



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

Annual Report April 2019 - March 2020

LIFE MEMBERS

Muriel Barwell OAM
Mary Gimondo
Alison Gregg
Grant Stone

HONORARY MEMBERS

Margaret Allen
Stephen Carley
Carolyn Logan
Lesley Reece AM

2019 COMMITTEE

Executive Committee:

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

Treasurer: Sheena Matthews
Secretary: Elizabeth Allen
Ex Officio: Chloe Mauger

CBCA National Board Representative: Angela Briant

WA Judges 2019: Felicia Harris (Younger Readers), Anne-Marie Strother (Older Readers)

WA Judges 2020-2021: Sandi Parsons (Early Childhood), Jan Pocock (Younger Readers)

Committee Members:

Nola Allen, Beck Borona, Lorreen Brand,* Sharon Coppin, Amanda Crossley*, Jodie Davidson*, Mary Gimondo, Julie Griffin*, Felicia Harris, Trish Montgomery, Aniek Ragan, Gail Spiers, Jane Stanton, Nareeda Tillman* and Sally Woffenden.

Subcommittees

A Night with our Stars

Archives

Book Discussion Group

CBCA Book Week Dinner & Opening

Donations & Gifts

Facebook

Grants & Regional Centres

Membership

Merchandise

Make Your Own Story Book

Muriel Barwell Award (Biennial - even years)

Newsletter

Penny Hutchens Memorial Fund (Biennial – odd)

Judges Talks

Travelling Suitcase

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 2019 to the end of March 2020) to our membership as a record of another busy, productive and successful year for the WA Branch. When we tally the hours committee members devote behind the scenes to administrative work as well as time spent on organising events and activities it really is an impressive total. I thank everyone on the committee most sincerely for their ongoing efforts. March 2020 has been particularly challenging as the threat of COVID-19 emerged and the world as we knew it changed dramatically.

At the 2019 AGM Joanna Andrew, Suzanne Pearse and Joanne Morrell stepped down from their positions as ANWOS Convenor, Treasurer and Newsletter Editor respectively. For health and personal reasons these committee members marked * in the list above also resigned during the year. All were thanked for their service and contribution to the WA Branch.

The WA Branch thanks Anne-Marie Strother (Older Readers) and Felicia Harris (Younger Readers) for their service as Book of the Year judges and welcomes judges for 2020/2021 Sandi Parsons (Early Childhood) and Jan Pocock (Younger Readers). We are sincerely grateful to 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 the LIFT/LOAD group at their Library Officers Day, give a presentation on notable WA authors and books at AH Bracks Library, launch Nadia L King's picture book *Claire Malone saves the World* and attend the CBCA National Conference 'and now they're laughing' in Canberra in May 2019.

The Branch continues to support both 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) where I was a volunteer for their enormously successful Celebrate Reading Conference. The WA Branch partnered with AISWA to offer a Sundowner with Australian Children's Laureate Morris Gleitzman and was pleased to donate part proceeds from the event to the ACLF.

There was great excitement at the announcement of the 2019 shortlisting of Michael Speechley and Mark Greenwood and even greater pride and delight in their subsequent award of Honour Books.

In May I represented the WA Branch at the 2019 National CBCA AGM in Canberra and met with my Branch President counterparts from the other states and territories. Since then the Branch Presidents have kept in regular contact via email and teleconference via Zoom. Branch Presidents still express concern that the current business model does not suit their needs in particular with regard to communication of information and have been investigating other options such as the model used by Masters Swimming Association. The Branch Presidents appreciate a recent message from National Board Chair, Margot Hillel, offering an opportunity to gather after the 2020 AGM to openly discuss our communication as an organisation. Please note that owing to COVID-19 restrictions this meeting will now take place via teleconference.

A small but dedicated team of Mary Gimondo, Suzanne Pearse and myself worked to develop a new WA Branch Constitution in order to comply with the Associations Incorporation Act 2015 and the Associations Incorporation Regulations 2016. This important document was passed at a Special General Meeting on Tuesday 28 May 2019 and is available on the WA Branch website.

We are especially proud of the nine Western Australians listed in the 2020 Notables. It was wonderful to have seven of these creators presenting at A Night with our Stars on Friday 13 March. We are thrilled to see Meg McKinlay and Karen Blair on the 2020 Shortlist which, owing to the constraints imposed by COVID-19 was announced online for the first time in CBCA history. We also congratulate Magabala Books on a significant presence in the Shortlist especially in the CBCA Award for New Illustrators.

Please enjoy reading this record of another busy year for the WA Branch and marvel at the dedication and enthusiasm of our hardworking committee members. They are living treasures.

