



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

Annual Report 2012

LIFE MEMBERS

Maxine Walker (deceased)
Janet Griffin
Alison Gregg

Doreen Rossiter
Mary Gimondo

Muriel Barwell OAM
Grant Stone

2012 COMMITTEE

Executive Committee:

President: Jan Nicholls
Vice President: Position vacant
Past President: Sue Scott
Executive members: Chloe Mauger, Glenda Crothers
Treasurer: Sue Scott
Secretary: Ruth Nitschke

Committee Members:

Elizabeth Allen, Nola Allen, Joanna Andrew, Rita Blackburn, Celeste Blundell-Camden, Pamela Buselich, Cathy Corbitt, Mary Gimondo, Trish Montgomery, Eve Morrissey, Rebecca Newman, Teena Raffa-Mulligan, Denise Robins, Gail Spiers, Gay Tierney, Jenni Woodroffe, Sue Wyche and Loretta Young.

Archivist: Trish Montgomery

Grants Officer: Mary Gimondo

Merchandise Officer: Eve Morrissey

MYOSB Coordinator: Denise Robins

Newsletter Editor: Teena Raffa-Mulligan

ANWOS Coordinator: Jenni Woodroffe

Muriel Barwell Award: Sue Wyche

WA Judge: Tehani Wessely (2011-12)
Bev Jacobson (2012-13)

Website Manager: Rita Blackburn

Facebook & blog: Rebecca Newman

Subcommittees

A Night With Our Stars (ANWOS)

Archives

Book Discussion Group

Children's Book Week Opening and Dinner

Facebook and blog

Grants and Regional Centres

Make Your Own Story Book (MYOSB)

Membership

Merchandise

Muriel Barwell Award

Newsletter

Judge's Talks

Website

President

It is my pleasure to present this 2012 Annual Report to the committee and members as a record of another busy year for the WA Branch. Cathy Corbitt and Glenda Crothers joined us and we bade a reluctant farewell to long-term member Sue Ruse who succumbed to the lure of grandchildren in Victoria and moved interstate. Tehani Wessely did an excellent job as our WA Judge for 2011/12 despite relocating to Tasmania, taking on a new job and expecting another baby. Bev Jacobson stepped seamlessly into the role for 2012/13 for which the Branch was truly grateful. My thanks to all of these ladies for the time, passion and effort they have dedicated to the Branch.

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 Eve Pownall winner, Coral Tulloch at the CBW Opening and Dinner along with interstate author Leigh Hobbs plus many of our own WA authors and illustrators, who

enjoyed the address by Meg McKinlay. Once again in 2012 our talented local authors and illustrators have done us proud, publishing exciting new titles, featuring regularly in the press and appearing on various award short lists. We offer special congratulations to Michelle Gillespie and Sonia Martinez whose picture book *Sam, Grace and the Shipwreck* won the WA Premier's Award in its category.

Structure and governance were very much at the forefront of discussions this year and it is my pleasure to announce that Caro Kay has been elected as the inaugural WA representative on the new Board of Management. We look forward to hearing the ideas from the new Board and wish them every success in their endeavours.

Finance

Treasurer Sue Scott

We began the year in a healthy financial state and made the decision to use some of our money to help further our aims. This resulted in donations to the Awards Foundation and The Literature Centre (formerly Fremantle Children's Literature Centre) and the offering of two Conference registrations to our members. Details are provided below. Consequently we have finished the year with a small increase in expenditure over income although at this stage the accounts have still to be audited.

