## THE TERRIBLE SUITCASE WINS CHILDREN'S BOOK OF THE YEAR

Many school students were part of the crowd present to cheer on the announcement of The Terrible Suitcase by Emma Allen and Freya Blackwood (Omnibus Books, Scholastic Press) as Book of the Year: Early Childhood. The win was announced at the Children's Book Council of Australia (CBCA) Children's Book of the Year Awards at the National Library of Australia on August 16.

Winning author Emma Allen was on hand to receive the award and to see Year 4 students from Canberra Girls Grammar perform The Terrible Suitcase as a Readers' Theatre for the large crowd. The event was hosted by the CBCA National President Angela Briant, with ABC Radio's Alex Sloan as a auest speaker.

Julie Hunt and Ron Brooks received the award for Picture Book of the Year for The Coat (Allen & Unwin), Margo Langaan's Sea Hearts (Allen & Unwin) won Book of the Year: Older Readers, while Book of the Year: Younger Readers was awarded to Children of the King by Sonya Hartnett (Viking Books, Penguin Group Australia), and Tom the Outback Mailman by Kristin Weidenbach and Timothy Ide (Lothian Children's Books, Hachette Australia) won the Eve Pownall Award for Information Books. The Chrichton Award for new illustrators was awarded to Marc Martin for his work titled A Forest (Viking Books, Penguin Group Australia).

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The night included the official launch of Children's Book Week by Steve Doszpot MLA, who affirmed the essential role of teacher librarians in schools in his address and congratulated the CBCA on a wonderful celebration of quality children's

A book signing by the shortlisted authors and illustrators was held after the ceremony for the many attendees, who brought along their copies of the short-listed books and relished the opportunity to meet the creators of their favourite books.

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Jackie Kerin and Peter Gouldthorpe



Timothy Ide, Kristin Weidenbach



Authors Julie Hunt and Margo Lanagan