



## Media release 5 April 2006

The Children's Book Council of Australia's Book of the Year short list was announced in Sydney at midday today, with resounding congratulations to Australian publishers who clearly lead the world in children's publishing.

Every year, the CBCA short list proves to be extremely influential in children's publishing and bookselling. It is commonly used as a buying guide, especially by schools and libraries, but also by young readers and those choosing books for them. Each year the books entered in the CBCA awards provide insight into the preoccupations of society in our times and when released, generate much debate and public interest.

In the past, the Children's Book Council of Australia has released the short listed titles for its Book of the Year Awards, and then a month later its Notable Books list. As one judge commented, this has been like announcing the medal winners at the Olympics and then the winners of the individual heats. So this year, before any other announcements, we are delighted to be able to celebrate the many outstanding Notable Books for young readers in 2006, and at the same time to announce those titles that the judges have placed on a short list for Book of the Year. You'll meet many of the writers and illustrators of these Notable Books at the CBCA's national conference and expo, 4-6 May at the Sydney Convention Centre, Darling Harbour. Check out the website and book now! [www.booknow.org.au](http://www.booknow.org.au)

The judges commented on the strength and variety of this year's books in the Younger Readers and Older Readers categories, and on the high standard of information books. And while the Notable Books for Early Childhood and Picture Book of the Year made choosing difficult, they issued a challenge to writers, illustrators and publishers to consider focusing on these categories in the coming year. This announcement today is the end of a long judging process that has been both exhilarating and exhausting. But it's the beginning of an exciting period when young people and adults all over Australia will debate the judges' decisions - and that debate will continue up to and beyond the announcement of the Book of the Year Awards. Happy reading!

The winners will be announced on Friday 18<sup>th</sup> August during Children's Book Week celebrations. This year the theme for Book Week is 'Book Now'

*Winning, honour and short listed authors, illustrators and publishers along with the CBCA judges are available for interview.*

**Media interviews available with  
CBCA National President, Mark Macleod, 0425 233 144**

[www.cbc.org.au](http://www.cbc.org.au)

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