



CBCA Tasmania Newsletter

September 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

East Ulverstone Primary School

Recently the students at East Ulverstone Primary School, Mrs Lehman's grade 3-4 class, wrote to our branch, conveying their *"love for reading our Shortlisted Books of the Year, as well as celebrating Book Week as a whole school and in exploring the changing themes"*.

The students also suggested that the book stickers should have the year each book was shortlisted, to *"allow readers to quickly identify what year books were shortlisted or became winners. This would make it easier for Australians who don't have access to research this information to know what year these books were shortlisted."*

A Book Week visit was soon arranged to go and talk with the students, and they were awesome.



Thank you Mani, Savannah, Gabby, Remy, Ivy C, Ellie M, Mehkye, Thomas, Angas, Ivy K, Sofiya, Jay, Teneisha, Kaiden, Al, Avayah, Ellie W, Miller & Maycie, for your wonderful letter. We think your suggestion has great merit and have passed it on to our National Board for their consideration. Watch this space!

Nixon Street Primary School

It was great receiving an invitation from Nixon Street Primary School's Sonia Littler, Quality Teaching Coach Literacy, to be part of the school's Book Week "...to celebrate our successes and continue the focus of reading as an ongoing school improvement goal. Five years ago, we recognised the need for changes in our literacy teaching, and we are pleased to see steady growth in our student achievement."

I thoroughly enjoyed their Book Week parade. The opportunity to read aloud to two kinder classes was also a delightful experience – "Your visit was a positive contribution to our Book Week celebrations. We are grateful for your commitment to nurturing a love of reading among our students. It was evident from the smiles on our students' faces that they enjoyed the time they spent with you."



Congratulations to all our schools in celebrating this year's Book Week

Literary Festival at Sea

Are you aware there are themed cruises available ranging from food obsessed excursions, rock festivals, cherry blossoms in Japan and the Australian Literature Festival Sea cruise for 2024?

Cunard's five-day cruise will depart Sydney on December 11, 2024, and visit Hobart as part of its itinerary.

Whilst a list of participating authors has not been released yet, the festival will feature some of Australia's and New Zealand's leading authors and interactive workshops, talks and opportunities for guests to develop their writing and illustrating skills. Who said you can't have your cake and eat it too?

Moving forward

Recently released NAPLAN data showed 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."

From the Grattan Institute:

"Last year, about a quarter of Tasmania's Year 9 students performed either at or below Australia's NAPLAN minimum standard in reading and numeracy. The most recent OECD international data paints an even more sobering picture, suggesting that about

half of Tasmania's 15-year-olds fall short of Australia's proficiency benchmark in reading and maths.

Grattan Institute analysis shows that the learning gap between advantaged and disadvantaged students more than doubles between Year 3 and Year 9. In reading, for example, Year 3 students in Tasmania whose parents did not finish school are already more than two years behind students whose parents have a university degree. By Year 9, that gap grows to more than five years. In numeracy, the gap between the same groups of students grows from about one and a half years in Year 3 to more than three years in Year 9".

In addition to an illiteracy rate of 50 per cent, Tasmania has a welfare dependency rate of 33 per cent, and in some areas only 45.5 per cent of students complete Year 12. Tasmania is also the state with the highest rate of poverty in Australia. These reports and their findings confirm what we already knew and to be honest experience socially and, in the workplace, yet despite efforts, our literacy and numeracy rates are not improving.

In my last President's Report low literacy rates were again mentioned with the comment "...possessing the ability to read, understand language and effectively communicate are just as important!". Our partnership with Toast for Kids Charity Inc's **Help Babies Learn** project was also touched on and we are excited to say we are taking the effort to the next level.

Encouraging, initiating and developing a culture of reading aloud to children every day is extremely important and has far-reaching benefits for our children, parents, grandparent, teachers etc. Numerous research papers highlight this, but the message seems to get lost amongst the many.

