



CBCA Tasmania Newsletter

June 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

NEW CBCA TAMANIAN BOARD MEMBER

Congratulations to Loretta Brazendale on being accepted as the Tasmania's new Director to the CBCA Board. Loretta replaces Kay Allport who has served with distinction in the best interests of our branch and nationally. She has big shoes to fill but I am sure Loretta will be an excellent representative for CBCA Tasmania Branch.

LOW LITERACY RATES

The media recently published several articles once again highlighting Tasmania's low literacy rates – less than 50% and not improving – according to the latest international reading results data. Additionally, Australia's average score was lower than Singapore, Hong Kong, England, the Russian Federation, Finland and Poland. However, it was on par with countries such as Sweden, Denmark and Italy.

Just another reason why Tasmanian and Australian books of literary merit should be fostered and promoted at every opportunity. Possessing the ability to read, understand language and effectively communicate are important!

READ ALOUD

Most readers will be aware of the partnership between our Branch and the Toast for Kids Charity Inc's project HELP BABIES LEARN. That project commenced two years ago inspired by Tasmania's low literacy rates. The publication of the children's book by Toast for Kids was the result - *Tassie Rhymes for little tigers* by Narelda Joy. It is free to Tasmanian parents of newborn babies. A braille/low vision companion version was also released.

Toast for Kids Charity Inc. has now furthered its efforts to foster a culture of reading aloud every day to children, looking to increase literacy skills statewide, partnering with radio ARN - Tasmania from 1 May 2023 to promote the message statewide:

"There's a simple, easy way to help your children learn – read aloud to them every day. Studies have shown that reading aloud can help your child develop language skills, learn more, and enjoy reading. By reading aloud every day, you will be investing in their future. So be proud, read aloud! An initiative of Toast for Kids Charity and the Help Babies Learn project. For more information, head to the Toast for Kids Facebook Page."

This message will be regularly broadcasted through ARN - Tasmania: 7HOFM (Hobart), LAFM and Chilli (Launceston), 7AD and 107.7 SeaFM (Devonport), 7BU and 101.7 SeaFM (Burnie), 7XS (Queenstown), 7SD and Chilli North-East (Scottsdale), encouraging parents, grandparents, siblings, family friends, carers and the wider community to read aloud every day to their children.

LIFTING LITERACY

Premier Rockliff recently released the Literacy Advisory Panel's final report, *Lifting Literacy: the Community-wide Framework*, and accepted all of the Panel's 23 priority recommendations. \$6.5 million has been allocated over four years via the 2023-24 Budget to start this important work. The *Lifting Literacy* report can be found at

<https://www.dpac.tas.gov.au/literacy/home/framework-and-final-report>

The period of appointment of the Literacy Advisory Panel has now concluded. For information on next steps for this important work read Premier Rockliff's latest media release: https://www.premier.tas.gov.au/site_resources_2015/additional_releases/investing-to-improve-literacy-outcomes-in-tasmania

A CONVERSATION ON THE CBCA BOOK OF THE YEAR SHORTLIST

Congratulations to committee member Jennie Bales, who with the support of Libraries Tasmania: Launceston Library, hosted a conversation on the 2023 Shortlist. Jennie was supported by with Carol Fuller (Judge, Book of the Year Older Reader category) and CBCA Tas Life Members Maureen Mann and Nella Pickup. This free event was well attended and very much appreciated by those who attended. Jennie reports on this event in this newsletter.

CBCA BOOK WEEK

CBCA's 2023 Book Week will be held August 19-25 with the theme READ, GROW, INSPIRE. Each year across Australia, the CBCA brings children and books together celebrating CBCA Book Week. During this time schools, libraries, booksellers, authors, illustrators and children celebrate Australian children's literature. Media and social media share children's book character parades and amazing displays curated by talented library staff.



We encourage everyone to get into character and share your picture by tagging @spotlight. Spotlight is a major sponsor of CBCA Book Week.