Finance Sheena Matthews, Treasurer

The Branch has ended the 2019 financial year with a surplus of \$4,926.46. The surplus however, dropped by \$6,174.26 from the previous financial year. This was mainly to a fall in income by \$4,516.59 and a rise in expenses by \$1,657.67.

There was a significant drop in Grant income by \$8,650, from \$74,500 in the previous year to \$65,850. This serves to highlight the uncertainty that lies in Grant funding due to the changes in funding structures and reporting entities. The reduced income received from bank interest was due to a progressive fall in interest rates. Despite the drop in income received from Grants, an increase was achieved in the majority of our income ledgers. Income from Membership rose by 2.5%, Merchandise by 4.81%, ANWOS by 9.65% and the CBCA Book Week Dinner by 11.31%. A new source of revenue was received from a successful Sundowner with Australian Children's Laureate Morris Gleitzman. Although income from Judges Events rose by \$411.15 related expenses increased by \$495.70. Membership fees remained the same but were reviewed and will be increased in 2020.

There was a drop in expenses or marginal increases across most expense ledgers. Despite the increase in Merchandise purchases by \$2,139.45, sales still achieved a healthy surplus of \$6,192.21. Total Grant expenditure was \$67,523.82, a drop of \$2,350.72 over the previous financial year. The increase in Donations was related to a one-off donation to the National body as a contribution to the annual Awards prize money. A donation was also given to the Australian Children's Laureate Foundation. A donation from the Penny Hutchens Memorial Fund was made with held over funds raised from raffles held at ANWOS and the CBCA Book Week Dinner in 2018. The increase in National AGM expenses was

due to the one-off contribution by the National CBCA, provided in the previous financial year, being no longer available.

In spite of the fall in income a reasonable surplus was achieved. Our cash position at the Bank which includes the trading account, the cash management account and term deposit account is healthy. The CBCA WA Branch is in a sound financial position and able to currently meet all our financial responsibilities.

The audited accounts are provided as a separate document.

Membership Sharon Coppin

After keeping rates stable since 2014, despite rising costs, the decision was made to increase membership fees for 2020 to the following: Personal \$55, Institutional \$75, Concessional \$40.

The membership form was redesigned for greater clarity and processes have been streamlined. Existing members received a renewal tax invoice in early January 2020 and after payment was made a tax receipt was issued. The receipt includes name and membership number which members need to show to supporting bookstores to be eligible for discounts and to pay the member rate at CBCA events and on merchandise.

At the end of 2019, there were 247 fully paid members an increase of 16 members from 2018

Membership Categories	Member Numbers
Personal	69
Concessional	53
Institutional	125

Oasis Lotteries House Chloe Mauger

Occupancy rates are low and Oasis Lotteries House is constantly trying to attract new tenants to fill vacancies in several suites. Our lease was renewed for a further 3 years in February 2020.

Penny Hutchens Memorial Fund Gail Spiers

The recipient of the Penny Hutchens Memorial Fund for 2019 was the Bedtime Bundles Appeal organised through The Spiers Centre. It was estimated that this year between 100 and 200 families in crisis would receive Bedtime Bundles each containing a pair of pyjamas, a toothbrush, toothpaste, a comb and a book. Chloe Mauger and Gail Spiers delivered six boxes containing 173 books purchased through the Penny Hutchens Memorial Fund and donations from WA Branch members to The Spiers Centre. Booklists organised according to age appropriateness were provided to assist the centre in categorising the Bedtime Bundles. This donation received publicity in the Joondalup Times Online.

Website Aniek Ragan

Aniek has been working with Murray Ware from the National Communications committee to facilitate migration to the National website with the changeover taking place in March 2020. Some storage issues still need to be sorted out.

Facebook Jodie Davidson

The current membership total is 979 with the majority of WA Members located in Perth. Facebook traffic increased by more than 50% in February and March, mostly due to conversation around ANWOS, with the July/August/September (CBCA Book Week promotional period) showing an increase of almost double the number of comments and reactions. During August/September (post CBCA Book Week) reactions continued to double each month compared with May/June statistics. Approximately 75% of our members are actively engaging with the CBCA WA Branch Facebook page each month.

Newsletter Beck Borona

In March 2019, Beck was appointed as newsletter editor taking over from Joanne Morrell who completed the April 2019 issue before handing over the reins. Beck has since done a sterling job in compiling each issue and is assisted by the proof-reading team of Jan Nicholls, Denise Robins and Chloe Mauger. In February 2020 changes to MailChimp necessitated the move to a dedicated CBCA WA account which Beck has since set up. Challenges arising from COVID- 19 issues meant the need for interim bulletins to be sent to members which Beck handled with grace and efficiency.

