



CBCA Tasmania Newsletter

July 2024

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

CBCA Short List

It was wonderful to attend our North West 2024 Book of the Year Short List presentation at Leighland's Christian School to participate in a conversation about the titles on this year's shortlist.

Congratulations to Dr Jennie Bales, CBCA Tasmania committee member, retired teacher librarian and adjunct lecturer, who led the discussion and in having a selection of titles from the 2024 Shortlist on display. A big thank you to Leighland Christian School for hosting the event.



[Critiques from the CBCA expert panel](#)

Read Aloud to Your Child Every Day

The Read Aloud... campaign continues to expand, sponsored by the generosity of the [Lyone Foundation](#), we have *Read Aloud To Your Child Every Day* bookmarks, to help spread the message throughout Tasmania. The bookmarks are available for free, simply email tas@cbca.org.au, specify the quantity you would like, and we'll organise delivery.



Steve Martin, President Children's Book Council of Tasmania
with Lyone Foundation's **Alison Renshaw**

Former Minister for Education, Roger Jaensch, now Minister for Children & Young People, has provided support for our national campaign:

"Thank you for your email 30th November 2023 regarding the Children's Book Council of Australia's "Read Aloud To Your Child Every Day" national campaign, which I am delighted to support...We also understand that the benefits of reading to children in early childhood are vast. These benefits include developing bonds with caregivers, improving language skills, cultivating a life-long love of reading and preparing children for school."



Minister Roger Jaensch,
Author **Narelda Joy**,
President **Steve Martin**,
with **Sally Drake** TAS
Community Fund at the
*Tassie Rhymes for
tassie tigers* book
launch.

It was an absolute pleasure to meet with the CWA North-West Group and to gain their support for the national campaign. With their assistance, we will be negotiating nationwide support from the CWA. The CWA provide care bags for parents of newborn babies and have expressed interest in adding Tassie Rhymes...to the care bags. The service CWA provide to our communities is nothing short of amazing! It was an honour to meet and talk with them all!



Local schools are supporting the *Read Aloud to Your Child Every Day* campaign. We are contacting schools to join the campaign...and some are now contacting us!



Devonport Christian School



Spreyton Primary School



Hillcrest Primary School



Devonport Primary School

Recently, I had the wonderful experience of meeting and talking with Dr Belle Alderman AM, Emeritus Professor of Children's Literature and Director, National Centre for Australian Children's Literature (NCACL) Inc. at the University of Canberra, and Centre volunteers Pat Dickson, Rose Howes & Max Brown (pictured).



The Centre is the nation's pre-eminent and most comprehensive collection of Australian children's literature. Their aim is to collect, record and promote the national development of Australian children's literature by preserving, documenting and engaging the community through outreach programs and exhibitions.

Help Babies Learn

One of the great things that we have been able to do, in partnership with the Toast for Kids Charity Inc., is the publication of the children's book Tassie Rhymes for Little Tigers, written and illustrated by Narelda Joy. As you may be aware, the book was also published in a braille/low vision companion version.

Through this project it has been a privilege to be involved with families with newborn babies, as well as, in this photo readers who are blind or vision impaired.

Gaye Smith (totally blind) is reading the companion version with her grandson Xavier.



Steve Martin
President, Tasmania Branch, Children's Book Council of Australia

Children's Book Week Shortlist Events

Launceston May 2024

It is always great fun when book enthusiasts come together, and when the draw card is children's literature then a room can hum! A mixed gathering of enthusiasts (teachers, teacher librarians and school library staff and more, including travellers from the south and the north west) met in the spacious Newstead College Library in late May to share a conversation about the short listed titles for the **2024 CBCA Book of the Year Awards**.



Thank you to committee member, **Dawn Clarke** for gathering most of the books and newcomer to Tasmania, Newstead College's **Judith Ridge**, for hosting the event and organising the smashing afternoon tea. This was provided by the College's students studying Cookery and Food and Hospitality Enterprise - what an array of delights! They always say a good story includes good food so we had the makings of a grand tale.



