



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

ANNUAL REPORT 2013.

CBCA NATIONAL BOARD MEMBER for WA: Caro Kay

2013 COMMITTEE

**Executive Committee**

**President:** Chloe Mauger  
**Vice President:** Aniek Ragan\*  
**Past President:** Jan Nicholls  
**Secretary:** Ruth Nitschke  
**Treasurer:** Sue Scott  
**Executive Member:** Felicia Harris\*

**Committee Members**

Elizabeth Allen, Nola Allen, Joanna Andrew, Rita Blackburn, Pam Buselich, Sharon Coppin\*, Mary Gimondo, Trish Montgomery, Eve Morrissey, Rebecca Newman, Denise Robins, Gail Spiers, Gay Tierney, Dominique Ward\*, Sally Woffenden\*, Jenni Woodroffe and Sue Wyche.

**Subcommittees and Convenors:**

A Night with Our Stars (ANWOS):	Jenni Woodroffe
Archivist:	Trish Montgomery
Book Discussion Group:	Gail Spiers
Children's Book Week Opening and Dinner:	Liz Allen and Gay Tierney
Grants and Regional Centres:	Mary Gimondo and Nola Allen
Judges' Talks:	Ruth Nitschke
Make Your Own Storybook (MYOSB):	Denise Robins
Membership:	Gay Tierney and Sue Scott
Merchandise:	Eve Morrissey
Newsletter:	Sally Woffenden and Sharon Coppin
Penny Hutchens Fund:	Gail Spiers
Website, Facebook and Blog:	Rita Blackburn and Rebecca Newman
Outreach: HeARTlines Festival of Children's Illustration and Literature:	Chloe Mauger

**LIFE MEMBERS:**

Maxine Walker (deceased), Doreen Rossiter, Muriel Barwell OAM, Janet Griffin, Mary Gimondo, Grant Stone and Alison Gregg

**HONORARY MEMBERS:**

Margaret Allen          Stephen Carley          Carolyn Logan          Lesley Reece

**REPORTS:**

**President: Chloe Mauger**

I have pleasure in presenting this 2013 Annual Report to the Committee and members as a record of a busy and sometimes challenging year for the WA Branch. We welcomed five new people to the Committee (names marked with \* above) who readily took on roles in the Executive and the Committee, for which we thank them.

Four very successful major events were held, beginning in March with the 10<sup>th</sup> Annual *A Night with Our Stars*. Starry balloons flew over this year's Speakers - authors and illustrators who showcased their recently published works. Presenters of the past decade of ANWOS were also celebrated in the

historical booklet compiled by organiser Jenni Woodroffe. As she steps down from this role, we thank Jenni for the inspiration of ANWOS, which will continue under Joanna Andrew's guidance in 2014.

In June, WA Judge Bev Jacobson conducted three very interesting and engaging *Judge's Talks* in Midland, Melville and Leederville, to appreciative audiences who left these talks inspired and enlightened about the highlights and strengths of the Book of the Year Awards shortlisted titles.

*Make Your Own Storybook Competition*, coordinated by Denise Robins, continues to draw entries from school children all over the State. Guest speaker Sean E. Avery enlivened the happy and successful prize presentations to a delighted and appreciative audience of children and parents.

*The Children's Book Week Opening and Dinner* organised by Liz Allen and Gay Tierney assisted by Denise Robins was again a lively and entertaining event celebrating the BotY award winning and honour books. Author, artist and musician Matt Ottley enthralled the audience with his amusing and at times hair-raising experiences of 'getting published', while our ever-supportive MC Grant Stone kept the evening rolling along in fine style.

The resignation of our Editor due to other commitments meant that the February edition of the *Newsletter* was truncated. We thank Sally Woffenden and Sharon Coppin who were then appointed as the new Editors, and have successfully transitioned the Newsletter from print into its new online format. Three editions have been published, with a fourth in process to conclude the year. We thank Sue Scott who took on the time-consuming task of updating the Members' database for current email addresses, without which information the Newsletter could not be disseminated.

