



May 2008

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K.O.A.L.A.

KOALA is the children's choice award of NSW.

Children of NSW read and vote for the Australian books they have most enjoyed reading. They give a critical evaluation as they score the books.

CALENDAR 2008

15 FEBRUARY	NOMINATION KITS MAILED OUT
14 MARCH	NOMINATIONS CLOSE
9 MAY	SHORTLIST POSTER & VOTING KIT MAILED
12 SEPTEMBER	VOTING CLOSES
OCTOBER	AWARDS DAY & WINNERS ANNOUNCED

WEBSITE

www.koalansw.org.au

Special thanks to the team at SiteSuite: websites made easy. They have lived up to their motto 'websites made easy' by creating a great website for us.

Visit www.koalansw.org.au regularly to keep up-to-date with KOALA.

EMAIL ADDRESS

contact@koalansw.org.au

And thank you to our long-standing sponsor:



THE SHORTLIST

Here is the KOALA shortlist for 2008! This year it has a vibrant look to it, showcasing Deborah Niland's artwork and the most popular Australian books with young readers in NSW, VIC, NT and ACT. Many thanks to the schools that sent in their nominations and consequently have contributed to the shortlist. This year, we received well over 6,000 nominations!

Once again the shortlist is made up of 40 titles with the addition of a new category, last year. As well as 10 Picture books, 10 Younger Reader titles and 10 Older Reader titles, we have a category for our more avid readers in upper primary and lower secondary.

Many familiar authors have appeared on the shortlist again this year and we have 18 titles short-listed for the first time and authors Anna Ciddor & Li Cunxin make their debut on the KOALA shortlist.

Matthew Reilly is once again well represented in the Secondary category with four titles and Morris Gleitzman has three titles on the list. We also welcome back Anthony Hill, Bob Graham, Danny Katz, Paul Jennings, John Heffernan and Emily Rodda to celebrate their books being short-listed once again.

We hope your students have fun reading the titles on the shortlist and voting for their most favourite.

Stickers for Winners and TOP 10 2007

Gremlins visited the nomination kits which were sent to libraries in February. This meant that the stickers for WINNERS 2007 and the TOP 10 2007 stickers were missing from the kit. We have included them in this voting kit. Check the website to see which titles to place them on.

TEACHERS NOTES

Many of the shortlisted titles have teacher's notes available and can be found at www.koalansw.org.au. Just click on the LINKS page.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS 2008

Val Noake (PETA), Alyson Simpson (Sydney University), Antonina Fieni (St Mary's, Georges Hall), Chris Nelson & Jenny Williams (Lucas Heights Community School), Cathie Tasker (Koala Books), Catherine McClellan and Kris Fegent (Lateral Learning), Yvonne Georgopoulos (Fairfield City Public Library), Janine Dawson (illustrator), Jane Greville (Ryde Library Service), Ruth Franklin (Books and Beyond), Anne Vermeesch (Newtown Public School), Narelle Adams (Parramatta City Library) Alex Mills (Ashfield Municipal Library) & Yvonne Louis.



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NSW Premier's Reading Challenge

The KOALA shortlist can support your children's participation in the Premier's Reading Challenge. The following short listed titles are on the Reading Challenge list. Students reading these titles can record a vote for KOALA and count them as titles they need to read for the challenge. Shortlisted titles not on the list can be counted as free choice selections.

Years 7-9

Hitler's Daughter by Jackie French
Dragon SERIES by Carole Wilkinson
Mao's Last Dancer by Li Cunxin

Years 5-6

Keys to the Kingdom SERIES by Garth Nix
Runestone by Anna Ciddor
A Horse Called Elvis by John Heffernan
Specy Magee SERIES by Felice Arena
The Key to Rondo by Emily Rodda
The Goat Who Sailed the World by Jackie French
Boy Overboard by Morris Gleitzman
Dragon SERIES by Carole Wilkinson

Years 3-4

4F for Freaks by Leigh Hobbs
Extreme Adventure SERIES by Justin D'Ath
Selby SERIES by Duncan Ball
Tashi SERIES by Anna & Barbara Fienberg
Lucy's Cat and the Rainbow Birds by Anthony Hill

K-2

Annie's Chair by Deborah Niland
Jungle Drums by Graeme Base
Rex by Ursula Dubosarsky illus by David Mackintosh
Uno's Garden by Graeme Base
Where is the Green Sheep? by Mem Fox illus by Judy Horacek

www.koalansw.org.au

Are You a Winner?

All school and public libraries that had joined KOALA by March 22 went into the draw to win an original 'Selby' pen & ink illustration by Craig Smith. Congratulations to the lucky winners...

- Austinmer Public School
- St Benedict's Primary School
- Wollondilly Anglican College

Congratulations also to the following schools for submitting their nominations on time: Bringelly Public School has won a signed set of Boyz Rule books by Felice Arena and Leumeah High School will receive a twin pack of Matthew Reilly's books.

Visit the KOALA WEBSITE

and vote online! www.koalansw.org.au

Our website is jammed pack with information, photos, order forms and kids' activities. Thanks to SiteSuite, online voting is accessible to all our members. We still accept votes faxed to us but encourage you to try the simple online voting. It certainly is time efficient and headache free! In term 3, friends of KOALA (members) will be provided with a password to access the voting section of the website. Students & teachers can then type their name & grade and select their favourite title from a drop down menu. It is simple and kids love it! They can even vote from home. This voting system can be accessed from the website next term from July 21 to 12 September.

2008 POSTER

Our special thanks to Deborah Niland for designing and illustrating our wonderful VOTE NOW! Shortlist poster for 2008.

AWARDS DAY 2008

You're invited! A new venue is being planned for another spectacular awards day. This special day will be celebrated late in October and is certain to be a very memorable day with many of our authors, illustrators and avid readers in attendance. More information regarding the Awards day will be sent next term. We hope many of you that nominated titles for this year's shortlist can join us for a day of fun and surprises!

Cool KOALA Stuff!

Why not order some bookmarks or a fabulous KOALA library bag for your students? They are terrific gifts to add to your end of year presentations. This year we have a new bookmark designed by our very own KOALA Legend, Kim Gamble. We also have the coolest library bag ever(!) with 21 koala designs put together by 21 of our most favourite illustrators. After selling out on Awards Day, we have now re-stocked! Prices are reasonable and order forms can be downloaded from the KOALA website.