Research Statement

Cabinets of Curiosity
IN: It’s Alive (National Museum of Australia)
Crew, Gary

Research Background

Cabinets of Curiosity' is an autobiographical book chapter commissioned by the National Museum of Australia for It’s Alive, an anthology of personal responses to topics of relevance to museums, natural History and Australiana. The Cabinets of Curiosity chapter is based on Crew's childhood visits to the Queensland Museum in the 1950’s. The connection between the Cabinets of Curiosity containing stuffed animals in the Queensland Museum is made to the stuffed Thylacine and accompanying film clip (made by David Fleay in 1933) curated by the National Museum of Australia. This book chapter further informed Crew's I Saw Nothing: The Extinction of the Thylacine. (Lothian, Melbourne. 2003)

Research Contribution

To use the work of famous Australian children’s Writers in order to encourage youth to visit museums.

Research Significance

‘Cabinets of Curiosity’: a chapter in It's Alive at the National Museum, commissioned and published by Australia's leading museum.

Dr Gary Crew is four times winner of the Children’s Book Council of Australia Children’s Book of the Year Award - twice for his novels and twice for his illustrated books. Crew has also won the New South Wales Premier's Award for Children's Literature (the Patricia Wrightson Award), the Victorian Premier's Award for Children's Literature (The Alan Marshall Award) and been short listed for both the Queensland Premier's Award and the Western Australian Premier's Awards. Crew has been twice short listed for the Crime Writers of America Edgar Alan Poe Mystery Fiction Award.