At the National level, the old CBCA National Council has been restructured into a Board with representative from each state Branch. Angela Briant has been elected as President of the CBCA Board, and we are very appreciative that Caro Kay has volunteered her professional expertise, enthusiasm and efficient services as our WA representative. The Board is naturally going through a complex and challenging period of restructure, as old systems are transformed and updated. This is an ongoing process, but the Board Members are to be congratulated on their dedicated work to move CBCA forward to become a more efficient organisation. Branch Presidents have been invited to the November meeting of the National Board (15<sup>th</sup> & 16<sup>th</sup> November) at which many important discussions will be held. The National Annual General meeting will be held on 16<sup>th</sup> December, at which time these issues and a new Constitution will be voted upon.

The long-standing Executive is undergoing a generational change. Sue Scott (Treasurer continuously since 2004, two years of which she was also President) and Ruth Nitschke (twice Secretary for a total of seven years) will be stepping down from the Executive, as will Jan Nicholls, who has completed four years as President and one as Past President. We acknowledge and applaud their dedication, professionalism, and passionate support of the WA Branch. Sue Scott is retiring from the CBCWA altogether and we will miss her wisdom, expertise and friendship. Rita Blackburn is also leaving the committee, and we thank her for her work and creativity in updating the website, leaving it in a positive state for the next Web Manager. We wish them both well, and hope to see them at future functions.

As I step down from my year as President, I thank all members of the CBCAWA Committee for their enthusiasm, dedication and warm support. The stability, passion, success and energy of the WA Branch has been acknowledged for years, but we must have a working Executive of five people in Constitutionally-designated roles to be a legal organisation. With a newly elected President, and myself as Past President we have a stable beginning, and we welcome new people to join us on the Executive and take up other vacant Committee roles, without which we cannot function. We look towards continuing all our rewarding events and important advocacy aims as we maintain our reputation for excellence while facing new challenges with new strategies. Thank you.

### Finance: Treasurer Sue Scott

The Branch has finished the year with a small increase in income over expenditure although at this stage the accounts have still to be audited.

Following is a brief summary:

- Membership is down slightly with subscriptions bringing in \$11,072.
- Newsletter costs have decreased dramatically to \$1433 with the move to an online form.
- Oasis House rent cost \$3,922.
- Merchandise sales remain our greatest fundraiser with a profit of just under \$10,000 at this stage with some \$900 outstanding.
- The Judges Talks and the Book Week Dinner covered costs and ANWOS had a small budgeted loss.
- The Grants Program has seen \$61,535 distributed to Public Libraries for Children's Book Week Programs. The acquittal for these funds is still to be completed.
- The Branch provided a Conference Registration to *Reading Matters* in Melbourne in May and also one to the *Celebrate Reading* Conference held in Fremantle in September. These were allocated to two members on the basis of a draw from Expressions of Interest and cost \$763.
- A raffle held at The Children's Book Week Dinner raised \$540. This amount was donated to IBBY Australia to help with their ongoing administration costs.
- The \$750 donation to the Mount Lawley Primary School from the 2012 Book Week Dinner was paid in this Financial Year.
- The Make Your Own Story Book competition cost \$1962. This is offset in part through the Children's Book Week Grants Program.
- \$200 was donated to the CBCA Awards Foundation.

Again the Branch finances are sound but thought will need to be given as to how much the Branch can afford to subsidise the position of Treasurer should no volunteer be found.

The audited accounts are provided as a separate document.

### Membership: Gay Tierney & Sue Scott

This year our overall membership dropped by 10 despite gaining 25 new members. Personal membership dropped by 12 with Institutions up by just 2.

Membership fees brought in \$11,072. An increase in fees is proposed for 2014.

Year	Personal	Institution	Life	Honorary	Total
2010	152*	140	6	4	302
2011	152*	143	6	4	305
2012	149*	142	6	4	301
<b>2013</b>	<b>137*</b>	<b>144</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>291</b>

\*Personal membership consists of

	2010	2011	2012	2013
Personal (full paying)	111	116	104	94
Concession Card Holder	11	8	9	11
Author/Illustrator Concession	29	26	35	32
Full Time Student Concession	1	2	1	0
<b>Total Personal members</b>	<b>152</b>	<b>152</b>	<b>149</b>	<b>137</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) ceased this year and we contracted Murray Ware from Object Media to provide a Mailing List Management Service. A database has been set up and all the membership details recorded. Although the service has not been fully tested we have been able to use it to distribute our online newsletter and other information to members.