Following is a brief summary:

- Membership is down slightly with subscriptions bringing in \$11,184.
- Newsletter costs (\$3,817) and Oasis House rent (\$3,168) are covered by these fees.
- Merchandise sales remain our greatest fundraiser with a profit of around \$10,000 at this stage with some \$2,000 still to come.
- 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 \$61,122 distributed to Public Libraries for Children's Book Week Programs. The acquittal for these funds is still to be completed.
- \$1,500 was donated to the Awards Foundation and \$5,000 donated to The Literature Centre for their *Celebrate Reading* Conference which was held in October 2012. In addition we provided a Conference Registration to the National CBCA Conference in Adelaide and also one to the Celebrate Reading Conference in Fremantle. These were allocated to two members on the basis of a draw from Expressions of Interest and cost \$790.00.
- A raffle held at The Children's Book Week Dinner raised \$645. The Committee agreed to increase that amount to \$750 to be donated to Mount Lawley Primary School to assist the restocking of their library destroyed in the school fire. That money is to be paid to the school during Term Four.
- In our Children's Book week expenditure the Make Your Own Story Book competition cost \$2074. There is no income for this event.

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

This year our overall membership dropped for the first time in a number of years in spite of gaining 19 new members. Membership fees brought in \$11,184.00.

Concession rates to cover Full time adult students, Concession card holders and Authors and Illustrators continued with an increase in the take up especially for authors and illustrators.

| Year | Personal | Institution | Life | Honorary | Total |
|------|----------|-------------|------|----------|-------|
| 2010 | 152* | 140 | 6 | 4 | 302 |
| 2011 | 152* | 143 | 6 | 4 | 305 |
| 2012 | 149* | 142 | 6 | 4 | 301 |

*Personal membership consists of

| | 2010 | 2011 | 2012 |
|------------------------|------|------|------|
| Personal (full paying) | 111 | 116 | 104 |

| | | | |
|-------------------------------|------------|------------|------------|
| Concession Card Holder | 11 | 8 | 9 |
| Author/Illustrator Concession | 29 | 26 | 35 |
| Full Time Student Concession | 1 | 2 | 1 |
| Total Personal members | 152 | 152 | 149 |

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 256 members, an increase of 13 on 2011. Unfortunately the service we use for our listserv is set to close in December 2012 and we are looking for a replacement. With such a large take up of this service it is important that this email information list be maintained in some form.

Muriel Barwell Award

Sue Wyche

Elaine Forrester is the recipient of the 2012 Muriel Barwell Award for Distinguished Service to Children's Literature in Western Australia. Elaine became a full time author in 1999 and has spent much of her time since then, presenting workshops and working as a writer-in-residence in WA, interstate and overseas. She has been a wonderful friend of the CBCAWA and promoter of Book Week where her support is 'hands on' with numerous presentations in schools and libraries in most parts of the state. Elaine has contributed at many writer's festivals and educational conferences. Since 1986 she has been a judge for the West Australian Young Writers' Competition and is a judge for the Tim Winton Award for Young Writers run by the City of Subiaco. She enjoys a wonderful rapport with young people, is willing to share her deep knowledge of writing and her commitment to promoting good books to young people is widely known.

WA Branch website, facebook and blog

Rita Blackburn and Rebecca Newman

This has been a year of consolidation of the WA Branch website, blog and Facebook page and the technical difficulties experienced in previous years uploading documents and images have been resolved. All major sections of the website were updated prior to the commencement of the 2012 school year and new information about events and documents were added throughout the year as appropriate.

Rebecca ably maintained the blog and Facebook page, ensuring that users were kept informed about relevant events and developments in the world of children's literature in Western Australia and beyond. By the end of September there were 134 Facebook group members and the blog had 329 visits for the month, indicating that these online communication tools are valued by WA members.

For the first time we have a Google analytics report providing statistics to show how the website is being used. Up until 10 October there were 1,101 Page Views and 789 unique Page Views. It is pleasing to note that only the NSW Branch site, catering to a much larger population, had more Page Views. The top 10 pages of the WA site by Page Views are shown in the following table.

