



THE CHILDREN'S
BOOK COUNCIL
OF AUSTRALIA

THE CBCA BOOK OF THE YEAR AWARDS

JUDGES' REPORT

2022



THE CBCA JUDGES' REPORT 2022

Category reports written by the CBCA Book of the Year Awards judges:

CBCA Book of the Year: Older Readers:

Michael Earp (VIC), Kayte Eyre (NSW) and Carol Fuller (TAS)

CBCA Book of the Year: Younger Readers:

Colleen Caddey (ACT), Claire Kierath (WA) and Danielle Miller (QLD)

CBCA Book of the Year: Early Childhood:

Gabrielle Anderson (QLD), Kate Burbeck (NT) and Bronwyn Joseph (VIC)

CBCA Picture Book of the Year and Award for New Illustrator:

Sarah Forrest (SA), Margot Lindgren (NSW) and Sarah Mayor Cox (VIC)

Eve Pownall Award:

Sheryl Cootes (NSW), Alida Galati (VIC) and Alex Wharton (NSW)

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

We respect and honour Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Elders past, present and future.

We acknowledge the stories, traditions and living cultures of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples on this land and commit to building a brighter future together.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The National Board of the Children's Book Council of Australia would like to thank sincerely the fifteen judges for their hard work throughout the year, in selecting and critiquing this impressive collection of books.

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The Children's Book Council of Australia is a voluntary organisation established in 1945 to promote children's literature and to encourage children to read. Membership of the eight state and territory branches is open to those interested in children's books: parents, teachers, librarians, students, publishers, authors, illustrators, booksellers and journalists. Membership applications should be sent to CBCA Branches:

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The CBCA, New South Wales Branch

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The CBCA, Northern Territory Branch

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BACKGROUND

The Children's Book Council of Australia began recognising and celebrating Australian children's literature through the annual CBCA Book of the Year Awards commencing in 1946. These awards aim to affirm the creators of outstanding children's books across Australia. Today it continues to administer and present the annual CBCA Book of the Year Awards. Each year publishers enter books in the Awards and judges read, reflect, review and exchange reports on every title accepted for entry. The judging process is guided by the Awards category titles and criteria as stated in the Children's Book Council of Australia Awards Policy and set out in this publication. This document contains the judges' report on 602 titles published in the year 2021 and submitted by publishers and creators for the 2022 CBCA Book of the Year Awards.

The 2022 Notables List was announced on 2/2/22. We celebrated this auspicious and special date with many of our Australian CBCA member creatives contributing to lively videos of the number 2. Many CBCA Branches hosted virtual and 'in person' 'Night of the Notables' events.

For the 2022 CBCA Shortlist announcement, the CBCA were thrilled to present a film produced by our 2020 New Illustrator Award recipient and 2022 Book Week artist, Jasmine Seymour, featuring her artwork and music. The video premiered online on March 29, allowing viewers from across Australia to watch the announcement simultaneously.

The 76th CBCA Book of the Year Awards, consisting of one winner and up to two Honour Books in each category, was announced online on August 19. Our partners at Story Box Library were commissioned to produce a quality, inspiring announcement video featuring Claire Hooper as the anchor.

The CBCA Book of the Year announcement marked the beginning of CBCA Book Week 2022 with the theme 'Dreaming with eyes open...' which celebrates our connection to Country.

CATEGORIES

There are six categories in the CBCA Book of the Year Awards:

a. CBCA Book of the Year: Older Readers

Entries listed in this category are outstanding books for young people aged between 13 and 18 years (secondary school level). Readers require a degree of maturity to appreciate the themes and scope of emotional involvement. Books in this category may be fiction, drama, illustrated text, poetry, or graphic novels. Judging considers the literary qualities of the text, editing and book production.

b. CBCA Book of the Year: Younger Readers

Entries listed in this category are outstanding books published for children in the age range from 7 to 12 years (primary school level). Books in this category may be fiction, drama, illustrated text, poetry, or graphic novels. Judging considers the literary qualities of the text, editing and book production.

c. CBCA Book of the Year: Early Childhood

Entries listed in this category are outstanding books suitable in content and style for pre-readers and beginning readers or children in the age range 0 to 6 years (pre-school and infants' level). These include works of fiction, poetry, wordless, board and concept books. The illustrations reflect the text on the page and often do not add extra meaning to the storyline.

The font size and style, rhythm and meter of the text are important. Clear design, layout and editing are also important.

d. CBCA Picture Book of the Year

Entries listed in this category are outstanding books of the genre in which the text and illustrations achieve artistic and literary unity and the story, theme or concept are enhanced and unified through the illustrations. Picture books can be for any age. A picture book can be written and illustrated by a sole creator or a collaborative effort between two or more creators. The text and illustrations work cohesively. The illustrations are an integral part of or extend the action on the page. The illustrations are either as important as the text or more important and can be enjoyed separately from the text. Illustrators who have taken an existing piece of work and produced new illustrations that enhance that text can only be entered in this category.

e. Eve Pownall Award

Entries listed in this category are books with the prime purpose of documenting factual material. Consideration should be given to imaginative presentation, interpretation and variation of style. Books are judged on the balance and harmony of language style and presentation, graphic excellence, clarity, appropriateness and aesthetic appeal of illustrations and the overall design of the book. Referencing of sources is important; books may include a contents page, index, bibliography and glossary which enhance the reader's experience. Autobiographies and biographies are entered in this category. The age range for this category is 0 to 18 years.

f. CBCA Award for New Illustrator

Entries for this category are books where the illustrator is emerging or new to the field of children's book illustration. The entry must be the illustrator's first illustrated book published by a trade publisher where illustrations form a significant part of the book's narrative or information content. The age range for this category is 0 to 18 years. Illustrators who have taken an existing piece of work and produced new illustrations that enhance that text can be entered in this category.

JUDGING PROCESS

Judges are required to read all books entered in their category during the judging period, then discuss and write preliminary critiques on each entry using the judging criteria. An entered book will be judged only in the nominated category against the category criteria.

Books entered for the Awards are assessed primarily for:

- Outstanding literary merit, including cohesiveness in significant literary elements;
- Language chosen for its appropriateness to the theme and style of the work with proper regard to the aesthetic qualities of language; and
- Originality in the treatment of literary elements as they apply to the form of the work.
- Consideration is given to the quality of illustrations, book design, editing, production, printing and binding.

Judges for these Awards commenced the judging process in May 2021 and finalised their deliberations in February 2022. This year, the judging panels met via teleconference for final discussion and decision-making.

THE JUGDES

CBCA Book of the Year: Older Readers



MICHAEL EARP

Michael Earp is a writer and bookseller living in Melbourne, Australia. He is the contributing editor of *Kindred: 12 Queer #LoveOzYA Stories* (2019) and contributor to *Underdog: #LoveOzYA Short Stories* (2019). He has a Masters in Children's Literature and an undergraduate degree in Early Childhood Teaching. For over seventeen years he has worked between bookselling and publishing as a children's and young adult specialist, currently managing The Little Bookroom. His writing has also appeared in *The Victorian Writer* and *Aurealis*. A passionate advocate for LGBTQIA+ literature for young people, he established the #AusQueerYA Tumblr to

catalogue all Australian young adult fiction containing queer content and characters. He was previously volunteer committee chair for the #LoveOzYA campaign, a 'Read Local' initiative to raise the profile of young adult fiction written by Australians.



KAYTE EYRE

Kathryn is a passionate believer in the power of literature to enhance our society and improve educational outcomes. Kathryn is Head of Library at The Pittwater House Schools, NSW and has been an educator for over 20 years. Her teaching experience includes positions in Japan, England and Australia and she has taught across the different sectors of education, government, Catholic and independent. She has long been a devourer of books and is currently a reviewer for the NSW Premier's Reading Challenge year 7-9 booklist. She is surrounded by young adults each day and is acutely aware of their reading styles and habits. Kathryn is keen to

support the wonderful work of the CBCA in the capacity of judge.



CAROL FULLER

Carol Fuller is a retired teacher having taught English, Ancient History, Social Science, and anything else when needed. She has been in classrooms from grade 3 right through to university having lectured for two years in English Curriculum and Methodology and Primary Literacy at UTas. Carol has been a member of CBCA (Tas) for over 10 years and is currently co-hosting a school for seniors course for grandparents entitled 'Choosing books for Grandchildren'. In 2009/10 she was the CBCA Tasmanian judge. Carol's seven year old granddaughter and twelve year old grandson, both of whom are avid readers, keep her up to date with

current children's literature and interests.

CBCA Book of the Year: Younger Readers



COLLEEN CADDEY

Throughout her 40 year career in education Colleen has shared a love of reading and teaching reading through quality literature in schools across NSW and the ACT. Colleen has a Masters of Education (Teaching and Learning) and currently holds the position of Senior Officer, Literacy Specialist at Catholic Education Canberra Goulburn. Her work with 56 schools across the sector involves supporting teachers in classes from Kindergarten to Year 10 to engage with and appreciate literature for inclusion in their planned teaching and learning. She is looking forward to being able to contribute to the promotion of Australian authors and high-

quality Australian children's literature through participation in the judging process.



CLAIRE KIERATH

Claire has nurtured a lifelong love of children's literature through her degree in Creative Writing and Children's literature from Edith Cowan University, Honours from Murdoch University and a MPhil in Education (Critical Approaches to Children's Literature) from the University of Cambridge, UK, where she learned about all forms of children's literature from picture book structure, poetry and YA fiction through to apps and graphic novels from some of the world's leading academics. Alongside her current role as a Technical Writer, Claire has worked for over ten years as a competitive swimming coach, mentor and tutor to children, teenagers

and adults focusing on academic writing for university, English skills, and ATAR preparation. She also has experience with creative writing, including the short story, film, and play.



DANIELLE MILLER

Danielle is a Teacher Librarian at a P-12 college in Brisbane and has a Bachelor of Primary Education and a Master of Education Teacher Librarianship through Queensland University of Technology. 2021 will be her second year as a member of the Queensland CBCA Branch committee. She is an avid reader of everything from picture books through to adult books but finds her place in middle years and young adult fiction. Danielle is an advocate for Australian literature and enjoys helping students develop a lifelong love of reading. Book Week is her favourite week of the school calendar and she thoroughly enjoys the challenge of dressing up.

CBCA Book of the Year: Early Childhood



GABRIELLE ANDERSON

Gabrielle's passion for children's literature stems from a 40-year career as a Teacher Librarian in a variety of primary schools in Adelaide. She served briefly as a committee member on the SA branch of CBCA. Recently retired, she has relocated to Brisbane with her husband to be closer to her daughters and grandchildren. Over the last few years her love of books has led her to review picture books and novels for ReadPlus. She works part-time as an English and Reading tutor and in her free time she enjoys dabbling in painting and drawing at home. Her qualifications include a Diploma of Teaching (Primary), Bachelor Education (Art and P.E.) and a Graduate Diploma in Teacher Librarianship. She is passionate about the need for guaranteed and appropriate staffing in all school libraries and is looking forward to becoming more involved in CBCA in Brisbane.



KATE BURBECK

Kate Burbeck is the librarian at The Alice Springs Steiner School. Prior to this role, she honed her skills for over 10 years in the public library sector, providing library services for children and youth. She has a Bachelor of Information Studies and she is soon to complete a Masters of Teaching in Primary and Early Childhood, specialising in English and literature. The daughter of a visual artist, Kate is also a prolific creative writer.



BRONWYN JOSEPH

Bronwyn's passion for picture books was nurtured as a child and continues to grow. She has taught in various teaching positions, having qualified with a Bachelor of Education (Primary) from Deakin University. When she joined Melbourne Grammar School working as a Teacher Librarian, she undertook post-graduate studies in children's literature, opening up new ways to analyse literature whilst also informing her teaching and the ways she shares literature. Bronwyn is dedicated to connecting young students to books that engage them and give them success. She is also a strong advocate for the use of picture books across all areas of the curriculum, encouraging and supporting teachers. Bronwyn is thrilled to be judging the Early Childhood Category.

CBCA Picture Book of the Year and CBCA Award for New Illustrator



SARAH FORREST

Sarah Forrest is a lecturer and PhD candidate at the University of South Australia. She specialises in English education, working with primary, middle and secondary pre-service teachers. Sarah is an advocate for quality children's literature and is particularly passionate about picture books for readers of all ages. She has written articles for the journal *Literacy Learning: The Middle Years*, for which she is also copy editor, and is Vice President of the Australian Literacy Educators' Association, South Australia. Her love of literature extends into her personal life: she enjoys sharing books with her own children, is the coordinator of a book discussion group and the proud custodian of Hart's Mill Little Free Library in Port Adelaide. Sarah believes in the power of putting the right book into the right person's hand, and the potential of literature in extending our experiences and understanding of the world around us.



