



Design © Cate James



# Kids' Corner

March 2020

## WILDLIFE VOLUNTEERING AFTER THE FIRES - CANDICE ANDERSON



LAOKO  
Snowy Mountains  
Wildlife Rescue



You can help by reporting injured wildlife to your local rescue group. You can also leave a shallow bowl of water in your backyard for animals to drink - you never know who might turn up!

LAOKO (Looking after Our Kosciuszko Orphans)  
[www.laokosmwr.org](http://www.laokosmwr.org)



# Night of the Notables

Connect to the 2020 Notables list



INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF  
**PLANT HEALTH**  
2020

## 2020 UNITED NATIONS YEAR of PLANT HEALTH

The UN has dedicated 2020 to raise awareness about plant health and the impact of healthy plants and forests on food security, poverty, economic development, and sustainability.

<http://www.fao.org/plant-health-2020/home/en/>



## Who is the Australian Children's Laureate 2020 - 2021?

Who is she?

What is her new role?

<http://www.childrenslaureate.org.au>



AUSTRALIAN CHILDREN'S  
**LAUREATE**





## **CBCA NOTABLES LIST – THE LIST EVERY AUTHOR AND ILLUSTRATOR WANTS TO BE ON**

Here is your chance to see the best current Australian books as chosen by CBCA. The CBCA Shortlists will be selected from these books. The CBCA Short List 2020 is announced March 31.

<https://cbca.org.au/notables-2020>

## **AND THE 2020-21**



**is ...**

# **Ursula Dubosarsky**

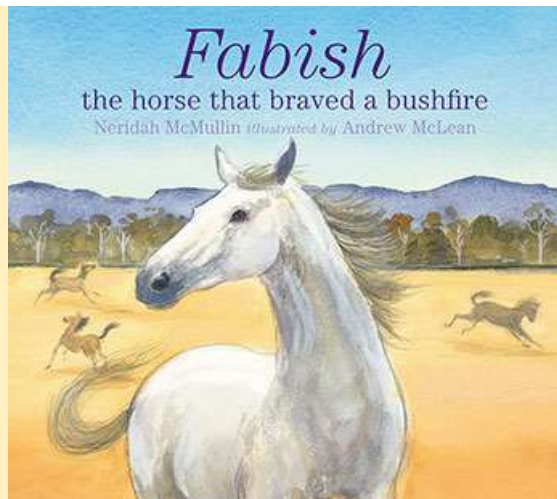
Dubosarsky is the author of over 60 books for children and young adults, and her work has been translated into 14 languages. She has won national prizes including the NSW, Victorian, South Australian and Queensland Premiers' Literary Awards, the Children's Book Council of Australia (CBCA) Book of the Year Awards, and she has been nominated for the international Hans Christian Andersen Award and the Astrid Lindgren Memorial Award, the world's richest prize for children's literature.

The theme of Dubosarsky's two-year term will be 'Read for your life'

<http://www.childrenslaureate.org.au>

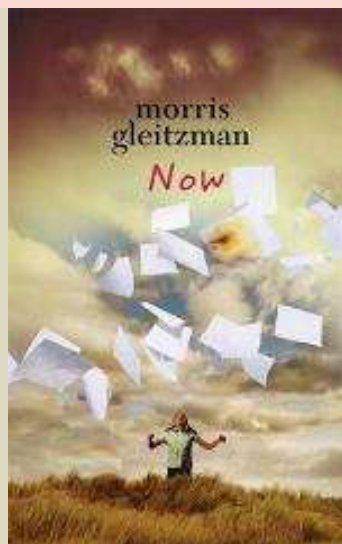
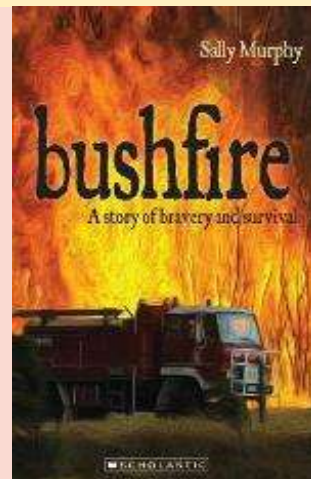
<http://ursuladubosarsky.squarespace.com>

