

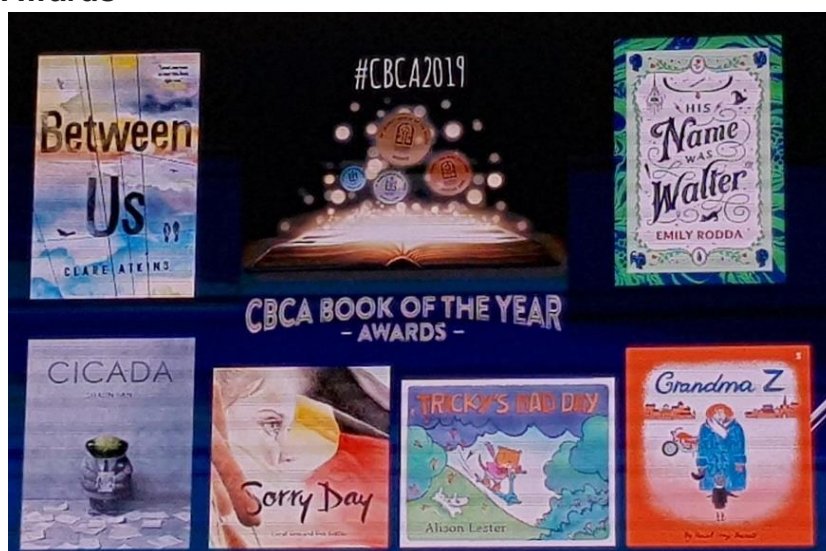
# CBCA Tasmania Newsletter

## September 2019

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

### *From the Desk: Tas Branch President Leanne Rands*

#### Book of the Year Awards



It was a pleasure to be involved in this year's Book of the Year Awards held at the beautiful Deakin Edge theatre in the Federation Square complex in Melbourne on Friday 16<sup>th</sup> August. Congratulations to the Karys McEwen (President), the committee and members of CBCA Victoria for such a wonderful, well organized celebration.

We were entertained by Scully's Singing Stories who performed Alison Lester's *Tricky's Bad Day* followed by a beautiful lullaby.





The event was hosted by the author and illustrator Tony Wilson and assisted by students from various schools around Melbourne. The students announced the Short List winners, Honour winners and CBCA Book of the Year Award winners for each category with well-rehearsed precision and humour.

### Short Listed Authors, Illustrators & Publishers



### Daniel Gray-Barnett & Leanne Rands



It was exciting to see Daniel Gray-Barnett, who has recently moved to Tasmania, receive the New Illustrators Award for his book *Grandma Z*. Carol Tulloch, another local, illustrated the Eve Pownall shorted listed book, *Bouncing Back: An Eastern Barred Bandicoot story* written by Rohan Cleave.

<https://cbca.org.au/> Check out the Book of the Year Winners for 2019.

### Nan Chauncy Award Presentation



Due to a flight cancellation Maureen Mann, the Nan Chauncy Award Coordinator, was unable to attend the ceremony. James Moloney is a worthy recipient of the 2019 Nan Chauncy Award. As a judge I had the opportunity to meet James and his wife Kate. He was delighted to receive the handcrafted box made from Tasmanian timbers. On behalf of the Tasmanian Branch I would like to thank Maureen for her work and leadership and also my fellow judges Mylee Joseph (NSW) and Rachel Hind (ACT).

### James & Kate Moloney



## CBCA has new national Patrons

His Excellency General the Honourable David Hurley AC DSC (Ret.), Governor-General of the Commonwealth of Australia, and Her Excellency Mrs Linda Hurley have jointly accepted the CBCA's invitation to be our new national patrons.



## CBCA National AGM

The National AGM was held at QT in Canberra on Friday 31<sup>st</sup> May. At the AGM we met the new Independent Directors and Branch Directors. I was pleased to announce the appointment of Kay Allport as the new Tasmanian Branch Director on the Board.

Prior to the AGM we had a meeting of the Branch Presidents to discuss our state and territory perspectives, challenges and experiences. Meeting face to face without the complexities of online connectivity is easier for communication. Having the opportunity to share our diverse programs and activities and learn from each other provides stimulating conversation and lots of new ideas to inspire children to engage with quality Australian childrens' literature. We also welcomed two new presidents Karys McEwen (Vic) who replaces Christine Oughtred, and Liz Bowring (NSW) who replaces Gail Erskine.

### 2019 Branch Presidents:

Font Row – Leanne Rands (Tas), Julie Long (ACT), Jan Nicholls (WA), Trish Buckley (Qld), Julie Wells (SA), Pat Moore (NT)  
Back Row – Liz Bowring (NSW), Karys McEwen (Vic)



## Readers' Cup Competition in Hobart and Launceston

### Hobart:

Due to the federal funding we have been able to expand both the primary and secondary Readers' Cup competitions. Once again the Hobart competition was a wonderful success due to the hard work and enthusiasm of the committee, capably lead by Katie Stanley and Catherine Duffett. A number of schools, new to Readers' Cup, participated in both competitions along with the regular participants.

As usual the response from the participants was very positive:

*I just wanted to pass on a huge thank you to the CBCA and all involved, for this year's Readers Cup. We appreciate it takes a lot of work, time and effort to bring such events together - both from those we saw and the many more behind the scenes. While the judges and the MC are in obvious need of our thanks, I must also make special mention of our hosts at The Friends' School, Catherine Duffett and Katie Stanley, who were wonderfully patient with all our questions as we navigated our way through our first Readers' Cup experience.*

*With thanks also for the book week merchandise package - it was much appreciated,*

*Madeleine Visentin  
St John's Catholic School*



### Launceston:

For the first time this year CBCA partnered with Anne Donnelly and her team to organize the Primary School Readers' Cup competition. The grant enabled CBCA to provide prizes for the students from the Notables and Short Listed books. Many thanks to Carol Fuller our Northern Regional Coordinator for liaising with Anne Donnelly, the Northern Primary Readers' Cup Coordinator.

**(See the Readers' Cup Article in this Newsletter)**

Happy reading

Leanne Rands

President

# *CBCA 13<sup>th</sup> National Conference- 31<sup>st</sup> May to 2<sup>nd</sup> June, Canberra*

*Chris Donnelly and I had the pleasure of participating in this year's CBCA National Conference. It was an informative and entertaining experience and a great opportunity to reconnect with familiar friends and meet new friends. I would like to congratulate and thank the Conference Convenors Dyan Blacklock and Margaret Hamilton and their team who put so much time and effort into making the conference so successful. I would also like to encourage those members who were unable attend to consider participating in the next conference.*

*Chris and I have put together a report of our experiences for your enjoyment.*

*Leanne Rands*

## **Conference Dinner**

The current Australian Children's Laureate, Morris Gleitzman, opened the conference with a keynote address entitled, *'The many ways humour suits literary purposes'*. Leigh Hobbs entertained dinner guests at the National Arboretum with stories of his experiences as the previous Australian Children's Laureate. *Mr Chicken*, who recently returned from his adventures around Australia with Leigh, featured prominently in the presentation.