### **Website: Rita Blackburn**

The WA Branch website, Blog and Facebook are now well-established and provide a useful means of communication for members. In the past 12 months to 15 October 2013, 14,728 page views and 12,330 unique page views were counted, indicating a significant number of visitors to the website. Once again, most users of the site were searching for Children's Book Week ideas and merchandise, educational activities for children such as Make Your Own Story Book, author/illustrator links and reading lists. It is important, therefore, to continue to develop these areas and keep them relevant. Only two new reading lists were uploaded in 2013, *Read across the universe*, to support the Book Week theme, and *Ruby*, which contains stories featuring a character called Ruby. Correcting an oversight, the WA Muriel Barwell Award was added to the National CBCA website in August, alongside the other State awards.

### CBCA WA Website usage October 15, 2012 – October 15, 2013 (provided by Murray Ware)

<b>Page Name</b>	<b>Page Views</b>	<b>Time on Page</b>	<b>Web Address</b>
MYOSB	2,562	02:08	<a href="#">/wamyosb.htm</a>
Book Week Ideas	2,355	03:29	<a href="#">/wabwideas.htm</a>
WA Home	1,277	01:42	<a href="#">/index.htm</a>
Merchandise	1,188	02:36	<a href="#">/wamerchandise.htm</a>
Programs for Children	942	00:17	<a href="#">/waprogramchildren.htm</a>
2012 MYOSB Winners	825	03:39	<a href="#">/wamyosb2012.htm</a>
Annual Program of the CBCA WA	638	00:17	<a href="#">/waprogram.htm</a>
Authors & Illustrators	626	01:33	<a href="#">/waaauthors.htm</a>
Reading Lists	561	02:36	<a href="#">/wareadinglists.htm</a>
Books & Young People	558	00:16	<a href="#">/wabooks.htm</a>
Committee	363	01:21	<a href="#">/wacommittee.htm</a>
Join	318	02:00	<a href="#">/wajoin.htm</a>

### **Facebook and Blog Reports: Rebecca Newman**

The WA Branch's Facebook group currently has 164 members made of up WA branch members, the general public, authors, illustrators and Australian publishers.

This year the committee member overseeing Facebook has shared posts from the blog, links of literary interest, links to the announcements of literary awards, local book-related events, and promotions of the Healthway Go for 2&5 message (who sponsor Children's Book Week for the WA Branch). Members have also put up posts of their own which usually involve promotions of their children's books or book-related events.

### **WA Branch Blog <http://wacbca.edublogs.org/>**

Posts to the blog this year included information about:

- upcoming book launches by WA authors and illustrators;
- children's book related events (such as the creation of the mural by WA illustrators at the State Library of WA);
- a link to the WA branch e-newsletter (on the website);
- ideas, activities and resources for Book Week 2013;

- Make Your Own Storybook information, and
- an advertisement for the upcoming AGM.

Number of blog visitors from January – May, approximately 65-100 per month; in July, 654; August 2291; September, 362; to 15<sup>th</sup> October, 123.

The majority of visitors were looking for and reading posts about ideas, activities and resources for Book Week.

### **Archives: Trish Montgomery**

2013 has been a year of consolidation and organisation of the CBCA (WA) Archives.

General processing has been completed, but fine tuning, recording and more appropriate housing for some of the collection is next on the agenda.

On-going projects include the development of the BotY Award winning book collection, finalisation of the Grant documentation and a more accessible membership list.

Time always seems to be the commodity hard to trap but I do thank Sue Scott, Sue Wyche and Chloe Mauger for their efforts over the year.

