Book Links Award for Children's Historical Fiction - Long List 2021

52 Mondays by Anna Ciddor, Allen & Unwin 2019.

A sensitive account, told through a nostalgic lens, of a girl's warm family childhood in 1960s Australia.

A Great Escape by Felice Arena, Puffin Books 2019.

The tension between East and West during the Cold War provides a background for thrilling scenes of an adventurous escape.

Anzac Girl: The War Diaries of Alice Ross-King by Kate Simpson & Jess Racklyeft, Allen & Unwin 2020.

Beautifully presented and richly detailed diary of a young girl who becomes a nurse in WW1 using letters in clever, restrained and compassionate storytelling.

Azaria by Maree Coote, Melbournestyle Books 2020.

A remarkably crafted retelling of the loss of baby Azaria Chamberlain and what can happen when fiction becomes more important than fact.

Catch a Falling Star by Meg McKinlay, Walker Books 2019.

An original and fascinating historical context in which to place a deftly handled coming of age story.

Haywire by Claire Saxby, Omnibus Books 2020.

A moving story of two boys, Tom and Max, trying to deal with the challenges, trauma and havoc World War II and internment camps bring to their lives.

Miss Franklin by Libby Hathorn & Phil Leslie, Lothian Children's Books 2019.

An inventive approach to biography creating a fictional protagonist who inspires the subject.

Moonwalkers by Mark Greenwood & Terry Denton, Puffin Books 2019.

A fun look at family life as three children follow the 1969 launch of Apollo 11 and the moon landing.

One Careless Night by Christina Booth, Walker Books 2019.

A poetic vision of the last night on earth of the last thylacine.

Promise by Alexandra Alt, Omnibus Books 2019.

Two German teenagers' lives are altered forever as they are caught up in the chaos created by Hitler's attempts to make Germany rule the world.

The Anzac Billy by Claire Saxby, Mark Jackson & Heather Potter, Black Dog Books 2019. A small but poignant story about the things a young child chooses to put into a billy can, in the hope that it will reach his soldier-father in time for Christmas.

The Grandest Book Shop in the World by Amelia Mellor, Affirm Press Kids 2020.

In the fantastical Coles Arcade, the Cole children find themselves caught in a deadly game as they try to save their father, the memory of their little sister and the Arcade they love.

The Mummy Smugglers of Crumblin Castle by Pamela Rushby, Walker Books 2020. Hattie is caught up in the exciting and unusual adventures of her eccentric relatives as they hunt for mummies in Egypt during Victoria's reign.

The Schoolmaster's Daughter by Jackie French, Angus & Robertson 2020. A skilful focus on education as a vehicle to convey injustice meted out to South Sea Islanders, and women in days gone by.

The Year the Maps Changed by Danielle Binks, Lothian Children Books 2019. Powerful use of map metaphors in a compelling coming of age tale.

We Are Wolves by Katrina Nannestad, HarperCollins 2020.

Three children find themselves in an epic struggle for survival alone in East Prussia in the dying days of W2.

When the Ground is Hard by Malla Nunn, Allen & Unwin 2019.

A fascinating and moving account of how Adele comes of age in Swaziland in 1965.

Yahoo Creek by Tohby Riddle, Allen & Unwin 2019.

A creative curation of real-life newspaper articles to convey the persistence of the Yahoo myth in Australian culture.