



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

Annual Report April 2018 - March 2019

LIFE MEMBERS

Muriel Barwell OAM
Grant Stone

Mary Gimondo

Alison Gregg

HONORARY MEMBERS

Margaret Allen
Lesley Reece AM

Stephen Carley

Carolyn Logan

2018 COMMITTEE

Executive Committee:

President: Jan Nicholls
Vice President: Denise Robins
Past President: Sue Stopher

Treasurer: Suzanne Pearse
Secretary: Elizabeth Allen
Ex Officio: Chloe Mauger

CBCA National Board Representative: Angela Briant

Committee Members:

Nola Allen, Joanna Andrew, Lorreen Brand, Shiarné Coole, Sharon Coppin, Dee Cunninghame, Jodie Davidson, Mary Gimondo, Felicia Harris, Trish Montgomery, Joanne Morrell, Aniek Ragan, Gail Spiers and Sally Woffenden.

ANWOS Convenor: Joanna Andrew
Archivist: Trish Montgomery
Book Discussion Group: Gail Spiers
Donations & Gifts: Jan Nicholls
Facebook Coordinator: Jodie Davidson
Grants Officer: Mary Gimondo
Membership Officer: Sharon Coppin
Merchandise Officer: Trish Montgomery

MYOSB Coordinator: Denise Robins
Newsletter Editor: Joanne Morrell
Muriel Barwell Award: Gail Spiers
WA Judges: Anne-Marie Strother, Younger Readers. Ruth Campbell Hicks, Early Childhood
Judges' Talk Coordinator: Felicia Harris
Website Manager: Aniek Ragan

Subcommittees

A Night With Our Stars (ANWOS)
Archives
Book Discussion Group
CBCA Book Week Opening and Dinner
Donations
Facebook
Grants and Regional Centres

Make Your Own Story Book (MYOSB)
Membership
Merchandise
Muriel Barwell Award (Biennial – even years)
Penny Hutchens Fund (Biennial – odd years)
Newsletter
Judges' Talks
Website

From the WA Branch President **Jan Nicholls**

It is my pleasure to present this Annual Report (which covers the period from the last AGM held in April 2018 to the end of March 2019) to our committee and members as a record of another busy, productive and successful year for the WA Branch. When we tally the hours committee members spend behind the scenes on administrative work as well as on organising events and activities it really is an impressive total and I thank everyone on the committee most sincerely for their ongoing efforts.

The WA Branch is truly fortunate to have such dedicated volunteers and their contributions are much appreciated. At the 2018 AGM Felicia Harris stepped down as Vice President with Denise Robins taking on that role and Joanne Morrell became our Newsletter Editor. In 2018 we farewelled Dee Cunninghame who resigned after two years for health reasons and we welcomed two new committee members Lorreen Brand and Shiarne Coole. Both were already involved as MYSOB judges but joined the team and immediately volunteered for all sorts of other tasks. Sadly for us, changes in her day job and a commitment to further study meant that Shiarne resigned in October 2018.

Early in 2019 Suzanne Pearse, Joanne Morrell and Joanna Andrew announced their intention to step down from their current positions as Treasurer, Newsletter Editor and ANWOS Convenor respectively at the 2019 AGM. We shall be sad to see them go and are extremely grateful for the support they have given the WA Branch. Joanna Andrew deserves particular mention for her outstanding commitment and long service which began when she attended her first meeting on 19 June 1996 and includes holding the position of WA Branch President for three years from 2000-2002.

On a very sad note we record the passing of Myrtle Spiers on Sat 26 May 2018, aged 91. Myrtle was a much loved and respected Honorary Member of the CBCA (WA Branch) and a major donor to the CBCA Awards Foundation.

The WA Branch thanks Ruth Campbell Hicks (Early Childhood) and Anne-Marie Strother (Younger Readers) for their reading marathons as Book of the Year judges and Anne-Marie who continued in 2018 (Older Readers) and Felicia Harris who took on the role of Younger Readers judge. Judges for 2020/2021 were recently announced with Sandi Parsons and Jan Pocock from WA being selected to read in the Early Childhood and Younger Readers categories respectively. We are sincerely grateful to all these volunteers for offering their expertise and supporting CBCA in this important way.