2024 BOOK OF THE YEAR AWARDS ENTRIES ARE NOW OPEN!

We're excited to announce the launch of an all-new page on the CBCA website for submitting entries to the CBCA 2024 Book of the Year.

Use the link <https://awards.cbca.org.au/>

The facility provides many improvements.

- You can save an entry part way through and return to complete later.
- You can quickly duplicate an entry for simple and speedy entry into multiple categories.
- Entry instructions, guidelines, and contest criteria, can be found easily.
- A customer portal can keep you updated on the status of your entry.

Simply create a new account using any of the available easy access methods, step through the itemised tabs, and place your entry!

Entries are open now. Take advantage of the super early registration special of \$99 deal, running from 1 April 2023 until 30 September 2023. Entries from 1 October through 30 November are \$199 per book/per category. No late submissions accepted.

A stylized, handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Steve Martin'.

Steve Martin

President, Tasmanian Branch, Childrens Book Council of Tasmania

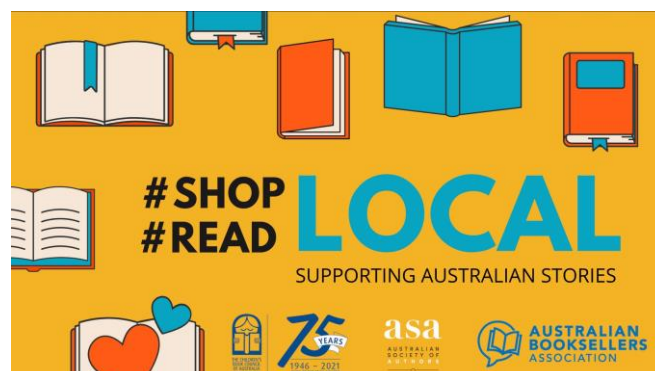
Book Week Merchandise



Buy local this August during Book Week

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>



A Wonderful Conversation on the CBCA Book of the Year Shortlist

This informal event held in May, brought together children's book enthusiasts including current and past library workers, Friends of the Library, and some people from the general public. With the support of Launceston Library staff, we were able to offer this event in a public environment to reach a wider audience, though we did have to work through the background noise from the adjacent Pod Café for a while. The library also collected nearly all of the shortlisted titles to display (a stupendous effort!) and this chance to view some of the lesser-known titles was appreciated.

The session kicked off with Tasmanian Older Reader judge, Carol Fuller, who also provided an overview of the judging process and how hard decisions are made. Carol willingly shared her own notations across the Notable list as well as some further recommendations of books that she read and thoroughly enjoyed even if not selected by the judging panel. I, and I am sure others, have been steadily working through some of these further titles.

Nella Pickup provided insights into the Younger Readers (YR) selection including shortlisted titles and some of the notables. Nella also made connections to Tasmanian authors including Kate Gordon's three books that explore mental health issues through the characters of Aster (a 2021 YR winner), Xavier (2022 YR short list) and Indigo (just published). This category elicited some great conversations as this year sees a really strong selection of candidates and a number of the group had clear favourites in terms of the quality of the stories told and the writing and presentation of those books.

Maureen Mann led the discussion on picture books from the Picture Book, Early Childhood and some of the New Illustrator titles with some great interchanges as we shared various opinions on the quality and variety of books.

Jennie Bales focused on the Eve Pownall shortlist with two Tasmanian entries to celebrate and a particular note that five of the six shortlisted were animal-related but vastly different in the way that factual information was presented. Many in the group agreed that the remaining title, *Come Together*, was a particularly informative and accessible contribution to understanding Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures.

Participants were encouraged to share their own responses to shortlisted titles and there was some interesting discussion on other books that were on the notable list or that did not make the cut. An extra touch was having a range of Book Week merchandise to show including posters, the book bag, stickers and other bits and pieces - they are quite gorgeous! An on-the-spot quiz question about each category resulted in many participants going away with a prize. It was terrific to present this session with a panel of avid readers to lead discussions on each category to such a committed, enthusiastic and well-read audience. This provided a variety of perspectives, and as between us, we had read nearly all of the books, a range of

opinions and insights were shared. Thanks go to the panel for sharing their insights and the audience for contributing to the conversation.