MARGOT LINDGREN

Margot Lindgren worked as a Teacher Librarian in NSW Primary Schools for 33 years in a variety of settings, from small rural schools to her last role at a large metropolitan campus. She believes strongly in the importance of school libraries and has a passion for children's literature. Margot is currently the National Secretary of IBBY Australia (International Board on Books for the Young) and she is also a member of the CBCA NSW branch. In retirement Margot is a regular volunteer at Westmead Children's Hospital in their Book Bunker. Margot has an MEd in Teacher Librarianship and Post Graduate qualifications in Children's Literature. She joined the CBCA in 1983 and in 2021 she is thrilled to take up the role of judge for the Picture Book category. She loves picture books that enrich children's lives, that contain carefully crafted text and images, are of universal appeal and are thus able to be shared by children around the world.



SARAH MAYOR COX

Sarah has worked as a Primary Teacher, Teacher Librarian, University Lecturer, literacy coach, conference and festival convenor, and book reviewer. Sarah currently works in schools and community organisations as the Founder and Lead Literacy Consultant of EoL=MC2 (Ecology of Learning = Mayor Cox2). In her spare time, she is the Bendigo Regional Director of CBCA, a member of the Central Victoria Local Council of ALEA, and is involved with the Bendigo Writers Festival. She's an enthusiastic and vocal member of her local CAE book group (which she joined to force her to read at least one adult book a month) but ironically, she rarely finishes the monthly book because of all the other reading she does. Sarah reviews children's and YA texts fortnightly, with Jo Printz on ABC Central Victoria Local Radio 91.1; and with Trevor Chappell on Overnights, ABC Melbourne.

Eve Pownall Award



SHERYL COOTES

Sheryl Cootes has been teaching for over thirty years in schools in the Blue Mountains and western Sydney areas. She has been Teacher, Assistant Principal and Relieving Principal at Department of Education schools, most recently in the role of Assistant Principal at Bidwill Primary School, mentoring inexperienced teachers in the use of literature in the classroom and establishing a culture of 'reading for pleasure' among students. She is a recipient of the Minister's Award for Excellence in Teaching and the Australian College of Education Award for Outstanding Achievement. Sheryl is passionate about engaging students with children's literature, conducting Book Clubs for senior students and challenging them to read forty books within a school year. Sheryl is currently President of the Blue Mountains sub-branch of the CBCA (NSW branch), a position she has held since 2015. She has established Little Free Libraries at ten locations in the middle and upper mountains, providing access to quality children's literature for the broader community. Sheryl has recently been appointed School Programs Manager for WestWords, a significant provider of programs promoting literature development for young people in Western Sydney and the Blue Mountains.



ALIDA GALATI

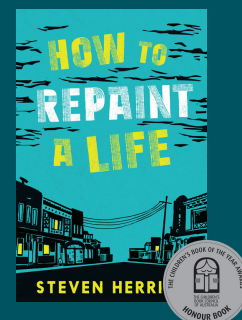
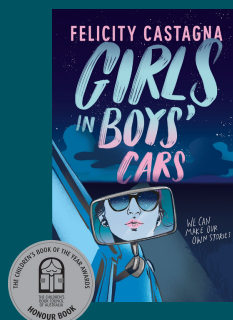
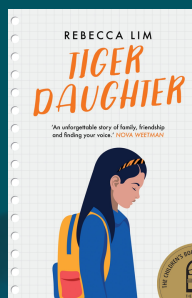
Alida Galati's lifelong passion for books and reading has led her down a variety of information paths, right through to her current role as a secondary school librarian at Ivanhoe Grammar School. Her qualifications include a Bachelor of Arts (Italian Studies and English Literature, La Trobe University); and a Graduate Diploma in Information Management and Library Studies (RMIT University). She is a keen reader, across all genres, and is an enthusiast of YA fiction. She loves talking about books with her students and believes a great book conversation is not what she has to say about it, but what they bring to the interaction. She dabbles in writing and has written book reviews for Books + Publishing, and Better Reading; and about school reading programs and initiatives in SLAV's FYI journal. Alida is nervously excited to take on the role as a CBCA Judge.



ALEX WHARTON

Alex Wharton is Head of Middle School at Carinya Christian School, Gunnedah. He is a proud and award-winning classroom practitioner, having taught in a variety of primary and secondary school contexts in metropolitan and rural areas around NSW. Alex is a Director with the English Teachers Association NSW and is a presenter/writer for the Australian Association for the Teaching of English. He was the inaugural Copyright Agency Reading Australia Fellow and a recipient of a national Commonwealth Bank Teaching Award. Alex has served as the Secretary for the Dorothea Mackellar Memorial Society and is an active member of the LoveOzYA Committee. He has been a judge for Red Room Poetry, the Queen's Commonwealth Essay Competition, and the NSW Premier's Literary Awards.

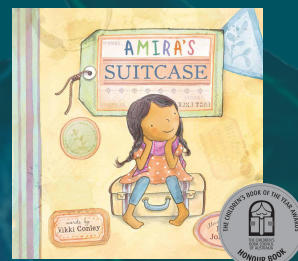
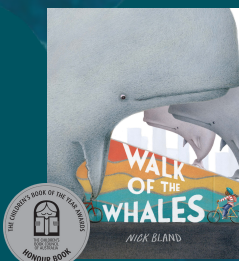
OLDER READERS



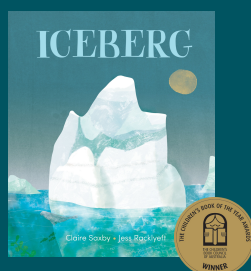
YOUNGER READERS



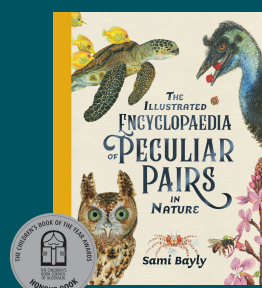
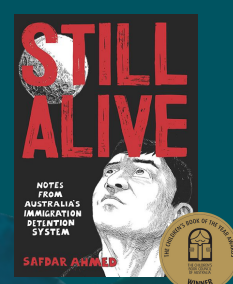
EARLY CHILDHOOD



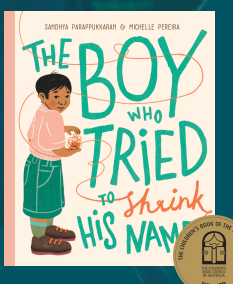
PICTURE BOOK



EVE POWNALL AWARD



NEW ILLUSTRATOR AWARD



THE 2022 CBCA BOOK OF THE YEAR
WINNER & HONOUR BOOKS

Judge's Report Introduction

This year the judges were largely pleased with both the quality and quantity of entries. In yet another unusual year, the effects of COVID and worldwide shipping issues meant that we received many late entries causing unusual pressure on the judges. There was a slight increase in entries, compared to last year. The topics of diverse families, the environment and conservation were again very popular among the entries, and the judges were excited by the variety of topics covered this year and the creativity shown by Australian Creators.

OLDER READERS JUDGES' REPORT

Of the full cohort of books in the Older Readers (OR) category nearly a third were from new authors and there was a wonderful diversity of cultural flavour and interest in stories and characters. Female authors far out-numbered male authors. There were a number of LGBTQIA+ authors who were able to write with authenticity about queer relationships. This same authenticity was apparent in the books by those authors who identified as disabled.

It's a pity the Notables is a limited list because there were several other titles worthy of mention which shows the depth and quality of entrants in OR this year. There were several books entered for this category that were voted not OR appropriate. These misplaced books were immediately identified by content, characterisation, voice, and publication. Having identified these books as more suited to YR it also has to be said that very few of the books on the OR list were for the younger end of this category. Most focused on more senior readers. This is a factor that we hope authors and publishers will note.

There was the usual teenage angst about futures, relationships, and self-image. In fact, more than half of the books dealt with contemporary realism. Family dysfunction and parental expectations and the female status in Australian society also featured in several books. Having read the OR Notables for the previous two years there was an increase in the number of gay relationships explored and a wider range of characters including Indigenous and disabled teens. Romance was a persistent theme in every genre.

Some, like *Being Black 'n Chicken and Chips* by Matt Okine, *How to Repaint a Life* by Steven Herrick, and *The Boy from the Mish* by Gary Lonesborough were particularly skilful in balancing their heavier topics with humour, levity or emotional reprieve reflecting the ups and downs of life. While others embraced their subject matter completely, exploring it thoroughly such as *Tiger Daughter* by Rebecca Lim and *The Gaps* by Leanne Hall.

There were very few historical stories and stories that were just plain adventure. *Evacuation Road* by HM Waugh, *Trouble is my Business* by Lisa Walker and *The Break* by Phillip Gwynne represented the lighter adventure genre. Modern times and real life, teen angst seemed to dominate. The environment and climate change were surprisingly under-represented. One book that did venture into environmental activism was *If Not Us* by Mark Smith which explored the current fossil fuel debate. An interesting amalgamation of climate change, science fiction and dystopian future was Phillip Rutherford's *Hydrosphere Rising*.

Sci-fi and speculative fiction effectively explored concepts that permeate the real world. *When We Are Invisible* (Claire Zorn) dives straight into domestic violence, coercion, and mental health, despite its post-apocalyptic setting. Environmental concerns, as well as power imbalances come through in *Waking Romeo* (Kathryn Barker), and *Dirt Circus League* (Maree Kimberley). And, while it's also present in many others, autonomy, self-expression and carving your own path are central to *The Midnight Girls* (Alicia Jasinska), *self/less* (AViVA), and *Miscreation?* (June Yu).

Within the parcel of fantasy, dystopian and science fiction books, there was a great variety of themes, settings and styles. Elements from each genre seemed to merge and combine, creating interesting and complex worlds, societies and stories. The range encompassed time travel, intergalactic exploration, horror, quest challenges, political suppression and rebellion, genetic engineering and cryogenics, to name a few. Settings were both futuristic, historical and fantastical and the worlds created were imaginative, detailed and intriguing.

Several books were obviously the first in a series but were also strong stand-alone stories. The third in the Aurora series, *Aurora's End* (Amie Kaufman & Jay Kristoff) was a continuation of a very good science fiction story, but the judges felt that the previous two of the series were necessary for full appreciation of this final volume.

Characters with disabilities were well represented either as main protagonists or subsidiary players within the stories. Teens on the spectrum were the primary focus but Down's Syndrome and physical disabilities were also included. Robyn Bavarti's *A Weekend with Oscar*, took a different perspective on disabilities by focusing her story on the pressures experienced by siblings when living with a disabled family member.

There was a fair balance of both male and female protagonists, a duality in most and where female characters featured prominently, strong hints of feminism were a feature of the story. Some strong male stories were *Can the Real JR Stand Up, Please?* (Nadia King), *Morrison and Mr Moore* (Michael Hyde), and *Enough is Enough* (Nola Smith).

There was just one book of short stories which presented a wide variety of stories with diverse and thought-provoking themes. Poetry was not a popular form, there being only one book of conventional poems. However, *Once at the Edge of the Sea* (Sue Saliba) written in blank verse is a beautifully delicate story of grief and loss. This book was also by far one of the most attractive publications.

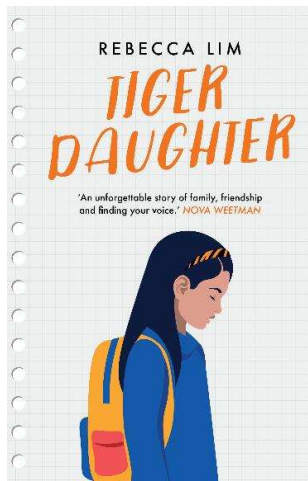
While most books utilised conventional writing styles, several included poetry, references and quotes from well-known literature. Katherine Barker's *Waking Romeo* was an especially clever interweaving of classic literature and futuristic fiction. *100 Remarkable Feats of Xander Maze* (Clayton Zane Comber) also used lists, blank pages and inserts to illustrate the character's way of thinking and coping with his autism.

Three graphic novels were submitted in OR. Two very strong, well designed and compelling examples were redirected to the Eve Pownall judges. The remaining book, *Stars in their Eyes* (Jessica Walton & Aśka), combined LGBTQIA+ and disability in graphic novel format and was one of the few for the younger end of this category.

Real life settings were diverse, encompassing small rural townships, the glamorous Gold Coast, the Australian snow fields, an Aboriginal mission, Sydney university and a number of Australian cities including Hobart. World-wide stories unfolded in South America, Durban in South Africa, Los Angeles and Massachusetts in America and Indonesia.

Diverse settings disclosed diverse cultures including Chinese, Indian, Indigenous Australian, Zulu, Lebanese and Australian/Iranian Islam which in turn reflects the multicultural nature of Australian society.

