



Press release

Lady Cutler Award 2024

The CBCA NSW Branch 2024-25 Lady Cutler Award Winner has been announced. The recipient is Dr Bronwyn Bancroft. The award will be presented on November 9, at the **Aspire and Celebrate** event at Writing NSW.

The Lady Cutler Award is a biennial award, administered by the CBCA NSW Branch, for distinguished service to children's literature. <https://www.cbcanw.org.au/lady-cutler-award>

About Dr Bronwyn Bancroft

Dr. Bronwyn Bancroft is a proud Bundjalung Woman, a writer and an artist.

"The main reason I took up illustrating and writing children's books was because when I was growing up in Tenterfield there were no books about Aboriginal people by Aboriginal people. This has always stayed with me and has driven me to continuously produce and assist in providing an Aboriginal perspective for Australian children".

Bronwyn's contribution to Aboriginal children's literature has been immense. Bronwyn has been a trailblazer in the field of Australian literature for over 30 years and has contributed significantly to representation for Aboriginal storytellers.

Bronwyn began illustrating children's books in 1993, with artwork for Diana Kidd's *The Fat and Juicy Place*, which was shortlisted for the Children's Book Council of Australia Book of the Year and won the Australian Multicultural Children's Book Award. Bronwyn was the Australian finalist for the Ezra Jack Keats Award for Excellence in Children's Book illustration in 1994. Bronwyn received the Dromkeen Medal for her contribution to Australian literature and has been nominated for prestigious international children's literature awards including the Hans Christian Andersen and the Astrid Lindgren Memorial Awards.

Bronwyn's books have been translated into many different languages and have been read by children all over the world.



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Bronwyn is passionate about her culture, her family, equity in education, conservation of the world and protection of artists' rights. Through her books, Bronwyn communicates her social conscience, her family's history and her deep sense of custodianship for the environment by depicting the beauty of the Australian landscape and its precious flora and fauna.

Bronwyn believes it is important to bestow and share intergenerational knowledge to assist others to be able to share their stories and contribute to further representation for Aboriginal storytellers in the industry.

Bronwyn frequently works with emerging Artists and illustrators as part of the Rising Tide Camp workshop series to provide mentorship in the development of storyboards and writing. Bronwyn has also visited and facilitated a number of workshops and talks for schools and community groups throughout Australia, many of which were in a volunteer capacity. Bronwyn is one of ten founding members of Boomalli Aboriginal Artists Co-operative (est. 1987) and has been the Co-operative's volunteer senior strategist since 2009.

Bronwyn achieved her Doctorate in 2018, and in 2021 she was awarded the inaugural NSW Aboriginal Creative Fellowship at the State Library of NSW.

Bronwyn currently offers her extensive expertise to organisations where she services as a Board Member/Director including the Australian Society of Authors (ASA), Australian Indigenous Mentoring Experience (AIME), and the Commonwealth Bank Indigenous Advisory Council. Bronwyn's past Board representations include Copyright Agency, Arts Law, Viscopy, Museum of Contemporary Art, Sydney, Tranby Aboriginal College, National Gallery of Australia, Chair of the Visual Arts Board of the NSW Ministry of the Arts, National Indigenous Arts Advocacy Organisation and Boomalli Aboriginal Artists Co-operative.

Information supplied by Hardie Grant

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