### **CHILDREN'S BOOK WEEK ACTIVITIES**

#### **CBW Opening and Dinner: Liz Allen, Gay Tierney and Denise Robins**

This year's Children's Book Week Opening and Dinner was held on Friday evening 16<sup>th</sup> August at the Mt Lawley Golf Club, with 94 attendees. The evening began with Grant Stone our MC welcoming the guests and sharing the CBCA Book of the Year Winning and Honour books in all categories. He then introduced the President Chloe Mauger who presented a welcome address and officially opened Children's Book Week 2013 in WA. The Committee was pleased to host our guest speaker this year, the talented author and illustrator Matt Ottley, who shared stories of growing up and adventures as a young man in outback Australia and parts of his writing journey with us. Matt spoke about his recent book *Tree: A Little Story about Big Things* with Danny Parker and the synergy they have developed in working together. As usual there were some excellent door and raffle prizes and monies raised from the raffle (\$540) were presented to IBBY (International Board on Books for Young People) Australia to assist their "non-profit organization which helps to build bridges to international understanding through children's books." Special thanks go to Walker Books representative Margaret Van Dorssen, Alphabet Soup Editor Rebecca Newman and committee members who contributed towards our raffle prizes.

#### **Grants and Metropolitan and Regional Centres: Mary Gimondo and Nola Allen**

Around 32,000 children, parents, teachers and librarians celebrated Children's Book Week in thirty metropolitan and country regions across the state. One hundred and one WA authors, illustrators and storytellers were involved in over 334 events this year. Tips from illustrators Gabriel Evans and Briony Stewart inspired budding authors and illustrators who participated in their interactive drawing workshops. While graphic novelist Shane McCarthy and author/wildlife photographer Michael Pelusey engaged their audiences with their different perspectives and insights into writing, illustrating and publishing. Interstate authors and illustrators, Craig Smith, Justin D'Ath, Boori Monty Prior, Meme McDonald and Kylie Dunstan presented over 50 sessions and visited several regional communities as part of the program. Children's Book Week provided children living in 15 outlying and remote communities, from Kalumburu to Kambalda, with their first opportunity to meet an author or illustrator. Over 1,400 Aboriginal children living in regional and remote WA participated in the program this year. Teachers commented on the high quality of the sessions, the relevance to the curriculum and the abilities of presenters to engage and inspire students about creative writing and the enjoyment of reading. The 2013 Children's Book Week program was supported through funding of over \$63,000 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; Cottesloe; Fremantle; Gosnells; Joondalup; Kalamunda; Kwinana; Melville; Rockingham; South Perth; Stirling; Subiaco; Swan; Victoria Park; Vincent;

Albany/Denmark; Augusta-Margaret River; Broome; Carnarvon; Derby; Geraldton; Kalgoorlie; Katanning; Murray/Pinjarra; Narrogin; Port Hedland; South West region (including Bunbury, Capel, Collie, Eaton, Harvey, Donnybrook); Wyndham-East Kimberley.

### **Merchandise: Eve Morrissey**

There was a slight increase in the number of school and public libraries placing orders for Children's Book Week merchandise this year which was pleasing after the decrease experienced in 2012. A total of 13,637 items were sold. Most of the orders were posted after the Packing Day on June 23 although orders continued to be received until Book Week. Many thanks to the members who helped on Packing Day ensuring that all was completed by lunchtime! The Library bags were popular although it has been suggested that calico would be more suitable than the synthetic material of this year's bags. Bob Graham's artwork on the merchandise was controversial with some thinking it was too young in appeal whilst others commented that the 'space' theme, *Read across the universe*, provided good scope for displays. Our thanks to the Merchandise Committee: Eve Morrissey, Liz Allen, Jan Nicholls, Sue Wyche, Sue Scott and Dominique Ward for the coordination of the merchandise.

### **Judge's Talks: Ruth Nitschke**

In 2013, the WA Awards judge, Bev Jacobson gave three talks during June to 94 attendees on this year's Shortlisted books. Assisted by a wonderfully informative power point presentation, developed by the national Awards Coordinators, Bev discussed not only the Short List titles but also outlined the extensive judging process that culminates on the third Friday in August with the Awards presentation, which was held this year at the National Library in Canberra.