Toast for Kids Charity Inc. has passed the baton to our branch with the challenge to reach out statewide and nationally to all institutes, governments, schools, parent groups, agencies, not for profits, speech pathologists, writers' groups, in fact anyone and everyone, with an association with literacy. We will present the simple concept of adopting and promoting the one message: **"Read aloud to your children everyday"**.

We feel that creating this coalition will provide a consistent, positive, loud, repetitive message that encourages the culture of reading aloud to your children every day and that this effort becomes part of our normal daily regimen.

Each organisation importantly still has their own aims, values and purposes, but what if we have one single message? We all could send to our community a consistent message that not only still resonates with those aims, values and purposes, but highlights them as well.

We hope you too will see this is a worthy challenge, and be encouraged to contact us to offer your support.

Best wishes

Steve Martin

President, Tasmanian Branch, Childrens Book Council of Tasmania



CBCA Book of the Year Winners Announced

Congratulations to all the CBCA Book of the Year 2023 Award Winners. The winners and honour books were announced at the ceremony and online on Friday 19 August, officially kicking off Book Week celebrations.

Use <https://cbca.org.au/winners-2023> to learn more about the winners and watch the video announcement of the winners.



Shadow Judges Book of the Year Winners

To see the winners of the Shadow Judging for 2023 click [here](#).





The Children's Book Council of Australia proudly announces the recipient of the prestigious biennial Nan Chauncy Award, 2023.

The Children's Book Council of Australia is proud to announce Jenny Stubbs, from Queensland, is the 2023 recipient of the prestigious Nan Chauncy Award, which honours individuals who have made an outstanding contribution to the field of Australian children's literature. Jenny will be presented her award on October 14, 2023 in Brisbane at a special event in her honour.

"It is fitting that the CBCA honour Jenny today as we launch into Children's Book Week 2023 because it is volunteer advocates of reading, like Jenny, who embed reading into our culture," says Wendy Rapee, CBCA National Chair. Jenny personifies all the qualities and attributes to merit this award with her unparalleled commitment and significant achievements in the field. She has dedicated her life to promoting and supporting children's literature. Jenny is a respected and much-loved legend in the world of Australian children's literature. She is admired for her achievements and capacity to influence children, older students, authors, illustrators, and educators.

You can read more about Nan Chauncy and Jenny on the CBCA website page at <https://cbca.org.au/NanChauncyAward>

The full citation for Jenny Stubbs can also be read at <https://cbca.org.au/news/2023-nan-chauncy-recipient>

Jenny will be acknowledged for her dedicated service during a luncheon event in October hosted by her home CBCA Branch, Queensland in Brisbane.

['Gives me the buzz to keep going': Teacher-librarian wins prestigious award - ABC listen](#)

Book Week Storytime in the Quadrant Mall

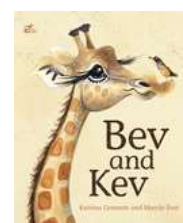
It was Book Week and Andy from Petrarch's bookshop had this brilliant idea to hold picture book readings in the Quadrant Mall in Launceston. She invited individuals from the Quadrant businesses to participate and also invited Carol Fuller from Northern CBCA.

Andy's efficient organisation procured the stage, bean bags and mats from City of Launceston Council and audio equipment. Fingers crossed for the weather and an audience!

Well! The weather held off and a small but enthusiastic audience of children and their parents gathered to hear the stories. The Quadrant was host to a dinosaur, a spaceman, a fairy, a dragon, the Very Hungry Caterpillar and several other book characters.

Volunteer readers chose these books which were all winners in the CBCA Book of the Year Awards.

Andy from The Spotted Quoll, accompanied by a large toy giraffe, read *Bev & Kev* by Katrina Germein and Mandy Foot.



Pawlos from Jim Hughes & Sons Jewellers, and dressed as the child in the story, read *My Strange Shrinking Parents* by Zeno Swords.



Amanda from Just Cuts, read *The Best Hiding Place* by Jane Godwin and Sylvia Morris.



Luke from St Lukes, complete with bird calls, read *Where the Lyrebird Lives* by Corinne Fenton and Tracie Grimwood.