Top Ten Pages of CBCA WA Branch Website for 2012 by Page View

| Page Name | Page Views | Web Address |
|-----------------------------------|-------------------|--|
| 1. Book Week Ideas | 1325 | wa.cbca.org.au/wabwideas.htm |
| 2. WA Authors and Illustrators | 865 | wa.cbca.org.au/waauthors.htm |
| 3. Programs for Children | 860 | wa.cbca.org.au/waprogramchildren.htm |
| 4. 2011 MYOSB Winners | 832 | wa.cbca.org.au/wamyosb2011.htm |
| 5. Merchandise | 647 | wa.cbca.org.au/wamerchandise.htm |
| 6. Annual Program of the CBCA WA | 587 | wa.cbca.org.au/waprogram.htm |
| 7. Books Reading and Young People | 538 | wa.cbca.org.au/wabooks.htm |
| 8. WA Branch Newsletter | 453 | wa.cbca.org.au/newsletter.htm |
| 9. A Night With Our Stars | 423 | wa.cbca.org.au/wastars.htm |
| 10. Join the CBCA WA | 328 | wa.cbca.org.au/wajoin.htm |

These statistics reveal that most users of the site are interested in educational resources and authors/illustrators. This is useful knowledge for planning for next year. The author and illustrator section,

in particular, needs revision in 2013 and adding to the book lists will also be worthwhile. Members are viewing the digital version of the newsletter, which is relevant when deciding on whether or not to provide an eNewsletter in the future.

Newsletter

Editor Teena Raffa-Mulligan

The newsletter continued as a 12-page full colour publication, mailed out to members five times per year and also remained available as a PDF on the WA Branch website with each issue available for download at no charge by the general public. Thank you to Sue Negus, Sue Scott and Jenni Woodroffe for their work with packing and mail-out of the print copies this year and to Gay Tierney for preparing the labels. Thank you also to Rebecca Newman for producing the September issue while I was overseas on holiday. Members have been surveyed for their views on a change to an electronic newsletter and the results of this will help the committee reach a decision about the future format of the newsletter.

Archives

Trish Montgomery

After the unpacking and sorting of the collection from storage in 2011, this year has been more of consolidation and general organisation. Sue Wyche has been focusing on establishing the Award winning book collection, with special emphasis on early titles and picture books. Membership details are an important component of the archive collection and Sue is also compiling a complete list of members in spread sheet format which will provide a quick and easy reference to these details. Because of the nature of volunteering, with members juggling a work/life balance there is still work to be done on the Grant documentation and general processing. The sub-committee would like to pay tribute to Sue Ruse who has now moved to Melbourne. Her contribution to the Archives is much appreciated. As always, processing the Archive collection is a work in progress and I thank the members who have devoted their time to this ongoing task.

Make Your Own Story Book Competition (MYOSB)

Coordinator Denise Robins

The 2012 MYOSB competition received 673 entries, 62 more than in 2011 and a wonderful achievement by those teachers, parents and students who supported the competition. Entries were received from four home-educated students, twenty-four private schools and thirty-six public schools. Eighteen country and forty-four metropolitan schools were represented.

We welcomed eight new volunteer judges, creating a judging team of fourteen dedicated people with a range of experience in children's literature. The judges selected twenty-one winning entries, including one from a home schooled student and twenty from a combination of six public and five private schools.

The entries demonstrated an excellent awareness of the current features of story and picture books with several entries including CDs, one entry with a 'dress as you read' doll and many using texture and textiles to create kinesthetic books. The winning entries were well-presented, combining a range of illustrative styles, imaginative ideas and engaging storylines, all evidence that students are well read and supported by families and teachers who nurture a love of literature, reading and writing.

The Make Your Own Story Book competition concluded on the 19th August with the recognition of the prizewinners at the Awards Ceremony at The Literature Centre in Fremantle. Twenty excited winners, proud parents and friends, special guests and CBC committee members enjoyed a delicious morning tea, which included fresh fruit, dips and vegetables subsidised by the Healthway Go for 2 & 5 program. Acting as official photographer, celebrated author Norman Jorgensen applied his amazing skills to record fabulous memories of the day for winners and guests alike.

