



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

ANNUAL REPORT 2014

CBCA NATIONAL BOARD MEMBER for WA: Steve Halbert

2014 COMMITTEE

Executive Committee

President: Aniek Ragan
Vice President: Dominique Ward
Past President: Chloe Mauger
Secretary: Francine Nababan*
Treasurer: Karina Oliver*

Committee Members

Elizabeth Allen, Nola Allen, Joanna Andrew, Sharon Coppin, Mary Gimondo, Felicia Harris, Trish Montgomery, Eve Morrissey, Jo-Anne Monaghan*, Jan Nicholls, Ruth Nitschke, Denise Robins, Gail Spiers, Sue Stopher*, Gay Tierney, Sally Woffenden and Sue Wyche.

Subcommittees and Convenors:

A Night with Our Stars (ANWOS):	Joanna Andrew
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:	Ruth Nitschke and Karina Oliver
Merchandise:	Eve Morrissey
Newsletter:	Sally Woffenden and Sharon Coppin
Muriel Barwell Award:	Sue Wyche
Website:	Sharon Coppin, Aniek Ragan and Rita Blackburn
Facebook and Blog:	Joanna Andrew, Jan Nicholls and Rebecca Newman
Outreach:	Chloe Mauger

LIFE MEMBERS:

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

HONORARY MEMBERS:

Margaret Allen, Stephen Carley, Carolyn Logan, Lesley Reece, Myrtle Spiers

REPORTS:

President: Aniek Ragan

It is my pleasure to present this 2014 Annual Report to the committee and members, not only as an important official record of the year's activities but also as an indication of the passion and dedication the various sub-committees put into the promotion of children's literature. This report documents a busy and sometimes challenging year for the WA Branch. We welcomed four new members to the Committee (names marked with * above), who readily took on roles in the Executive and the Committee, for which we thank them. As a new President I have been on a steep learning curve this year and am hugely grateful to all committee members for sharing their knowledge, wisdom, support and sage advice. I would also like to acknowledge Anne-Marie Strother who has represented us with such distinction as the WA Judge for the Book of the Year Awards in 2014.

For me, the year began last November with the National Board meeting in Canberra to which I accompanied WA National Board Member Caro Kay. During December I also participated in the AGM teleconferences where various national matters were discussed.

Four very successful major events were held during 2014, beginning in March with the 11th Annual *A Night with Our Stars*. With the retirement of Jenni Woodroffe, Joanna Andrew assumed the reins as convener, instigating an online method for bookings and payments prior to the event, which proved very effective, allowing attendees to move quickly through the queue on arrival at the event. New MC Jan Nicholls kept the program on track and on time most efficiently. Despite the hot and sticky night 180 supporters of CBCA WA attended the event and 19 speakers entertained the audience with witty and informative presentations.

During May WA Branch members participated in the 11th National CBCA Conference - **Discovering National Treasures: Then and Now**. Highlights included meeting the National Treasures Bronwyn Bancroft, Nadia Wheatley and Andy Griffiths, the Conference Dinner at the Australian War Memorial and attending the opening of the Bob Graham retrospective exhibition – *A Bird in the Hand*. I look forward to the NSW conference in 2016.

In June, WA Judge Anne-Marie Strother conducted two very interesting and engaging *Judge's Talks* in Melville and Leederville. Her professional presentation highlighted the strengths of the Book of the Year Awards shortlisted titles and promoted the Notables by weaving them throughout her talk. The very appreciative audience left the talks inspired and enlightened.

The *Make Your Own Storybook Competition*, coordinated by Denise Robins, continues to draw entries from school children all over the state. The 2014 competition received 865 entries, 190 more than 2013 and a wonderful achievement by those teachers, parents and students who supported the competition. Guest speaker, local author and illustrator Karen Blair entertained the audience with snippets from her writing and artistic career, displaying her first illustrations at the age of 4 and relating her experiences as a young MYOSB winner.