Treasurer, **Felicity Sly**, joined us and looked after our lucky door prizes, consisting of a range of Book Week merchandise, and to launch the CBCA Tas Raffle - visit cbcatas.org.au to get your tickets!

CBCA TAS RAFFLE

1st Prize: Framed Bob Graham print (65cmx56cm)
2nd Prize: Alison Lester print (63cmx50cm)
3rd Prize: Julie Vivas signed poster (30cmx40cm)

Drawn Friday August 16



TICKETS: Purchase at CBCA Shortlist Talks
or online via TryBooking (link)
1 for \$5 3 for \$10 10 for \$20

With four presenters, including three past judges, the audience was treated to a range of views and perspectives on books in each of the six categories. **Maureen Mann**, a regular reviewer in the newsletter and the blog, shared her wisdom in regard to themes, and the relationship between text and illustrations that make some books stand out. Maureen also identified some particular favourites in her coverage of the Picture Book (PB) and Early Childhood (EC) categories along with some thoughts on why some books were missed from both the Shortlist and the Notables - which prompted some interesting discussion on the Book of the Year judging processes.

Maureen's favourites:

PB: **Timeless** followed by **Every Night at Midnight**; Jennie Bales agreed and added **If I was a Horse**.

EC: **Grace and Mr Milligan** followed by **Can You Teach a Fish to Climb a Tree?** Jennie and **Nella Pickup** also loved **Gymnastica Fantastica** for the pure joy and energy it exudes.

Nella Pickup provided some deep insights on themes and issues in the Younger Readers (YR) category, and it was illuminating when she added some of her personal favourites from the Notables to add breadth - there were so many good books this year that didn't make it. Stay tuned for a blog post on these towards the end of July at cbcatas.blogspot.com.

Nella noted the breadth in audience evident in the short list. **Inside Jimmy Baxter** was a book of interest with the audience because of its challenging themes; and there was healthy discussion on this and **Scar Town** for primary age children - as a number of audience members had read these books with children.

Nella's favourites:

YR: **Scar Town**, **Being Jimmy Baxter** and **Huda was Here**. These were also Jennie's favourites; with Maureen choosing **Being Jimmy Baxter**.



Carol Fuller's long experience judging YA fiction was evident as she provided some useful background on the judging processes. She also talked about some current trends, including stereotypes in romances and an overabundance of issues being dealt with in many books, to the point of distraction.

In her analysis of the six titles in the Older Readers (OR) category Carol identified three clear favourites, with which Jennie heartily concurred.

OR: Grace Notes and Inkflower: the quality of the writing; deep coverage of significant themes; and engaging and meaningful storylines stood out. **Two Can Play that Game** is also a worthy contender.



Jennie Bales concluded the afternoon with the Eve Pownall (EP) titles and the New Illustrator (NI) selections. Jennie appreciated the diversity evident in non-fiction writing; with four favourites - all very different in presentation, content and target audience. Having not been able to read **Eww Gross** before the session started, she asked the participants for their views, and this was clearly a strong favourite and is certainly packed with gross information. There was time for a fairly short conversation on the New Illustrator books: again drawing on audience input for some titles; including **When You're a Boy** by Tasmanian author (and now illustrator), Blake Nuto. Nuto's books are reviewed in this issue.

Jennie's favourites:

EP: **Australia: Country of Colour** and **Tamarra**, and for older readers, **Country Town** and **Democracy**.

NI: **Hope is a Thing** (also Nella's pick) and **When You're a Boy**.

At the time of penning this report, Jennie has still not seen **Raised by Moths**.

Overall the session was a great success and feedback has been really positive. The combined efforts of a dedicated team made all the difference and some active members of the audience were a terrific bonus. It was also rewarding to get some media coverage with a great article in **The Examiner** on May 30. A second session presented by Jennie and Maureen was held at Leighland Christian School in Ulverstone on June 12.