Jennie Bales

CBCA Committee Member and event organiser



Membership

Without our members CBCA Tasmania wouldn't exist. So why not encourage a colleague to join with a [personal or institutional membership](https://cbcatas.org.au/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. Membership forms are available on the website (link above).



These subscriptions not only support CBCA Tasmania Branch, but also help to keep members informed about what is happening in CBCA Tasmania and in Australia.

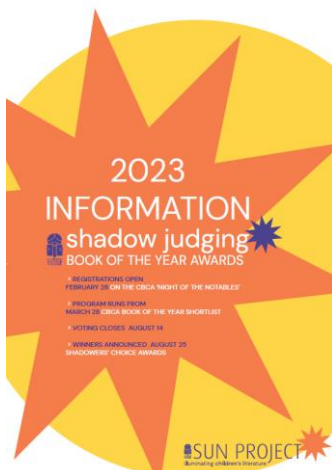
<https://cbcatas.org.au/membership/>

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, one 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.



For more details, go to <https://shadowjudging.cbca.org.au>

Hans Christian Andersen Award nominees 2024

IBBY Australia is delighted to announce its two nominees for the Hans Christian Andersen Award 2024 - **Gary Crew (Writing)** and **Matt Ottley (Illustration)**. The list of nominees was announced at the Bologna Children's Book Fair.

GARY DAVID CREW is one of Australia's most awarded authors for youth, having won, been shortlisted or been nominated for over fifty Australian and international literary awards. He has won a Children's Book Council of Australia Book of the Year Award four times: twice for his novels, twice for his illustrated books. Whilst teaching English and History, Crew began writing novels for adolescents in the 1980s.

From 1990 he has been both a freelance writer and a lecturer, first at the Queensland University of Technology, and since the 2000s, at the University of the Sunshine Coast, where he is currently Emeritus Professor. See his outstanding list of awards [here](#).

MATT OTTLEY is an extraordinarily gifted writer and illustrator for children and young adults who has published more than 30 picture books, in several languages, and contributed artworks to many fiction and non-fiction books. He is also a highly regarded composer, producing multi-modal works. [Ottley's](#) works are intensely detailed, and he is recognised as a master of 'subtext' in his use of visual metaphor.

His early published works include *What Faust Saw* (1995), *Mrs Millie's Painting* (1997) and *Luke's Way of Looking* (1999). His book for older readers *Requiem for a Beast* (2007) combines his talents and includes a CD of music for chamber orchestra, a novella length text, nearly 100 pages of images, and a 70-page musical score. Jan Ormerod wrote (2008) that '*Requiem for a Beast*...anticipates and deserves a high level of reader participation ... Only an artist of Ottley's stature could depict his surreal dream sequences, turbulent weather, vast Australian landscapes, cattle drives, myth, legend and intimate human interaction with such aplomb and visual inventiveness.'

Walker Books Manuscript Prize

Walker Books, an Australian publishing house, is celebrating its 30th anniversary with the establishment of the Walker Books Manuscript Prize. The aim of this new manuscript prize is to foster a new generation of Australian voices, who best represent Walker Books' values of excellence, accessibility and inclusivity.

The Prize will be awarded biennially (every two years) to an unpublished manuscript, from 5,000 to 80,000 words written for a readership of 8+ and suitable for formats junior fiction, middle grade fiction or young adult fiction. The manuscript will be judged on literary merit, its originality and use of language, and on its representation of Walker's values.

For more details, go to <https://www.walkerbooks.com.au/manuscript-prize-2023/>

Book Review – Indigo in the Storm by Kate Gordon

This is a companion novel to the highly awarded *Aster's Good, Right Things* and *Xavier in the Meantime*. It is not necessary (though highly desirable) to have read these books as the characters' backstories are included.

