The Children’s Book Council of Australia Book Week

The Children’s Book Council of Australia (CBCA) first celebrated Book Week in 1946 as a means of bringing words, images and stories into the hearts and minds of Australian children to enrich our nation and nurture a literate, educated and creative society.

Today, CBCA Book Week continues to celebrate the wonderful quality of books published by Australian authors and illustrators. The theme for Book Week changes each year. In 2018 the theme is Find Your Treasure.

Each year publishers enter books into the CBCA Book of the Year Awards, which consists of five categories - Early Childhood, Younger Readers, Older Readers (age related), Picture Book and the Eve Pownall Award for Information Books (not age related). More information can be accessed at http://cbca.org.au/about-the-awards

In February of the following year The Notables (a long list) is announced. One month later, the CBCA Short List is published. At this time Book Week merchandise, which is designed by a winning illustrator, is also unveiled. Posters of the Book Week theme and the Short List, badges, stickers, bookmarks, bunting and the official Book Week Handbook are available for purchase. Merchandise is used to assist centres, schools, libraries and Bookshops in decorating spaces and creating excitement in readers. Please note that the CBCA Children’s Book Week artwork is subject to copyright.

Generally, the CBCA Book of the Year winner’s announcement is the third Friday in August, and CBCA Children’s Book Week commences the following day.

Celebrations can take many forms such as: • author/illustrator visits • storytelling festivals • author/illustrator writing workshops • dress up parades • reading picnics and afternoon teas • Parent and Grandparent visits, to read with children • activities designed to link with specific books • film festivals made about shortlisted books • specialised performances • book fairs