Being WA Branch President offers many wonderful opportunities to connect with the wider children's literature community and I was honoured to be asked to address Rossmoyne Rotary Club in September and the Emanon group in Karrinyup in November to tell them about my life in books generally and CBCA in particular. Both talks were well received. In July WritingWA invited me to be a panellist at their forum discussing the art of presentation and in November I met with CEO Sharon Flindell to offer suggestions as to how their Literati database could be redesigned to become a professional shopfront for WA authors and illustrators. In early March 2019 I represented the Branch at an information session by writingWA on the future direction of the organisation and the exciting plans they have in the pipeline.

The Branch continues to support the Paper Bird Fellowship, a wonderful initiative by Paper Bird Director Jennifer Jackson to offer free studio space to an emerging author/illustrator, and The Literature Centre (TLC) which celebrated its 25th anniversary in 2018. On behalf of the Branch I was happy to write a letter of support for their grant application to run the Australian Storytellers Festival in April 2019 and thrilled to report that it was successful. TLC also offered a Travelling Suitcase containing books, information and resources on author Jackie French to the WA Branch and we are currently in the process of deciding how to maintain and manage this resource and how best to share it with our members.

In May 2018 I represented the WA Branch at the 2018 National CBCA AGM in Canberra and met with my Branch President counterparts from the other states and territories. The National Board had appointed various taskforces and subcommittees to work towards the challenge of moving our organisation forward towards a OneCBCA model, however, following much discussion, the majority of Branch Presidents felt that they could not support the model and notified the Board accordingly. We are currently at a stalemate on this matter but hopeful that collectively we can find a solution and move forward. The Branch Presidents feel there is room for improvement in terms of communication from the Board and the apparent lack of consultation on recent matters such as merchandise sales, changes to the Notables and the partnership with Booktopia has generated much debate. The 2019 CBCA National AGM is scheduled to take place in Canberra on Friday 31 May and I am planning to attend as the WA Branch representative. It is hoped that both Board and Members (ie the Branches) can work collaboratively and positively at this meeting to find a mutually acceptable way to move forward.

Finance Suzanne Pearse, Treasurer

The Branch has finished the year with a surplus of \$11,100.72 of expenditure over income, a much better result than the deficit of 2017. The surplus is the result of a year of deliberate constrained spending being ever mindful of the volatile situation of our funding.

The committee is to be praised for their commitment to finding ways to host events that broke even or made a profit. Two of the main contributing factors were the savings made from the once-off contribution

by the National CBCA to the costs to attend the National AGM and the decrease in MYOSB expenses incurred from hosting two special 40th anniversary celebration events in 2017.

The following is a summary:

Membership was up \$451.90 with contributions bringing in \$10,896.01.

We received a saving of \$531.72 due to the bargaining power of the CBCA National Insurance arrangement.

Rent at Oasis House represents a major operating expense \$6,150.32. We were advised of a rent increase in 2018 from a base charge of \$426 per month plus extra meeting charges to a flat rate of \$512.56 per month. This has resulted in an increase of \$1968.68.

Merchandise sales remain our greatest fundraiser with a profit of \$6,904.66.

The CBCA Book Week Opening & Dinner made a profit of \$199.00.

ANWOS generated a profit of \$1196.24. This was only possible thanks to donations towards the cost of venue hire and donations of wine.

Each event organiser has been very successful in keeping costs down to the absolute minimum and reducing their operating costs.

The Grants Program has seen \$74,500 distributed to Public Libraries for CBCA Book Week Programs. Funds raised from the raffles at ANWOS and the CBCA Book Week Dinner (a total of \$1,178.50) have been held over to contribute to the Penny Hutchens Memorial Fund for 2019.

Accounting and Bookkeeping costs increased \$233.09. These costs should decrease as all parties become more confident with the use of MYOB online for invoicing and receipting of memberships and merchandise.

The decision was made not to raise the cost of membership fees for 2019. This and other event charges may need to be reassessed for 2020.

Changes to the funding structure and reporting authorities could potentially result in reduced funding for 2019. Uncertainty with future funding will continue and as a result we will need to remain vigilant and responsible about how we spend and distribute our member's funds to ensure a sustainable future.

Having returned a surplus for this reporting period we are in a sound financial position and I am confident we will be able to meet all our financial responsibilities.