Selecting a Short List of six titles in the five categories is a rigorous exercise requiring much discussion and numerous votes culminating not only in an Awards Short List of 30 titles but each year, in the publication of *Notable Australian Children's Books*, a valuable selection and historic resource for Australian children's literature, the use of which Bev promoted enthusiastically to those present. Special thanks to Aniek Ragan at the Midland Public Library (City of Swan), Dominique Ward at the A.H. Bracks Library (City of Melville) and Liz Allen at the School of Isolated & Distance Education (SIDE) for so willingly hosting the talks.

### **Book of the Year Awards Judges**

We give grateful thanks to **Bev Jacobson**, who has recently completed her term of judging books published in 2012; and to Incoming Judge: **Anne-Marie Strother** who is currently busy reading books published in 2013. These judges volunteer many hundreds of hours to the daunting, challenging but ultimately inspiring and rewarding task of reading some 350-plus books each year over their 2-year term.

## **OTHER EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES**

### **A Night with Our Stars (ANWOS): Jenni Woodroffe**

The special celebratory occasion of the 10<sup>th</sup> annual A Night with Our Stars was held at Westbooks on Thursday, 7<sup>th</sup> March. President Chloe Mauger welcomed about 190 people who were greeted with star balloons and a booklet on the origins and development of ANWOS over the past decade. Heather Zubek was an exuberant MC, keeping presenters to a very tight timeline with her duck whistle. Our 16 presenters came from the metropolitan Perth and Margaret River, but Kyle Hughes-Odgers responding to a call from the National Gallery of Victoria and Julia Lawrinson's last minute apology due to illness prevented them from joining us. Our audience travelled from Broome, Bunbury, Carnarvon, Geraldton and Mandurah, as well as from all areas of the metropolitan area. It was pleasing that this year a number of Regional Librarians were able to attend.

CBCA member Caz Williams kindly donated the artwork for our A4 flyer, programme and booklet giving the history of the origins and development of ANWOS with a Roll of Honour listing all previous 120 presenters who had appeared in the past decade. Copies of the booklet were sent to former presenters who were not at the event. Cathy's Kitchen and Catering excelled themselves, providing excellent service and superb food. Again, many thanks to: our anonymous supplier of wines.

Thanks to Committee members who contributed in so many ways to the success of this starry evening – they ensured catering and housekeeping flowed smoothly; packed the 200 delegate bags; decorated the marquee; “manned” the registration desk; wrapped and sold raffle tickets; took photos and publicised the event. Particular thanks go to Joanna Andrew for picking up the baton to ensure this premier event in the local children’s literature calendar continues into the future so that CBCA WA will maintain its mission of Engaging the Community with Literature for Young Australians. Her support, combined with that of the Presidents and Committee during the past 10 years, has been invaluable.

We acknowledge and thank sponsors and supporters: James Caffey, Heather Cooper and Westbooks staff for their help and assistance; to Fremantle Press, sponsors from the outset, who contributed \$500 towards publicity and printing costs for the 2013 event; and to Scholastic, Walker Books, Rebecca Newman and Hachette for contributions of books for raffle prizes.

### **Book Discussion Group: Gail Spiers**

During 2013, the Book Discussion Group met on the 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday of the month at the home of Myrtle Spiers. Of the ten Young Adult books discussed, eight were by Australian authors, one by an American author and one by an English author. We were honoured to have WA authors Dianne Touchell and A.J. Betts as guest speakers to talk about their recently published books. The April meeting was devoted to discussions about the Book of the Year shortlisted titles. This was a particularly informative event as different members of the group came prepared to review different titles. Anyone with an interest in Children’s and Young Adult books is welcome to attend whether or not they are CBCA members. Many thanks to Rita Blackburn for keeping information about the Book Discussion Group up to date on the CBCA WA Branch website.

