



CBCA Tasmania Newsletter

March 2023

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

HELP BABIES LEARN Project (HBL)

The HBL project is the creation of a Tasmanian authored, illustrated, designed and printed children's book that featured Tasmanian fauna with their palawa kani names and phonics, and a counting game. A companion braille/low vision version has also been created. The books would be available free to Tasmanian parents of Tasmanian newborn babies, including parents who experience vision impairment, with the encouragement to read aloud to their newborn every day from the first day of their lives.

It took two and a half years, but the braille/low vision companion version of the children's book "Tassie Rhymes for little tigers" by Narelda Joy has finally been launched. The event took place at Government House with Her Excellency, the Honourable Barbara Baker AC Governor of Tasmania, launching the companion version in front of invited guests.

The children's version had to be completely redesigned by Narelda especially the illustrations; for vision impairment bolder distinctive outlines are required. Once redesigned NextSense, (formerly known as the Royal Institute for Deaf & Blind Children) created the braille version with braille on the left page, illustration and large print font on the right page, which is a feat in itself. Sonali Marathe (NextSense's Manager for Accessibility &

Inclusion), who helped coordinate the creation of the companion version, flew from Sydney to attend and speak at the launch.



Sonali Marathe (NextSense), Steve Martin (Pres. CBCAT & Toast for Kids), Her Excellency Barbara Baker, and Narelda Joy (author/illustrator/designer) holding a copy of the companion version “Tassie Rhymes for little tigers”.

Sonali advises that the creation and publication of a children’s book with a braille/low vision companion version, is a first for Australia. NextSense will now promote the books as best practise on a national level. Australian parents currently need to import costly versions from the USA or UK or create a braille version themselves.

The children’s version is available through branches of the Bendigo Bank, Neighbourhood Houses, Child & Family Learning Centres, Hobart Book Shop, Dymocks, Fullers Bookshop, Petrarch’s Bookshop, Devonport Bookshop, Windows on the World Book Lounge and Not Just Books. The braille version is available directly through Toast for Kids Charity Inc.

The Tasmanian Branch Children’s Book Council of Australia are proud partners of Toast for Kids Charity Inc’s HELP BABIES LEARN Project along with the Tasmanian Community Fund, the Harcourts Foundation, Apex Club of Ulverstone, TASFREIGHT, Tasmanian Broadcasters, ENZED, Bendigo Bank, NextSense, Neighbourhood Houses Tasmania and the Tasmanian Government



Leaving Hobart at 7am, Narelda and I were contacted by a family with five children, three of which were aged six years and under who are legally blind.

We quickly turned around and visited the family, providing them with a copy of the braille version. Lily pictured centre is an avid reader and was not only very excited to meet us, but to also receive a copy of both books, which Lily took to her school that day.

Promoting both versions statewide: -



Steve, Sonalia and Narelda with Mick, Sarah and Johnno from 7HO



At The Hobart Book Shop



At SEA FM: Devonport



At Fullers Bookshop

The HELP BABIES LEARN Project aims to create a culture of reading aloud to children EVERY DAY.

Tasmania Reads

Libraries Tasmania conducted Tasmania Reads from March 5 to March 11. Libraries throughout the state conducted events to celebrate books, read books and to story tell.

“Whatever you like to read and wherever your reading takes you, we want you to READ WITH US for Tasmania Reads week.”

Libraries Tasmania hosted 80 events state-wide, ranging from astronomy, reading with friends, story time picnics, to the launching of Community Seed Libraries.

<https://libraries.tas.gov.au/tasmania-reads/tasmania-reads/>

The 2023 Book of the Year Notables

On February 28th, the Children’s Book Council announced this year’s Notables. Congratulations to our Tasmanian entries:

- Daniel Gray-Bartlett – illustrator for “Come over to my House” by Eliza Hull & Sally Rippon
- Vianne Brain and Clare Bradley for “Opal and Dart”
- Kate Gordon for “Xavier in the Meantime”
- Jennifer Cossins for “Amazing Animal Journeys”
- Avery McDougall “Invisibly Grace”

Congratulations to all Notables: We look forward to CBCA’s Short List on Tuesday, March 28. You can read the full list of titles in the Notables [using this link](#).



President
CBCA Tasmania

Book Week Theme for 2023



THE CHILDREN'S
BOOK COUNCIL
OF AUSTRALIA

2023

CBCA
National Book Week

SAVE THE DATE!
19-25 August

Membership

CBCA Tasmania wishes to thank all its members for their support during this year. Without your membership CBCA Tasmania wouldn't exist.

