



Children's Book Council of Australia WA Branch (Inc.)

Annual Report 2009

LIFE MEMBERS

Maxine Walker (deceased)
Janet Griffin
Alison Gregg

Doreen Rossiter
Mary Gimondo

Muriel Barwell OAM
Grant Stone

2009 COMMITTEE

Executive Committee:

President:	Jan Nicholls	Treasurer:	Sue Scott
Vice President:	Sue Ruse	Secretary:	Chloe Mauger
Past President:	Sue Scott	Executive member:	Ruth Nitschke

Committee Members:

Elizabeth Allen, Nola Allen, Joanna Andrew, Muriel Barwell, Elizabeth Beck, Rita Blackburn, Celeste Blundell-Camden, Mary Gimondo, Janet Griffin, Lefki Kailis, Joscelyn Leatt-Hayter, Jill Midolo, Trish Montgomery, Eve Morrissey, Margaret Robinson, Gail Spiers, Gay Tierney, Jenni Woodroffe, Sue Wyche and Loretta Young.

Archivist: Trish Montgomery
Education Officer: Lefki Kailis
Grants Officer: Mary Gimondo
Merchandise Officer: Eve Morrissey
MYOSB Coordinator: Sue Ruse

Newsletter Editor: Jenni Woodroffe
ANWOS Coordinator: Jenni Woodroffe
Penny Hutchens Fund: Sue Scott
WA Judge: Ruth Campbell-Hicks
Website Manager: Jill Midolo

Sub-committees:

Archives
Children's Book Week Opening and Dinner
Education
Film Fundraiser
Grants and Regional Centres
Make Your Own Storybook
Membership
Merchandise

Muriel Barwell Award
Penny Hutchens Fund
Newsletter
Promotion and Short List Talks,
Outreach Programs
Readers' Cup
Special Events
Website

President

It is my pleasure to present this 2009 Annual Report to the committee and members, not only as an important official record of the year's activities but also as an indication of the passion and dedication the WA Branch puts into the promotion of children's literature. This report documents the tireless efforts of the various sub-committees and I thank them for their ongoing enthusiasm and input. As a new President on "P" plates I have been on a steep learning curve this year and am hugely grateful to all committee members but particularly to Sue Scott and Chloe Mauger for their knowledge, wisdom, support and sage advice.

I would like to acknowledge Ruth Campbell-Hicks who represented us with distinction as the WA Judge for the Book of the Year Awards in 2008/2009. A warm welcome to Judi Jagger who has

taken on this important role for 2010/2011 and, like a hungry caterpillar, is already voraciously reading her way through boxes of books. Judi was chosen from a strong field of candidates and it is gratifying to know that there is such keen interest in this important position.

We continue our strong ties with Fremantle Children's Literature Centre, AISWA Libraries and WASLA and are strengthening our relationship with the WA Branch of the Society of Children's Book Writers and Illustrators (SCBWI) with the hope of encouraging even greater membership and involvement from our talented authors/illustrators in the future. We have also had positive meetings with Catherine Green from CountryArtsWA and Katherine Dorrington from Perth Writers Festival. We were dismayed by the suspension of the WA Premier's Book Awards and continue to lobby to have this decision reversed.

The proposed renovation of our regular meeting venue at Oasis Lotteries House in Nedlands necessitated much packing, the reassessment of archive materials before a move into storage and the use of an alternative meeting venue so my thanks to Trish Montgomery, Sue Ruse and the host of others who assisted in this regard.

As in 2008, the official Opening for Children's Book Week was incorporated into the Children's Book Week Dinner and a separate event was held for the Make Your Own Story Book presentations at FCLC. Both events were well-attended and highly successful. Local author, Jayne Lyons was a very entertaining speaker at the CBW Dinner and Norman Jorgensen addressed the winners at the MYOSB Presentation with charm and humour.

The year began for me last November with the National AGM in Melbourne to which I accompanied outgoing President Sue Scott as the Observer. Other National Events were the March and July teleconferences where various national matters were discussed, and although not a CBCA event I attended my first *Reading Matters* Conference in Melbourne and became an immediate fan. In June the National Executive announced that CBCA now had a page on Facebook and Branches were encouraged to nominate a Facebook administrator to upload relevant information. Whilst Sam Hughes has volunteered for this position we still have some reservations about the place of Facebook in the hierarchy of disseminating CBCA information and prefer to use the official and standard lines of communication such as the CBCA website, the WA Branch website, our newsletter and cbcawa over a social networking site.

