



ALBERT ULLIN AWARD CITATION 2020



© Edward Ardizzone

Andrew McLean

Andrew McLean is an inspired illustrator of children's picture books. Trained as a fine artist, his illustration career spans 42 years. Andrew has collaborated with a number of authors, most famously with his wife Janet, creating a treasure trove of classic picture books, including *The Riverboat Crew*; *Josh*; *A Year on Our Farm*; *My Dog*; and, most recently, *To the Bridge*, *The Journey of Lennie and Ginger Mick*. His books include stories of all sorts, but whether whimsical or dramatic, contemporary or historical, for babies or older readers, Andrew's illustrations celebrate our landscape, life and character uniquely. *A Year on our Farm*, with its gentle understated exploration of the Australian seasons, has been received as an Australian gift by children all over the world.

Throughout his long career, Andrew has illustrated over 40 picture books and his skill as a visual author has earned him the great respect of his peers and the love of generations of readers. His artistic voice, strong but never loud, is moderated perfectly, referencing memories and experiences of his own, using details, colours and viewpoints unique to and right for each particular story. It is always the story that drives Andrew's technique and, through his subtle art, his readers are immediately engaged and totally absorbed. He has invented characters, built settings and created atmosphere and emotion for each of the many and diverse stories he has visualised in a way few artists have achieved.

Andrew McLean is a most worthy recipient of this, the inaugural Albert Ullin Award, 2020. We congratulate him on this achievement and look forward to his future work.



The Albert Ullin Award is a biennial award in recognition of a body of work by an author or illustrator of children's books who has made a significant and ongoing contribution to children's literature in Australia. It is funded by a bequest from Albert Ullin and administered by the Children's Book Council Australia (Victorian Branch).