



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

Annual Report 2010

LIFE MEMBERS

Maxine Walker (deceased)
Janet Griffin
Alison Gregg

Doreen Rossiter
Mary Gimondo

Muriel Barwell OAM
Grant Stone

2010 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, Elizabeth Beck, Rita Blackburn, Celeste Blundell-Camden, Mary Gimondo, Lefki Kailis, Joscelyn Leatt-Hayter, Jill Midolo, Trish Montgomery, Eve Morrissey, Denise Robins, Margaret Robinson, Clare Snowball, 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

Muriel Barwell Award: Sue Wyche

WA Judge: Judi Jagger

Website Manager: Jill Midolo, Rita Blackburn

Sub-committees:

Archives

Children's Book Week Opening and Dinner

Education

Film Fundraiser

Grants and Regional Centres

Make Your Own Storybook

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President

It is my pleasure to present this 2010 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. I would also like to acknowledge Judi Jagger who has represented us with such distinction as the WA Judge for the Book of the Year Awards in 2010.

The year got off to a tragic start with the untimely death in April of Jill Midolo, whose loss is still keenly felt. I am pleased to report that, in October, we reached our goal of raising sufficient funds to have Jill listed in memoriam as an Awards Foundation donor.

We lobbied hard for recognition for TLs, making a submission to the Federal Inquiry and I thank Lefki Kailis for appearing with me as a witness at the Perth hearing in July. We continue our strong ties with Fremantle Children's Literature Centre, AISWA Libraries and WASLA and with the WA Branch of the Society of Children's Book Writers and Illustrators (SCBWI) and were delighted that many authors and illustrators took advantage of our special membership rate to join the Branch this year. We promoted the CBCA on a fiercely hot Family Day at the Perth Writers' Festival in February and were heartened by the reinstatement of the WA Premier's Book Awards this year, with retrospective presentations made for titles published in 2008 and 2009.

Owing to severe storms in March the proposed renovation of our regular meeting venue, at Oasis Lotteries House in Nedlands, was severely delayed and we thank Perth College Development Office for the use of their meeting room until work was completed. We finally moved back into Oasis House in September.

We have enjoyed unprecedented press coverage and publicity this year with personal interviews by *The West Australian* and ABC Northwest radio plus numerous positive features on children's books, local authors, FCLC and various independent specialist book shops.

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. Miles Franklin nominee, Jon Doust was guest speaker at the CBW Dinner and Meg McKinlay did the honours at the MYOSB Presentation. We took great pride in the announcement of Lesley Reece as Nan Chauncy Award winner and Ken Spillman as the foundation donor to CBCA Gift Fund with 100% of his Australia/New Zealand royalties from *Jake's Gigantic List*. Ken is already a most generous supporter of the CBCA and his earlier royalties donation to the WA Branch contributed towards the purchase of our stylish promotional banners.

Chloe Mauger accompanied me to the National AGM in Brisbane last November and Ruth Nitschke will accompany me this year. Various members of the Executive participated in the March and July national teleconferences and a strong WA Branch contingent travelled to Sydney for the highly successful NSW Branch conference *Imagine this, Imagine that*.

Planning

A planning session with the Executive and members of the Grants Committee was held on 11 September to review the year's events and look to the future. The critical importance of succession planning was highlighted with several long-serving members indicating their intention to stand down from key positions and a need to recruit some new blood. The recommendations are that we continue with all the events run this year and that we investigate the possibility of combining with another body (such as WritingWA) to explore the future viability of our current grants program. I would like to acknowledge the enormous contribution of two members – Lefki Kailis and Margaret Robinson – who have decided to retire from the committee at this AGM. Special thanks also to Chloe Mauger (who is stepping down as secretary) Jenni Woodroffe (outgoing newsletter editor) and Sue Ruse (who is retiring as MYOSB co-ordinator and also as Vice President) and to those who have volunteered to take on those roles.

Finance

Treasurer Sue Scott

This year we have basically broken even in our finances although at this stage the accounts have still to be audited. The audited accounts are provided as a separate document.

Following is a brief summary

- The Judge's Nights and Children's Book Week dinner covered costs while A Night With Our Stars and Bookwiz each ran at a small loss.