Planning

Committee members were invited to join the Executive for a planning session on 12 September to review the year's events and make recommendations for 2010.

The recommendations are that we hold the following:

- A Night With Our Stars
- Make Your Own Story Book competition including special Presentation event.
- CBW Dinner combined with Children's Book Week Opening
- Judge's Talks – north and south of river.
- Film Fundraisers
- Readers' Cup
- A new quiz style book event highlighting the Short List instead of a Celebrity Brunch

Other recommendations include:

- Professional catering for ANWOS
- Restructure of Membership fees to expand our current third category
- Possible involvement with Perth Writers Festival
- That further streamlining of the reporting procedure for public libraries, including online solutions, should be investigated.

Finance

Treasurer Sue Scott

In spite of the financial downturn and fears of a reduced income, we have had a very successful year financially. Following is a brief summary of the major income and expenditure with figures rounded to the nearest dollar.

- Membership Fees brought in \$11,533 an increase of over \$2,000.
- Events showed the following income over expenditure:
 - Judge's Nights \$117
 - Night With Our Stars \$898
 - Film Fundraisers \$1669.
 - Book Week Dinner \$5

In all of the above events raffle profits which totalled \$1042 are not included as these were allocated to the Victorian Bushfire Appeal

- The highest expenditure excluding the cost of the merchandise came from the Newsletter printing and postage (\$5709) and rent at Oasis House (\$4765).
- The Children's Book Week program attracted grants of \$54,400. As yet the acquittal for these funds has not been completed.
- The Make Your Own Story Book competition cost \$1928.
- Merchandise sales again raised the most money with \$13,378 profit and \$1389 outstanding.

The Branch was able to donate \$1,000 to the Awards Foundation and \$1550 to the Victorian Bush Fire Appeal for the replacement of library books in affected schools. This payment was made to the CBCA Victorian Branch for distribution.

Overall we are in a comfortable position financially to continue with our present level of activities, although we always need to monitor our expenditure. We are aware that our rent at Oasis Lotteries House is to rise possibly by as much as \$2000 per year but we are still awaiting advice re our lease. A storage unit has been leased at Shenton Storage for \$320 a month for 6 months for use during the Oasis House refurbishment. We are able to absorb the rent increase expected from Oasis House. The audited accounts are provided as a separate document.

Membership

Gay Tierney and Sue Scott

Membership has increased by 14 overall this year, with a good increase in institutional memberships. The drop in personal memberships can be attributed in part to some members opting to take advantage of their institution's membership instead.

Gay Tierney sent out membership invoices, kept membership records, organised mailing labels and followed up lapsed members. Sue Scott kept all the financial records and the official WA Branch membership list. Membership fees brought in \$11,533 during 2009, an increase of \$2,000.

Membership fee increases have been well received but due to requests we are proposing a concession rate category of \$25 from 2010 which would cover full-time adult students, concession card holders and authors and illustrators. A goal for 2010 is to increase the number of author and illustrator members, as a closer connection with this group is beneficial to us all.

Year	Personal	Student	Institution	Life	Honorary	Total
2007	124	11	108	4	4	251
2008	143	5	127	5	4	284
2009	142	8	138	6	4	298

The email distribution list (cbcawa) which is used to remind members of events and WA Branch business currently has 215 members.

Penny Hutchens Fund

Coordinator Sue Scott

This year the Penny Hutchens Fund was awarded to the Multicultural Playgroup run by ASeTTS (Association for Services to Torture and Trauma Survivors) in Beaufort St, Perth. When informed of their selection, staff at the playgroup specifically requested books, puppets and games depicting Australian animals, homes and typical scenes. A presentation of two large plastic tubs filled with books, wooden puzzles, hand puppets, toys and wall charts was made on Friday 21 August. Many of these children have no concept of what a toy is and have rarely seen, let alone handled, a book so we are confident this donation will have a positive and far-reaching impact into the lives of these children and their families, and will help them understand and assimilate into Australian life more easily.

Website

Manager Jill Midolo with help from Rita Blackburn

The new WA Branch website is now well established and needs minimal ongoing maintenance to be a source of information for members. Pages on the WA website are now all identified with 'wa' at the beginning of the page name eg: 'waindex.htm' so that Google Analytics provides more accurate information about visits to pages on the WA Branch website. From July - August 2009, the WA Book Week Ideas page has been viewed 3 515 times and is in the top 40 pages on the whole CBCA website. A small group consisting of Jill Midolo, Rita Blackburn, Jan Nicholls and Sue Scott is to convene to discuss ongoing management of the website and the WA Authors and Illustrators section which has not yet been brought into the new web format.

