



# CBCA Tasmania Newsletter

## July 2025

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: Steve Martin, President Tasmanian Branch

On a recent visit, we were very fortunate that Her Excellency Sam Mostyn Governor General of Australia provided the opportunity to meet and talk about our Read Aloud To Your Child Every Day national campaign. The visit was coordinated by Bianca Hankey & Evie Lintner both from Toast for Kids, using the East Devonport Child Learning Centre as a venue and inviting representatives from the Country Women's Association, East Devonport Primary School, Our Lady of Lourdes and of course local families and children. Congratulations to Bianca & Evie for coordinating this visit, we have had wonderful feedback.



Her Excellency, conveyed strong willingness to assist with the national campaign, offering to support in any way possible, including gaining government research on benefits of reading aloud.

The opportunity to read aloud to the children and parents, from our book *Tassie Rhymes for Little Tigers*, was also taken up by Her Excellency.

L-R Janet Edmunds (Vice Pres. Toast for Kids), Her Excellency Sam Mostyn & Felicity Sly (CBCA Tas)

Our next step is to follow up Her Excellency on the offer for research, perhaps requiring a visit to Canberra.

## **Parliamentary Friends of Children's Literacy**

With the recent election done and dusted work now needs to commence in reignite this important group. There have been ministry & shadow ministry reshuffles with the Ministry for Early Childhood Education now taken on by Senator Jess Walsh (VIC), with Shadow Ministry by Jonathon Duniam (TAS).



Members and Senators will be contacted by the Speaker of The House, at a time yet to be determined, to express interest in government groups. They will also be made aware of our Read Aloud campaign (the whole 226 parliamentarians!). Correspondence has already been sent to both Senators Walsh & Duniam highlighting the Parliamentary Friends Group, requesting an opportunity to meet and discuss the Read Aloud campaign, and seeking supporting for our Creators in Schools Workshops, which support local-based creators.



L-R Evie Lintner (Toast 4 Kids), Her Excellency Sam Mostyn Governor General of Australia, Janet Edmunds (Toast 4 Kids), Lesley Young (CWA), Lucy Murfet (CWA) Felicity Sly (CBCA Tas) & Bianca Hankey (Toast 4 Kids)

## **Rosie's Reading**

Jennie Bales (CBCA Tas), Evie Lintner (T4K) and I attended the launch of **Rosie's Reading** on Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> June at St. Lukes Wellness Centre in Launceston; donating a carton of Read Aloud bookmarks and 25 copies of our book.

Rosie's Reading is a Tasmanian partnership with United Way Australia and the Dolly Parton Imagination Library with the aim to provide children (who enrol) with a book, each month, until they reach the age of 5. Each book is posted direct to child's address, with the aim to foster a love of reading and provide all the associated benefits from regular reading to and with a child.

At the launch Leanne McLean (Peter Underwood Centre for Educational Attainment) and Rick Marton (Pres. Rosie's Reading) provided inspiring presentations about the benefits of reading to our children from birth; both relating anecdotes from their own childhood experiences.

Books provided by Rosie's Reading are funded via the generosity of community - no child/family pays for the opportunity. The cost of each book delivered monthly is estimated to be \$9; this equates to \$540 per child if enrolled from birth. 28, 000 birth are predicted rate in the next 5 years, so this is a big undertaking. The Board is taking a steady approach by gradually spreading the opportunity suburb by suburb, commencing in Launceston.

Upon hearing about Rosie's Reading, we contacted them promoting our Read Aloud To Your Child Every Day campaign. Rosie's Reading have received a personalised Read Aloud signature and banner to promote the message. This organisation is very active in this literacy space and has strong connections with Rotary. Rotary District Governor Craig Perkins is aware of our campaign from a recent presentation to their District meeting promoting Read Aloud. So partnership opportunities abound here as well.