- Merchandise was again our greatest fundraiser at around \$10,000 but there are still outstanding accounts totalling almost \$2900.
- Membership subscriptions remain constant coming in at \$11,291.
- Donations were made to the Victorian Bush Fires Book Appeal and the IBBY Children in Crisis Fund.
- A Jill Midolo Memorial Fund to be donated to the CBCA Awards Foundation was set up with the aim of raising \$5,000 in Jill's name. \$1,000 was donated by the Branch plus raffle money from the Annual Dinner. The target was reached in October 2010.
- Rent costs are down by over \$1,000 due to the renovation of Oasis Lotteries House and the generosity of Perth College in allowing us to use their premises for meetings. The rent incurred has been for storage purposes.
- Newsletter costs are down \$900 due to dropping from 6 issues to 5.
- The Grants Program has seen \$53,748 distributed to Public Libraries for Children's Book Week Programs from an income of \$53,870. The acquittal for these funds is still to be completed.
- No film fundraisers were held this year.

Again the Branch is in a sound financial position to continue with our activities.

Membership

Gay Tierney and Sue Scott

This year 27 new members joined our Branch but membership overall remained constant with an increase of 4 to 302. Membership fees brought in \$11,291 during 2010, a decrease of \$242 which can be attributed to the introduction of concession rates.

Concession rates were introduced to cover Full time adult students, Concession card holders and Authors and Illustrators. This has been well received, particularly by Authors and Illustrators and a break down is included below

Year	Personal	Student	Institution	Life	Honorary	Total
2008	143	5	127	5	4	284
2009	142	8	138	6	4	298
2010	152*	see concession	140	6	4	302

*Personal membership consists of

Personal (full paying)	111
Concession Card Holder	11
Author/Illustrator Concession	29
Full Time Student Concession	1
Total Personal members	152

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 Branch membership list.

The email distribution list (cbcawa) which is used to remind members of events etc currently has 230 members.

Muriel Barwell Award

Panel Sue Wyche, Jan Nicholls, Sue Ruse

The biennial Muriel Barwell Award for Distinguished Service to Children's Literature in Western Australia was presented to Frané Lessac. Frané's outstanding contribution to children's literature in this state over the past twenty years makes her a worthy recipient of the Award. She is widely acclaimed as an author/illustrator and her mentoring efforts with aspiring practitioners are widely praised. Her advocacy for children's literature through her work with the Society of Children's Book Writers and Illustrators (SCBWI) is significant. She serves on the Executive Committee of

the Australian Society of Authors working hard to benefit her fellow literary creators. Frané's desire to promote the cause of children's literature is particularly evident in the enthusiasm and professionalism she brings to the numerous workshops she delivers throughout the State.

Website and WA Branch Blog

Rita Blackburn

In January 2010, Jan Nicholls, Sue Scott, Clare Snowball and Rita Blackburn met with Jill Midolo in order to establish a group to assist Jill with the time-consuming job of keeping the WA Branch of the CBCA website up-to-date. It was decided that training sessions would be organised to ensure that the sub-committee members developed the necessary technical skills and knowledge to help maintain the website. The group also resolved to establish a Branch Blog as an adjunct to the website, to provide a less formal and more timely means of publicising Branch events and to keep CBCA WA members informed about WA authors and illustrators and significant happenings in the wider world of children's and young adult literature. Clare Snowball agreed to take on the role of managing the Blog. Sadly, Jill's sudden illness and death meant that the training sessions did not eventuate and plans for improving information on the website were put on hold, as Rita and Clare took over the task of maintaining the website without the benefit of Jill's guidance and expertise. Clare's enthusiasm, coupled with Jill's encouragement saw the Blog established in February in time to publicise A Night with our Stars and WA Branch involvement on Family Day at the Perth Writer's Festival. The Blog is interactive allowing readers to make relevant comments if they wish. It provided Judi Jagger, the current WA Judge, an easy means of keeping the WA literature community conversant with her interesting experiences as a judge. With the assistance of Murray Ware, Rita and Clare were able to keep the WA website going despite technical difficulties and lack of knowledge, 'learning on the job'. The calendar, annual program, Book Week events and Book Week ideas and WA awards were updated and a list of those WA authors and illustrators who have websites was provided.

