



CBCA Tasmania Newsletter

December 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

Devonport Readers' Cup

The 8th Devonport Readers' Cup was conducted on Friday November 8 at Devonport Primary School. This year, nine school teams from Kentish, Latrobe and Devonport municipalities competed, with the results in each category being very tight.

Courtesy of sponsorship from Kentish, Latrobe & Devonport Councils; Radio 7AD & Sea FM; Children's Book Council of Australia (Tasmania Branch), each team member received a participation certificate recognising their efforts; the Quizmaster and the Creative Challenge winning teams each received a trophy, school book voucher and a silver medallion; and the overall winner received a trophy, school book voucher, gold medal, the perpetual Devonport Readers' Cup and bragging rights for a year.



Each school participating in the Cup entered a team of six students, who competed in the Quizmaster category answering questions across the six assigned books; then the teams

competed in the Creative Challenge presenting their interpretation on one or more of the chosen books, and were assigned points for their performance, by guest judges.



Hillcrest Primary School achieved a clean sweep of this year's Devonport Readers' Cup winning both the Quizmaster and Creative Challenge categories, resulting in being crowned the Overall Winners. In the short history of the Devonport Readers' Cup, this is the first time such a result has occurred. Congratulations to all the teams who competed.



Hillcrest Primary School Creative Challenge winners: Scout and the Rescue Dogs play



Hillcrest Primary School Overall Winners
With gold & silver Medals, Individual Cups
and the Perpetual Trophy

Thanks goes out to the Devonport Primary School for hosting this year's Devonport Readers' Cup, our judges Kentish Mayor Kate Haberle, Radio 7AD's Teena Snare, Devonport Mayor Alison Jarman and TAS CBCA Treasurer Felicity Sly, all participants and especially all teachers involved! THANK YOU!

Arts Tasmania

Mid last year we were successful in gaining support from Arts Tasmania for a submission to the state budget to fund Creators in Schools Workshops. Though the application was supported, funding was redirected to pay for election promises. Arts Tasmania has advised that the funding request will be submitted for the 2025 budget process.

2024 Tasmanian Volunteering Awards

Steve Martin submits a Declaration of Interest as President Toast for Kids Charity Inc.

As you are aware, our CBCA branch partners with Toast for Kids Charity Inc. not only in supporting the project **Help Babies Learn** but also for the **Read Aloud To Your Child Every Day** national campaign. Through this partnership the federal government was lobbied, resulting in the Parliamentary Friends of Children's Literacy, Canberra being initiated and supported by 22 federal Members & Senators.

Toast for Kids Charity Inc. was nominated for and **won** the 2024 **Tasmanian Volunteering Award -Volunteer Impact Award (Group or Project)**.



Steve Martin (3rd left) pictured with the Honourable Mr Roger Jaensch and the 2024 Tasmanian Volunteering Award Winners.

Congratulations not only to the committee of Toast for Kids Charity Inc, but also to the Tasmania Branch, Children's Book Council of Australia.



Parliamentary Friends of Children's Literacy Launch, Canberra

Steve Martin and Senator Catryna Bilyk with the 22 'Friends' with the 'Read Aloud' Banner

We also recognise a major interstate supporter of the *Read Aloud To Your Child Every Day* Campaign (<https://www.thelighthouse.toowoomba.org/>)

The LIGHTHOUSE GUIDING CREATIVITY

"Each year at the Toowoomba Australia Day Award Celebrations, an Australian Flag from Parliament House, is presented to a local group or organisation who has made a significant contribution to the Toowoomba Region and Community."

We are thrilled, chuffed and humbled to announce that The Lighthouse will be recognised at the 2025 celebrations! The Australia Day Awards Ceremony will take place on Sunday 26 January 2025 from 8.30am – 11am at Picnic Point."

The Lighthouse team are also producing a series of Tik Tok presentations featuring the **Read Aloud To Your Child Every Day** Campaign.

Reflecting on the past few eventful months

1. EVENT: The recent passing of government legislation - the *Online Safety Amendment (Social Media Minimum Age) Bill 2024* a measure to deliver greater protections for young people during critical stages of their development. The laws place the onus on social media platforms to take reasonable steps to prevent Australians under 16 years of age from having accounts.

The minimum age will apply to 'age-restricted social media platforms' as defined in the Bill, including Snapchat, TikTok, Facebook, Instagram, X and others.

The Bill was passed by the Senate 34 to 19 on Thursday 27th November.

