



KID'S CORNER

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NOTABLY NSW



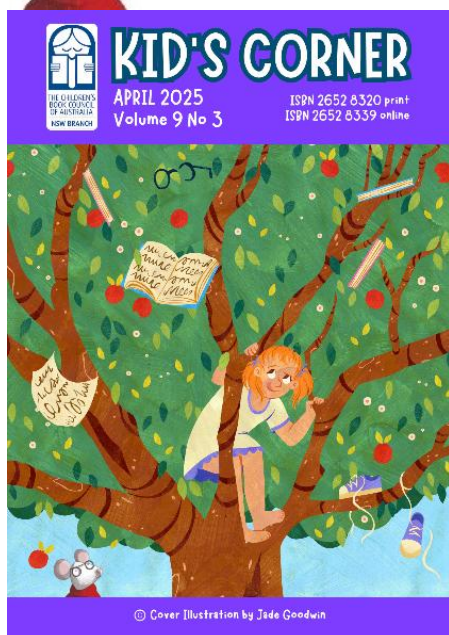
© Cover Illustration by Jade Goodwin

Welcome to KIDS' CORNER for April / May 2025...



If you were wondering where to **BOOK AN ADVENTURE** with some of Australia's best books, New South Wales is a great place to start ...

This issue of **KIDS' CORNER** <https://www.cbcanw.org.au/kids-corner> features info



about some very **NOTABLY NSW** books created by authors and illustrators who have links to NSW.

These **NOTABLY NSW** titles are part of the listing included on the **2025 CBCA Notables** <https://cbca.org.au/2025-notables/>

Some of the books on the CBCA Notables are also included on the 2025 CBCA Shortlist. How many overall have links to NSW?

And, speaking of amazing NSW creatives, we

WELCOME Jade Goodwin

<https://jadegoodwin.com.au/>

as our **Guest Illustrator** for this issue of **KC**. Do her ideas and talents really just grow on a magic tree? Find out how she actually illustrated 20 remarkable books in two years!



Huge **THANKS** to Jade for sharing how to **BOOK AN ADVENTURE** with illustrations that bring stories to life.

Meet a few of our NSW **BOYA (Book of the Year Award)** judges. Discover their thoughts about judging and reading with some **"WHAT?" and "WHY?" Q & A's**.

Mike Lucas highlights some of the BEST things about celebrating the past 80 years of CBCA Children's Book Week in his annual Book Week poem.

We end this issue with a **WHAT'S NEW** showcase of diverse and surprising books for YA and Older readers.

Thanks once again to the reading teams from **The Entrance PS** (Central Coast NSW) and from **St Thomas Aquinas PS** (Springwood) for more **KC4KC = KIDS COMMENTS for KIDS' CORNER**.

Happy reading always –

Morrie, Magic Morrie, Maryanne Ann O'Mouse, Adventure Morrie and more...

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GUEST ILLUSTRATOR - Jade Goodwin: *Journey in Children's Literature*



Hi! I'm Jade Goodwin, a children's book illustrator. Over the past two years, I've illustrated 20 books, bringing stories to life with colour, character, and imagination. It's been an incredible journey—one I never quite expected.

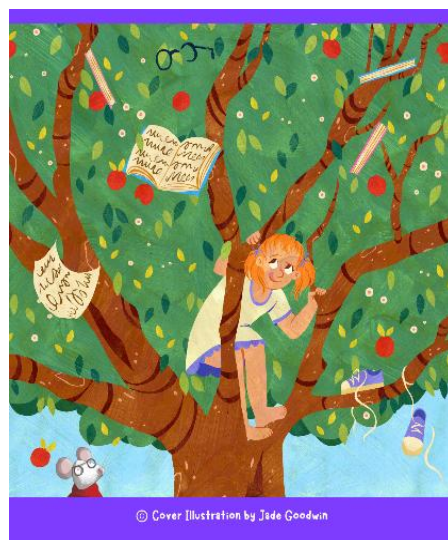
Finding My Path to Illustration

I've loved making art for as long as I can remember. My earliest creative memories are from my grandparents' screen-printing studio, where I spent hours with my cousins experimenting and making anything with everything we could get our hands on. Art was always part of my life, but I never thought it could

become my full-time job.

Like many artists, one day I started sharing my work online. At first, it was just for fun, experimenting and drawing what inspired me. Then one day, a publisher reached out with an opportunity to illustrate a book. That first book led to another, and soon, I found myself juggling multiple projects at once. Before I knew it, I had illustrated 20 books in just two years.

Fun Fact: *I had a full-time job working in an art gallery when I started sharing my work online. I saved up for so long to buy my iPad (the same very one I use to make some of my books today) I stopped myself from buying an iPad three times before I convinced myself I should buy it. I've had so many 'right place, right time' moments in my illustration career. And if I didn't buy the iPad on that fourth time, I really don't think I would be where I am today.*



The Process of Bringing Stories to Life

Illustrating a picture book isn't just about drawing what's in the text—it's about expanding the story, adding emotion, and creating something that speaks to young readers. When I receive a manuscript, I don't just think about how the characters look; I consider how they move. My favourite part of the process is reading the manuscript deeply—not just for the words, but for the emotions behind them and sketching rough ideas—this is where characters take shape, settings come to life, and I experiment with how to visually pace the story.

Each book comes with its own challenges and joys. Some stories require bold, playful illustrations, while others call for quiet, tender moments. Understanding the heart of each book is one of the most rewarding parts of what I do.

Why Picture Books Matter

Children's books are often a child's first introduction to storytelling, art, and even the world around them. As an illustrator, I think a lot about the impact of these stories. I want kids to see themselves in books, to feel a sense of wonder, and to know that their experiences and imaginations matter.

Growing up, I didn't really see characters who looked like me in books. That's why it's so important to me to work on stories that celebrate diverse voices, cultures, and perspectives. Every child deserves to feel represented in the books they read.

Lessons From 20 Books (and counting!)

After illustrating so many books, I've learned a few things: Creativity is a skill you build. I look back at my early work and see how much I've grown. The more you create, the more confident you become. Books are a collaborative effort. Authors, illustrators, designers, editors, and publishers all play a role in bringing a book to life. It's a team effort + let's not forget our wonderful local bookshops! Stories have power. A single picture book can spark a child's imagination, make them laugh, or even help them see the world in a new way.

I feel incredibly lucky to be part of this world—to contribute to stories that children will read and remember. And I can't wait to see where the next book takes me.