Proposals for future website development

1. Expand the WA authors and illustrators list to include those who do not have their own website or blog.
2. Provide recommended book lists to assist parents, grandparents and carers to select appropriate books for children and teenagers.
3. Update the "research into reading" section.

Acknowledgement of Jill Midolo

It seems appropriate to acknowledge here that the WA Branch is grateful for the lasting legacy of Jill Midolo's vision, dedication, enthusiasm and effort. The innumerable hours that Jill devoted to establishing and managing the Branch website ensures that information is disseminated quickly and efficiently to a wide audience.

Newsletter

Editor Jenni Woodroffe

2010 saw 5 issues of the newsletter mailed out. As Daytone have a new printer, photographs for this year's issues have all been in colour, including a colour centerfold in April, to celebrate ANWOS. The newsletter has continued to keep members abreast of local, interstate and international news relating to children's literature. Thanks to all who contributed articles, and Chloe Mauger for proof reading, Gay Tierney for supplying address labels, Sue Negus, Janet Griffin and Sue Scott for packing, and Jan Nicholls, Gay Tierney, Warwick Ruse and others for photographs.

Archives

Trish Montgomery

The ongoing processing of the archive collection came to a halt in 2010. Due to the renovation of Oasis House, the collection was in storage for 12 months. As of October everything has been returned to the Oasis House store room. We are organising a revamp of the renovated room to accommodate additional storage and a more productive and comfortable workspace.

Education Committee

Education Officer Lefki Kailis

The Education Committee will wind down at the end of 2010 as most tertiary institutions have had the benefit of several lectures and workshops over a number of years and are informed about how to keep in touch with contemporary young adult and children's literature.

Make Your Own Story Book Competition (MYOSB)

Coordinator Sue Ruse

700 entries were received in the MYOSB competition in 2010. They came from 70 schools including 24 country schools and were judged by 14 volunteer judges. There were 22 winners from 15 schools (8 government and 7 non government) and one home schooler.

The presentation ceremony and morning tea was held at the Fremantle Children's Literature Centre on Sunday August 22nd. All the winners were able to attend with one coming from Port Hedland with her family. Grant Stone was MC and Meg McKinlay, our guest author. Her address was most inspiring to the budding authors present. Thanks to Lesley Reece, Jenny Doust and Mailee Clarke for allowing us the use of the venue and for their willing help. The vouchers which were given as prizes were donated by Bookcaffe, Child Education Services, The Lane Bookshop, Millpoint Cafe Bookshop, New Edition Bookshop and The Singing Tree, Cottesloe. The new owners of Westbooks, James and Rose Caffey, were kind enough to allow us to continue using Westbooks premises as a collection point for entries and as a venue for sorting the entries and holding the judges meeting. We thank them sincerely for this support.

CBCA Book of the Year Awards

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

WA Judge

Judi Jagger 2010/2011

January began with a massive box of 58 titles sent in by publishers at the last minute, perhaps with the idea that judges were more likely to favour a recently read title? Far from it!

The Brisbane Conference was an exhilarating experience: meeting the other judges and the coordinators for the first time and working long hours each day to come to consensus about the short list titles and notable books in each category, culminating in the announcement of the Short Lists at Government House immediately after the conference. Sadness overshadowed the 2010 short lists as we all dealt with the unexpected death of Jill Midolo soon after the announcement and the great loss this meant to Australian children's literature.

The second year of judging started early, with little break between the announcement of the short lists in late March and the arrival of the first 2011 box in May. At times it was tricky talking about short list books read what seemed so long ago, while juggling thoughts about contenders for next year's short list.

As well as the two official Judge's Talks in Perth, I have given another eight to school and community groups in the Great Southern and have been rewarded with an enormous amount of interest from attendees. I have also donated most of the 2010 titles to the community, particularly Denmark Public Library and Denmark Primary School, but also the doctor's surgery and a family centre for babies and toddlers.

The seven boxes received so far for 2011 reading have contained 200 titles, 40 more than this time last year. Unfortunately the poor standard of editing and proofreading noted in the 2010 Judges' report continues into 2011, almost always in books for Older Readers. Not only typos, but incorrect word usage has been noted in a number of cases, and this is very disappointing as it reflects a slapdash attitude from large publishing houses that we would hope have the interests of young adult readers at heart. Although there is much reading still to be done, my time as WA judge is in the closing stages but I will give as much support as I can to the incoming judge,

particularly in the overlap period of 2011. I thank the CBCA for this opportunity to be part of the most important awards in Australian children's literature. It's been a wonderful time in my life.