Winner



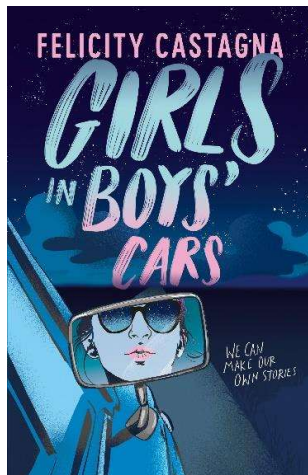
Tiger Daughter

Rebecca Lim

Published by Allen & Unwin | ISBN 9781760877644

Written with the palpable anger of being kept silenced in a cage of patriarchal injustice. A beautifully written story of the challenges and injustices of culturally based domestic violence and the injustices and effects of migrant discrimination. The strength of love, and the importance of connection to community are clear themes throughout. The book also explores, grief, cultural clash, patriarchy, racism and friendship. Youth wins out over adult indoctrination, disappointment and pessimism.

Honour Books



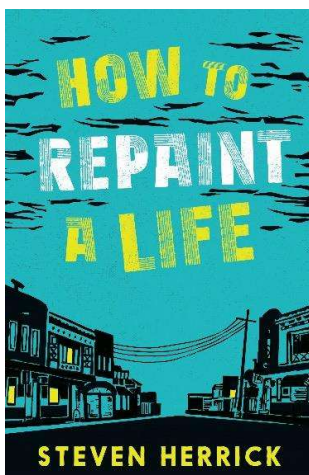
Girls in Boys' Cars

Felicity Castagna

Published by Pan Macmillan Australia | ISBN 9781760982980

This is a sophisticated story written in the first person. It delves into cultural and sexual expectations, how these change people's perception of you, and how wearing all these burdens can push you to break. The characters' search for escape and visibility demonstrates the consequences of the experienced injustices and degradation. The metafictional structure is not linear, reflecting the haphazard way we remember events, an effective and unusual method of revealing the characters' circumstances. The emotional journey each of the main characters experience feels authentic and the development of their characters is strong. The author has accurately captured the female

anger towards a society which is still failing them.



How to Repaint a Life

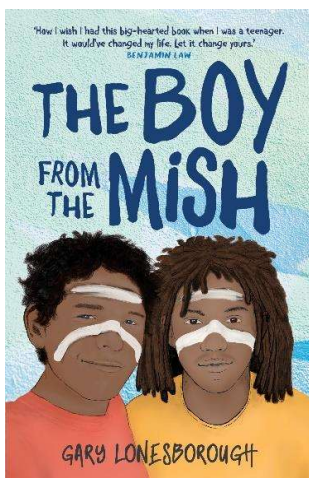
Steven Herrick

Published by University of Queensland Press | ISBN 9780702263156

A gentle exploration of difficult things, some universal, some specific to coming of age. Homelessness, domestic violence, misogyny and privilege are all unpacked in a way that is genuine, real and tense without ever being too overwhelming. A dramatic opening moves the story quickly along engaging readers in the outcome and the main characters lives. This is a beautiful story of contrasts; contrasting hopelessness with optimism, homelessness with family security and privilege, moral courage with revenge, old fashioned homeliness with modern chic and overall builds a picture of kindness and resourcefulness. The stunning prose captures a vivid picture of life in this small town without ever

feeling overwritten. The characters are authentically written. It's compelling, honest, and heartfelt.

Other shortlisted books



The Boy from the Mish

Gary Lonesborough

Published by Allen & Unwin | ISBN 9781760525880

A tender, contemporary First Nation's coming of age book that speaks of the slow realisation of identity and one's place in the world. An important book in this category. Love fills its pages — family love, friendship love and romantic love, as well as love of culture. Set in an Indigenous mission, the story gives a realistic and positive insight into happy Indigenous family life. The language includes poetic descriptions of bush and countryside, and sensitive descriptions of emotions. The clash of Indigenous culture with modern Australia and the loss of culture and its impact is explored in depth.

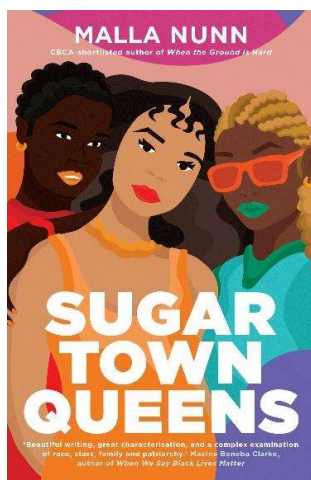


Terciel and Elinor

Garth Nix

Published by Allen & Unwin | ISBN 9781760878818

A great story in the fantasy genre. Written with lovely language, the story builds and the tension is created as the background to the two main characters is filled in. The world they live in is realistically created with vividly imagined details. The story manages to avoid stereotypes which are common in this genre.



Sugar Town Queens

Malla Nunn

Published by Allen & Unwin | ISBN 9781760526832

An engaging, well-written socio-economic/family drama, exploring racism, poverty and wealth in Durban, South Africa. Well-developed and authentic with tangible differences between the city and the township. The entire cast of characters felt nuanced, with their own stories happening, and were fleshed out and full of life, each with unique reactions to the drama and for the most part managed to avoid being stereotypes. The setting was rich and well described. Despite being a setting far removed from a typical Australian teen's experience, there were enough elements in the story to relate to, while simultaneously giving insight into another way of life. The story unfolds gently and is

well-paced, maintaining tension. Each twist/dramatic event happening in a realistic manner, sparking emotion, drama, and humour, creating an entirely enjoyable read. An up-lifting story of 'Ubuntu', the Zulu idea of compassion and humanity.

YOUNGER READERS JUDGES' REPORT

The 129 books entered in the Younger Readers category this year covered a range of genres, including historical fiction, time slip, portal fantasy, adventure, own voice, verse, short story, and poetry anthologies. Readers will be delighted with the high production quality of many of the books entered, with beautiful hardbacks, textured covers and spot varnishing creating dynamic visuals and a lovely tactile feel especially to *Dragon Skin* (Karen Foxlee), *Eliza Vanda's Button Box* (Emily Rodda), and *Rabbit, Soldier, Angel, Thief* (Katrina Nannestad). Embossing added to the tactile nature of many of the entries.

As in past years, there were many high-quality books appealing to the older end of this category (11-12 years) with a more limited range of high-quality work suited to the 7-8 years audience. Many books submitted, while not meeting the criteria for literary merit, would nevertheless provide children with entertaining reading and would engage a reluctant reader.

Entries displayed a trend towards historical fiction and in particular time-slip novels – possibly as authors turned to history for inspiration during the start of the pandemic. The focus on Australian history, as well as personal, spoke to the many facets of the Australian identity. As per usual, talking animals are ever-popular with this category, though at times the trope added little to the overarching narrative. Though there were not many distinct genre works entered, the fantasy works were notably all portal fantasies where characters escaped the reality of their normal lives to enter an alternate one.

Themes popular with this category were typical for the target audience, with identity, belonging, friendship and family being the most common. Even books that tackled large, possibly distressing topics such as war, immigration, death and cancer still centred around these themes of growing up.

Environmental concerns were well represented with books such as *Bailey Finch Takes a Stand* (Ingrid Laguna), *The Good Times of Pelican Rise: Save the Joeys* (Samone Amba) and *Devils in Danger* (Samantha Wheeler) among others dealt with environmental and habitat destruction. The Victorian bushfires appear to have been a key inspiration for some authors as this was prominent in a number of entries. Pursuing this theme, entries tended towards positive endings with communities coming together to clean up local creeks, install safe road crossings and knit pouches for orphaned joeys. This community spirit also allowed male characters to show their appreciation of the arts and save the school arts program in *The Right Way to Rock* (Nat Amooore).

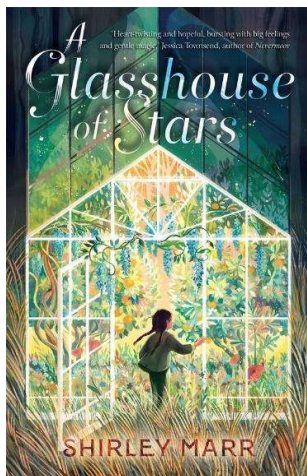
More often than not, the protagonists in this category were female – especially at the middle to upper end of the target audience. Although not exclusively, these were set in the transition period between years 6 and 7. There was also a significant trend towards girls in science with many of the Notables list featuring intelligent girls using logic and scientific skills at the fore. *Listen, Layla* (Yassmin Abdel-Magied), *Wednesday Weeks and the Tower of Shadows* (Denis Knight & Cristy Burne) and *Balloon Girls* (Darrell Pitt) were particularly good examples.

There was also a push for non-conventional family units with single parents dominating the category. This was not always the case as authors found ways to subvert the 'dead parent' trope and showed a diverse range of family situations. From single children to families with seven children, same sex parents to blended families, there was a familial situation familiar to most readers. Though stable family units were in the minority, deceased parents were still a large and important part of the stories entered.

The formats of entries were also diverse, with verse novels, graphic novels, illustrated chapter books, poetry and traditional novels present. These spanned the category's age range. The lower end of the age bracket was dominated by illustrated chapter books with simple themes and large text, however the humour lacked the literary quality necessary to do well in this award. That is not to say that humour and quality were not found in this category. Works such as *Huda and Me* (H. Hayek), *Exit Through the Giftshop* (Maryam Master & Astred Hicks) and *Wednesday Weeks and the Tower of Shadows* crafted humour into intelligent stories for the older end of the category. Although sparse, high-quality work that did not belittle the young reader was to be found in entries such as *Little Gem* (Anna Zobel), *Cranky Chicken* (Katherine Battersby) and *Shockingly Good Stories* (R. A. Spratt).

Own voices were also popular in this year's entries with strong voices coming from Australians of varying backgrounds telling diverse stories. These centred around the immigrant experience and the challenges of identity and familial loyalty in works such as *A Glasshouse of Stars* (Shirley Marr), *Huda and Me* and *Listen, Layla*. Indigenous own voices were lacking this year with the only entries with Indigenous voices being more suitable for other categories and a number of them could have been strengthened by the inclusion of an Indigenous perspective including *Night Ride into Danger* (Jackie French) and *Wandi* (Favel Parrett). Notably, *The Good Times of Pelican Rise* did feature an Indigenous character who ran a podcast about environmental conservation.

Winner



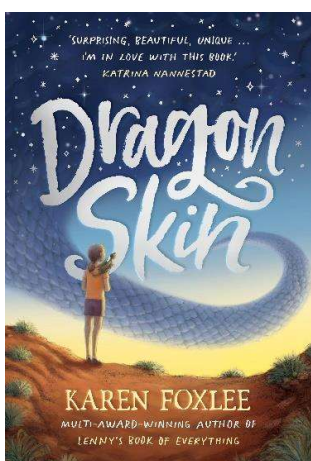
A Glasshouse of Stars

Shirley Marr

Published by Penguin Random House Australia | ISBN 9781760899547

Using the rarely seen second person point of view, Marr addresses both the reader and the protagonist in a tale of identity, belonging, social exclusion, cultural diversity and adaptation. This challenges the reader and makes the protagonist's emotions and fears direct and personal. The subtle magic of both the house and the glasshouse serves as an extension of the protagonist's emotions and provide her with hope. The story asks the reader to look beyond tragic and difficult events to a resilience that enables one to dream and addresses cultural biases, customs and expectations.

Honour books

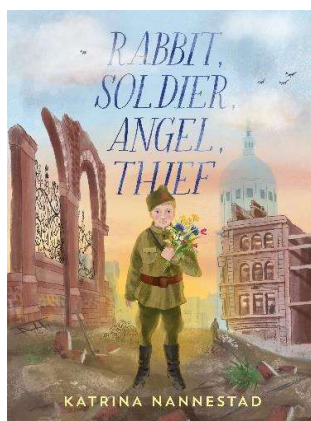


Dragon Skin

Karen Foxlee

Published by Allen & Unwin | ISBN 9781760526108

This exceptionally well-crafted novel supports the reader to grow with 10-year-old Pip and her friends. Slowly but surely as part of the development of the characters and plot they are able to free themselves from manipulative, controlling and abusive situations in a sensitive and age-appropriate way. This book cleverly deals with themes of loneliness, emotional vulnerability, neglect, verbal and physical abuse and neglect in a calm, hopeful and dignified way and never detracts from the magic found by Pip, Laura and Archie. The parallel between Pip's needs and the needs of the baby dragon is cleverly written.



