



CBCA Tasmania Newsletter

December 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 our Annual General Meeting was held at 10.30am, Saturday October 29 at Libraries Tasmania, Civic Square, Launceston and was well attended with some familiar faces and some new. Our Branch is in a positive position moving forward, but new member schools, organisations and individuals are always welcomed.

The committee was reinstated unopposed, bestowing confidence in their ever important, and wonderful, work: President - Steve Martin; Vice President - Roxanne Steenbergen; Secretary - Loretta Brazendale; Treasurer and Public Officer - Felicity Sly; and Committee members - Jennie Bale, Michelle Chapman and Kay Allport.

Our committee continues to lobby for recognition of quality literature; our creators; and the importance of encouraging children and their parents to read – every day. We do this through our webpage, blogs, newsletters and conversations with like-minded organisations state-wide and nationally.

Unfortunately for our committee Chris Donnelly did not re-stand for the committee, deciding to move onto the next chapter of her life. We wish Chris

well and thank her for all her work and commitment to promote quality Australian books to children and young people – our best wishes!

CBCA - National

Most would be aware that the CBCA Board went through a change of leadership some two years ago and has since been addressing many issues including just recently at a national strategic meeting in Melbourne, revisiting what they actually stand for – unearthing new possibilities and a deep sense of purpose and meaning. The meeting was attended by Branch Presidents from all states and territories along with Board Members and committee members and was co-facilitated by author Carolyn Tate from the Purpose Project and I.



The weekend was an enlightening process, one that really made you look deeper into why, what, how, and of course our values, uncovering the following: -

- PURPOSE:** To enrich young lives through Australian stories
- VISION:** A thriving creative world embracing the transformational power of stories across generations
- MISSION:** To connect, communicate, celebrate and advocate for the value of stories

VALUES:

Equality – open to all through equal voice and opportunity

Quality – maintain a high degree of excellence in all we do

Diversity – seek, welcome and appreciate a diverse range of voices

Respect – recognise and acknowledge the contributions of all

Integrity – act in a socially responsible manner with honest, fair, transparent processes

Devonport Reader's Cup

Ten schools from the Devonport, Latrobe and Kentish municipalities took up the challenge of competing in this year's Devonport Reader's Cup, held for the first time at Spreyton Primary School, Friday November 11.

The quality of answers to the quiz was high, with the creative challenge presenting an outstanding variety of poetry, dioramas, story posters and storylines.



This year's winners: -

Quizmaster – Miandetta Primary School

Creative Challenge – Devonport Primary School

Overall Winner – Devonport Primary School

Planning for next year's Cup is underway with an expectation to attract schools from the Central Coast to compete. Thanks to the Tas Branch of CBCA; Kentish, Latrobe and Devonport Councils; radio stations 7AD & SeaFM; and the Toast for Kids Charity Inc for partnering with this event.



<https://flic.kr/p/qv8j8K>

On behalf of us all at the CBCA, may your Christmas bring you and your family great happiness and joy!

Stay safe and read a book.

President
CBCA Tasmania



Vale Margaret Hamilton AM

On November 24, 2022 we lost one of the Children's Book Council of Australia's foundation stones—Margaret Hamilton AM. Margaret has been our guiding light, our fiercest advocate, our cheer leader, and our intellectual powerhouse. Both the Book of the Year Awards and the CBCA Awards Foundation have grown in stature because of her dedication and unwavering service.



The Australian publishing community, and specifically our children's literature creatives, have been nurtured, mentored and inspired by her razor-sharp mind and focus on producing quality stories for our young Australians. Her legacy is enormous and the CBCA is mindful and dedicated to our responsibility in ensuring its care. Margaret will be missed by us all.

From the Children's Book Council of Australia Chair, Wendy Rapee

Read the full tribute at <https://www.cbca.org.au/margarethamiltontribute2022>

Membership

CBCA Tasmania wishes to thank all its members for their support during this year. Without your membership CBCA Tasmania wouldn't exist.

With 2022 almost finished it is time to think about renewing your [Personal or Institutional Membership](#). These subscriptions are vital for our local branch to function efficiently and develop our events and programs that have such an impact in schools and communities around Tasmania. Membership fees remain unchanged for 2023. Please renew your membership for 2023 as soon as possible. Membership forms are available on the website (link above). We continue to work on other payment options but with the hacking occurring around the world we have not put anything in place for the beginning of 2023.

These subscriptions not only support CBCA Tasmania Branch, but also help to keep you informed about what is happening in CBCA Tasmania and in Australia.

<https://cbcatastas.org.au/membership/>



Tasmanian Literary Awards Shortlist

On Tuesday November 15, Minister for the Arts, Elise Archer, announced the Shortlisted books for the former Premier's Book Awards now the Tasmanian Literary Awards.

