



2007

PO Box 279 Annandale NSW 2038
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email: contact@koalansw.org.au
www.koalansw.org.au

KOALA WINNERS

PICTURE BOOK

CHATTERBOX

Margaret Wild & Deborah Niland

YOUNGER READERS

THE CAT ON THE MAT IS FLAT

Andy Griffiths & Terry Denton

OLDER READERS

ZOMBIE BUMS FROM URANUS

Andy Griffiths

FICTION FOR YEARS 7-9

ONCE

Morris Gleitzman

KOALA TOP 10

ANNIE'S CHAIR

Deborah Niland

ZAC POWER (SERIES)

H.I. Larry

ARE WE THERE YET?

Alison Lester

WHERE IS THE GREEN SHEEP?

Mem Fox & Judy Horecek

REX

Ursula Dubosarsky & David Mackintosh

BOYZ RULE! (SERIES)

Felice Arena & Phil Kettle

DOG DEN MYSTERY (JACK RUSSELL DOG DETECTIVE)

Sally & Darrel Odgers

TASHI & THE STOLEN BUS

Anna & Barbara Fienberg & Kim Gamble

MAX REMY (SERIES)

Deb Abela

DOUBTING THOMAS

Morris Gleitzman

AWARDS DAY

What a fabulous day! With 24 schools and 20 authors & illustrators attending the awards, KOALA certainly celebrated 21 years in style! It was a very festive day, especially for all the children who waited eagerly for the announcement of the winners. We were fortunate to have all the category winners present to receive their awards in person — Margaret Wild & Deborah Niland, Andy Griffiths & Morris Gleitzman.

Other authors & illustrators who attended were Deb Abela, Matt Dray, Anna Fienberg, John Flanagan, Chris Milne, Bruce Whatley, Matthew Reilly, Duncan Ball, Allan Stomann, Kim Gamble, Sally Odgers, Janine Dawson, Felice Arena, Ursula Dubosarsky, & also Richard Tulloch who had everyone holding their breath with the story of Brian Hobble being strangled by a boa constrictor!

For the kids from Austinmer Public, a highlight was winning an original *Tashi* illustration, which Kim Gamble drew on the stage during the ceremony. Other winning schools were Orana Heights PS who received a box of books worth \$300; and St Joseph's Kilaben Bay who took home a set of KOALA Syba Signs for their library. All students attending the awards received a book thanks to the generosity of publishers.

LEGENDS

In 2004, the KOALA Legend was introduced to recognise authors & illustrators who have made a significant contribution to KOALA. Last year, illustrator Kim Gamble, joined Morris Gleitzman, Richard Tulloch, Terry Denton, Anna Fienberg, Duncan Ball & Paul Jennings as KOALA Legends recognising their ongoing contribution to children's literature and children's choice awards. Read their citations on our website.



FEBRUARY 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

- 22 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

SPONSOR



WELCOME TO KOALA FOR 2008!

Welcome to another KOALA year! Last year we celebrated our 21st birthday with a festive awards day at Taronga Zoo. To empower kids to have their say about their favourite books for 21 continuous years was an amazing milestone for KOALA. This year we plan to invite more students to voice what they love to read, by inviting high schools to participate in KOALA. There are now four book categories catering to junior and senior reading tastes. So spread the news — KOALA members will once again be invited to send representatives to the Awards Day and preference will be given to schools and libraries that send in nominations and votes. So don't forget to renew your membership and encourage your readers to nominate.

In 2002 we took the first steps towards creating a National Children's Choice Awards by joining with Victoria to produce a common shortlist. This union was under the banner of the *REAL Awards* — REAL standing for *Reading & Enjoying Australian Literature*. Several years ago, ACT also came on board. This year we hope to see NT, SA and Tasmania join us in creating a truly national Children's Choice Book Award. By passing on our enthusiasm for reading to students, this dream can become a reality.

Through the generosity of past KOALA president, Miranda Harrowell, who initiated a fund to assist students from a NSW regional school to participate in KOALA, we are organising Deb Abela — popular author of the Max Remy series — to visit Armidale & chat to kids about their favourite books. It is difficult for many regional schools to attend the KOALA awards, so this year we are sending a little bit of KOALA into the country!