Newsletter

Editor Jenni Woodroffe

With a readership of 300+ the newsletter continues to welcome new members, provide up to date information on recently published titles of WA authors/illustrators for young people, awards, insight into local activities and promote forthcoming events. It also assists in keeping us abreast of developments in the children's literature world both interstate and overseas. Diary dates provide a ready reminder of future events. The biography of committee members and WA Judge gives background information through introducing their story to a wider readership. Thanks go to Chloe Mauger for proofreading, Gay Tierney for providing address labels, Jan Nicholls, Gay Tierney, Mary Gimondo, Claire Miller and Warwick Ruse for photographs and Sue Negus, Sue Scott, Janet Griffin and Chloe Mauger for packing the newsletter. This year saw a reduction in issues from 6 to 5 per annum with two colour photographic centrefolds highlighting ANWOS and CBW. The downside has been a very crammed September issue with little opportunity for wider coverage of CBW events.

Archives

Trish Montgomery

Spurred on by the need to vacate Oasis House due to the renovation the focus has been on sorting, processing and general housekeeping. A challenge has been to formulate a procedure for the selected retention of the Public Library Reports reflecting the Book Week activities made possible by grant allocations. The whole archive collection is currently boxed up in storage which will no doubt mean lots of work in the future for the committee. Thanks to all who have assisted with Archives business this year.

Education Committee

Education Officer Lefki Kailis

The committee has consolidated its tertiary work giving presentations to about forty primary trainee teachers at Notre Dame and around thirty-five secondary English trainee teachers at UWA. The lecturers at these institutions have been advised that, after four years of presentations and with material now on the CBCA WA Branch website, the CBCA has concluded visits to those institutions. The committee will target Curtin University in 2010. It would be valuable to liaise with the English Teachers' Association in the near future to perhaps pass the baton, so that the ETA can raise awareness about the CBCA, explain how our organisation is able to support teachers

and encourage teachers to maintain interest and knowledge of contemporary picture books and young adult novels, particularly Australian ones.

On 30 September, Chloe Mauger and Sue Scott presented *What Makes an Award Winning Book?* to approximately 25 delegates at ASLA XXI, the National Conference held at the Perth Convention Centre. Brief information was given on the CBCA, the Book of the Year Awards, the website, BOTY criteria, controversial issues, Jo Goodman's article, *The Infamous Picture Book*, and a range of award winning picture books was displayed. Positive feedback was received from participants.

Make Your Own Story Book Competition (MYOSB)

Coordinator Sue Ruse

800 entries were received in the MYOSB competition. This was 200 more than last year and hopefully was in response to our new eye-catching brochure. Entries were judged by 15 volunteer judges. There were 28 winners from 17 schools, 10 non government, 7 government plus 3 home schoolers. This year's presentation ceremony and morning tea were held at the Fremantle Children's Literature Centre on Sunday 23 August and attended by 110 guests including winners and their families, CBCA committee members and MYOSB judges. Winners came from as far afield as Kalgoorlie and Geraldton to receive their certificates and book vouchers. Grant Stone MC'd again and local author Norman Jorgensen gave a humorous and motivating talk about his writing journey. Jenny Doust, Senior FCLC Education Officer enlightened the audience about the wonderful work done by the Centre. Two of the winning students spoke about the inspiration behind their books and their talks were insightful and moving and delivered with amazing aplomb. Our thanks go to Lesley Reece, Jenny Doust and Mailee Clarke of FCLC for allowing us the use of the venue and for their invaluable support. Once again essential support was received from Westbooks and its owners Joscelyn and Geoff Leatt-Hayter and we thank them sincerely. All vouchers given as prizes were donated by Bookcaffe, Child Education Services, The Lane Bookshop, New Edition Bookshop, Oxford St Books and Westbooks.

CBCA Book of the Year Awards

A number of activities revolve around the announcement of the Short List and winners of the CBCA Book of the Year Awards.

WA Judge

Ruth Campbell-Hicks 2008/2009

During the past two years my life has been consumed by reading more than 450 books each year, including everything from 1000-page tomes for young adults to brief stories for the very youngest readers, a smattering of wordless books, some verse, and some truly delightful picture books for all ages.