Jennie Bales

CBCA Tas Social Media Coordinator




FREE MEMBER ONLINE EVENT


August 1st, 4.30 to 6.00pm

SLAV have generously offered CBCA Tas Branch members free registration to their CBCA Judges Talk. Hear a snapshot from the CBCA Judges on this year's CBCA short-listed titles. Gain insights that you can use in the library too. CBCA Tas Branch Members will be emailed the code with this Newsletter.

The Victorian Judges are:

Bron Joseph - Early Childhood
Ilona Urquhart - Younger Reader
Julia Petricevic - Older Reader





Ipswich District
Teacher-Librarian Network

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Total: ~~A\$57.10~~ A\$48.54

BOOK AWARD STICKERS CAN STILL BE PURCHASED FROM TAS BRANCH

For more information

Email tas@cbca.org.au

GREAT FREE MERCHANDISE FOR MEMBERS IN THE ESTORE



2x A3 digital printout activities and A5 digital Reading certificate.

Members of CBCA Tasmania Branch: take a look at the free merchandise you can download from the eStore.

Your 2024 Branch Member pack includes:

- 1x A3 digital printout bookmark colouring-in activity (4 different designs)
- 1x A3 digital printout button badges colouring-in activity (3 different designs)
- 2x A4 digital files with the 2024 Reading certificate: 1 file is a single page editable PDF; 1 file is a 30-page editable PDF for easy completion of certificates for the whole class

Total value of products is \$50, but as part of your membership you are entitled to them at no charge! The access codes will be emailed to members with this Newsletter, or email tas@cbca.org.au

Your 2024 Digital Shortlist Posters

This product includes a digital MP4 video and a printable portrait PDF.

Play as an endless loop on a display screen, with or without background sound, or print off and stick on a wall or window. File resolution sufficient only for A3 print enlargement. Best used on loop, projected on a library or classroom wall, for all day exhibition.

Membership

It is not too late to join CBCA Tasmania for 2024. Purchase your [Personal or Institutional Membership](#): details via this link.

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.

