



CBCA Tasmania Newsletter

September 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

This year's Book Week, themed *Dreaming with Eyes Open*, was exceptional with many schools and libraries throughout the state having fun, dressing up as their favourite book character and highlighting the Children's Book Council of Australia's Book of the Year Awards.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IQQjkkxg2bc>.

One event was the Quizz-itch Harry Potter Quiz Show held at the Burnie Town Hall at the Burnie Arts and Function Centre. Best-selling children's author Andy Jones tested participants on their knowledge of everything Harry Potter - with trivia questions, a spelling bee, audio/visual teasers, and drawing games. Participants dressed up as their favourite Hogwarts character, in their best Muggle attire or their Book Week costume. Congratulations to Loretta Brazendale (Book Fairy pictured) for putting together a great night and for the chocolates.



Quizz-itch was proudly supported by Libraries Tasmania, The Children's Book Council of Australia: Tas Branch and Burnie City Council.

The Tamar Valley Writers Festival in collaboration with CBCA (Tasmania) and support of Petrarch's Bookshop recently announced the winners of the student sections of the Tamar Valley Short Story competition:

- Ena Nichols, of Don College, in Grades 10-12 section, with her story *The Midden*
- Erin Grubert, Scotch Oakburn, in Grades 7-9 section with her story *The Sleeping Forest*
- Jade Dickinson, Kingston Primary School, in Grades 5-6 section, with her story *Pippy*.

Highly Commended were:

- Monique Schnitzer, of Clarence High School, in Grades 10-12 category,
- Mieke Burch, from Launceston College, in the Grades 10-12 category,
- Grace Greenhill, of Port Sorell Primary School, in the grades 5-6 section.

The student categories of the Tamar Valley Short Story Competition drew more than 85 submissions from across Tasmania, with students encouraged to submit short stories inspired by the theme *The Good Life with a Tasmanian vibe*.

The Open Section winning storyteller and the inaugural Adam Thompson 'New Voice' Award will be announced at the 2022 Tamar Valley Writers Festival, October 14-17.

See www.tamarvalleywritersfestival.com.au for details.



L-R: Grades 7-9 winning short storyteller Erin Grubert, Children's Book Council Australia (Tasmania) President Steve Martin, Grades 10-12 winning short storyteller Ena Nichols and TVWF Festival Director Mary Machen.



President
CBCA Tasmania



Australian Children's Laureate

Gabrielle Yang is looking forward to coming to Tasmania for the Lift Off! Festival in Hobart in October. Click on the link below for more information.

https://www.tmag.tas.gov.au/learning_and_discovery/about_learning_and_discovery/childrens_festival

Gabrielle shares other information in the September Newsletter. Click below.

<https://us5.campaign-archive.com/?u=80f44c544031385c8fe679586&id=07cf484412>



Kid's Corner



Find the latest Kid's Corner magazine at
<https://www.cbcanw.org.au/kids-corner>

Book Review: The Calling of Jackdaw Hollow by Kate Gordon

The Calling of Jackdaw Hollow by Kate Gordon ISBN 978 0 7022 6348 4



Jackdaw Hollow, one of Kate Gordon's infrequent male protagonists, was orphaned as a very young boy by a lightning strike and is taken in by the headmistress of the girls' school, Direleaf Hall. Jack is unconditionally loved and fits in around the school routines though without friendships there, but he is uncertain what his purpose is in life, and he constantly questions why he was spared when his beloved parents were not. His social awkwardness and deep thinking do not lend themselves to regular relationships.

He befriends Angeline whose ambition is to run away and join the circus though she does not really appear to have many acrobatic skills. Through their wary friendship Jack teaches her new words and ways of thinking. The implication is that this is to be his purpose in life but as a young person he cannot see this as enough reason to be spared.

The characters are all well rounded, as is the location with its brooding skies and house, and the slightly threatening bird undertones, though others may find the regular inclusion of birds a comfort. Jack's life finally settles into routine. He inherits the management of the school, marries Angharad, despite their age differences, enjoys teaching in the school and nurturing the girls who are students there. Kate's writing is evocative and often lyric. This book will appeal to a limited readership, but they will love it, as will anyone who enjoyed the companion books about Direleaf Hall: *The Heartsong of Wonder Quinn* and *The Ballad of Melodie Rose*.