Approximately a third of the entries were in the Younger Reader category, with a varied offering for this age group including light and easy books just for fun plus those covering serious issues such as war, environment and relationships. In the older age group, too, some serious issues were explored including drugs, societal breakdown and self harm, with these being balanced by a generous selection of fantasy sagas in which whole new worlds were developed. The quality of children's literature in Australia is wonderfully high, and even though some of the self-published titles failed to come up to scratch it is encouraging that so many people are contributing towards the creation of a range of books for children from 0 to 18 years. Following the mammoth task of reading every title and commenting on it (sometimes quite pithily), judges met for a four day conference in which books in each category were discussed at length. At times this process became emotional with passions running high but the combined knowledge and skills of the judges ensured each book was given a comprehensive assessment. In the months following the conference I have given a series of Judge's talks to various groups – school library staff, bookshop owners, public librarians, students and other interested people.

The 450 titles have now been variously donated to libraries and to local schools with the best few kept for myself as mementos of one of the most challenging – and interesting – things I have ever done.

WA Judge

Judi Jagger 2010/2011

A slower start this year saw the first box arrive a month later than usual, but boxes have been arriving at approximately three-weekly intervals since. The National Office decision to henceforth send boxes to Denmark by express post has been much appreciated, particularly for those containing more than 30 titles which need to be read and reported on in less than three weeks.

Seven boxes have been received to date, involving a total of 160 books across all categories and it has been interesting to see the number of first time authors coming through. One national teleconference has been held where there was an opportunity to talk with other State judges and the two Awards Coordinators and discuss delights and concerns. Tasks for the 2010 Judges' Report have already been allocated and along with the SA Judge, Val van Putten, I will be writing the Introduction and editing the overall report. For some reason a hard copy of the 2009 Judges' Report and a copy of Notable Books was not sent to the 2010 judges this year as has been past practice but the Awards Coordinators have noted this oversight which should be rectified in 2010.

I have established a good working relationship with the Denmark Public Library who are using some titles for toddler story time and with home-schooled children. I am also sharing titles with neighbouring children. More presentations in the library, to schools and to the community through Denmark Arts are planned. The reading has not been arduous so far and some outstanding books in all categories have already been received. If the number of titles submitted in previous years is to be reached, however, the boxes still to come will be larger and the reading commitment even greater. I am ready for the challenge.

Readers' Cup

Organisers Gail Spiers and Loretta Young

Seven schools participated in the Readers' Cup competition held at Christ Church Grammar School on Tuesday 25 August. They were Mt Claremont Primary School (1st), St Michael's Catholic Primary School (2nd), CCGS and Bunbury Cathedral Grammar School (3rd), St Mary's Anglican Girls' School, Loreto Nedlands and Iona Presentation College.

Grant Stone performed the role of quizmaster with great enthusiasm and the event ran very smoothly. Margaret Kett once again created two rounds of ten questions based on three categories of the Short List, and Sue Scott, Rita Blackburn and Leonie Weir marked the answers. Loretta Young created an outstanding Book Safari display and a giant CBW poster was projected on a screen in the Chapel. Under the direction of Mary Hookey, the CCGS students performed essential tasks on the day. All team members received CBCA merchandise and participation certificates and each school received a book donated by Margaret Walton from Child Education Services. Members of the winning team received book vouchers and the winning school, a book all donated by Joscelyn Leatt-Hayter from Westbooks.

Many thanks to all who contributed to the success of the Readers' Cup; to the teachers Mary Hookey, Lizzie Hardy, Peta Gray, Julie Muir, Jacquie Davies and Pamela Buselich and of course to the students themselves.

The Short List Talks

WA Judge, Ruth Campbell-Hicks gave talks at the Town of Vincent Library in Leederville and City of Canning Library in Riverton as well as at Bunbury, Collie and Harvey.

During Children's Book Week, Chloe Mauger promoted the shortlisted books to almost every student at Mount Helena Primary School (approx 250) in four sessions over one morning. This was Chloe's fifth year of visiting this school which does not have a Teacher Librarian or trained

Library Officer, but where the enthusiasm of one teacher in organising others has ensured that CBW is celebrated each year.

South West Celebrity Short List Brunch

Organisers Julie Muir, Ev Dowley and Esme Kidd

Another very successful event was held at Bunbury Cathedral Grammar School on Sunday 16 August with an entertaining range of guest speakers and particularly keen interest shown in the raffle prizes of wild animal puppets to support the Book Safari theme. Sue Scott, Chloe Mauger, Jenni Woodroffe and Jan Nicholls attended.