As you recall from the July newsletter: Steve Martin, CBCA Tas President, lobbied the Minister for Arts to expand the Tasmanian Literacy Awards to include other genres (especially a young readers and children's category) and to restrict submissions to Tasmanian creators only and to increase the prize pool.

The Minister for the Arts' Prize for Books for Young Readers and Children shortlisted books are:

- *Aster's Good, Right Things* by Kate Gordon (Yellow Brick Books)
- *Ella and the Ocean* by Lian Tanner, illustrated by Jonathan Bentley (Allen & Unwin)
- *Sea Country* by Aunty Patsy Cameron, illustrated by Lisa Kennedy (Magabala Books)
- *Shoestring: The Boy Who Walks on Air* by Julie Hunt, illustrated by Dale Newman (Allen & Unwin)

Judges' comments on the shortlist

This year's shortlist for the Minister for the Arts' Prize for Books for Young Readers and Children represents the breadth of forms, genres, and audiences in Tasmanian children's writing, demonstrating that the power of language and complexity in a literary work is by no means restricted to texts composed for adults. In an extremely competitive field, all the authors and illustrators for this category should be congratulated on the high quality of the work that they offer young Tasmanians.

The judges' chosen picture books, *Sea Country* by Aunty Patsy Cameron and *Ella and the Ocean* by Lian Tanner, both utilise powerful interconnection of word and image to transport their readers into explorations of deep connections with landscape and country. Julie Hunt's *Shoestring: The Boy Who Walks on Air* is an illustrated novel that takes readers on a fantastical thrill-ride, filled with magic and mayhem, while *Aster's Good, Right Things* by Kate Gordon explores a vital theme for our time: how do we embrace difference and try to do good in the world?

The judging panel for the award are confident that the shortlist for this award clearly represents the exemplary calibre of Tasmanian writing for young people, which is world-class in every aspect and to be commended to readers of all ages. The shortlist was selected with an eye to a number of elements of quality, but the

factor considered above all others was the power of the authors' storytelling to touch both the mind and heart of the reader in a profound way. The four books nominated were unanimously considered by the judges to have this quality in abundance.

You can view the shortlisted books for the other categories at:

<https://www.arts.tas.gov.au/tasliteraryawards/home>

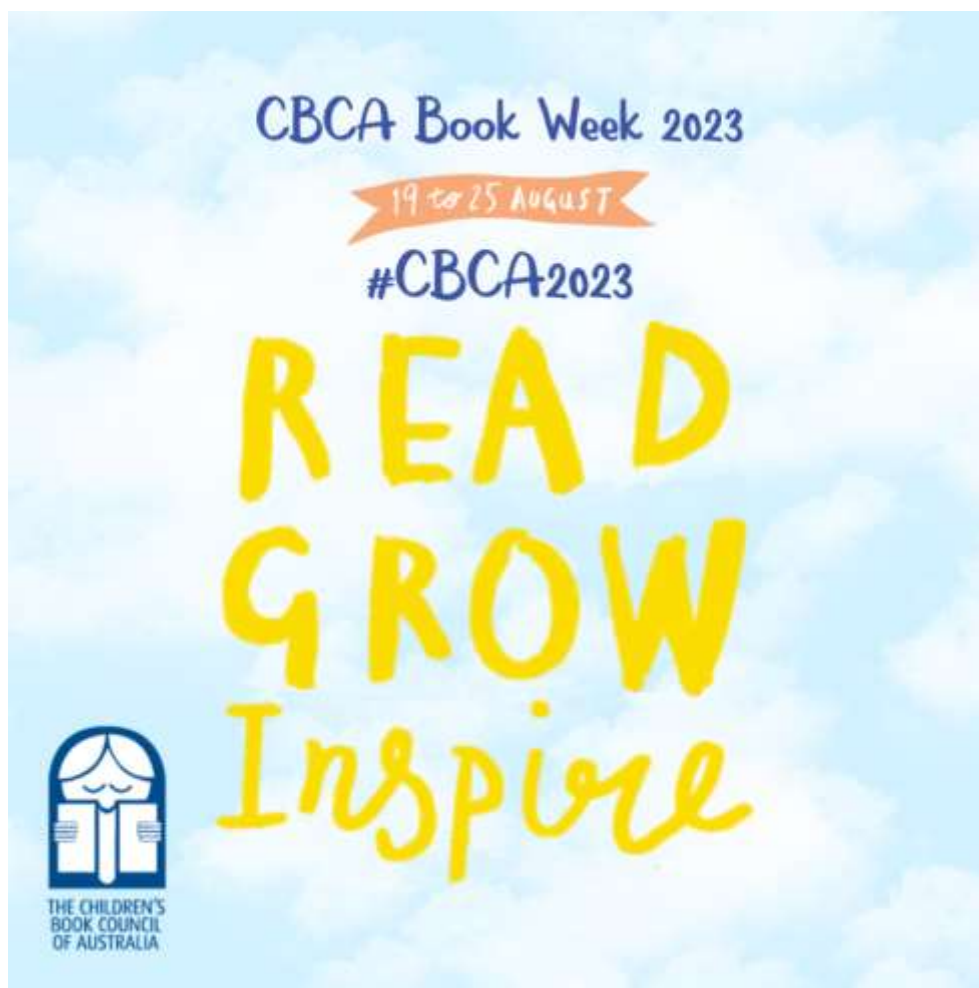
Click here to vote in the People's Choice for the Shortlisted books.

