

## 1. AWARDS TITLES AND CRITERIA

### 1.1 Names of the Awards

The Children's Book Council of Australia Book of the Year: Older Readers  
The Children's Book Council of Australia Book of the Year: Younger Readers  
The Children's Book Council of Australia Book of the Year: Early Childhood  
The Children's Book Council of Australia: Picture Book of the Year  
The Children's Book Council of Australia: Eve Pownall Award for Information Books

### 1.2 Definitions and Scope

The Children's Book Council of Australia Awards are for books with an implied readership under the age of eighteen.

The Judges assess entries for the Awards primarily for literary merit, including cohesiveness in significant literary elements; language chosen carefully for its appropriateness to the theme and style of the work with proper regard to the aesthetic qualities of language; and originality in the treatment of literary elements as they apply to the form of the work. Appeal to the implied readership under the age of eighteen is also taken into account. Judges should also consider quality of illustrations, book design, production, printing and binding.

**1.2.1 CBCA Book of the Year: Older Readers** awards will be made to outstanding books of fiction, drama or poetry which require of the reader a degree of maturity to appreciate the topics, themes and scope of emotional involvement. Generally, books in this category will be appropriate in style and content for readers in their secondary years of schooling.

**1.2.2 CBCA Book of the Year: Younger Readers** awards will be made to outstanding books of fiction, drama or poetry for readers who have developed independent reading skills but are still developing in literary appreciation. Generally, books in this category will be appropriate in style and content for readers from the middle to upper primary years.

**1.2.3 CBCA Book of the Year: Early Childhood** awards will be made to outstanding books of fiction, drama, poetry or concept books for children who are at pre-reading or early stages of reading. They may be picture books, picture storybooks, or texts in which illustrations play a substantial part in the storytelling or concept development.

**1.2.4 CBCA Picture Book of the Year** awards will be made to outstanding books of the Picture Book genre in which the author and illustrator achieve artistic and literary unity, or, in wordless picture books, where the story, theme or concept is unified through illustrations. As a general guideline, the judges may consider the relative success of a picture book in balancing and harmonising the following elements:

- Artistic style and graphic excellence (including typography and its suitability for the implied readership);
- Effective use of media and technique;
- Colour, line, shape, texture;
- Relationship between illustration and text;
- Consistency of style, characterisation, information and setting;
- Clarity, appropriateness and aesthetic appeal of illustrations;
- Quality of book design, production, printing and binding;
- To an implied readership under the age of eighteen.

**1.2.5 The Eve Pownall Award for Information Books** will be made to outstanding books which have the prime intention of documenting factual material with consideration given to imaginative presentation, interpretation and variation of style. As general guidelines, the Judges

may consider the relative success of the book in balancing and harmonising the following elements:

- Style of language and presentation;
- Graphic excellence;
- Clarity, appropriateness and aesthetic appeal of illustration;
- Integration of text, graphics and illustrations to engage interest and enhance understanding;
- Overall design of book to facilitate the presentation of information;
- Accuracy with regard to the current state of knowledge.

### 1.3 Eligibility Criteria for Entries

Publishers submit books for entry and the Awards Coordinators check details concerning the eligibility of the books and their creators. Only publications which meet both the criteria for books and the criteria for creators will be accepted.

#### 1.3.1 Eligibility Criteria for Books

- (a) Books must be published between 1 January and 31 December 2011.
- (b) Books must be available in Australia for purchase by the general public.
- (c) Books must be in the English language or bilingual texts where one language is English.
- (d) Books must meet one of the following five criteria to be entered:
  - (i) Not previously published;
  - (ii) New picture book version of previously published text;
  - (iii) Retelling of traditional materials;
  - (iv) Anthology or collection, of which the greater part of the work has not previously been published in a single volume; or
  - (v) Substantially revised edition. (Publishers to provide extent of revisions.)

All authors/illustrators involved in the creation of a book must meet the eligibility criteria for creators for the book to be eligible. **See also 1.3.2** for eligibility criteria for authors/illustrators.

Note:

- (i) These awards are only for books in the printed format, as distinct from digital and audiovisual formats.
- (ii) Any entries with accompanying non-book materials will be judged solely on the merits of the **book** component.
- (iii) Books written as part of a series or published in serial form will be judged as separate entities, which must be able to 'stand alone' as a complete work in their own right. Each must have an independent structure and not be reliant on other parts of the series.
- (iv) Books that have not previously been published as separate entities and are entered as a boxed set with an ISBN for the set, will be judged as a whole and attract one entry fee.
- (v) Books in manuscript form are not eligible for these awards.

#### 1.3.2 Eligibility Criteria for Creators

The term 'creator' includes authors, retellers, editors of anthologies, and illustrators whose illustrations form a substantial part of the book. If there are two or more major creators, publishers must provide information on the eligibility of each one.

A creator must meet the requirements for eligibility on 31 December of the year of publication.

A creator must be:

- (a) An Australian citizen no matter where resident OR
- (b) A person resident in Australia for at least two years prior to 31 December in the year of publication OR



(c) A person who holds permanent residency status for Australia.

If a creator is not an Australian citizen, eligibility will cease at the time when s/he ceases to be resident in Australia.

#### **1.4 Choosing the Appropriate Awards Category or Categories**

Publishers are required to indicate on the entry forms the category or categories which they wish to nominate for each book. They need to be aware of recent changes to the rules and judging procedures. The Awards Coordinator sends publishers pertinent information with the Conditions of Entry information sheet (**Appendix 1**). It may be downloaded from the website <http://www.cbca.org.au>.

Books may be entered in more than one category provided that they meet the criteria for each category entered.

The Children's Book Council of Australia reserves the right to vary the awards category recommended or indicated by the publisher.

##### **1.4.1 Entry Procedures for the CBCA Picture Book Category**

Picture Books must be entered in one or more of the following categories: Eve Pownall, Early Childhood, Younger Readers or Older Readers.

The Judges from either of the two panels (the Eve Pownall Panel or the Interstate Panel (**see Section 2**)) may select picture books for consideration for the CBCA Picture Book Award from entries in the other categories (this may require the Awards Coordinator to request more copies from the publisher). The Interstate Judging Panel will select the Short List, Winner and Honour Books following the procedures used for the other categories.

#### **1.5 Numbers of Books and entry fee(s) to be provided by Publishers**

(i) **Early Childhood, Younger Readers, Older Readers** categories: For each title, ten (10) copies of the entered book and one entry fee.

(ii) **Eve Pownall category**: For each title, six (6) copies and one entry fee. The Awards Coordinator may request a further eight (8) copies if the entry is also deemed eligible for any of the other categories and/or if the title is Shortlisted for the Eve Pownall Award

(iii) **Eve Pownall category and one other category**: For each title, fourteen (14) copies and two entry fees.

#### **1.6 Winners, Honour Books and Short Lists**

All categories have equal status. Books judged in more than one category may be awarded the status of Notable Book, Shortlisted Book, Honour Book or Winner in each category for which it has qualified.

**1.6.1 Winners**: Judges select one winner for each category. If, in the opinion of the Judges, none of the entries reaches a sufficiently high standard, the Judges may advise that they have made no award.

**1.6.2 Honour Books**: Judges may select up to two honour books in each category. They have the option of selecting only one or none if they do not consider the standard sufficiently high.

**1.6.3 Short Lists**: A Short List of up to six books may be selected in each category.

**Note: Matters which arise and are not covered here will be determined by the Awards Coordinator in consultation with the National Executive. The resulting decisions are final.**