Launch Rosie's Reading: L-R Jade Howard (Board, Rosie's reading), Rick Marton (Pres. Rosie's Reading), Leanne McLean (Peter Underwood Centre)

Steve Martin  
**PRESIDENT**

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## Northern Primary Readers' Cup

CBCA Tasmania proudly supports and encourages school students to engage with literature and reading in a variety of ways. One avenue is to support the various Readers' Cup (RC) events held in the state.

The first of these involved students in the north of the state and as far afield as Flinders Island. RC is organised by stakeholders in schools (teacher librarians - in this case Jessica Marston at Hagley School, school library staff and teachers). With support from Petrach's Bookshop in Launceston CBCA Tasmania provided book vouchers to each of the participating schools including a First Prize voucher to the winning team. Well done Longford Primary School!

On the 29<sup>th</sup> May 2025, 18 schools represented by 90 students, along with supporting teachers, school staff and volunteers, gathered at Hagley Primary School for another Readers' Cup event.

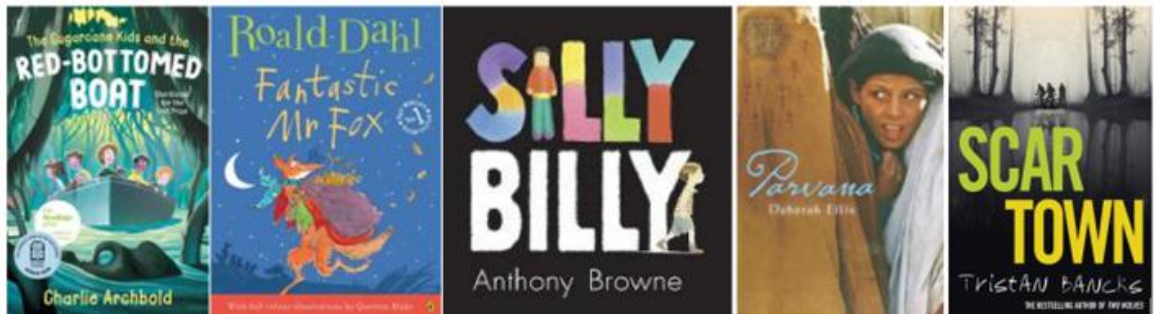


With a great deal of practice and experience to draw on, Jessica Marston and a swathe of hardworking support people, ensured an efficient, memorable and fascinating event. The excited children displayed their commitment to reading and engaging deeply with children's literature as they demonstrated their depth of reading and creativity in the ways they responded to the different books.

The evening started with an on-the-spot Extra Challenge. Having pre-read *The Truck Cat* by Deborah Frenkel, they were provided with a challenge to design a purpose-built cat carrier for the cat. The end results were amazing and very hard to judge as all groups included original ideas in the designs.



This was followed by the Quiz - the most important part of the event and worth the highest proportion of possible marks. Students answered a range of questions about each of the six books across five rounds. The Quiz was based on five books suiting a range of abilities and interests.



The final section, and highlight for the large audience in attendance, was the Creative Response. Each participating group identified one title and prepared a response with the intent of sharing feelings about that book and the deeper themes and messages shared by the author. This was shown in a variety of ways: through drama, the use of technology, poetry and artistic expression such as a diorama.

For more information and details on the Northern Primary Readers' Cup read Jessica Marston's recent post published on the CBCA Tasmania blog at <https://cbcatas.blogspot.com/2025/06/turning-pages-together-northern-primary.html>

Jennie Bales  
CBCA Tas Social Media Coordinator

# National Centre for Australian Children's Literature (NCACL) – Keep the Story Alive campaign

This year the National Centre for Australian Children's Literature (NCACL) is reaching out to all Australians interested in children's literature for help. We have been here and growing for 50 years, loving and preserving over 65,000 children's books and hundreds of authors' manuscripts, original artworks, translations, ephemera and so much more.

The Centre needs money to keep growing and to manage the collection to ensure that these precious pieces of our national story are available for whomever needs them. This includes teachers, researchers, authors, illustrators and especially children.

Use the link <https://www.ncacl.org.au/make-a-donation/> to the donation page to make a tax deductible contribution.

