

INTRODUCTION

The Children's Book Council of Australia, with the **Book of the Year Awards**, has developed, over 60 years, a fine and robust reputation for embracing all that is best in Australian children's book publishing. The **CBCA Book of the Year Awards** are highly regarded in Australia and overseas: they maintain a prestigious position in the world of literary awards and continue to invite and inspire new writing.

This Awards Handbook provides a detailed outline of the administration and judging policies and procedures of the **CBCA Book of the Year Awards**. It is an indispensable tool for the important role of judging and for making administrative decisions about the Awards. It is an invaluable document for the members of the judging panels and the Awards Coordinators. This Handbook also outlines the requirements for entry to the Awards, so that publishers, authors and illustrators are fully informed about the judging process. A great deal of time and thought has gone into this document, as it has evolved over the years, and the authors are to be commended for their dedication and attention to detail.

An important focus for the **CBCA Book of the Year Awards** is Book Week, celebrated annually throughout Australian schools and libraries, and embracing the wonderful array of outstanding shortlisted titles and those selected as notables. Hence, these Award lists provide reading and buying guides for teachers, librarians and families. Over the years, particularly in recent times, the lists have reflected changing tastes and themes in literature, often challenging responses and creating controversy.

For the Awards to remain positively perceived within the community, the organisation must have a forward looking approach as it brings books and children together -

'Engaging the community with literature for young Australians'

The CBCA, in adopting The Strategic Plan 2007-2010, is committed to developing and restructuring both the Awards and the judging process. Investigating, discussing and planning for the future will be an exciting and challenging part of the organisation's agenda.

We acknowledge the dedication of each judge of the **CBCA Book of the Year Awards** and the Award Coordinators who have risen to the challenges of a demanding judging process. Jo Goodman coordinates the members of the Awards Handbook sub-committee and we thank them all for their time and commitment to fine-tuning this Awards Handbook.

Julie Wells
National President
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