Denise Robins, MYOSB Coordinator, welcomed the winners and their guests and was followed by Jenny Doust, Education Officer for The Literature Centre who spoke briefly about the Centre and congratulated the winners. Jan Nicholls (President) announced the 2012 Book of the Year Awards and introduced local author and illustrator James Foley. James, who received his own MYOSB award as a primary student entertained the audience with photos, quips and tips, and an on-the-spot illustration of Liev the lion from his recently released book *In the Lion*. Two prizewinners, Sean Li author of *The Three Colours* and Sara Suk-Udom author of *Paz*, shared their personal writing experiences and advice with a very appreciative audience. Each winner received a package containing book vouchers, Book Week and Healthway Go for 2 & 5 merchandise and individually designed certificates that incorporated the official Book Week artwork created by Nicki Greenberg.

The winning entries were displayed in The Place at the State Library and thanks go to Hilary Hatfield, who workshopped the entries with students who visited the library during Book Week.

The awards ceremony was a great success due to the contributions of our many supporters including Lesley Reece, Jenny Doust and Mailee Clarke from The Literature Centre and the CBCA WA committee members. A heartfelt thankyou to James Caffey and Heather Cooper from Westbooks, who continue to support the competition by acting as the entry collection point and to the following bookstores for their very generous donations of book vouchers for the prizewinners: Westbooks, Bookcaffe, MillPoint Caffe Bookshop, Beaufort Street Books, The Lane Bookshop, Child Education Services and Crow Books. Thanks also to Jason Vernaleo who designed both the program and winners' certificates and to our sponsors Healthway, Government of WA Department of Culture and the Arts and Lotterywest.

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 2012/13

Bev Jacobson

The WA Branch is very grateful to Bev Jacobson who stepped into the breach when Tehani Wessely had to withdraw half way through her judging term. Bev started reading in May and has rarely stopped since. She is currently up to book number 172 and declares that "I shall never again judge a book either by its cover, its blurb or the first chapter. Some of the most worthwhile reads have been those that do not immediately make themselves known. I love reading the books but do worry that I might be the only one that hates a book that everyone else loves. Fortunately, that has not yet happened and I find that only rarely is there general agreement about a book. I shall miss all this when my time as a judge comes to an end. It has been a huge privilege".

Short List and Judge's Talks

Ruth Nitschke

Unfortunately, owing to her relocation to Tasmania, Tehani Wessely, our WA judge was not available; however, we were able to use the wonderful talent and experience on our committee to provide two Short List talks in May, the first in the northern suburbs at Joondalup Public Library and the second, south of the Swan River at the AH Bracks Library in the City of Melville.

Each evening was attended by approximately 40 devotees of children's literature and it was hard to contain the enthusiasm of the speakers who gave their insights into the various titles. Favourites were proudly displayed and predictions given as to possible winners – something not possible for the judges, who must appear even-handed at all times.

Thank you to our five intrepid speakers who volunteered to immerse themselves in their Awards category and who spoke so passionately about the books: Chloe Mauger, Rebecca Newman, Cathy Corbitt, Joanna Andrew and Ruth Nitschke. Special thanks to Rebecca Marchenkov at Joondalup and Dominique Ward at AH Bracks for their enthusiasm and wholehearted support in hosting the evenings.

In late May, thanks to the wonders of technology and the wholehearted support of staff at The School of Isolated and Distance Education (SIDE) in Leederville we were able to do a live link-up with Tehani in Tasmania and hear firsthand our WA Judge's comments on the shortlisted titles. A small but very appreciative audience took advantage of this opportunity. In June, President Jan Nicholls gave a presentation on the shortlisted titles to a group of over 20 delegates at the School Library Conference held at Churchlands SHS.

