



Aniek Ragan  
PRESIDENT REPORT

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING  
Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> November 2015

It is a pleasure report that 2015 has been a very successful year, as we have celebrated the 70 year Anniversary and the CBCA WA Branch has fulfilled our commitment to engage the community with literature for young Australians.

WA was proud to host the 2015 CBCA Judges Conference and the Shortlist Announcement Breakfast, held in Perth for the first time in 13 years, an event which was attended by the CBCA Board Chair Angela Briant and Deputy Chair Margot Hillel. Our current Award Coordinators, Trish Montgomery and Sue Wyche, did a wonderful job organising the Conference and the breakfast function at Matilda Bay Restaurant where the Shortlist was announced. The announcement was organised so that the news could be received in the Eastern states at midday. I would like to thank Trish and Sue for their wonderful work – undertaken with such professionalism and grace.

Our thanks to Anne-Marie Strother and her fellow judges for the fine job they did to read more than 400 books and decide on such an interesting and challenging shortlist. We are also indebted to our current Eve Pownell judges Helen Adams, Chloe Mauger and Felicia Harris for their enthusiasm and knowledge. They judged and selected outstanding information books to be added to the shortlist and notables.

Our annual A Night with Our Stars attracted 145 eager teachers, librarians, children's literature supporters, authors and illustrators. The new venue at the Bendat Parent and Community Centre in Wembley was much admired and worked very well. A huge thankyou to Joanna Andrew who convened this annual event.

Organised by Liz Allen and Gay Tierney, the WA Branch Book Week Opening and Dinner celebrating the 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the CBCA was a wonderful evening with CBCA medal-winning author, Norman Jorgensen entertaining the guests with his witty and amusing address. Another highlight of the evening was the presentation of the Penny Hutchens Fund awarded to an organization that cares for children. The recipient this year was the Keeping Kids Safe Project an initiative of the Women's Council for Domestic and Family Violence Services (WA). Thank you for Gail Spiers and Chloe Mauger who coordinating the Penny Hutchens Fund.

Make Your Own Storybook Competition, coordinated by Denise Robins, continues to draw entries from school children all over the State. This year, 870 entries were received, a wonderful achievement by those teachers, parents and students who supported the competition. Emerging talent, Kelly Canby was an excellent speaker at the Make Your Own Story Book presentation and the two young winners who made short speeches were exceptional.

Around 30,000 children, parents, teachers and librarians celebrated Children's Book Week in twenty-eight metropolitan and country regions across the state. Four hundred and twenty one sessions were held with West Australian and interstate authors and illustrators, storytellers and performers.

The months leading up to Book Week proved busy for our branch. We were fortunate to have amazing merchandise convener Eve Morrissey who mobilised committee members, family and volunteers for our traditional packing day in July. I would like to acknowledge all the behind the scenes work that goes on. Well over 12,000 items were packed, all by volunteers, which ensured

prices were kept low and orders filled by the beginning of term three.

At the National level, the CBCA Board elected new Chair Margot Hillel and Margaret Hamilton and Deputy Chair. The New National Office in the Queensland Writers Centre at the State Library Queensland is fully operated with appointment of Kate Flamsteed as the new Executive Officer. The CBCA National Board of 14 strong board members is well balanced and crammed with full of skills and diversity to ensure the progress of the CBCA's strategic direction. And the latest news is that The Governor-General, His Excellency the Honourable Sir Peter Cosgrove AK MC (Retired) has agreed to become the patron of The Children's Book Council of Australia. I would like to thank Steve Halbert WA Board Nominee for his expertise, diligence and outstanding contribution to CBCA National Board. His professional approach and support has proved to be great value to our Branch.

Our thanks must also go to the member bookshops that support the CBCA by staffing a bookstall and selling books at our functions. In addition, CBCA could not function without the publishers, authors and illustrators who support us in so many ways. The children's books you create and produce are among the finest in the world and we are proud to be associated with you

As I step down from my year as President, it has been a pleasure to lead and work with such a team of dedicated professional and hard working committee members. I always admire the enthusiasm, passion, dedication, warm support, success and energy of the WA Branch. We always welcome new people to join us on the Executive and take up other vacant committee roles. We look towards continuing our rewarding events and important advocacy aims as we maintain our reputation for excellence while facing new challenges with new strategies.

Thank you.



## ANNUAL REPORT 2015

**CBCA NATIONAL BOARD MEMBER for WA:** Steve Halbert

### 2015 COMMITTEE

#### Executive Committee

**President:** Aniek Ragan  
**Vice President:** Sue Stopher  
**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, Jan Nicholls, Ruth Nitschke, Denise Robins, Gail Spiers, Gay Tierney, Sally Woffenden, and Sue Wyche.