2023 memberships are now due. We encourage you to think about renewing your [Personal or Institutional Membership](#). These subscriptions are vital for our local branch to function efficiently and develop our events and programs that have such an impact in schools and communities around Tasmania. Membership fees remain unchanged for 2023. Please renew your membership for 2023 as soon as possible. Membership forms are available on the website (link above).

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/>



Creators Program

If you are an institutional member, you have three options to access as part of your membership:

- 2 x 60-minute or 1 x 90-minute local Creator workshop - travel/accommodation will be by individual negotiation with co-ordinators (approximately \$469)
- Refund EITHER Giant Book Week in a Tube + postage OR Library Pack + postage (approximately \$200)
- Entry fee for Shadow Judging, 1 set of nominated books (approximately \$200)

Schools will need to advise which benefit they wish to access by June 30. Benefits may be withdrawn if funding is fully expended.

So as not to miss out, renew your membership now and email your coordinator to secure your choice today.

Tasmanian Literary Awards Winners

On Thursday 15 December 2022, Minister for the Arts, Elise Archer, announced the winners of the former Premier's Book Awards now the Tasmanian Literary Awards.

The Minister for the Arts' Prize for Books for Young Readers and Children shortlisted books were:

- *Aster's Good, Right Things* by Kate Gordon (Yellow Brick Books)
- *Ella and the Ocean* by Lian Tanner, illustrated by Jonathan Bentley (Allen & Unwin)
- *Sea Country* by Aunty Patsy Cameron, illustrated by Lisa Kennedy (Magabala Books)
- *Shoestring: The Boy Who Walks on Air* by Julie Hunt, illustrated by Dale Newman (Allen & Unwin)



Nominees: Kate Gordon, Lian Tanner, Lisa Kennedy, Julie Hunt

And the winner was: Lian Tanner for *Ella and the Ocean*



Lian Tanner accepting the award.

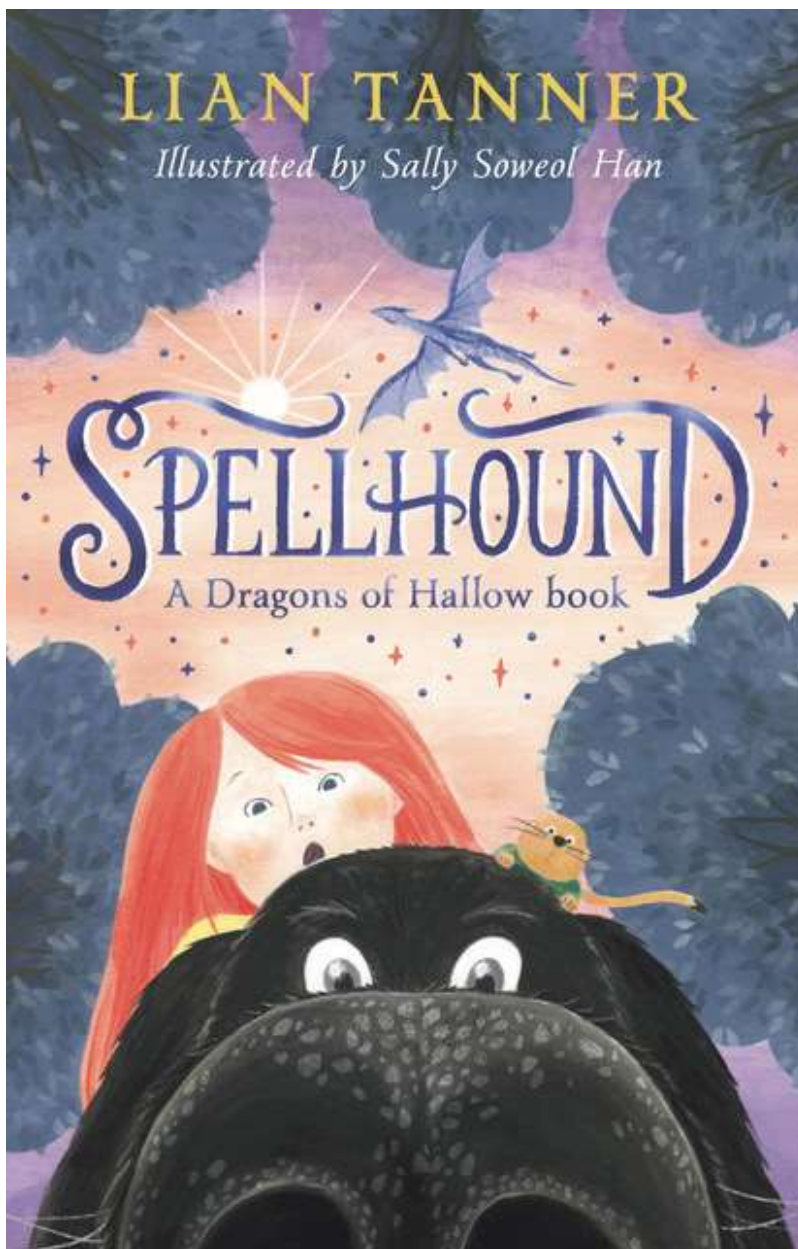
Invitation to launch of new Lian Tanner book

