

Personal Awards and Honours

- 2022** Society of Women Writers — Alice Award for Lifetime Contribution
- 2019** University of Queensland — Vice-Chancellor's Alumni Excellence Award
- 2016** Member of the Order of Australia
- 2016** Australian Book Industry — Pixie O'Harris Award
- 2015** Senior Australian of the Year
- 2015** NSW Senior Australian of the Year
- 2015** ALIA Redmond Barry Award for service to Australian literature and literacy
- 2014** Australian Children's Laureate (to 2015)
- 2011** Australian Federal Literacy Ambassador
- 2012** Australian Year of Reading Ambassador
- 2012** International Astrid Lingren Award nomination
- 2007** Australia's nomination, Hans Christian Anderson Award
- 2006** ACT Children's Week Ambassador

Book Awards and Honours

The Drought Kangaroo

2026 Winner, ACT Literary Awards, Children's literature (fiction)

The Mushroom In The Sky

2026 Book Links Longlist Children's Historical Fiction Award

Tigg And The Bandicoot Bushranger

2025 Book Links Shortlist Children's Historical Fiction Award

2025 ACT Literary Awards, Shortlist Children's literature (older readers fiction)

The Sea Captain's Wife

2025 ACT Literary Awards, Shortlist Fiction

Ming and Ada Spark The Digital Age

2025 Book Links Shortlist Children's Historical Fiction Award

The Turtle and the Flood (with Danny Snell)

2024 Winner, ACT Literary Awards, Picture Book

2024 Shortlisted, The Wilderness Society Karajia & Environment Awards for Children's Literature

Secret Sparrow

2024 Shortlisted, Historical Novel Society Awards (HNSA) Historical Novel Prize

2024 Longlisted, Book Links Qld Award for Children's Historical Fiction

Diary of a Rescued Wombat: The untold story (with Bruce Whatley)

2023 Winner, ACT Notable Book Awards, Children's Books

Ming and Marie Spy for Freedom

2023 Longlisted, Book Links Qld Award for Children's Historical Fiction

The Great Gallipoli Escape

2024 Shortlisted, ACT Book of the Year Award

2024 CBCA Notables List

2023 Longlisted, Historical Novel Society Awards (HNSA) Historical Novel Prize

Ming and Flo Fight for the Future

2023 CBCA Notables List

Night Ride into Danger

2022 CBCA Notables List

2022 Shortlisted, Sisters in Crime Davitt Awards — Children's crime novels

Christmas Always Comes (with Bruce Whatley)

2022 CBCA Notables List

Pandemic (with Bruce Whatley)

2021 Shortlisted, Educational Publishing Awards Australia — Educational Picture or Chapter Book

2021 Inclusion in Best Picture Books of the Year, Chen Bochui International Literary Awards (CICLA) (China Shanghai International Children's Book Fair)

The Fire Wombat (with Danny Snell)

2021 CBCA Notables List

2021 Longlisted, Australian Book Industry Awards

Pirate Boy of Sydney Town

2020 CBCA Notables List

Christmas in Paris: A Christmas Story eBook

2020 Shortlisted, Woollahra Digital Literary Award

Drought (with Bruce Whatley)

2019 CBCA Notables List

Koala Bare (with Matt Shanks)

2018 CBCA Notables List

Millie Loves Ants (with Sue DeGennaro)

2018 CBCA Notables List

Third Witch

2018 CBCA Notables List

Facing the Flame

2018 Shortlisted, ACT Book of the Year Award

The Ghost by the Billabong

2017 Shortlisted, NSW Premier's Literary Awards, Ethel Turner Prize for Young Adult's Literature

Cyclone (with Bruce Whatley)

2017 Notable, Children's Book Council of Australia, The Picture Book of the Year

2017 Shortlisted, Australian Book Design Awards, Children's Illustrated, (Nicole Stofberg designer)

Fire (with Bruce Whatley)

2017 Shortlisted, YABBA, Picture Story Books

2017 Shortlisted, KOALA Awards

2015 Notable, Children's Book Council of Australia, The Picture Book of the Year category

A Waltz for Matilda

2016 KROC Award, Reader's Choice

Horace the Baker's Horse

2016 Shortlisted, ACT Book Awards

Let the Land Speak

2014 NIB Award

Refuge

2015 Shortlisted in two categories for the NSW Premier's History Award

Christmas Wombat (with Bruce Whatley)

2012 Shortlisted in the Australian Book Industry Awards.

Pennies for Hitler

2017 Shortlisted, KOALA Awards

2017 Shortlisted, YABBA Awards, Fiction for Years 7-9

2013 Winner, NSW Premier's History Award (Young People's History Prize)

2013 Honour Book, Children's Book Council of Australia (Younger Readers)

2013 Shortlisted, Queensland Literary Awards (Children's Book)

2012 Included 'Fifty Top Reads' Australian International Year of Reading

Nanberry: Black Brother White

2012 Shortlisted Children's Book Council of Australia

2012 Honour Book, Children's Book Council of Australia

Flood (with Bruce Whatley)