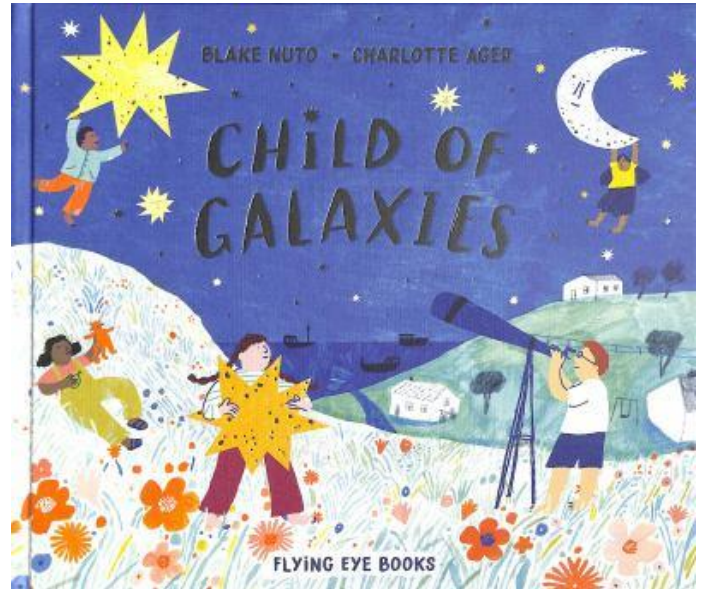
<https://cbcatas.org.au/membership/>



Introducing the creative works of Blake Nuto

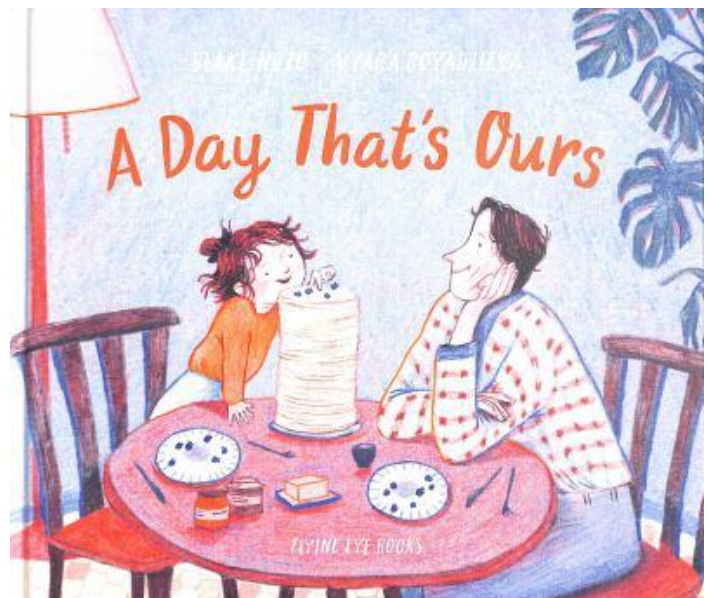
Blake Nuto is an author and illustrator living in Tasmania, with his family, and working in the education sector. His picture books encourage mindfulness and reflection on the human condition and our place in the world.

Blake's first picture book, **Child of Galaxies** (2020) is written in flowing free verse and explores the meaning and purpose of life and our place in this vast galaxy, from a child's perspective. It embraces both the joyful and the challenging events that a young child might face, to celebrate the wonder and uncertainty of life as a thing to treasure. The text is hand-written in bold font and weaves across the whimsical and colourful illustrations by **Charlotte Ager** that incorporate several children from different nationalities and with diverse family groupings.



A great book to encourage some philosophical thinking in young inquiring minds.

A Day That's Ours (2022) celebrates a loving relationship between a father and young child on the day before school starts. The two make the most of having a free day to spend together and explore the world around them. Taking the time to ponder on their experiences and all that they see and explore, **Nuto's** book is full of love, sharing and caring about the little joys in life. **Vyara Boyadjieva's** soft whimsical illustrations are full of expression, laughter, movement and joy as the two investigate their local environment. Soft pastel colours provide backgrounds for bolder shades to highlight items such as the tree trunks to hide behind, and the autumn leaves scudding across the park. Clear font and bolded lettering for active language highlight movement, expression and feelings on each page. A lovely book to stimulate reflection on the joy in everyday events.



Nuto's most recent publication, **When You're a Boy**, has been shortlisted in the **2024 CBCA New Illustrator category** and it is interesting to see how Nuto has applied a completely different illustrative style and colour palette, to that used by those who have illustrated his previous books. Bold water colour brush strokes fill the double page spreads and dominate the story (see blakenuto.com/home-1). The father and son are almost insignificant in this vast landscape, and this seems to add strength to the message

conveyed. Whilst wandering through different landscapes – forests, mountains, rivers and fields - the father imparts his wisdom; to encourage and celebrate a range of softer traits traditionally applied to females. The text highlights the importance of emotions to express joy, contentment and understanding; rather than more masculine physicality and aggressiveness and offers a model for boys to engage with others.

**‘When you’re a boy
you are told how to be
just like the white-roaring oceans.
But I’ve learned
the fierceness of flowers
the glory of colour
and the beauty of dreaming.’**



The text, presented across the painted spreads is short - a phrase or sentence on each page. However, this apparent simplicity tackles deeper societal issues, in an accessible way for young children.




AUSTRALIAN CHILDREN'S LAUREATE FOUNDATION
[Click here to listen to an audiobook tasters](#)



INTERNATIONAL BOARD ON BOOKS FOR YOUNG PEOPLE



Vale Hugo McCann

Jennie Connor's tribute to Hugo McCann read at his memorial

Hugo McCann has had an unbelievable influence on knowledge and pedagogy relating to literacy & literature education in Tasmania - the place that fortuitously, Hugo & Ida decided to call home.