Readers' Cup

Organisers Gail Spiers and Loretta Young

Six schools participated in the 2010 Readers' Cup competition. The team from Christ Church Grammar Preparatory School were victorious after a tie breaker round with teams from Guildford Grammar School and Carey Baptist College tying for second place. Other participating schools were Bunbury Cathedral Grammar School, Mount Claremont Primary School and Loreto Nedlands. Between the rounds of questions the Loreto Nedlands team performed an innovation on *The Wrong Book* that included references to other shortlisted titles and students from Carey Baptist College presented Limericks about shortlisted characters for the audience to identify. Many CBCA (WA Branch) members contributed to the success of the day, making it a real team effort. Grant Stone was Quiz Master, Judi Jagger, Margaret Kett and Sue Wyche created the questions, Mary Hookey organised the venue, the slideshow and the welcome by the CCGS student to the CCGS Chapel, Leonie Weir, Sue Wyche and Loretta Young marked the answers, Sue Scott presented the prizes in lieu of Jan Nicholls, Mary Gimondo displayed our sponsor's Go 2&5 banners and provided give away merchandise, Loretta Young created the Book of the Year display for Across the Story Bridge, Sue Wyche organised publicity, Margaret Walton from Child Education Services donated the book vouchers for the winners, teachers and students from six of our member schools participated and Gail Spiers coordinated the schools, prizes and certificates.

The Short List Talks

On 16th March Chloe Mauger was invited to visit Kulin District High School to give a series of information talks about CBCA and the 2010 Shortlisted books to all students in the school. During the morning, over four sessions, 148 students and their teachers from years K-10 attended. In the afternoon, Chloe drove to Kondinin (35 km) to discuss the short-listed books with the teachers and all 50 students of Kondinin Primary School. The following day, Chloe and two teachers from Kulin drove to Narrogin District Education Office (110 km) for their Professional Development Day. Chloe spoke to 14 Library Officers and Library Assistants from the Great Southern region on "What Makes an Award Winning Book", incorporating the work of CBCA, the Book of the Year Awards and judging processes. Several of the Library Officers were eager to learn how they could tap into the CBCA WA CBW Regional Grants Program. Country regions and schools such as these virtually never have the opportunity to see and discuss books in this way and such visits are very much needed and appreciated.

On Wednesday 25 August, Chloe was invited to Mt. Helena Primary School to talk to students about the Short List books. All 260 students and their teachers attended in four sessions. This the fourth year that Chloe has been invited to give these CBW sessions at the request of an enthusiastic class-room teacher, as this school has no library staff.

South West Celebrity Short List Brunch

The warmth of the welcome and the enticing smell of toast soon dispersed the chill of the early morning as an enthusiastic crowd gathered at Bunbury Cathedral Grammar School to celebrate the shortlisted books for this year's CBCA Book of the Year awards. The creative team of Julie Muir, Esme Kidd, Evelyn Dowley, Kathy Hogan and Marion Griffin had decorated the tables with models and colourful laminated placemats of the world's most famous bridges. As always, the student reviewers from Years 6-10 impressed the audience most with their perceptive comments on the books and their insights into the main characters. Dave Phillips was an accomplished MC, the adult reviewers also performed well and a delicious breakfast was enjoyed by all. The morning concluded with a raffle and thanks were offered to Westbooks who donated the entire Short List and Angus and Robertson who donated gift vouchers as prizes.

