



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

# Annual Report 2011

### LIFE MEMBERS

Maxine Walker (deceased)  
Janet Griffin  
Alison Gregg

Doreen Rossiter  
Mary Gimondo

Muriel Barwell OAM  
Grant Stone

### 2011 COMMITTEE

#### Executive Committee:

President:	Jan Nicholls	Treasurer:	Sue Scott
Vice President:	Joscelyn Leatt-Hayter	Secretary:	Ruth Nitschke
Past President:	Sue Scott	Executive member:	Rebecca Newman*

#### Committee Members:

Elizabeth Allen, Nola Allen, Joanna Andrew, Elizabeth Beck, Rita Blackburn, Celeste Blundell-Camden, Pamela Buselich\*, Mary Gimondo, Liz Holt\*, Chloe Mauger, Trish Montgomery, Eve Morrissey, Julie Muir\*, Denise Robins, Sue Ruse, Clare Snowball, Gail Spiers, Gay Tierney, Caz Williams\*, Jenni Woodroffe, Sue Wyche and Loretta Young.

*NB: Although Dominique Potvin and Wendy Cumming-Potvin nominated at the 2010 AGM they did not take up committee positions in 2011.*

**Archivist:** Trish Montgomery

**Grants Officer:** Mary Gimondo

**Merchandise Officer:** Eve Morrissey

**MYOSB Coordinator:** Denise Robins

**Newsletter Editor:** Rebecca Newman

**ANWOS Coordinator:** Jenni Woodroffe

**Penny Hutchens Award:** Sue Ruse

**WA Judge:** Judi Jagger

**Website Manager:** Rita Blackburn

#### Subcommittees

A Night With Our Stars (ANWOS)

Archives

Bookwiz

Children's Book Week Opening and Dinner

Grants and Regional Centres

Make Your Own Story Book (MYOSB)

Membership

Merchandise

Penny Hutchens Fund

Newsletter

Judge's Talks

Readers' Cup

Website

#### President

It is my pleasure to present this 2011 Annual Report to the committee and members as a record of another busy year for the WA Branch. Five new faces (names marked \*) joined us and I acknowledge the enthusiasm and expertise they brought to our group. Elizabeth Beck and Liz Holt resigned part way through the year to relocate interstate and overseas respectively and sadly, both Julie Muir and Caz Williams have succumbed to the tyranny of distance and will resign at the AGM. We are also sad that health reasons prevent Rebecca Newman from continuing the excellent work she has done as newsletter editor and we farewell Joscelyn Leatt-Hayter, Vice President, as she takes a well-deserved break and steps down from the committee after an especially challenging year. Gail Spiers has also relinquished the role of Readers' Cup coordinator after doing an excellent job for many years. Judi Jagger has been an outstanding representative as our WA Judge and credits the experience with having turned her from a

former critic of the genre into a lover of fantasy. My thanks to all of these ladies for the time, passion and effort they have dedicated to the Branch and we look forward to some new committee members to replace them and take us into the future with energy, enthusiasm and a positive outlook.

In 2010 at the National AGM we presented a submission for Jill Midolo to be awarded the Distinguished Services Citation. This was met with unanimous approval and it is my pleasure to present the certificate and official DSC pin to Jill's husband David Brown here at our WA Branch AGM.

We celebrated with Shaun Tan as he garnered yet more trophies, following his Oscar win for *The Lost Thing* with the Astrid Lindgren Memorial Award. Thanks largely to Heather Zubek and William Yeoman children's literature has enjoyed increasingly positive press coverage this year and judging from the number of launches and literary events I have attended I can confidently say that our WA authors and illustrators are as prolific and creative as ever.

Life occasionally gets too busy for everyone and despite our best efforts two events did not run this year – Bookwiz and the Southwest Celebrity Brunch. There was still plenty else on offer, however, and as always our major events such as ANWOS, the MYOSB competition and the CBW Dinner were well-attended and highly successful. It was a pleasure to have the dynamic duo from *Jake's Gigantic List* attend our functions with Chris Nixon addressing the MYOSB winners and Ken Spillman entertaining us with humorous anecdotes (and the occasional dig at Jon Doust) at the CBW Opening and Dinner. The decision to award joint winners in the Picture Book category of the Book of the Year Awards will make the design and production of the 2012 merchandise a new challenge and we look forward to it with interest.