JADE GOODWIN Sample Book Covers			
SERIES SAMPLES			
		<p>YARN QUEST – with Brooke Scobie (Penguin Random House)</p> <p>LITTLE ASH – with Ash Barty & Jasmin McGaughey (Harper Collins Australia)</p> <p>Ash Barty: TENNIS CAMP DIARIES with Ash Barty & Jasmin McGaughey (Harper Collins- Australia)</p>	
INDIVIDUAL TITLES			
		<p>Aslan and Benny – with Jemima Shafei-Ongu (Penguin)</p> <p>My Dreams for You – with Ash Barty & Jasmin McGaughey (Harper Collins Australia)</p> <p>Let's Try Again Another Day with Charlotte Barkla (Hachette/ Lothian Children's Books)</p> <p>Girl Crushed- (Jade Goodwin cover illus) book by Maggie Horne (Affirm Press)</p>	
COMING SOON			
	JUNE 2025 2025		AUGUST 2025
		<p>Earth Speak - with Sean McCann (A&U)</p> <p>How Big is Love -with Carl Merrison & Hakea Hustler (Lothian/ Hachette)</p>	



BOOK AN
Adventure



2025 Children's Book Week®
16–23 August

And speaking of Children's Book Week...We were wondering:

“What makes a good book?”

Q&A

When we asked some of the CBCA [Children's Book Council of Australia] BOYA JUDGES (Book of the Year Awards) about their reading, we discovered that:

one question can have many answers and may raise even more questions. And, a question can have an answer that leads to other interesting info. We asked:

* What is your favourite kind of book?

- They each like certain types of books and are curious about others.

>Each BOYA = Book of the Year Awards judge applies to evaluate one of the categories of books that they are interested in and have expertise with.

*How many books do you read in a year?

- They may read as many as 200 books in a year.

>The judges read, re-read and discuss each of the books nominated for their category. By the time the winning books are decided on, each judge will have read and reread all the books in their category.

*How would you decide 'What is the best book in Australia?'

- The judges do have guidelines and specific criteria that is used to judge each category. that help them decide the winning books that are announced each year as part of CBCA CHILDREN'S BOOK WEEK celebrations.

Watch for more

Q&A

ideas from our judges in **KIDS' CORNER.**



What do YOU think?





The BOYA Journey – Facts and figures from the Notables to the Shortlist

The CBCA (Children's Book Council of Australia) received 730 entries nominated for 15 expert judges to assess in the **2025 BOYA (Book of the Year Awards)**.

These books are sorted into these categories:

- **CBCA Book of the Year: Older Readers [57 entries]**
- **CBCA Book of the Year: Younger Readers [160 entries]**
- **CBCA Book of the Year: Early Childhood [153 entries]**
- **CBCA Picture Book of the Year [232 entries]**
- **Eve Pownall Award [81 entries]**
- **CBCA Award for New Illustrator [47 entries]**

Some of these entries will be included in the **Notables** listing.

The 2025 **Notables** <https://cbca.org.au/2025-notables/> showcase the work of 122 books, representing 31 publishers, 114 writers and 79 illustrators. There are usually around 20 books selected for each category on the Notables list.



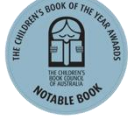
Some of the titles on the **CBCA Notables List** will also be included on the **CBCA Shortlist** <https://cbca.org.au/2025-shortlist/>. Each shortlist category has 5-6 books.

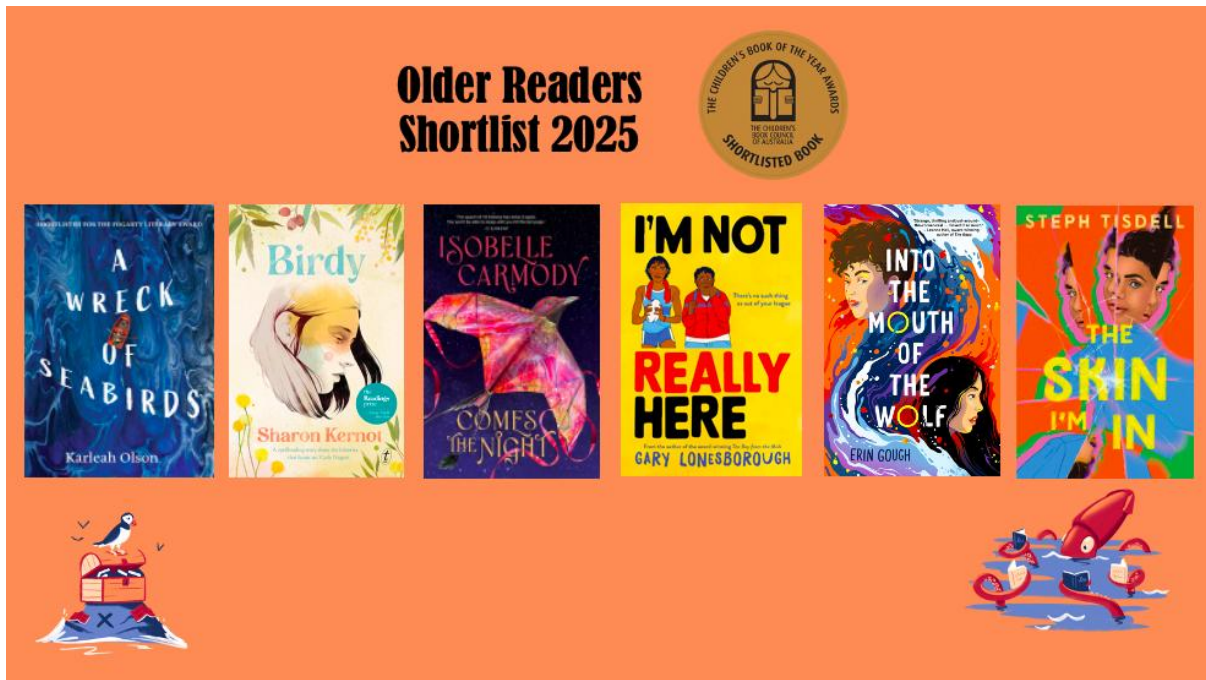
These categories reflect the breadth of children's literature written by Australians. They also reflect our aim to promote quality reading for young Australians of a wide age-range and of reader ability. <https://cbca.org.au/about-the-awards/>

NOTABLY NSW



NSW (New South Wales) often compiles a separate and unofficial listing called **NOTABLY NSW** books. These are the books that were created by authors and or illustrators who have links to NSW and whose books are on the CBCA Notables or the CBCA Shortlist. Our logo is based on the Waratah, the NSW State floral emblem.

