

CBCA Tasmania Newsletter

December 2025

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

Parliamentary Friends of Children's Literacy

The Parliamentary Friends group was relaunched on Tuesday 28th October 2025 at Parliament House, Canberra. Current Co-Chairs are Jess Teesdale MP (Bass - TAS), Senator Tammy Tyrrell (TAS) and Senator Jonathon Duniam (TAS). The launch was also attended by Belle Alderman AM (Director of the National Centre for Australian Children's Literature), Emily MacManus (The Lighthouse Toowoomba) and daughter Charlotte.



Sen. Tammy Tyrrell, Sen. Jonathon Duniam, Charlotte MacManus, Steve Martin, MP Jess Teesdale, Belle Alderman AM and Emily MacManus

The launch was followed by a meeting with Her Excellency Sam Mostyn Governor General of Australia at Government House Yarralumla. Her Excellency is patron of CBCA and supportive of the national campaign READ ALOUD TO YOUR CHILD EVERY DAY, providing suggestions and offering assistance.



Emily MacManus, Charlotte MacManus, Steve Martin, Governor General Sam Mostyn and Susanne Martin.



Steve Martin, CBCA Tas President

Steve Martin
PRESIDENT

Readers' Cup 2025

Devonport Readers' Cup (November 2025)

Ten teams of students from Devonport, Latrobe & Sheffield competed in the 9th Devonport Readers' Cup. The overall competition (sponsored by Toast for Kids Charity and CBCA Tas Branch) was won by Hillcrest Primary School, for the 3rd successive year.

Individual section winners were:
SEA FM Radio Quiz Champions – Nixon Street Primary School
Radio 7AD Creative Challenge Champions – Sheffield District High School



Hillcrest Primary School Champions

Southern Primary Readers' Cup (November 2025)

After being in recession for a few years, the Southern Primary Readers' Cup was contested by two schools. Thank you to Maria at St Therese's Catholic School for hosting the Cup. Dodges Ferry Primary School were Quiz winners and 2025 champions. St Therese's Catholic School team won the Creative Challenge.



Dodges Ferry Primary School Champions

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



The National Centre for Australian Children's Literature (NCAACL) 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.ncaacl.org.au/make-a-donation/> to the donation page to make a tax deductible contribution.

CBCA Shadow Judging Book Reviews

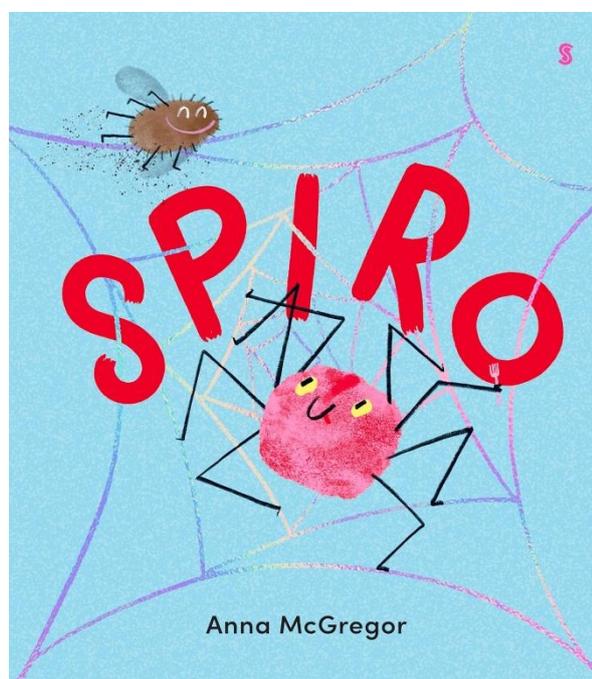
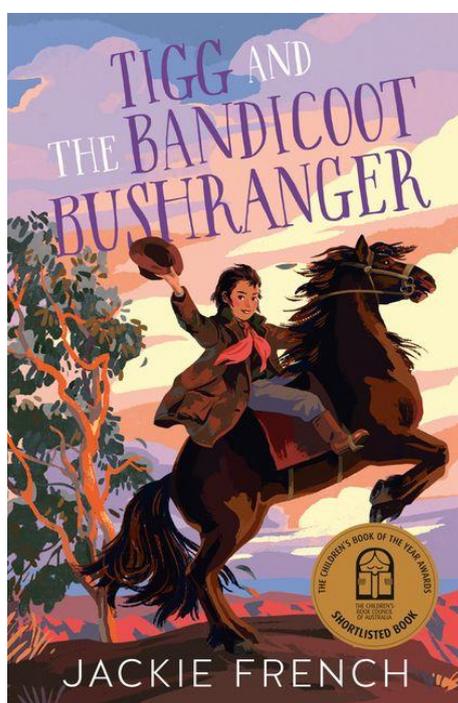
Students from Fahan School's Year 6 Shadow Judging Teams shared these reviews.