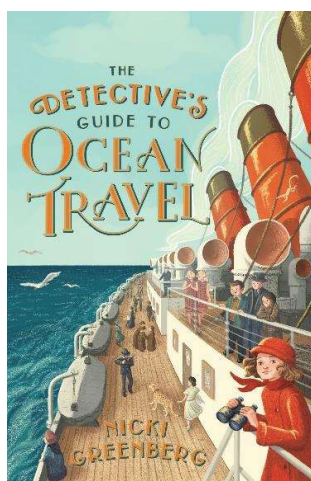
Rabbit, Soldier, Angel, Thief

Katrina Nannestad

Published by ABC: An Imprint of HarperCollins Publishers | ISBN 9780733341465

Inspired by a true story, this book sensitively deals with the horrors, friendships, hardships and ingenuity that are the products of wartime. The four parts of the story are each foreshadowed by the motifs that Sasha collects, adding meaning to the telling. The parts are also reflected in the title enhancing the meaning-laden story full of sadness, tragedy, hope and joy. Sasha's innocence is conveyed beautifully, bringing light and joy to what could have been a very dark story. The characters are heart-warming and engaging for the readers and a highlight of the story.

Other shortlisted books

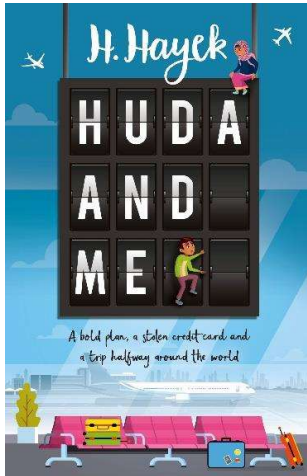


The Detective's Guide to Ocean Travel

Nicki Greenberg

Published by Affirm Press | ISBN 9781922400673

This beautifully crafted historical novel powerfully transports readers back to a 1920s adventure via a group of young children. Each character is creatively brought to life and the author's style and red herrings ensure that the reader remains glued to each page. The actions, interactions and the relationships developed within the narrative explore social class, gender roles, parent/child roles, mystery and deception. The opulent extravagance of the first-class setting is consistent throughout and the reader is ushered through it seamlessly by the protagonist's sense of wonder.

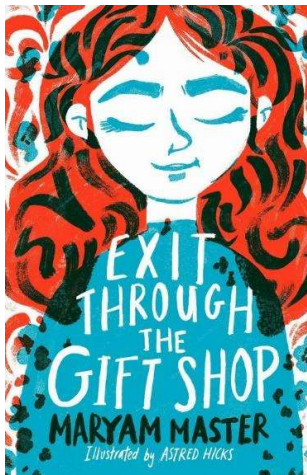


Huda and Me

H. Hayek

Published by Allen & Unwin | ISBN 9781760526023

Offering a fresh perspective of Australian life with two children from a Lebanese-Australian family running away from home, the author uses an accessible and light-hearted style even when dealing with complex topics such as racism and cultural identity. Huda and Akael were a delight to read, and their family's bond was portrayed realistically: at times humorous and other times duty-bound. The alternating chapters depicting their adventures create an engaging and fast-paced tale of family, mischief and adventure perfect for this age group where problems are best faced together.



Exit Through the Gift Shop

Maryam Master (text), Astred Hicks (illustrator)

Published by Pan Macmillan Australia | ISBN 9781760983512

An amusing, sensitive and at times heart-breaking look at life through the eyes of a 12-year-old. Supported by her best friend Al, Ana openly faces her terminal cancer diagnosis and treatment, her relationship with her parents' and their new partners, whilst also coping with bullying. The characters and plot are enhanced by strategically placed illustrations, changes in font, and cleverly inserted word definitions which enable the reader to access the content in a non-confronting way. Without offering a happily ever after ending, the difficulties Ana encounters are authentically portrayed with hope, humour and positivity.

EARLY CHILDHOOD JUDGES' REPORT

The Early Childhood category embraces books suitable in both content and style for children who are pre-readers or beginning readers in the age range of 0-6 years old. Commonly, these books will be a shared reading experience between a young child and an adult. Opportunities for the adult reader exist to assist in expanding the child's understanding of the text and the illustrations in this situation.

This year 110 books were entered in the Early Childhood category with 41 titles making it through the judging process to be considered for the Notables list. The books entered varied greatly in the quality of both content and overall production. The Notables list consisted of the 22 most outstanding books entered and reflected the wide range of themes and styles overall.

Eight submitted titles were created by First Nations authors and illustrators, inviting connection to country, and sharing rich traditions while deepening understanding of culture. Standouts were *The River* (Sally Morgan & Johnny Warrkatja Malibirr), *Sharing* (Aunty Fay Muir, Sue Lawson & Leanne Mulgo Watson), *Sea Country* (Aunty Patsy Cameron & Lisa Kennedy) and *Backyard Bugs* (Helen Milroy).

It is always exciting to see new authors emerge in children's literature and there were many debut submissions. Sarah Jane Lightfoot created *Down the Road, Little Bee* with stunning botanical illustrations. Emma Dowd's *Wonderful Shoes* is a joyous tribute to play and became a Notable, as did *Jetty Jumping* by Andrea Rowe, which explores the fears and the joy of letting go in a quintessentially Australian setting.

Common themes included friendship, social dilemmas, play and solving problems, as well as many about animals and pets. It was noteworthy that there were three books submitted this year focusing on the problem of marine pollution.

Family has consistently been a theme in the Early Childhood category, and it was pleasing to note that an increasing number of books depicted families in a more diverse manner. These picture books have embraced differences in family dynamics, cultures, and physical abilities. The expanding family in *Frizzle and Me* (Ellie Royce & Andrew McLean) and the celebrations in *Before You Were Born* (Katrina Germain & Helène Magisson) offer either windows or mirrors into family life, affording children both the opportunity to reflect on their own lives and to consider the lives of others. *Big Love* (Megan Jacobson & Beck Feiner) celebrates a parent's love for a child in different cultural contexts, depicting examples of family.

Interactions between children whilst playing were also highlighted in many entries, often focusing on group dynamics and friendship issues. *Florence and Fox* (Zanni Louise & Anna Pignataro) was an observation on the way children may regulate play by inventing new rules. *A Pair of Pears and an Orange* (Anna McGregor) explored shifting group dynamics amongst friends, whilst *How to Make Friends: a Bear's Guide* (Cat Rabbit) modelled the possibility that being yourself is the best way to make friends.

During childhood, emotional regulation can be problematic for children and a number of entries attempted to present children with strategies to assist. *Grumble Boats* (Susannah McFarlane & Tamsin Ainslie) used a paper boat to send grumbles into the sea while *Tomorrow is a Brand New Day* (Davina Bell & Allison Colpoys) showed ways to mend relationships in everyday life.

Many titles featured Australian lifestyle and Australian animals as characters. Eighteen titles included native animals, beautifully illustrated to show their diversity and varied habitats. The increase in

extreme weather events was evident in several titles as global warming becomes more apparent day to day. There were some books that explored the importance of a special toy or object and grief after the loss of that special friend or a child's pet.

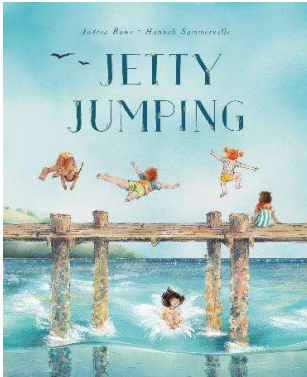
As these books are for the very young, it is imperative that they engage this young audience and read aloud well. The use of simple, effective words and phrases feature in the best entries, with many using rhymes and rhythm to improve participation and engagement. Books that encourage interaction using repetitive text, chant, or questioning also appeal to this age group. In addition, it is important for very young children to be able to identify with characters and settings. The Notable book *Train Party* (Karen Blair) encompassed both of these aspects with a repetitive chorus that made it impossible not to participate. Adaptations of the well-known rhyme *The House that Jack Built* was also evident in both *When the Waterhole Dries Up* (Kaye Baillie & Max Hamilton) and *The Bird in the Herd* (Kathryn Apel & Renee Trembl). It was also clear that Ursula Dubosarsky used the rhyme *The Ants Go Marching* as inspiration for her entry *The March of the Ants* (Ursula Dubosarsky & Tohby Riddle).

Most entries were good quality hardback books, with strong pages, interesting and engaging endpapers, and professional illustrations of a very high standard. The text was often varied in size, placement, and colour to add emphasis and interest or to highlight specific words. The use of appendices in some entries enhanced their appeal with factual information, such as the names for grandmother in various languages in *What Do You Call Your Grandma?* (Ashleigh Barton & Martina Heiduczek) and the field guide of factual information in *Jumping Joeys* (Sarah Allen).

Picture books are stories that are told in both words and pictures. The illustrations are equally important and must reflect and enhance the text. Illustrations that form the visual element can be bright and bold, calm and composed, or active and amusing but should reflect the theme or idea in the text. Very simple stories and uncluttered pages work well with this age group. Illustrations using a wide variety of media and white space were effective where included. Digital art or a combination between that and traditional methods was evident this year. First Nations art increased along with the rise in entries from Indigenous authors. Handmade knitted characters featured in *How to Make Friends: a Bear's Guide*, and illustrations using photography, mixed media, or collage were also prominent in a number of entries.

This year the Early Childhood judges have reviewed an eclectic group of picture books in a myriad of styles and formats by a diverse cohort of Australian authors and illustrators. What has made this a cohesive collection has been the common desire to share important stories with young children in their formative years. It has been a privilege to be a part of this process.

Winner



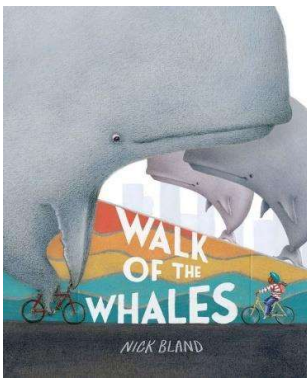
Jetty Jumping

Andrea Rowe (text), Hannah Sommerville (illustrator)

Published by Hardie Grant Children's Publishing | ISBN 9781760500658

A beautifully written and highly relatable book about overcoming fears. Time and place have been carefully created to depict an Australian beach town in summer. The language is rich and descriptive, using apt vocabulary and alliteration. The eye-catching, swirling text depicts movement to mirror themes of water and the action it describes. Mood is gently constructed. The joy of the jumping girls contrasts with Milla's trepidation as she sits apart, afraid to participate in their fun yet wanting to join them. A lovely twist of plot adds momentum and motivation to the main character's actions, who overcomes her fears to finally enter the water.

Honour books

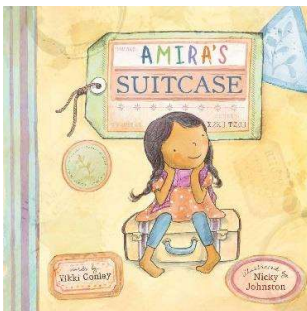


Walk of the Whales

Nick Bland

Published by Hardie Grant Children's Publishing | ISBN 9781760509026

The magic and mystery of childhood imaginings are combined with the grand possibilities of illustrations, and a profound message about humanity's interconnection with the planet. This weighty message is handled with a delicate touch, rhythmic text and a balance of imagination, humour and truth. There is a touching moment when a child queries the situation and the emotion in the whale's blunt reply is beautifully framed by the tear in its eye. Less about pollution, this is a book about possibilities: the exchange of rubbish for the whales foregrounds the principle that for every action in nature, there is a consequence and there is always a fresh story and connection to discover.



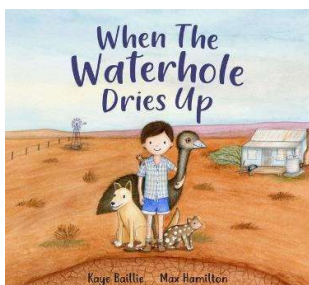
Amira's Suitcase

Vikki Conley (text), Nicky Johnston (illustrator)

Published by New Frontier Publishing | ISBN 9781922326133

New beginnings, simple pleasures and hope symbolised in a growing plant and a blossoming girl are themes in this book. When Amira arrives with her suitcase to a new home, she is timid, but through play she nurtures herself and heals, showing bravery, resourcefulness and kindness. Readers are invited to make connections whilst also exploring lives that may be different to their own. Colour, line, shape and texture harmonise in an expert application of watercolours. A high-quality production and symmetry between text and illustrations provides a heart-warming story. Intertextual connections may also be made to Jack and the Beanstalk.

Other shortlisted books



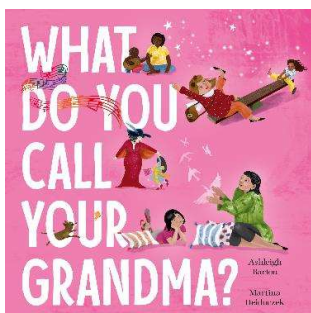
When the Waterhole Dries Up

Kaye Baillie (text), Max Hamilton (illustrator)

Published by Windy Hollow Books | ISBN 9781922081971

Boisterous fun, chaotic bush animals and waterplay feature in this cumulative tale about a very dusty boy who needs a bath. The setting of the dry, red Aussie outback is clearly established, and the bath time routine will be familiar to young readers and the adults too!

