

## Media Release

Friday 3 June 2011

### **Speech Pathology Australia Book of the Year Awards 2011 shortlist announced**

This week Speech Pathology Australia (SPA) released the shortlist for its annual Book of the Year Awards.

The awards aim to promote literacy and the need for good literacy skills, while building a library of resources that speech pathologists, teachers and parents can use to help promote literacy and reading.

The year's shortlist consists of 51 books in four categories: *Best Book for Language & Literacy Development Young Children, Lower Primary, Upper Primary and Indigenous Children*, with entries from favourite Australian authors such as Mem Fox, Margaret Wild and Bruce Whatley.

2011 marks the first year books have been judged in the '*Best Book for Language & Literacy Development – Indigenous Children*' and the inaugural award will be presented at a ceremony in Darwin on 18 October.

SPA National President, Chris Stone, said that literacy levels in Australia are at alarming levels and SPA hopes the Book of the Year Awards will help promote literacy as a fun and engaging activity, while the addition of the new category will provide the Indigenous community with enjoyable and culturally appropriate resources that foster language and literacy skill development.

"The gap between Indigenous and non-Indigenous children is depressingly wide, and continues to widen with each year that passes. By the age of 15, more than one-third of Australia's Indigenous students will not have adequate skills and knowledge in their reading literacy to meet real-life challenges and this is something we are hoping to draw attention to and help address with our new award category," Ms Stone said.

"As the peak professional body for speech pathologists we are in a unique position to recommend books to parents and educators, that can assist children's speech, language and literacy development."

Each year, Speech Pathology Australia selects children's books based on their appeal to children, educational value, graphics and design, as well as their ability to facilitate communication, interaction and discussion.

For more information about Speech Pathology Australia's Book of the Year awards, visit [www.speechpathologyaustralia.org.au](http://www.speechpathologyaustralia.org.au).

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**About Speech Pathology Australia**

Speech Pathology Australia is the national peak body for more than 4,500 members. The Association supports and regulates the ethical, clinical and professional standards of its members. The Association also lobbies and advocates for people with communication and swallowing difficulties.

**Speech Pathology Australia Book of the Year Shortlist 2011**

Young Children		
1	Can We Lick the Spoon Now?	Carol Goess, ill. Tamsin Ainslie
2	The Flying Orchestra	Clare McFadden
3	The ABC Book of Cars, Trains, Boats and Planes	Helen Martin, Judith Simpson & Cheryl Orsini
4	One Funky Monkey	Stacey McCleary, ill. Sue Degennaro
5	The Truth About Penguins	Meg McKinlay, ill. Mark Jackson
6	A Giraffe in the Bath	Mem Fox and Olivia Rawson, ill. Kerry Argent
7	JoJo Goes to Playgroup	Christine Miesen
8	It's Bedtime, William!	Deborah Niland
9	I Found a Friend	Beth Norling
10	Leo, the Littlest Seahorse	Margaret Wild, ill. Terry Denton
11	Love from Grandma	Jane Tanner
12	The Little Drummer Boy	Bruce Whatley

Lower Primary		
1	The Miracle of the Little Wooden Duck	Margaret Wild, ill. Dee Huxley
2	Magpie	Luke Davies, ill. Inari Kiuru
3	Duck for a Day	Meg McKinlay
4	Miracle on Separation Street	Bob Graham
5	The Boy and the Toy	Sonya Hartnett, ill. Lucia Masciullo
6	Boris Gets a Lizard	Andrew Joyner
7	Hairy Nose, Itchy Butt	Elisabeth Frankel, ill. Garry Duncan
8	Shake a Leg	Boori Pryor
9	The Snake and the Boy	Azmen Senastien
10	Scaly-tailed Possum and Echidna	Cathy Goonack
11	The Important Things	Peter Carnavas

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Upper Primary		
1	Mosquito Advertising: The Parfizz Pitch	Kate Hunter
2	Red Dirt Diary	Katrina Nannestad
3	The Song of the Winns	Frances Watts
4	Arnie Avery	Sue Walker
5	Harriet Bright: The Star You Are	Claire Craig
6	NOW	Morris Gleitzman
7	Nanny Piggins & the Runaway Lion	R. A. Spratt
8	Grimsdon	Deborah Abela
9	Raven's Mountain	Wendy Orr
10	Head Spinners	Thalia Kalkipsakis
11	Museum of Thieves: The Keepers 1	Lian Tanner
12	Battle Boy: White War	Charlie Carter

Indigenous Children		
1	Guulaangga the Green Tree Frog	Gloria Whalan
2	Sissy's Secret	Althea McKeown
3	Walkabout with our Mates	Esther Fischer
4	The Little Moo Cow	John Delacour
5	Sam's Fishing Adventure	Monique Russell
6	Beautiful Colours	Tina Raveneau
7	Jakobi & Nan	Esther Fisher
8	Our World: Bardi Jaawi life at Ardiyooloon	One Arm Point Remote Community School
9	Fair Skin Black Fella	Renee Fogorty
10	Stolen Girl	Trina Saffioti
11	The Snake and the Boy	Azmen Senastien
12	Scaly-tailed Possum and Echidna	Cathy Goonack
13	Look See, Look at Me	Leonie Norrington
14	Shake a Leg	Boori Pryor
15	The Devil You Know	Leonie Norrington
16	Peka-Boo, the smallest bird in the world	Eliza Feely

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