Readers' Cup

Gail Spiers

The Readers' Cup quiz, based on books from three categories of the CBCA Book of the Year short list, began in 2005 as a trial between two schools. The following year the CBCA (WA Branch) Readers' Cup perpetual trophy was purchased and the event expanded to four Western suburbs schools. By 2008, invitations were extended to all schools that were institutional members of the CBCA (WA Branch) resulting in a mix of eight metropolitan, country, Catholic, Government and Independent schools participating in the event.

While the venue at the Christ Church Grammar School Chapel had been ideal, it was clear that large numbers of teams could not be comfortably accommodated on the stage and so the venue was moved to the Loreto Nedlands Performing Arts Centre in 2011. The 2011 Readers' Cup was highly successful thanks to the team effort of WA Branch members and the dedicated work of the teachers and librarians who trained their teams. However, it had become increasingly difficult to get schools to commit to entering the competition and then actually participating in the event with four schools withdrawing in 2010 leaving only six participating schools. In 2011, only three schools had entered the competition by the closing date and a great deal of lobbying was required to encourage the final nine schools to commit. With the retirement of the coordinator from teaching and from the Readers' Cup committee in 2012, it was decided not to continue the Readers' Cup. Guidelines have been established should the WA Branch decide to hold the Readers' Cup again in the future.

Children's Book Week

Children's Book Week Opening and Dinner

Liz Allen and Gay Tierney

The Children's Book Week and Opening Dinner was held on Friday evening 17th August at the Mt Lawley Golf Club with 107 attendees. The theme *Champions Read* was evident with CBCA merchandise, designed by Nicki Greenberg and the short list titles on display. MC Grant Stone welcomed the guests and read out CBCA Book of the Year Award Winning and Honour books in each of the categories. The President Jan Nicholls presented an address linked to the *Champions Read* theme and officially opened Children's Book Week 2012 in WA. This year we were privileged to have two interstate authors in Perth for Children's Book Week. Coral Tulloch and Leigh Hobbs were writers in residence at The Literature Centre and joined in our celebrations. Coral and Alison Lester's book *One Small Island: the Story of Macquarie Island* had been announced as the Winner of the Eve Pownall Award for Information Books earlier that day in Adelaide. WA author Meg McKinlay was our guest speaker and she shared various parts of her writing journey with the audience. The announcement of the Muriel Barwell Award for Distinguished Service to Children's Literature was a highlight and the winner was WA author Elaine Forrester, a most deserved recipient. There were some excellent raffle and door prizes announced with monies raised from the raffle to be presented to the library at Mt Lawley Primary School which was recently gutted by fire. Special thanks also go to Walker Books representative Margaret Van Dorssen, Alphabet Soup Editor Rebecca Newman and many committee members, who generously donated towards our raffle prizes. There were many positive comments about the evening, which was most satisfying for the committee.

Merchandise Sales

Merchandise Officer Eve Morrissey

Nikki Greenberg (the winner of Picture Book of the Year in 2011) produced Olympic-themed art work for the merchandise for Children's Book Week. The posters, badges and bookmarks featured quirky figures reading books whilst standing on podiums and the balloons were in the colours of the five Olympic rings. Once again, public and school libraries took advantage of the reduced price for multiple copies of the Book Week poster. PDF versions of 'Notable Australian Children's Books' and the 'Short List Book' were available for the first time and some people purchased these, as well as hard copies. Bags were not available this year and no one adversely commented on this. Overall orders were down 11% on last year. This was a disappointing result as the profit the Branch makes from the sale of merchandise raises funds that are reinvested to support the promotion of children's literature in Western Australia.