## **CBCA Lifetime Achievement Award**

Paul Jennings was presented with the CBCA Lifetime Achievement Award in recognition of his successful writing career over many years. The award recognises 'a long-standing contribution by an Australian citizen to Australian children's books and a lifetime commitment to Australian readers'. It was great to see my former neighbour from the Dandenong Ranges being recognized with such a prestigious award.

## **The Many Ways Humour Suits Literary Purposes**

### **Morris Gleitzman (Keynote Address)**

Morris said; *"CBCA is like fleecy lined ugg boots, warm and supportive of Children's Literature"*

- Humour suits literary purposes as it opens up possibilities in thinking and understanding for each reader and impacts their life
- Humour works using minimal words and has a specific, recognisable context and an element of mystery
- We can minimise the impact of humour with simplistic stereotypes, unexamined beliefs, prejudices, perspectives and attitudes
- Effective humour is complex with the power to influence and transform learning
- Engagement of readers is reliant on the author's ability to connect the reader to the problem of the story to be solved, and can offer strategies for dealing with life issues, help solve problems and inspire imagination



- Humour can develop resilience and contribute an unexpected dimension to the reading experience
- Humour is a celebration of the creativity needed to thrive and achieve in the adult world and can support optimism and resilience

## **Making funny pictures: it's a piece of cake!**

### **Laura Stitzel, Michael Speechley and Matt Stanton**

*Michael Speechley*: A graphic designer and high school art teacher in WA, his first book *The All New Must Have Orange 430* was shortlisted for Picture Book of the Year 2019.

[Laura Stitzel](#) is an extremely versatile illustrator and animator, who illustrated *The Adventures of Catvinkle* which was awarded a CBCA Notable Book in the Younger Readers' category, and has just published her first picture book, *Mr Mo Starts to Grow*, a delightful story for young children.

*Matt Stanton* wrote the *Funny Kid* books, In collaboration with Tim Miller he wrote the *Fart Monster* and *The Pirate who had to pee* stories.

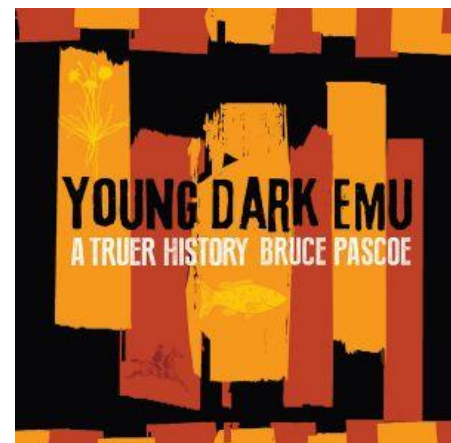
All three have much deeper messages within the text.

## **Young Dark Emu: teaching Australia's true history.**

### **Bruce Pascoe**

The Bruce Pascoe session was chaired by Anna Moulton, CEO of Magabala Books, with Edie Wright as the interviewer

- In Australia there is a need for a 'true view' of the Aboriginal perspective in literature
- Understanding is developed through books written by Aboriginal communities about their country, culture and history
- Education plays an important role in developing accurate knowledge and understanding among students
- Sharing stories of historical discrimination, disadvantage and tragedy gives Aboriginal people a voice and develops mutual respect
- As Aboriginal people participate in all areas of society the boundaries of tradition are challenged and positive interventions are possible



Patsy Jones recently blogged about *Young Dark Emu*: <http://cbcatas.blogspot.com/2019/06/young-dark-emu.html>

The Teachers' Notes for the *Young Dark Emu* are now available on the Magabala Books website: [https://www.magabala.com/media/wysiwyg/Teacher\\_Notes/Magabala\\_YDE\\_Teachers\\_Guide.pdf](https://www.magabala.com/media/wysiwyg/Teacher_Notes/Magabala_YDE_Teachers_Guide.pdf)



# The Politics of Children's Literature: Humour in a Serious World

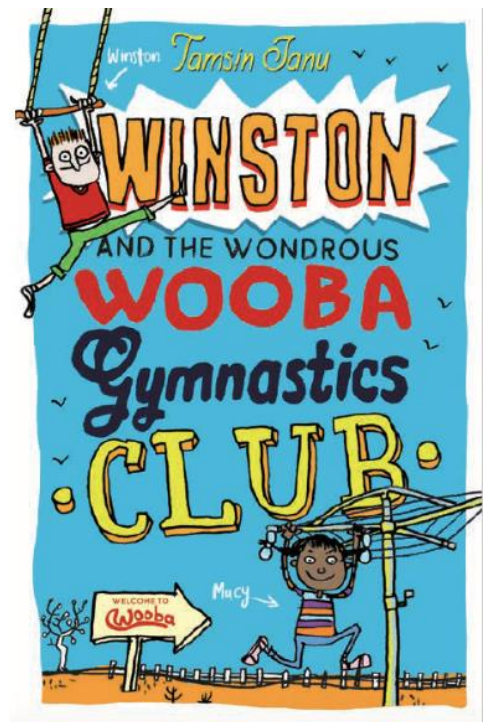
## Tamsin Janu, James Roy, Kate & Jol Temple

*Room on Our Rock* by Kate & Jol Temple: This picture book makes a political comment using humour to focus on the issues and attitudes towards refugees coming to Australia.

Other titles include *Jimmy Cook Discovers Third Grade* - CBCA Book of the Year Younger Readers 2017 Honour Book; *I Got this Hat* - National Simultaneous Storytime book for 2016.

*Figgy* (series) by Tamsin Janu: In this book Tamsin looks at the problems and complexities related to city slums and poverty in the third world country of Ghana. Despite the poverty there is a theme of hope as Figgy makes the best of her life's circumstances. This use of allegory allows the reader to identify with the characters and feel part of the story!

Other titles include *Winston and the Wondrous Wooba Gymnastics Club*; *Town* by James Roy; *One Thousand Hills* (with Noël Zihabamwe) - Winner of the NSW Premier's Young People's History Prize 2016, a heartbreaking story, ameliorated with humour.



***Reading is how you discover the world and writing is how you discover yourself***

## Strange new worlds

### Chair Libby Gleeson

**Zana Fraillon:** *The Ones that Disappeared* (CBCA Book of the Year Older Readers Notable 2018) {Interviewed by teleconference}. The book tells the story of three trafficked children who are imprisoned in the basement of a building, determined to find freedom, hope and a future.

**Karen Foxlee** *Lenny's Book of Everything* (CBCA Book of the Year Older Readers Short List 2019) Lenny's younger brother Davey has a mystery illness and won't stop growing. The bright spot every week is the arrival of the latest issue of Burrell's Build-It-at-Home Encyclopedia. Through the encyclopedia, Lenny and Davey experience the wonders of the world. Lenny finally realizes Davey won't make it to Great Bear Lake

**Eliza Henry Jones** *P is for Pearl* (CBCA Book of the Year Older Readers Notable 2019). Written when Eliza was 15, dreamlike, set in an isolated town in Tasmania, though she wrote it in Port Philip Bay which seemed too safe and pedestrian. Martin is the police officer who is 'family' to Gwendolen.

**Rhiannon Williams** *Ottillie Colter and the Narrowway Hunt* (Winner of the Ampersand Prize 2017 - first middle grade winner) There are two books in the series, with a third next year. Story is about about friendship, monsters and being brave enough to be a rebel. There are Jibbies, and 'dredretches', kidnappings and monster hunters.