'There are Three Great Secrets in Hallow, a country that loves secrets almost as much as it loves green jelly babies. One of those secrets is the Spell hounds ...'

Spellhound is a dazzling new fantasy from Lian Tanner, award-winning author of *A Clue for Clara* and *The Keepers Trilogy*.

It will be launched by Marylouise Jones, teacher librarian at St Mary's College, at 10:30 am on Saturday, April 22, at the State Library of Tasmania in Murray Street.

Free event, all welcome!



Judges Conference Melbourne March 2023

For the first time in our two-year judging term, all CBCA judges for 2021-2022 were able to meet face-to-face to share their deliberations on the shortlisted books for 2022. While Zoom meetings are very convenient and save travel time, scheduling difficulties and money, discussing ideas, arguing points, forming compromises and making final decisions is far easier in the flesh.

We met at the Wheeler Centre adjacent to the Library of Victoria, on the RMIT University of Melbourne City campus from early Saturday morning until Sunday afternoon.

The Wheeler Centre, originally the Centre of Books, Writing and Ideas, is an amazing literary and publishing centre founded as part of Melbourne's bid to be a UNESCO Creative City of Literature, which designation it earned in 2008.

There are three judges for each of the five book categories plus our convenor Marissa Caluzzi and CBCA assistants, so this was a fairly large assemblage consisting of people from all over Australia including the Northern Territory and of course myself from Tasmania. Significantly there was only one male in this group. There would have been two, but sadly, the male member of our Older Reader panel withdrew after one year of the two-year undertaking. I personally believe the gender imbalance on the judging panels overall is a real and obvious problem.

The first time I was a judge, 2009-2010, there was a judge from each state and territory and we each read every book in Early Childhood, Picture Books, Younger Readers and Older Readers categories. There was, and still is a separate panel for the Eve Pownall, information book category. The New Illustrator award, formerly the Crichton award, is judged by the Picture book panel.

Now each category has three judges and states are no longer ensured of representation in the judging.

Our first day consisted of each of the panels introducing and taking us through the six books selected for their respective shortlist. This enabled every judge to have some insight into at least the shortlisted books in the categories they have not read.

Obviously, this was a long process; in fact, a day long process, but it provided an interesting perspective into each category and the individuals who sat on the panels.

In a more informal dinner setting on the Saturday evening, judges were able to chat and exchange more detailed and wider ranging information about the books they had encountered. My conversations even touched on books not on the notable lists that I would recommend and books I was reading in my own two book groups. The Italian meal at a restaurant on Southbank was rather good too, as was the copious amounts of morning, afternoon and lunch time treats with which we were plied during the two days.

The second day was engaged with making videos for the on-line shortlist announcements later in the year and writing up the judges' reports.

One cannot claim that the weekend was relaxing, in fact it was rather hard work, as was the year of reading. The Older Reader category is very much like reading 'adult' literature since most of the books are of considerable length and complexity, but it is an awesome experience to completely immerse oneself in the latest publications in a category of Australian children's literature.

