

The Dame Annabelle Rankin Award



Background

The Dame Annabelle Rankin Award for Distinguished Services to Children's Literature is a biennial award of the Queensland Branch of the Children's Book Council of Australia. It was established in 2004 as a celebration of 50 years of the Children's Book Council of Australia in Queensland and was modelled on similar CBCA branch awards and the national CBCA Nan Chauncy Award. The award was presented annually 2004 – 2007 but a motion was passed at a branch management committee meeting for it to be presented every two years from 2009 in alternating years to the national Nan Chauncy Award. When the Nan Chauncy Award skipped one year in 2014, it was decided to postpone our award from 2015 to 2016 to keep in sync with them.

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The recipient will have made a contribution primarily in Queensland, but services nationally and internationally are also considered.

Dame Annabelle Rankin

Dame Annabelle Rankin was an Australian stateswoman, born in Brisbane. She became the first Queensland woman to enter federal politics, as a senator for the state in 1946, and the first woman whip in the British Commonwealth, serving as opposition whip (1947-9) and government whip (1951-66). She was also the first Australian woman to be appointed as a federal Minister, holding the housing portfolio (1966-71), and Australia's first woman head of a diplomatic mission as High Commissioner to New Zealand (1971-4). She was made a Dame Commander of the Order of the British Empire for her political and public service in 1957.

Dame Annabelle Rankin was one of the first to be given Life Member status of the Queensland Branch of Children's Book Council of Australia in 1977 following her service to the branch as a President for 10 years from 1961-1971 and as a Patron. She became known throughout Queensland from her association with church activities, Girl Guides, the YWCA and the Red Cross. She was also a member of the CWA, the Victoria League and the Royal Empire Society.

The Award

The Award is to take the form of a suitable certificate and/or an engraved trophy and a citation. Suitable wording on the certificate and/or trophy would be:

CBCA
QLD Branch
Dame Annabelle
Rankin Award

Year

Name of recipient
For distinguished
services to
Children's Literature
in Queensland



The citation is to be written by the judging committee using material from the nomination, reducing it to not more than one page.

The citation is to be read at the Award presentation generally at a Book Week event, printed in the newsletter, included on the web site and sent to relevant magazines and the CBCA archives.

Only one Award will be presented every two years. The Award will normally be made to an individual; however, in special circumstances the judges may make a joint or group award where a joint or group nomination has been deemed more appropriate than an individual one.

The Award is to be administered by a convenor appointed by the CBCA Queensland Branch Executive.

Eligibility

The recipient shall be a person who has made a significant contribution to children's literature in Queensland.

Where a joint or group nomination is more appropriate, a joint or group nomination may be made.

Whilst there is no restriction on the types of contribution made, recipients' contributions must encompass more than their profession or occupation.

No person may receive the Award more than once.

Candidates need not be members of the CBCA.

Nominations

Calls for nomination should be advertised in Branch newsletters, online and via email lists from the beginning of the year in which the award is given.

Nominations shall be no more than two A4 pages. (Calibri, font size 11, single spaced)

Nominations close in June in even-numbered years, alternating with the Nan Chauncy Award year.

Nominations should be made on the official nomination form.

Nominations shall be emailed to gld@cbca.org.au with the subject heading: The Dame Annabelle Rankin Award

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Selection and Judging

There shall be three judges: The Award convenor, the Queensland Branch president, and a member of the Queensland management committee to be chosen annually by the Branch.

Copies of nominations should be sent to all judges for perusal and research within three weeks of the close of nominations.

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In the event that one of the judges is nominated for the Award or is otherwise unable to participate in the judging process, the Queensland Branch Executive shall appoint a replacement.

The judging panel shall advise the Qld Branch management committee of their decision no later than two weeks prior to the award presentation.

The convenor of the award should notify the winner, as embargoed information, to ensure that they have the opportunity to attend the presentation as a guest or to provide a message to be read out at the event if they are unable to attend. The invitation should include partner of awardee.

Immediately after the announcement of the award the secretary shall post press release statements to social media accounts.

Previous winners

2004 Lyn Linning

2005 Jill Morris

2006 Kerry Mallan

2007 David Cox

2009 Jenny Stubbs

2011 Robyn Sheehan-Bright

2013 Judith Russell

2016 Leonie Tyle

2018 James Moloney

2020 Fiona Stager