Indigo Michael was born in a storm and the fury of it has stayed with her. Life with Mum doesn't have meaning; it's a struggle for survival. Mum abandons her. Aster's Aunt Noni becomes her foster parent and suddenly Indigo has a new "family" whether she wants it or not. Then the new student Liam's revolutionary graffiti opens her to ideas about building something, being something that Mum might see and want back in her life.

This exquisitely written middle grade and younger YA book deals with mental health issues, with family and a supportive community, with belonging, with art and sustainability and most importantly hope. A strong contender for the 2024 CBCA Book of the Year.

Riveted Press 2023

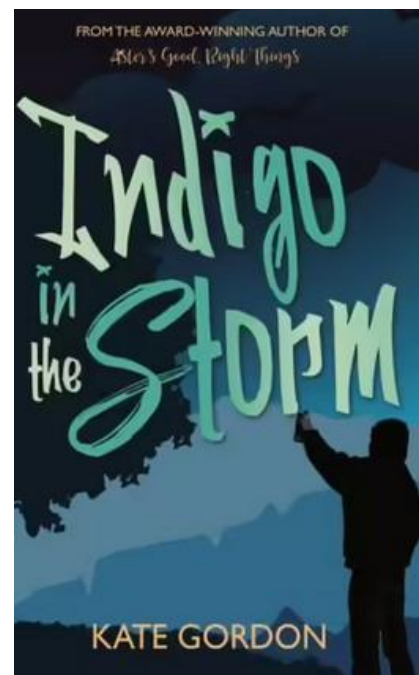
Nella Pickup

National Executive

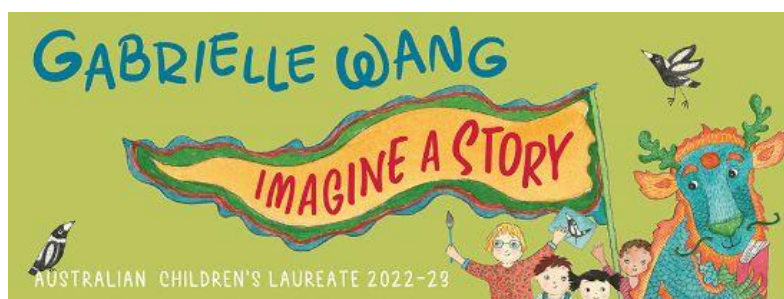
International Board of Books for Young People/IBBY Australia Inc

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

National Book Council Tasmania - Life Member



Australian Children's Laureate

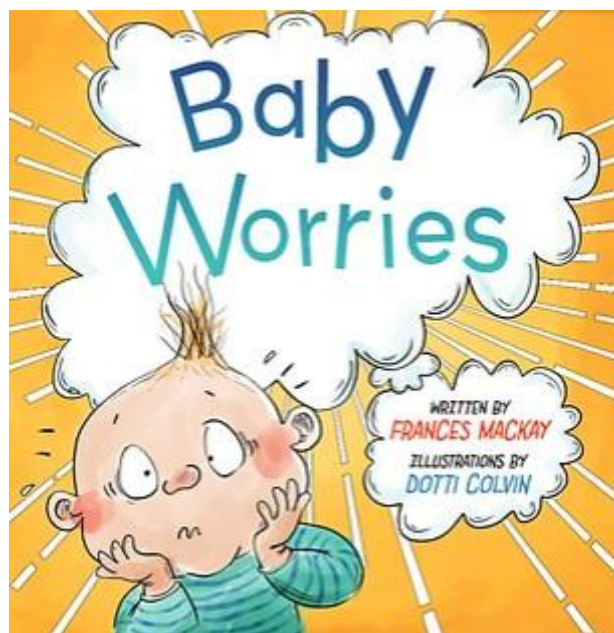


Book Review – Baby Worries by Frances Mackay

When a family meets a baby, the usual banter is “he has your eyes” or “he looks like...” At first, baby is pleased but some references - Uncle Ted’s legs, Uncle Max’s eyebrows leave him extremely worried. There’s a humorous twist at the end and also a ‘find a ginger cat’ (or part of a cat) activity on 11 pages.