Children's Book Week

Children's Book Week Opening and Dinner

Liz Allen and Gay Tierney

This year's official opening and dinner for Children's Book Week was held on Friday 21 August at the Royal Perth Golf Club in South Perth with 120 guests. MC Grant Stone announced the Book of the Year Award winners and the CBCA President; Jan Nicholls welcomed everyone and officially opened Children's Book Week in WA. The audience embraced the Book Safari theme with many animal print outfits and scarves, coupled with safari and jungle print hats. Bunches of helium Book Week theme balloons and animal print balloons at every table ensured a continuation of the theme throughout the large function room. This year's guest speaker was Western Australian author Jayne Lyons, who in recent years has published *100% Wolf*, *100% Hero* and *100% Doggie*. She shared amusing anecdotes about her personal experiences along life's path in terms of both sexes and her humour had most of the audience in fits of laughter. Other highlights of the evening included the announcement of the Penny Hutchens Award to the Multicultural Playgroup and a presentation to outgoing WA Judge Ruth Campbell Hicks for her dedicated work in the CBCA awards judging process over the last two years. Special thanks go to Gavin Chadwick from SIDE, Joscelyn and Geoff Leatt-Hayter from Westbooks and Sue Ruse who kindly donated raffle prizes. Displays organised by Loretta Young and Gail Spiers gave attendees an opportunity to view the winning and honour books and some great display ideas related to the theme. Once again many positive comments were received about the venue and food; the Powerpoint presentation, and the opportunity to catch up with like-minded people.

Merchandise Sales

Merchandise Officer Eve Morrissey

The nationally produced merchandise for CBW featured artwork by Matt Ottley who illustrated the Book Safari theme with jungle animals (plus Faust, the dog) and children seeking, and reading, books. The merchandise was well received and the safari theme inspired some great displays. To assist librarians the Branch offered a discount for the bulk purchase of 6 or 10 Book Week posters. 123 libraries took advantage of this offer necessitating many re-orders of posters from the National Office! The black and white bookmark was discontinued and, possibly as a result, bookmark sales plummeted. Perhaps the cost of coloured bookmarks was considered too high although these sold well in 2008. Banner sales increased to 25 and also pleasing was the increase in the sales of the Notables. Produced by the BOTY Awards Judges, this is an invaluable buying guide listing all the books that they consider 'notable'. In total 14,042 items were dispatched to fill 440 orders and items were also sold at the Riverton Judge's talk. Unfortunately the merchandise was not received in time for the Leederville Judge's talk. Total sales were some 3,000 items less than last year but the number of orders increased and a pleasing profit of about \$14,767 was achieved. Sincere thanks to all who helped pack the merchandise, to Trish Montgomery for allowing us to 'take over' her house and to Liz Beck for providing delicious food for the workers. Thanks also to the Merchandise Committee: Liz Allen, Janet Griffin, Sue Ruse, Sue Scott, and Sue Wyche for their help with the mail out and the coordination of the merchandise.

Grants program (Metropolitan and Regional Centres)

Grants sub committee Nola Allen

In 2009 the WA Branch dispersed total funding of \$54,400, provided by the Department for Culture and the Arts, Healthway WA and Country Arts WA, to 21 metropolitan and 11 regional centres, including one new country region, Augusta-Margaret River, to conduct Children's Book Week programs. Libraries actively promoted the Go 2&5 health message through displays, activities and the distribution of promotional material to children, teachers and parents. Emerging and established WA and Australian authors and illustrators talked about the processes and inspiration behind their work to thousands of children. Outreach programs extended to Exmouth, Gascoyne Junction (Midwest), Bidadanga (New for CBW) Beagle Bay, Djarindjin Lombadina, One Arm Point (Kimberley), Donnybrook, Yarloop, Kirup (South West) and Warralong Community School (Pilbara).

In order to streamline the reporting and grant acquittal process for both the regional centres and the WA Branch, a web-based portal has been developed which is currently being trialled. As a result, the submission of reports from the regional centres has been delayed. A debrief with regional centre librarians, held in September, enabled libraries to provide additional feedback on the highlights and challenges of Children's Book Week 2009. Such feedback is invaluable for future planning purposes.