Later this month Sue Scott will accompany me to the National AGM in Adelaide where discussion of the immediate future of the CBCA, the need for restructure of the current organisation and possible models for change will be high on the agenda.

## Finance

### Treasurer Sue Scott

This year we have basically broken even in our finances with a slight excess of income over expenditure although at the time of writing this report the accounts have still to be audited. Here is a brief summary: Membership income remains static at \$11,351 covering our main administration costs of the Oasis House rent and the newsletter. Merchandise sales are again our greatest fundraiser with a profit of around \$13,000. No film fundraisers were held this year. With the exception of A Night With Our Stars which was a very successful event for our members, all events covered costs. The Grants Program has seen \$56,984 distributed to Public Libraries for Children's Book Week Programs. One metropolitan library did not claim its grant during this Financial Year and the acquittal for these funds is still to be completed. \$1,000 was donated to the Awards Foundation and another \$1,000 allocated for the Lu Rees Bob Graham exhibition which unfortunately was later cancelled. The Penny Hutchens Fund book donations cost \$750.00. In our Children's Book Week expenditure the Make Your Own Story Book expenses of around \$3000 included new Book Plates we commissioned from illustrator Moira Court and the cost of the Readers' Cup remained low at around \$350.

Again the Branch finances are sound and we are in a position to consider new areas for donations or events that will further our aims.

The audited accounts are provided as a separate document.

## Membership

### Gay Tierney and Sue Scott

21 new members joined our Branch but membership overall remained constant with an increase of 3 to a total of 305. Although membership numbers have been static for the last 3 years we have had a 25% increase in numbers since 2006. Membership fees brought in \$11,351. Concession rates to cover Full time adult students, Concession card holders and Authors and Illustrators continued with a slight drop in the take up.

Year	Personal	Student	Institution	Life	Honorary	Total
2009	142	8	138	6	4	<b>298</b>
2010	152*	see concession	140	6	4	<b>302</b>
2011	152*		143	6	4	<b>305</b>

\*Personal membership consists of

	2010	2011
Personal (full paying)	111	116
Concession Card Holder	11	8
Author/Illustrator Concession	29	26
Full Time Student Concession	1	2
<b>Total Personal members</b>	<b>152</b>	<b>152</b>

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 243 members, an increase of 13 on 2010.

### **Penny Hutchens Fund**

#### **Sue Ruse**

This was presented to the Bidi Budi project in Mt Magnet. Michele Bentink, the coordinator of Children's Programmes contacted us to express her delight at the magnificent selection of books we sent. Just under 60 books, predominantly Australian children's classics and well-loved favourites with a sprinkling of notable international titles, made up the package.

### **Website and WA Branch Blog**

#### **Rita Blackburn**

Additions to the website included a digital version of the WA Branch newsletter, digital versions of our Annual Reports from 2008-2010, reading lists including the President's XI and photos of children and babies enjoying books. This year we experienced fewer technical problems when updating the site than in 2010. Murray explained how we can load photos and PDFs directly to the server without sending all files to him, which is more efficient use of our time, however, this only works intermittently, especially with PDFs. Murray is currently trying to resolve this problem so that we can continue with our plan to add more graphics to the website to make it more user-friendly. Clare, Rebecca and Caz have developed the blog into a useful adjunct to the website providing users with timely posts about WA literature events, book awards, new WA publications and ideas for parents, as well as a Friday author spotlight. They have also improved the Facebook page, which supports both the website and blog.

### **Newsletter**

#### **Editor Rebecca Newman**

The newsletter continued as a 12-page publication, mailed out to members 5 times per year but changed to a full colour production and was made available for the first time as a PDF (with clickable links) on the WA Branch website with each issue available for download at no charge by the general public. Late in the year, after suggestions were canvassed from the membership, the newsletter acquired its own name - Paperbark. Thank you to Sue Negus, Sue Scott and Jenni Woodroffe (and other occasional helpers) for their work with packing, admin and mailout of the print copies this year.

