

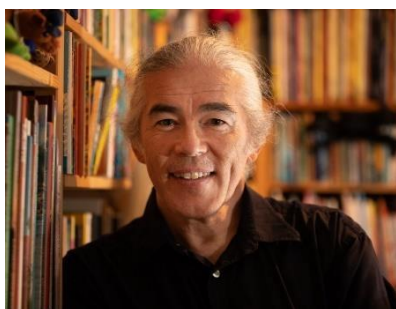
Telling Tales: Inside Australian Children's Literature

2.30-4p.m. Monday 11 March 2024

University of Canberra, Clive Price Suite, Building One, Room 1C50

as part of NCACL's 50th anniversary celebrations

CHRISTOPHER CHENG



© Danny Woo

Christopher Cheng is the award-winning author of many children's books published worldwide in print and digital formats. He writes children's fiction and nonfiction as a full-time pursuit. His picture books include *Bear and Rat* illustrated by Stephen Michael King and *One Tree* illustrated by Bruce Whatley. Christopher has worked as a primary school teacher, children's bookseller and he established Australia's first travelling zoo, the Zoomobile at Taronga Park Zoo. Christopher is co-chair of the International Advisory Board for the Society of Children's Book Writers and Illustrators (SCBWI). He is a recipient of the Lady Cutler Award for Children's Literature.

Christopher established the international peer voted SCBWI Crystal Kite Awards, chosen by children's book writers and illustrators, the only peer-given awards in publishing for young readers. Christopher has been a Literacy Ambassador for the Federal Government's Literacy and Numeracy Week initiative and is an Ambassador for the National Centre for Australian Children's Literature Inc.

ANN JAMES



© Ann Haddon

Ann's earlier life as an art teacher is the foundation for her approach to illustrating books for children. In a career spanning 45 years, she has illustrated over 70 books, collaborating with many authors and publishers. In 1988, she and Ann Haddon established Books Illustrated, a gallery and bookshop, promoting Australian picture books and their creators through exhibitions in Australia and overseas for 35 years.

Ann was a director on the Board of The Australian Society of Authors representing children's book creators for 20 years, and a founding director on the Board of the Australian Children's Laureate Foundation. As an Ambassador of the Indigenous Literacy Foundation, Ann has the wonderful opportunity to work with children in some of the most remote and inspiring communities in Australia. Her interest in supporting and promoting creators of Australian children's books has been acknowledged over her career. In 2000, she was awarded the Pixie O'Harris award

and, in 2002, the Dromkeen Medal for services to children's literature. Ann was the Australian illustrator nominated for the Hans Christian Andersen Award in 2020. In 2016, Ann was awarded the Member of the Order of Australia.

EVA MILLS



© Caleb Vines

Eva Mills is the Publishing Director of Books for Children and Young Adults at Allen & Unwin Book Publishers. Originally a British publisher, Allen & Unwin became an independent Australian publisher in 1990. Rosalind Price was appointed their first children's and young adult publisher in 1988. Today Allen & Unwin publishes around 250 new titles annually.

Eva reveals that as a child she was a 'little obsessed' with box sets of books. Her parents bought her entire series of such long-time favourites as *Winnie-the Pooh*, *the Moomins*, *Little House on the Prairie*, *Narnia*, *The Dark is Rising* and *Lord of the Rings*. Many of these classics are known and loved the world over.

While working in the public service, Eva knew she wanted to write fiction for young adults.

She enrolled in a course at RMIT and loved a course in editing. This became her real passion.

She landed a work placement at Allen & Unwin under the tutelage of Rosalind Price. She

joined Allen & Unwin in 2009 and, in 2015; Eva was appointed Publishing Director of Books for Children and Young Adults.

Eva describes children's publishing in Australia as generous and collaborative. She goes on to say that publishing is a business and so difficult and sometimes painful decisions for commercial reasons must be made. Still, she goes on, publishing is also an art—'many creators I've worked with pour their talent and passion into their work, so that must be remembered and respected at all times'.

SALLY ALLEN



© Sally Allen

Sally Allen has worked for over 20 years as a teacher in ACT public schools, including as a classroom teacher, EAL/D teacher, Reading Recovery teacher and as a release teacher within the school library. She completed her Master of Teacher Librarianship at Charles Sturt University in 2023, as part of the ACT Education Directorate teacher scholarship program. The program supported her to upskill and gain a formal qualification in teacher librarianship.

Sally was drawn to being a teacher librarian after seeing the impact it made in schools. The teacher librarian advocates for children's literature and encourages storytelling and reading across the whole school community. Sally is now a practicing teacher librarian, a role shared across the Narrabundah and Lyons Early Childhood Schools in Canberra, Australia.

Bookings available via EventBrite via NCACL's website

https://www.ncacl.org.au/event/telling-tales-inside-australian-childrens-literature/#tribe-tickets_tickets-form