: <http://tonyflowersnews.blogspot.com/>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/TonyFLowers99/>

Tassie Talent: David Webby

David has worked as a podiatrist for the last twenty-five years, but his love for **feet** is equally matched by his love for **nature**. So, it is no surprise to see how his passion for the Australian bush and wildlife has become an inspiration for his writing.

The third book in [*The Misadventures of Harry and Larry*](#) series was published in 2022, and David has nearly completed his fourth book, *Harry and Larry Hunt for the Tasmanian Tiger*.

He lives with his wife in the beautiful Huon Valley, with their two Labradoodles, 6 chooks, and 2 beehives.

David is keen to workshop persuasive writing, and how writing from the senses can generate visual and emotive images in the mind, with students in Grades 3 to 6.



CBCA 14th National Conference Report

“Dreaming with eyes open...”

Helen Cole and Jennie Bales report on their virtual participation at the CBCA 14th National Conference. They are pleased to share some insights gained from their attendance. Thank you to CBCA Tasmania for supporting our registration for this quality and engaging event!

Snapshot from Helen Cole

Wayward propellers, tears and Gandalf - the CBCA 14th National Conference had its surprises! This was the first CBCA conference I'd attended (online) and being more accustomed to the scientific variety found most entertaining.

As an aspiring children's picture book author with a scientific background, the session entitled *Dreaming of Sharing the Wonders of the Animal Kingdom* was the one I most enjoyed. Panel members of this session were **Nicole Gill, Gina Newton** and **Claire Saxby** - heavyweights of the children's nonfiction genre. The moderator, Stephanie Owen Reeder introduced the session with a quote by Albert Einstein, “*Look deep into nature, and then you will understand everything better,*” which captured the essence of this session beautifully.

Shameless book promotion aside (and why not?), it was obvious that the authors' passion and compassion for our environment and wildlife was the driving force behind their stories. It was fascinating to hear what sparked their ideas - which included their own research, a job as a dog handler and chatting about parrots at the school pick-up. It gave me the motivation to pick-up where I had left off with some of my stories.

Also inspiring was the dedication of panel members to get the facts right; their research also served to unearth gross curiosities with which to entertain dinner companions! At the end of the session, an audience member thanked the authors for writing their books and said, “kids love reading them” - and that's what it's all about.

Snapshot from Jennie Bales

Sofie Laguna's passion for her topic *Why Children Deserve High Quality Literary Fiction* shone through as she talked about the impact quality fiction has to change lives and to “become beacons of light”. Fiction has the potential to not only entertain, but also to provoke questions and deep thinking that can lead to new and original ideas and views of the world. Sofie endorses all books but argues that quality fiction brings something deeper to the mix and should be included in children's reading diet.

Maura Pierlot's *Dreaming of Creating Across Art Forms* focused on the adaptation of texts and how they are transformed when presented in different formats and spaces. This is exemplified in her work: *Fragments: Journeys from Isolation to Connection*, which contains a series of imagined stories of several young adults dealing with different mental health issues. These are written as monologues to be performed individually or as a whole. We were treated to a poignant performance of one of these stories by the very talented young actress, Jade Breen. The adaptations can be explored via

- the book *Fragments* <https://maurapierlot.com/books/>
- theatre performances <https://www.thestreet.org.au/shows/fragments-maura-pierlot>
- a film adaption <https://fragmentstheplay.com/>.

Lian Tanner provided excellent strategies to engage students' imagination to create stories in her session "*Getting your Students Dreaming about their own Creativity Through Writing*". She emphasised the importance of having fun – building on a love of stories and to consider imagination as a muscle – it needs to be exercised! She provided a recipe to help build confidence in a shared story building activity, with the following ingredients for an exciting story:

1. Someone who wants something
2. High stakes: needs rather than wants – means we care about the outcome
3. Problems and obstacles: things that get in the way

You can read more about the conference sessions on the CBCA Tasmania blog:

Snapshot 1: The 2022 CBCA Conference

<https://cbcatas.blogspot.com/2022/06/snapshot-1-2022-cbca-conference.html>

Lian Tanner attended in person and participated in two sessions and in this post talks about some of the events; including the hilarious Great Debate: Fantasy vs Reality in which Lian set the stage for a witty and I believe, winning case in defence of fantasy. This was my favourite session!

Snapshot 2: The Butterfly Effect

<https://cbcatas.blogspot.com/2022/07/the-butterfly-effect-social-flutterings.html>

Nicole Gill shares memorable moments from her own session (see Helen Cole's report above as well) along with highlights from the social side of things – something Helen and I could not engage in remotely.