Children's Book Week

Children's Book Week Opening and Dinner

Liz Allen and Gay Tierney

On the evening of Friday 20 August approximately 110 guests attended the official opening dinner for Children's Book Week 2010 at the Mt Lawley Golf Club in Inglewood. Tables were decorated around the theme *across the story bridge* with Story Bridge models obtained from Brisbane, which sparkled with streamers in a fireworks effect with stacks of books and rivers below. The evening began with a tribute to the late CBCA WA committee member, Jill Midolo. Sue Scott spoke about Jill's wonderful contribution and a PowerPoint captured memories of Jill as we silently remembered her and the Jill Midolo Memorial Fund was launched. As is tradition in recent years, the annual dinner coincided with the announcement of the winners in the CBCA Book of the Year Awards so MC Grant Stone shared the winners and honour books. The WA President Jan Nicholls welcomed everyone in her opening address and officially opened Children's Book Week in WA by inviting us to join her in stepping across the story bridge. Jon Doust, who this year was long listed for the prestigious Miles Franklin Award with *Boy on a Wire*, shared his story of the importance of his mother and grandmother in influencing his life and especially his writing. There was lots of laughter in the function room as he moved around the stage and shared anecdotes based around family members. Following a buffet meal the announcement of the Muriel Barwell Award was made and presented by Muriel, who had recently had knee surgery but was determined to be there! The worthy winner was an excited and grateful Frané Lessac, who with husband Mark Greenwood flew in from Sydney just prior to the dinner starting, to receive the award. After dessert, raffles were drawn and an excellent array of door and table prizes was announced. Special thanks go to Gavin Chadwick from SIDE for his photographic art work, author Norman Jorgensen for a package of 30 books and wine reviewer Peter Forrestal for wines and his latest wine book, Quaff. Displays and the PowerPoint of branch activities in the previous year provided the attendees with visuals throughout the evening and the venue made for easy access for those who wished to move between tables and catch up with friends and colleagues.

Merchandise Sales

Merchandise Officer Eve Morrissey

Kylie Dunstan, the illustrator/author of *Collecting Colour*, the Picture Book of the Year 2009, was invited by the National Executive to create the artwork for this year's merchandise. Kylie used the same palette as in the winning book of greens and warm orange/reds combined with collage technique to depict children celebrating on a bridge of books. The merchandise was, therefore, colourful and appealing. We again offered a discount on bulk purchases of posters and many libraries took advantage of this to assist with the creation of eye-catching displays. Twenty libraries also ordered large banners. Book plates were available for the first time this year and library bags were again popular. The number of orders received – 439 – was virtually the same as last year (440). The number of items dispatched in response to the orders was a pleasing 16,071 – 2,039 more than last year. Unfortunately the merchandise was not received in time for the Judge's Talks but was available to be purchased at the Bookwiz event and the CBW dinner. Sincere thanks to Joseph Wyche who allowed us to use his office fax to receive orders, to all members and friends who helped pack the merchandise, to Sue and Warwick Ruse for allowing us to 'take over' their home and to Liz Beck for providing delicious food for the workers. Thanks also to the Merchandise Committee: Liz Allen, Janet Griffin, Jan Nicholls, Denise Robins, Sue Ruse, Sue Scott, Dominique Ward and Sue Wyche for their help with designing the new order form/ brochure, assisting with the mail-out and the coordination of merchandise ordering and distribution.

Grants program (Metropolitan and Regional Centres)

Grants sub committee Mary Gimondo and Nola Allen

The WA Branch dispersed funding to 20 metropolitan and 12 regional centres, including two new country regions, Murray/Pinjarra and Kalgoorlie, to conduct Children's Book Week programs. The funding was provided by the Department for Culture and the Arts and Healthway. Country

Arts WA funding was devolved to the Department for Culture and the Arts. Libraries actively promoted the Go 2&5 health message through displays, activities and the distribution of promotional material to children, teachers and parents. Go 2&5 promotional material was also provided to winners of the Make Your Own Story Book Competition. Emerging and established WA and Australian authors and illustrators talked about the processes and inspiration behind their work to thousands of children. A number of indigenous authors and illustrators participated in CBW 2010.

Outreach programs extended to outlying communities including Exmouth (Midwest), Bidyadanga, Beagle Bay, Djarindjin Lombadina, One Arm Point (Kimberley), Leonora/Kambalda (Kalgoorlie) and Marble Bar District High (Pilbara). Outreach programs to remote indigenous communities included Oombulgarri and Kalumburu.

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 has only recently been implemented. As a result, the submission of reports from the regional centres has been delayed. A number of libraries have already provided feedback on the effectiveness of the portal and early indications are that it is functioning well.