Grants program (Metropolitan and Regional Centres)

Mary Gimondo and Nola Allen

In the National Year of Reading, thousands of WA children, from toddlers to young adults, were engaged, entertained and inspired at Children's Book Week programs conducted in over 80 public libraries in thirty-two metropolitan and country regions across the state. One hundred WA authors, illustrators and storytellers were involved in over 430 events this year. In a unique "cultural exchange", Albany author Diane Wolfer visited Broome and remote community schools in One Arm Point, Djardarindgin/Lombadina, Beagle Bay and Bidyadanga; while emerging Kimberley graphic novelist Brenton McKenna met children in the Great Southern centres of Albany, Denmark and surrounding areas. Extensive outreach programs continue to feature strongly in all country regional programs, where for instance over 600 children met highly regarded author Ken Spillman as he toured throughout Narrogin, Wagin, Wandering, Boddington, Williams and Darkan. For many of these children, this was the first time that they had met an author or participated in Children's Book Week. Teacher feedback consistently attested to the value of author sessions in engaging their students with the writing process from the initial idea to publication. The Children's Book Week program for 2012 was made possible through the provision of funding of close to

\$60,000 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. Children's Book Week Events were conducted in the following metropolitan and country local regions:- Bayswater; Cambridge; Canning; Cockburn; Cottesloe; Fremantle; Gosnells; Joondalup; Kalamunda; Kwinana; Melville; Rockingham; South Perth; Stirling; Subiaco; Swan; Victoria Park; Vincent; Wanneroo; Albany/Denmark; Broome; Busselton; Carnarvon; Derby; South West region (comprised of Bunbury, Capel, Collie, Eaton, Harvey); Geraldton; Kalgoorlie; Mandurah; Murray/Pinjarra; Narrogin; Port Hedland; Wyndham-East Kimberley.

Other Events and Activities

A Night With Our Stars (ANWOS)

Coordinator Jenni Woodroffe

The ninth annual A Night With Our Stars was again held at Westbooks with a marquee enlarging the facilities. Nearly three quarters of our 180 attendees were repeat participants with many accompanied by colleagues from their institutions which helps facilitate enthusiasm and discussion back at the workplace. 22 presenters travelled from Broome, Albany, Margaret River, Dalyellup and North Dandalup as well as locally, and our audience included seven from Bunbury and four from Mandurah, as well as all areas of metropolitan Perth. Heather Zubek made her debut as our MC, and Cathy's Catering supplied refreshments with wine sponsorship from an anonymous donor and Kate Lamont. Cameron Montgomery supplied the publicity artwork and we thank the staff of Fremantle Press plus James Caffey and Heather Cooper of Westbooks for their sponsorship and support. Special thanks to Denise Robins and committee members for their continued loyalty and assistance, both on the night and with pre-event packing.

Book Discussion Group

Coordinator Gail Spiers

An enthusiastic group meets on the fourth Wednesday of each month to discuss a set book, recent 'good reads' and newly released children's books. Books chosen for discussion are generally YA titles or occasionally challenging children's novels by award-winning or renowned Australian authors. International award-winners, controversial or topical books, debut novels by WA authors or favourites recommended by group members are also included. From its inception in 2001 until early 2012, Sue Ruse guided the group and kept it abreast of new titles. Now that Sue has relocated to Victoria, Gail Spiers is the coordinator. A list of the titles discussed from 2001-2011 is available on the website and this information will be updated each year.

Acknowledgements and thanks

The WA Branch has an enviable reputation within the wider CBCA network as a harmonious and hard-working 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. Some committee members have battled significant health issues over the year yet still managed to fulfil their responsibilities. I thank them for that and wish them a full and speedy recovery.

It was a steep learning curve when I took it on but I have truly enjoyed my four years in the role of WA Branch President and learned much about the wider CBCA organisation as well as the individuals within it, whom I admire for their tireless dedication to the cause. Getting to know many authors and illustrators and being invited to launch their books have been just two of the highlights for me.

Each and every member of the WA Branch committee deserves credit for the contribution she has made in 2012 and in particular I thank the Executive team (Sue Scott, Ruth Nitschke, Chloe Mauger and Glenda Crothers) for their wisdom, friendship and support.

Jan Nicholls
President
7 November 2012