

CBCA WA Book Discussion Group - 2013 Highlights

Guest Author - Dianne Touchell

It was a pleasure to welcome Dianne Touchell to our March meeting to discuss her debut novel *Creepy and Maud* which, to our delight, was shortlisted in the CBCA Older Readers Book of the Year Awards the following month.

Dianne was generous with her time and insights, describing growing up in Fremantle, some years living in California and Utah and her love of reading and writing for pleasure from an early age.

'It was interesting to hear that Dianne's love of reading was sparked by a really well resourced primary school library and a dedicated, sympathetic teacher.' Gay Tierney



***Creepy and Maud* Discussion: Kea Sheppard, Sue Williamson, Claire Snowball, Sue Wyche, Karen Goddard, Ruth Nitschke, Marian Hillam, Gail Spiers, Sally Woffenden, Gay Tierney, Sharon Coppin, Loretta Young, Rita Blackburn, Dianne Touchell (seated)**

The 2013 Book of the Year Short List Discussion

An enthusiastic group of twelve met to share and discuss the 2013 CBCA Book of the Year Short List in April. Many came prepared to talk about particular titles and some shared picture books with the group which made for an informative and entertaining evening. See Book of the Year Short List – 2013 <http://cbca.org.au/Shortlist2013.htm>



Book of the Year Short List Discussion: Loretta Young, Margaret Robinson, Gail Spiers, Ka-Mei Rogers, Diane Henderson, Denise Robins, Karen Goddard, Chloe Mauger, Lefki Kailis, Jenni Woodroffe, Sharon Coppin

Guest Author – A. J. Betts

We were delighted to welcome Amanda Betts to our October meeting to discuss her third novel *Zac and Mia* which won the Text Prize for Young Adult and Children's Writing in 2012.

Amanda talked about her work as an English teacher with the Hospital School Services in Perth and the idea for the novel coming from one of her students on the oncology ward. She also talked about the writing process and the changes that occurred from unpublished manuscript to published book.

'I so much enjoyed the book and hearing Amanda talk about it and being able to discuss it with her added to the experience. I'm delighted that it will be published overseas. What a wonderful acknowledgement of her work and a well-deserved opportunity for her.' Diane Henderson



***Zac and Mia* Discussion: Sally Woffenden, Louis Blackwell, Jenni Woodroffe, Karen Goddard, Denise Robins, Sharon Coppin, Ruth Nitschke, Aniek Ragan, Diane Henderson, Denise Johnston, Amanda Betts, Sue Wyche, Chloe Mauger, Trish Montgomery**