https://www.arts.tas.gov.au/tasliteraryawards/prizes/peoples_choice_awards



Theme for 2023

The theme for CBCA Book Week 2023 has been announced and it is...



Matt Ottley explores his 2023 CBCA Book Week centrepiece and invites us all to fall into his imagination [in this short video](#).

Book Review: Come Over to My House by Eliza Hull and Sally Rippin Illustrated by Daniel Gray-Barnett

Before reading this highly recommended picture book, listen to an interview with Eliza Hull, disability advocate and author.

<https://www.abc.net.au/radionational/programs/lifematters/eliza-hull-on-inclusive-play-in-her-new-picture-book-come-over-t/101460760>



Readers are invited to seven unique homes to eat, play, dance, jump, read and do many other everyday activities. In every home, there is one or more people with a disability – a child or parent or both. In these homes, the visitor has to adapt to the physical, neurodivergent or intellectual disabilities of those who live there.

The illustrations by award-winning Tasmanian based Daniel Gray-Barnett are colourful, vibrant and most importantly respectful of the story being told – an excellent way to introduce children to people with disabilities and to learn how they might do things differently.

Hardie Grant Children's Publishing 2022

Nella Pickup

CBCA Tas Life Member, IBBY Australia Executive Committee member

Book Review: Michael Maggot by Thomas Shire

Michael the Mad Maggot is a new publication from first time author Thomas Shires. A farmer in Tasmania, he focuses on sustainable farming practices and regenerating the landscape. And this may well have influenced the setting of this story – a compost bin! What better place to celebrate sustainable living!

The story of Michael expressly addresses anger management as this maggot struggles to hold his temper and has no patience dealing with life's challenge which can be rather gross when living in compost. And it seems that everything makes him mad – the slightest thing can set him off. As a maggot,

Michael cannot speak and does not have limbs to thrash about, so he must therefore find other ways to express his frustrations and anger. These include a number of facial expressions, red flushes and body contortions.

Shires has played with language in the telling of this simple story with an array of alternative ways to say 'mad' that will have children grinning. As an aside, I think 'psycho' could have been omitted for its alternative connotations. Michael works through a series of actions to deal with his anger, introduced by the author speaking to the reader with a strategy to test. This switch in perspectives does inhibit the flow of the story a little.

The text is in solid bold black text large enough for young independent readers to manage easily. The layout is irregular, with inconsistent line spacing to give the appearance of verse that breaks up sentences in unusual spaces. The illustrations incorporate a mix of media, with caricature portrayals of the maggot and children. The use of dark greens and stylised etchings on the maggot's habitat is effective and provides a useful contrast to the pale and slug like body. Red – in many hues and strengths – has a key role in expressing the levels of anger. There is an abundance of white space on the pages that is disconcerting to the eye, and blank pages at either end indicate that a smaller format and further storyboarding may have provided a more polished end product.

(2022 Austin Macauley)

Jennie Bales

CBCA Tas Social Media Coordinator



Book Review:

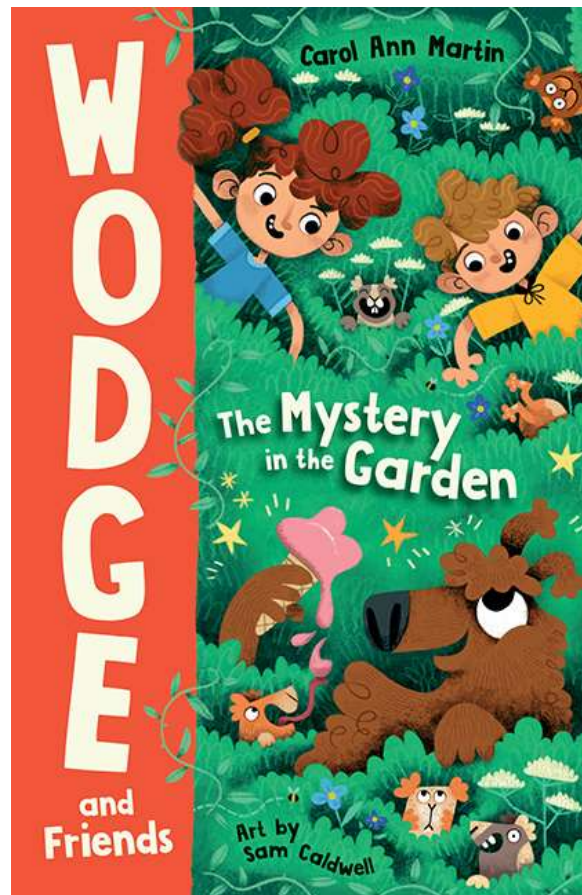
The Mystery in the Garden: Wodge and Friends #1