 <p>CBCA SHORTLIST</p>	 <p>NOTABLY NSW</p>	 <p>CBCA NOTABLE</p>
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- ***A Wreck of Seabirds*** by Karleah Olson [Perth WA] https://fremantlepress.com.au/books/a-wreck-of-seabirds/?srsltid=AfmBOopIG2lh99_D-f8YwgQPv9DBACTqTAa1Msf2w2U_jUzQ56-Ssz63
(Fremantle Press)
- ***Birdy*** by Sharon Kernot [SA] <https://www.textpublishing.com.au/books/birdy>
(Text Publishing)
- ***Comes the Night*** by Isobelle Carmody [VIC / Brisbane QLD]
<https://www.allenandunwin.com/browse/book/Isobelle-Carmody-Comes-the-Night-9781760294762>
(A&U Books for Children and Young Adults)
- ***I'm Not Really Here*** by Gary Lonesborough [Sydney NSW] <https://garylonesborough.com/>
(A&U Books for Children and Young Adults)
- ***Into the Mouth of the Wolf*** by Erin Gough [Gadigal land in Sydney]
<https://www.eringough.com/> (Hardie Grant Children's Publishing)
- ***The Skin I'm In*** by Steph Tisdell [Ydinji / Cairns/ QLD] <https://www.stephtisdell.com/>
(Macmillan Australia)

	<p><i>I like the twists and dips of reading, persuasive words, and bright, bold words and titles and pictures. - Alexa</i></p>
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CBCA 2025 BOOK OF THE YEAR: SHORTLIST for YOUNGER READERS

Younger Readers Shortlist 2025



- **Aggie Flea Steals the Show** by Tania Ingram [SA] <https://taniaingram.com/>
illustrated by A. Yi [Sydney NSW] <https://www.linkedin.com/in/anne-yi-494836b/?originalSubdomain=au> (Scholastic Australia)



- **Fluff: Mess Up!** by Matt Stanton <https://www.mattstanton.net/> [Sydney NSW]
illustrated by Matt Stanton (ABC Books)



- **Laughter is the Best Ending** by Maryam Master []
<https://www.panmacmillan.com.au/?authors=maryam-master>
illustrated by Astred Hicks [Sydney NSW] [@AstredHicksDesignCherry](https://www.instagram.com/AstredHicksDesignCherry) INSTAGRAM (Pan Australia)



- **Saskia Spark-Lee: Fundraiser Fail** by Rebecka Sharpe Shelberg [Sydney NSW]
<https://www.rebeckasays.com/>, illustrated by Sofya Karmazina [Sydney NSW]
<https://cargocollective.com/sofyakarmazina/ABOUT> (Walker Books Australia)



- **Tigg and the Bandicoot Bushranger** by Jackie French [NSW, QLD]
<https://www.jackiefrench.com/> (HarperCollins AU)



- **To and Fro** by Anton Clifford-Motopi [Brisbane QLD] <https://antoncliffordmotopi.com/> (A&U Books for Children and Young Adults)

CBCA 2025 BOOK OF THE YEAR: SHORTLIST for EARLY CHILDHOOD



- ***Don't Worry, Felix*** by Yohann Devezy [Perth WA] <https://www.redpaperkite.com/yohann-devezy> & Katharine Alice [Fremantle, WA] <https://vsviewfromthebookshelves.home.blog/tag/katharine-alice/> ; illustrated by Zoe Bennett [Sydney NSW] <https://zoebenett.com.au/> (New Frontier Publishing)



- ***Everything You Ever Wanted to Know About the Tooth Fairy (And Some Things You Didn't)*** by Briony Stewart [Fremantle W A] <https://www.brionystewart.com/> (Lothian Children's Books)

- ***How to Move a Zoo*** by Kate Simpson [Sydney NSW] <https://www.katesimpsonbooks.com/> illustrated by Owen Swan [Sydney NSW] <https://www.owenswan.com/> (A&U Books for Children and Young Adults)



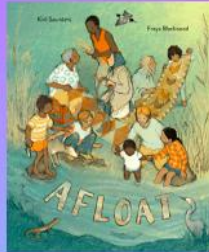
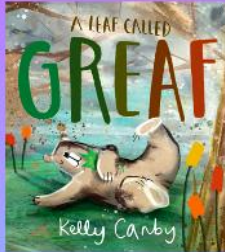
- ***One Little Dung Beetle*** by Rhian Williams [NSW] <https://www.rhianwilliamsauthor.com.au/> illustrated by Heather Potter [Melbourne] & Mark Jackson [Melbourne Vic] <https://wdog.com.au/heather-potter-and-mark-jackson/> (Wild Dog Books)



- ***Spiro*** by Anna McGregor [Melbourne VIC] <https://annamcgregor.com.au/about-me/> (Scribble)
- ***The Wobbly Bike*** by Darren McCallum [Darwin, NT] <https://www.walkerbooks.com.au/book/9781760656416/> illustrated by Craig Smith [SA/Melbourne] <https://www.craigsmithillustration.com/> (Walker Books Australia)

CBCA 2025 BOOK OF THE YEAR: SHORTLIST for PICTURE BOOKS

Picture Book of the Year Shortlist 2025



Afloat by Freya Blackwood [NSW] <https://www.freyablackwood.com.au/>



text by Kirli Saunders [Dharawal, Wodi Wodi, and Yuin Ngurra/NSW]
<https://kirlisaunders.com/> (Little Hare)

- **The Garden of Broken Things** by Freya Blackwood [NSW]
<https://www.freyablackwood.com.au/> (HarperCollins AU)



- **A Leaf Called Greaf** by Kelly Canby [WA] <https://kellycanby.com/> (Fremantle Press)
- **These Long-Loved Things** by Ronojoy Ghosh [Sydney NSW] <https://ronojoyghosh.com.au/>
Text by Josh Pyke [Sydney NSW] (Scholastic Australia)




- **The Truck Cat** by Danny Snell [SA] <https://www.dannysnell.com/> Text by Deborah Frenkel [Melbourne VIC] <https://deborahfrenkel.com/> (Bright Light)
- **We Live in a Bus** by Dave Petzold [Bundjalung Country/ in Lennox Head, NSW]
<https://davepetzold.com.au/bio> (Thames & Hudson Australia)



<p>READING – it's fun when the characters do crazy things.</p> <p><i>St Thomas Aquinas PS -Springwood</i></p>	 <p>KC4KC</p>	<p><i>I like escaping to other worlds with reading.</i></p> <p><i>St Thomas Aquinas PS -Springwood</i></p>
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CBCA 2025 BOOK OF THE YEAR: **SHORTLIST** for **EVE POWNALL Information Books**