Snapshot 3: With Opened Eyes

<https://cbcatas.blogspot.com/2022/07/with-opened-eyes-snapshot-3-follows.html>

Jennie Bales covers the First Nations and Dreaming aspects of the conference with some key moments across those sessions exploring these themes.

CBCA Book Week Winners 2022

<https://cbca.org.au/winners-2022>



2022 PETAA Leading with Literacy Conference: “From babble to Batavia and beyond”



<https://petaaconference.edu.au/>

Libby Hathorn



Congratulations to Libby Hathorn who has been awarded the 2022 [Pixie O’Harris Award](#). This recognises publishers, editors, creators, booksellers, publicists and other industry representatives who have worked consistently in the field of children’s literature, demonstrated outstanding commitment and who have developed a reputation for their contribution to the children’s book sector. Libby's [acceptance speech](#) tells us exactly why she is an excellent choice for this wonderful award.

Shadow Judging 2022



St John's Catholic school invited Emily Conolan to speak to them before their shadow judging vote.

I just wanted to pass on a really big thank you Emily for visiting us yesterday. Apparently, the kids went back to class buzzing. They are also jostling for your books for the holidays. Both Lily's wanted me to tell you they started interactive stories - one said her character died many times and the other that it turned out to be quite crazy (I am guessing you aren't too surprised!).

The kids said they really liked you bringing the photos in and letting them develop their own characters. They also liked you talking about how you wrote your stories, how you incorporated other people's personal experiences and how you planned your characters and broke the story down.

As well as liking the content you delivered (thank you for the master sheets, doing interactive plots with a group has been one of those ideas lurking on my mental ideas list for one day), I also appreciated the way you drew out a fairly quiet bunch of kids and think it is great for kids to be able to meet and talk to the people who write the books they read.

So... THANK YOU from us all,

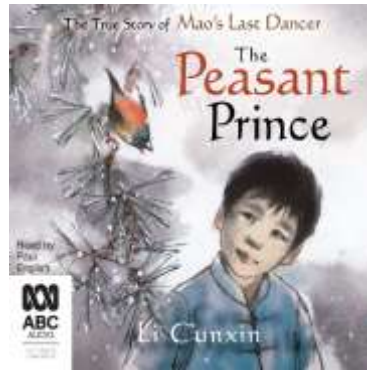
As well as being an enjoyable and interactive experience, being able to discuss character and plot development are obviously really useful when it comes to the students thinking about how authors have explored these concepts in the books they are judging. We appreciated the opportunity.



Madeleine and the St John's Shadow Judging Kids July 2022

Australian Children's Laureate

Imagine a Story on Audiobook



This gorgeous true story of 'Mao's Last Dancer' is suitable for readers aged 4+.



Laurinda is written by Alice Pung and suitable for children 13+

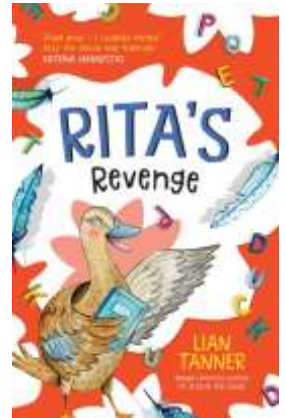
We are excited to be sharing this special collection of audiobooks with you in partnership with Bolinda BorrowBox. The stories selected showcase the work of diverse authors, including Anh Do, Bruce Pascoe, Alice Pung and many more.

To listen and find out more [CLICK HERE](#)



Book Review: Rita's Revenge by Lian Tanner

Rita's Revenge, the second instalment of life in Little Dismal, is underpinned by Clara's successful sleuthing in *A Clue for Clara* and follows the escapades of Rita, the laughing stock of the duck pond and arch enemy of Clara. Poetry is her passion but poetry IS NOT an approved duck activity. To make amends with her flock, Rita must teach Clara a lesson and puts Clara under observation to learn the best way to thwart her. In an attempt to get the better of the chook, Rita tries to learn some of Clara's skills – writing, building an army of supporters and undertaking detective work – which results in some hilarious encounters and escapades as she endeavours to recruit Tracy, outcast since her past friendship with the now exiled Jubilee Crystal Simpson. The plot is highly engaging, as a crime is being planned, and between them Clara and Rita inadvertently help each other to interrupt the execution of the crime and then to help each other save the day.