by Carol Ann Martin
Illustrator Sam Caldwell

Nancy and her brother Dom reluctantly move in with an eccentric artist named Miss Heatherbell while their father goes off to Antarctica for work. In Miss Heatherbell's garden, they meet a grumpy fairy statue, and Wodge, a mysterious shape shifting creature with a love for broccoli ice cream. Unfortunately, the children discover that the unpleasant and very nosy neighbour is the school bully, Stewie MacGubbin. This is the first in a hilarious new series for ages 7+. The sequel *Wodge and Friends: Take the Stage* will be available late October.

Nella Pickup

CBCA Tas Life Member, IBBY Australia Executive Committee member



Australian Children's Laureate in Tasmania



The Laureate in Tasmania

Gabrielle ran two booked-out workshops at the Lift Off! Festival at the Tasmanian Museum and Art Gallery. She was praised for her inspiring and informative sessions that left the children and adults eager to exercise their imaginations in all new ways.

She also shared a book reading to all festival-goers, entertaining them with an excerpt from *Zadie Ma and the Dog Who Chased the Moon*. Thank you to TMAG for partnering with the ACLF for this event.

SCWBI Tasmania also hosted a special Laureate dinner during which Gabrielle shared more about her writing and illustrating process as well as her Laureate mission.



To see more of Gabrielle Wang's travels click [here](#).



2022 Literature Symposium (The Foundation for Learning and Literacy)

Symposium videos can be viewed from this link:

<https://youtube.com/playlist?list=PLyfKxSNJdMBC9fZjl9a6W6UxTawjYa2g4&si=EMSIkaIECMiOmarE6JChQQ>

Kid's Corner: CBCA NSW Branch

The October issue of Kid's Corner is available at <https://cbcansw.org.au>

CELEBRATING KIDS' CORNER with secret time capsules and links to just a few of the many KC happenings from the past,

TELLING TALES through the artwork on the cover and the POWER of poetry as created by Nettie Lodge, and

PICTURING NEW BOOKS with **11 WORDS FOR LOVE**, **The BIG BOOK of EXHIBITS**, **MY DEADLY BOOTES**, **DANCING WITH MEMORIES**, **A STAR FOR MAMA**, **EGG**, and **FLIP and FLAP** on Sydney Harbour.



Past issues are available at <https://www.cbcansw.org/kids-corner-worksheet>

Nan Chauncy Award Judge

Tasmania is still looking for a Judge to work with 2 other state judges and past-president Leanne Rands to select the 2023 Nan Chauncy Award Recipient. This is a short-term role (Jan/Feb-May/June): read the nominations, discuss the nominations with the other team members to determine the winner and contribute to the Citation. The information on the nominee is provided by the nominator. All meetings are by Zoom.

More information about the Award can be found at [CBCA](https://www.cbcasw.org.au)

Please email tas@cbca.org.au by Dec 2 if you are keen to take up this role.



Here is an update on [Australia Reads](#)

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?

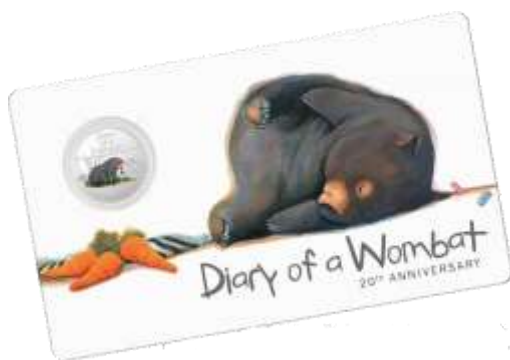
Check out examples on the blog itself — <http://cbcatas.blogspot.com/> — and be inspired.

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.



Diary of a Wombat Coin Winner



Wendy of Ouse District School was the lucky winner of the 20th Anniversary Diary of a Wombat Coin. Congratulations. For those who missed out, you can still purchase a coin from the CBCA e-store <https://store.cbca.org.au/cbca-mint-coins>

Digital Planner 2023

You loved it this year, so our digital yearly planner is coming back for 2023! Featuring the gorgeous artwork of our 2023 CBCA Book Week artist, Matt Ottley, this planner has everything you'll need to keep you on top of your 2023 activities! Visit <https://store.cbca.org.au/cbca-digital-products> in December when the 2023 Planner will become available.



Children's Book Council of Australia

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)***