#### Subcommittees and Convenors:

A Night with Our Stars (ANWOS):	Joanna Andrew
Archivist:	Trish Montgomery
BOYA Award Coordinator 2015 and 2016	Sue Wyche and 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
Penny Hutchens Award:	Gail Spiers and Chloe Mauger
Website:	Aniek Ragan
Facebook	Joanna Andrew and Jan Nicholls
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

**SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS****Membership: Ruth Nitschke**

Membership has dropped this year. A number of schools have not renewed their membership due in some measure to the financial pressures within schools. Also a lack of correct member contact details, especially for schools, has been an on-going issue this year and probably contributed to the drop in school numbers.

The later part of the year however has seen a number of new members, both personal and institutional, as a result of the on-going recruitment efforts of committee members in particular, Jan Nicholls.

Currently we have overall 263 financial members in the following categories

Categories	Metro	Country	Interstate	Overseas	Total
Life members	5				5
Honorary members	4			1	5
<b>Personal</b>	75	4	2		81
Concession A	30	6			41
Concession C	6		1		7
<b>Institutional</b>					
Public Libraries	23	20			43
Schools	62	15			77
Corporate	3	1			4

Membership subscriptions in 2015 were \$11,947.28.

In 2015, as part of the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the CBCA, the Branch doubled the number of opportunities available to members via our Early Bird membership renewal draw to attend conferences both in WA and interstate. Two very excited public librarians from the Shires of Kalamunda and Capel attended the YA conference *Reading Matters* in Melbourne in May and well-known member Jenni Woodroffe and Gianna Richards from Penrhos College both attended the *Celebrate Reading* conference at The Literature Centre in Fremantle.

The Branch looks constantly to grow its membership and deliver information, events and education to members to help further their knowledge and interest in children's literature from WA, Australia and the world in general and we welcome input from all members regarding what services, events and opportunities they would like to see provided to members.

### **Website: Aniek Ragan**

The WA Branch website, Facebook and E-Newsletter are now well-established and provide a useful means of communication for members. In the past 12 months to October 2015, 3,715 WA Homepage views and 6,755 unique page views were counted, indicating a significant number of visitors to the website. Once again, most users of the site were searching for Make Your Own Story Book and programs for children. We continue to develop these area such Annual Program of the CBCA WA, Author & Illustrator links and Boks & Young People to keep them relevant.

<b>Page Name</b>	<b>Page Views</b>	<b>Time on Page</b>	<b>Web Address</b>
MYOSB	3,318	01:54	<a href="#">/wamyosb.htm</a>
Book Week Ideas	14	00:15	<a href="#">/wabwideas.htm</a>
WA Home	3,715	03:06	<a href="#">/index.htm</a>
Merchandise	668	01:44	<a href="#">/wamerchandise.htm</a>
Programs for Children	1.121	00:17	<a href="#">/waprogramchildren.htm</a>
2014 MYOSB Winners	67	00:51	<a href="#">/wamyosb2013.htm</a>
Annual Program of the CBCA WA	673	00:15	<a href="#">/waprogram.htm</a>
Authors & Illustrators	662	01:07	<a href="#">/waauthors.htm</a>
Reading Lists	139	02:27	<a href="#">/wareadinglists.htm</a>
Books & Young People	579	00:12	<a href="#">/wabooks.htm</a>
Committee	228	01:06	<a href="#">/wacommittee.htm</a>
Join	406	01:53	<a href="#">/wajoin.htm</a>

As the CBCA National website will be upgrading the existing site in the coming month, with new contemporary design, use newer technology, and much better represent the association to the stakeholder and members, the WA Branch will take an option of being an early adopter and joining the National Site. The future website will include local information, events and member content and make it easy for our members and stakeholders to find CBCA WA on Google

### **Facebook: Jan Nicholls and Joanna Andrew**

Our numbers increased significantly this year and we now have 510 members. Our aim is to make daily posts on matters related to children's literature with a special emphasis on WA authors, illustrators, publishers and local events. The most positive feedback to our posts is undoubtedly received in and around Children's Book Week when, to the delight of our sponsors, many schools and libraries around the state share photographs and information about their wonderful celebrations.

## **Newsletter: Sally Woffenden**

It has been now our second year of distributing an electronic version of our newsletter. As an organisation we have now moved forward using the 21st Century technologies by circulating our news by email, website and Facebook. We might soon even have a Twitter account one day!.