Watercolour double-page spreads in landscape format fill each page, inviting the reader in. There is a wonderful escalation of pace throughout the book firstly as the boy begins to undress, then the drama as each animal arrives, until bath time erupts into delightful chaos. The bath emptying of water in the ruckus, the arrival of rain and the ensuing dip in the newly filled dam combine for a satisfying conclusion. Interesting endpapers suit the theme of the book. Font styling is excellent. Young readers will fully engage with this form of nursery rhyme which encourages participation.



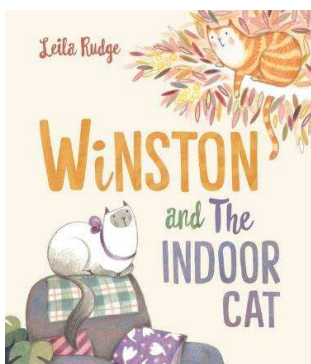
What Do You Call Your Grandma?

Ashleigh Barton (text), Martina Heiduczek (illustrator)

Published by ABC: An Imprint of HarperCollins Publishers | ISBN 9780733340840

This high-production picture book is a heart-warming trip around the globe, celebrating the wonderful relationships between children and their grandmothers. Themes of family, love, culture and diversity are explored, and the mood is one of joy and celebration. Written in rhyming

couplets, the illustrations marry beautifully with the text, and reveal further details about family life in homes around the world, offering opportunities to discuss cultures other than the readers' own. Each grandmother is unique, but all are portrayed as vibrant women interacting with their grandchildren in a delightful array of different activities. The appendix connecting each word for 'grandmother' to the corresponding language is well-researched and something to relish.



Winston and the Indoor Cat

Leila Rudge

Published by Walker Books Australia | ISBN 9781760652609

Friendship and individuality are explored in this gently told story of two very different cats. Winston, the outdoor cat, tries to entice the indoor cat outside, while the indoor cat, who is comfortable with its leisurely life, tempts Winston into its world inside the house. Characterisation is developed through subtle expressions of the cats when they find themselves outside their respective normal environments. With short

sentences and concise phrases, young children will delight in listening to the words while being captivated by the illustrations. Beautiful, soft watercolour and pencil illustrations vary from full-page spreads to small vignettes and the final sequence where the cats agree to disagree and find common ground is a satisfying and humorous resolution.

PICTURE BOOK JUDGES' REPORT

175 titles were entered for the 2022 Picture Book of the Year award. Entries arrived in large numbers towards the end of the year. Sixty-nine books (almost 40% of entries) were sent for judging in late November and December. This was hugely challenging for judges, and we encourage publishers to send entries earlier in the year. The entries were extremely diverse, covered many themes and presented a wide variety of illustrations.

There were thirteen books by Indigenous authors, including *Day Break* (Amy McQuire & Matt Chun) and *Sea Country* (Aunty Patsy Cameron & Lisa Kennedy). The judges were pleased to see an audio link of Boori Monty Pryor included with his book *Story Doctors* and of Karen Rogers for *Main Abija: My Grandad*. The judges would love to see more publishers add an audio component to complement the visual aspects of books. The slam poem *Common Wealth* (Gregg Dreise) is one we particularly would have appreciated hearing.

A number of books this year could be described as narrative non-fiction and many were entered in both the Picture Book and Eve Pownall categories such as *Iceberg* (Claire Saxby & Jess Racklyeft), *The Greatest Mistakes that Went Right* (Maddy Mara & Cheryl Orsini), *The Way of the Weedy Seadragon* (Anne Morgan & Lois Bury), *Tiny Possum and the Migrating Moths* (Julie Murphy & Ben Clifford), *Sea Country*; *The Bush Birds* (Bridget Farmer), and *One Potoroo: A Story of Survival* (Penny Jaye & Alicia Rogerson). We also received several non-fiction titles – *Look Closer: Paint with the Impressionists* (Kate Ryan & Cally Bennett), and *Albert Namatjira* (Vincent Namatjira).

In the anniversary year of Jan Ormerod's winning wordless book *Sunshine* (1982), the judges were pleased to receive two wordless books, *The Boy and the Elephant* (Freya Blackwood) and *He Was Tremendously Scary and Extraordinarily Hairy* (Christopher Maxwell).

Environmental themes of sustainability, global warming and human impact and responsibility were explored in books such as *Just One Bee* (Magrete Lamond, Anthony Bertini & Christopher Nielsen), *The Inheritance* (Armin Greder) and *Saving Seal: The Plastic Predicament* (Diane Jackson Hill & Craig Smith). Other books such as *One Potoroo* and *Tiny Possum and the Migrating Moths* highlighted the plight of endangered animals.

Different family structures were explored successfully in books such as *Enough Love?* (Maggie Hutchings & Cheryl Orsini) and *Frizzle and Me* (Ellie Royce & Andrew McLean) alongside titles that featured single parent families — *For Love* (Cristina Neri), *Happy Hoppy Home* (Tull Suwannakit) and *Dinosaur Dads* (Lesley Gibbes & Marjorie Crosby-Fairall). There were many less successful books that attempted to explore complex issues of mental health in families. Friendships were explored in a range of titles including *Joe and the Stars* (Phil Cummings & Connah Brecon), *Mo and Crow* (Jo Kasch & Jonathan Bentley), *Where The Heart Is* (Irma Gold & Susannah Crispe), *Bear and Rat* (Christopher Cheng & Stephen Michael King), and *Frankie and the Fossil* (Jess McGeachin).

Australian history was represented through the stories *The Flying Angel*, *Christmas Always Comes*, *Star of Anise* and *Rachel's War*. More contemporary Australian culture was depicted in *Cricket, I just love it!* and *Mozzies Vs Flies*. More general world history was seen in *The Katha Chest*, *Jacqueline: A Soldier's Daughter* and *The Amazing Meals of Martha Maloney*.

Humor was explored in many ways by Leigh Hobbs (*Horrible Harriet and the Terrible Tantrum*), James Foley (*Stellarphant*), Matt Cosgrove (*Macca the Backpacker*), Aaron Blabey (*Pig the Monster*), Heidi McKinnon (*We Found a Cat*), and Nicki Greenberg (*I'm Fabulous Crab!*) were appreciated. Many of these books featured familiar characters such as *Coco and the Butterfly* (Laura Bunting & Nicky

Johnston), *Norton and the Borrowing Bear* (Gabriel Evans), *Pig the Monster*, and *Winner Winner, Bin Chicken Dinner* (Kate Temple, Jol Temple & Ronojoy Ghosh). The judges noted how difficult it was to create totally new scenarios for well-loved and established characters.

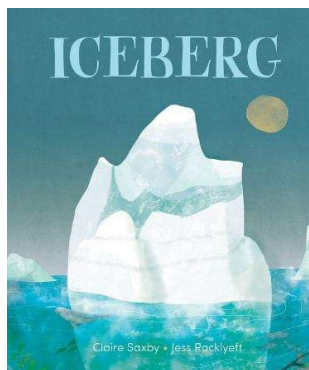
The Great Book-swapping Machine (Emma Allen & Lisa Coutts) and *March of the Ants* explored the power of books within communities. Two books made use of museum and library collections: *The Best Cat, the Est Cat* (Libby Hathorn & Rosie Handley) and *The Imagineer* (Christopher Cheng & Lucia Masciullo). Both contained visual glossaries to inspire further research by curious readers. Stimulating curiosity through the inclusion of interesting facts was also a feature of *Stellarphant*.

Other prominent themes raised were individuality, courage, and self-acceptance in *Blue Flower* (Sonya Hartnett & Gabriel Evans), *I'm Fabulous Crab*, *Tomorrow is a Brand New Day* (Davina Bell & Allison Colpoys), *A Perfect Pig* (Katrin Dreiling), *The Wonder of Winsome* (Kath Murdoch & Sharyn Madder), *Turning Cartwheels* (Amy Adeney & Amy Calautti), *Upside Down Friday* (Lana Spasevski & Nicky Johnston), *Plume: World Explorer* (Tania McCartney), and *Vernon the Penguin* (Natashia Curtin). Inspiring female figures were celebrated in books like *Goal!!!* (Lydia Williams & Lucinda Gifford) and *Maxine* (Bob Graham) while three books, *Amira's Magpie* (Kate Gordon & Krista Brennan), *Amira's Suitcase* (Vikki Conley & Nicky Johnston), and *Salih* (Inda Ahmad Zahri & Anne Ryan), explored the plight of refugees.

The judges were looking for books worthy of critical analysis that will stand the test of time. We appreciated books where extra care had been taken with overall design, including endpapers which either enhanced or extended the text. We valued works that were original, offered a fresh perspective and helped readers understand more about themselves and the world around them. Appreciation of picture books comes from reading a wide range of high-quality work in this genre, including previous Award winners. The judges recommend that less experienced authors and illustrators could benefit from a similar appreciation.

This is a prestigious award and the 2022 Notables list showcases the outstanding and skilful work of Australian authors and illustrators. The 25 books exhibit outstanding literary merit, cover a wide range of topics and demonstrate high-quality production and design elements. All creators are to be commended for their valuable contribution to excellent Australian children's literature. It has been an honour and a privilege to judge the picture book category for 2022; what a delight to read and discuss such a diverse range of books. We would like to acknowledge the talent and hard work of the authors and illustrators.

Winner



Iceberg

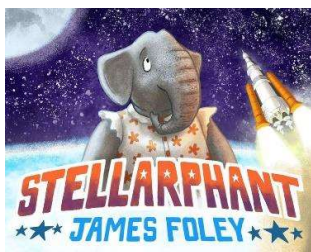
Jess Racklyeft (illustrator), Claire Saxby (text)

Published by Allen & Unwin | ISBN 9781760526047

The writing is sophisticated; facts and technical vocabulary are lyrically combined with beautiful description. The sentences are perfectly balanced, and verbs are used precisely to describe the vivid life of this icy place. The choice of artistic medium offers a perfect complement to the text; the illustrations are subtle at times and commanding at others. The use of many shades of blue beautifully reflects this icy environment and immerses readers in the Antarctic. A sense of wonder is created

through transparent layers of water allowing readers to spot life above and the mysteries below the surface.

Honour books

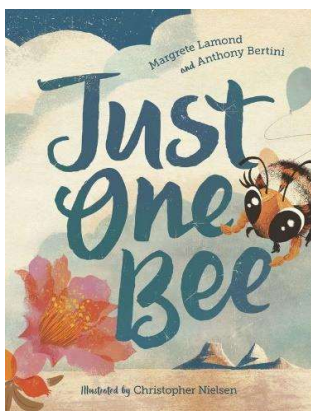


Stellarphant

James Foley

Published by Fremantle Press | ISBN 9781760990732

This story about an anthropomorphised, larger than life elephant can be read either as an ironic comment on privilege and diversity or the power of persistence. Readers will admire Stella's resilience and problem solving as she challenges the status quo of Space Command's space programme. Foley's use of humour and playfulness outweigh any dogma. Stella and her gang jump off the page with gumption and determination. The endpapers are fascinatingly informative. So much emotion is conveyed on Stella's face, through her eyes, tongue and forehead wrinkles. The fold-out page at the end is also a delightful addition. This book has the potential for lots of rich discussion around who become powerful, educated, and celebrated and who doesn't.



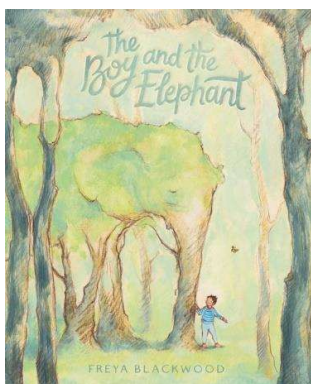
Just One Bee

Christopher Nielsen (illustrator), Margrete Lamond and Anthony Bertini (text)

Published by Dirt Lane Press (WestWords) | ISBN 9780648023890

The language here is poetic and balanced, and the illustrations use a limited palette and stark design to create an arid effect in this flowerless dystopia. There is a strong sense of place with the environment itself developed as a key character. On the surface, this is the story of three bees who question their own power and place in creating a more sustainable future. But these characters are rich representations of climate deniers and activists in the real world and the book helps readers to consider their own role in climate change and the importance of resilience and working together to make a positive impact. The shifts in tone, from bleak and barren to vibrant fields of flowers, are affective and create a sense of hope and optimism.