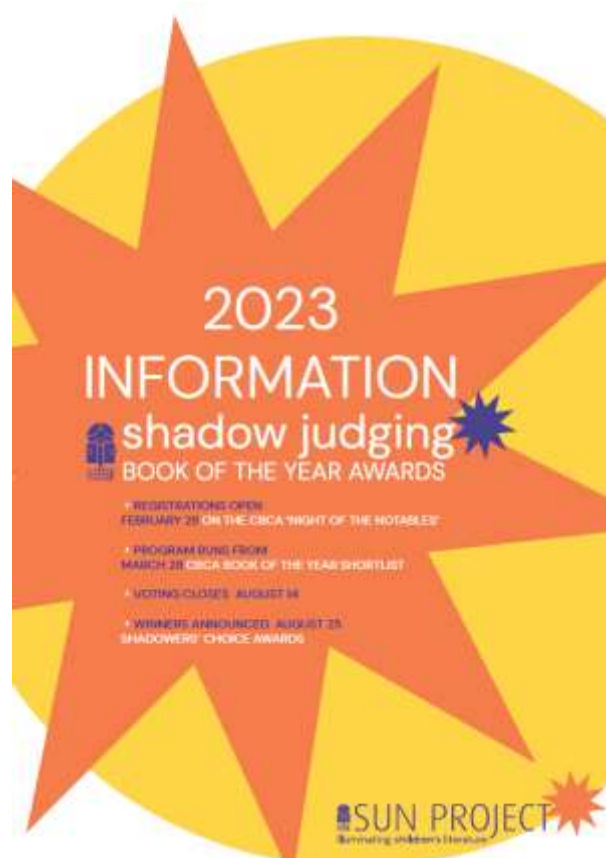
I would recommend the experience to everyone who has an interest in what our Australian authors are writing and what young people in our country are reading. And it is important that Tasmania is represented on any of these judging panels.

Carol Fuller

Older reader judge 2021-2022



Sun Project 2023



<https://shadowjudging.cbca.org.au>

CBCA Tas Shortlist Event



Event: A Conversation on the Shortlist

Date: Thursday 11 May, 4:00 to 5:30 pm

Location: Launceston Library, in the cafe area

Join Carol Fuller (CBCA Young Adult judge), Jennie Bales, Nella Pickup and Maureen Mann for a conversation about the 2023 shortlisted titles, with opportunities for audience participation and input. Kindly supported by Libraries Tasmania and the Launceston Library with a number of the titles available for viewing.

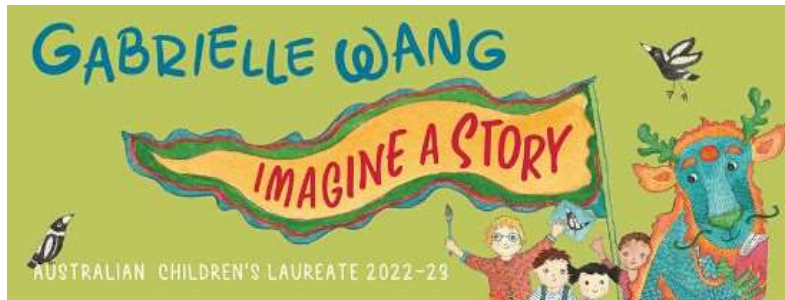
Calendar of Events

March 7	Astrid Lindgren Memorial Award announcement https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=u7t3roHne1s
April 2	IBBY International Children's Book Day
May 11	A Conversation on the Shortlist at Launceston Library
May 13	2023 Tassie Indie Author Book Fair
May 24	National Simultaneous Storytime 2023 https://www.alia.org.au/nss
May 25-28	Asian Festival of Children's Content
May 27-28	Storygig Festival – Franklin Square and Hadley's Hobart and streamed to Libraries Tasmania network

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).

Australian Children's Laureate



Congratulations to Australian Children's Laureate for 2022 & 2023 Gabrielle Wang who was chosen to deliver the second Wang Gungwu Lecture, delivered by the National Foundation for Australia-China Relations and ABC Australia.

The Wang Gungwu Lecture provides an enduring platform to celebrate the deep and diverse contributions of Chinese Australians to Australian society.

<https://iview.abc.net.au/show/wang-gungwu-lecture-2023>

The Australian Children's Laureate Foundation is proud to partner with Bolinda BorrowBox to bring you a very special collection of free audiobooks.

Every month, we will feature a new author and audiobook on our website, showcasing the incredible diversity of talent in Children's Literature.

[Audiobooks | ACLF \(childrenslaureate.org.au\)](https://www.childrenslaureate.org.au/audiobooks)