### **Archives**

#### **Trish Montgomery**

After a period of unpacking boxes and reorganisation since the return of the collection from off-site storage, the Archive area is finally taking shape. A new metal cabinet and bookshelves have been purchased creating a more user-friendly working space and storage. Considerable effort has been made to sort, arrange, describe and house the large volume of Grants documentation spanning from the 1980s to the present day. This time-consuming task is almost complete and appreciation should be given to Mary Gimondo and Nola Allen for their assistance. There is still much more work to be done with processing and housing of the remainder of the collection – an ongoing and at times slow process but nevertheless a rewarding one. Thanks to all who have assisted.

### **Make Your Own Story Book Competition (MYOSB)**

#### **Coordinator Denise Robins**

The MYOSB competition received 611 entries, including 4 from home-schooled students, with the remainder spread across 25 private schools and 25 public schools. Entries were received from 15 country and 35 metropolitan schools. We welcomed five new volunteer judges, creating a team of fourteen dedicated people with a range of experience in children's literature. The judges selected 21 winning entries which were a mix of well-presented, imaginative ideas, extraordinary vocabulary and complex multi-layered

storylines. The illustrators used a variety of media and artistic techniques, to effectively create interesting textures and contrasts. The Awards Ceremony was held Fremantle Children's Literature Centre on Sunday 21 August where 20 excited winners, proud parents and friends enjoyed a delicious morning tea, which included fresh fruit, dips and vegetables supplied by our sponsor Healthway's Go2&5 program. Local illustrator Chris Nixon presented the prizes and was an engaging speaker, offering many writing tips to his admiring audience. The winning entries were displayed in The Place at the State Library. Heartfelt thanks to James Caffey and Heather Cooper from Westbooks, who continue to support MYSOB by organising the entry collection and allowing us the use of the premises for sorting. Thanks to Westbooks, Bookcaffe, Millpoint Caffe Bookshop and Beaufort Street Books for their generous donation of prizes and to Lesley Reece, Mailee Clarke and FCLC staff for providing fabulous support and an excellent venue.

## **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**

#### **Tehani Wessely 2012/2013**

After a relatively slow start to the judging, the process is now over halfway and the piles of CBCA books are dominating the shelves. There have not been as many picture books as I'd anticipated, but the older reader category seems huge (and the books are getting fatter). The process itself is interesting - other judging roles I've had have been a lot more collaborative (sharing spreadsheets online and so on) but CBCA is very individual. It's always fascinating to receive the collated reports on each box and see which judges agreed or disagreed with my own assessments - it's amazing how rarely we are all in consensus! The support from the state and national arms of the association has been wonderful, smoothing the process with the guidance offered, which is most appreciated. I'm really enjoying the experience!

### **Readers' Cup**

#### **Coordinator Gail Spiers**

The seventh Readers' Cup, held at the Loreto Nedlands Performing Arts Centre, was the biggest ever with nine participating schools. The team from Scotch College Middle School was victorious in a close finish with Mount Claremont Primary School in second place and Loreto Nedlands in third place. Other participating schools were All Saints College Junior School, Bunbury Cathedral Grammar School, Carey Baptist College, Christ Church Grammar Preparatory School, Rosalie Primary School and St Thomas Primary School.

Between rounds of questions students from All Saints College Junior School, Christ Church Grammar Preparatory School, Loreto Nedlands and Rosalie Primary School performed entertaining items based on the shortlisted books *The Tall Man and the Twelve Babies*, *Family Forest*, *Two Peas in a Pod* and *My Uncle's Donkey*.

