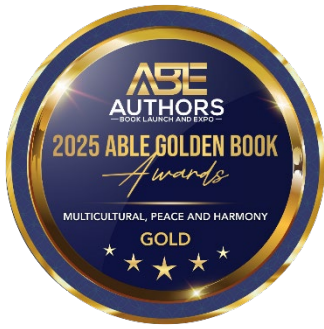




CAIRNS AUTHOR WINS GOLD

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The biography of a Far North Queensland man who has dedicated his life to improving gender equality and access to education for children in Nepal has earned Cairns author Kirsty Nancarrow her first book award.

Himalayan Dreams: The Story of Som Tamang received Gold in the 2025 ABLE Golden Book Awards at a gala ceremony in Melbourne at the weekend.

The book was awarded first place in the Multicultural Peace and Harmony category. Kirsty was named a finalist last month after being interviewed by a judging panel.

Himalayan Dreams was launched on International Women's Day in Cairns last year and has since been sold in more than a dozen countries and published as an eBook and audiobook, becoming an Amazon #1 bestseller.

"Standing on stage to receive this award was a special moment in this project, which I have dedicated myself to for the past nine years," *Himalayan Dreams* author Kirsty Nancarrow said.

The former ABC Far North journalist said she was inspired to write Som's life story after volunteering as a teacher in his village, Batase, 18 months after the school and Friends of Himalayan Children hostel were destroyed by the 2015 earthquake in Nepal.

"Som endured slavery as a child and has never given up in his pursuit to eradicate child marriage and human trafficking in his village, despite challenges including civil war, natural disasters and the global pandemic.

"My hope in winning this award is that *Himalayan Dreams* is discovered by many more readers who become inspired to volunteer in Nepal or support Som's work through Friends of Himalayan Children.

Kirsty has been sponsoring girls through Som's humanitarian organisation since 2016 and has helped to raise more than \$30,000 towards senior school education in Batase through a [Rotary Australia World Community Service](#) project.

Saturday's awards ceremony capped off the two-day Authors Book Launch and Expo in Melbourne attended by hundreds of authors from around Australia and overseas.

The Mareeba Library will be hosting a free author talk with Kirsty Nancarrow 10:30am Friday 7 November. Register through the [library website](#).

For more information or to arrange an interview, please call Kirsty on 0400 130 634. For more information about Friends of Himalayan Children, visit <https://www.f-hc.org/>.

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