The audited accounts are provided as a separate document.

Membership Sharon Coppin

At the end of 2018, there were 231 fully paid members; an increase of 37 from 2017.

Membership Categories:

Personal	59
Concessional	41
Institutional	131

Membership reminders re payments, changes in contact details and any other updates, are sent via our newsletters, mailing lists and Facebook and have produced positive results. In September 2018 a decision was made to extend the concessional rate to include WA Branch supporting bookstores and therefore encourage them to join the Branch.

Oasis Lotteries House Chloe Mauger

During early 2018, Oasis House was urgently seeking new tenants to fill vacancies in two suites, when previous tenants were compelled to leave as a consequence of Government funding cutbacks to Not-for-profit organisations. Allergy Support Hub took up one office in July, and in August, PwDWA leased the other vacant suite for one year. At the end of 2018, current tenants are: Fullness of Life, LinkWest, People with Disabilities WA, Allergy Support Hub, and CBCA WA, with two independent General Members to bring the Management Committee to the six tenant representatives required to attend Board Meetings. A part-time employee from LinkWest has taken on the extra hours to cover the position of Building Manager.

Muriel Barwell Award Gail Spiers

The recipient of the 2018 Muriel Barwell Award for Distinguished Service to Children's Literature was the current President of the Children's Book Council of Australia (WA Branch), Jan Nicholls. Jan was presented with the award – a framed certificate and a beautiful sculptured bowl crafted from West Australian timber - at the CBCA Book Week dinner on 17 August. The citation may be viewed on the WA Branch website. As Muriel was unable to attend the dinner, a morning tea was organised in October to provide an opportunity for Muriel to congratulate Jan in person and to meet the previous recipients of the award in her name: Peter Williams – 2006, Mary Gimondo - 2008, Frané Lessac – 2010, Elaine Forrestal – 2012, Jenni Woodroffe – 2014, Celia Cole – 2016, Jan Nicholls- 2018. All were able to attend except for Elaine who sent apologies from France. Thank you to Liz Allen and Nola Allen for their assistance in

deciding the recipient of the 2018 award and sincere thanks to Sue Wyche for her many years of service as the convener of the Muriel Barwell Award.

Website Aniek Ragan

Aniek has been working with Murray Ware from the National Communications committee to facilitate migration to the National website but progress is slow. In the meantime Aniek continues to maintain the current WA Branch website and relies on data received from the relevant subcommittees to keep it as up to date as possible.

Donations and Gifts Suzanne Pearse

Members of the subcommittee Jan Nicholls, Denise Robins, Liz Allen, Felicia Harris, Angela Briant and Sue Stopher joined Suzanne in April 2018 to form guidelines for the Branch providing a consistent and sustainable approach to matters such as allocation of complimentary tickets for events including the CBCA Book Week Dinner, recognition of Long Service by committee members and distribution of funds raised from raffles.

Facebook Jodie Davidson

Jan Nicholls, Jodie Davidson, Felicia Harris, Joanna Andrew, Rebecca Newman and Samantha Hughes are all currently listed as administrators of the WA Branch Facebook page. Although Samantha initially set up the page she no longer has any active involvement in its administration. At the end of 2017 the Facebook membership stood at 679 members. The current membership total is 861 with the majority of WA Members located in Perth.

The most popular posts throughout 2018 in terms of being viewed most often and/or commented upon were those with information about WA Branch events, celebrating book awards, publicising the work of authors, illustrators and publishers, promoting book launches or alerts to news in the wider world of children's literature. Facebook traffic increased with the July/August (pre CBCA Book Week) period showing an increase of almost double the number of comments and reactions. During the August/September (post CBCA Book Week) period reactions increased by two thirds compared with May/June statistics.

A question and answer system was set up for new members ascertaining their place of residence and specific involvement with children's books to assist with accepting their request for membership to the page. This has been most beneficial in preventing a small number of requests from suspect sources.

Newsletter Joanne Morrell

At the beginning of 2018 we put out a call for a new Editor and Joanne Morrell was appointed. After a transition period working with outgoing Editor, Mel Christiansen, Joanne took over from the June 2018 edition and was ably assisted by the proofreading team of Jan Nicholls, Denise Robins and Chloe Mauger. In January 2019 Joanne announced her intention to step down from the position but expressed willingness to assist with a handover once a new Editor is appointed.

