**Albert Ullin Award presented to Jane Tanner**

I was delighted and honoured to be asked by the Albert Ullin Award convenor Pam Horsey to present the prestigious Albert Ullin Award last Sunday at the North Fitzroy Library. The award was established by Albert Ullin on his death to recognise a body of work by an illustrator of children’s books who has made a significant contribution to children’s literature in Australia.

It was Albert’s wish for the award to go to a person with at least ten years of work behind them, who may have been recognised with awards in the past, but to give them the recognition they really deserved.

To this end, the panel members of the award decided on the person they felt most deserving.

And Jane Tanner was the 2022 incredibly talented recipient.

Jane’s foray into children’s picture book illustration began with her collaboration with author Margaret Wild to produce the delightful and timeless ‘There’s a Sea In My Bedroom’, still in print today and with a musical adaptation by the Australian Chamber Orchestra.

Her body of work is impressive and Jane spoke passionately about her joy in creating illustrations from live models, often her grandchildren, and her interest in ‘really looking into the eyes of her models and recreating their personalities on paper.’

Jane was delighted and humbled to have her talent recognised and acknowledged the support and love of her many old and dear friends, and family. She spoke of how she has enjoyed a rich, creative and wonderfully fulfilling working life. Jane finished her speech with a promise of more to come!

Thanks go to Albert Ullin convenor Pam Horsey and VIC Branch committee member and Albert Ullin sub-committee member Geraldine Woolnough for a wonderful and affirming event.