ISBN 978 0 7022 6348 4

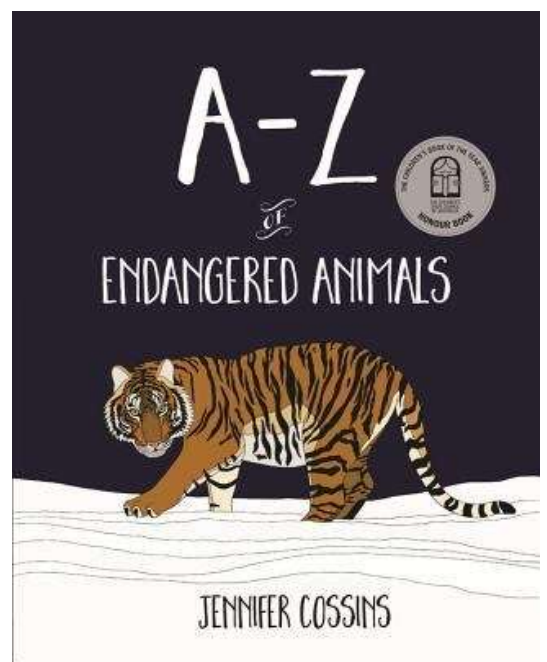
Maureen Mann

Book Review: Author Jennifer Cossins

Jen is a Tasmanian author and artist with a passion for nature, particularly animals, which regularly feature in a succession of award-winning titles that amaze, astound and enthrall young readers as they introduce the marvels of the animal kingdom. Her books are bright, bold, and informative, ranging from simple texts for young children to more complex and informative books to challenge independent readers to explore the natural world. Her books and other art works, (visit Red Parka <https://redparka.com.au/> for a peek) have a strong theme on protecting the planet and living sustainably.

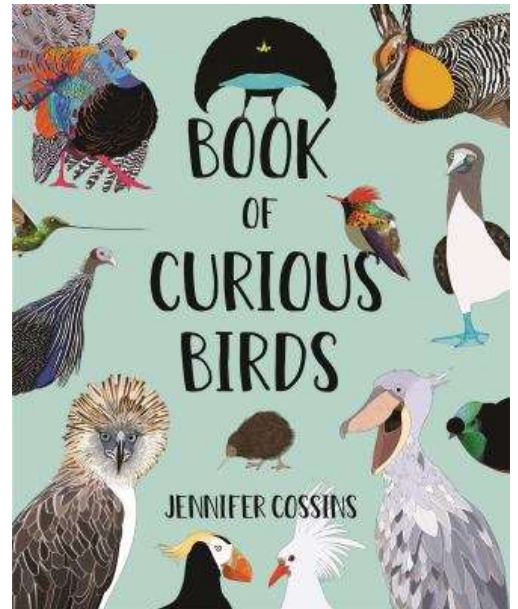
Publishing success blossomed with *A Compendium of Collective Nouns*, republished as *101 Collective Nouns* in 2017. The book includes a fascinating history on the topic and then features an array of common and not so common animals. Full-colour illustrations dominate on white backgrounds showing each animal in different poses and points of view. From an armoury of aardvarks to a dazzle of zebras there is something new and intriguing for every reader. The 101 animals are listed in alphabetical order, so fun with the alphabet is coupled with linguistic humour – I definitely would not want to meet a surfeit of skunks!

The *A-Z of Endangered Animals* (2017 CBCA Honour in the Eve Pownall Award for Information Books) provides a comprehensive introduction to endangered animals across the globe. Each double page is dedicated to one animal with information on the left page, and an illustration on the facing page. Information is presented in a clear and consistent layout presenting the letter of the alphabet and the name of the animal across the double page spread. Under the letter is a statement of conservation status and population. This is followed by a description of the animal, life patterns and challenges and a paragraph explaining conservation issues. An interesting fact concludes each entry. Font is used artfully to highlight each aspect of the coverage. The book is ideal for young conservationists and students investigating conservation and endangered species.