Archives Trish Montgomery

Processing work on the WA Branch Archive collection continued at a steady pace during 2018 although there is still a lot of work to be done. Sue Stopher is working on the creation of a record of Committee Members and positions held. This document will make research far more efficient and the results accurate. 2017 official documentation consisting of Annual and Financial Reports, AGM Minutes, Newsletters and Memorabilia was sent to the National Archivist. Thank you to Chloe Mauger for her assistance.

Make Your Own Story Book (MYOSB) Denise Robins

The competition closed on Friday June 8 with 786 entries received.

121 individual entries:	6 Secondary (4 metropolitan and 2 country)
105 Primary (88 metropolitan and 12 country)	36 Private/Independent schools:
16 Secondary (all metropolitan)	30 Primary (27 metropolitan and 3 country)
30 Government schools:	6 Secondary (all metropolitan)
24 Primary (14 metropolitan and 10 country)	

Thanks again to Westbooks for being the collection point. The first sort of entries was held Sunday 10 June at Oasis House with the MYOSB judges meeting taking place on Thursday 14 June at Oasis House. There were 18 judges – 16 experienced and 2 new to the task. They were a mix of teachers, librarians, authors and illustrators. 15 judges attended the meeting.

The second sort (of non-winning entries) was held on Sunday 22 July at Oasis House

Winners were contacted through schools or (in the case of individual entries via parents) during the week beginning July 23.

The Awards Ceremony was held on Sunday 19 August at The Literature Centre in Fremantle with 140 guests and 22 out of 24 winners attending.

Guest speaker was Albany based author Sian Turner who is a previous MYOSB winner.

Ceremony photographs (taken by Jan Nicholls and Norman Jorgensen) and photographs of covers and pages from the winning entries were uploaded to the CBCA WA website after the event.

Thank you to all supporting CBCA WA committee members. The WA Branch also thanks The Literature Centre and our CBCA Book Week sponsors Healthway and their *Go for 2&5* program. Sincere thanks to Beaufort Street Books, Child Education Services, Crow Books, The Lane Bookshop, Millpoint Caffe Bookshop, Paper Bird Books & Arts and Westbooks for donations of gift vouchers.

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.

Short List and Judges' Talk Felicia Harris

In order to trial a new day and time and to accommodate the fact that both Judges - Ruth Campbell-Hicks (Early Childhood) and Anne-Marie Strother (Younger Readers) - live well outside the metro area, the Judges' Talk took place on Sunday 27th May 2018 at the School of Isolated and Distance Education (SIDE) in Leederville.

We thank Angela Briant and the Independent Education Union (IEU) who kindly provided shortlisted books for this event. The event was well attended with 37 participants. Both Judges were insightful and engaging and were happy to answer many questions from the floor. Trish Montgomery provided a display of the 2018 CBCA Book Week *Find Your Treasure* merchandise designed by Anna Walker. Professional Development certificates were available on request.

Thank you to SIDE, the SIDE Library Resource Centre staff, the CBCA WA Committee Members, and all who attended this successful event.

CBCA Book Week

CBCA Book Week Opening and Dinner Denise Robins and Sally Woffenden

The Children's Book Week Opening and Dinner was held on Friday 17th August 2018 in the Ambrose Estate room at the Wembley Golf Club with 131 guests attending. The CBCA Book Week theme *Find Your Treasure* was reflected in the costumes and attire worn, table and room decorations and red carpet photographs.

President Jan Nicholls officially declared CBCA Book Week open by announcing the CBCA Book of the Year winning and Honour Books. Jan later returned to the podium to be celebrated as the seventh winner of the Muriel Barwell Award for Distinguished Service to Children's Literature, a presentation made on behalf of Muriel by Award Coordinator Gail Spiers.

Amanda Betts was an entertaining speaker, regaling the audience with tips from her recent Hollywood experiences. Signed copies of her latest book *Hive* (donated by Amanda and Pan MacMillan) were presented as prizes.