NCACL is an amazing and inspiring place - read about my visit for a glimpse of this significant collection and the work these amazing volunteers undertake.

<https://cbcatas.blogspot.com/2023/11/a-magical-visit-to-ncacl-childrens.html>

**Dr Belle Alderman AM**, Director, National Centre for Australian Children's Literature Inc, is also a regular contributor the CBCA Tasmania blog and provided fascinating insights into the materials housed and developed, including the Cultural Diversity and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander databases.

Jennie Bales  
on behalf of CBCA Tas, a supporter of NCACL.



## CBCA Short List Talks

The recent Short List talks held at Claremont College Library in Hobart and Scotch Oakburn Junior School Library in Launceston were a great success. Thirty attendees in the south and a smaller group in the north were keen participants and it was wonderful to have their input and reactions to some of the books expressed. This added depth and breadth to the discussions conducted by the panel who had dedicated considerable time to reading the books and considering their value in terms of the quality of the submissions.

Many thanks to the this committed team including Maureen Mann, Carol Fuller and Jennie Bales, and to Nella Pickup and Judith Ridge who joined us in Launceston.

There was interesting discussion around the different categories. Some of the points of interest raised by the panel and the participants included:



- The lack of books suitable for the lower end of the Young Adult category
- A strong focus on popular easy read material in the Younger Reader category
- The high quality of the Eve Pownall category with many outstanding books on the Notable list that would have made selection of the Short List challenging
- The limitation of Early Childhood books for an age range of 0 to 6. Many of the entries targeted the more familiar and expected age range of 0 to 8. In schools the label 'Early Childhood' embraces both Years 1 and 2. Overall the shortlist and many of the notables targeted this broader range
- In the north we finally got to see *Peek-a-Boo Lottie* (thanks Rebecca) and all agreed that this was definitely a cut above the books on the Early childhood list. It would have been better entered there than in the New Illustrator list. Both the text and the illustrations worked in such a clever and harmonious way



Images from the Northern event



There was great fun with the lucky door prizes and many, if not all, participants went away with either an item of Book Week merchandise or bookmarks from our Read Aloud to Your Child Every Day campaign. Both groups had time to peruse the merchandise and the short-listed books during the sessions whilst scoffing delicious afternoon teas provided by our hosts. Many thanks to Jo-Ann Wolf from Claremont and Laura Beaumont for Scotch Oakburn for the generosity in providing the venues, the afternoon teas and the books.



Images from the Southern event

Discussions during the Short List talks in both the South and the North demonstrated that there was a general feeling that there were some books that did not make the Shortlist, particularly in the Younger Reader category, or, sadly, were not identified as Notable titles either. This may have been due to the fact that they were not submitted by the publishers for consideration in the awards.



From the Notable Younger Reader list, *Midwatch* by Judith Rossell and *We Do Not Welcome Our Ten-Year Old Overlord* by Garth Nix are two excellent titles suited to upper primary readers.

Jennie Bales

Convenor, CBCA Tasmania Social Media Coordinator

Many thanks to Nella Pickup, who reads so widely across all ages, but particularly in the Younger Reader field, for sharing the following lists that had potential to be Notables.

Books with an asterix\* indicate that they are part of a series.

### Picture Books

*BrilliANT: The Journey into the Impressive Life of an Ant* Rosi Ngwenya & Sandy Flett (Riveted Press)

*The Hidden Hat* by Phil Cummings & Jennifer Goldsmith (Scholastic)

*The Mosaic* by Deborah Kelly illustrated by Nicki Johnston (EK Books)

*Tearaway Coach* by Neridah McMullin & Andrew McLean (Walker Books)

*When the Lights Went Out* by Lian Tanner & Jonathan Bentley (Allen & Unwin)

*Dragon Guest Handbook* by Jeanette Stampone

*Apples Not Orples: A Rule-Breaking Counting Book* by R.A. Stephens & Carmen Dougherty (Wombat Books) [Eve Pownall]