The Children's Book Week Opening and Dinner was organised by Liz Allen and Gay Tierney and new MC Denise Robins kept the evening rolling along in fine style in the new venue the Claremont Yacht Club. Our guest speaker for the night was author Dianne Wolfer who had been announced as an Honour Book recipient for *Lighthorse Boy* earlier in the day. Dianne chose to stay in WA to be our guest speaker for the night rather than joining the other Book of the Year winners at the National Library in Canberra. Another highlight of the evening was the presentation of the Muriel Barwell Award for Distinguished Service to Children's Literature in Western Australia to Jenni Woodroffe.

At the National level we are very pleased to announce and welcome Stephen A Halbert as our new Director of the Board and CBCA Branch Nominee for Western Australia. We look forward to his involvement and contributions to the National Board operations. We would like to take the opportunity to thank Caro Kay, our former WA Board Nominee for her service and outstanding contribution to CBCA National Board; her professionalism and high standards in the performance of her duties were appreciated. We wish her and her family every success in the future.

The Children's Book Council of Australia Annual General Meeting 2014 will be held on 21st and 22nd November in Canberra. Branch Presidents have been invited to participate in discussions related to current state and national developments.

I look towards continuing our rewarding events and important advocacy aims to maintain our reputation for excellence while facing new challenges with new strategies.
Thank you.

Finance

Treasurer: Karina Oliver

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 \$11,695.76
- newsletter costs have decreased dramatically to \$1433 with the move to an online form
- Oasis House rent cost \$4872.40
- merchandise sales remain our greatest fundraiser with a profit of just under \$6,000 at this stage with some \$2720.13 outstanding
- the Judges Talks and the Book Week Dinner covered costs and ANWOS had a small budgeted loss
- the Grants Program has seen \$63,143 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 2014 *CBCA Bi-Annual Conference* in Canberra in May and also one to the *Celebrate Reading* Conference held in Fremantle in October. These were allocated to two members on the basis of a draw from Expressions of Interest and cost \$814
- a raffle held at The Children's Book Week Dinner raised \$520. This amount was donated to the Jan Ormerod fund
- the Make Your Own Story Book competition cost \$2114.83. This is offset in part through the Children's Book Week Grants Program.

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: Ruth Nitschke

Despite the addition of 16 new members in 2014, our membership numbers have dropped from 291 in 2013 to 275 in 2014. Changes to staff in schools, particularly staff retirements saw a number of schools

drop their membership and sadly in at least one case staff retirement meant a complete closure of a school library. In 2014, Personal memberships dropped by 12 and Institutional memberships by 7. Income from Membership subscriptions in 2014 is \$11,695.

Year	Life	Personal	Institution	Honorary	Total
2011	6	152	143	4	305
2012	6	152	142	4	301
2013	6	149	144	4	291
2014	5	128	137	5	275

Personal membership consists of

	2011	2012	2013	2014
Personal Full fee	116	104	94	92
Concession A <i>Author /Illustrator</i>	29	35	32	28
Concession B <i>Full Time Student</i>	2	1	0	0
Concession C <i>Concession Card Holders</i>	8	9	11	8
Total Personal members	152	149	137	128

In 2014 the Branch sadly lost one of its Life Members. Doreen Rossiter is remembered as a hardworking Committee member who made a significant contribution to the work of the Branch particularly during the 1980s when a major focus of Branch activities was the Children's Book Week displays and activities at the Perth Concert Hall.

Website: Aniek Ragan

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 2014, 35,548 page views and 8,050 unique page views were counted, indicating a significant number of visitors to the website. The majority of site users searched for information regarding Make Your Own Story Book, merchandise, programs for children, author/illustrator links and Children's Book Week ideas. It is important therefore, to continue to develop these areas and keep them relevant.

CBCA WA Website usage October 15, 2013 – October 15, 2015 (provided by Murray Ware)

Page Name	Page Views	Time on Page	Web Address
MYOSB	2,015	01:53	/wamyosb.htm
Book Week Ideas	298	00:53	/wabwideas.htm
WA Home	35,554		/index.htm
Merchandise	1,346	01:56	/wamerchandise.htm
Programs for Children	1,090	00:12	/waprogramchildren.htm
2013 MYOSB Winners	260	00:41	/wamyosb2013.htm
Annual Program of the CBCA WA	786	00:16	/waprogram.htm
Authors & Illustrators	680	01:07	/waaauthors.htm
Reading Lists	186	02:15	/wareadinglists.htm
Books & Young People	631	00:13	/wabooks.htm
Committee	395	01:48	/wacommittee.htm
Join	363	01:53	/wajoin.htm