- ***Always Was, Always Will Be*** by Auntie Fay Muir [VIC]
<https://magabala.com.au/search?q=auntie+fay>
 & Sue Lawson [VIC] <https://www.suelawson.com.au/> (Magabala Books)
- ***Design & Building on Country*** by Alison Page [Sydney NSW] & Paul Memmott [QLD]
 <https://about.uq.edu.au/experts/39> , illustrated by Blak Douglas [NSW] (Thames & Hudson Australia) <https://thamesandhudson.com.au/product/design-and-building-on-country-first-knowledges-for-younger-readers/>
 AND <https://thamesandhudson.com.au/product/design-and-building-on-country-first-knowledges-for-younger-readers/>
- ***Flora: Australia's Most Curious Plants*** by Tania McCartney [Canberra]
<https://www.taniamccartney.com/> (NLA Publishing)
- ***I am a Magpie, I am a Currawong*** by Bridget Farmer
https://bridgetfarmerprintmaker.com/collections/i-am-a-magpie-i-am-a-currawong?grid_list=grid-view
 [VIC] (Black Cockatoo Books)
- ***Making the Shrine: Stories from Victoria's War Memorial*** by Laura J Carroll [Naarm/ Melbourne VIC] <https://www.laurajcarroll.au/aboutlaura> (The Crossley Press)
- ***South With the Seabirds*** by Jess McGeachin [Melbourne, VIC] (A&U Books for Children and Young Adults)

CBCA 2025 BOOK OF THE YEAR: **SHORTLIST** for **NEW ILLUSTRATORS**



- ***A Teaspoon of Light***, Nisaluk Chantanakom [NSW] <https://www.nisaluk.com.au/teaspoon-activity> (WestWords)



- ***Digger Digs Down***, Huni Melissa Bolliger [West Hobart, TAS] <https://hunib.com/about/> (University of Queensland Press)
- ***Grow Big, Little Seed***, Sarah Capon [Brisbane QLD] <https://www.sarahcapon.com.au/> (Hardie Grant Children's Publishing)
- ***Peek-a-Boo Lottie***, Kristen Willis [Brisbane QLD] <https://www.tondo.com.au/> (Five Mile Books)
- ***Raymangirrbuy dhawu, When I was a little girl***, Kylie Gatjarrowarwuy Mununggurr [Darwin/ NE Arnhem Land] <https://magabala.com.au/collections/kylie-gatjarrowarwuy-mununggurr> (Magabala Books)
- ***The Land Recalls You***, David Cragg [Sydney/Wollongong, NSW] & Noni Cragg [Sydney NSW] <http://nonicee.com/> (Scholastic Australia)



KC4KC

"Picture books are easy to read and can have really meaningful stories."

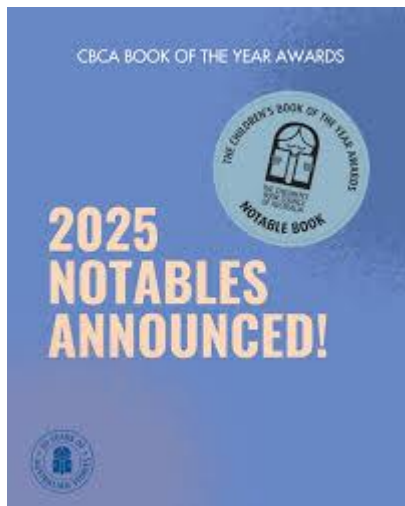
Archer



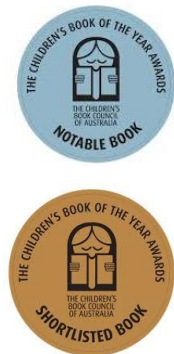
KC4KC

"I would make non- fiction books because I just want to teach people for the better."

Douglas
The Entrance P.S.



ASK THE JUDGES... more Q&A thinking... What makes a good book?



Each year, some of the best books published in Australia for children aged 0 -18 are nominated to be part of the CBCA **BOYA = Book of the Year Awards**.

For 2025, 730 books were nominated for these awards. 15 judges from across Australia formed teams of three judges with special experience and expertise in particular areas to evaluate the books that were submitted in these categories: *Older Readers, Younger Readers, Early Childhood, Picture Books, Eve Pownall, and New Illustrators*.

Each team reads, rereads and discusses the books in their category to determine which books would qualify to become the **Notables**, then the **Shortlist**, and finally the **Honour books** and the **Winners** for each category.

Judges volunteer their time from the moment the first books begin arriving on their doorstep. They read every entry and meet at regular intervals throughout the year to discuss the books in their team's category.

We asked some of our NSW Judges some **WHAT ? & WHY ?** questions about their experiences.



WHAT ? & WHY ?

- WHAT ?** do you like about reading? **and WHY ?**
- WHAT ?** do you like about writing? **and WHY ?**
- WHAT ?** surprises you about covers?... **and WHY ?**
- WHAT ?** did you like best about judging? **and WHY ?**
- WHAT ?** is most important about a book?
Plot? Characters? Setting? Plot? Information? **and WHY ?**



Reading takes me to other worlds

by Cathie Tasker

Judging team member for Younger Readers 2025

-Reading takes me to other worlds, an escape from the daily rollercoaster of life. It uplifts my spirit and rewards my brain.

-I love writing, and am fascinated by how writers create the worlds and moods in their stories. That must be why I transitioned from librarianship to editing to teaching creative writing.

-I love judging because the reader part of me loves reading, the librarian loves seeing a range of genres, the editor part of me loves examining what's hot and what's working well, and reading all of one category means that the creative writing teacher part of me can guide my students with accurate, up-to-date information.

-With my training, covers tell me a lot about a book. I can spot good design and bad design easily, and see where the publisher intended to place the book in the market. I can see who it's meant to appeal to. I can see the emotional triggers for each cover.

-I read for "voice" first — it trumps plot, characters, setting and any other information. Voice is what makes a book readable for me. All of the books on the notables have a strong voice. I'd like to see "voice" added to the judging criteria for literary merit for the CBCA.~ Cathie

KC4KC

"I like reading and discovering new things."

St Thomas Aquinas PS- Springwood.

"Reading is like watching a movie in your head"

St Thomas Aquinas PS- Springwood.

"I like going to the Library"

St Thomas Aquinas PS- Springwood.



