



THE MURIEL BARWELL AWARD FOR DISTINGUISHED SERVICE TO CHILDREN'S LITERATURE

The 2024 recipient of the Muriel Barwell Award for distinguished service to children's literature is Dr Sally Murphy.

Sally has a Doctorate in Creative Writing, and is a qualified and experienced teacher, having taught all ages from preschool through to university level. Currently she is a Senior Lecturer in Literacy in the School of Education, and Course Coordinator of the Bachelor of Education (Primary) at Curtin University, training the next generation of teachers. A published author and poet of over 50 books, Sally's research interests include the importance of integrating children's literature across the curriculum and increasing engagement with reading and writing.

After being a judge for the Dorothea Mackellar Poetry Awards from 2011-2013, Sally was invited to be the Patron of the awards. She wrote her thesis on poetry and, in 2021, the Primary English Teacher's Association of Australia (PETAA) asked her to write a resource for teachers. *Teaching Poetry for Pleasure and Purpose* was sent out to all PETAA members in August 2021. The goal of the book is to help educators teach the writing, reading and savouring of poetry in ways that are pleasurable (for teachers AND students) and to meet literacy and other learning goals.

In 2023 Sally teamed with Rebecca M. Newman, publisher at Alphabet Soup Books, to compile an anthology of poetry for children, with poems from new and established Western Australian poets. Co-published in 2024 by Fremantle Press, with brilliant illustrations by Briony Stewart, *Right Way Down* was launched in March 2024 to great acclaim.

Sally was a volunteer contributor to *The Australian Verse Novel Resource* and was instrumental in setting it up for the National Centre for Australian Children's Literature. This comprehensive resource includes a summary of each verse novel, listing of awards, links to teacher's notes, reviews and other resources, curriculum links and key topics covered within.

Sally is generous with her time and talents and has been a longtime member and loyal supporter of CBCA WA. At the 20th anniversary of A Night with Our Stars (ANWOS) in 2023 Sally was acknowledged not only as one of the original presenters at the 2004 event but also (along with Julia Lawrinson) the presenter with the most appearances at 12 each.

Author Claire Saxby comments: Since *Pearl Verses the World* was released Sally has continued to make us laugh and cry, often simultaneously as she produces more wonderful stories, often but not always told in verse. At every step she has endeavoured to support the work of Australian children's authors and illustrators, to promote and enhance the literature experience for educators and families, but most importantly to make language, literacy and literature connections with young people.

Author, Janeen Brian writes: Sally Murphy is a hard worker, a brilliant writer and poet, and a giver. She inspires and enthuses and the world of Australian children's literature is brighter because of her.

In 2022 Sally was awarded an OAM in the Queen's Birthday Honours List for her contributions to children's literature and education. She is a highly valued member of the children's literature community and a worthy recipient of the Muriel Barwell Award.