Our newsletter is distributed five times a year and it is always cramped full of interesting articles and photos to inform our members and the community about our activities. I would like to thank Sharon Coppin, Jan Nicholls, Denise Robins and Chloe Mauger for their contribution to the newsletter. The newsletter is always greatly received because of the contributions that the members have made to make it an interesting reread!

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

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

The Children's Book Week Opening and Dinner was held on Friday evening 21st August at the Claremont Yacht Club. Eighty five guests attended. The evening included a welcome by MC Grant Stone, sharing the CBCA Book of the Year Winning and Honour books in all categories. Gail Spiers, Committee member announced the *Keeping Kids Safe Project*, an initiative of the Women's Council for Domestic and Family Violence Services (WA) as the recipient of the WA Branch's biennial Penny Hutchens Memorial Fund.

Guests enjoyed a buffet dinner before local author Norman Jorgensen (a la Hans Christian Jorgensen) entertained guests with his writing journey, which was enhanced with power point slides. Many of the guests identified with his favorite books and his early story telling efforts with his captive audience, three younger brothers. As usual door and raffle prizes were announced to a range of delighted winners. Monies raised from the raffle will be presented to the CBCA Awards Foundation. Special thanks to our generous donors - Margaret Van Dorssen form Walker Books, Norman Jorgensen, Artico Hair Salon Floreat, Peter and Elaine Forrestal, Rebecca Newman, Robyn Vitale, Steve Halbert, Suzanne Pearse and committee members.

### **Judges Talks: Ruth Nitschke**

The judge's talks this year were held on consecutive nights Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> and Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> June at SIDE and the City of Melville's A.H. Bracks Library. More than 60 people attended at both sites.

Our WA Judge Anne-Marie Strother, gave her usual impressive performance made this year even more so by her very strong promotion of the Notables. As she pointed out on any other day, with any other group of judges any one of the Notables could have been on the Short List or even a winner. Having an impressive display of all the Notable books certainly helped to further promote the message.

One of the WA Eve Pownall judge Chloe Mauger had provided a set of the Eve Pownall Short List books and she also outlining the Eve Pownall judging process and the Short List. For the first time we

offered PD certificates for the event and these were very well received with 42 PD certificate had email out.

### **Merchandise: Eve Morrissey**

The late receipt of the merchandise meant that the pack day had to be postponed twice and it was not available to display at the Judge's talks. Also, inadequate packaging meant that some posters were damaged in transit. Next year, with the National Office now operational, these problems should not occur. Approximately 12,000 items were sold an increase of 9% compared with 2014. However, there have been declining numbers of schools actually placing orders each year.

It is hoped the excellent quality of this year's items and earlier receipt to enable their promotion plus the fact that Shaun Tan is the illustrator will help increase orders in 2016. The theme, *Books light up our world*, and the art work by Neil Curtis stimulated some excellent displays in public and school libraries.

Many thanks to the members who helped pack the orders and to the Merchandise Committee: Eve Morrissey, Liz Allen, Sue Wyche, Jan Nicholls and Dominique Ward for the brochure production, ordering and mail out.

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

"I quite like learning from different author experiences as it shows me what my future may hold. It inspires me to write more, because it shows the sort of opportunities it opens." (Student; Duncraig SHS, Joondalup on Kate McCaffrey). Around 30,000 children, parents, teachers and librarians celebrated Children's Book Week in twenty-eight metropolitan and country regions across the state. Four hundred and twenty one sessions were held with West Australian and interstate authors and illustrators, storytellers and performers.

Sessions were held in libraries and presenters were toured to schools. Several libraries conducted two week programs. A few centres provided programs for secondary school students and many libraries ran writing/illustrating workshops for students. Some libraries held Saturday morning sessions and some presented after school. Many libraries conducted after school family sessions with authors, illustrators and storytellers and a number of public sessions were also held. Numerous home schoolers attended with increasing numbers of the public and parents participating in sessions.

"My homeschooled children were engaged from the beginning to the end, they felt completely educated by the whole experience. Cristy's energy and enthusiasm had a wonderful impact on both boys who are Dyslexic and need as many people like Cristy as possible to make a difference. Thank you so much for this Event" - Cristy Burne (Author) was the presenter at Joondalup Library.

From Kalumburu in the Wyndham-East Kimberley, (where to celebrate Indigenous Literacy Day, Team Kununurra provided a book for each student and participated in reading to individual students as part of a Book Picnic) to Frankland River Primary School in the South West, 1,762 Aboriginal children attended Children's Book Week events in metropolitan, regional and remote communities.

