

2025 Book of the Year Awards – Shortlist



Presenting the 2025 CBCA Book of the Year Awards Older Readers Shortlist ...

- ***A Wreck of Seabirds*** by Karleah Olson (Fremantle Press)
- ***Birdy*** by Sharon Kernot (Text Publishing)
- ***Comes the Night*** by Isobelle Carmody (A&U Books for Children and Young Adults)
- ***I'm Not Really Here*** by Gary Lonesborough (A&U Books for Children and Young Adults)
- ***Into the Mouth of the Wolf*** by Erin Gough (Hardie Grant Children's Publishing)
- ***The Skin I'm In*** by Steph Tisdell (Macmillan Australia)



Presenting the 2025 CBCA Book of the Year Awards Younger Readers Shortlist ...

- ***Aggie Flea Steals the Show*** by Tania Ingram, illustrated by A. Yi (Scholastic Australia)
- ***Fluff: Mess Up!*** by Matt Stanton, illustrated by Matt Stanton (ABC Books)
- ***Laughter is the Best Ending*** by Maryam Master, illustrated by Astred Hicks (Pan Australia)
- ***Saskia Spark-Lee: Fundraiser Fail*** by Rebecca Sharpe Shelberg, illustrated by Sofya Karmazina (Walker Books Australia)
- ***Tigg and the Bandicoot Bushranger*** by Jackie French (HarperCollins AU)
- ***To and Fro*** by Anton Clifford-Motopi (A&U Books for Children and Young Adults)



Introducing the 2025 CBCA Book of the Year Awards Early Childhood Shortlist...

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



Introducing the 2025 CBCA Book of the Year Awards Picture Book of the Year Shortlist...

- **Afloat** by Freya Blackwood, text by Kirli Saunders (Little Hare)
- **The Garden of Broken Things** by Freya Blackwood (HarperCollins AU)
- **A Leaf Called Greaf** by Kelly Canby (Fremantle Press)
- **These Long-Loved Things** by Ronjooy Ghosh, text by Josh Pyke (Scholastic Australia)
- **The Truck Cat** by Danny Snell, text by Deborah Frenkel (Bright Light)
- **We Live in a Bus** by Dave Petzold (Thames & Hudson Australia)



Introducing the 2025 CBCA Book of the Year Awards Eve Pownall Award Shortlist...

- **Always Was, Always Will Be** by Auntie Fay Muir & Sue Lawson (Magabala Books)
- **Design & Building on Country** by Alison Page & Paul Memmott, illustrated by Blak Douglas (Thames & Hudson Australia)
- **Flora: Australia's Most Curious Plants** by Tania McCartney (NLA Publishing)
- **I am a Maggie, I am a Currawong** by Bridget Farmer (Black Cockatoo Books)
- **Making the Shrine: Stories From Victoria's War Memorial** by Laura J Carroll (The Crossley Press)
- **South With the Seabirds** by Jess McGeachin (A&U Books for Children and Young Adults)



Introducing the 2025 CBCA Book of the Year Awards New Illustrator Shortlist...

- **A Teaspoon of Light**, Nisaluk Chantanakorn (WestWords)

- ***Digger Digs Down***, Huni Melissa Bolliger (University of Queensland Press)
- ***Grow Big, Little Seed***, Sarah Capon (Hardie Grant Children's Publishing)
- ***Peek-a-Boo Lottie***, Kristen Willis (Five Mile Books)
- ***Raymanggirrbuy dhäwu, When I was a little girl***, Kylie Gatjarrowawuy Mununggurr (Magabala Books)
- ***The Land Recalls You***, David Cragg & Noni Cragg (Scholastic Australia)

We acknowledge the Traditional Custodians, the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people of the various lands on which we work. We pay our respects to Elders past and present, and recognise and celebrate the diversity of First Nation people and their ongoing culture and connection to Country. We particularly honour, celebrate and support the first storytellers of this great continent.