We thank those who donated items for the door and raffle prizes, including CBCA WA committee members, Rebecca Newman, Walker Books, Arbonne consultant Bella Freeman and Magabala Books. The raffle raised \$650, which will be directed towards a program supporting quality children's literature. The dinner showed an overall profit of \$199.

A survey was conducted immediately after the event to source feedback for 2019 planning. Results were positive with some excellent feedback and suggestions. A follow up meeting was held with Kate Boylson (Ambrose Estate) on 24 August to discuss the event successes and some concerns. A provisional booking was made for the 2019 Dinner and this was confirmed after the CBCA WA Planning Day on November 17th, subject to venue hire fee and other conditions.

The 2018 CBCA Book Week Dinner was truly an experience to be treasured and we give special thanks to everyone who made the event a success.

Merchandise Trish Montgomery

Anna Walker an illustrator whose images are inspired by the tiny details in the world around her created the beautiful art work to complement the 2018 theme of *Find your treasure*.

As this was my second year in the role, some changes occurred to improve procedures.

The order form brochure was redesigned to create a visual reference to the items on sale and a more streamlined procedure for clients. Input by Jodie Davidson was invaluable.

Another change was to hold a separate Public Library pack scheduled a week earlier than the main packing day. This allowed a more focused approach on the bigger orders and sufficient time for delivery and enabling invoices to be processed prior to the end of the financial year, a requirement for the majority of Public Libraries.

The CBCA Book Week Handbook was discontinued, and new items of wristbands and themed pens were introduced. A significant change took place with the bookmark by way of a much cheaper option with no reduction in quality.

Overall orders were down from 344 in 2017 to 304 in 2018 but profit was up by 12.5% (Sales Analysis below). Presumably more schools are ordering through the National eStore (no dollar benefit to the Branch), but it is not yet possible to extract data to confirm this. Public Libraries are still supporting the Branch method of ordering. Due to the new pricing structure bookmark sales reached 43000 which was a huge PR exercise as well as recognising our authors and illustrators as the shortlisted titles are listed on the reverse. All 304 invoices raised were paid in full.

The workload of the Merchandise Coordinator extends over a period of six months, but the assistance, cooperation, and collegiality shown by the committee on both packing days made this role one of fulfilment. Thanks are also extended to Merchandise Sub Committee members Jan Nicholls and Liz Allen who are always there to offer sage advice when needed. The diligence of Liz in managing the mail orders and deliveries through SIDE was exemplary and working with Suzanne Pearse on matters financial, a pleasure.

CBCA (WA) Merchandise Sales 2018

Item	2016	2017	2018	Comment on 2018
Poster – Book Week	963	963	868	Disappointing drop as the poster is the main item of promotion. Figures disguise a bulk purchase by IEUA
Poster – Short List	333	340	328	In keeping with previous and current sales overall
Handbook	117	94	N/A	No enquiries as to the ceasing of hard copy publication
Bookmarks – set of 10	770	733	43,180	Exponential increase due to option of 30 or 200 bundles, at a very competitive price with no reduction in quality
Badge	889	881	1268	Increase perhaps due to the option of a bundle of 10 as well as purchasing singularly
Book Week stickers	771	828	683	Considerable decline. Stickers did not accurately reflect the artwork or theme
Bunting	325	402	438	Figures disguise an overall drop in sales but due to a bulk purchase by the IEUA, surplus stock reached schools
Pens			432	Much higher sales than expected
Wristbands			200	Ordered 200 and surprised to sell all, quality inferior
Award Stickers	234	193	136	Significant decline but Schools and Libraries do hold ongoing stock
Notable Stickers	28	59	87	Indicates an Increased awareness of the Notable Books

Note: Items used for displays, promotions and given to our supporting bookstores are in addition to the figures shown in the above table.

Sales Analysis

Client	2017	2018
Public Libraries	49	51
Independent Schools	41	37
Catholic Education Schools	61	50
Government Schools	183	161
Sundry Sales	10	5
TOTAL	344	304

It is always a pleasure to see the creativity the CBCA Book Week theme inspires and we are grateful to those in schools and libraries who shared their displays on our Facebook page, along with photos of some impressive costumes and book-related events, Special mention must be made of local author/illustrator Briony Stewart for the wonderful tradition she has started with her Book Week Bub posts. Starter packs of merchandise were presented free of charge to our WA Branch supporting bookstores.

