



South Australian-born children's book illustrator Sophie Blackall.

PICTURE: SUPPLIED

From Walford to a top US award for illustrator

OUR PEOPLE

Patrick McDonald

ACCLAIMED children's illustrator and Walford graduate Sophie Blackall has won the Randolph Caldecott Medal for the most distinguished US picture book for the second time in four years.

Hello Lighthouse, which Blackall also wrote, chronicles

the natural world as seen through the daily life of a lighthouse keeper and his family and was described as "exquisite" by *The New York Times Book Review*.

"I'm not quite sure any of this is real, so I'm going to go to sleep (as it's the wee hours here) and see if it's still true in the morning," Blackall posted on Instagram.

"I am beyond grateful."

The artist, who attended Walford Anglican School at Hyde Park, moved to the US in 2000 and has illustrated more than 30 books for children, including the popular *Ivy + Bean* series.

She also won the Caldecott Medal in 2016 for her ink and watercolour illustrations in *Finding Winnie: The True Story of the World's Most Famous Bear*, which was written

by Lindsay Mattick and last year spawned a sequel, *Winnie's Great War*.

It is one of the two most prestigious prizes awarded by the American Library Association each year for young adult and children's literature.

Blackall, who now lives in New York, is the ninth illustrator to have won the award more than once since it was introduced in 1938.

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Walford