*Bowerbird Brood* by Aura Parker (Scholastic) [Eve Pownall]

*Tardigrades: Nature's Toughest Survivors* by Anne Therese Morgan & Jennifer Falkner (CSIRO) [Eve Pownall]

### Early Childhood

*A Beginner's Guide to Choosing the Perfect Pet* Ali Rutstein & Tommy Doyle (Albert Books)

*Ingenious Insects* by Sarah Allen (Affirm Press) [Early Childhood]

*What Stars Are For* by Margeaux Davis (Affirm Press)

*Dog Beach* by Julie Murphy & Annie White (NLA)

### Younger Readers

*All the Beautiful Things* by Katrina Nannestad (ABC Books)

*The Apprentice Witnesser* by Bren McDibble (Allen & Unwin)

\**Bravepaw and the Heartstone of Alluria: Bravepaw 1* by L M Wilkinson & Lavanya Naidu (Albert Street Books)

*The Cave* by Victor Kelleher (Eagle Books)

*Cora Seen and Heard* by Zanni Louise (Walker Books)

*Grace the Amazing* by Aleesah Darlinson (Wombat Books)

*Hazel's Treehouse* by Zanni Louise & Judy Watson (Walker Books)

*Leo and Ralph* by Peter Carnavas (UQP)

\**Losing the Plot* by Annaleise Byrd (Walker Books)

\**The Lost History (The Talismans of Fate #2)* by Melanie La'Brooy (UQP)

*The 113th Assistant Librarian* by Stuart Wilson (Penguin Random House)

*Outlaw Girls* by Emily Gale & Nova Sweetman (Text)



*A Small Collection of Happineses* by Zana Frailion & Stephen Michael King (Hachette)

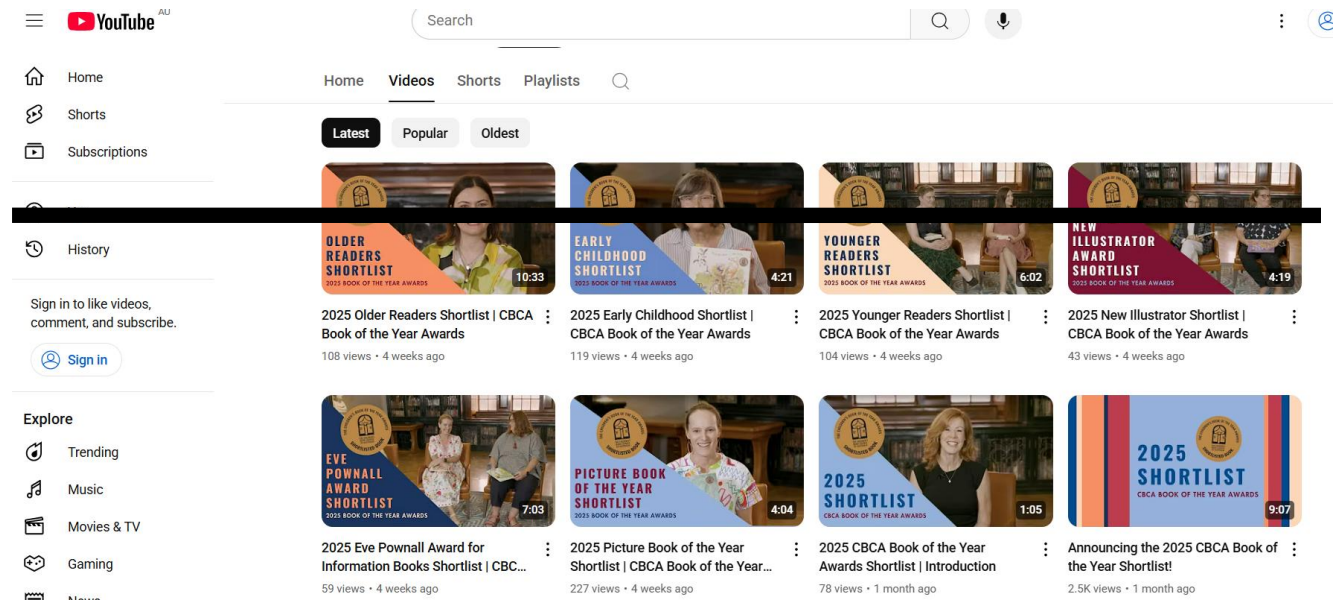
*Summer of Shipwrecks* Shivaun Plozza (UQP)