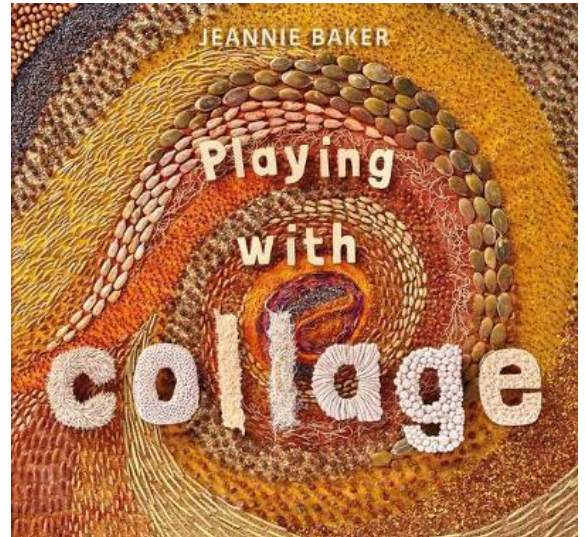
## Playing with Collage

### Plenary: Jeannie Baker

Jeannie Baker was born in England, and came to Australia in 1975. *Playing with Collage*<sup>1</sup> is her latest book, which was launched during the conference.

This is an experiential 'how to' book. Jeannie describes practising to find favourite mediums; as a child she played in a nearby rubbish dump where she learned a lot such as:

- Acrylic paint is problematic as it tends to go mouldy
- Practise allowed her to find her favourite mediums when she was working with a publisher in London.
- Resin, which is used to depict water, is hard to use and unpredictable, but great when it works.



Jeannie's experiences working on *Where the Forest Meets the Sea* (1987) gave her the confidence to be on her own in the wild. There are a number of films made from the exhibition collages which bring the stories magically to life. She collects materials only for current projects, doesn't 'stockpile'. She does a lot of the photography in her bedroom, using black sheets to block out the light and the view.

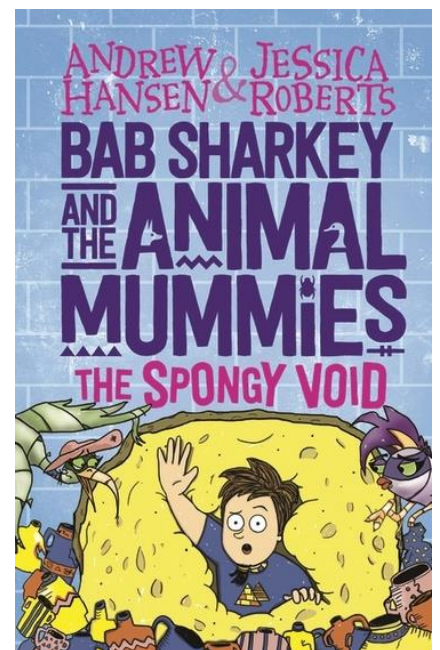
### The art of a funny partnership:

#### Leigh Hobbs Interviews Mitch Vane & Danny Katz with Andrew Hansen and Jessica Roberts

**Mitch and Danny** are well known for the book series *Little Lunch* which has transitioned from book to TV. Their most recent adventure is called *The Poppa Platoon in World War Chew* - "The MOST hilarious, dangerous showbag showdown...ever!"

**Andrew Hansen** of 'Chaser' fame has teamed up with designer wife **Jessica Roberts** to write humorous fiction for children. They have published three titles *Bab Sharkey and the Animal Mummies: The Weird Beard*; *The Giant Moth Mummy*; and in the third book, *The Spongy Void*, Jessica had to 'untidy' her images.

These partnerships are important to ensure that a funny character stays fresh with good dialogue. A lot of the action in these stories is not funny for the characters, but it hilarious for the audience. The editor is very important in this type of writing, and often likes to keep the author and illustrator apart.



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<sup>1</sup> Reviewed in *Reading Time* June 12 2019, Shared [Walker Classroom](#) @walker\_class Jul 1



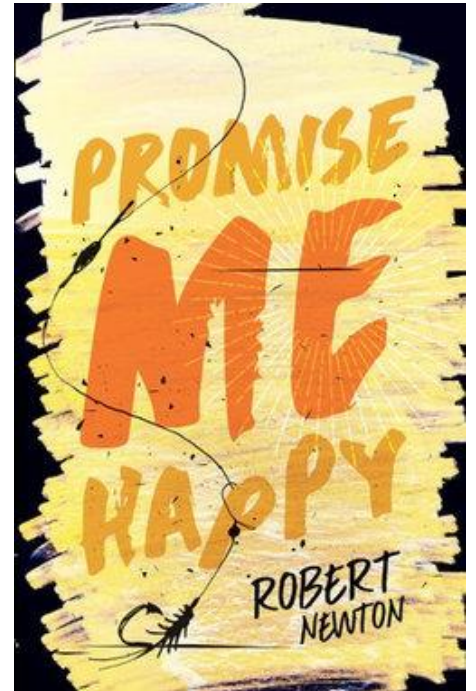
## Hardly a laughing matter! (but why we need these books)

**Vikki Wakefield, Allayne Webster and Rob Newton**

**Robert Newton:** A Victorian, and Firefighter by profession, Robert has witnessed some tough things. Black humour is important in his writing which though messy helps to moderate the dark issues. His latest title, *Promise Me Happy*, is a love story with a character named Nate. Rob reads to escape and likes to write for young people. In *Mr Romanov's Garden in the Sky* (CBCA Book of the Year: Older Readers 2018 Notable) he treats the setting as a character.

**Allayne Webster:** (from SA). Dark topics need to be lightened in order to make it easier to comprehend. Her new book, *Sensitive*, has been released by multiple publishers. Samantha, a thirteen year old girl with allergies, moves to a new town, and decides to reinvent herself. She calls herself SJ, AND wants to be 'normal', so she will do whatever she can to hide her problems. Allayne acknowledges Judy Blume as an important influence.

**Vikki Wakefield:** (also from SA). Winner of the Golden Kite Award (US) Honour Book, 2017 for *Inbetween Days*, and has twice been awarded the CBCA Book of the Year, Honour Book: Older Readers (2014 and 2016). Vikki's book, *This is how we change the ending*, has a main character named Nate. This book is 'heavy' but also funny. Vikki reads for escapism, SE Hinton's books helped her to see that her life was exciting and amazing and that she needed 'dark' books.



## Big Cheese, Little Cheese – The importance of independent publishing for children:

**Davina Bell (Affirm Press), Karen McDermott (Serenity Press), Rochelle Manners (Wombat), Mark MacLeod (Dirt Lane),**

“Children have the right to everything especially books”

**Davina Bell** <http://affirmpress.com.au> Stylish local books are preferred and some books are rejected because they are 'too quiet'. Quality 'second tier' for consideration.

**Rochelle Manners** <http://wombatbooks.com.au/index.php/blog/blogger/manners2wb>

Ran the business from her own house for the first eight years, and looks for 'stories you want to share'.