From 1976 Hugo initiated, developed and co-conducted the Literature for Children course in the B Ed program at the TCAE and the University of Tasmania. Hugo then designed and presented the Masters program, Literature for Children and Young People, until 1994. A significant number of Tasmanian educators experienced Hugo's academic courses and many, many more enjoyed his lectures, seminars and workshops offered through the Children's Book Council, the Australian Literacy Educators Association and the Australian Teachers of English.

We were dazzled by Hugo's knowledge, erudition & insight:

"We had no idea that picture books could carry such emotional and philosophical weight."

"He brought the genius of novelists such as Susan Cooper, Ursula Le Guin, Patricia Wrightson and Alan Garner to our receptive minds and hearts."

"Hugo developed our capacity for a love of literature and informed critical commentary that we have taken into our work with children and young people for the rest of our lives."

"Ex students - now middle aged - tell me that they always, always read to their children because we convinced them of the importance of story; that's a legacy that goes on and on, Hugo."

Hugo's dedication to the Children's Book Council never wavered: Hugo & colleague John Shelton took turns representing Tas as judges for the CBCA book awards; Hugo researched the evidence to support our bid to the Board of Myer, which enabled CBCA to receive \$500,000 to be invested for prize money; and he gave the oration for the 2016 **Year of Nan Chauncy** event.

To quote from Hugo's Acceptance speech when CBCA conferred on him Life Membership, after his contribution of thirty years:

'Everything I do with work for the young draws on my experience as a child of about eight or nine: hearing Blind Pew's stick on the West Country Road in the opening to Treasure Island; ...I was with Jim and Long John, Squire Trelawney and Dr Livesey on the sailing ship Hispaniola' ... 'I just liked stories with engaging characters and satisfying outcomes.'

But Hugo wasn't just a book worm who shared his love of literature. His was a wide-ranging intellect and insatiable curiosity about the world of ideas. Hugo once quoted Jean-Paul Satre *'a man is always a teller of tales...he sees everything that happens to him through them; and he tries to live his life as if he were telling a story'*. And what a story, Hugo's life has been. We mourn his loss & celebrate his contribution to our lives. We conclude with Hugo's words: **'I found the CBC an organisation that shared delight in both writers and young readers. It took the magic of story and language very seriously, the magic pudding of story that young Australians can enjoy. CBC provided, encouraged and sustained an excitement with stories shareable with the young. And it still does every year. It was easy to volunteer to share in the efforts being made by the Council. The conclusion of my thanks for Life Membership is a cry of gratitude to the long line of those who have created and maintained CBC as a cultural treasure.'**

Calendar of Events

1 August 2024	SLAV Online CBCA Awards event 4:30-6:00 Link and code to register has been emailed to Members with this Newsletter
16 August 2024	2024 CBCA Children’s Book Week Winners and Honours Announcement Noon
16 August 2024	CBCA Tas Branch Event: Government House, Hobart Members will be sent an EOI
17 August 2024 – 23 August 2024	CBCA Children’s Book Week 2024 Reading is Magic!

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).

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
- a writing or illustrating process to share
- reviews of some great books shared with the kids or
- the magic of 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.



The National Centre for Australian Children's Literature

The Centre holds one of the world's largest and most comprehensive collections of translations of Australian children's books. We hold over 5,500 translations in 68 different languages. This collection continues to grow through the generosity of Australian publishers, authors, illustrators, and private donors. For example, we hold *Fox* (Allen & Unwin, 2000), by Margaret Wild and Ron Brooks in 15 different editions, including eight different languages.

<https://www.ncacl.org.au/make-a-donation/>

We welcome visitors and researchers to the Centre. Please contact Emeritus Professor Belle Alderman, Director, if you wish to visit.

<https://www.ncacl.org.au/>



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3rd Prize: Julie Vivas signed poster (30cmx40cm)

Drawn Friday August 16



TICKETS: Purchase via TryBooking

1 for \$5 3 for \$10 10 for \$20

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



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