I'm a READER

by Kayte Eyre

Judging team member for Eve Pownall (Information Texts) 2025

Who am I?

I'm a teacher librarian and an educator in Australia and overseas schools for almost 30 years. I review books for magazines, present at conferences and more recently have been a judge for CBCA's Book of the Year Awards. Most importantly, I'm a READER. Since my early Richard Scarry books, through to Enid Blyton, Roald Dahl and onto adult books, I have been a huge reader. I can't imagine a day without reading.

Why did I become a CBCA Book of the Year Judge?

I have always loved the CBCA book awards and love discovering the books which have been nominated and won. I love the opportunity to talk about books and being aware of all the new books being published in Australia each year. Being a judge is also a great way understand what children and young people find important in a world which is always changing. It is a fun way to meet and chat with other book lovers. I also learn from my fellow judges and all the creators of the wonderful books I get to read.

Judging Categories?

I have been very lucky to judge two different categories of books. I spent 2 years judging the **Older Readers category (age 12-18)** and that was a lot of fun but with lots and lots of reading of chapter books. More recently, I have been judging the **Eve Pownall (information texts) category (age 0-18)**.

What's the biggest thing I have learned from being a CBCA book of the year judge?

I have learned that Australian authors and illustrators are the best in the world! CBCA has been recognising this for 80 years now and Australian children are among the luckiest in the world!

Favourite author/illustrator & book?

I don't have just one favourite book or creator. At different times and for different reasons I love all kinds of different books. Some books stay with a person for a long time, and some books get read and reread. My bookshelves have lots of different types of books. I try to read books from different genres throughout the year.

I have a soft spot for murder mysteries, historical/medieval dramas and also fantasy novels.

Advice for someone who can't find a good book to read.

Ask a librarian, ask a bookseller. Don't worry about the books other people or your friends are reading – just find a book you like. Remember you are unique and the books you like might be different to your friends. Also remember, thousands of books are written every year – there are definitely books for you! ~ Kayte



What Makes a Good Book?

by Alex Wharton

Alex is the Awards co-convenor and works with the BOYA judges to help oversee the judging process. He has been an Eve Pownall judge for three years.

A good book makes you feel something – it might make you laugh, cry, or wonder what happens next.

The best stories help you see the world in new ways – through a character, a setting, or a big idea. Great books have pictures or words (or both!) - this makes your imagination light up. A special story stays with you even after the last page – it becomes part of you.

Good books respect kids – they speak to their heart and mind, and don't talk down to them. ~ Alex



Mike Lucas – <https://www.mikelucas.com.au/> *Book an Adventure with Poetry*

~Thanks to Mike for all his Book Week and other ideas



Mike is a poet and author who shares his special ways with words for readers of all ages. From clever picture books to powerful YA novels, you could think that words just follow him around...never wanting to miss out on their roles in his next excellent adventures with words.

Once again, Mike continues his tradition of creating a special Book Week poem for 2025. He first started writing special book week poems in 2017.

This year he captures special moments for each decade of the past 80 years of CBCA Book Week. His poems are his gift to all who celebrate books and stories.

“Book an adventure” and ENJOY... the turn of a page...books become yellow and torn...big Hurray for the CBCA... Aussie kids' books... talented and skilled...meet an author...a good booky chat...the next chapter... and more.

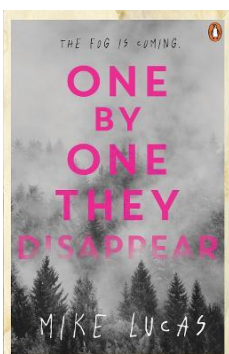


See all of Mike's **Book Week poems** <https://www.mikelucas.com.au/book-week-poems.php>.

MANY thanks to Mike – whose poems help get the Book Week celebrations started.

See Mike's article about his 2024 poem and comments about some of his books in **KIDS' CORNER** for June 2024. See **KIDS' CORNER** <https://www.cbcansw.org.au/kids-corner> and tag the **Big yellow dot** to get to past issues of KC.

And don't forget his YA novels...



One By One They Disappear (Penguin) by Mike Lucas

The fog is coming. And when it does, everything disappears . . .

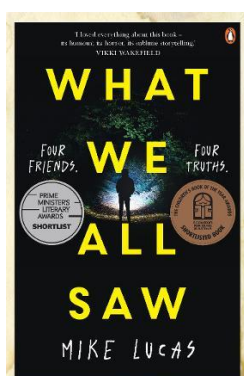
One girl...Two identities...three friends

One disappears...One forgets...One remembers.

There is truth in every tale... Find it.

A frighteningly creepy supernatural YA thriller that chills to the bone with imagined and real horrors.

[From Mike's website <https://www.mikelucas.com.au/>]



What We All Saw (Penguin) by Mike Lucas

Witches only exist in stories. Everyone knows that. But what if the stories are real?

FOUR FRIENDS. FOUR TRUTHS. ONE NIGHTMARE.

If you wander into the wood ...

If you hear scratching sounds from the Old Quarry ...

If you go too close to the edge ...

WATCH OUT...

[From Mike's website <https://www.mikelucas.com.au/>]

BOOK AN ADVENTURE!

Eighty years, it appears, is a very long time,
Unless you have reached that fine age.
In which case it doesn't seem that long at all –
Just a tick and a tock, or the turn of a page.

happy
birthday



1945

People grow wrinkles and aches in their bones.
Books become yellow and torn.
But I know a thing that grows better the further
It travels from when it was born.

A great big *Hooray!* for the CBCA.
Book an adventure and join up today.
Learn about children's books recently written,
With folk who are equally literary smitten.

1955



1965

In those eight long decades since old '45
(That's the year that the CBCA came alive)
Many people have worked (and they've done it for free!)
To promote Aussie kids' books and literacy.

Teachers, librarians, children, creators,
(Talented authors or skilled illustrators)
Booksellers, agents and publishers too
Have joined the adventure, and so too can you

1975



1985

You could be a judge for the books of the year.
You could write a poem like this poem here.
You could be a shadow judge if you're at school.
You could meet an author – I've heard that's quite cool.

You could buy some merch – bunting, tote bag or pen.
You could review books for them now and again.
You could come along for a good booky chat,
Or just donate money – they always need that.

1995



2005

And if you don't want to do any of those,
You could dress in your favourite character's clothes.
Or show off your skill with a suit you have made,
And march with your friends in the book week parade.

Let's celebrate writing, let's celebrate reading.
For books are to learning what food is to feeding.
Let's all come together and join in the fun,
For you're never too old, and you're never too young.