### **Make Your Own Storybook Competition (MYOSB): Denise Robins**

This competition has been conducted by CBCA WA for over thirty years and continues to engage many young authors and illustrators. In 2013, entries were received from 25 private/independent schools and 20 public schools from across WA, from Albany, Denmark, Collie, Bunbury, Kalgoorlie and Broome as well as from metropolitan areas. There were 86 entries in the Year 2-3 category, 167 from Years 4-5, 315 from Years 6-7, and 87 from Year 8 students, being a total of 672 entries. There were interesting varieties of binding and cover styles with illustrations in a range of media including photographs, pencil, watercolour, charcoal, texta and collage using a range of craft materials and textiles. The 14 volunteer judges who gave of their time and wisdom, reported that they had been transported on magical journeys with both fierce and friendly dragons, wizards and magic, as well as encountering many stories featuring animals. Through these books, readers travelled the world, learning life-long lessons and making friends. The judges were thrilled with the stories, deeming that some were “good enough to publish”.

Guest speaker Sean E. Avery, a talented graphic designer, sculptor and author/illustrator of children’s books, entertained and enthralled the audience before awarding their prizes. We sincerely thank our sponsors Healthway and Go2&5; The Department of Culture and the Arts; and Lottery West. Thanks to Director Lesley Reece and staff of The Literature Centre for the use of such an appropriate and delightful venue. Also thanked are the following Bookshops for donating book vouchers: Westbooks; Bookcaffe; Child Education Services; The Lane Bookshop; Millpoint Caffe and Crow Books.

### **Penny Hutchens Fund: Gail Spiers**

The 2013 Penny Hutchens Fund recipient was CARAD (Coalition for Asylum Seekers, Refugees and Detainees). Gail Spiers, with suggestions from WA Branch members, selected titles that reflect the refugee experience as well as titles with a distinctly Australian flavour to assist in early literacy teaching. The books will be housed in a reference library and used in the Opening Doors program which links volunteer tutors to children of refugee backgrounds. Chloe Mauger made a presentation to the CARAD Chairperson, Eira Clapton, who was very grateful for the gift of books and said they will

provide many opportunities to engage, inspire, encourage, educate and entertain members of the CARAD community.

## **OUTREACH**

### **HeARTlines Children's Literature and Book Illustration Festival: Chloe Mauger**

The 2013 HeARTlines Festival ran from 7<sup>th</sup> June to 14<sup>th</sup> July, with Joanna Andrew as Guest Speaker at the outstanding Opening Art Exhibition curated by Cristy Burne. Showcased were beautiful and inspiring works from Wendy Binks, Rebecca Cool, Moira Court, James Foley, Kyle Hughes-Odgers, Sonia Kretchmar, Frane Lessac, Norma MacDonald, Sonia Martinez, Matt Ottley, Brian Simmons and Briony Stewart. The Schools Program each Wednesdays presented workshops by Sonia Martinez, Chris Owen, James Foley, Meg McKinlay, Wendy Binks, Danny Parker, Briony Stewart and Mark Greenwood. 114 students from Eastern Hills schools and 10 home-shooled students enthusiastically joined in workshop activities at the Mundaring Arts Centre (MAC) while Matt Ottley and Julia Lawrinson conducted sessions at Helena College to 300 students. In all, during the month-long HeARTlines there were 1547 visitors to the Schools Program and the Art Exhibition with an additional 138 participants attending the weekend Public Programs. MAC and the Mundaring Shire are to be congratulated for this outstanding Festival which reaches many children, parents and teachers who would not otherwise experience working with authors and illustrators, and gaining insights into the processes and joys of writing and illustrating. Thanks to Jenny Haynes and Clare Stroud for organising the Festival and for supplying these statistics. CBCA WA supports HeARTlines which so successfully embodies our aims of *Engaging the community with literature for young Australians*.

### **Acknowledgements and thanks**

The WA Branch has been a stable, positive and proactive group for the past decade or more, with the ongoing support of many long-standing members as well as new and active committee members who work together in a spirit of warm collegiality and cooperation to share our passion for children's literacy with the wider community. Every member of this committee deserves acknowledgement and thanks for their many contributions to the work of the Branch in 2013. In particular, I thank the Executive team of Sue Scott, Ruth Nitschke, Aniek Ragan, Jan Nicholls and Felicia Harris for their friendship, insights and support during the past 12 months.

Chloe Mauger  
6<sup>th</sup> November, 2013.