Grants program (Metropolitan and Regional Centres)

Mary Gimondo and Nola Allen

The 2018 CBCA Book Week program was generously supported by the State Government of Western Australia through the Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries, Lotterywest, Healthway Go for 2 & 5 and the Western Australian Branch of the Children's Book Council of Australia.

CBCA Book Week (BW) 2018 was celebrated nationally from the 18th to the 24th of August with the theme Find Your Treasure. 30,264 children, parents, teachers and librarians celebrated BW in thirty-six metropolitan (23,003) and country regions (7,261) in 86 libraries and community resource centres (CRCs) across the state. Students from 233 schools – 113 schools in country regions and 120 schools in metropolitan regions – participated in BW events. Forty-nine high calibre Western Australian children's authors, illustrators and storytellers toured metropolitan, country and remote communities throughout August as part of BW. Sessions varied from one-off author talks to week-long writer- and illustrator-in-residence programs. For instance, in Carnarvon, Indigenous artist and illustrator Kamsani Bin Salleh facilitated the design and production of huge collaborative artworks about the local environment, Red Bluff Point, local wildflowers and marine life and guided local students to tell stories about their community through art. Events were conducted in 17 metropolitan regions, 12 country regions and 32 isolated and remote communities from Beagle Bay in the Kimberley to Exmouth in the Gascoyne to Walpole in the Great Southern. Two thousand two hundred and seven Aboriginal children attended events in metropolitan, regional and remote communities. A total of 27,100 children attended 699 author/illustrator sessions and workshops, performances and preschool story time sessions in programs conducted throughout the state. BW was featured in print media a total of 109 times, including *The Australian* and the *West Australian* and numerous metropolitan/country community papers, in house newsletters and in 114 online references including websites and social media.

The "A Recipe is a Story, Too!" competition promoting the healthy eating message attracted 110 entries, almost double the number received in 2017. Healthway provided book vouchers to the following winners:- Ardross Primary School (Yr 1-3 School Category); West Balcatta Primary School (Yr 4-6 School Category); Zara Perreira (Yr 1-3 Individual Category) and Isabella Chalker (Yr 4-6 Individual Category). Certificates and book vouchers plus items of Go for 2 & 5 merchandise were presented to the winners at school assemblies by representatives from the CBCA WA Branch and Vienna Dryka from Healthway. The 2018 BW program was generously supported by the State Government of Western Australia through the Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries, Healthway Go for 2 & 5, the Western Australian Branch of the Children's Book Council of Australia and local governments throughout the state.

Events and Activities

A Night With Our Stars (ANWOS)

Convenor Joanna Andrew

The sixteenth 'A Night with our Stars' took place on Friday 8 March 2019, with 190 people attending (165 audience members, 19 presenters, sponsors and their invited guests.) The new Friday timeslot proved popular with the event selling out.

First time presenters included Fiona Burrows, Steve Heron, Ian Mutch, Alicia Tuckerman, Michael Speechley and Margaret Merga (presenting our first ever reference title!) Returnees Aśka, Sigi Cohen,

Kelly Canby, Amanda Betts and well established presenters Frané Lessac, Mark Greenwood, Sally Murphy, Meg McKinlay, Dianne Wolfer, Karen Blair, James Foley, and Kylie Howarth made up the 19 presenters, speaking about 22 books.

This year, a handout was created listing all other known WA titles published in 2018, which proved to be a useful resource for audience members to take away. MC Jan Nicholls kept everyone on track so there was plenty of time for catching up with colleagues, buying books, and meeting the presenters when getting them signed.

Ten authors, three illustrators and six author-illustrators showcased 6 picture books, 6 junior fiction titles, 4 young adult novels and 4 non-fiction books. Many of the speakers were represented in the Notables, and for only the second time in 16 years, all the presenters attended on the night.

Thanks to ever supportive sponsors Fremantle Press, and bookseller Westbooks, who were wonderfully organised prior to the event, and on the night. Raffle prize winners were thrilled with their haul. The money raised (\$528.50) will go towards the Penny Hutchens Memorial Fund. Butterfly Catering provided delicious food with LiquidMix and our anonymous wine donor providing drinks.