Other shortlisted books

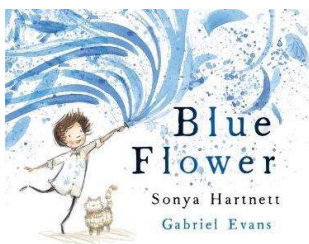


The Boy and the Elephant

Freya Blackwood

Published by HarperCollins Publishers | ISBN 9781460759998

This wordless book is a deeply emotional, tender, poignant and quietly affecting story which sings on so many levels. Rereading will reward the reader. There is the need to stop destruction of the natural environment alongside themes of friendship, loneliness and displacement in a world where people are too busy to see beauty in the world. The characters, settings and transitions in time are engaging, emotive and worthwhile. There are many elements in this book; young and wistful protagonist, peacock and orange colour palette used to represent home life, delicately drawn figures and sensitive use of lighting.

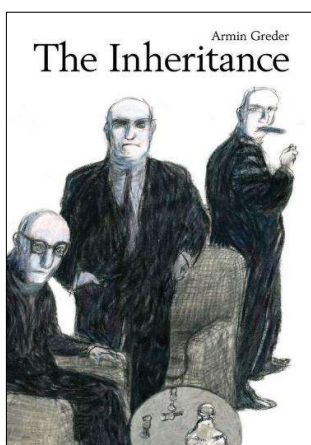


Blue Flower

Gabriel Evans (illustrator), Sonya Hartnett (text)

Published by Penguin Random House Australia | ISBN 9781760894450

A beautiful book exploring important themes of disliking school, self-love and being proud to be different. The book is filled with genuine emotion and has a strong central character revealed through convincing inner dialogue. Perfect pace and positioning of page turns make this an excellent read aloud. The illustrations offer delicate and nuanced explorations of character and setting; the colour palette is restrained, and colours are used in a symbolic way. This character and situation will resonate with many young readers and the overall message is inspiring. A thought-provoking book which will generate lots of discussions with children.



The Inheritance

Armin Greder

Published by Allen & Unwin | ISBN 9781760526788

A challenging and unsettling picture book expressing the deep connection between capitalism and the state of our planet within the setting of an uber wealthy family. Bleak but beautiful compressed charcoal and pastel illustrations evoke a visceral response. In this picture book for older readers the reader is invited to sit with the metaphorical and literal darkness of this chilling tale. Many older readers will be engaged with and energised by the haunting nature of the wordless pages that don't give in to a 'happy ending' temptation.

The bold use of negative space and ironic title will provoke much discussion.

EVE POWNALL JUDGES' REPORT

72 titles were entered for the 2022 Eve Pownall Book of the Year award. The Eve Pownall (EP) information book category is a particularly challenging and diverse one, covering an age range from 0-18 years. It has been an exciting experience for the judges to compare and evaluate books across a variety of topics, formats, and literary styles.

The target audience for the majority of entries has been the 5-14 year age range but with a significant number of more complex and challenging texts directed towards older readers. The judges unanimously agreed that the broad range of topics and formats made for very interesting and, at times, challenging reading. Picture books, graphic text format and conventional reference format were all creatively represented.

Most entries featured a significant illustrative presence to complement and enhance information and effectively engage readers. Illustrative style varied considerably, depending on topic and target audience — from softer palettes used in books directed at a younger audience to the harsh, confronting images in books with challenging topics and directed towards an older audience. Approximately 41% of entries had a single creator; 43% separate author & illustrators; the remainder used photographic images, artwork, or minimal images to enhance written text.

There was a significant number of entries received from debut authors and illustrators (twenty-four debut authors, seven debut illustrators). The majority of entries were submitted by major publishing houses with only 8% of entries self-published. Approximately one third of entries in the EP category have been entered in multiple categories, particularly in Picture Books.

There was a strong Indigenous presence, with approximately 25% of entries created by Indigenous authors/illustrators (six debut authors) or containing subject matter related to First Nations people. Topics included historical and contemporary issues, biographies, autobiographies, and inspirational stories.

Some further trends of note across all the submissions include biographical stories which featured heavily, representing approximately 16% of entries. There was a strong nature and environmental presence targeting a wide age range (over 40%), with subjects including trees, animals, seasonal changes, life cycles, with some additional texts specifically focusing on climate change and environmental impacts. Perhaps indicative of the past two years of pandemic, there were a number of books addressing wellbeing, resilience, positivity, and mindfulness.

Approximately 27% of entries covered historical topics, including Indigenous history, activism, military history, and international and local events. A small number of entries had a science focus. Furthermore, some complex scientific topics were creatively and imaginatively presented to engage younger readers (e.g., photosynthesis, energy, microbes). Graphic formats were effectively used to engage older audiences covering challenging historical and current topics (e.g., refugees, asylum seekers, political standpoints/legislation, the Vietnam War, and activism).

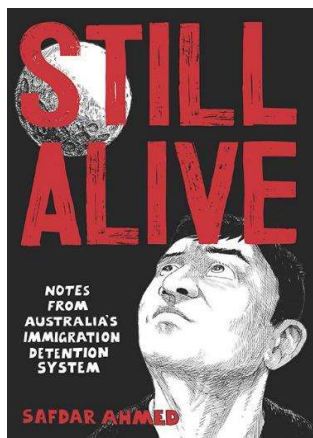
The judges were impressed by books that included evidence of cross-referencing and/or sources of information, indicating thorough research and authenticity of data. This was particularly relevant and appropriate in more complex texts and those directed towards an older audience.

The 2022 Notables list highlights 22 books that exhibit outstanding literary merit, presenting information, across a broad subject range, in creative and innovative ways. Illustrations, where relevant, enhanced the information; and the production standards and design elements were of the

highest quality. All creators are to be commended for their valuable contributions to the Australian children's information and literary landscape.

Note: Books in this category may be for mature readers and some may deal with particularly challenging themes including violence and suicide. Parental guidance is recommended.

Winner



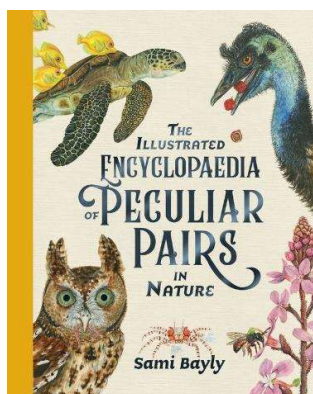
Still Alive, Notes from Australia's Immigration Detention System

Safdar Ahmed

Published by Twelve Panels Press | ISBN 9780980593730

A confronting, raw and graphic account of the history and treatment of asylum seekers and refugees under successive Australian governments. Challenging, detailed and well-researched, powerfully produced from a personal perspective — journeys from their homelands and lived experiences are interspersed with history, news events, government policy and international human rights reports and reactions. The black and white drawings, well-integrated with the text, are detailed and the inclusion of artwork by the detainees is powerful. The language is direct, occasionally didactic, and emotive at times. Metaphors (written and drawn) such as monsters, knots and chess pieces are effective in representing the detainees' stresses and traumas. There is mature content such as self-harm, executions, sexual intimacy and assault, both in written and drawn examples. The inclusion of further reading and actions will engage readers in exploring further.

Honour books

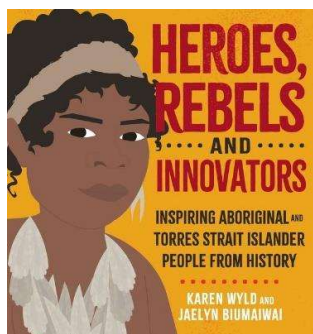


The Illustrated Encyclopaedia of Peculiar Pairs in Nature

Sami Bayly

Published by Hachette Australia | ISBN 9780734420046

An exquisitely illustrated and informative encyclopaedia of curious pairings and interdependencies. Text is thoroughly researched and well organised. Each 'pair' double page includes: scientific names, a full page detailed illustration, and the 'fact' information on the other (description, peculiar pairing, conservation status, diet, location/habitat, fun facts). The language is clear, with humour in parts, and explains factual and anecdotal information effectively. High visual impact enhances engagement and appeal: including large hardback, colourful, detailed illustrations and an attached ribbon bookmark, encouraging readers to return, explore further and personalise their reading progress.



Heroes, Rebels and Innovators

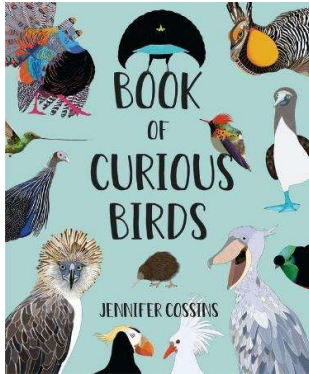
Karen Wyld (text), Jaelyn Biunaiwai (illustrator)

Published by Hachette Australia | ISBN 9780734419835

This excellently produced, highly engaging book presents Indigenous historical information about significant First Nations people that has been omitted or is less known in traditional storytelling. Authenticity and authority of voice are established in the opening pages. Creatively, two narratives per person are provided. One is a poetic and lyrical story; the

captivating language lending itself to the 'adventure' genre. This non-stereotypical information book is imaginatively presented with a striking cover; minimalist illustrations; and a high gloss, rich and earthy ochre palette, which will interest readers beyond the final page.

Other shortlisted books



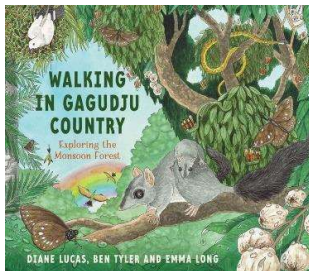
Book of Curious Birds

Jennifer Cossins

Published by Hachette Australia | ISBN 9780734420473

Lifecycles, behaviours and the conservation status of birds are presented in this high-quality reference book. The author helpfully cites the IUCN (International Union for Conservation of Nature) as her reference, which readers can then explore for themselves. Inclusion of a contents page and glossary are useful. Beautiful illustrations dominate each well-organised double-page spread including eye catching endpapers. The facts vary for each species, relating mainly to individual peculiarities. The

language is clear, and a variety of different fonts and colours are used to present sections of the text, which not only helps in dividing the different types of information, maintaining rhythm and flow, but will also impact how a reader relates to the text. The imaginative presentation of this topic will engage all readers, young and old.

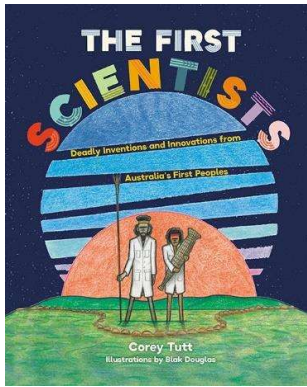


Walking in Gagudju Country: Exploring the Monsoon Forest

Diane Lucas and Ben Tyler (text), Emma Long (illustrator)

Published by Allen & Unwin | ISBN 9781760525958

Kakadu National Park is vividly presented and the setting is strongly maintained. Avatars representing the authors' rambling through the forest with young friends, telling stories and imparting information are clever. The exploration is fun, the stopping, observing and listening feel genuine, all enriching reader experience. Text and dialogue are clear and detailed. The inclusion of illustrations and labels to highlight/define Indigenous terminology (lore, animal species and bush tucker) are very effective; as is the glossary, which includes useful drawings, scientific names and page references. High level production quality; visually appealing overall.



The First Scientists: Deadly Inventions and Innovations from Australia's First Peoples

Corey Tutt (text), Blak Douglas (illustrator)

Published by Hardie Grant Publishing | ISBN 9781741177527

This well produced book introduces readers to scientific contributions of Indigenous scientists and engineers, both prior to, and since, European occupation. Engagingly presented, it opens with the AIATSIS map of Indigenous Australia, reinforced by topic maps within each section, providing useful reference for the scientific contributions described. The text is fascinating and draws on aspects of science across a broad range of disciplines. Indigenous language and the inclusion of stories of Indigenous scientists provides a contemporary narrative, reinforcing authenticity and relevancy to modern life. Vibrant illustrations are appealing, and the creative layout is imaginative.

AWARD FOR NEW ILLUSTRATOR JUDGES' REPORT

The CBCA New Illustrator Award recognises an illustrator who is emerging or new to the field of children's book illustration. This year there were 48 entries, up from previous years. Of these, 22 titles were written and illustrated by new illustrators, many of them self-published. The illustrators used an interesting variety of media, including collage, watercolour, gouache, coloured pencils, acrylic, and oil paint. Styles ranged from highly stylised or minimalist modes, to more traditional visual narratives and naïve approaches. A number of illustrators showed a preference for digital illustration. However, the judges noted that in most cases the use of generic digital tools flattened the artwork and distracted the reader from the authentic voice and texture which had no doubt been present in the planning stages. Where digital artwork was used in innovative and original ways, the illustrations were memorable.