“Tambellup has a high number of Noongar students and they seemed to be very engaged with Gabriel and when they left they said they had a great time! This kind of interaction really builds upon their linguistic and conceptual skills and is such a bonus for the Noongar children” - Gabriel Evans (Author & Illustrator) was the presenter at Tambellup.

Teachers commented on the high quality of the sessions, the relevance to the curriculum and the abilities of presenters to engage and inspire students and the relevance of the sessions to their teaching.

“It gave me some great ideas to implement in the classroom” - Dianne Wolfer (Author) was the presenter at Victoria Park Library”

‘We find this event particularly helpful when targeting our literacy program as this is first hand experience for the students. The authors brought to life how text and pictures combine to give meaning and thought to a book’ - Woodbridge Primary School teacher.

“We should have writers like Deb more often to inspire young writers. It was amazing, will appreciate more programs like this!” Canning Deb Fitzpatrick

Seventy-nine public libraries conducted Children’s Book Week events in the following metropolitan and country local regions:- Albany; Augusta - Margaret River; Carnarvon; Denmark; Derby; Geraldton – Greenough; Kalgoorlie; Murray-Pinjarra; Pingrup; South West; Tambellup; Wyndham-East Kimberley; Bayswater; Cambridge; Canning; Fremantle; Gosnells; Joondalup; Kalamunda; Kwinana; Melville; Nedlands; Rockingham; South Perth; Stirling; Swan; Subiaco; Victoria Park

Additional funding enabled regional country libraries to extend their programs to include the following remote communities: – Mullewa (Geraldton region); Exmouth (Carnarvon region), Looma Remote Community, Fitzroy Crossing (Derby region); Marble Bar/Nullagine/Newman (Port Hedland region); Pingrup/Tambellup/Broomehill – in conjunction with Albany; Kalumburu, Warmun – new Aboriginal community this year (Wyndham-East Kimberley regions), South west (Balingup/Boyanup/Burekup); Mullewa (Mid West/Geraldton); Lake Grace/Newdegate/Lake King (Narrogin outreach)

The 2015 Children’s Book Week program was supported through funding of just over \$62,000 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.

## OTHER EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES

**A Night with Our Stars (ANWOS): Joanna Andrew**

The 12th *A Night with our Stars* event on Thursday 5 March attracted 145 eager teachers, librarians, children's literature supporters, authors and illustrators. The new venue at the Bendat Parent and Community Centre in Wembley was much admired and worked very well – the air-conditioning was particularly appreciated

Once again the event was publicized electronically: on the website, Facebook page, and various e-lists such as WAIN and WASLANet. Online bookings started slowly but gained momentum as the date grew closer, with over one third of the audience booking in the final week. Next year, promotion to booksellers will be a new focus.

Jan Nicholls was an excellent MC, and 18 speakers entertained us with their inspiring and informative presentations. Three presenters were unable to attend: Raewyn Caisley, Josie Boyle and Jaylon Tucker. Return speakers included Norman Jorgensen, James Foley, Cheryl Kickett-Tucker, Jen Banyard, Wendy Binks, Kate McCaffrey, Elaine Forrestal, Briony Stewart, Mike Lefroy, Dianne Wolfer, Karen Blair, Sally Murphy and Frané Lessac and Mark Greenwood who rounded off the evening with a bang! Newcomers were Gabriel Evans, Kyle Hughes-Odgers, Catherine Carvell and Michael Scott Parkinson. Joanna showcased titles by authors and illustrators who were unable to attend but had published titles in 2014: Sally Morgan, Ambelin Kwaymullina and Bronwyn Houston.

There was a good mix of illustrators and authors, and books for different age-groups. Some of the presenters travelled from Dalyellup, Bridgetown, Albany and Singapore to speak. The audience came from Bunbury, Donnybrook, Mandurah and across the metropolitan area.

To celebrate the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Children's Book Council of Australia, two draws were made for each of the conference registrations: Suuz Dalgliesh and Yvette Thompson won the Reading Matters registrations, and Jenni Woodroffe and Gianna Richards won the Celebrate Reading registration. Five raffles prizes went to Sue Spiers, Rebecca Marchenkov, Gianna Richards, Heather Whitehead and Anette Ainsworth. The door prize of the Wendy Binks print went to Jo Griffiths. The raffle raised \$431 which will go to the Awards Foundation.

### **Make Your Own Storybook Competition (MYOSB) and the Award Ceremony: Denise Robins**

This year the Make You Own Story Book Competition had 22 volunteer judges reading and discussing 870 entries from 62 individual children, 20 public schools and 28 private schools.