Tigg and the Bandicoot Bushranger

One of my favourite books out of all the 2025 CBCA shortlisted books is *Tigg and the Bandicoot Bushranger* by Jackie French from the Younger Readers' category. The story follows Tigg, a child in the late 1800s, and her struggles and adventures in the far from perfect land she calls home. The book is great for those who love historical fiction or action and suspense, with a well-written plot for you to enjoy. It is a bit of a longer read, but trust me, at the end you will be far from worn out because you are unable to put the book down. Seriously. I finished it in one 4-hour long session.

Carla H

Year 6 Shadow Judging Team



Spiro

Spiro by Anna McGregor was shortlisted in the 2025 CBCA Early Childhood category. Although it didn't win, this charming picture book follows a little spider named Spiro who is learning how to build a web to catch food. Despite many failed attempts, Spiro keeps trying—and finally succeeds at night.

This book shows that even though life can be hard and you might not get your way, that you should always keep going because you will get it right in the end. It's cute and it's a really good book for younger readers. I would recommend this book for the year 2 down.. It's a sweet and encouraging tale that's perfect for young readers.

Zoe C

Year 6 Shadow Judging Team

The December 5 [Blog](#) highlighted opportunities for young readers engaging with literature.

CBCA 2025 Book Week Display





IMAGES FROM ST MARY'S COLLEGE DISPLAY SUPPLIED BY MARYLOUISE

Steve Martin OAM



On June 9 2025, CBCA Tas Branch President, Steve Martin, was awarded the Medal of the Order of Australia in the King's Birthday Honour Awards, for services to the community of Northern Tasmania. CBCA Tasmania Committee congratulates Steve on his extensive community work, not only for us, but for numerous other organisations. You can read about his activities [here](#)

Steve Martin and Tasmanian Governor, The Honourable Barbara Baker AC

Membership

Purchase your 2026 [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/>



INTERNATIONAL BOARD ON BOOKS FOR YOUNG PEOPLE



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.

PUT YOUR LOGO IN THIS SPOT - email your logo to tas@cbca.org.au and we will personalise the logo and provide it as a signature panel and a high resolution banner for printing.





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

Feb 24 2026	2026 Notables announced
March 24 2026	2026 Book of the Year Shortlist announced
Aug 21 2026	2026 Book of the Year and Shadow Judges Winners Announced
Aug 22-Aug 28 2026	Children's Book Week Symphony of Stories
Aug 2026 Date TBA	80th Anniversary of the CBCA Book of the Year Awards Celebration events TBA
Term 3 August Date TBA	Southern Readers' Cup (Primary)

If you have any dates suitable for inclusion, please send them to tas@cbca.org.au

The CBCA Tasmania Blog



CBCA Tasmania blog

Welcome to the blog of the Tasmanian branch of the Children's Book Council of Australia!



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 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/>

Donate to the CBCA

Help us grow a national culture of celebration of story.
Donations of \$2.00 or more are tax deductible.



Gift Fund Donation
From \$0.00 AUD



Donate to the CBCA Award Foundation
From \$5.00 AUD



Donate to the CBCA Gift Fund
From \$5.00 AUD

[DONATE HERE](#)



Awards Foundation Donation
\$0.00 AUD



Donate to the CBCA Gift Fund: Shadow Judging 2024 Program
From \$5.00 AUD



Awards Foundation

SINCE 1945 - YOUR CONNECTION TO STORY

Find out about Benefactors [here](#)

History of the CBCA Awards Foundation

The original prize for the Children's Book of the Year Awards was a camellia if the winner was female or a handshake if male.

Government funding supported the Awards for some time (1966–1988). This was followed by commercial sponsorship (Angus & Robertson, Penguin Books Australia, Collins Dove and Franklin Watts in 1988; Myer-Grace Bros. 1989–1993; Angus & Robertson 1994; Reed Books Australia, Australia Post and Social Book Clubs 1995) which made it possible to offer substantial monetary prizes of up to \$10,000 per category to the authors and illustrators of winning and honour books.

The challenge to secure commercial sponsorship for the Awards prize money led to a decision at the end of 1995 to set up the Awards Foundation with the aim of raising \$1,000,000 to enable the CBCA to support the Awards prizes in perpetuity.