Once again, we have raised enough money to sponsor two 'real' koalas at Taronga Zoo and students at Lucas Heights Community School have offered to be 'foster parents' for one koala. If your school would like to foster the other koala, please email me and we will send out information to your school.

Once again, I look forward to working with you to encourage reading for pleasure and promoting Australian books and authors to all our students.

Antonina Fieni — KOALA president

COMMITTEE MEMBERS FOR 2008

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



2008

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MEMBERSHIP FORM

Early bird membership fees

and join before 22 December to win an original Allan Stomann "Selby print".

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| School/Library | |
| Address | |
| Contact | |
| Phone | |
| Fax | |
| Email | |

TAX INVOICE

| | |
|---|----------------|
| Email Membership for schools and public libraries | \$35.00 |
| Postal Membership for schools and public libraries | \$50.00 |
| Email membership for individual students (with voting rights) | \$20.00 |
| Email Associate membership (no voting rights) | \$20.00 |

Please circle type of membership required.
KOALA is not required to charge GST
Email members should advise KOALA of any change to their email address.
Enquiries: email: contact@koalansw.org.au

Please send cheque payable to KOALA Inc.: PO Box 279 Annandale NSW 2038

SCHOOL & PUBLIC LIBRARY MEMBERS: The Nomination Kit and Voting Kit will be sent by post.
For email members all other correspondence (newsletters, reminders, announcements, etc) will be by email.
Postal members will receive this correspondence by post or fax.
INDIVIDUAL & ASSOCIATE MEMBERS: All information will be through email.



GET READY FOR 2008

WIN A \$300 BOOK PRIZE!

On Awards Day, schools that *nominated and voted* but were unable to attend, had the chance to win a box of books kindly donated by Koala Books and valued at \$300. Orana Heights Public School (Dubbo) was the lucky winner and was delighted with their prize.

This year your library could be a winner, so send in your nominations and WIN!

NOMINATE & WIN!

Why Nominate? The nomination process in first term is vital to KOALA's success. Any Australian book first published in the last ten years (i.e. 1998 – 2007) is eligible. It cannot be a previous KOALA winner. The books your students nominate as their favourites are collated with those from other schools & libraries. The ten most popular books in each category make up the shortlist. Please encourage your students to nominate as many of their favourite Aussie books as possible.

Series such as *Boyz Rule!* where the main characters are different should be nominated as a series but books with a common character such as Rascal the dragon, Selby or Old Tom should be nominated as individual titles. If you are uncertain, just send in your nomination as an individual title or email us anytime with your queries.

Schools that send their nominations by the 14th March go into the draw to win a set of books. We have a set of eight *Too Cool* books for a primary school and a set of 2 books by Matthew Reilly for a lucky secondary school. So start reading and get your nominations in by the deadline date.

THANKS KOALA BOOKS!

Koala Books have continued their long-standing support for KOALA by designing and printing our nomination and voting kits. This year marks the 12th year of support and commitment which is much appreciated. Visit their website and check out their fabulous books.
www.koalabooks.com.au

WWW.KOALANSW.ORG.AU

Our website is jammed pack with information, photos, order forms, kids' activities and links to authors' websites. Thanks to SiteSuite, online voting is accessible to all our members. It is simple and kids love it! They can even vote from home. Faxed votes will still be accepted this year but we encourage students to use the online voting. Usernames & passwords will be emailed to members as voting begins in May.

PREMIER'S READING CHALLENGE

Don't forget that KOALA can support your children's participation in the Premier's Reading Challenge. The shortlist can assist in motivating students to keep reading. When the shortlist is released, we will indicate which titles are on the PRC reading list and students reading those 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.

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.

SYBA SIGNS

Visit Syba Signs at <http://www.sybasigns.com.au> to view and purchase a KOALA Poster Set to display in your library.

2008 POSTER

Great news! Deborah Niland has agreed to design and illustrate the VOTE NOW! Shortlist poster for this year.

NEW CATEGORY FOR SENIORS – WIN!

Last year a new category for senior students was included in the shortlist. This category – *Fiction for Years 7-9* – encourages students to vote for their favourite books. All high schools that register as KOALA members will receive a KOALA 2 title pack from popular YA authors such as John Marsden & Matthew Reilly. Join up today!