The competition concluded on the 23rd August with the recognition of the prizewinners at the Awards Ceremony at The Literature Centre in Fremantle. During morning tea, the guests viewed the winning books and were photographed by Jan Nicholls.

Welcoming presentations were given by Denise Robins (MYOSB Coordinator), Jenny Doust, Senior Education Officer for The Literature Centre, and Aniek Ragan (President Children's Book Council WA Branch). Guest speaker, local author and illustrator Kelly Canby entertained the audience with snippets from her career and concluded by reading her book *All the Lost Things*. Two prizewinners Melissa Lee; author of *The Shadow* and Zachary Valverde; author of *Chivalry*, shared their personal writing experiences with a very appreciative audience. Aniek, Kelly and Denise presented the prizes, with each winner receiving book vouchers, Book Week and Healthway Go for 2 & 5 merchandise in a Healthway's bag.

The winning story and picture books were displayed in The Place at the State Library for two weeks. Scans of pages from the winning entries and photographs have been placed on the CBC website.

The Make Your Own Story Book Competition sponsors were Healthway, Department of Culture and the Arts, Lotterywest and The Literature Centre. Our supporting bookstores were Beaufort Street Books, Bookcaffe, Child Education Services, Crow Books, Millpoint Caffe Bookshop, The Lane Bookshop, Crow Books, Oxford St. Books and WestBooks.

### **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 seven were by female authors, seven by Australian authors, three for younger readers and one non-fiction title. Highlights of the year were the meetings at which the 2015 Book of the Year Awards Short List titles were discussed and special guests Kate McCaffrey and Meg McKinlay attended. Anyone interested in children's literature is welcome to attend and should contact Gail Spiers at [gailspiers@iinet.net.au](mailto:gailspiers@iinet.net.au) or go to <http://wa.cbca.org.au/wabookclub.htm> for further information.

### **2015 Penny Hutchens Fund: Gail Spiers and Chloe Mauger**

The 2015 Penny Hutchens Fund recipient was the Keeping Kids Safe Project, an initiative of the Women's Council for Domestic and Family Violence Services (WA). Thanks to Margaret Walton from Child Education Services for her assistance in selecting appropriate titles. Awards Co-ordinators Sue Wyche and Trish Montgomery supplemented the Penny Hutchens Fund with a generous donation of 80 books from those entered in the 2015 Book of the Year Awards resulting in the Wooree Miya and Karratha Women's Refuges each receiving over \$1000 worth of books.

According to the CEO of the Women's Council, Angela Hartwig, the Wooree Miya and Karratha Women's Refuges were chosen as recipients because they symbolise the clientele which can benefit the most but is often the most under-resourced – Regional and Aboriginal support services. "Your donation will bring knowledge, opportunities & joy to women and children who are travelling through some dark times. There is nothing more powerful than the light that shines from a book."

## **OUTREACH**

### **HeARTLINES Festival: Chloe Mauger**

The biennial HeARTLINES Festival promotes an appreciation and understanding of children's books through the stories and art of WA authors and illustrators. The stunning art exhibition opened at the Mundaring Art Centre on 16<sup>th</sup> May, extending to 28<sup>th</sup> June this year. The School's Program, running on successive Wednesdays throughout the 6 weeks, included workshops conducted by Mark Pardoe, Mark Greenwood, Briony Stewart, Raewyn Caisley, Gabriel Evans, Jen Banyard, and James Foley. Schools attending these engaging sessions included Mount Helena Primary, Gidgegannup Primary, Mundaring Christian School, Helena College, Treetops Montessori and Home Schoolers, with some

schools attending several sessions. Secondary School author visits included sessions from Deb Fitzpatrick and AJ Betts. For adults, the Public Program of weekend and evening sessions included The Great Kid's Book Swap; Watercolour and illustration with Gabriel Evans; Meet the Makers with Cristy Burne and Friends; and Landscape Painting with Wendy Binks. CBCA WA is proud to support this inspiring Festival which reaches out to hundreds of children in the Eastern Hills outer metropolitan region who would otherwise rarely experience interaction with authors and illustrators.

### **Acknowledgements and thanks**

As we continue our strong ties with the Literature Centre, the State Library of WA, 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.

Every member of this committee deserves acknowledgement and thanks for their many contributions to the work and the success of our events this year. Whilst reluctant to single out anyone out I do feel that The Executive merit a special mention for their advice and assistance so I offer my heartfelt thanks to Chloe Mauger, Sue Stopher, Francine Nababan and Karina Oliver.

Aniek Ragan  
23<sup>rd</sup> November, 2015