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Patron : Mrs Lan Le

**CITATION FOR THE AWARDING
OF
HONORARY MEMBERSHIP OF THE CHILDREN'S BOOK COUNCIL OF AUSTRALIA
(SOUTH AUSTRALIAN BRANCH)
TO PHIL CUMMINGS
AUGUST 9 2019**

Phil Cummings has been a prolific, much loved and awarded South Australian author of children's literature for more than 40 years.

He embraces and resonates with audiences of all ages in a diverse range of writing styles and genres.

His bibliography includes more than 70 titles, many still in print.

His published works range from picture books for the very young through to young adults, short novels for emerging readers, and novels for middle readers.

In school and public libraries today, his middle novels, published more than a decade ago (and many based on his own background as a country lad and school teacher), still resonate with young readers.

Phil's books have also been translated into audio book and digital format to include a wider audience and adapted into other forms for stage and performance. His talents go beyond the book format. He wrote a Book Week song "A book will take you there" and has since co-written two musicals for schools.

He has also contributed to the very first generation of uniquely Australian based literature-based reading programs with more than 40 titles in this format, and has also collaborated in writing songs and musicals for children.

His work has been published in Australia, New Zealand, U.S, Japan, China, South Korea, Canada, U.K. and throughout Europe.

In recent years Phil has been most recognised for his work as the wordsmith of picture books that take complex subjects and use authentic voice, simple, lyrical but economical language and text structure to build connections and resonate with young readers around difficult concepts. His works are a tribute to Phil's self-declared determination to 'push myself into the world of the child' and write books he hopes will help answer the difficult questions children often ask.

The quality of Phil's writing for young Australians has been recognised in The Children's Book Council of Australia Book Of The Year Awards over nearly 20 years.

Last year, 2018, **Boy** was Shortlisted in the Early Childhood category; **Feathers** was a Notable in the Picture Book category, and **Wilbur, Grace and Jo** was a Notable in the Early Childhood category.

THE CBCA AWARDS FOUNDATION Proudly Funding Prizes for the Children's Book of the Year Awards
BENEFACTORS

Scholastic Australia • Allen & Unwin • Laurie Copping OAM (In Memoriam) • Maurice Saxby AM • Thyne Reid Trust No.1

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Ride Ricardo Ride was an Honour Book in the Picture Book category in 2016, and **Bridie's Boots** a Notable Book in the Early Childhood category in 2015.

His earlier novels have been recognised too with **Breakaway** a Notable in the Younger Readers' category in 2000.

In addition, his works have been recognised for other awards. **Feathers** was Shortlisted for the 2018 Prime Minister's Literary Awards; and **Boy** was the 2017 Winner of the Children's Peace Literature Awards and Shortlisted for the 2018 Speech Pathology Awards.

Phil has been a long-term advocate for reading and children's literature in South Australia.

He has been a Premier's Reading Challenge Ambassador since its inception in 2004.

He makes himself available to speak with and share his craft and love of reading, writing, books and words with children in schools and libraries and is a frequent guest at South Australia's Meet the Writer's Festival and Writers Week in the Adelaide Festival of Arts.

He was a South Australian Ambassador for the National Year of Reading in 2012 and has been named South Australia's National Literacy and Numeracy Champion three times.

He has been an Ambassador for Raising Literacy, (Little Big Book Club), and an Ambassador for Dads' Read - a campaign by SA Libraries.

Phil Cummings has been a long-term contributor to the South Australian children's literature scene and is still instantly recognizable and currently relevant and sought after.

With more than 70 published works, recognition and acclaim in children's literature awards and advocacy over many years for books and reading, he is a luminary of children's literature and worthy of recognition as an Honorary Member of The Children's Book Council of Australia (South Australian Branch) and I have much pleasure in presenting this award to him.

Nola Uzzell
Secretary
The Children's Book Council of Australia (SA Branch)

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