## READ ON AND ON



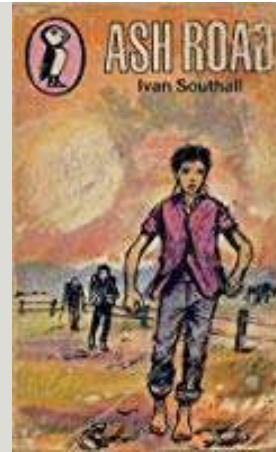
**Fabish: The Horse that Braved a Bushfire** Neridah McMullin and Andrew McLean (Allen and Unwin, 2016)

Sally Murphy  
**Bushfire**  
(Scholastic, 2019)

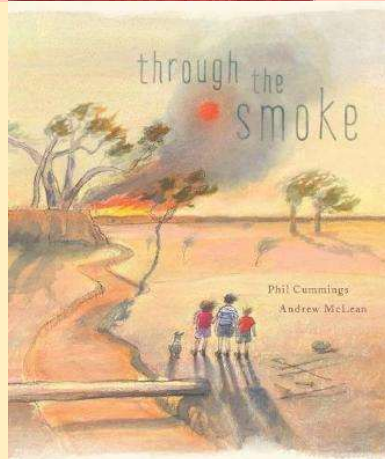
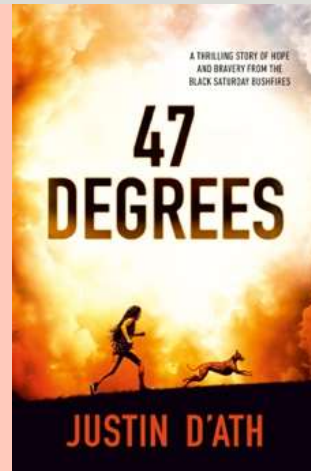


Morris Gleitzman  
**Now**  
(Penguin, 2010)

Ivan Southall  
**Ash Road**  
(Puffin, 1967)

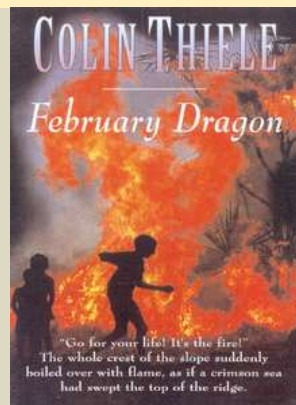


Justin D'Ath  
**Bushfire Rescue**  
(Kane/Miller 2010)  
**47 Degrees**  
(Penguin, 2019)



Phil Cummings and Andrew  
McLean **Through the Smoke**  
(Scholastic, 2019)

Colin Theile  
**February Dragon**  
(Seal, 1970)  
First published 1966 by Harper  
Collins.



## WILDLIFE VOLUNTEERING AFTER THE FIRES - CANDICE ANDERSON



### LAOKO (Looking after Our Kosciuszko Orphans)

[www.laokosmwr.org](http://www.laokosmwr.org)

is a volunteer group that cares for injured native animals. We will soon be involved in caring for animals that have been burned in the recent bushfires around Kosciuszko, the South Coast and the Monaro region. These burns might be on their feet or paws where they've been passing through burned areas or on their faces if they've been attempting to graze. Many creatures are hungry because much of their habitat has turned to ash.

Volunteers over the age of 18, learn to care for wildlife by joining their local wildlife organisation and undertaking a course that is specific to the type of animal they wish to look after. For example, people who care for kangaroos or wallabies will enrol in a 'macropod' care course. The term macropod means 'big foot' and comes from the word Macropodidae, which is the marsupial family that includes kangaroos, wallabies, tree kangaroos, pademelons, bettongs and potoroos. There are also courses for wombat, bird and reptile care.

