

Victorian based CBCA BOTY Judges 2021

Older Reader Category



KARYS MC EWEN

Karys is the Library Manager at both Prahran High School and Richmond High School. She is originally from Western Australia and has a Bachelor of Arts (Fine Art) from the University of Western Australia and a Master of Information Management (Librarianship) from Curtin University. She is the current President of the CBCA Victorian Branch. Karys also makes zines and writes for Books + Publishing magazine. She is passionate about the positive impact libraries and literature can have on the wellbeing of young people.



ERIN WALAMA

Erin has a Bachelor of Education and a Masters of Teacher Librarianship. For almost ten years she worked as the Education Marketing Manager of Penguin Books Australia and was fortunate to be able to share books with teachers and students around the country. Following this, she managed The Kids' Bookshop before finally making the transition to Teacher Librarian at Trinity Grammar in Melbourne. She's very excited to take on the role of CBCA judge and is looking forward to reading many wonderful books and sharing them with her fellow judges.

Younger Reader Category



RUTH WOOLVEN

Ruth Woolven has Bachelor of Arts in English Literature and a Master of Information Management (Librarianship). Ruth works as the Librarian at Kew Primary School in Melbourne. Ruth is the Primary School Representative on the School Library Association of Victoria (SLAV) Council and is a member of the CBCA Victorian Branch committee. Ruth is passionate about connecting students to the right books and promoting reading for pleasure.

Early Childhood Category



MARISSA CALUZZI

Throughout her 30-year teaching career, Marissa has demonstrated a passion for literature and loves sharing the joy of reading with her students. She has completed a Master of Business (Information Technology), RMIT University; a Graduate Diploma in Information Management, RMIT University; a Bachelor of Education, RMIT University; and a Diploma of Teaching (Early Childhood Education), Phillip Institute of Technology, with a major focus in Children's Literature in all of these studies. Marissa is currently the Junior School Teacher Librarian at Ivanhoe Girls' Grammar School, working with students in the Junior School (Year Prep – 6) and Early Learning Centre (Kinder and Pre-Prep). A key focus of her role is fostering a love of books and reading for pleasure in the students, staff, and the wider community. She is also an enthusiastic and active member of the CBCA Victorian Branch executive committee.

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Picture Book of the Year & Award for New Illustrators Categories



Dr JULIE FAULKNER

Julie is a senior lecturer in teacher education at Monash University. A former English teacher, she now teaches and researches in literature and young people's in-school and out-of-school literacy practices. Her research interests include print literature as well as digital literary texts, and all the ways these might be taught and read. She sees literature as a powerful springboard for deeper reading, drawing on complex visual and print language as well as rich vocabulary and, in the case of picture books, crafted illustration. In her teaching, she has worked with preservice and practising teachers to read, analyse and create their own picture and bilingual books. She is a joint editor of the literacy journal, *'Literacy Learning: the Middle Years'* which explores reading and teaching practices among middle years children. She is also co-author of *'Learning to*

Teach: New Times, New Practices' (Oxford University Press), preparing for its third edition.



BROOK TAYLA

Brook has a Diploma of Teaching (Primary) and a Graduate Diploma in Children's Literature. Although she has been passionate about children's literature since childhood, she attributes the depth of her love of literature to having had lecturers at the top of their field – two of whom read picture books at the beginning of every lecture. Brook currently works part-time as a librarian. She is a member of many writers' groups, prominent literary related associations, and reviewer for online children's magazines, blogs and publishers. Brook has a multitude of experience and expertise in her chosen field. In 2019, she was an Eve Pownall CBCA judge which was a new and interesting area. This year she is delighted to be working in her area of expertise as the Picture Book/New Illustrator CBCA Judge.

Eve Pownall Award



NARISSA LEUNG

Narissa is a former primary school principal and teacher. She now works as a literacy consultant in schools across Victoria, striving to build a love of literacy and literature in both students and teachers. Narissa holds a Masters of Education (Charles Sturt University) as well as a Bachelor of Education with a minor in Children's Literature (Latrobe University). She is passionate about schools using Australian texts as mentors for teaching reading and writing and founded the Oz Lit Teacher community to support teachers to build their knowledge in doing this. Narissa is an avid reader and keen writer and is rarely found without a book in her hand. She was first introduced to the CBCA Book of the Year Awards by her primary school librarian, Ms Patterson, and has loved awaiting the announcement of the winners ever since. She is thrilled to be a part of the judging panel for the Eve

Pownall Award this year.