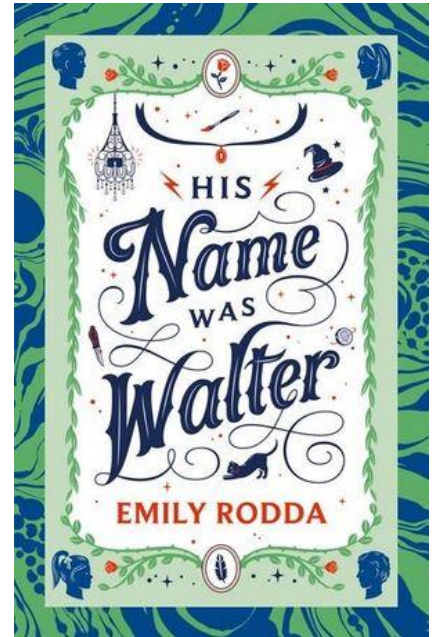
**Mark MacLeod** <http://www.dirtlanepress.com/> Humour and seriousness are very important to combat the ordinary books. They focus on books that are challenging and those no one else will do, such as Irene Kobald's *The Dream Peddler* and Danny Parker's *Paperboy*.

## ‘Will you ever write a real book?’ 35 years as an unrepentant children’s author

### Plenary: Emily Rodda (Jennifer Rowe)

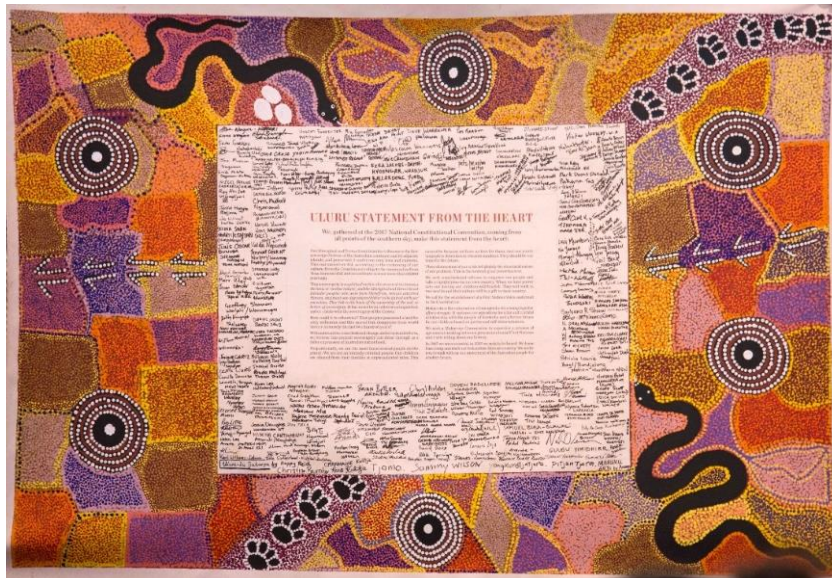
Emily has an English Literature degree and writes for children aged 8-12ish. Her memory of how important reading was for her as a child was an important factor. She worked for A&R publishers who gave her the children’s list to ‘play’ with.

She has written seven mysteries for adults, over 100 titles for children, receiving more publicity for the adult books. The children’s market is a specific niche. Titles include *Bungawitta* (humour), *Rowan of Rin* and *Deltora Quest* series (high fantasy). She has an elm cupboard where she stores her ideas (not tone or context), waiting for inspiration. *The Shop at Hoopers Bend* was based on her uncle who used to live in the Blue Mountains. Her most recent book, *His Name was Walter* was awarded The Best Designed Children’s Fiction Book Award by The Australian Book Designers Association on June 3, and is the **CBCA Book of the Year Younger Readers Winner 2019**.



### To see and understand: Exploring Our Nation’s Rich Cultural History Aunty Fay Muir & Sue Lawson

There is a huge range of colourings and physical characteristics among Aboriginal people. Australians don’t know whose country they are on. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander history should be taught and known generally. *Uluru Statement – from the Heart*, took nine months to get



all groups together. We should use ‘indigenous’ names for our flora and fauna. Term ‘Year of Indigenous Languages’ – shouldn’t use this for our people, it is universal name. The term Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander is acceptable description of our people.

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Uluru\\_Statement\\_from\\_the\\_Heart](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Uluru_Statement_from_the_Heart)

<https://www.nqlc.com.au/index.php/publications/news/girramay-2-native-title-consent-determination-2-2/>

## Concurrent session notes:

### Introducing new voices

Authors to note

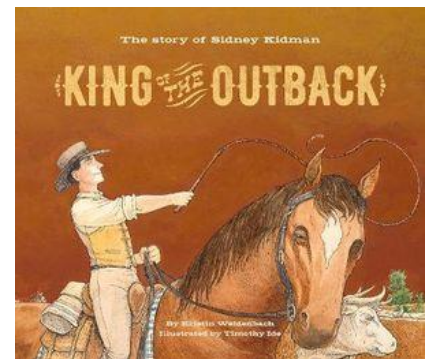
- **Bren MacDibble** author of *How to Bee*. Bren is **Cally Black**, author of *In the Dark Spaces*.
- **Kelly Canby**, author of multiple books, but works mainly as an illustrator (eg. *Bronte Mettlestone*).
- **Rebecca McRitchie** (editor), her first fiction titles are the *Whimsy & Woe* series.

### Non Fiction in a Google World: Tania McCartney, Kristin Weidenbach, Andrew Kelly

- Students usually prefer to scan rather than read in a traditional manner
- 

They prefer small pockets of information with a greater dependence on visual cues, icons, images and visual narrative to interpret text

- Many boys prefer factual non-fiction as it easier and quicker to read
- Competing with Google is a challenge for authors
- **FACTION** (Combination of Fiction and Non-Fiction writing styles)
  - There is a growing interest in *Faction* books: Picture Books  
Examples include:
  - *Mamie* by Tania McCartney is based on the life of May Gibbs and combined both styles with modern characters that appeal to children
  - *King of the Outback* by Kristin Weidenbach is based on the life of Sidney Kidman an outback stockman and postman



### My Inner Duck & How I Found It

Humorous quirky books at many levels

- **RA Spratt**, *Nanny Piggins* series
- **Zoe Norton Lodge**, *Elizabetha meets her match*; husband George illustrates them
- **Meg McKinlay** *Catch a Falling Star* shows some of Meg's unusual approach to writing
- **Adam Cece** writes humorous books about *Huggabie Falls*, illustrated by Andrew Weldon, and *Wesley Booth Super Sleuth* illustrated by Michael Streich



# CBCA National Conference 2019



YOUNG DARK EMU

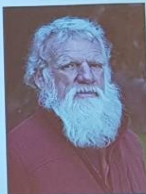
TEACHING AUSTRALIA'S TRUE HISTORY

Bruce Pascoe in conversation with Edie Wright

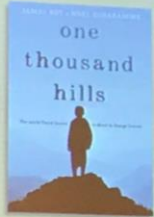
Australia Council Lifetime Achievement Award for Literature

Person of the Year, 2018 National Dreamtime Awards

Magabala Books



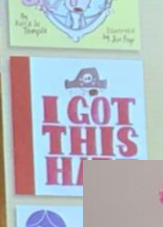
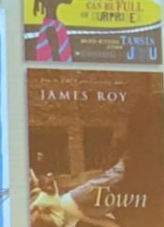
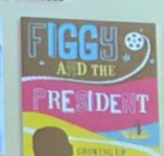
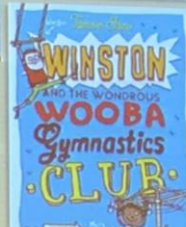
The politics of children's literature:  
humour in a serious world...



