

CBCA BOOK REVIEW

Yahoo Creek: An Australian Mystery by Tohby Riddle

This is a really interesting book, looking at stories about the yahoo/ devil-devil / berai / hairy ape shaped man that roamed the Great Dividing Range. Tohby has used actual newspaper articles ranging from the 1870s to the 1940s, all relating to the sighting of the yahoo. He has interwoven the articles so we begin to build an image of this creature, his height and strength, his inhuman cry...but we also see another side. A human side in the report of one such creature sitting down and crying 'similar to that of a child.' Tobhy's gentle blue toned illustrations, give a mysterious ethereal feel to the book. With the voice of an elder we are also given an indigenous perspective, of who this creature is through their stories. I can see Yahoo Creek being a great starting point for many research projects or to excite a child's natural curiosity.