2015



2025

So here's to the work of the CBCA,
And the heroes who put in so much every day.
And to the next chapter... who know what's in store?
But I'm sure they'll continue for eighty years more.

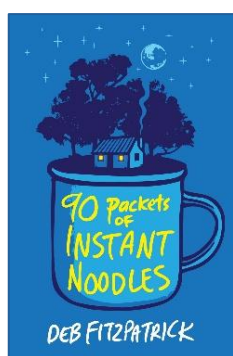
WORDS COPYRIGHT © MIKE LUCAS 2025

Book An Adventure- poem by Mike Lucas and shared in *KIDS' CORNER MAY, 2025* with permission of **MIKE LUCAS**

WHAT'S NEW for YA? and OLDER READERS?

Some phrases to get you started.

It's all about ... the wrong side of the law ... a shack in the bush wilderness and exile ... a young jazz guitarist ... let crazy things happen ... avoiding the many stereotypes ... a foal tangled in barbed wire ... a short book, but it deals principally with big questions ... a character's internal language ... strength within themselves ... explores the journey from past to present- and back again ... of strict cultures/traditions... getting to know others ... and a "problem" that had to be swept out of sight ... web of stories ... stories and how they shape lives ... only exist in stories ...



90 PACKETS OF INSTANT NOODLES

by Deb Fitzpatrick

- debfitzpatrick.com.au

(Fremantle Press)

<https://fremantlepress.com.au/books/90-packets-of-instant-noodles-2/>

[Photos and images by photographer Sabine Alpers]

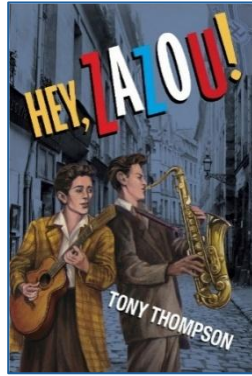
Joel, fifteen, has been caught on the wrong side of the law with his mate Craggs. While Craggs is sent to juvenile detention, Joel's dad makes a deal with the police and is sent to a shack in the bush for three months of solitary confinement. So begins **90 Packets of Instant Noodles**, which has just been rereleased with this glorious new cover.

There's a powerful loyalty between Joel and Craggs, which feeds a lot of the tension in *90 Packets*. I wanted to explore this, as well as themes of wilderness and exile, family and love, and most critically, the redemptive power of being given a second chance.

I wrote *90 Packets* while I was living in a shack in the cloud forest of Costa Rica. During those years, I experienced solitude, wilderness and awe. I did a great deal of contemplation, and I experienced crippling depression.

When I do school visits, I love talking with students about living in a Central American forest with howler monkeys in the trees around our shack and toucans swooping through the forest, and I show my photos of sloths and orange-kneed tarantulas, which receive mixed responses! But the other side of the exotica is the solitude and the remoteness, and it's that that I wanted my character Joel to experience in *90 Packets*. Joel is alone, and the time and silence and space around him force him to think about where he's been and where he's going. With the usual structure of his life obliterated, Joel is forced to face the consequences of his actions. ~ Deb Fitzpatrick

90 Packets of Instant Noodles was a CBCA Book of the Year Awards Notable Book when it first came out.



HEY, ZAZOU!

by Tony Thompson

<https://www.tonythompson.com.au/>

Ford Street Publishing

<https://fordstreetpublishing.com/book/hey-zazou/>

Imagine being a teenager in Paris during the 1940s. Your city is occupied by the Nazis. There are food shortages. Everyone is terrified. What's your move? If you are a teenage boy, a long tartan suit jacket, wide pants that come tight at the ankle, heavy dress shoes, a colourful shirt and an outrageous tie. Grow your hair long and comb it up into a pompadour. For teenage girls, knee-length brightly coloured skirts, striped nylons, jackets with big shoulders, chunky shoes, bright red lipstick, sunglasses and big blonde curls. Your music is jazz, rough, loud, and bluesy. You are a Zazou.

My novel *Hey, Zazou!* is about Charlie Martin, a young jazz guitarist and Zazou who forms a band, falls in love, and gets into a LOT of trouble with the authorities. Did I mention that his band includes a resistance fighter, a Roma violinist, and a German soldier? Or that he is working for a shady bar owner and smuggler called Papa Jean?

I had a good time writing this book. There was no plan. I started with Charlie and, in every chapter, asked myself: 'Now what would happen?' The other characters seemed to find him as the story went along. The wildest and most original plot in the world is the one that you are living. I always try to let crazy things happen to my characters without interfering too much!

I wanted the *Hey, Zazou!* to be fun, but there are serious elements. Charlie is severely dyslexic. Yes, people knew about dyslexia in the 1940s—the word was coined in the 19th century! It affects roughly 10% of Australians, which is a lot of people.

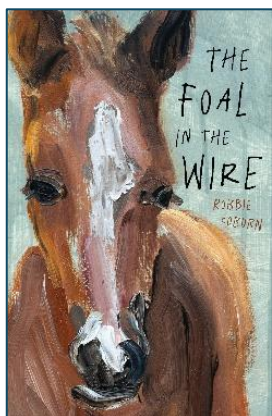
The character that surprised me: Dieter

Dieter began as a minor character, a German soldier who came to watch Charlie busking in the market. Slowly, he became a bigger part of the story until he was even playing in Charlie's band! His past as a 'Swing Kid', the German equivalent of the Zazou, is revealed as he becomes friends with Charlie. The friendship is based on a shared love of jazz. Music is a universal language. The fiercest of enemies can always at least agree that music is a good thing. Then the instruments come out! I'm not sure I ever thought of making this idea part of the book, but Dieter insisted!

Question I'd like to be asked: What about Rosa?

Yes, what about Rosa? She is a young Roma violinist who joins Charlie's band. Sometimes a character threatens to take over the book. One of the editors I worked with even suggested that Rosa could be the main character! Two things to say about her. The first is that I was very conscious

of avoiding the many stereotypes associated with the Roma. It wasn't easy but I believe that I found a way to let her be herself – a mid-century Roma musician, living in a more or less traditional manner - without creating a stock 'Gypsy' character. The second is that the Roma suffered terribly at the hands of the Nazis in the 1940s. Today in Europe, in many countries, they are once again being persecuted. The European Roma Rights Centre newsletter is a great place to start if you'd like to know more. ~ Tony Thompson



The FOAL in the WIRE **by Robbie Coburn**

<https://robbiecoburn.com/>

(Hachette)

<https://www.hachette.com.au/news/q-and-a-with-robbie-coburn>

My debut young adult verse novel *The Foal in the Wire* is a story of love, hope and the capacity for healing. It is told from the perspective of Sam, a troubled teenager who lives on a farm with his parents whose marriage has fallen apart following the death of his older brother. Sam's life changes when one night he finds a foal tangled in barbed wire in a fence at the back of the property. He also meets Julia, a girl from the next farm, and the pair decide to secretly care for the foal. In the process, the teenagers become close and find strength within themselves and each other they didn't realise they had, discovering ways to overcome difficulties involving family, bullying and mental health.