Orphaned marsupials need a special milk formulation that contains all the right nutrients for them to grow properly. Giving them cow's milk or any other type of milk can make them very sick - they can even die! That's why it's so important to do a carer's course - to learn about the specialised care they need

How damaged animals relate to humans can depend a lot on how old they are. Some orphaned kangaroo joeys, for example, come into care as small as 500 grams - these little ones are only about 4-5 months old and are affectionately referred to as 'pinkies' as they have no fur yet.

The older they are, the more they were used to being out in the wild with their mum and 'the mob', so sometimes they can be more reserved around humans

Neo, who was in his mother's pouch when she was hit by a car, was very 'chilled' from the minute he arrived!

Miss Morpheus cried for her mother for a week. Eventually, she learned to trust me as I became 'the milk lady'.



Trinity, whose mother was chased away by dogs has always been very affectionate and loves a cuddle and a scratch. As much as I love them, I have to remember that the goal is to successfully reintroduce them to the wild when they can successfully survive – wild and free.

No matter what, we're all doing our best to ease the suffering of our native animals and look after the babies that have lost their mums. If we don't do it, who else will? We have incredibly unique wildlife in Australia and it's a privilege to care for them when we are given the opportunity.

You can help by reporting injured wildlife to your local rescue group. You can also leave a shallow bowl of water in your backyard for animals to drink – you never know who might turn up!



Candice with Neo (left) and Trinity (right). Neo was rescued when his mother was hit by a car in Jindabyne, NSW. Trinity was also rescued in Jindabyne after her mother was chased by dogs.



L-R: Miss Morpheus, Neo and Trinity. Miss Morpheus came a little later, but fitted in well with the other two.

Now they've created their own little mob.



Candice feeding Trinity amidst thick smoke created by the bushfires burning in Kosciuszko National Park. Spare a thought for all the wild animals out there without a mask!



We care for a lot of kangaroos, wallabies and wombats, as well as birds such as galahs and crimson rosellas. Some volunteers specialise in reptiles such as snakes and lizards. Other wildlife care groups might have more birds and possums to look after and less kangaroos.

## UPDATE

*The LAOKO team is becoming totally busy with new animals to care for. As areas of the forest become safer, more wildlife can be rescued. The stories Candice shared make us feel that Australia is so lucky to have groups like LAOKO to help care for it and to help us recognise and appreciate how special wildlife actually is.*

## JULIE MURPHY

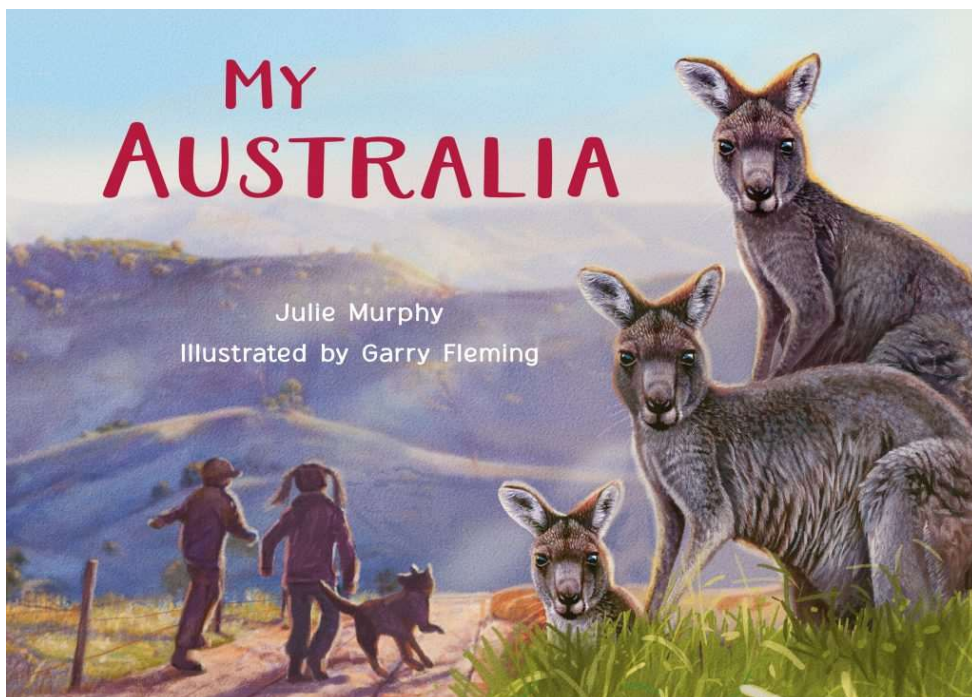
is a Melbourne based author who trained as a zoologist and a zoo keeper.