Carol Fuller from CBCA performing with a pirate's hat and hook, a space helmet, a green toweling monster and an over-sized dress, read *There's No Such Book* by Jessica Dettman and Jake Minton



Andy herself from Petrarch's, dressed as a penguin, read *Frank's Red Hat* by Sean Avery.



The little ones were engaged and excited and loudly called 'There's No Such Book!' where appropriate and the parents had a few chuckles and knowing nods. And a great reading and sharing experience was had by all.

Looking forward to a repeat performance next Book Week in 2024. CBCA Tasmania was thrilled to be involved in this wonderful activity that heralds the importance of reading to children and sharing great stories.

Carol Fuller

CBCA Tasmanian member and CBCA Older Readers Award Judge for 2023



Book Week Trivia Night - A Grand (not so trivial) Affair

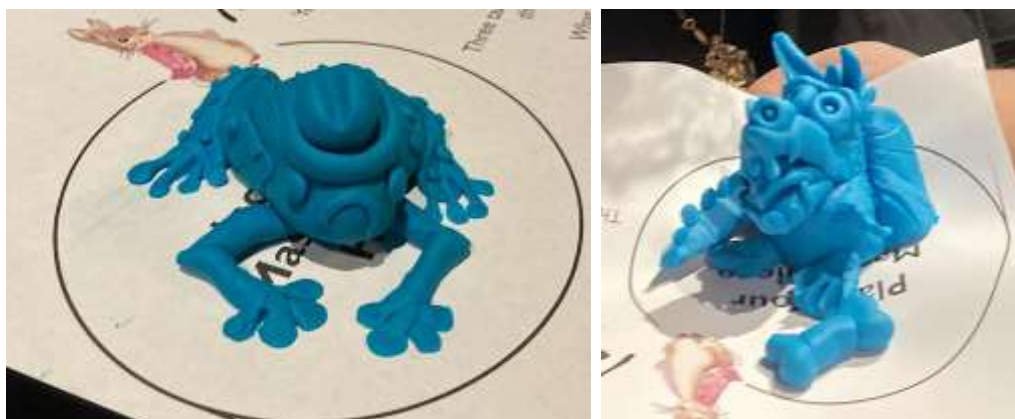
The children's Book Week Trivia Night, hosted by the Tamar Valley Writer's Festival and held at the Royal Oak Hotel in Launceston, was a hit success with everyone that attended joining in the frivolity. In partnership with the Children's Book Council of Australia (Tasmanian Branch) and IBBY Australia, a great turnout of participants added this to their Book Week agenda and indulged in some grown up fun and hijinks.



With many of the groups dressed as favourite book characters there was much hilarity in a tight race between teams. The standout winner was team Get Booked, with second place a tie between the Matildas (no, not the soccer players) and team Joie de Livre who represented IBBY and CBCA Tas in a solid performance.



Table activities provided a great warm up – including some very clever Beatrix Pottery creations of new creatures.



Knowledge of books was tested with ten book covers with titles blanked out – the Paul Jennings title perhaps the most challenging of all. Identifying the redacted words from Dahl passages was great fun and tested every team (see the line column with the lowest scores!).

The quiz questions were organised into six categories – and they were tough! My favourite for its novelty (and Joie de Livre did this well) was working out book titles from a series of emojis – *The Giving Tree* was a hurdle for most teams – how would you emoji that? Other themes included movie adaptations – I might be able to tell you the name of the author ... but the actor? We struggled with some of those questions. Interludes were broken up with clues to identify banned books with on-the-spot individual winners.

Book bags full of delights were hauled off by the members of team Booked Out and an excellent raffle with some amazing prizes of books and prints, sourced by IBBY and CBCA stalwarts, Nella Pickup and Carol Fuller, as well as book voucher from Petrarch's Book Shop , <https://www.petrarchs.com.au/>, rounded off the evening along with some encouraging words from Carol and Nella, in support of CBCA and IBBY to bring the focus back on books, children reading from both Australian and international perspectives with Nella showcasing an IBBY, Quentin Blake scarf, <https://fundraising.ibby.org/>, that was envied by many of us.