Tamsin Janu

Kate & Jol Temple

James Roy



CBCA LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

recognising a long-standing contribution by an Australian citizen to Australian children's books and a lifetime commitment to Australian readers.

To be presented by

Professor Margot Hillel OAM  
Chair of the CBCA National Board





# *New Illustrators Award for Grandma Z - CBCA Book of the Year Awards*

## **CBCA Acceptance speech - Daniel Gray-Barnett**

I'd like to thank the Children's Book Council of Australia as well as the judges for this incredible honour.

A big thank you to my publisher, Miriam Rosenbloom and the team at Scribble Kids for their faith in my work and giving me the opportunity to bring *Grandma Z* to life. It's probably fitting that this book didn't start with a manuscript at all, but with some illustrations of the characters that I did just for fun. I posted them to my Instagram and thought that would be the end of it.

Miriam saw them and convinced me that these characters had a really good story to tell. So we did. I'm very grateful, Miri, for your vision - working on *Grandma Z* has opened up doors in my career.

My earliest memory of falling in love with books was in Grade 2, when my teacher Ms Wootton, was reading to us *The BFG*. Of course, there is no question that Roald Dahl's stories are captivating, but for me, the thing that really hooked me onto this book thing, was Quentin Blake's illustrations.

Something about his scratchy drawings of a big-eared giant sparked my imagination. It was magical and I was (and still am really) in love. It was a stepping stone to imagining the rest of that world for myself. So for me, and I imagine a lot of other kids, illustration was and is an equally powerful way of connecting with stories and growing a love of books.

To all the teachers, librarians and booksellers who champion illustration and visual literacy with their students and kids - thank you so much, what you do makes a difference.

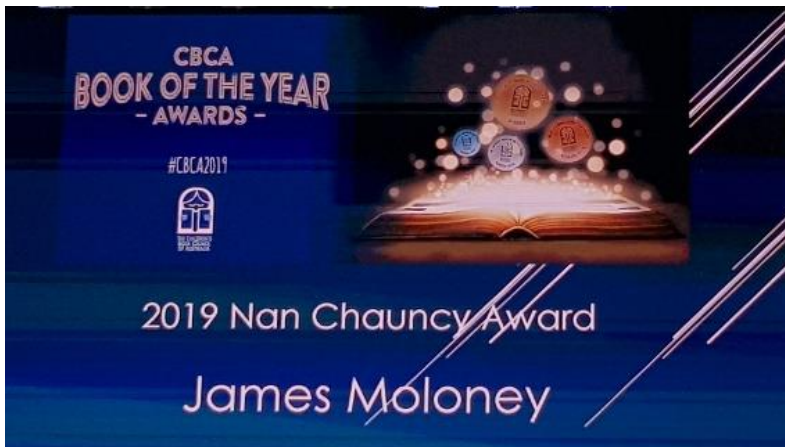
I'd like to commend the other artists and their terrific work - what they each do is so unique, skillful and difficult - and it's important work too. I'm very proud to be in such a talented group.

Lastly, I just want to thank my husband, without his support I would find it very hard to do what I do.

Thank you everyone.



# 2019 CBCA Nan Chauncy Award Acceptance Speech by James Moloney

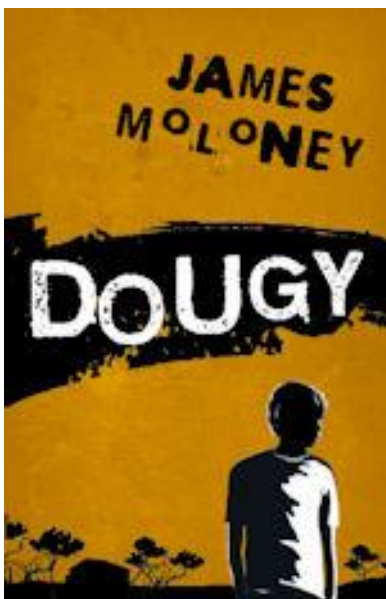


I would like to begin by thanking the Children's Book Council of Australia for the honour they have bestowed upon me today. When I think of the many names among both writers and advocates for Australia's youth literature whose work deserves to be recognised, I feel both humble and especially proud to have been singled out. Those dual roles that the CBCA takes on, on the one hand celebrating the best of Australia's writing and secondly, projecting and infusing that literature into the lives of young Australians is something I will return to in a moment.

First, though, I could not have succeeded as a writer without the help of three industry insiders: Barbara Ker Wilson who gave me my start with *Dougy* and *Gracey*, Leonie Tyle who got the best out of my with *A Bridge to Wiseman's Cove* and Lisa Berryman who gave me free rein when it was time to explore more

widely with *The Book of Lies*, *Black Taxi* and, most recently, *The Love That I Have*. Nor could I have got anywhere at all without Kate, who I'm pleased to have here with me today. *A Bridge to Wiseman's Cove* is dedicated to her with the words: Manager, Critic, Wife and Best Friend, which, I think, says it all.

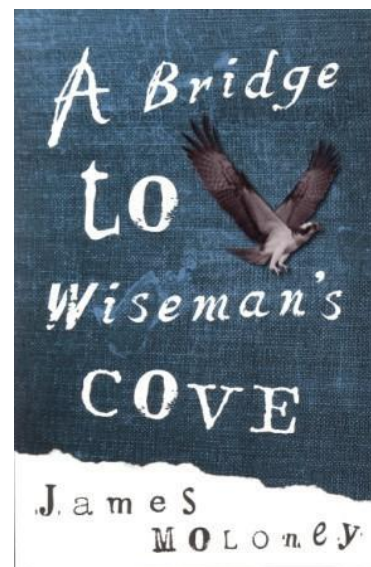
Kate and I have lived our lives in Brisbane, but her Mum grew up in Hobart. Aged eleven, Kate was sent south to spend a week with her Tasmanian grandmother and during that time they drove half an hour out of Hobart to visit one of her grandmother's friends. The three of them walked through nearby bushland until they came across a cave amid the gum trees at which point the friend remarked, 'This cave inspired my first children's book.' That book was *They Found a Cave* and Kate's grandmother's friend was Nan Chauncy. So not quite a personal connection, but a delightful connection by marriage, you might say.





My own mother was English and simply wasn't aware of the growing body of Australian children's stories of which Nan Chauncy's novels were a pre-eminent feature. She encouraged me to read Enid Blyton, of whom I was inherently suspicious. I mean, the Famous Five walked on the beach fully clothed and in their shoes and socks, for God's sake. I could spot a bunch of losers when I saw them.