2012 Honour Book, Children's Book Council of Australia

2012 Shortlisted Children's Book Council of Australia

2012 International White Raven Award

A Waltz for Matilda

2011 Notable Book, Children's Book Council of Australia

Oracle

2011 Notable Book, Children's Book Council of Australia

Queen Victoria's Underpants

2011 Notable Book, Children's Book Council of Australia

Christmas Wombat (with Bruce Whatley)

2011 Shortlisted in the Australian Book Industry Awards.

The Tomorrow Book (with Sue deGennaro)

2011 Wilderness Society Award.

Natalie Winter, the book's brilliant designer, also won the Best Designed Children's Picture Book for the Australian Publishers Association

The Night They Stormed Eureka

2011 NSW Premier's History Award

Baby Wombat's Week (with Bruce Whatley)

2011 Winner Australian Book Industry Awards

2011 Longlisted, The Kate Greenway Awards in the UK

2010 Notable Children's Book Council Awards in both the Younger Readers and Picture Book categories

The Tynytozeum

2011 'The Tynytozeum' (exhibition) with Bruce Whatley 2011 IMAGinE Museum Award.

The Donkey Who Saved the Wounded

2010 Notable Children's Book Council Awards

A Nation of Swaggies and Diggers

2010 Notable Children's Book Council Awards

Shaggy Gully Times

2009 Shortlisted, Young Australians Best Book Award (YABBA)

2009 Notable Book, Children's Book Council of Australia

2009 Shortlisted, Book of the Year, Children's Book Council of Australia

2009 YABBA shortlist

2008 Shortlisted, CBCA book of the Year; Younger Readers CBCA Notable Picture book; White Raven Award (international award International Youth Library in Munich)

A Rose for the Anzac Boys

2009 Honour Book, Australian Book Council of Australia Awards

2009 Notable Book, Australian Book Council of Australia

2009 Shortlisted, Book of the Year for Older Readers, 2009 Australian Book Council of Australia

The Camel who Crossed Australia

2009 Shortlisted, YABBA

Pete the Sheep

2009 Simultaneous Read Around Australia book

Pharoah, the boy who conquered the Nile

2008 Shortlisted, CBC book of the Year, Older Readers

2008 Shortlisted, ACT Book of the Year

2008 Shortlisted, YABBA

Josephine Wants to Dance

2007 Winner, Younger Readers 2007 ABIA Award (Australian Book Industry Awards)

2007 Short listed in the Picture Books category, YABBA awards

2007 Notable title in the Picture Book of the Year category, CBC awards;
Notable title in the Early Childhood category, CBC awards

The Goat Who Sailed the World

2008 Shortlisted for the Yabba Award, Koala Award, Croc Award and Cool Award
(All the Australian kids' choice awards)

2007 Notable title in the Younger Readers category, CBC awards
Short listed in the Fiction for Older Readers category, YABBA awards;

Macbeth and Son

2007 Shortlisted, Children's Book Council of Australia Awards – Younger Readers;

Adelaide Festival Literary Award

They Came on Viking Ships

2007 WAYBRA award (favourite book of the kids in WA); the Essex Literary Award (UK) for *Slave Girl*, which is the UK title of the book published in Australia as *They Came on Viking Ships*, and *Rover* in the US and Canada

2006 Shortlisted, NSW Premier's History Award

Shortlisted as a notable book for the Children's Book Council of Australia Awards – Younger Readers

The Secret World of Wombats

2006 Shortlisted – NSW Premier's Awards: Patricia Wrightson Prize

2006 Shortlisted for the Wilderness Society's non-fiction award

Pete the Sheep

2005 Shortlisted as notable for the Children's Book Council of Australia Awards – Picture Book of the Year

Shortlisted for the KOALAs (Kids' Own Australian Literature Award) - top ten

To The Moon and Back

2005 Winner of the Children's Book Council of Australia Awards – Eve Pownall Award for Information Books

My Dad the Dragon

2005 Shortlisted as notable for the Children's Book Council of Australia Awards – Younger Readers

Tom Appleby, Convict Boy

2005 Shortlisted Children's Book Council of Australia Awards - Younger Readers

Diary of a Wombat

2008 Shortlisted, UK Roal Dahl Award for Funniest Book

2007 Winner, Kroc Award, for the 'favourite book of 2007' by the children of the Northern Territory

Shortlisted Bilby Awards

2004 USA Benjamin Franklin Award USA Lemmee Award; KIND Award USA;

Shortlisted, Bilby Award

2003 Notable Children's Book by the American Library Association (ALA)

Voted Favourite Picture Book of the Year in the Cuffie Awards in the USA

Tied with Diary of a Worm for Funniest Book in the Cuffie Awards in the USA

Number two on the 'Best 20 picture books for 2003 in the USA Cool Award, for Best Picture Book