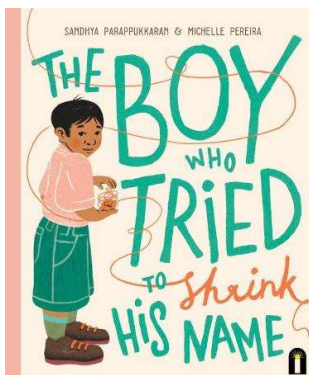
The most successful illustrators demonstrated the ability to represent and interpret the written text at the level of individual images and page openings all the while maintaining a consistency of style and setting throughout the book. The judges were impressed with the way these illustrators were also able to carry the interpretation of characters while still managing to bring an element of surprise to the reader. In addition, this skill and artistry was demonstrated through a confident understanding of the importance of design to visually punctuate the text and draw the reader's attention to particular aspects of the story.

The number of self-published books was up from previous years. There was a predominance of issues-based books to greater and lesser degrees of success. The judges identified the illustrations in these self-published books tended not to employ the visual device of representing main characters as animals. At times this resulted in the subtlety of the underlying message or moral of story being lost. It was apparent, through dedications and illustrator notes that many of these books had been written and illustrated for specific family members or friends. While many of these entries revealed promising seeds of story ideas, themes and engaging characters, it became obvious that the illustrators had difficulty distilling the essence of these visual elements and giving them a universal appeal.

Self-published illustrators and newly established publishing houses who are considering entering books in future years are advised that there is much to be learned from becoming familiar with the high standard of previous winning and shortlisted titles. The judges commend the courage of publishing houses and the ensuing support given to new illustrators given the responsibility of illustrating books in established series, or by established authors.

Recognition in this category provides an important springboard for illustrators. Previous winners, including Kim Gamble, Anne Spudvilas, Shaun Tan, Freya Blackwood, Anna Walker, Andrew Joyner, and Marc Martin, became leading artists in the field. The standard this year was high and stands the Australian publishing industry for young people in good stead. The judges look forward to seeing the future projects of the shortlisted illustrators.

Winner



The Boy Who Tried to Shrink His Name

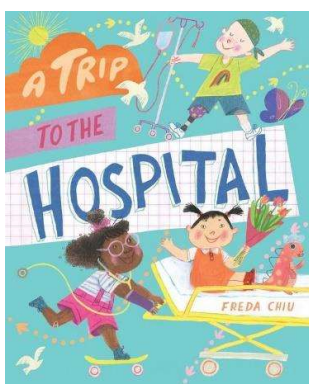
Michelle Pereira

Published by Hardie Grant Children's Publishing | ISBN 9781760509361

An excellent production with high-quality, very appealing retro illustrations which have been created with a limited colour palette using bold strokes and 'splattered' detail. The illustrations and text are fully entwined conveying the difficult balance between being 'different' and celebrating cultural heritage. The elegant endpapers echo this heritage while the kookaburra outside the window gives an Australian flavour to the setting. The illustrations also appeal to our senses. There is skilled

use of 'white' space and the night-time page made with the green hues is a very effective contrast against the orange of Zimdalamashkermishkada's name.

Other shortlisted books



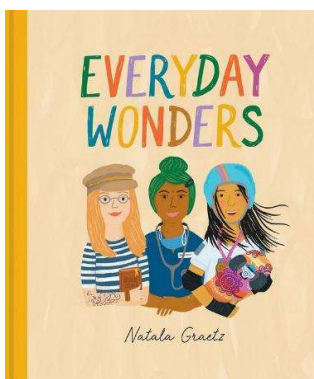
A Trip to the Hospital

Freda Chiu

Published by Allen & Unwin | ISBN 9781760526702

The cover of this debut picture book which depicts the main characters beaming out will do much to allay readers' fears of going to hospital. Chiu has cleverly captured the busyness and complexity of a hospital by using a mix of page layouts. Her bold style is perfectly matched to her use of mixed media such as pencils, gouache, crayons, pastels and collage. This original style allows the reader to explore the content and the artistic media on each page in detail or to read each image as a

whole. Chiu quietly introduces inclusive adult and child characters in a natural way. She does not shy away from the reality of illness and injury, but her ability to convey the individual personalities of staff members will reassure readers.



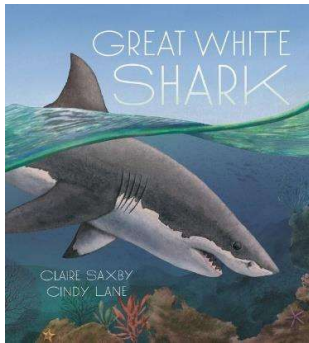
Everyday Wonders

Natalia Graetz

Published by Everyday Wonders | ISBN 9780645245004

A wonderful new illustrative voice. The illustrations in this book are rich, bright and whimsical. There is a confident use of depth and texture on every page and an engaging colour palette which cleverly echoes the character of each 'everyday wonder'. Graetz, as the designer, uses each page layout well, placing her characters from left to right on alternative pages. The pages are full of detail but they never feel crowded. Graetz achieves busy and noisy, as well as and quieter more contemplative

pages. The scattered objects on the last spread invite readers to revisit the text and make further discoveries.

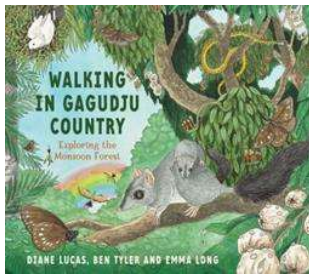


Great White Shark

Cindy Lane

Published by Walker Books Australia | ISBN 9781760651848

Lane's illustrations certainly show the power and predatory nature of sharks, but she also shows the maternal side of this huge creature such as when we see the mother shark surrounded by her new pups. There is a strong sense of design, such as seeing the shark just under the surface of the water. Lane provides many perspectives from cross-section to birdseye and uses shades of blue to show the increasing depths of the ocean. The wonderful endpapers illustrate the light shadowing across the advancing and retreating sharks at the beginning and ending of this book. Her ability to recreate the way light acts in water is extraordinary.

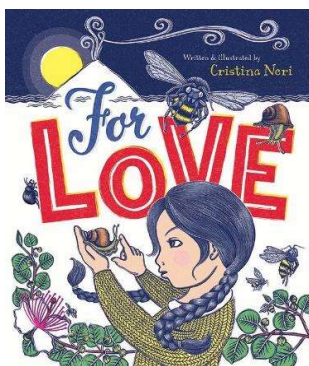


Walking in Gagudju Country: Exploring the Monsoon Forest

Emma Long

Published by Allen & Unwin | ISBN 9781760525958

As the title suggests, the illustrations in this book invite readers to explore a monsoon forest. All images, including the cover and endpapers, demand close viewing with magnified cross-sections used throughout to show further detail. There's a wonderful mix of scientific accuracy and Long's own style in the illustrations. Vibrant green tones capture the life of the forest and make the leaves appear tactile. The illustrations connect explicitly to the words in different ways throughout. Knowledge and experience of Elders and ancestors is reflected throughout, with faded images of the past and visual icons alongside Kundjeyhmi words.



For Love

Cristina Neri

Published by Lake Press Pty Ltd | ISBN 9780655213611

This is a very assured first book. The illustrations enhance the story line — providing further information and insight into character, setting, plot and theme. The choice of medium and style is original, and the blue shades enhance the brighter reds, greens and yellows, with recurring symbols of love and nature used throughout. The overall theme is reflected in the bright red endpapers, tying to the bold red font on the front cover. The production values of this book; a dust jacket, beautiful heavy matte stock and wonderful design make this book stand out from other entries in this category.

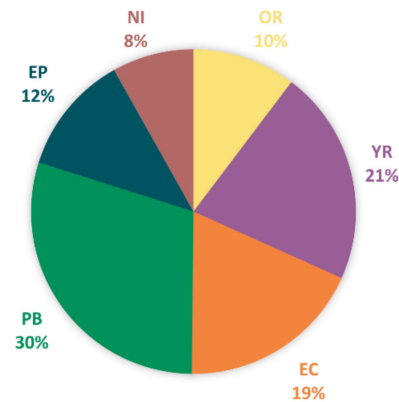
STATISTICS 2022 Entries

- **First time creators:** 117 authors, 68 illustrators, 5 secondary creators
- **Indigenous Australian creators:** 24 authors, 3 illustrators, 4 secondary creators
- **Self-published:** approximately 69 entries could be described as self-published

• Authors and Illustrators by State:

STATE	Authors	Illustrators
ACT	23	8
NSW	159	76
NT	9	3
QLD	69	40
SA	24	15
TAS	8	5
VIC	152	88
WA	33	26

• Category breakdown:



- **Publishing Houses:** approximately 92
- **Themes:** environment and conservation, Indigenous perspectives, fantasy/dystopian, social commentary, LGBTIQ+, immigration/refugees, friendship, family and growing up

Entry figures: 494 unique

Category	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
OR	61	77	63	64	71	78	63	55	62
YR	152	128	130	117	128	121	125	128	129
EC	95	59	94	89	101	121	135	100	111
PB	122	122	131	115	130	149	168	179	179
EP	46	48	52	54	41	51	71	60	72
NI	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	31	42	48	49
Total	476	434	470	439	471	551	604	570	602

*Please note that the 494 entries stated in the Judges' Report Introduction refers to unique titles entered for the 2020 CBCA Book of the Year Awards. The total of the above entries 602 includes those titles entered in multiple categories.

CBCA Book Week 20 - 26 August 2022

Theme: 'Dreaming with eyes open...'

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APPENDIX OF MENTIONED TITLES

A

A Glasshouse of Stars

Author: MARR, Shirley

Publisher: Penguin Random House Australia

A Pair of Pears and an Orange

Author: MCGREGOR, Anna

Publisher: Scribble

A Perfect Pig

Author: DREILING, Katrin

Publisher: Scholastic Australia

A Weekend with Oscar

Author: BAVAARTI, Robyn

Publisher: Walker Books Australia

A Trip to the Hospital

Author: CHIU, Freda

Publisher: Allen & Unwin

Albert Namatjira

Author: NAMATJIRA, Vincent

Publisher: Magabala Books

Amira's Magpie

Author: GORDON, Kate

Illustrator: BRENNAR, Krista

Publisher: Light the Dark PTY Ltd TAS Wombat Books

Amira's Suitcase

Author: CONLEY, Vikki

Illustrator: JOHNSTON, Nicky

Publisher: New Frontier Publishing

Aurora's End

Author: KAUFMAN, Amie & KRISTOFF, Jay

Publisher: Allen & Unwin

B

Backyard Bugs

Author: MILROY, Helen

Publisher: Fremantle Press

Bailey Finch Takes a Stand

Author: LAGUNA, Ingrid

Publisher: Text Publishing

Balloon Girls

Author: PITT, Darrell

Publisher: Text Publishing

Bear and Rat

Author: CHENG, Christopher

Illustrator: KING, Stephen Michael

Publisher: Penguin Random House Australia

Before You Were Born

Author: GERMAIN, Katrina

Illustrator: MAGISSON, Helène

Publisher: HarperCollins Publishers

Being Black 'n Chicken, and Chips

Author: OKINE, Matt

Publisher: Hachette Australia

Big Love

Author: JACBOSON, Megan

Illustrator: FEINER, Beck

Publisher: Walker Books Australia

Blue Flower

Author: HARTNETT, Sonya

Illustrator: EVANS, Gabriel

Publisher: Penguin Random House Australia

Book of Curious Birds

Author: COSSINS, Jennifer

Publisher: Hachette Australia

C

Can the Real JR Stand Up, Please?

Author: KING, Nadia

Publisher: Dixi Books

Christmas Always Comes

Author: FRENCH, Jackie

Illustrator: WHATLEY, Bruce

Publisher: HarperCollins Publishers

Coco and the Butterfly

Author: BUNTING, Laura
Illustrator: JOHNSTON, Nicky
Publisher: OMNIBUS Books

Common Wealth

Author: DREISE, Gregg
Publisher: Scholastic Australia

Cranky Chicken

Author: BATTERSBY, Katherine
Publisher: Hachette Australia

Cricket, I Just Love It!

Author: NICHOLSON, Alister
Illustrator: JELLET, Tom
Publisher: Allen & Unwin

D

Day Break

Author: McQUIRE, Amy
Illustrator: CHUN, Matt
Publisher: Hardie Grant Children's Publishing

Devils in Danger

Author: WHEELER, Samantha
Publisher: University of Queensland Press

Dinosaur Dads

Author: GIBBES, Lesley
Illustrator: CROSBY-FAIRALL, Marjorie
Publisher: Scholastic Australia

Dirt Circus League

Author: KIMBERLEY, Maree
Publisher: Text Publishing

Down the Road, Little Bee

Author: LIGHTFOOT, Sarah Jane
Publisher: Affirm Press

Dragon Skin

Author: FOXLEE, Karen
Publisher: Allen & Unwin

E

Eliza Vanda's Button Box

Author: RODDA, Emily Rodda
Publisher: HarperCollins Publishers

Enough is Enough

Author: SMITH, Nola
Publisher: Dixi Books

Enough Love?