Tanner delights in playing with words and the inclusion of double entendres that readers will love. The plot relies on misunderstandings and ridiculous situations and is told from two perspectives. Rita has the main role, with her duck's eye view of the world including her own daily and weekly time schedules. Rita's first-person stance is interspersed with Tracy's unsent letters to her disgraced friend Jubilee Crystal Simpson, where she recounts her interactions with family, Rita and her hard time at school. The letters provide a window into Tracy's soul and readers will see how the influence of a duck helps her move beyond past behaviours, to develop into a more considerate person. The text is artfully supported by Cheryl Orsini's humorous and expressive pencil illustrations. They capture Rita's attempts to write and communicate as well as compose poetry: the illustrated text, Rita's writing and poetry efforts and the pages that look like lined writing paper telling Tracy's story, add to the reading experience.

Rita's Revenge is a funny and engaging detective story that intertwines themes of friendship, trust and the celebration of difference. Ten to twelve-year-old readers will fully appreciate the humour, though younger readers would still get a lot of laughs from it.

Teacher's notes are available at:

<https://www.allenandunwin.com/browse/book/Lian-Tanner-Rita's-Revenge-9781761066009>

Lian Tanner discusses writing *Rita's Revenge* in *The Crit Group I Didn't Know I Needed*: <https://cbcatas.blogspot.com/2022/07/the-crit-group-i-didnt-know-i-needed.html>

Not convinced that you want to read this book? Read another review:

<https://jenniebales.wordpress.com/2022/07/18/ritas-revenge-lian-tanner/>

Dr Jennie Bales (Adjunct lecturer, retired teacher librarian)

Book Review: “luwa tara luwa waypa” by Dave mangenner Gough and Samantha Campbell



From the publisher:

niyakara is leaving the village to hunt tara, kangaroo.

On his mind is the chief's daughter, tuminana, who is at the water with the women, collecting shells and working.

But down on the beach, niyakara hears three thuds...

boom boom boom

With rhythmic intensity, *luwa tara luwa waypa* tells the captivating story of niyakara's journey from boy to man, a story of courage and transformation.

[Dave mangenner Gough](#)'s powerful words and Samantha Campbell's expressive artwork bring to vivid life the ancestral spirit and enduring strength of the palawa people of Tasmania.

This is a welcome addition to the relatively new publishing world of First Nations stories from Traditional Country being told by First Nations people.

The palawa (Tasmanian language words) are an integral part of the text. Teachers' notes and a recording of the author's narration of the story are available <https://aiatsis.gov.au/luwa-tara-luwa-waypa>

Aboriginal Studies Press, July 2022, 32 pp., RRP \$26.95 (hbk), 781922752062

Book Review: The Secret of Sapling Green by Penelope Pratley

From the publisher:

Sapling Green is a gentle, quiet girl with a secret she is scared to show the world. Wynn Farthing is funny and noisy, and the best at climbing high into the branches of the old schoolyard tree. One terrible day, after a storm, the gardener says the tree has to come down. Can Sapling use her secret to save the day?



Sapling has always kept her hands in her pockets at school to hide her big secret – her green thumbs. But at home she flourishes, growing all kinds of brilliant flowers, shrubs and bushes. When the schoolyard tree is in danger, she has to show her special gift to her classmates in order to save it. To her surprise, they are delighted, particularly Wynn! It turns out Sapling’s differences are her strengths and through sharing them, she finds friendship and acceptance.

[The Secret of Sapling Green](#) is richer than this summary acknowledges. Wynn becomes despondent when he can no longer climb the tree. Is his self-worth tied to his tree-climbing abilities? This offers the opportunity to discuss belonging and difference; that being ourselves may look different for different people.

The illustrations give a gentle feel to the book; the endpapers symbolise the growth in Sapling’s confidence.

Inspired by her son’s diagnosis of autism, the author wanted “to portray a character who isn’t neurotypical”.

[Teachers notes](#)

EK Books, February 2022, 32 pp., RRP \$24.99 (hbk), ISBN 9781925820980



B4 Early Years Coalition



Passport to Learning was launched on Tuesday at Romaine Primary School by Minister Roger Jaensch.

The initiative aims to get Tasmanian families excited and involved in Department of Education early years learning programs.

Passport to Learning is a rewards card that can be used at:

- Launching into Learning sessions
- Child and Family Learning Centres
- Early Childhood Intervention Services
- Library Rock and Rhyme sessions, or
- Library Storytime sessions.

Families receive a sticker each time they attend a session or service. Once they've collected 10 stickers, children get a free picture book and their parent/carer receives a free Banjo's coffee!