Other Events and Activities

A Night With Our Stars

Coordinator Jenni Woodroffe

The sixth annual ANWOS was held on Thursday 5 March. As in previous years a marquee was erected at the rear of Westbooks Specialist Book Centre for Children and Young Adults and we thank Joscelyn and Geoff Leatt-Hayter for their encouragement, support and willingness to make this a night to remember. Sponsorship by Fremantle Press, the donation of wine from a supportive Branch member, the graphic design work for the poster and programme by Cameron Montgomery and the platters of food from the committee all contributed to the success of the evening. Catering and costing for 2010 need serious consideration and were discussed at the Planning Day in September. Of the 200 people in the audience, there were about 80 new faces, and 50% of the presenters were new on the scene. Illness struck our usual MC but thankfully Jan Nicholls stepped into Joanna Andrew's shoes at the eleventh hour and a reserve presenter also took Julia Lawrinson's place. The evening made \$898, the raffle raised \$439 for the Victorian Bushfire Book Appeal and another \$409 for author Justin D'Ath from an impromptu "pass the red bucket" appeal.

Book Discussion Group

Coordinator Sue Ruse

The book discussion group meets on the fourth Wednesday of every month at 7.30pm. Each month we read and discuss a children's book, usually a young adult or upper primary title. At the April meeting we discuss the CBCA Book of the Year Award the Short Listed books. A display of newly released children's books for the month is also keenly perused thanks to the generosity of Westbooks who supply a box of books on approval each month. The meetings are held at Sue Ruse's home with the numbers attending averaging 12 members at each meeting. A full list of titles discussed is on the website.

Film fundraisers

Organiser Jan Nicholls

The Baz Luhrmann epic, *Australia*, attracted many supporters in late November 2008 when we sold 237 tickets and made a handsome profit. 55 people attended our screening of *Angels and Demons* in May and the raffle raised a further \$70.

Outreach Programmes

heARTlines Festival of Children's Literature and Book Illustration

Chloe Mauger

heARTlines, run by the Mundaring Arts Centre, is the first children's literature festival in Australia to celebrate writing and illustration on an equal basis, and is Australia's only month-long literature festival. CBCA WA has supported heARTlines since its inception in 2005 by publicising the event and by hosting and assisting authors at talks and workshops. This year (the 3rd biennial Festival) 109 guests attended the opening night, and a further 2,172 visitors attended during the month. Nine schools (17 classes) participated in the schools program (806 students, teachers and parents) and over 70 people attended public events. Exhibiting artists included: Rebecca Cool, Moira Court, Ellen Hickman, Frane Lessac, Patricia Negus, Chris Nixon, Matt Ottley, Brian Simmonds, Briony Stewart and Shaun Tan. Participating authors were: Norman Jorgensen, Elaine Forrestal, Mark Greenwood, Kate McCaffrey, Bevan McGuinness, Briony Stewart, Jan Ramage, Dianne Wolfer, Sally Murphy and Matt Ottley.

Wirlomin Noongar Stories and Language Regeneration Project

Marg Robinson, Mary Gimondo and Lefki Kailis

To date, the Wirlomin Noongar Stories and Language Regeneration Group have produced three picture books in Wirlomin Noongar and English which are being used in the promotion of the Wirlomin Noongar language amongst family, community and schools. The Group is currently in negotiation with a publisher regarding the possible publication of the stories. A second stage of the project is envisaged (in line with the Elders' wish to revive more of the Laves stories as part of language and culture regeneration), and currently attention is being given to strategy planning for the next three years and securing funding. In 2009 senior Elders, Hazel Brown and Lomas Roberts (recently deceased), and other cultural Elders were videoed telling stories and recording significant cultural information about key sites in their country of origin in the Bremer Bay area of the Albany district. The footage will be an invaluable resource in intergenerational transmission of culture now and into the future. Funding for the video was provided by the Indigenous Heritage Program of the Department of the Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts and the WA Department of Indigenous Affairs via Mining, Rents and Royalties.

Acknowledgements and thanks

Finally I offer my sincere thanks to every single one of the committee for their hard work and support during my first year as President. Thank you for your patience and understanding as I have tried to get a handle on this challenging but rewarding role.

Everyone in the WA Branch has an important part to play and the success of our events this year is entirely due to a positive, collective team effort. Whilst I am reluctant to single anyone out I do feel that the Executive merit a special mention for their advice and assistance so I offer my thanks to Sue Scott, Chloe Mauger, Sue Ruse and Ruth Nitschke for their assistance and advice.

When I first accepted the President's position I commented on the collegiality, passion and dedication of this group (which is the envy of many other branches) and as I reflect on the year I am almost overwhelmed by how much we have achieved. May I thank you all for your enormous contribution this year and urge you to maintain the enthusiasm in 2010.

It is with great regret that we learned of the recent sale of Westbooks and I would like to record our thanks to Joscelyn and Geoff Leatt-Hayter for their generous and wholehearted support over the past seven years.

Jan Nicholls
President
November 2009