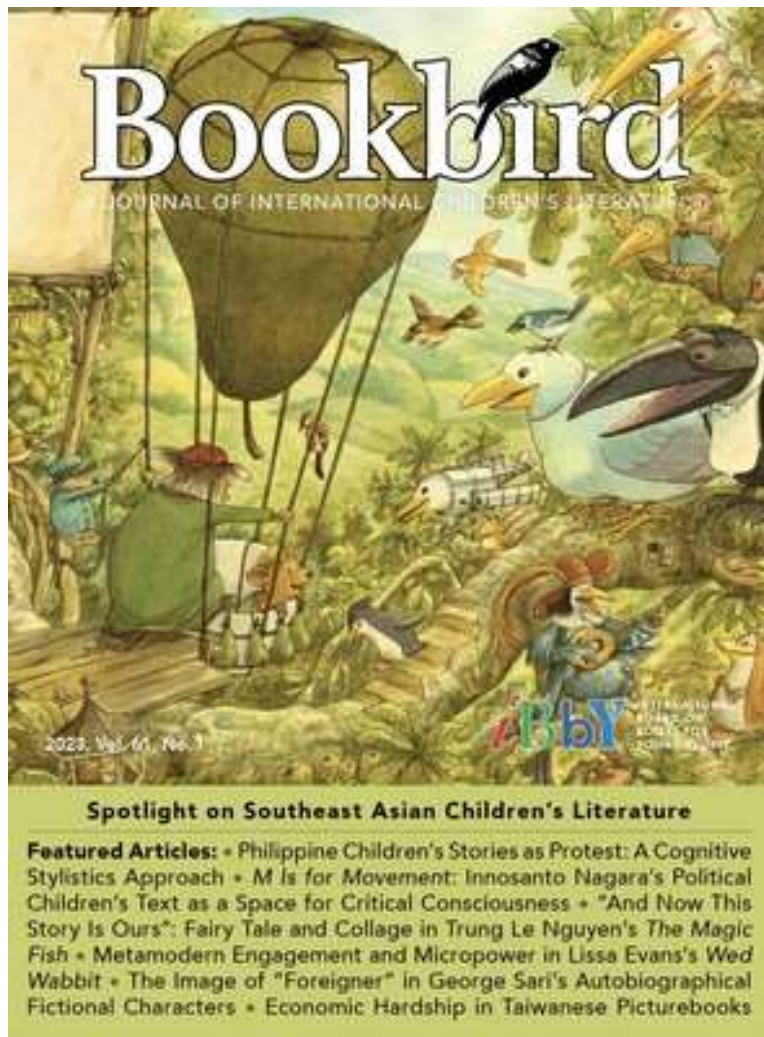
Curating texts for the classroom: picture books in history or the history of picture books

In a recent interesting article in *Scan*, an open access online journal from the NSW Department of Education, independent language and literacy consultant Joanne Rossbridge guides teachers to curate picture books that support the learning and teaching of history and foster critical thinking.

[Click on this link](#) to read the article.

[Click on this link](#) to learn more about *Scan* and to read old issues.

Book Bird Magazine – IBBY



<https://www.ibby.org/bookbird>



Here is an update on [Australia Reads](#)

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.

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/>



Digital Planner 2023

Get organised with the digital planner + a great poetry package devoted to the Book Week Theme.

Featuring gorgeous artwork by Matt Ottley, the 2023 CBCA Yearly Planner is the document to support Australian children's literature in your school or public library and classroom, or just personally!

Your purchase includes two versions: a general personal use planner, and a specialised teacher/librarian version with focussed helpful school/classroom extras. Use the one that best fits your needs.



You will also receive free a set of digital 2023 CBCA Shortlist posters you can print off and use around your school. These will be available 24-48 hours after the national announcement on Tuesday, 28 March 2023. A link to the digital files can be found within the planner.

2023 Children's Book Week "Read, Grow, Inspire" catalogue

There's something for everyone and every budget in our 2023 Children's Book Week catalogue. Along with returning favourites you'll find our must-buy 'Book Week in a Tube' and exquisite new display products in our Artisan Range. We also bring you an exciting new partnership with [SPENCIL](#) with a limited range of gorgeous stationery guaranteed to be the envy of all colleagues!

Institutional Members of CBCA can opt to receive Book Week in a Tube or the Library Pack as your 2023 Membership Incentive.

2023 Catalogue



[Download the catalogue](#) or simply [SHOP NOW!](#)

The 2023 Nan Chauncy Award Nominations

Named after the noted Tasmanian author of children's books, the Nan Chauncy Award has been created to honour individuals who have made an outstanding contribution to the field of Australian children's literature. The spirit of the Award is to recognize advocacy, mentoring and volunteer work beyond paid roles and professional responsibilities. The Award is presented biennially and is an opportunity to recognize an individual or partnership whose dedicated work in advocacy and promotion of literature and literacy might otherwise not be publicly celebrated.

Is there a person you would like to recommend CBCA Tasmania submits a nomination?

Please email any suggestions by March 15 to tas@cbca.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/>

The CBCA Awards Foundation

*Proudly Funding Prizes for the
CBCA Book of the Year Awards*

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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. (June 2022)**