Research shows the experiences of a child in their early years significantly impact their future life outcomes, with quality education – of both children and their families – being the passport to a better life.

Passport to Learning empowers Tasmanian families to support their young children to grow and thrive.

For more information about *Passport to Learning*, visit the Great Start website

https://www.premier.tas.gov.au/site_resources_2015/additional_releases/learn_and_play_with_new_passport_to_learning

Calendar of Events

| | |
|-------------------------|---|
| 4-8 September | 38th IBBY International Congress will take place in Putrajaya, Malaysia |
| 5 September | Nature Book Week + Environment Award for Children's Literature (Wilderness Society) |
| 7 September | Indigenous Literacy Day See more information in this newsletter. |
| 13 September | Roald Dahl Day https://www.roalddahl.com/create-and-learn/join-in/roald-dahl-day |
| 8 th October | Love Your Bookshop Day |
| 21-22 October | PETAA 2022 Leading with Literacy Conference, held both online and in-person |
| 22-30 October | Children's Week Tasmania https://playgrouptas.org.au/national-childrens-week/ |

If you have any dates suitable for inclusion, please send them to tas@cbca.org.au
Ensure that you include the supporting url (if there is one).

Indigenous Literacy Day 2022

Wednesday 7 September

Registrations for this free digital event open on August 9th

This year's Indigenous Literacy Day, *Celebrating Stories, Cultures and Languages*, a [National Digital Event](#), will be a magical story led by children from remote Milikapiti and Jilkminggan in the Northern Territory.

Joined by music icon Jessica Mauboy and dynamic performer Gregg Dreise, this 20 minute engaging video is must watch for all ages.



Aspiring Writers Mentorship Program

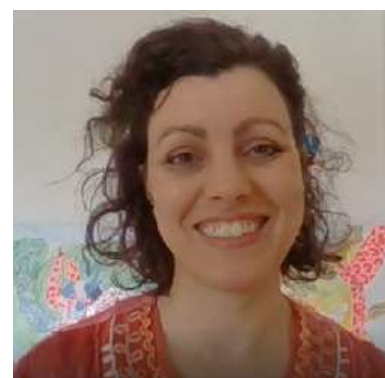
Calling all aspiring writers.....**ENTER NOW**

Enter the Aspiring Writers Mentorship Program for a chance to be professionally mentored by Cathie Tasker, a publisher and editor, now an independent creative writing consultant



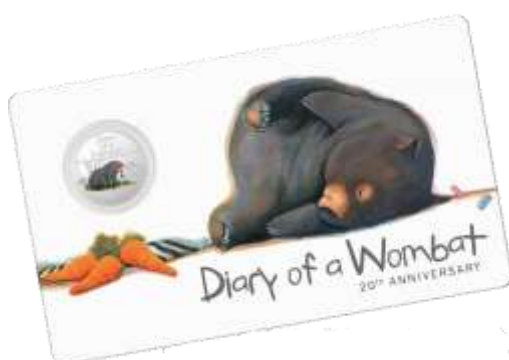
Bryoni Trezise – 2021 Cottesloe Mentorship winner says:

“ Working with Cathie has taught me to see my writing with fresh eyes. She is a wealth of knowledge – about the industry, about books for children and young people – but also about the creative process. There can be nothing more meaningful than knowing someone out there is saying, “Yes, you can!”, particularly when the world of children’s books feels like an enormous wilderness to decipher. I submitted my manuscript on a whim, a few minutes before the cut-off time. I had been about to bin the whole endeavour but I am so glad I persisted.



Entries open July 1 and close September 4 – all information [here](#).

Royal Australian Mint Competition



The Royal Australian Mint is running a competition in conjunction with the release of the coin. To enter the competition your class will need to create a new fun diary entry for the mischievous Wombat. The competition closes Monday 5 September 2022 and entries can be emailed to BookWeek@ramint.gov.au

See terms and conditions at:

<https://www.ramint.gov.au/diary-wombat-competition-terms-and-conditions>

THE CHILDREN'S
BOOK COUNCIL
OF AUSTRALIA

Reading Time

Children's book news and reviews from The Children's Book Council of Australia

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

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In memoriam

Jean Chapman • Max Fatchen • Beryl Moncrieff Matthews • Jill Midolo • Narelle Oliver • Jan Ormerod • Eve Pownall • Marion E Robertson • Gregory Rogers • Cassandra Weddell • Maisie Williams, Garah, NSW

**Donations to the CBCA Awards Foundation are tax deductible and can be sent to:
PO Box 1163, Fyshwick ACT 2609. (June 2022)**