

2025 CBCA Book of the Year Shortlist

Book of the Year: Older Readers

Entries in this category may be fiction, drama or poetry and should be appropriate in style and content for readers in their secondary years of schooling. Ages 13-18 years.

Title	Author	Publisher	ISBN
A Wreck of Seabirds	Karleah Olson	Fremantle Press	9781760993924
Birdy	Sharon Kernot	Text Publishing	9781922790606
Comes the Night	Isobelle Carmody	A&U Books for Children and Young Adults	9781760294762
I'm Not Really Here	Gary Lonesborough	A&U Books for Children and Young Adults	9781761180767
Into the Mouth of the Wolf	Erin Gough	Hardie Grant Children's Publishing	9781760507558
The Skin I'm In	Steph Tisdell	Macmillan Australia	9781760984977



Book of the Year: Younger Readers

Entries in this category may be fiction, drama or poetry and should be appropriate in style and content for children who are at pre-reading or early stages of reading. Ages 7-12 years.

Title	Author	Illustrator	Publisher	ISBN
Aggie Flea Steals the Show	Tania Ingram	Anne Yi	Scholastic Australia	9781760976309
Fluff: Mess Up!	Matt Stanton	Matt Stanton	ABC Books	9780733342110
Laughter is the Best Ending	Maryam Master	Astred Hicks	Pan Australia	9781761560132
Saskia Spark-Lee: Fundraiser Fail	Rebecka Sharpe Shelberg	Sofya Karmazina	Walker Books Australia	9781760655556
Tigg and the Bandicoot Bushranger	Jackie French		HarperCollins Publishers	9781460763506
To and Fro	Anton Clifford-Motopi		A&U Books for Children and Young Adults	9781761180378



Book of the Year: Early Childhood

Entries in this category may be fiction, drama or poetry and should be appropriate in style and content for children who are at pre-reading or early stages of reading. Ages 0-6 years.

Title	Author	Illustrator	Publisher	ISBN
Don't Worry Felix	Yohann Devezy & Katharine Alice	Zoe Bennett	New Frontier Publishing	9781923145054
Everything You Ever Wanted to Know About the Tooth Fairy (And Some Things You Didn't)	Briony Stewart	Briony Stewart	Lothian Children's Books	9780734421883
How to Move a Zoo	Kate Simpson	Owen Swan	A&U Books for Children and Young Adults	9781761180309
One Little Dung Beetle	Rhian Williams	Mark Jackson & Heather Potter	Wild Dog Books	9781742036656
Spiro	Anna McGregor	Anna McGregor	Scribble	9781761381010
The Wobbly Bike	Darren McCallum	Craig Smith	Walker Books Australia	9781760656416



Book of the Year: Picture Book of the Year

Entries in this category should be 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. Ages 0-18 years.

Title	Illustrator	Author	Publisher	ISBN
A Leaf Called Greaif	Kelly Canby	Kelly Canby	Fremantle Press	9781760993894
Afloat	Freya Blackwood	Kirli Saunders	Little Hare	9781760505899
The Garden of Broken Things	Freya Blackwood	Freya Blackwood	HarperCollins Publishers	9781460757550
The Truck Cat	Danny Snell	Deborah Frenkel	Bright Light	9781761212291
These Long-Loved Things	Ronojoy Ghosh	Josh Pyke	Scholastic Australia	978-1761293849
We Live in a Bus	Dave Petzold	Dave Petzold	Thames & Hudson Australia	9781760764647



Eve Pownall Award

Entries in this category should be books which have the prime intention of documenting factual material with consideration given to imaginative presentation, interpretation and variation of style. Ages 0-18 years.

Title	Author	Illustrator	Publisher	ISBN
Always Was, Always Will Be	Aunty Fay Muir & Sue Lawson		Magabala Books	9781922777614
Design & Building on Country	Alison Page & Paul Memmott	Blak Douglas	Thames & Hudson Australia	9781760763565
Flora: Australia's Most Curious Plants	Tania McCartney	Tania McCartney	NLA Publishing	9781922507716
I am a Magpie, I am a Currawong	Bridget Farmer	Bridget Farmer	Black Cockatoo Books	9780645713725
Making the Shrine: Stories From Victoria's War Memorial	Laura J Carroll	Laura J Carroll	The Crossley Press	9781763515604
South With the Seabirds	Jess McGeachin	Jess McGeachin	A&U Books for Children and Young Adults	9781761068645



Award for New Illustrator

This Award aims to recognise and encourage new talent in the field of Australian children's book illustration.
Ages 0-18 years

Title	Illustrator	Publisher	ISBN
A Teaspoon of Light	Nisaluk Chantanakom	Dirt Lane Press	9781923044210
Digger Digs Down	Huni Melissa Bolliger	University of Queensland Press	9780702268656
Grow Big, Little Seed	Sarah Capon	Bright Light	9781761212963
Peek-a-Boo Lottie	Kristen Willis	Five Mile Books	9781922943989
Raymangirbuy dhäwu, When I was a little girl	Kylie Gatjarrawuy Mununggurr	Magabala Books	9781922142306
The Land Recalls You	David Cragg & Noni Cragg	Scholastic Australia	9781760975159

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