Many WA Branch members contributed to the success of the day, making it a real team effort: Judi Jagger, Sue Wyche and Gail Spiers (quiz questions); Loretta Young (*One World, Many Stories* display); Leonie Weir, Ruth Nitschke, Sue Wyche (markers), Sue Scott (presentation of prizes); Grant Stone (quiz master); Sue Wyche (publicity); Nola Allen (Healthway merchandise); The Well Bookshop, The Lane Bookshop, Child Education Services, Fremantle Press, Jen Banyard and Norman Jorgensen (donation of books and book vouchers) and staff at Loreto Nedlands (assistance in setting up the excellent venue).

This highly successful Children's Book Week event would not have been possible without the dedication of the teachers and teacher librarians, who prepared their students by making quiz questions based on 18 of the shortlisted books, and the effort and enthusiasm for children's literature demonstrated by the 27 participating students.

### **Judge's Talks**

Outgoing WA Judge Judi Jagger gave two well-attended and most informative talks to appreciative audiences in the metro area in May plus another in Bunbury for the benefit of our south west members.

## Children's Book Week

### Children's Book Week Opening and Dinner

**Liz Allen and Gay Tierney**

On the evening of Friday 19 August approximately 95 guests attended the official opening and dinner of Children's Book Week 2011 at the Mt Lawley Golf Club in Inglewood. The function centre was decorated to tie into this year's theme *One World, Many Stories*. The table centre pieces were small world globes sitting on pages from story books with stacks of books below. These became table prizes later in the evening. MC Grant Stone introduced the formalities by sharing the CBCA Book of the Year Award winning and honour books in each of the categories. This year the judges awarded joint winners in the Picture Book of the Year category with Jeannie Baker's beautifully collaged work of a day in the life of a family in Morocco and a family in Sydney in *Mirror* and Nicki Greenberg's graphic adaptation of Shakespeare's *Hamlet*. 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 as we celebrate *One World, Many Stories*. Jan made a presentation to the outgoing CBCA WA judge Judi Jagger, who has made an outstanding contribution in the last two years, not only in reading and reporting on hundreds of entries each year, but speaking to various audiences about the shortlist titles and the judging process. She has been a great asset to the work of the Branch. The committee was delighted when Ken Spillman accepted our offer to be the guest speaker at this year's dinner. Ken has been travelling extensively this year to promote his Jake series which has been very successful in both Asia and Europe. He arrived back in Perth the day before the dinner after a month in India launching the new book *Jake's Balloon Blast*. Ken's humour prevailed as he made references to Jon Doust – co-author of his earlier Serventy Kids series - who as last year's guest speaker shared anecdotes at Ken's expense.

The announcement of the Penny Hutchens Award was made and a Powerpoint showed the Bidi Bidi project at Mt Magnet. Special thanks go to author Norman Jorgensen, Walker Books representative Margaret Van Dorssen and wine reviewer Peter Forrestal for generous donations towards our raffle prizes. The Branch thanks those members and their partners, colleagues and friends who support us each year by attending the opening and dinner. It is a great way for like-minded people to begin Children's Book Week!

### Merchandise Sales

**Merchandise Officer Eve Morrissey**

School and public librarians found that the theme **One World Many Stories** provided great scope for creating displays and activities for Children's Book Week. The merchandise to support these displays was ordered by 405 institutions from the far north to Kalgoorlie, the Great Southern areas of the State and Christmas Island. This was 7% less than orders last year and the total number of items (17,290) was 1% lower. Once again, the offer of a discount for multiple copies of the Book Week poster was popular and 20 libraries also ordered a banner to help highlight the theme. Book marks, badges, balloons and stickers continued to be popular although bags and book plates were not ordered in the same quantities as in previous years.