This is a short book, but it deals principally with big questions and sometimes intense, formative experiences. Verse novels are deceptive in what would appear to be limited space for establishing depth in a story and characters. As both a lover of poetry and young adult literature, I find verse to be the perfect form to capture a story, particularly in dealing with difficult and confronting subjects. When writing for a young adult audience, free verse perfectly conveys a character's internal language without the addition of unnecessary explanation. Each word must be chosen carefully, and no language wasted. The impact of poetry can be remarkably strong and effective in conveying emotion, while also adhering to brevity and trusting the reader to visualise and fill in the empty space on the page. ~ Robbie Coburn

SCREENS VS BOOKS?

"Books, because they don't need charging."

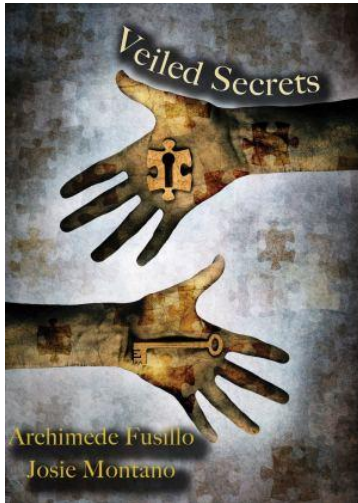
St Thomas Aquinas P.S.
Springwood



KC4KC

"I like reading and discovering new things."

Michael
The Entrance P.S.



VEILED SECRETS

by

Archimede Fusillo

<https://www.archimedefusillo.com/books>

and

Josie Montano

<https://booksbyjosie.com.au/>

(IP - Interactive Publications Pty Ltd)

<https://ipoz.biz/product/veiled-secrets/>

VEILED SECRETS ... the Journey from Past to Present to Future ...

by Josie Montano

Veiled Secrets explores the journey from past to present- and back again in an effort to make sense of the future. It is a story about an Italy within the Australian diaspora psyche, narrated by two young people brought up in Australia as 3rd generation Italians from vastly different circumstances.

Little did they know, they have more in common than they thought.

Aurelia's voice is a mix of my teen years growing up in an Italo-Australian household and of my own children as 2nd generation Australians - all having a sense of belonging to the Italian culture, yet being deeply embedded within the Australian culture.

Those influences of family immigrants and the attachment of strict cultures/traditions play a large part in my storytelling when I write. Our goal was to involve readers and bring them into a world that they may never have experienced. And, to introduce voices that, if they are not familiar, may incite interest in getting to know others of similar backgrounds.

Archie and I live 2000km apart and met at a children's literature festival in 2007. We realised we had more in common than just being of Italian background and writing, our parents originated from villages 10km apart - and our upbringing mirrored each other's. It was then that we decided to collaborate on an intergenerational story exploring relationships through the lens of two teens who uncover their own heritage and identity as they discover their grandparents' past. ~ **Josie Montano**



VEILED SECRETS - Across Generations

by Archimede Fusillo

This is the story of two lives which were destined to cross decades before they did. The story of a love that was not allowed to find fruition, and a "problem" that had to be swept out of sight even as it lived on in plain sight. It is the story of two disparate families whose individual courses were set by love, challenged by centuries-old rusted-on fears, and carried forward by a bond that ultimately was stronger than either.



For me, Nicola came to life from my own childhood curiosities about family dynamics and the veneers that are put in place to protect both the innocent and the guilty. My writing is influenced by a deep respect for stories and how they shape lives, families and entire communities- often surreptitiously.

If one wants to understand different generations, it's necessary to look at the tendrils of your immediate family and trace them back through the web of stories that every human contact generates- and which lead ultimately back to you.

Veiled Secrets is more than a title for a novel. It might just be the banner for every family history.

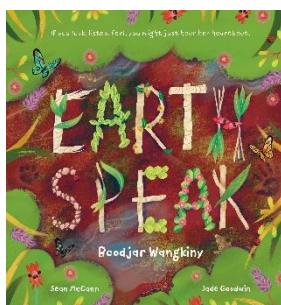
~ Archimede Fusillo

What I enjoy most about reading is the plot, action and characters. These elements (combined with worldbuilding) are really good at immersing the reader into the story and making it enjoyable. Also, if the books are in a series, I enjoy ranking them from (in my opinion) the worst to the best.

- Tyler



COMING SOON - Watch for JADE Goodwin's new book.



Earthspeak

Boodjar Wangkiny

by Sean McCann, illustrated by Jade Goodwin

<https://jadegoodwin.com.au/books/earthspeak>

(A&U Children's)

COMING SOON - LIGHTS! CAMERA! ACTION! calling all students!



Start reading and planning now to create a unique and original book trailer featuring a book from the [2025 CBCA Notables list](#).

A book trailer is like a movie trailer, but for a book. You want to show others why they should read this book

For your chance to win some great prizes, check the **Details for Participants**

<https://www.cbcanew.org.au/collide-book-trailers>

Teachers: Introduce students to the best of Australia Literature whilst improving their literacy skills by producing a unique and original book trailer that features a book from the 2025 CBCA Notables list.



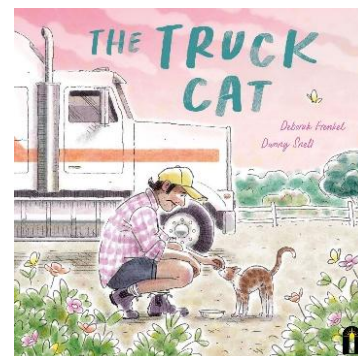
The Truck Cat, (Hardie Grant Ch'n Publishing)
with illustrations by multi-award-winning artist

Danny Snell <https://www.dannysnell.com/>



and words by award-winning
new voice **Deborah Frenkel**

<https://deborahfrenkel.com/>



Did you “Book an Adventure” . . .

What better way to share a story than by getting together with lots of friends, family and classmates and planning to read a great book?