Facebook and Blog Reports: Jan Nicholls, Joanna Andrew and Rebecca Newman

The WA Branch Facebook group has grown steadily over the year and currently stands at 294 members. Facebook was a particularly successful promotional tool for the Branch in CBW with daily posts about author visits and activities in schools and libraries around the state. Since then we have aimed to post regularly on matters related to children's literature and reading (with a focus on WA creators) such as author/illustrator/publisher information, book launches and relevant feature articles in the press. At a recent meeting of the subcommittee it was felt that the blog had been superseded by Facebook and will no longer be maintained. Thanks to Rebecca Newman and Sam Hughes for their past contributions to the blog.

Newsletter: Sally Woffenden and Sharon Coppin

This year, Sally Woffenden and Sharon Coppin continued in the role of newsletter editors. There have been 4 editions published with the fifth in process to conclude this year.

A huge thank you to Jan Nicholls for editing the September edition and for proof-reading other editions and Chloe Mauger to assisting in proof reading each issue.

Sally and Sharon would also like to thank all the contributors for providing articles and photographs. All the articles have been interesting and full of information for the members.

Archives: Trish Montgomery

General processing has been completed; 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. As always, processing the Archive collection is a work in progress so I thank the members who have devoted their time to this ongoing task.

CHILDREN'S BOOK WEEK ACTIVITIES

CBW Opening and Dinner: Liz Allen and Gay Tierney

The Children's Book Week Opening and Dinner was held on Friday evening 15th August at the Claremont Yacht Club, which was a new venue for us. Ninety three guests attended. The evening included a welcome and sharing the CBCA Book of the Year Winning and Honour books in all categories by MC Denise Robins, the President's address and official opening of Children's Book Week in WA by Aniek Ragan and a presentation of her writing journey by author, Dianne Wolfer. She had been announced as an Honour Book recipient for *Lighthorse Boy* earlier in the day. Dianne chose to stay in WA and be our guest speaker for the night rather than joining the other Book of the Year winners at the National Library in Canberra. Another highlight of the evening was the presentation of the Muriel Barwell Award for Distinguished Service to Children's Literature in Western Australia to Jenni Woodroffe. In her acceptance speech, Jenni showed the audience the signed book her parents gave her in November 1945, the first Children's Book Week in Australia. Her mother had heard about this from listening to Catherine King's Woman's Hour on ABC radio. As is customary there were some excellent door and raffle prizes announced and monies raised from the raffle were presented to the CBCA Awards Foundation in memory of Jan Ormerod. Special thanks go to Walker Books representative Margaret Van Dorssen, Norman Jorgensen, Miriam Hillam and Naomi Van Bentum and committee members, who contributed towards our raffle prizes.

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

"When you know more about how a book is made you appreciate it more." (Student, Woodvale Primary School) Over 30,000 children, parents, teachers and librarians celebrated Children's Book Week in thirty-three metropolitan and country regions across the state. Three hundred and eighty-one sessions were held with WA and interstate authors and illustrators, storytellers and performers. Several libraries conducted after school family sessions with authors, illustrators and storytellers. A parent at Karen Blair's pastel drawing workshop at Riverton Library commented *"[It's] really great to meet a local author/illustrator and hear their experiences... [and] for kids to actually have a chance to try out techniques."* Interstate author Davina Bell provided fascinating insights into historical fiction and the Australian publishing industry to rapt audiences at South Perth library.

From Kulkarriya in the West Kimberley to the Great Southern's Mount Barker, 2,047 Aboriginal children attended Children's Book Week events in metropolitan, regional and remote communities. Derby Library toured author/illustrator Gabriel Evans to two remote community schools in Bayulu and Kulkarriya for the first time. Indigenous authors, Gail Yorkshire-Selby and Melanie Prewett, were also new to Children's Book Week. Gail spoke to children in Kambalda and Coolgardie about writing and publishing the dreamtime stories, Ngalang Wongi - Ngalang Boodja while Melanie shared her journey to publishing her children's book, *"Two Mates"* with students in Mullewa.

