

Victorian based CBCA BOTY Judges 2022



Older Reader Category



MICHAEL EARP

Michael Earp is a writer and bookseller living in Melbourne, Australia. He is the contributing editor of *Kindred: 12 Queer #LoveOzYA Stories* (2019) and contributor to *Underdog: #LoveOzYA Short Stories* (2019). He has a Masters in Children's Literature and an undergraduate degree in Early Childhood Teaching. For over seventeen years he has worked between bookselling and publishing as a children's and young adult specialist, currently managing *The Little Bookroom*. His writing has also appeared in *The Victorian Writer* and *Aurealis*. A passionate advocate for LGBTQIA+ literature for young people, he established the *#AusQueerYA Tumblr* to catalogue all Australian young adult fiction containing queer content and characters. He was previously volunteer committee chair for the *#LoveOzYA* campaign, a 'Read Local' initiative to raise the profile of young adult fiction written by Australians.

Early Childhood Category



BRONWYN JOSEPH

Bronwyn's passion for picture books was nurtured as a child and continues to grow. She has taught in various teaching positions, having qualified with a Bachelor of Education (Primary) from Deakin University. When she joined Melbourne Grammar School working as a Teacher Librarian, she undertook post-graduate studies in children's literature, opening up new ways to analyse literature whilst also informing her teaching and the ways she shares literature. Bronwyn is dedicated to connecting young students to books that engage them and give them success. She is also a strong advocate for the use of picture books across all areas of the curriculum, encouraging and supporting teachers. Bronwyn is thrilled to be judging the Early Childhood Category.

Picture Book of the Year & Award for New Illustrators Categories



SARAH MAYOR COX

Sarah has worked as a Primary Teacher, Teacher Librarian, University Lecturer, literacy coach, conference and festival convenor, and book reviewer. Sarah currently works in schools and community organisations as the Founder and Lead Literacy Consultant of *EoL=MC2* (Ecology of Learning = Mayor Cox2). In her spare time she is the Bendigo Regional Director of CBCA, a member of the Central Victoria Local Council of ALEA, and is involved with the Bendigo Writers Festival. She's an enthusiastic and vocal member of her local CAE book group (which she joined to force her to read at least one adult book a month) but ironically she rarely finishes the monthly book because of all the other reading she does. Sarah reviews children's and YA texts fortnightly, with Jo Printz on ABC Central Victoria Local Radio 91.1; and with Trevor Chappell on *Overnights*, ABC Melbourne. Sarah loves to stitch, felt, cook, paint, swim, travel and catch-up with friends whenever possible but housework and weeding are definitely for her next life.

Eve Pownall Award



ALIDA GALATI

Alida Galati's lifelong passion for books and reading has led her down a variety of information paths, right through to her current role as a secondary school librarian at Loyola College, Watsonia. Her qualifications include a Bachelor of Arts (Italian Studies and English Literature, La Trobe University); and a Graduate Diploma in Information Management and Library Studies (RMIT University). She is a keen reader, across all genres, and is an enthusiast of YA fiction. She loves talking about books with her students and believes a great book conversation isn't what she has to say about it, but what they bring to the interaction. She dabbles in writing and has written book reviews for *Books + Publishing*, and *Better Reading*; and about school reading programs and initiatives in SLAV's FYI journal. Alida is nervously excited to take on the role as a CBCA Judge.