Voted by the kids of the ACT Winner Young Australian Readers' Award Winner

KOALA Award for Best Picture Book

ABA/AA Nielsen Book of the Year

Honour Book for the CBCA Picture Book of the Year

Shortlisted for the YABBA awards

Shortlisted for the Children's Book Council of Australia Awards for Picture Book of the Year

Shortlisted in the Australian Publisher's Association Book Design Awards for Best Designed Children's Picture Book

Shortlisted for a Galley Club Award

Shortlisted in the Picture Book category of the Children's Choice Book Awards

Hitler's Daughter

- 2008** Shortlisted Yabba Awards, Koala Awards, Croc Awards and Cool Awards
- 2007** Shortlisted in the Fiction for Older Readers category, YABBA awards
- 2007** Hitler's Daughter: The Play performed by Monkey Baa Theatre Company
Winner of the Helpman Award 2007 for Theatre for Young People
Winner, Drovers award for Best Touring Production of 2006
- 2006** Shortlisted for the KOALAs and YABBA awards (voted by children)
Added to YABBA Hall of Fame
- 2005** Shortlisted for the KOALAs and YABBA awards
- 2005** The Japanese version received the semi-grand prix of the Sankei Children's Book Awards in June.
- 2004** Shortlisted for the COOL and YABBA awards
- 2003** Named a "Blue Ribbon" book by the Bulletin for the Center of Children's Books in the USA. Shortlisted for the KOALA, COOL and YABBA awards
Shortlisted in the Older Readers' category of the Children's Choice Book Awards
- 2002** Shortlisted for the KOALA and COOL awards Shortlisted in the Older Readers' category of the YABBAs UK National Literacy Association WOW! Award
- 2001** Shortlisted in the Older Readers' category of the Bilby (Books I Love Best Yearly) Awards

Shortlisted in the Older Readers' category of the YABBAs

Shortlisted in the Younger Reader's category of the WAYRBAs
- 2000** Winner, Children's Book Council - Book of the Year: Younger Readers

Shortlisted, The Sanderson Young Adult Audio Book of the Year Awards:
Vision Australia Library

Ride the Wild Wind

- 2003** Shortlisted, The Patricia Wrightson Award in the NSW Premier's Awards
- 2003** Shortlisted as a Notable Book for the Children's Book Council of Australia Awards

Valley of Gold

2003 Notable Book: Children's Book Council

Too Many Pears

2004 Notable Book: Children's Book Council
Shortlisted COOL and KOALA awards Benjamin Franklin Award USA

Flesh and Blood

2004 Shortlisted, 2004 Aurealis Awards for Fantasy and Science Fiction – Best Young Adult Novel

In the Blood

2002 ACT Book of the Year for 2002

Missing You, Love Sara

2002 Shortlisted for the KOALAs Shortlisted in the Older Readers' category of the Young Australian's Best Book Award (YABBA)

2001 Notable Book: CBCA Book of the Year Shortlisted for the West Australian Young Readers' Book Award (WAYRBA) in the Older Readers' category

Lady Dance

2001 Notable Book: Children's Book Council - Book of the Year

Stamp, Stomp, Whomp

2001 Notable Book: Children's Book Council - Book of the Year

How to Guzzle Your Garden

2000 Shortlisted, Eve Pownall Award for Information, CBCA Book of the Year

2000 Children's Book Council Book of the Year Notable Book

Cafe on Callisto

2000 Winner, Aurealis Award

Daughter of the Regiment

1999 Shortlisted, Children's Book Council Book of the Year - Younger Readers

1999 Children's Book Council Book of the Year Notable Book

Somewhere Around the Corner

1995 Honour Book, Children's Book Council Book of the Year - Younger Readers

1995 Highly Commended in the NSW Family Therapy Association & Victorian Association of Family Therapists, The Family Award for Children's Books

Walking the Boundaries

1994 Notable Book, Children's Book Council Book of the Year: Younger Readers

1994 Shortlisted in the Junior Section of the Australian Multicultural Children's Literature Awards

Rain Stones

1993 Shortlisted in the Primary Age Group of the WAYRBAs

1992 Shortlisted, Children's Book Council Book of the Year: Younger Readers

1991 Shortlisted, Children's Book Award in the NSW Premier's Literary Awards

The Roo that won the Melbourne Cup

1992 Notable Book, Children's Book Council Book of the Year: Younger Readers