

The 2015 Leila St John Award

*for distinguished services to children's literature
is presented to*

Dr Virginia Lowe

*in recognition of her significant contribution to children's literature in
Victoria.*

Virginia Lowe has contributed to the knowledge and promotion of Children's Literature in Victoria for almost fifty years.

Virginia has been published widely and has had a major impact in Victoria by sharing her encyclopaedic knowledge of children's literature at conferences and in reviewing journals reaching generations of practitioners in the field.

She has generously donated her volunteer time to share and discuss works by Australia creators and has consistently supported Victorian authors and illustrators at launches and presentations over many decades.

Her CBCA Victorian Branch contributions include being an active committee member for 32 years during which she was secretary from 1981 to 1983, and president of the branch from 1993 to 1995. Virginia was the Victorian judge of the CBCA Book of the Year Awards for 1992 and 1993 and was also a judge and convenor of the Crichton Award from 2000 to 2006. She is a passionate advocate of CBCA Vic and tireless in her support of both metropolitan and regional events.

Virginia has been a lecturer in English, Children's Literature and Creative Writing at the Australian Catholic University and Deakin, as well as a municipal and school librarian. She is also the author of the book 'Stories, Pictures and Reality: Two Children Tell' first published by Routledge in 2007. Virginia continues to be active in the field through the 'Create a Kids' Book' workshops and her associated newsletter which shares information about children's literature events and reviews of new publications.

Virginia Lowe was awarded Doctor of Philosophy, Faculty of Education, Monash University, 1997. Thesis title: *Is this a Real Story?: Young Children's Concept of the Reality-Status of Stories and Pictures*. However it is as much for the impact of her countless hours of voluntary work for CBCA Victoria since 1967 that she is awarded the 2015 Leila St John Award.