### Grants program (Metropolitan and Regional Centres)

**Grants sub committee Mary Gimondo and Nola Allen**

In 2011, over 80 public libraries in 32 metropolitan and country regions - from Albany to Kununurra and from Rockingham to Joondalup - conducted Children's Book Week events which were attended by thousands of children, teachers and parents. Highlights from the week centred on the opportunity for children to meet and engage with "real, live authors." More than 85 WA authors, illustrators and storytellers were involved in events this year. Many of the sessions were highly interactive and received strong positive feedback from teachers about the responsiveness and engagement of their students and the benefits to their own teaching of creative writing. 11 country centres conducted extensive outreach programs touring authors to outlying communities including One Arm Point, Fitzroy Crossing and Kalumburu in the Kimberley, Kambalda in the Goldfields and Hyden and Kondinin in the Great Southern. For many of these children, this was the first time that they had met an author or participated in Children's Book Week. The Children's Book Week program for 2011 was generously assisted by funding of over \$58,000 from the State Government of Western Australia through the Department for Culture and the Arts, Healthway Go2&5 and the Western Australian Branch of the Children's Book Council of Australia. We continue to work with developers on the portal in order to streamline the grants process so that funding EOIs can be submitted and collated online.

## Other Events and Activities

### **A Night With Our Stars (ANWOS)**

#### **Coordinator Jenni Woodroffe**

President Jan Nicholls welcomed about 180 people to the 8<sup>th</sup> annual A Night With Our Stars at Westbooks, on Thursday 10 March. Sponsorship from the CBCA and Fremantle Press contributed to the hire of the marquee which again provided an extension to the bookshop facilities and we were grateful for cooler weather this year. Our audience travelled from Narrogin, Bunbury, Pinjarra, Mandurah, Kelmscott, Mindarie and everywhere in between. There were 7 new faces amongst the presenters with another two in reserve. Food supplied by Cathy's Catering supplemented by a few extra plates of goodies by some committee members added a delicious touch and, as always we are grateful to our wine donor who prefers to remain anonymous. A busy bee on the Monday prior ensured that flyers, balloons and programmes were neatly packed ready for distribution to chairs on the night and too many committee members to list here assisted in a variety of roles for which I thank them most sincerely. Once again we are grateful to Cameron Montgomery for his creative artwork. Thanks to the Westbooks staff for all their assistance, especially James Caffey and Heather Cooper for their support, and we reluctantly bid farewell to Joanna Andrew, who this year steps down as MC.

### **Book Discussion Group**

#### **Coordinator Sue Ruse**

The book discussion group continued to meet on the 4th Wed of the month during 2011. The average attendance remained at 10. In April we discussed the short list for the CBCA book of the year awards. Our special guest at our November meeting will be local author Zoe Thurner who will talk to us about her debut novel *Dress Rehearsal* published by Fremantle Press.

### **Outreach Programmes**

#### **Shortlist Talks and HeARTlines**

Chloe Mauger gave shortlist talks at Mt Helena PS, Kulin DHS and a series of lectures to a group of enthusiastic grandmothers at MALA (Mature Adult Learning Association). The 4<sup>th</sup> biennial HeARTlines Festival of Children's Literature and Book Illustration was held in Mundaring from 2 Sept - 9 Oct. As well as a fabulous art exhibition, there were workshops by authors and illustrators, school visits, workshops and several public sessions. On behalf of the WA Branch, Chloe Mauger attended the Wednesday school workshop sessions, assisting the presenters when required.

### **Wirlomin Noongar Language and Stories Project**

#### **Mary Gimondo**

The Wirlomin Noongar Language and Stories Project was incorporated in December 2010. One of the outcomes of the Project has been the publication of two bi-lingual stories, *Mamang* and *Noongar Mambara Bakitj* in September 2011 by UWA Press/Staples Fund. An illustration workshop was undertaken, this year in the Albany Regional Prison. The Wirlomin Project has also developed a new website at <http://wirlomin.com.au/>

### **Acknowledgements and thanks**

The WA Branch has an enviable reputation within the wider CBCA network as a proactive and positive group. The stability of the group is due in large part to the ongoing loyalty of many dedicated and long-serving committee members but also owes much to the willingness of members to work cooperatively as a team to share our passion for children's literature with the greater community. Each and every member of the committee deserves credit for the contribution she has made in 2011 and in particular I thank the Executive team (Sue Scott, Ruth Nitschke, Joscelyn Leatt-Hayter and Rebecca Newman) for their wisdom, friendship and support.

Jan Nicholls  
President  
9 November 2011