You can watch Jen talk about the book and share some pages at <https://youtu.be/ZiZN64WZ2jU>

Shortlisted for the 2022 CBCA Eve Pownall Award, *Book of Curious Birds* presents bright, bold and gloriously detailed illustrations that highlight the curious features of beaks, feathers, colour, legs and natural adornments in a host of exotic birds from around the world. Each double page spread presents factual information on the left page and a supporting painting on the right. Large, descriptive headings in a colour that highlights something in each bird's plumage includes a subtitle that expresses a more whimsical and personal take on the bird. A fact box with location, wingspan, length and conservation status sits prominently underneath and is followed by factual

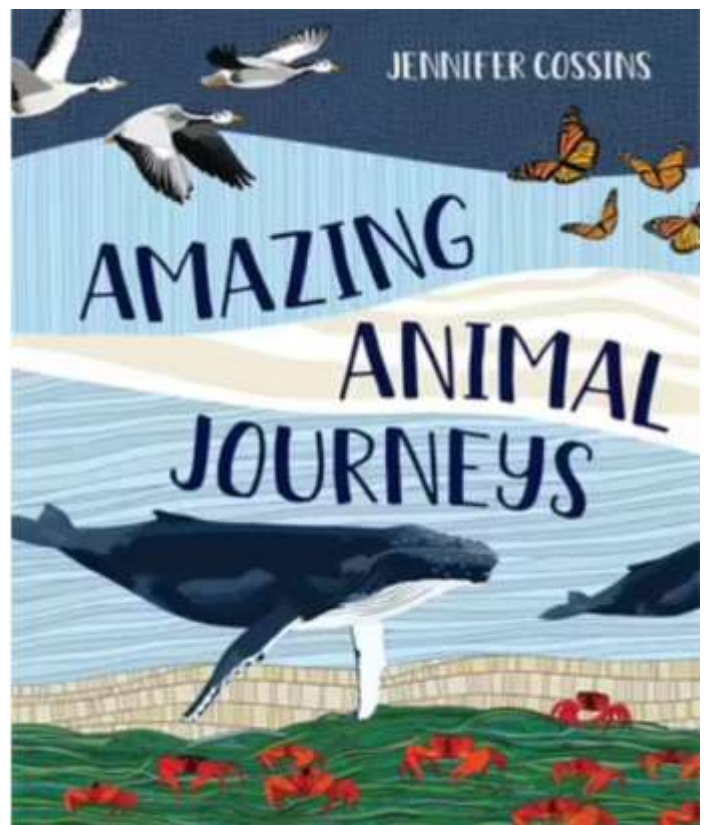


information about each bird starting with commentary on the plumage and other special feature. The information is easily digestible and interesting and the design, layout and use of colour within the text and illustrations will spark curiosity in young readers. An excellent information book that begs for more than one reading.

Another example of her books is the forthcoming *Amazing Animal Journeys* to be published in October. It looks... well... amazing! Examples of her other books can be viewed on the Hachette website

<https://www.hachette.com.au/jennifer-cossins/books>.

Jennie Bales
CBCA Tas Social Media Coordinator



Calendar of Events

29 September	Canadian Children's Book Centre winners announced https://bookcentre.ca/
1-2 October	Australian Fairy Tale Society 2022 Conference Brisbane, Queensland https://australianfairytalesociety.org/2022-brisbane-conference/
8 October	Love Your Bookshop Day https://www.loveyourbookshop.com.au/
14-17 October	Tamar Valley Writer's Festival: The Good Life https://www.tamarvalleywritersfestival.com.au/
21-22 October	PETAA 2022 Leading with Literacy Conference, held both online and in-person https://www.petaaconference.edu.au/
22-30 October	Children's Week Tasmania https://playgrouptas.org.au/national-childrens-week/
27 October	Speech Pathology Australian Book of the Year Awards https://www.speechpathologyaustralia.org.au/SPAweb/whats_on/Book_of_the_Year/SPAweb/Whats_On/Book_of_the_Year/Book_of_the_Year.aspx
29-30 October	Literature Centre - Celebrate Reading Conference 2022 Fremantle, WA https://everi.events/event/15455364-a/celebrate-reading-conference-2022

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).

Vale Raymond Briggs

Author-illustrator of *The Snowman* and *Father Christmas* has died at the age of 88. See an obituary at:

<https://www.theguardian.com/books/2022/aug/10/raymond-briggs-obituary>



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/>

The CBCA Awards Foundation

*Proudly Funding Prizes for the
CBCA Book of the Year Awards*

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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)**