REFLECTION: We are taking away a medium that our young people use every day, but are replacing it with naught. Here is an opportunity for literature and reading to be promoted on all levels to fill that void. Both can be enjoyed in school, home and other settings, as books are transportable.

2. EVENT: Media coverage on youth crime – this looks (and most likely for those concerned) very frightening, and presumably costly through loss and damage - especially in Queensland. The media is correct that in some states/territories, that over the past 12 months there has been a rise in youth crime, however, over the past decade national crime statistics show that youth crime has dropped by approximately 30%. Additionally, many news reports overstate the extent of youth crime because they do not consider or communicate the extent of repeat offending.

REFLECTION:

- a. ***Items stolen by young people were often groceries, fuel, cigarettes and alcohol, which align with the price hikes seen with these items.***
 - b. ***Young people are struggling in a rental and housing crisis, in which long-term safe and affordable housing options are becoming harder to find.***
 - c. ***The increase in theft of items such as groceries and fuel, points to young people being unable to afford necessities.***
 - d. ***Currently the youth unemployment rate is 9.3% October 2024 (ABS); Unemployment rate remains the same at 4.1%***
 - e. ***Environmental circumstances and background certainly play a role here, and we know through a wide range of reports that most link with areas of disadvantage. We also know that areas of disadvantage have low educational and literacy rates, are associated with poverty, and resulting in lessened prospects of gaining employment - especially well-paid employment.***
3. EVENT: NAPLAN data release in 2023 and more recently in 2024 mirrored one another - showing that one in three school students throughout Australia are not meeting minimum numeracy and literacy expectations, and one in ten are so far behind they need additional support. Furthermore, over decades Tasmania still suffers from an illiteracy rate of 50%.
REFLECTION
Two consecutive years of nationwide results highlight high levels of illiteracy. Of course these issues need to be immediately addressed at the coalface, but what is the root of the problem? We know that there are households that do not have any books or that books are a very low priority with rent, food, petrol being top of the list. As is reported educational outcomes also suffer.
 4. EVENTS: War, domestic violence, skill shortage, cost of living, housing crises - the list goes on.

So where does CBCA's purpose **"To enrich young lives through Australian stories,"** and our Mission **"To connect, communicate, celebrate, and advocate for the value of stories"** fit in? Something to further ponder on, not only by those of us in the literacy and literature worlds, but also for those who make decisions on our behalf.

Book sales

With the Black Friday Sales now behind us, I thought this article might be of interest?



[Book Sales in Australia & Australian Publishing Industry 2023 Statistics · Featherstone](#)

Overall Market

- YTD Oct 2023 : -0.3% downturn in book sales in Australia
- 2022, was a significant record-breaker for book sales in Australia.
- 2023 is still significantly higher than 2019, with very healthy 16% growth.
- 2% growth in adult fiction sales between 2022 and 2023

Number of books sold YTD in Australia (1 Jan 2023 – 7 Oct 2023)

[BookScan Australia 2023 Snapshot.pdf](#) (updated stats to Dec 2023)

- 47 million books sold in Australia
- \$903 million in value
- Average sale price of \$19.17
- Average of 29% discount off RRP
- Inflation is affecting spending, for example, a basket of goods in 2021 that cost \$100, in 2023 now costs \$118.
- BookScan has noticed a shift to book sales in discount department stores. In 2022, 31% of print books were purchased at stores such as Big W, Kmart etc but YTD 2023 it has risen to 33%. In order of volume, the book sales going through the discount department stores are mostly children's titles, followed by fiction, followed by non-fiction.
- Black Friday promotions have a big effect on book sales, with 440,000 more books (approx. 32% more) being sold during the week of Black Friday than in the average week of the previous 4 weeks! (Claire also noted that consumers were tending to shop earlier for Christmas and stock up when goods were on sale.)

On behalf of the Children's Book Council of Australia, Tasmania Branch

**"May your Christmas and New Year
be everything you dream & wish them to be!"**

Steve Martin

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

2024-2025 Committee



2024-25 Committee Members (pictured) at the AGM with *Read Aloud to Your Child Every Day* calico bags produced by the Lighthouse Foundation for the launch of the Parliamentary Friends of Children's Literacy

Branch President, Steve Martin; Life Member and committee member, Kay Allport; Vice President, Roxanne Steenbergen; New committee member and Nan Chauncy Award Convenor, Mark Macleod

Committee (not pictured)

Secretary: Jo-Ann Wolf; Treasurer & Public Officer: Felicity Sly; Jennie Bales, Dawn Clarke & Michelle Chapman

the gab

the gab

Issue 1, Spring 2024

Editorial

Welcome to the first issue of *the gab*, a new quarterly magazine (in print and in PDF format). The title derives from what's been described as the second golden age of children's books which began in the 1950s with the emergence of writers such as Sutcliffe, Mayne, Garner, Pearce and Aiken. The magazine will celebrate these writers, and their readers who went on to become the next generation of writers for children. And so on we go.