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. *"Amazing! What a brilliant and graphically illustrated history lesson as well as one on literature"* [Teacher]

Fantastic! Gave the students a deeper understanding of the processes the illustrator goes through in producing a picture book.[Teacher]

Eighty-five public libraries conducted Children's Book Week events in the following metropolitan and country local regions:- Bayswater; Cambridge; Canning; Cottesloe; Fremantle; Gosnells; Joondalup; Kalamunda; Kwinana; Melville; Nedlands; Rockingham; South Perth; Stirling; Subiaco; Swan; Victoria Park; Albany/Denmark/Mt Barker; Augusta-Margaret River; Broome; Carnarvon; Derby; Geraldton; Kalgoorlie; Coolgardie; Katanning; Murray/Pinjarra; Narrogin; Port Hedland; South West region (comprising Australind, Bunbury, Capel, Collie, Eaton, Harvey, Donnybrook); Wyndham-East Kimberley. Additional funding enabled regional country libraries to extend their programs to include the following remote communities Augusta, North Dandalup, Exmouth, Looma, Fitzroy, Bayulu, Kulkarriya, Wyndham, Kalumburu, Warralong, Marble Bar, Newman, Kambalda, Bidyadanga, Beagle Bay, One Arm Point, Lombadina/Djarindjin, Mullewa, Boulder, Kendenup.

The 2014 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.

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

The total number of merchandise orders from school and public libraries increased by fourteen percent compared with 2013. Some of this increase was due to the inclusion of orders for the sets of generic posters and the booklet *Mud and Blood and Tears*. The total number of the Book Week merchandise items sold was approximately the same as 2013 even though balloons were not included in the items for sale this year. There was no adverse reaction to this omission. Surprisingly, due to their cost, there was an increase in the orders for a banner.

The artwork by Ron Brooks proved popular and the slogan *Connect to Reading* provided interesting display opportunities. The amalgamation of the Notable Australian Children's Books with the Short List Information Book, and the subsequent reduction in purchasing costs, worked well. Many thanks to the members who helped pack the four hundred and twenty seven orders and to the Merchandise Committee: Eve Morrissey, Liz Allen, Sue Wyche, Jan Nicholls and Dominique Ward for the coordination of the merchandise marketing and sales.

Judge's Talks: Ruth Nitschke

Two Judge's Talks were held in June; one at SIDE (Leederville) on Wednesday 11th June and the other at A.H. Bracks library in the City of Melville on Thursday 12th June. Both were well attended with 32 at SIDE and 39 at A.H. Bracks. The second talk at the A.H.Bracks library benefitted from the best sort of publicity; "word of mouth" with additional people from a Youth theatre group attending after a recommendation from library staff at the City of Joondalup.

The talks were excellent with the WA judge, Anne-Marie Strother speaking about how much she loved being a judge and the wonderfully organised, democratic and collegiate judging process. She did a wonderful job of promoting the Notables weaving them throughout the talk. There were many comments after the talks about their high quality and usefulness.

The display of 2014 CBW merchandise was a definite plus for the audience and, due to Anne-Marie's excellent promotion of the worth of the Notables, several copies were sold along with at least one copy of the anthology on War books

OTHER EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES

A Night with Our Stars (ANWOS): Joanna Andrew

Despite a hot and sticky night, 180 people came along to Westbooks for the 11th A Night with our Stars on Thursday 6 March. MC Jan Nicholls kept the show on the road most efficiently with her skirt rattle and gong, and 19 speakers entertained us with their witty and informative presentations. Return speakers included Dianne Wolfer, Karen Blair, Amanda Betts, Meg McKinlay, Danny Parker, Brian Simmonds, Chris Nixon, Mark Pardoe and Sally Murphy. Several of the first timers presented in pairs, including sisters Jennifer McBride and Lynda Nixon, and Sabrina and Laura Dudgeon, as well as a mother and daughter pair, Patricia Negus and Sally Keady. Other newcomers were Norma MacDonald, Chris Owen, Renae Hayward and Erica Bentel.