Thanks to all the committee (Liz, Sharon, Mary, Jodie, Joanne, Felicia, Chloe, Aniek, Denise, Trish, Gail, Sue, Jan, Angela and Sally, and committee members' partners, Mark and Norman and SCBWI friend Catherine) who helped out with promotion, printing the program, making name tags, sourcing, collecting, unloading and serving wine, registration duties, photography, signage, liaising with the caterer, raffle creation and ticket sales, supplying the tablecloths and banners, helping out the presenters, and washing up. Your contribution is much appreciated and vital to the success of the evening. The small working group of Lorreen, Sue, and Jan helped enormously in the run up to the event, organising the liquor licence and RSA card, sourcing wine, organising catering, designing the program and flyer, and suggesting presenters.

A handbook is being created for the next convenor and will incorporate feedback and suggestions from committee members to help with future organisation. Many thanks in particular to Jan, who provided wise counsel when needed, which was often.

After six years at the helm (plus many years prior to that assisting inaugural Convenor Jenni Woodroffe) Joanna Andrew has decided to finally hand over the baton as ANWOS Convenor. We thank her sincerely not only for her dedication but also for the very professional manner in which she has carried out this important role.

Book Discussion Group Coordinator Gail Spiers

The Book Discussion Group met eleven times during 2018 to discuss mainly YA titles by Australian authors. The April meeting, attended by 15 people, was devoted to the CBCA Book of the Year Short List. Overall attendance was 74 with 23 different people attending throughout the year. Attendees are encouraged to share their opinions of a range of books, many of which appear on the CBCA Notables List, in a relaxed, friendly atmosphere. The venue was moved to Oasis House in November 2018 with a subsequent suggestion that meetings be held at the University Club at UWA from 2019.

Outreach Program Chloe Mauger

***heARTlines* Children's literature and Illustration Festival.**

We are sorry to have been advised by the Mundaring Arts Centre that *heARTlines* will not be held in 2019, either in Mundaring or in Midland. "Due to difficulty in securing funding, the changing face of school interaction and their associated excursion issues, and ever increasing presentation costs, the MAC Board and Exhibition Committee have decided to no longer present *heARTlines*, at least for the time being. *HeARTlines* has been a wonderful project to be involved with and we thank CBCA WA for all your support since *heARTlines*' inception in 2005."

Over its lifetime, the biennial *heARTlines* programme has been presented seven times, engaging and inspiring many hundreds of children from schools and home schooled in the Eastern Hills area through its programs of hosting local, national and international authors and illustrators for a series of talks, workshops and an exhibition of artwork from featured books. Its outreach and influence in bringing children's literature and book illustration to local children through interaction with real live authors and illustrators will be sorely missed.

CBCA Book Talks Chloe Mauger

In July, I was guest speaker at a meeting of *Wider Vision* community group in Bassendean, speaking to approximately 40 mostly elderly people about the history, mission and activities of The Children's Book Council with a focus on the Book of the Year Awards. Plentiful examples of Award winning books from across the years were on display to engage and enlighten the audience on the delights, breadth and wonders of exciting Australian children's literature available. The books on display engendered much discussion with reminisces from audience members of beloved reads from their own childhoods and happy moments of sharing books with their children and grand-children.

Acknowledgements and thanks

As this comprehensive report attests it has been another busy and productive year for the CBCA WA Branch and not without its challenges. The success of our events is due entirely to the tireless passion and devotion of our committee members who believe wholeheartedly in the importance of quality Australian books in the lives of our children and willingly give of their time and expertise to promote them and their creators. Words cannot adequately express my awe and gratitude for their commitment.

I would particularly like to acknowledge the Executive – Vice President, Denise Robins, who has been a terrific sounding board and an invaluable source of advice and support, Liz Allen, Branch Secretary extraordinaire who so efficiently records and documents our official business and Suzanne Pearse, a fastidious and dedicated Treasurer who keeps the books in the black and constantly reminds us of the need to operate within our means. I could not have managed as WA Branch President without you all. Thanks also to Immediate Past President Sue Stopher and Ex Officio Chloe Mauger for their assistance and input throughout the year.

Well done to everyone involved with the CBCA WA Branch for another terrific team effort in support of quality Australian children's literature and its creators.

Jan Nicholls
WA Branch President
April 2018 – March 2019