The bright cartoon style illustrations show the many diverse and quirky family members. However, how many babies are born with a tooth? Aimed at a younger audience.

This book can be used as a starter for exploring a child’s own feelings and worries or more likely read for entertainment value.



Illustrated by Dotti Colvin. Winner of the 2022 Wishing Shelf Book Award for picture books for ages 6-8 years. Self-published 2022

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



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

SQUIZ KIDS BOOK CLUB

With Catch, the Reading Bug!



Walker Books Australia is thrilled to announce a partnership with the Squiz Kids Book Club!

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/

Former President of CBCA Tas is currently reading ...

Leanne Rands is currently reading *Solomon Macaroni and the Cousin Catastrophe*.

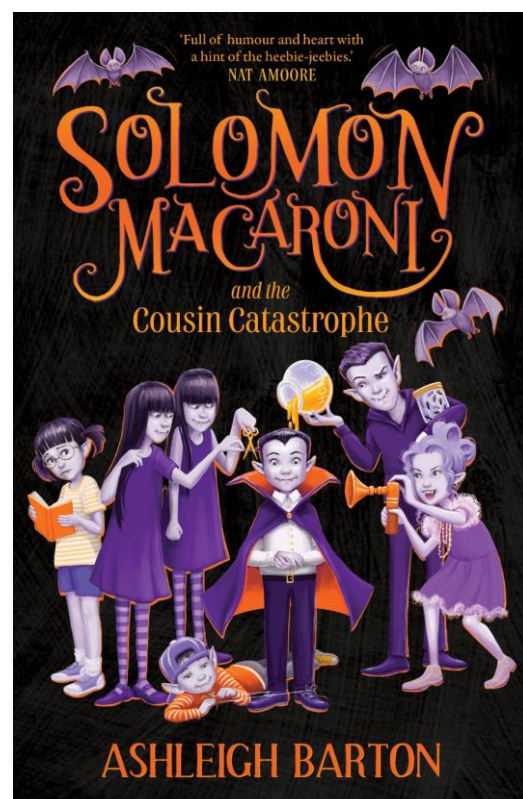
This book written by Ashleigh Barton tells the tale of a young vampire only 552 years old who is friendly, polite and makes a mean Tofu Bolognese.

When his parents go on a one-hundred-year cruise without him he is left with his cousins and Uncle Dracula in Transylvania.

His cousins, except for Lucy, are the rudest and naughtiest vampires in Transylvania and Uncle Dracula is a wacky inventor.

Solomon must draw on all he knows about old magic, wet wipes, and the importance of a well-timed entrance to save his catastrophic cousins and possibly the world.

This is an engaging spooky story that isn't too scary for children in the middle grades.



Calendar of Events

August 24	Australian School Library Day https://asla.org.au/ASLD
September 2	ECA Tasmania Branch in collaboration with B4 Early Years Coalition Forum 2023 https://b4.education.tas.gov.au/
September 5	Wilderness Society Nature Book Week Wilderness Society Karajia & Environment Awards for Children's Literature.
September 13	Roald Dahl Day https://www.awarenessdays.com/awareness-days-calendar/roald-dahl-story-day-2023/
October 7	Love Your Bookshop Day https://www.loveyourbookshop.com.au/
October 14-17	Tamar Valley Writer's Festival=Book Launch: Claire van Ryn, The Secrets of the Huon Wren Debut fiction author Claire van Ryn will release her book The Secrets of the Huon Wren on Thursday July 6, 2023, 6pm, at the UTAS Inveresk Library. More information to come. https://tamarvalleywritersfestival.com.au/the-festival/events/

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).



**ECA Tasmania Branch in collaboration
with B4 Early Years Coalition
FORUM 2023**

02/09/23 Blundstone Arena

**The 3 P's in Early Years - Partnerships,
Professionalism and Practice**



**Early Childhood
Australia**
Tasmania Branch



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/>



Donate to the CBCA Award Foundation

From \$5.00 AUD



Donate to the CBCA Gift Fund

From \$5.00 AUD

The CBCA Awards Foundation

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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)**