Other Events and Activities

A Night With Our Stars (ANWOS)

Coordinator Jenni Woodroffe

The seventh annual A Night With Our Stars was held at Westbooks on Thursday, 4 March where new owner, James Caffey was inspired by the effort and dedication of the WA Branch in organising and running this event. Held in a hired marquee in the adjacent parking lot, sales and signings after the presentations by about 20 presenters kept bookshop staff busy. This year, Cathy's Catering supplied the supper, supplemented by contributions from committee members. There were 9 new presenters, with another 3 unable to attend due to family illness. Raffle money was donated to the Victorian Bush Fire Book Appeal and the IBBY Children in Crisis Fund. Generous sponsorship from an anonymous wine donor, as well as Fremantle Press contributed to the evening. The range and depth of new talent in WA continues to be a source of pride and pleasure, and MC, Joanna Andrew ensures the 3 minute time slot is maintained. Artwork by Cameron Montgomery again promoted the event.

Book Discussion Group

Coordinator Sue Ruse

In 2010 the group continued to meet at Sue Ruse's home on the 4th Wednesday of the month. Each month a young adult or upper primary title is read and discussed. Members are also able to look at newly released children's books every month thanks to Bookcaffe in Swanbourne who allow us books on approval for the night. In April we discussed the shortlisted books and at the November meeting local author Shirley Marr will speak about her new YA novel, *Fury*. The group was devastated by the death of Jill Midolo in April. Jill had been a stalwart of the group since its inception and rarely missed a meeting. Her extensive knowledge, passion and generosity are sorely missed.

Bookwiz

Coordinator Elizabeth Beck

Held on Sunday 27 June Bookwiz was loosely based on the ABC TV Show Spicks and Specks with an MC (the divine Vincenzo Perrella) and two panels each with a WA children's author, a student and a Public Librarian or Teacher-Librarian. Rounds of questions were all book-based and included a section on the Short List and some WHO AM I? challenges which were read out by the many WA authors and illustrators who supported this inaugural event by acting a table hosts. Table activities and quizzes enabled the audience to be engaged as well as compete for points and simple prizes with the emphasis on books, fun and participation rather than on winning. Refreshments were available throughout, as well as books for purchase and signing

thanks to Margaret Walton and her staff from Child Education Services. This proved to be a fun afternoon and valuable feedback from the day will enable us to fine tune the format for future events. Our thanks to St Mary's AGS for generous use of their school facilities.

Reading Bug Competition

Thanks to the generosity of The Perth Mint, who donated five coin sets as prizes, we were able to run a writing competition entitled *How to catch the reading bug* for students in Years 3-7 in WA schools. We were overwhelmed by the response, receiving 191 entries in total despite the competition only being advertised on our website, via cbcawa and on watnet. Congratulations to the winners and a special thank you to the many teachers who encouraged their students to enter by setting the competition as a class exercise. The winning entries will be posted on the WA Branch website.

Year 3 Britney Szyszka	Dalyellup College
Year 4 Ashley McAvoy	Woodlands PS
Year 5 Lauren Kavanagh	Our Lady of Good Counsel
Year 6 Callum Murphy	Holy Spirit
Year 7 Abbie O'Brien	Mercy College

Outreach Programmes

Wirlomin Noongar Stories and Language Regeneration Project

Marg Robinson, Mary Gimondo and Lefki Kailis

The Wirlomin Group is in the final stages of incorporation and has been assisted in this process by Freehills under the auspices of the Australian Business Arts Foundation. We have found a publisher for our picture books, the outcomes of the first stage of our project. They will be published by UWA/Staples Fund. We have commenced stage two of our project and held our first workshop in Albany in May when the Group selected three more stories to develop into books; this continuation is in line with the Elders' wish to revive more of the Laves stories in support of the maintenance of Wirlomin Noongar language and culture. The workshop was funded through Healthway and our sponsor "Respect Yourself, Respect your Culture."

The Group also received some funding from the WA Department of Indigenous Affairs for gravestones for ancestral family members which will also assist with identification and protection of the burial sites. The Wirlomin committee wishes to acknowledge the valuable contribution made to our project by Edward Brown Senior, who recently passed away.

Acknowledgements and thanks

Finally I offer my sincere thanks to every single one of the committee for their hard work and support this year. 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 reluctant to single anyone out I do feel that the Executive merit a special mention for their advice and assistance so I offer my heartfelt thanks to Sue Scott, Chloe Mauger, Sue Ruse and Ruth Nitschke.

Jan Nicholls
President
10 November 2010