*Wurrtoo: The Wombat Who Fell in Love With the Sky* by Tylissa Elisara & Dylan Finney (Lothian)

## Older Readers

*Smoke & Mirrors* by Barry Jonsberg (Allen & Unwin)

# BOYA Judges' Talks on YouTube



The CBCA Awards and Communications Subcommittees are delighted to share with you the presentation of some short Judges Talks freely available as part of the 2025 BOYA Shortlist celebration. These professionally-filmed talks were a result of our in-person Judges conference, and created on Gadigal land at the State Library of NSW.

The link to access the talks from all our six categories, including an introductory video message from our CBCA Chair Jo Panckridge, can be found [at CBCA's YouTube site](#).

With a special thanks of course to our expert volunteer judges, and happy viewing! #BOYA2025 #CBCA2025

## SLAV CBCA Book of the Year Judges Talk 2025

When 31 Jul 2025  
4:30 PM - 6:00 PM

Location online

Register

2025 Children's Book Week®  
16-23 August

FREE MEMBER ONLINE EVENT  
July 31st, 4.30 to 6.00pm

Hear from the CBCA Judges on the CBCA short-listed titles 2025.

The Victorian Judges are:

Julia Petricevic - Older Readers  
Ilona Urquhart - Younger Readers  
Liz Murray - Picture Book/New Illustrator

All Members Welcome

SLAV have once again offered Tas Branch Members free access to this event.

The password to register has been emailed to Tas Branch members.

<https://slav.org.au/event-6183629>



# 2025 Children's Book Week®

## Members Only images available for FREE DOWNLOAD

Following the launch of the Members Only merchandise page, we now have available a selection images from Jess McGeachin (feature artist for the 2025 Children's Book Week® theme) and Briony Stewart (artist for the CBCA 80<sup>th</sup> Birthday celebrations artwork) for general use by schools and libraries for displays, promotions and flyers etc.

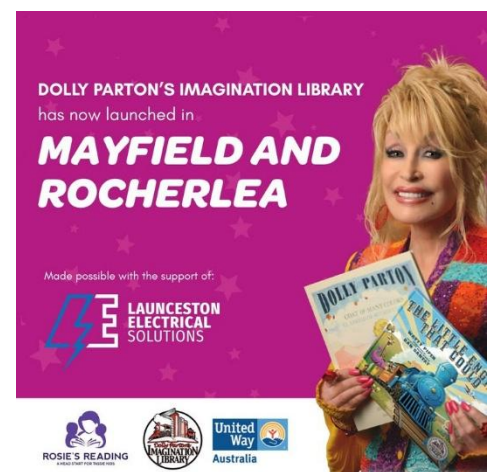
Access the Members Only page [HERE](#) . The password has been supplied to members in an email. If you can't locate your email please contact [tas@cbca.org.au](mailto:tas@cbca.org.au)  
Click on the Download 2025 digital assets button for access to the artwork.  
Please enjoy a selection of the images available for download



## Rosie's Reading

We're excited to announce that the first suburbs are now live and accepting registrations!  
Thanks to seed funding provided by Launceston Electrical Solutions, Rosie's Reading have opened registrations in our first suburb zone of Mayfield and Rocherlea.

