



**THE  
WILDERNESS  
SOCIETY**

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

### **THE WILDERNESS SOCIETY: SHORTLIST ANNOUNCED FOR THE 21ST ENVIRONMENT AWARD FOR CHILDREN'S LITERATURE**

Australia's only environmental-themed award for children's literature has announced the shortlist for the 2015 award.

The Award has brought together the cream of the crop of Australian children's authors and illustrators. The winners this year will be selected by authors **Barry Jonsberg** and **Christina Booth**, with **Morris Gleitzman** presenting the Award.

Environment Award for Children's Literature (EACL) is presented by the Wilderness Society. This year there are three categories: 'picture fiction,' 'nonfiction' and 'fiction'.

For the past two decades, the award has commemorated the very best environmental literature for kids in Australia.

Previous winners of the award include celebrated Australian writers **Tim Winton**, **Colin Thiele**, **Paul Jennings**, **Jeannie Baker** and **Graeme Base**.

This year, the EACL also collaborated with illustrator **Marc Martin** to design a colouring-in template for Prep–Grade 3 students, with prizes awarded to the best entry.

For Grades 4–6, there’s a drawing competition, where students illustrate a story about a native Australian animal written by authors **Michael Gerard Bauer**, **Narelle Oliver** or **Samantha Wheeler**.

The Wilderness Society is excited to host this award, and believes that promoting a love of nature in children is one of the fundamental elements to building a society that respects and protects our iconic landscapes.

Lyndon Schneiders, Wilderness Society National Director, said literature has a powerful role in shaping future generations.

“The books and culture that the children of today absorb, will shape the world of tomorrow,” Mr Schneiders said.

“We recognise that the future protection of nature and our wild places rests in the hands of our children. Awards like the Environmental Award for Children’s Literature play an important role in raising awareness of the issues our world faces.

“As a father of two children, my commitment and passion to protect our natural world has only grown.

“The shortlisted books were selected for their ability to capture children’s imagination and inspire them, whilst encouraging them to treasure and protect Australia’s unique natural environment.”

A panel of environmental educators also helped select the shortlisted titles.

The eight shortlisted books are as follows:

### **Fiction shortlist**

- *Lulu Bell and the Sea Turtle* by Belinda Murrell, illustrated by Serena Geddes (Random House Australia)
- *Those Eco-Pirate Kids* by Jon Tucker (Storm Bay Books)
- *Rescue on Nim’s Island* by Wendy Orr, illustrated by Geoff Kelly (Allen & Unwin)
- *The Vanishing Frogs of Cascade Creek* by Emma Homes (Spark Street Communications Pty Ltd)

### **Picture fiction shortlist**

- *Zobi and the Zoox* by Ailsa Wild (main), with Briony Barr and Gregory Crocetti, illustrated by Aviva Reed (Scale Free Network)
- *The Duck and Darklings* by Glenda Millard, illustrated Stephen Michael King (Allen & Unwin)
- *Rivertime* by Trace Balla (Allen & Unwin)
- *Run Tree Run* by Kelly Alsop, illustrated by Boris Silvestri (JoJo Publishing)

#### **Nonfiction book shortlist**

- *Emu* by Claire Saxby, illustrated by Graham Byrne (Walker Books Australia)
- *Our Class Tiger* by Aleesah Darlison, illustrated by Antonia Stylianou (Oxford University Press)
- *Found and Made: The Art of Upcycling* by Lisa Hölzl (Walker Books Australia)

The announcement of the winners will take place on 28 July 2015.

#### **For further information and to request author interviews:**

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