Jennie Bales on behalf of Team Joie de Livre, CBCA Tas and IBBY

IBBY Australia <https://ibbyaustralia.wordpress.com>

Book Week at Hutchins

A range of activities kept literature and reading at the heart of our celebrations and actively involved all classes and teachers. Starting in Term 2, A Critical Evaluation unit of work to help students evaluate “What makes a good book?” had junior students critiquing the Early Childhood shortlist and older students assessing the Eve Pownall shortlist. This provided deep engagement with texts as a springboard for a range of activities to celebrate Book Week. These included:

- Pop Up Readers initiated by 25 guest readers (staff and senior students) visiting younger classes,
- Story Walks with Fahan students in outdoor settings for shared story sessions
- Drop Everything and Read sessions throughout the week,
- Buddy Reading,
- The Great Book Swap to support the Indigenous Literacy Foundation
- Book Buying Excursion where a group of students select titles of choice. Also a spin off our Australia Reads event
- Creator Presentation and workshop with Daniel Gray-Barnett
- Staff Book Club with a special focus on sharing books inspired by the 2023 Book Week theme, *Read. Grow. Inspire.*
- Announcement of the Hutchins Choice Awards – the outcome of school wide voting.
- Book Week Quiz that was completed in classrooms over the week with a final surprise question and a race to submit results – a great success that kept Book Week enthusiasm on the boil.

Anna Davidson

Junior Teacher Librarian, Hutchins School

To read the full report go to CBCA Tas blog at

[CBCA Tasmania blog: Celebrating Book Week – Engaging with Books and Humans](#)



Pop Up Readers initiated by 25 guest readers (staff and senior students) visiting younger classes.



Story Walks with Fahan students in outdoor settings for shared story sessions.



Book Buying Excursion where a group of students select titles of choice. Also a spinoff from our Australia Reads event.



The Great Book Swap to support the Indigenous Literacy Foundation.



Creator Presentation and workshop with Daniel Gray-Barnett.

Book Week at St Thomas More



Book Week at John Paul II Catholic School

We had an incredible week celebrating CBCA Book Week at John Paul II Catholic School this year. Students and staff brought their favourite book characters to life with creative and colourful costumes. It was heart-warming to hear the school echoing with the joyful voices of the entire school community celebrating the transformative power of books and reading. We even enjoyed a special Book Week cake.

We are excitedly looking forward to the building of our new library, which commences in a few weeks, and feel blessed to have an incredibly supportive leadership team, local and state, who have made possible a new library staffed by a teacher librarian and library technician. It is our hope that this will happen in more schools across Tasmania. The amazing students, families and staff who played a part in our imaginative celebration made Book Week 2023 a truly unforgettable experience.

Words have the power to transport us to new times, places and worlds, beautifully described by one of our Year 5 students, and the winner of our Senior Reading Award, Davi Konno Barretto.

Adventure Suitcase by Davi Konno Barretto.

Books look like a suitcase of your favourite adventures,
that you can take with you wherever you go.

Books smell like the imaginary places that they show me,
they sound like magic to my ears.

Books feel like the most beautiful thing in the world,
they let me taste the magical food in the books I read.

Books make me feel unique in the world,
because I feel like I have visited all the places books take me,
and I know that no one can ever take that from me.





Mrs Kathryn Jaeger
Teacher Librarian
John Paul II Catholic School.



Story Box Library is proud to showcase shortlisted for Children's Book of the Year Awards 2023. [Click here](#) to take a look.

Buy Local

When you buy a local book from a local independent bookstore, you are not only buying something of value, you're investing in Australian literature and the stories that may have comforted or sustained you over the last year. You are creating jobs in your community, supporting emerging authors and the bookstores which nurture them, and ensuring that a thriving literary community will feature in our post-pandemic world.

<https://www.asauthors.org/news/this-book-week-share-the-message-shoplocal-readlocal>



[Click here](#) to learn more.