This is a shame because there was bushland at the end of my street where I spent long boyhood hours engaged in adventures like many of Nan's protagonists. Had I been given her books instead of Blyton's I might have recognised myself in them and begun reading for myself at an earlier age. Fortunately, my Year 6 teacher, Mr Cornish, loved the boyish humour of Paterson and Lawson and in choosing a book to read aloud he stuck to his love of all things Australian by selecting *The Silver Brumby's Daughter*. For the first time I discovered the pleasure of becoming totally absorbed in story. So, it was Evelyn Mitchell rather than Nan Chauncy who set me on the path to being a writer, because I trace the beginnings of making up stories in my head to those afternoons after lunch when Mr Cornish read to us and I would build on those stories afterwards, in my back yard, acting out parts and inventing extra adventures of my own.



Which brings me to the point where I snap out of warm and fuzzy nostalgia and ask more seriously, who reads Australian stories to children now? Or any stories at all! In some schools, a teacher like my Mr Cornish might have his Principal on the doorstep wanting to know which of the KLAs forever being added to the curriculum was being ignored while he partook of this indulgence. Both Kate and I were Teacher Librarians, but in both our former schools, no one now performs that role. It is the same everywhere. The Teacher Librarian will soon disappear altogether. I'm told the tale is similar for children's specialists in Public Libraries. If a mother like my own asked for books, specifically Australian books, suitable for her children, what advice might be offered beyond Mem Fox, Andy Griffiths and John Marsden.

The ramifications run deeper than simply which books children read, as well. To become fully literate, children need to practise their reading the way Steve Smith practices his cover drive and



someone has to take a pro-active role in seeing that they do, regularly and happily. At a similar function a year ago, I suggested that in fifteen or twenty years a Senate Inquiry will want to know why Australian children are lagging behind in literacy and they will trace the beginnings of this stagnation to the disappearance of the Teacher Librarian, the specialist children's librarian and the dislocation of students away from sustained reading altogether.

With this gloomy outlook in mind, I return to the twin roles that the CBCA has set itself. What a travesty it will be in the years ahead if the fine literature celebrated today has no one to help connect it with its audience, is never read to them, never read by them, remaining instead a rich and valuable resource that few ever make use of. So, yes, I'm delighted that in a few minutes I'll be presenting certificates to the best of our current children's authors and illustrators, yet I can't help thinking it is in the other role that the Children's Book Council of Australia has the greatest task ahead of it.

# Northern Primary Readers' Cup

The Readers' Cup has been supported by CBCA Tasmania and the Education Department through the Federal partnership grant. Books and prizes from the Short List & Notable Book Week titles were provided to participating schools.



By 4pm, on the 26<sup>th</sup> June,

Summerdale Primary was buzzing with excitement and tension as fourteen schools from around Northern Tasmania gathered for the 17<sup>th</sup> year of competition in the Inter-school Readers' Cup. It's a highly successful competition thanks to the hard work of staff at all the participating schools.

The event began with the Extra Challenge, set by Nella Pickup. This year's book was *Ada's Violin* by Susan Hood. The groups had ten minutes to write down the character traits that helped Ava to overcome her challenges and reach her goals. It's an impromptu challenge, which the students and teachers only encounter when the judge presents the challenge, although the winning teams read the book beforehand.

After the added excitement of a reporter and photographer, the quiz commences. As always, the quiz questions proved tricky for some but Glen Dhu scored well with 43.5 and Summerdale did a great job, scoring 48 from a possible 54!

There was a short break in the library where students had a light meal which was provided by Kings Meadows High School before we all met in the Community Hall. Parents arrived from 6pm and Nella talked about the work on *Ada's Violin*, where four schools, Scotch Oakburn, Glen Dhu, Riverside and Perth had excellent scores of 9.

To a packed house of parents, grandparents, friends and school communities we started the Creative Presentations. It's always amazing to see the variety and depth of responses that are displayed by the groups when they are given the opportunity to reflect on the issues and emotions of the books that they have been reading. There were a large number of plays but we were also entertained by debates, dance and movies. *Parvana* and *The Legend of Spud Murphy* were popular choices for Creative Responses but it was great to see East Launceston recount the life of Banjo Paterson in their performance.

Not surprisingly, Nella and her fellow judges, Patrick Fleming and Marissa King, had a difficult task. Three schools, East Launceston, Invermay and Riverside had perfect scores of 18. After the scores for all three sections were tallied, East Launceston was third, Glen Dhu second and the winners of the perpetual trophy were Summerdale Primary.

This year we were lucky enough to be able to present all the teams with shortlisted books.

Anne Donnelly

Northern Primary Reader's Cup Coordinator



**Summerdale Primary Winners**

# *Southern Primary Readers' Cup*

On Wednesday 19 June, Year 5 students competed in the 2019 CBCA Readers' Cup Primary Competition at The Friends' School.

The aim of the Readers' Cup is to encourage all children – not just 'good readers' – to read, and to enjoy what they read. It is also a way to reward enthusiastic readers in the context of a team activity.

Prior to the event, students read novels and studied picture books. With knowledge of the texts, the students worked together to create a presentation for the competition. The books selected for this year's Readers' Cup competition were:

Circle - Jeannie Baker

Blueberry Pancakes Forever - Angelica Banks

Boy - Phil Cummings and Shane Devries

Louis Beside Himself - Anna Fienberg

Toad Delight - Morris Gleitzman

Koala - Claire Saxby and Julie Vivas

"It was really fun! I would love to do it again. You need to know the books. We all had the same books but came up with different ideas. Performing was great and I recommend the Readers' Cup competition to any-one who loves reading." Chloe

"It was a good experience for future performances." Alice

"I had so much fun! It was great seeing all the other teams' ideas and I recommend students participate. I made a couple of new friends as well." Emily

"It was a really fun and exciting experience. I hope I can compete again. You must know the books very well." Sarah

"The Readers' Cup competition was terrific! It was helpful for me as I tend not to talk on stage that much. I really liked everything about the Readers' Cup competition." Roisin





# *Southern Secondary Readers' Cup*

The Southern Secondary Readers' Cup was held on Tuesday, 18 June at Dominic College.

Teams of six students read the following books:

Fearless Frederic - Felice Arena

A different boy - Paul Jennings

How to bee - Bren MacDibble

Waves: for those who came across the sea -  
Donna Rawlins, Heather Potter and Mark  
Jackson

Room on our rock - Kate and Jol Temple

The incredible freedom machines - Kirli Saunders and Matt Ottley



Dominic College, Fahan, The Friends' School, MacKillop College, Ogilvie High School and St Michael's Collegiate School competed in a quiz on the books as well as presenting a creative response to one or more of the books. There were some wonderful creative responses as well as the quiz being hard-fought, and the overall winner for 2019 was MacKillop College.

A big thank you to the question-writers: Jackie Crane, Jeannie-Marie Leroi, Patsy Jones and Tricia Scott; the judges: Jeannie-Marie Leroi, Maureen Mann and Tim Jarvis; and the scorer: Patsy Jones; Katie Stanley: MC; and Naomi Connor (retired Friends' TL): volunteer helper. Thanks also to Willie Chambers and Chantal Lorbach, the staff of Dominic College, who very willingly set up and hosted us.

Thanks also to CBCA (Tas) who donated the trophies as well as a book voucher from Hobart Bookshop to the host school, and to Hobart Bookshop who donated a voucher to the winning school.

Some quotes:

The Readers' Cup was about having fun and team work. It was also a good experience and a chance to meet people from other schools. Ogilvie High School Readers' Cup Team.

