

# The Presenters...



Mem Fox

Mem Fox is a retired Associate Professor of Literacy Studies and also Australia's most highly regarded picture-book author. Her first publication, *Possum Magic* is the best selling children's book in Australia. She has written over forty books for children including the internationally best-selling Wilfrid Gordon McDonald Partridge, *Time for Bed*, *Where Is The Green Sheep?*, and *Ten Little Fingers and Ten Little Toes*. Mem has also written several non-fiction books for adults, including her renowned book for parents: *Reading Magic: why reading to children will change their lives forever*. She lives in Adelaide, Australia, but travels constantly as an advocate for literacy and literature. Her latest book is *I'm Australian Too*.



Melina Marchetta

Melina Marchetta is the writer of eight novels, including *Looking For Alibrandi*, which celebrated its 25th anniversary in 2017. The novel was a sellout within two months of its release. Her latest, *Tell the Truth, Shame the Devil* is a crime novel and was released in October 2016. Melina has received international acclaim as a novelist and screenwriter. Her work explores her strong interest in issues faced by young people. She has also written for film and TV. Melina lives in Sydney.



Dr Robin Morrow

Robin Morrow is National President of IBBY Australia (International Board on Books for the Young). She founded the first specialist children's bookshop in Sydney and managed it for 25 years. She was children's book reviewer for *The Weekend Australian* for 10 years, and continues to write reviews and articles for journals such as *Magpies*. She has worked as a children's publisher, and taught children's literature at universities including Macquarie and UTS. In 2012 she devised and has since been teaching (online) for Simmons College, Boston, a postgraduate course in Australian children's and YA books. Robin has served on many judging panels including the CBCA awards, and is currently a judge for the NSW Premier's Awards. Her special interests include the picture book as bearer of cultural messages; literature and social justice; and international children's books. She was made a member of the Order of Australia (AM) in 2014.



Patricia Genat

Patricia Genat has been Chair of the Australian Literacy Foundation since 2016. She has served as Chair of Australian Library and Information Association (ceasing May 2017), is a former President of the Australian Booksellers Association and Managing Director of ALS Library Services. Patricia has more than 15 years of management experience in the book industry - including publishing, distribution, online services, and printing - and brings a wealth of experience and knowledge to the Board.



Associate  
Professor Munjed  
Al Muderis

Munjed Al Muderis is an Australian trained Orthopaedic Surgeon and a Squadron Leader in the Australian Air Force Reserve. He is also an Ambassador for the Australian Red Cross, human rights activist and a refugee. Munjed came to Australia by boat. Born in Baghdad, at the age of 27, Munjed had to flee Iraq as a young Doctor having refused the orders of Saddam Hussein to mutilate army deserters' ears. Munjed endured a life-threatening journey to Australia. After spending 10 months in Curtin Detention Centre, upon his release, he embarked on a mission to become an Orthopaedic Surgeon. He is now one of three surgeons world wide pioneering a revolutionary technology known as Osseointegration. Munjed has helped more than 270 amputees from around the world to improve mobility, reduce pain and overall enhance their quality of life. He teaches at Notre Dame and Macquarie Universities, trains local and international surgeons, registrars and medical students.



Susanne Gervay

Awarded an Order of Australia and International Social Justice Literature Award for her contribution to children's literature, Susanne Gervay is recognized for her writing on social justice. Her rite-of-passage anti-bullying *I Am Jack* books are widely endorsed by anti bullying organisations and have been adapted into a play touring Australia and USA. Susanne books range from picture to young adult books, reaching into inclusion, multiculturalism, peace. She is committed to literacy and is an ambassador for the NSW Premier's Reading Challenge, heads the Society of Children's Book Writers & Illustrators Australia & New Zealand, Writer Ambassador for Room to Read, patron Monkey Baa Theatre, former Chair of NSW Writers Centre, Australia Day Ambassador.



Phil Glendenning

Phil has been the Director of the Edmund Rice Centre since its inception in 1996 and is currently the President of the Refugee Council of Australia. With a background in education, law, political science, and overseas aid and development, today he is primarily involved in human right advocacy and education, peace and reconciliation work, raising awareness of the impact of climate change on marginalised peoples. His work with Indigenous people saw him co-found Australians for Native Title and Reconciliation (ANTaR) in 1997, and for ten years he was National President. Phil also led the research team for the "Deported To Danger" series which monitored the safety of rejected asylum seekers in 22 countries, and resulted in the internationally screened documentary, "A Well Founded Fear".



Maria Tiimon  
Chi-Fang

Maria Tiimon Chi-Fang is Pacific Outreach Officer for the Pacific Calling Partnership. She was born on the Island of Beru in Kiribati where she grew up. Her role includes raising awareness in schools and communities of how climate change is affecting Pacific islands and she works to build a strong relationship between Australians and Pacific Islanders in order to work together to combat climate change. Before that, as a member for several years of the Marist Missionary Sisters, Maria lived, worked and studied in the Solomon Islands, Australia, New Zealand, the USA, and Jamaica. Her roles there included social work, youth work, administration, working for the shut-ins, working with pupils who are both intellectually and physically disabled, pastoral work, teaching, and project officer for the Kiribati and Nauru diocese. Maria has represented the Pacific Calling Partnership overseas at numerous climate conference and has joined PCP delegations to UNFCCC Climate Change conferences.



Louise and Mark  
Raue

Louise and Mark Raue come from Kiama and have been writing and performing songs that promote social justice and ecology for over a decade. They have produced six CDs through Commongood Music and are founding members of Carefree Road, a contemporary folk band that performs on the south coast of NSW. Both are former teachers and their songs continue to be widely used in Catholic schools around Australia.



Joel Robards

Joel Robards is a highly accomplished professional musician and sound engineer from Kiama who has a wide following for his live pub concerts and You-Tube productions. He is a prolific composer and apart from his solo career performs regularly with Louise and Mark Raue as a member of Carefree Road.