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

5 Writers 5 Minutes

Tristan Bancks, Lian Tanner, Deborah Abela,
Sarah Armstrong & Zanni Louise
take you behind the scenes



WWW.YOUTUBE.COM/@5WRITERS5MINUTES



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The Uber-talented writing group has launched a bite-sized [podcast](#) and [YouTube channel](#) sharing their top writing tips and tools.

The **5 Writers 5 Minutes** podcast features [Deborah Abela](#), [Tristan Bancks](#), [Sarah Armstrong](#), [Lian Tanner](#), and [Zanni Louise](#) who share weekly writing and editing secrets, reveal how their books developed, and give tips on how to write your own story.

It's ideal for teachers to use in the classroom and for keen young (or not-so-young) writers everywhere.

YouTube channel: <https://www.youtube.com/@5writers5minutes>

Podcast: <https://5writers5minutes.buzzsprout.com/>

Book Review – Spellhound by Lian Tanner and illustrated by Sally Soweol Han

Felicia (the Queen disguised as Rose the chambermaid), Flax, a minch-wiggin (whose unfortunate title is Destroyer of Dragons), and a nameless spellhound pup must find Pup's parents, to learn the Three Great Secrets in Hallow and save Hallow from the dragon prophesied to end it. Each has their own secret which if shared could ruin everything. Through teamwork, trust and friendship, the three learn how truth has been misunderstood and what is really behind everything.

The story is told in alternating perspectives, not only Rose, Flax and the pup, but also an all-seeing green jelly baby eating narrator with their own secrets.

The whimsical black and white illustrations are by Sally Soweol Han, winner of the 2023 CBCA Award for New Illustrator.



The first in Lian Tanner's new fantasy adventure Dragons of Hallow series is injected with the Lian Tanner's trademark humour. My grandson and I eagerly await the next instalment.

Allen & Unwin ISBN 9781761180057 April 2023

Nella Pickup

National Executive

International Board of Books for Young People/IBBY Australia Inc

Children's Book Council of Australia, Tasmanian Branch - Life Member

National Book Council Tasmania - Life Member

Foundation for Literacy and Learning (FLL)



The CBCA's contribution aired on 16th August. For more information, [click here](#).

Book Review – Mother Earth by Libby Hawthorn and Christina Booth



Mother Earth: Poems to Celebrate the Wonder of Nature is a richly illustrated poetry book that focuses on the environment. Poems explore an array of connecting ideas across land, sea, earth and air: ‘Only Connect’ sets the tone highlighting how we are all connected and a part of life – but also some of the threats or negative changes – such as ‘Beach Blues’ that considers the impact on coastal regions through development and ‘Bushfire Baby’ that considers the aftermath of wildfire on native animals.

[Libby Hawthorn](#) has brought together previous published and new compositions that capture the essence of this book to successfully encourage young readers to celebrate the wonders of nature. I particularly enjoyed this new iteration as a poem rather than a picture of *The Wonder Thing* originally published in 1995 and artfully illustrated in woodcuts by Peter Gouldthorpe. [Christina Booth](#) has provided a new refreshing take suited to the verse style layout of this book – the luminescence of the Pixie Parasol ([mycena interrupta](#)) fungi is exquisite and subtly celebrates Christina’s Tasmanian connections. A range of verse styles encourage readers to explore intonation, rhythm and pacing and a list of poems is provided as an index with a clever touch of humour for the last one with its dotted arrow ... “you are here” to conclude with ‘Blue Planet Ours’.

From the embossed title on the cover and inclusive image of two children looking at planet Earth, to the layout, placement of words and images and use of colour throughout. The softly illustrated endpapers support the opening Earth haiku and closing Food Chain haiku. The meticulously planned design of this book adds further levels of thought and engagement throughout and provides scaffolds to add meaning and purpose to how young readers will engage with each poem and also make connections between them. The double page spread titled ‘Planet Earth Needs You For...’ is cleverly designed to compare different environments as well as the four elements set within appropriately illustrated spaces – with such a clever rendition of air. The art work glows across the pages – presenting rich colours, stark contrasts between healthy environments and damaged ones, and sense of texture pervades – some pages beg to be touched as they seem to grow out of the pages.