As the screenshot says, this is a new quarterly magazine, published by ex-pat, Jon Appleton, and available by contacting Jon.

This issue features Margaret Mahy, Pauline Clarke (aka Helen Clare), Judith Elliott (publisher), Joan Aiken, Penelope Farmer, John Gordon

For all enquiries – including subscriptions and contributions – please contact:

jon@lettersfromrobin.com

If you would like a preview PDF copy, please email
tas@cbca.org.au



Image credit: Big Summer Read

Registrations are now open for the **Big Summer Read**, which runs from Sunday 1 December 2024 to Sunday 2 February 2025.

To **join**, complete the simple registration form on the [Readbooks.com.au](https://readbooks.com.au) site.

You can log your reading progress from 1 December 2024 as you aim to read at least 10 books over the summer break.

The Big Summer Read is a Public Libraries Victoria initiative to stop “the summer reading slide”, where children and young people lose literacy skills over the summer holidays.

Libraries Tasmania is joining this initiative and working with partners across the state to share the joy of reading. Tasmanian Ambassadors are: **Lian Tanner** and **Tony Flowers**.

To find out more visit:

<https://libraries.tas.gov.au/big-summer-read/>



Consider Registering for 2025 – one Tasmanian School has already registered! The shortlist will be announced March 25 2025



**Young voices are
welcome here**

The home of the Children's Book Council of Australia (CBCA)
Sun Project: Shadow Judging Book of the Year program.

 shadow judging
BOOK OF THE YEAR AWARDS

eStore Merchandise



Did you buy some merchandise in the recent sale?

Some items are still available.

<p>Card characters ready to hang</p> <p>Watermark does not appear on product. Double sided to allow for hanging.</p>	<p>Read, Grow, Inspire</p> <p>2023 design by Matt Ottley</p>	<p>New and improved design from Spencil</p> <p>Buy 5 pens save 10% Buy 10 pens save 15%</p> <p>Not to scale. Black ink only.</p>	<p>Not to scale.</p>
Character Cutouts: 2024 Dragon riders and galaxy set \$27.50 AUD \$11.00 AUD	2023 Enamel seahorse pin \$11.00 AUD \$4.40 AUD	2024 Pen (black) \$4.18 AUD \$1.68 AUD	Reading is magic! Tote \$15.99 AUD \$8.80 AUD
<p>Mouse not included. Watermark does not appear on product.</p>	<p>Reading is My Secret Power</p> <p>2019 design by Bob Graham</p>	<p>Find Your Treasure</p> <p>2018 design by Anna Walker</p>	<p>Not to scale.</p>
2024 Mouse Pad \$16.50 AUD \$6.60 AUD	2019 Enamel firebird pin \$11.00 AUD \$4.40 AUD	2018 Enamel cockatoo pin \$11.00 AUD \$4.40 AUD	Pencil Case \$10.99 AUD \$6.05 AUD

Use this link to find the catalogue <https://store.cbca.org.au/>

Membership

Purchase your 2025 [Personal or Institutional Membership](https://cbcatas.org.au/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/>



BOOK AWARD STICKERS CAN STILL BE PURCHASED FROM TAS BRANCH

For more information

Email tas@cbca.org.au



INTERNATIONAL BOARD ON BOOKS FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

iBBY
AUSTRALIA

IBBY 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

Dec 1 2024 – Feb 2 2025	Big Summer Read for Kids
Feb 14 2025	Library Lover's Day
Feb 25 2025	CBCA Book of the Year Notables announced
Mar 25 2025	CBCA Book of the Year Shortlist announced
April 2 2025 (TBC)	International Children's Book Day (IBBY)
May 21 2025	National Simultaneous Storytime The Truck Cat Deborah Frenkl and Danny Snell
Aug 15 2025	2025 Book of the Year Awards announced Shadowers' Choice Awards announced
Aug 15-Aug 23 2025	Children's Book Week Book an Adventure
Aug 22 2025	Southern Readers' Cup (Primary)
Aug 23 2025	80th Birthday of CBCA Celebration events TBA

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/>



THE CHILDREN'S BOOK COUNCIL OF AUSTRALIA **Reading Time**

Children's book news and reviews from The Children's Book Council of Australia

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



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