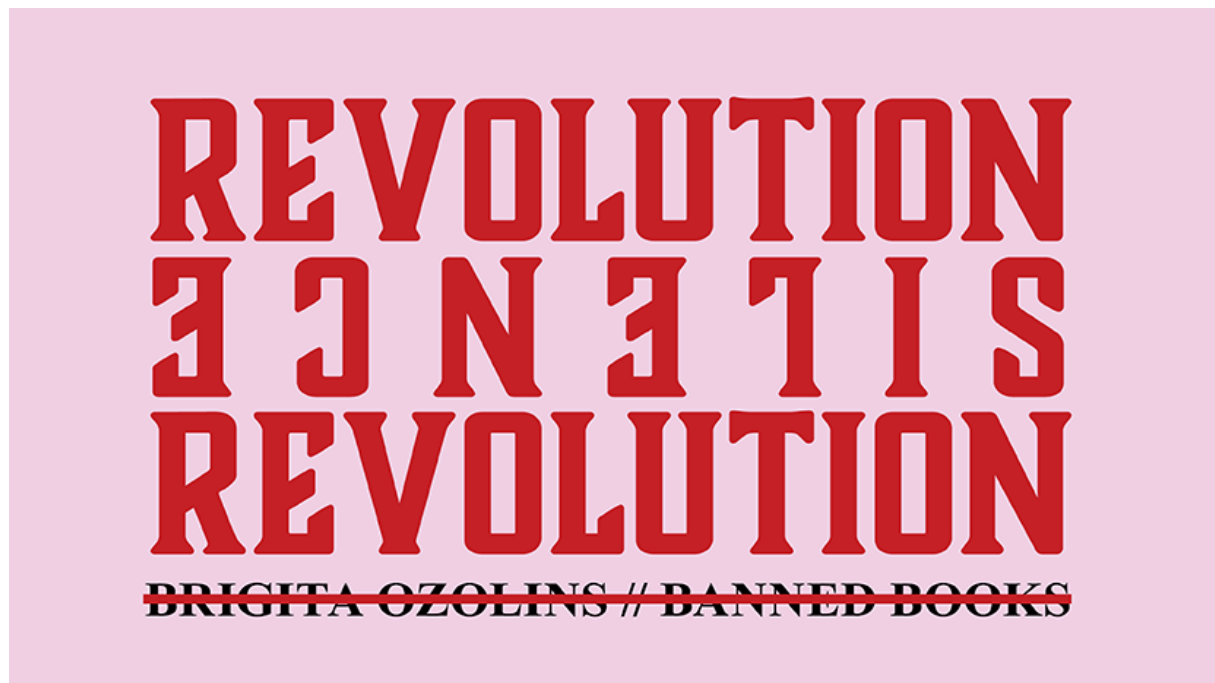
Do you know a family with a child under 6 months of age in Rocherlea or Mayfield? Follow the [Rosie's Reading](#) link to find out how to enrol them.





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**Free exhibition: 5 June – 5 October 2025**



*Revolution & Silence* includes an installation by Tasmanian artist Brigita Ozolins in the gallery of the Allport Library and Museum of Fine Arts. The exhibition considers George Orwell's *1984*, exploring the forces that try to silence free speech and the revolutions that rise in response. These works contextualise Orwell's novel amongst contemporary political upheaval, AI, fake news, and the unchecked power of social media.

The State Library and Archives of Tasmania has curated and displayed a collection of books that have been challenged throughout history, and today. This exhibition represents and interprets diverse points of view through a collection of banned, restricted and controversial books. Read some of these books and more during your visit in the 'Silenced Reading' library.

*State Library and Archives of Tasmania*  
[Allport Library and Museum of Fine Arts](#)  
91 Murray Street,  
Hobart, Tasmania

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# The State of K-12 Digital Reading Highlights

Based on aggregated data from 62,000 schools worldwide during the 2023-2024 school year from OverDrive. The following shows the digital reading highlights and trends in the use of eBooks, audiobooks, digital comics and magazines.

## Listing by region

### GENRE READING BY REGION

Three categories consistently dominated the top five most popular ebook genres across Australia’s states and territories and throughout New Zealand: Humour (fiction), Comic & Graphic Books, and Fantasy.

