

The Dame Annabelle Rankin Award

2022 Recipient

Michael Gerard Bauer

The Dame Annabelle Rankin Award for Distinguished Services to Children's Literature in 2022 is awarded to Michael Gerard Bauer for his career-long commitment to the creative, imaginative, and learning lives of children and young people.

Michael became a full-time writer in 2005 and has since published 17 books which have been shortlisted, honoured, and won CBCA Book of the Year, State Premier's Literature, children's choice, Speech Pathology, and Children's Peace Literature awards. He has won the Prime Minister's Award for YA literature and twice had his books selected for the White Ravens Festival catalogue of outstanding international books for children and young adults.

Over the past two decades his writing, presentations, festival attendances, and workshops across Australia and overseas have raised the profile of Australian children's literature. He volunteers with the May Gibbs Children's Literature Trust, and has served on their National Selection Panel for 15 years. He was awarded their Creative Time Fellowship in 2007.

Michael has mentored young writers, keenly supported local community groups such as Verses for Vanuatu, and joined with other Queensland writers to lobby against the Parallel Importation of Books.

Michael's books embrace both reluctant readers and those who appreciate fine literature. His distinctive, authentic, humorous voice is a major contribution to Australian literature, and his stories encourage young readers to accept and celebrate diversity.



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