There was an interesting mix of illustrators, authors, and books for different age-groups. Presenters travelled from Dalyellup, Margaret River and Albany to speak. The audience came from Mandurah, Bunbury and Broome, and even NSW. Frané Lessac won the membership draw for the CBCA conference in Canberra and Sally Woffenden the draw for the Celebrate Reading conference at The Literature Centre. Other happy people won bundles of books and illustrations by Brian and Chris. The new method of taking online bookings and payments prior to the event ensured less time in the queue on the night.

Thanks to all those who assisted: Dominique Ward, Jo-Anne Monahan, Jenni Woodroffe, Denise Robins, Sue Stopher, Gail Spiers, Francine Nababan, Chloe Mauger, Karina Oliver, Sharon Coppin, Liz Allen, Aniek Ragan and Ruth Nitschke. Thanks also to Fremantle Press, to Westbooks staff, in particular James Caffey and Heather Cooper, and to Scholastic and Rebecca Newman for providing raffle prizes. The raffle raised \$445 and was donated to the WA Bushfire Fund.

Book Discussion Group: Gail Spiers

The Book Discussion Group met on the fourth Wednesday of the month except for December. Of the ten set books discussed nine were by female authors, nine by Australian authors, three for younger readers and three of the books were shortlisted in the 2014 CBCA Book of the Year Awards. Highlights of the year were the meetings at which the 2014 Book of the Year Awards Short List titles were discussed and special guests Elaine Forrestal and Jen Banyard attended. Anyone interested in children's literature is welcome to attend and should contact Gail Spiers at gailspiers@inet.net.au or go to <http://wa.cbca.org.au/wabookclub.htm> for further information.

Make Your Own Storybook Competition (MYOSB): Denise Robins

The 2014 MYOSB competition received 865 entries, 190 more than 2013 and a wonderful achievement by those teachers, parents and students who supported the competition. Entries were received from 34 private schools and 40 public schools and there were also 30 entries from individuals. Eighteen country and fifty two metropolitan schools were represented.

This year a judging team of fifteen dedicated people with a range of experience in children's literature selected twenty-one winning entries, including one private entry and twenty from a combination of four public and seven private schools. The entries demonstrated an excellent awareness of the current features of story and picture books with 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.

The Make Your Own Story Book competition concluded on the 17th August with the recognition of the prizewinners at the Awards Ceremony at The Literature Centre in Fremantle. The excited winners, proud parents and friends, special guests and CBC committee members enjoyed a delicious morning tea including fresh fruit, dips and vegetables. During morning tea, the guests viewed the winning books and were photographed by committee members Jan Nicholls and Sue Stopher, to provide memories of the occasion.

Denise Robins (MYOSB Coordinator) opened the Ceremony and handed to Jenny Doust, Senior Education Officer for The Literature Centre, who gave the audience a brief insight into the current and upcoming events at the centre. Aniek Ragan (President Children's Book Council WA Branch) welcomed the winners and their guests, making glowing comments about the winning entries this year. In her welcome, Aniek quoted the fifteen 2014 judges, saying 'The books took the judges on magical journeys with both fierce and friendly monsters, magical skills, natural disasters and courageous animals. The judges read about heroes and villains, bush fires, futuristic worlds and the sadness of loss.' The judges deemed some entries 'good enough to publish'.

Guest speaker, local author and illustrator Karen Blair entertained the audience with snippets from her writing and artistic career, displaying her first illustrations at the age of 4 and relating her experiences as a young MYOSB winner. The audience was thrilled to gain an insight into the picture book illustrating process of Karen's new book *Hello from Nowhere* and many went to the Literature Centre bookshop to buy it at the conclusion of the ceremony.

Two Year 8 prizewinners Jade Batt; author of *The Lone Wolf* and Aron Thian; author of *Incara*, shared their personal writing experiences with a very appreciative audience. Jade spoke of the personal connection with the loneliness theme in her story while Aron spoke of his desire to support less fortunate children through the sale of his book. Aniek, Karen and Denise presented the prizes, with each winner receiving book vouchers, Book Week and Healthway Go for 2 & 5 merchandise in a Heathway's or football themed bag.