However, there was some regional variety in the fourth and fifth categories:

1. Australian Capital Territory

• Biography & Autobiography

• Nature
2. New South Wales

• Biography & Autobiography

• Sports & Recreation
3. Northern Territory

• Nature

• Reference
4. Queensland

• Nature

• Biography & Autobiography
5. South Australia

• Sports & Recreation

• Science Fiction
6. Tasmania

• Science Fiction

• Biography & Autobiography
7. Victoria

• Biography & Autobiography

• Thriller
8. Western Australia

• Historical Fiction

• Biography & Autobiography
9. New Zealand

• Historical Fiction

• Thriller



The most popular audiobook genres were just slightly different than the ebook genres. The four genres that were most popular across all regions (except the Northern Territory) were Humour, Fantasy, Comic & Graphic Books, and Mystery. The fifth and final category varied by region:

<b>Australian Capital Territory:</b> Mythology	<b>Tasmania:</b> YA Romance
<b>New South Wales:</b> Suspense	<b>Victoria:</b> YA Romance
<b>Queensland:</b> Suspense	<b>Western Australia:</b> YA Romance
<b>South Australia:</b> Historical Fiction	

The Northern Territory’s most popular genres differed from the rest of the country, with Mystery and Short Stories topping their list, but Humour and Comics & Graphic Books not making the top lists.





Get ready to make chilly days more exciting with the Warm Winter Read! This reading campaign is all about inspiring everyone aged 16 and over to dive into great stories while the weather is cold.

Whether you're into mysteries, crime, romance, fantasy, or non-fiction, there's a perfect read waiting to warm up your winter.

So grab a blanket, your favourite hot drink, and let the reading adventures begin!

To find out more and register head to the [warm winter read website](#)

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## Membership

Purchase your 2025 [Personal or Institutional Membership](#).

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/>



**This is the final Newsletter that will be emailed to lapsed CBCA Tas members.**

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**BOOK AWARD STICKERS CAN STILL BE PURCHASED FROM TAS BRANCH**

**For more information**

**Email [tas@cbca.org.au](mailto:tas@cbca.org.au)**



IBBY



INTERNATIONAL BOARD ON BOOKS FOR YOUNG PEOPLE



Australia has a unique role, promoting Australian authors and illustrators and their books at an international level; and also working towards international understanding through quality literature for young readers. Activities include celebrating International Children's Book Day; nominating authors and illustrators for the Hans Christian Andersen Awards and for Honour Books; supporting the Children in Crisis Appeal; nominating books for the IBBY Disabilities List and the Lampedusa Silent Books List, and awarding IBBY Australia's biennial Ena Noël Award to encourage emerging authors and illustrators. Members receive a quarterly electronic newsletter.



The ACLF's vision is to enrich the lives of young Australians through the power of story.

**The ACLF's mission is:**

- to promote the value and importance of reading
- to raise the profile of books in the lives of Australian children and young adults
- to respond to identified needs and issues in the children's & youth literature national landscape
- to champion the cause of young Australians' reading in a consultative, collegial and inclusive way within a cultural framework that showcases the best of Australian Literature for young people, and
- to undertake selected national projects that will promote these objects nationally.

## Calendar of Events

Jul 31 2025	<b>SLAV Judges Talk – Free to CBCA Tas Members</b>
Aug 15 2025	<b>2025 Book of the Year Awards announced</b> <b>Shadows' Choice Awards announced</b>
Aug 15-Aug 23 2025	<b>Children's Book Week</b> <b>Book an Adventure</b>
Aug 23 2025	<b>80<sup>th</sup> Birthday of CBCA</b> <b>Celebration events TBA</b>
Term 4 Date TBA	<b>Southern Readers' Cup (Primary)</b>

If you have any dates suitable for inclusion, please send them to [tas@cbca.org.au](mailto:tas@cbca.org.au)

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## 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](mailto: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.



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## 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/>



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





[Gift Fund Donation](#)



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