This year, the final numbers of **2,204,658** participants at **16,632** locations across Australia and the world came together to read the same book at the same time for **2025 National Simultaneous Storytime**. Now THAT is an adventure for ALL!

with “The Truck Cat” . . .

The Truck Cat is a story about cats and humans, immigration and identity, and homes lost and found. With illustrations by multi-award-winning artist **Danny Snell** and words by award-winning new voice **Deborah Frenkel**, **The Truck Cat** is the perfect book to inspire kindness and compassion in young children everywhere <https://publishing.hardiegrant.com/en-au/books/the-truck-cat-by-deborah-frenkel/9781761215766>

Some cats are house cats. Some are apartment cats. But Tinka is a truck cat. Tinka lives everywhere.

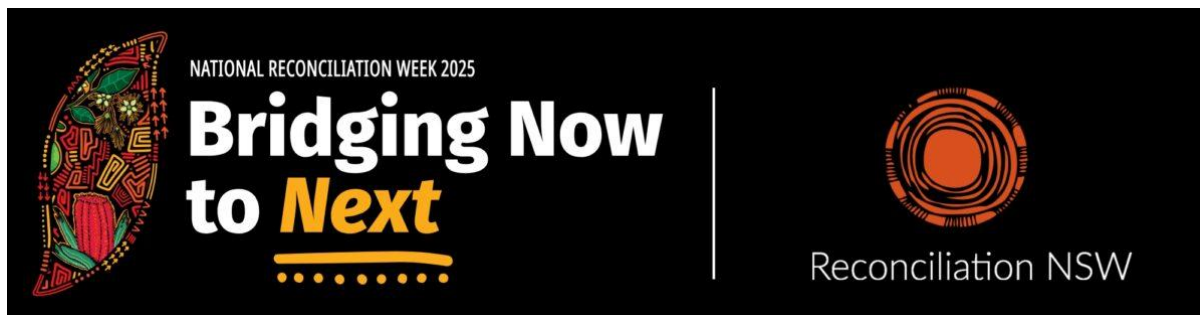
Along with his human, Yacoub, Tinka travels roads wide and narrow, near and distant. But no matter how much they travel, home feels very far away for both of them. Yacoub drives his truck to make a living, learning the landscape of a new country along the way, and longing for connection. When Tinka and Yacoub are unexpectedly separated, they are determined to find their way back to each other – and, in doing so, might find more than they expected...

<https://publishing.hardiegrant.com/en-au/national-storytime-2025>

and Simultaneous Storytime?

Hear the story from the National Library and discover some unusual objects from the national collection about Trucking, Cats and Information.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XglAD9IoyHU&ab_channel=NationalLibraryofAustralia The Australian Library and Information Association and Hardie Grant Children's Publishing proudly presented the National Simultaneous Storytime picture book for 2025. <https://publishing.hardiegrant.com/en-au/national-storytime-2025>



<https://www.reconciliation.org.au/our-work/national-reconciliation-week/>

What is National Reconciliation Week?

National Reconciliation Week is a yearly event in Australia, celebrated from May 27 to June 3, to promote understanding and reconciliation between Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and other Australians. It commemorates two significant milestones in the reconciliation journey: the 1967 referendum and the High Court's Mabo decision in 1992. The week encourages Australians to reflect on their shared histories, cultures, and achievements, and to consider how they can contribute to a more reconciled Australia.

What is the 2025 theme?

Bridging Now to Next - <https://reconciliationnsw.org.au/national-reconciliation-week/>

The National Reconciliation Week (NRW) 2025 theme, *Bridging Now to Next*, reflects the ongoing connection between past, present and future.

Bridging Now to Next calls on all Australians to step forward together, to look ahead and continue the push forward as past lessons guide us.

In the #NRW2025 theme artwork created by Kalkadoon woman **Bree Buttenshaw**, native plants – which are known for regenerating after fire and thriving through adversity – symbolise our collective strength and the possibilities of renewal. This is a time for growth, reflection, and commitment to walking together.



About the artwork

<https://www.reconciliation.org.au/our-work/national-reconciliation-week/artwork-and-artist/>

The artwork for the **National Reconciliation Week 2025 *Bridging Now to Next*** campaign celebrates the resilience of Australia's native flora, featuring Lemon Myrtle, Banksia, Gum Leaves, Desert Lime and Kangaroo Paw, renowned for their ability to endure harsh conditions, regenerate after fire, and flourish through adversity. These plants embody the strength and adaptability of people and communities, emphasising the importance of growth in the present while looking toward the future.

Who did the Artwork?

<https://www.reconciliation.org.au/our-work/national-reconciliation-week/artwork-and-artist/>

The artworks explore the meaning behind the #NRW2025 theme artwork created by **Bree Buttenshaw**, a proud Kalkadoon woman and talented digital artist based in Quandamooka Country.



Bree's artwork is a vibrant fusion between her Aboriginal roots and a contemporary digital approach. Her funky aesthetics, rich colour palettes and intricate patterns tell the story of cultural resilience and represent her deep cultural pride. Head over to littlebutten.com to view more of Bree's work

Central to Bree's artistry is her unwavering commitment to community, culture, and Country. Every creative endeavour she undertakes is guided by the principles of Aboriginal culture—taking only what is necessary, leaving an abundance for others, and giving back whenever possible. Through her art, she amplifies the voices of her community, celebrates culture, and pays homage to the enduring connection with Country.



To create your own poster, click on this link to download a colouring page.

https://www.reconciliation.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2025/02/NRW25_Colouring-Sheet_A4.pdf

I read because I want to write my own books someday.

St Thomas Aquinas PS - Springwood



SHADOW JUDGING - What makes a good book? You are the reader, and you know what makes a book "good" for you.

Children's Book Week is a great reason to get together with other readers and help decide what books are BEST in the CBCA BOYA Shortlist.

Share your ideas as a judge by joining the **Sun Project SHADOW JUDGES** project

<https://shadowjudging.cbca.org.au/>

See what other readers are saying about the 2025 SHORT list so far in the **Shadow Judges 2025 Creative Responses gallery** <https://shadowjudging.cbca.org.au/all-creative-responses/>

THANK YOU - This issue of KC was compiled by Jackie Hawkes Jackie.hawkes7@gmail.com

with **HUGE THANKS** for the help of LOTS of people who love to READ. WRITE, THINK and IMAGINE. Good books all start with a special something that gets our imagination going. We'd love to hear your ideas. **HAPPY READING ALWAYS –**

Morrie, Magic Morrie, Maryanne Ann O'Mouse, and Adventure Morrie