The winning story and picture books were displayed in The Place at the State Library and thanks goes to Joanna Andrew and Ruth Nitschke for organising the display and making the books available to students and the public visiting the library during Book Week. Scans of pages from the winning entries and photographs have been placed on the CBC website to enable public, interested teachers and students to view the excellent quality of the 2014 entries.

The list of supporters of the Make Your Own Story Book Competition is huge and includes our sponsors Healthway, Government of WA Department of Culture and the Arts and Lotterywest. Thanks to the judges for reading all the entries and selecting the winners, and to Lesley Reece, Jenny Doust and Mailee Clarke at The Literature Centre who provided an excellent venue for the event. Thank you to our supporting bookstores; Westbooks, Millpoint Caffe Bookshop, The Lane Bookshop, Crow Books, Boffins Bookshop and Child Education Services for generously donating book vouchers for the prizewinners.

The success of the competition and Ceremony is due to the behind the scenes work from the CBCWA committee members who cheerfully mail entry forms, open envelopes, sort entries, set up the venue and applaud the winners as part of their ongoing quest to encourage the connection between children and literature.

Muriel Barwell Award: Sue Wyche

Jenni Woodroffe is the 2014 recipient of the Muriel Barwell Award for Outstanding Service to Children's Literature. The award recognises Jenni's long and varied contribution to children's literature in this state. Nominations were small but this reflects the stringent criteria of the Award rather than a lack of suitable candidates. Thank you to Aniek and Francine who assisted me in the judging.

OUTREACH: Chloe Mauger

The Bookshop of the Royal Historical Society of WA has recently expanded to include a small collection of children's books for sale that feature W.A. history in some way, including books by Norman Jorgenson, Jan Ormerod, Dianne Wolfer, Sonya Martinez and Mark Greenwood. Wanting to publicise this collection and to hear about new titles, on 25th June the Bookshop staff held a morning tea entitled "Book for a Cuppa" to which I was invited to speak about other children's books on the same theme. Into only a brief time slot, I was able to display and discuss two new general history books which feature historical events and people in Western Australia – *The Big Book of Australian History*, by Peter MacInnes, and *Australian's All* by Nadia Wheatley. Turning to specifically WA topics, the audience looked at *Edith Cowan, A Woman of Note* by Allan Drummond and *Jandamarra* by Mark Greenwood. Also displayed were books featuring children, set in WA or written by West Australian authors/illustrators - Frané Lessac, Elaine Forrester, Wendy Binks and Sally Murphy. The audiences of about 50 people were very receptive to ideas for WA-themed historical books for the children of their family. This well-publicised event proved an excellent opportunity to engage a new audience with Australian children's books, encourage them to seek out other titles and to promote the work and aims of CBCA WA.

During Children's Book Week, I was invited to Forrestfield Primary School for a day of celebration, opening with the morning Assembly and Book Character parade, a lunch held in the bright, welcoming library where parents read to their children, followed by sessions promoting the shortlisted and winning books in the library. Almost every child in the school attended these events. Congratulations to the pro-active and supportive staff of the school; which caters for a population of children from a broad range of socio-economic backgrounds, many of who have limited access to books at home. Everyone had a wonderful time, concluding the week by exploring and discussing children's books.

Acknowledgements and thanks

As we continue our strong ties with the Literature Centre, Public Libraries WA, AISWA, WASLA and the WA Branch of the Society of Children's Book Writers and Illustrators (SCBWI), the WA Branch has been a 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.

As we continue our strong ties with the Literature Centre, Public Libraries WA, AISWA, WASLA and the WA Branch of the Society of Children's Book Writers and Illustrators (SCBWI), the WA Branch remains a positive and proactive group, as it has for the past decade or more. Our long-standing members work together in a spirit of warm collegiality and cooperation with our new members, to share our passion for children's literacy with the wider community.

Every member of the committee deserves acknowledgement and thanks for their many contributions to the work of the Branch in 2014. In particular, I thank the Executive team of Chloe Mauger, Dominique Ward, Francine Nababan and Karina Oliver for their friendship, insights and support during the past 12 months.

Aniek Ragan
5th November, 2014