Kind regards,  
Katie Stanley



# Interview with Bob Graham

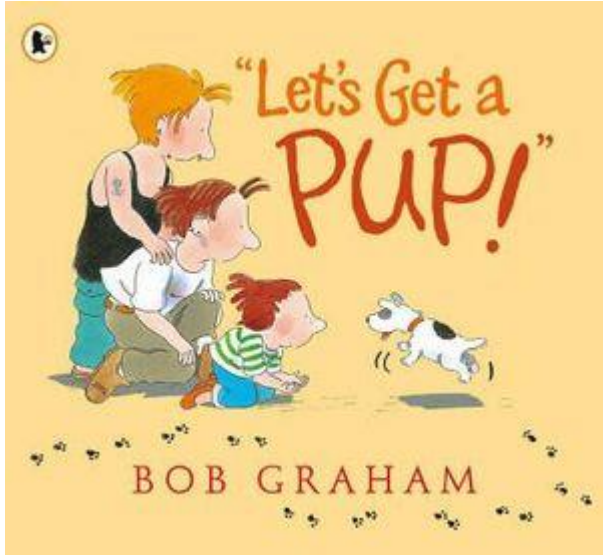
Bob Graham is the award-winning Australian picture book creator responsible for the beautiful artwork featured on our 2019 CBCA Book Week theme poster and merchandise range - Linda Guthrie, former CBCA Director.

## **Have you always wanted to be an illustrator?**

Had I been asked that question aged eight and on my knees on the floor copying the daily newspaper cartoon, I would have surely answered: "What? You mean just sit there all day and draw pictures? Too right!" I have planned very little in my life and it was not until age 40 with a small story unfolding in our house, did I choose to get up off my knees and instead use the kitchen table to draw my pictures and scribble a few accompanying words. Pete and Roland was never a planned 'career move'. It seemed just a good idea at the time, and my life has continued like that ever since.



## **Your illustrations show personalities that have a variety of experiences. Can you tell me about the importance of diversity in your illustrations?**



I don't go searching for stories. When they do appear it is often from the fabric of life around me, and the assortment of people on any street in my books can usually be found not far from my front door. Very occasionally has a book attracted criticism for this? I received an outraged letter from a mother in the American mid-west over the tats on a mother's arm in Let's Get a Pup, and most ire heaped on an earring in Dad's ear as a "subversive and counter-culture agenda". I pointed out politely that my local bank manager wore such an adornment in his little pink and shiny ear lobe.

## **Your work is unique in its sense of colour and story. Can you tell me about the influences on your approach to making stories and illustrations for young people?**

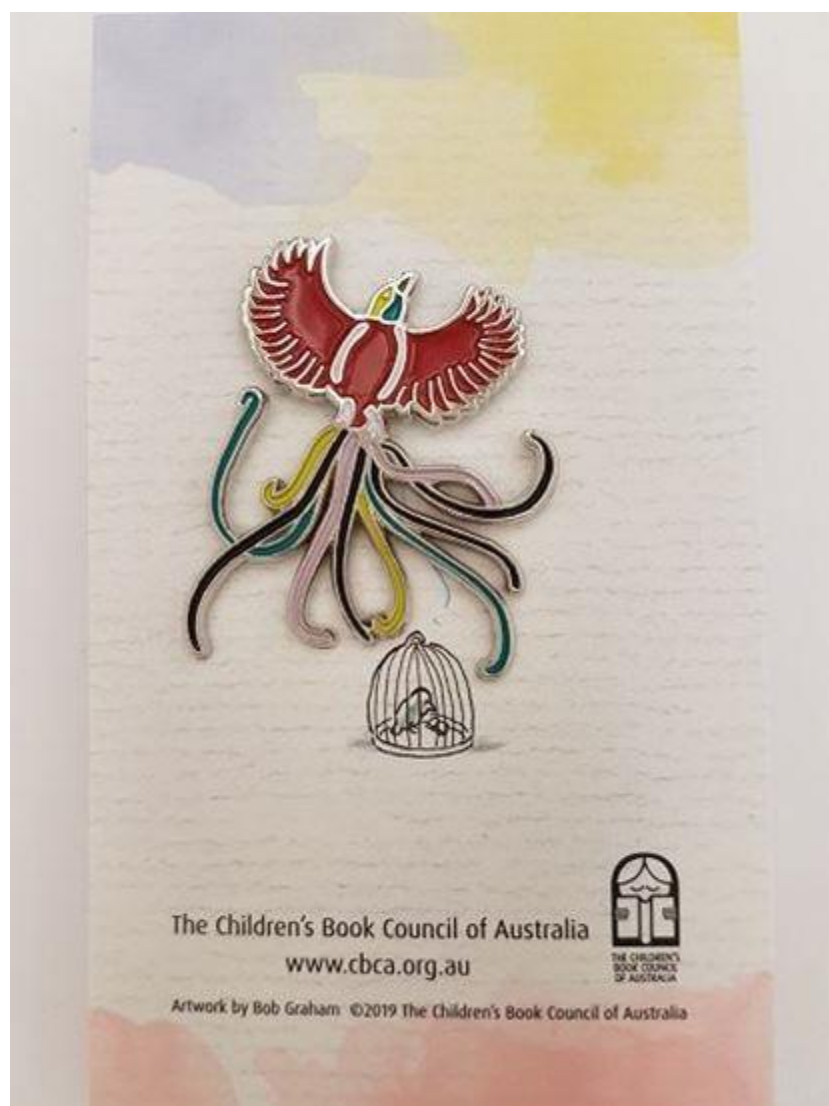
I can't think that I might ever sit down to 'make a story'. This can only be an outcome rather than a motivation. Far too worrying as there are too many hazards on the way and no set format for me and no sure outcome. So I content myself with just enjoying the process, turning the clock to the wall - necessary for making picture books - and maybe being pleasantly surprised if my juggling

with little scraps of paper goes the distance. And yes, my stories when they arrive are for young people but beyond that I let my books find their own readers. Hmm! It all sounds rather haphazard and I guess it is.

**One of your recent commissioned projects has been the artwork for the CBCA Book Week in 2019. How did you gain this commission? How was it challenging and rewarding?**

The commission was a result of *Home in the Rain* winning the CBCA Picture book Award for the previous year, and the theme for this year was 'Reading is my Secret Power'. Unlike the process of making stories described above I sat at my desk knowing that this time there had to be an outcome from my scribbles. After playing around with, I guess, more predictable ideas of children sitting on large piles of books, I had numerous thoughts to do with aspirations and the freeing of ideas and how a certain empowerment and release might come from reading. Suspecting that I should be sending in just one central image, and that multiple ideas might create some confusion I stroked my chin for a while... and sent in the lot!

Hope you enjoy them.



**This lapel pin is available from the CBCA Merchandise website. It is based upon Bob Graham's artwork for the 2019 Book of the Year**



# Book News, Reviews and Resources...

## News from the National Centre for Australian Children's Literature



NATIONAL CENTRE for  
**AUSTRALIAN  
CHILDREN'S  
LITERATURE Inc**

NCACL recently completed an 18-month project to create a Cultural Diversity Database of Australian Children's Literature. The database contains 340 books with searchable features including author, title, illustrator, publisher, date, annotation, key concepts, audience, links to the Australian Curriculum and the Early Years Learning Framework curriculum. This is one of only three such databases in the world, the others in Canada and the USA.