Author: HUTCHINGS, Maggie
Illustrator: ORSINI, Cheryl
Publisher: Affirm Press

Evacuation Road

Author: WAUGH, H.M.
Publisher: Rhiza Press

Everyday Wonders

Author: GRAETZ, Natala
Publisher: Everyday Wonders

Exit Through the Gift Shop

Author: MASTER, Maryam
Illustrator: HICKS, Astred
Publisher: Pan Macmillan Australia

F

Florence and Fox

Author: LOUISE, Zanni
Illustrator: PIGNATARO, Anna
Publisher: Walker Books Australia

For Love

Author: NERI, Cristina
Publisher: Lake Press Pty Ltd

Frankie and the Fossil

Author: McGEACHIN, Jess
Publisher: Penguin Random House Australia

Frizzle and Me

Author: ROYCE, Ellie
Illustrator: McLEAN, Andrew
Publisher: Ford Steet Publishing

G

Girls in Boy's Cars

Author: CASTAGNA, Felicity
Publisher: Pan Macmillan Australia

Goal!!!

Author: WILLIAMS, Lydia
Illustrator: GIFFORD, Lucinda
Publisher: Allen & Unwin

Great White Shark

Author: SAXBY, Claire
Illustrator: LANE, Cindy
Publisher: Walker Books Australia

Grumble Boats

Author: McFARLANE, Susannah
Illustrator: AINSLIE, Tamsin
Publisher: Affirm Press

H

Happy Hoppy Home

Author: SUWANNAKIT, Tull
Publisher: Scholastic Australia

He Was Tremendously Scary and Extraordinarily Hairly

Author: MAXWELL, Christopher
Publisher: Little Steps

Heroes, Rebels and Innovators

Author: WYLD, Karen
Illustrator: BIUMAIWAI, Jaelyn
Publisher: Hachette Australia

Horrible Harriet and the Terrible Tantrum

Author: HOBBS, Leigh
Publisher: Allen & Unwin

How to Make Friends: A Bear's Guide

Author: Cat Rabbit
Publisher: Berbay Publishing

How to Repaint a Life

Author: HERRICK, Steven
Publisher: University of Queensland Press

Huda and Me

Author: HAYEK, H
Publisher: Allen & Unwin

Hydrosphere Rising

Author: RUTHERFORD, Phillip
Publisher: Phillip Rutherford

I

I'm Fabulous Crab!

Author: GREENBERG, Nicki
Publisher: Affirm Press

Iceberg

Author: SAXBY, Claire
Illustrator: RACKLYEFT, Jess
Publisher: Allen & Unwin

If Not Us

Author: SMITH, Mark
Publisher: Text Publishing

J

Jacqueline: A Soldier's Daughter

Author: OBER, Pierre-Jaques
Illustrator: OBER, Jules
Publisher: Ford Street Publishing

Jetty Jumping

Author: ROWE, Andrea
Illustrator: SOMMERVILLE, Hannah
Publisher: Hardie Grant Children's Publishing

Joe and the Stars

Author: CUMMINGS, Phil
Illustrator: BRECON, Connah
Publisher: Scholastic Australia

Jumping Joeys

Author: ALLEN, Sarah
Publisher: Affirm Press

Just One Bee

Authors: LAMOND, Magrete & BERTINI, Anthony
Illustrator: NIELSEN, Christopher
Publisher: Dirt Lane Press (WestWords imprint)

L

Listen, Layla

Author: ABDEL-MAGIED, Yassmin

Publisher: Penguin Random House Australia

Little Gem

Author: ZOBEL, Anna

Publisher: Penguin Random House Australia

Look Closer: Paint with the Impressionists

Author: RYAN, Kate

Illustrator: BENENTT, Cally

Publisher: National Gallery of Victoria

M

Macca the Backpacker

Author: COSGROVE, Matt

Publisher: Scholastic Australia

Main Abija: My Grandad

Author: ROGERS, Karen

Publisher: Allen & Unwin

Maxine

Author: GRAHAM, Bob

Publisher: Walker Books Australia

Miscreation?

Author: YU, June

Publisher: Facet Media

Mo and Crow

Author: KASCH, Jo

Illustrator: BETLEY, Jonathan

Publisher: Allen & Unwin

Morrison and Mr Moore

Author: HYDE, Michael

Publisher: In Case of Emergency Press

Mozzies Vs Flies

Author: SPEEDIE, Sarah

Illustrator: CHALLENGER, Rebel

Publisher: Larrikin House

N

Night Ride into Danger

Author: FRENCH, Jackie

Publisher: HaperCollins Australia

Norton and the Borrowing Bear

Author: EVANS, Gabriel

Publisher: Berbay Publishing

O

Once at the Edge of the Sea

Author: SALIBA, Sue

Illustrator: SHENFIELD, Ann

Publisher: Sue Saliba

100 Remarkable Feats of Xander Maze

Author: COMBER, Clayton Zane

Publisher: HarperCollins Children's Books

One Potoroo: A Story of Survival

Author: JAYE, Penny

Illustrator: ROGERSON, Alicia

Publisher: CSIRO Publishing

P

Pig the Monster

Author: BLABEY, Aaron

Publisher: Scholastic Press

Plume: World Explorer

Author: McCARTNEY, Tania

Publisher: Hardie Grant Publishing

R

Rabbit, Soldier, Angel, Thief

Author: NANNSTAD, Katrina

Publisher: HarperCollins Publishers

Rachel's War

Author: WILSON, Mark

Publisher: Hachette Australia

S

Salih

Author: AHMAD ZAHRI, Inda
Illustrator: RYAN, Anne
Publisher: Ford Street Publishing

Saving Seal: The Plastic Predicament

Author: JACKSON HILL, Diane
Illustrator: SMITH, Craig
Publisher: Museums Victoria

Sea Country

Author: CAMERON, Aunty Patsy
Illustrator: KENNEDY, Lisa
Publisher: Magabala Books

self/less

Author: AViVA
Publisher: Pan Macmillan Australia

Sharing

Author: MUIR, Aunty Fay & LAWSON, Sue
Illustrator: MULGO WATSON, Leanne
Publisher: Magabala Books

Shockingly Good Stories

Author: SPRATT, R. A.
Publisher: Penguin Random House Australia

Star of Anise

Author: JOLLY, Jane
Illustrator: WU, Di
Publisher: National Library of Australia

Stars in their Eyes

Author: WALTON, Jessica & Aśka
Publisher: Fremantle Press

Stellarphant

Author: FOLEY, James
Publisher: Fremantle Press

Still Alive, Notes from Australia's Immigration Detention System

Author: AHMED, Safdar
Publisher: Twelve Panels Press

Story Doctors

Author: PRYOR, Boori Monty
Illustrator: SINCLAIR, Rita
Publisher: Allen & Unwin

Sugar Town Queens

Author: NUNN, Malla
Publisher: Allen & Unwin

Sunshine

Author: ORMEROD, Jan
Publisher: HarperCollins Publishers

T

Terciel and Elinor

Author: NIX, Garth
Publisher: Allen & Unwin

The Amazing Meals of Martha Maloney

Authors: WILD, Margaret & WILD, Dan
Illustrator: RAWLINS, Donna
Publisher: Walker Books Australia

The Best Cat, the Est Cat

Author: HATHORN, Libby
Illustrator: HANDLEY, Rosie
Publisher: State Library of NSW

The Bird in the Herd

Author: APEL, Kathryn
Illustrator: TREML, Renee
Publisher: University of Queensland Press

The Boy and the Elephant

Author: BLACKWOOD, Freya
Publisher: HarperCollins Publishers

The Boy from the Mish

Author: LONESBOROUGH, Gary
Publisher: Allen & Unwin

The Boy Who Tried to Shrink His Name

Author: PARAPPUKKARAN, Sandhya
Illustrator: PEREIRA, Michelle
Publisher: Hardie Grant Children's Publishing

The Break

Author: GWYNNE, Phillip
Publisher: Penguin Random House Australia

The Bush Birds

Author: FARMER, Bridget
Publisher: Black Cookatoo Books

The Detective's Guide to Ocean Travel

Author: GREENBERG, Nicki
Publisher: Affirm Press

The First Scientists: Deadly Inventions and Innovations from Australia's First Peoples

Author: TUTT, Corey
Illustrator: DOUGLAS, Blak
Publisher: Hardie Grant Publishing

The Flying Angel

Author: BENNETT, Vicki
Illustrator: SUWANNAKIT, Tull
Publisher: Scholastic Australia

The Gaps

Author: HALL, Leanne
Publisher: Text Publishing

The Good Times of Pelican Rise: Save the Joeys

Author: AMBA, Samone
Publisher: Affirm Press

The Great Book-swapping Machine

Author: ALLEN, Emma
Illustrator: COUTTS, Lisa
Publisher: National Library Australia

The Greatest Mistakes that Went Right

Author: MARA, Maddy
Illustrator: ORSINI, Cheryl
Publisher: Affirm Press

The Illustrated Encyclopaedia of Peculiar Pairs in Nature

Author: BAYLY, Sami
Publisher: Hachette Australia

The Imagineer

Author: CHENG, Christopher
Illustrator: MASCIULLO, Lucia
Publisher: National Library of Australia

The Inheritance

Author: GREDER, Armin
Publisher: Allen & Unwin

The Katha Chest

Author: CHOWDHURY, Radhiah
Illustrator: NAIDU, Lavanya
Publisher: Allen & Unwin

The March of the Ants

Author: DUBOSARSKY, Ursula Dubosarsky
Illustrator: RIDDLE, Tohby
Publisher: Book Trail Press

The Midnight Girls

Author: JASINSKA, Alicia
Publisher: Penguin Random House Australia

The Right Way to Rock

Author: AMOORE, Nat
Publisher: Penguin Random House Australia

The River

Author: MORGAN, Sally
Illustrator: WARRKATJA MALIBIRR, Johnny
Publisher: Magabala Books

The Way of the Weedy Seadragon

Author: MORGAN, Anne
Illustrator: BURY, Lois
Publisher: CSIRO Publishing

The Wonder of Winsome

Author: MURDOCH, Kath
Illustrator: MADDER, Sharyn
Publisher: Seastar Education

Tiger Daughter

Author: LIM, Rebecca
Publisher: Allen & Unwin

Tiny Possum and the Migrating Moths

Author: MURPHY, Julie
Illustrator: CLIFFORD, Ben
Publisher: CSIRO Publishing

Tomorrow is a Brand New Day

Author: BELL, Davina
Illustrator: COLPOYS, Allison
Publisher: Scribble

Train Party

Author: BLAIR, Karen
Publisher: Penguin Random House Australia

Trouble is my Business
Author: WALKER, Lisa Walker
Publisher: Wakefield Press

Turning Cartwheels
Author: ADENEY, Amy
Illustrator: CALAUTTI, Amy
Publisher: EK Books

U

Upside Down Friday
Author: SPASEVSKI, Lana
Illustrator: JOHNSTON, Nicky
Publisher: EK Books

V

Vernon the Penguin
Author: CURTIN, Natasha
Publisher: Scholastic Australia

W

Waking Romeo
Author: BARKER, Kathryn
Publisher: Allen & Unwin

Walk of the Whales
Author: BLAND, Nick
Publisher: Hardie Grant Children's Publishing

Walking in Gagudju Country: Exploring the Monsoon Forest
Authors: LUCAS, Diane & TYLER, Ben
Illustrator: LONG, Emma
Publisher: Allen & Unwin

Wandi
Author: PARRETT, Favel
Publisher: Hachette Australia

We Found a Cat
Author: MCKINNON, Heidi
Publisher: Scholastic Australia

Wednesday Weeks and the Tower of Shadows
Author: KNIGHT, Denis & BURNE, Cristy
Publisher: Hachette Australia

What Do You Call Your Grandma?
Author: BARTON, Ashleigh
Illustrator: HEIDUCZEK, Martina
Publisher: HarperCollins Publishers

When the Waterhole Dries Up
Author: BAILLIE, Kaye
Illustrator: HAMILTON, Max
Publisher: Windy Hollow Books

When We Are Invisible
Author: ZORN, Claire
Publisher: University of Queensland Press

Where The Heart Is
Author: GOLD, Irma
Illustrator: CRISPE, Susannah
Publisher: EK Books

Winner Winner, Bin Chicken Dinner
Authors: TEMPLE, Kate & TEMPLE, Jol
Illustrator: GHOSH, Ronojoy
Publisher: Scholastic Australia

Winston and the Indoor Cat
Author: RUDGE, Leila
Publisher: Walker Books Australia

Wonderful Shoes
Author: BOWD, Emma
Illustrator: McCARTNEY, Tania
Publisher: Windy Hollow Books