*'I have been writing about animals and the environment (fiction and nonfiction picture books, information books and poems) for some time now. One of my passions is encouraging children to experience nature for themselves; whether it's going bush, or into your local park or back yard.*

*I was shortlisted for the Wilderness Society's Environment Award this year (for My Australia, NLA, 2018), and am a reviewer for CBCA's Reading Time.*

*Look out for my new releases in 2020'*

- ***I've Got a Tail! Terrific Tails of the Animal World*** (Amicus Ink, USA, February 2020),
- ***Odd Bods: The World's Unusual Animals*** (Lerner/Millbrook, USA, October 2020).

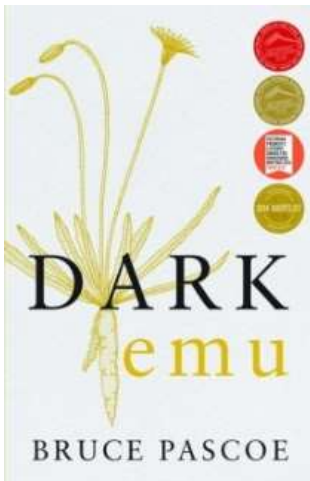




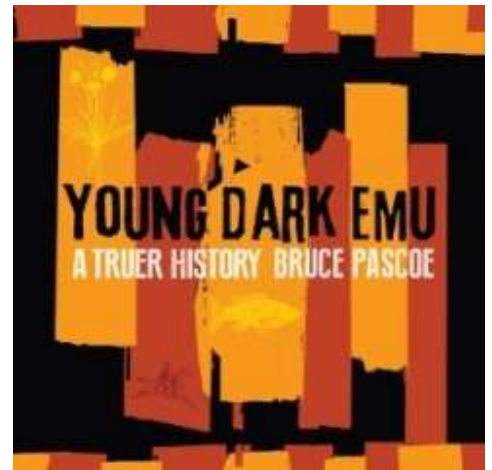
**My Australia** by Julie Murphy and Garry Fleming (National Library of Australia Publishing, 2018)

**My Australia** is a poetic journey across the Australian landscape. Celebrating both the ancient and modern Australia, this book invites readers to travel across the delights of our continent -from dry deserts to lush rainforests, high mountains to stormy seashores, and winding rivers to fertile swamplands – all the magical places that are my Australia. With colourful illustrations by Garry Fleming, this beautifully simple story is sure to excite young readers, encouraging a greater awareness and appreciation of our precious and irreplaceable natural places.

<https://juliemurphybooks.com/book/my-australia/>



**Bruce Pascoe** shares the wealth of accomplishments of Aboriginal civilisations from the pre - histories of 60, 000 years ago in DARK EMU and the version for younger readers, YOUNG DARK EMU. His research of our ancient land was based on extensive explorations and interpretations of historical documents and sites.



### **WRITE NOW – topics to focus your personal writing**

- Write a short story based on the experience of someone who was affected by the bushfires. Put yourself in their shoes.
- Read about helping wildlife in your area. There is a lot of information about building wildlife boxes. Then write an article about it for your school newsletter.





**WWW = WAYS WITH WORDS**

**READING gives you 2020 vision!**

**Happy reading always - Morrie**

**(This issue of KC was compiled by Jackie Hawkes with the help of lots of people who love, reading, writing and ideas.)**