Link to the background about this project:

<https://www.ncacl.org.au/resources/databases/welcome-to-the-ncacl-cultural-diversity-database/>

Link to the Reading Time online review of the database:

<http://readingtime.com.au/ncacl-cultural-diversity-database/>

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**Where we begin...**

It all starts with a complimentary 30 minute consultation. This allows us to talk about your book's subject matter in depth, a solid design direction. We will ask you a bunch of questions to work out what you need. Our conversation will also cover all of your requirements, allowing us to put together a quote for you that best suits your needs.

Please phone or email us to schedule your free consultation.

Located in Central Victoria and established in 2005, Preloaded Design is Jeff and Jacqui Lynch. typography and book design. Jeff is an expert computer programmer with a focus on attention to detail. Our passion is to bring your project to its highest potential.

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## Speech Pathology Australia book awards 2019 shortlists announced

The shortlists for the 2019 Speech Pathology Australia Book of the Year Awards have been announced.

The Speech Pathology Australia Book of the Year Awards aim to 'promote quality Australian books that help children get the best, most literate start in life'. The books shortlisted are judged on their 'appeal to children, interactive quality and ability to assist speech pathologists and parents in communication and literacy development'.



There are 5 categories – Indigenous Children, Birth to three years, Three to five years, Five to eight years and Eight to 10 years.

The winners will be announced later this year.

[https://www.speechpathologyaustralia.org.au/SPAweb/whats\\_on/Book\\_of\\_the\\_Year/SPAweb/What\\_s\\_On/Book\\_of\\_the\\_Year/Book\\_of\\_the\\_Year.aspx?hkey=6d7d21b1-0cd6-4b86-91e3-11884f031a02](https://www.speechpathologyaustralia.org.au/SPAweb/whats_on/Book_of_the_Year/SPAweb/What_s_On/Book_of_the_Year/Book_of_the_Year.aspx?hkey=6d7d21b1-0cd6-4b86-91e3-11884f031a02)

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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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Just a note for those of you who have not seen them: the videos of the 2019 CBCA Book of the Year Awards event in Melbourne were uploaded earlier this month on to the members' page of the CBCA website.

A reminder that the login details are as follows:

The content can be accessed (once logged in) under the **Membership** tab.

Username: **mycbca**

Password: **cbca2019**

2019 CBCA Book of the Year Awards acceptance speech video links are there for:

- The full event (34.52 minutes)
- James Moloney's acceptance speech - Nan Chauncy Award 2019
- The Michelle Scully Band: *Scully's Singing Stories*
- Tony Wilson's Poem

The text of all the acceptance speeches are at <http://readingtime.com.au/category/awards/>





'The best books, reviewed with insight and charm, but without compromise.' - author Jackie French

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## Book Awards

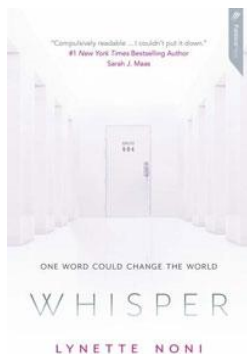


### The Inky Awards – 2019 Winners

Australia's teen choice book awards. Founded in 2007, the Inky Awards are Australia's only teen choice book awards. The Inky Awards give young adults across Australia the opportunity to vote for their favourite YA release of the year. The awards are divided into two categories: the Gold Inky for Australian fiction and the Silver Inky for international fiction. [Find out more about the Inky Awards and Inside a Dog here.](#)

The Inky Awards recognise high-quality young adult literature, with the shortlist selected by young adults, and the winners voted for online by teens. There are two awards: the Gold Inky Award for an Australian book, and the Silver Inky Award for an international book.

### Gold Inky Award



The Gold Inky Award winner is [Whisper](#) by Lynette Noni.

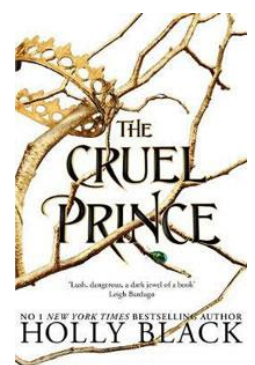
For two years, six months, fourteen days, eleven hours and sixteen minutes, Subject Six-Eight-Four — 'Jane Doe' — has been locked away and experimented on, without uttering a single word.

As Jane's resolve begins to crack under the influence of her new – and unexpectedly kind – evaluator, she uncovers the truth about Lengard's mysterious 'program', discovering that her own secret is at the heart of a sinister plot ... and one wrong move, one wrong word, could change the world.

### Silver Inky Award

The Silver Inky Award winner is [The Cruel Prince](#) by Holly Black.

Jude was seven years old when her parents were murdered and she and her two sisters were stolen away to live in the treacherous High Court of Faerie. Ten years later, Jude wants nothing more than to belong there, despite her mortality. But many of the fey despise humans. Especially Prince Cardan, the youngest and wickedest son of the High King. To win a place at the Court, she must defy him—and face the consequences.



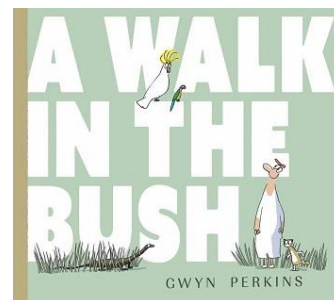
In doing so, she becomes embroiled in palace intrigues and deceptions, discovering her own capacity for bloodshed. But as civil war threatens to drown the Courts of Faerie in violence, Jude will need to risk her life in a dangerous alliance to save her sisters, and Faerie itself.

## 2020 CBCA Book Week Theme Announced!



THE CHILDREN'S  
BOOK COUNCIL  
OF AUSTRALIA

SINCE 1945 — YOUR CONNECTION TO STORY



We are excited to announce the theme for CBCA Book Week 2020!

### CURIOUS CREATURES, WILD MINDS

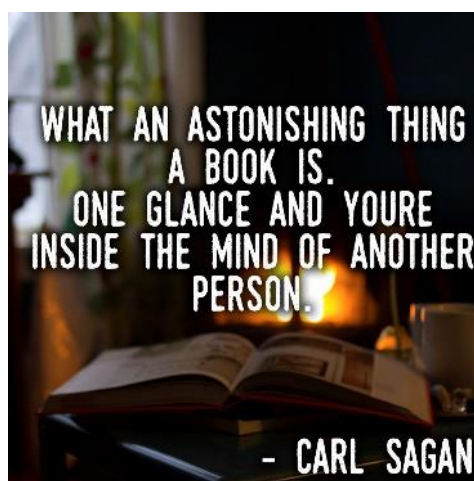
Gwyn Perkins, winner of the 2018 CBCA Picture Book of the Year for *A Walk in the Bush* is currently working on the 2020 theme artwork.

You're going to love it!

The official dates for CBCA Book Week 2020 are 22-28 August.

Don't forget to check out the blog of the Tasmanian branch of the Children's Book Council of Australia!

<http://cbcatast.blogspot.com/>



### The CBCA Awards Foundation

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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. (February 2019)**