There are so many wonderful elements to *Mother Earth* that a review cannot do it justice. Grab a copy of this book and dive between the covers to celebrate life on Earth and rise up with a sense of wonder and strong belief that this world needs to be preserved – which is of course the unspoken but perfectly executed message. Congratulations Libby and Christina. This is an amazing publication!

Jennie Bales, CBCA Tasmania Committee Member

(This review is also shared on Jennie’s blog at

<https://jenniebales.wordpress.com/2023/07/14/mother-earth-libby-hathorn-christina-booth/>)

Even though it is September if you have not visited here and encouraged your students/children to get inspired then do!

Imagine Activities!

As you celebrate CBCA Book Week, why not take advantage of our FREE creative activities on the [Australian Children's Laureate website](https://www.childrenslaureate.org.au/).

This August, we are peering through doors. I wonder what stories you will discover as you Imagine a Story?

You will also find Laureate inspired writing activities, puzzles and games. Or why not pull out your paper and pencils and DRAW your very own MAGPIE or DRAGON.

We'd love to see what you create and include any drawings in our special [Illustration Gallery](#).

You can send your pictures to admin@childrenslaureate.org.au.





Squiz Kids is a daily news podcast made just for kids. Catch the Reading Bug and her team of reviewers tell listeners about two Walker books every month.

Keen to learn more? Check out the Squiz Kids Book Club website below or listen to their podcast: available on the Squiz Kids website or a number of streaming platforms!

If your students are interested in becoming part of Catch's crew and reviewing titles on the Squiz Kids podcast, they can apply to be a reviewer. Just follow the steps on the Squiz Kids website here: https://www.squizkids.com.au/book_club/



[Click here for your SEPTEMBER audiobook](#)

The F Team

Meet Tariq Nader, leader of 'The Wolf Pack' at Punchbowl High, who has been commanded by the new principal to join a football competition with his mates in order to rehabilitate the public image of their school. When the team is formed, Tariq learns there's a major catch – half of the team is made up of white boys from Cronulla, aka enemy territory – and he must compete with their strongest player for captaincy of the team.

At school Tariq thinks he has life all figured out until he falls for a new girl called Jamila, who challenges everything he thought he knew. At home, his outspoken ways have brought him into conflict with his family. Now, with complications on all fronts, he has to dig deep to control his anger, and find what it takes to be a leader.

In confronting and often hilarious situations, Tariq's relationships with his extended Lebanese family and his friends are tested like never before, and he comes to learn that his choices can have serious consequences.



Calendar of Events

7 October	<p>Love Your Bookshop Day</p> <p>https://www.loveyourbookshop.com.au/</p>
20-21 Oct	<p>PETAA 2023 Leading with Literacy Conference – Literature: The Heart of the English Curriculum</p> <p>https://petaaconference.edu.au/</p>
23 October	<p>International School Library Day</p> <p>https://www.awarenessdays.com/awareness-days-calendar/international-school-library-month-2023/</p> <p>https://planbee.com/blogs/news/your-easy-guide-to-international-school-library-month</p> <p>https://nationaltoday.com/international-school-libraries-month/</p> <p>https://storyboxlibrary.com.au/blog/stories-for-international-school-library-day</p>
21-29 October	<p>Children’s Week Tasmania</p> <p>https://playgrouptas.org.au/events</p>
27-28 October	<p>Literature Centre - Celebrate Reading Conference 2023 Fremantle, WA</p> <p>https://www.thelitcentre.org.au/whats-on/celebrate-reading-national-conference.aspx</p>
November	<p>Speech Pathology Australian Book of the Year Awards</p> <p>https://www.speechpathologyaustralia.org.au/SPAweb/What's_On/Book_of_the_Year/Book_of_the_Year.aspx</p>

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.

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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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

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