Archives Trish Montgomery

Specific progress was made with the compilation of an historical record of Executive and Committee Members from 1987 onward in spreadsheet format. In the latter years the notation of members heading up a subcommittee is included. This document will enable streamlined research when required. Thanks to Sue Stopher for her efforts with this task and for keeping it updated into the future.

Make Your Own Story Book (MYOSB) Denise Robins

Entries for the competition closed on Friday June 7 2019. Thanks to Heather and Michelle at Westbooks, for coordinating everything at the collection point.

602 entries were received – 174 fewer than in 2018.

95 individual entries:

- 76 Primary (73 metropolitan and 3 country)
- 19 Secondary (15 metropolitan and 4 country)

18 government schools:

- 14 Primary (13 metropolitan and 1 country)
- 3 Secondary (metropolitan)
- 1 District High School (country)

27 private schools:

- 24 metropolitan
- 3 country

The first sort of entries was held on Sunday 9 June at Oasis House with the MYOSB judges meeting held on Friday 14 June at Oasis House. We have 18 judges – 14 experienced/4 new – a mix of teachers, librarians, authors and illustrators. The second sort of (non-winning) entries took place on Sunday 21 July at Oasis House. Winners were contacted through schools or (for individual entries) via parents during the week beginning July 22.

The Awards ceremony was held at The Literature Centre in Fremantle on Sunday 18 August with 140 guests. All 22 winners attended. The guest speaker was WA illustrator, Aśka who was dynamic and engaging. Photographs from the ceremony and of covers and sample pages from the winning entries were uploaded to the CBCA WA website.

The WA Branch 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 book vouchers.

CBCA Book of the Year Awards

Several activities revolve around the announcement of the Shortlist and winners of the CBCA Book of the Year Awards.

Judges' Talks Felicia Harris

Two talks were held in 2019 and we thank these public libraries for their valued support in providing venues and assisting with catering - Shirley Reilly and staff at Armadale Library on Sunday 5 May, Sharon Carnegie and staff at Wanneroo Library on Sunday 30 June. Felicia Harris (Younger Readers) and Anne-Marie Strother (Older Readers) were acknowledged for their roles as judges with a small presentation at the CBCA Book Week Opening and Dinner in August and new judges for 2020/2021 Sandi Parsons (Early Childhood) and Jan Pocock (Younger Readers) were welcomed.

Thanks to Angela Briant and the Independent Education Union (IEUA) for kindly providing the shortlisted books for these events and assisting with printing.

CBCA Book Week

CBCA Book Week Opening and Dinner Denise Robins and Sally Woffenden

The announcement of the 2019 Book of the Year winners and the opening of CBCA Book Week was enjoyed by a cast of 129 costumed guests keen to display (or hide) their secret powers. Mark Greenwood, 2019 Honour Book Award winner was the guest speaker. His presentation was a highlight as he described his writing experiences and revealed that his unofficial office is the beach. Mark drew and presented the many door, table and raffle prizes donated by local businesses, CBCA WA Committee members and other supporters. The silent auction and raffle raised a total of \$1108 which will

be put to good use supporting CBCA WA programs in 2020. Mark finally left the podium with his own prize, a shiny gold super-boy statue!

The Penny Hutchens Memorial Award to The Spiers Centre was announced by Gail Spiers and the successful bidder for our silent auction, Angela Briant was thrilled to receive the *Banjo* artwork from its creator, Karen Blair. Scattered in the audience were many WA renowned authors and illustrators, including our other 2019 Honour Book Award winner, Michael Speechley.

A follow up meeting was held with the Functions Manager at Ambrose Estate and the venue was provisionally booked for the 2020 Dinner subject to venue hire fee and other conditions.

Merchandise Trish Montgomery

The 2019 theme of Reading is my SECRET POWER was enhanced by multi award winning author and illustrator Bob Graham whose whimsical artwork in various forms over the range of promotional items created delight and inspirational thoughts. A decision by the National Merchandise Committee to discontinue the Short List poster was not met favourably and it will be reinstated in 2020. High quality bookmarks continued to be produced at an affordable price but again the decision to create five different versions was problematic in ordering, handling and distribution. Bookmark sales well exceeded 2018. The size of the stickers increased, resulting in only 18 per sheet, as against 36 previously which was better suited to a class size. Thanks to a recent comprehensive and far-reaching survey initiated by Sarah Mayor Cox, such issues experienced in 2019 will be addressed and changes made effective from 2020.

This is my last year as Merchandise Coordinator and I am grateful to pass the baton to Tania Longman who joined the committee in February 2020. One of the attributes of the WA Branch is that there is always encouragement and practical help when required. A big thank you to the committee for assistance with packing and deliveries. Expedient help from Sheena with matters financial was always available and thanks of course to Jan Nicholls and Liz Allen, the other members of the Merchandise subcommittee, whose support and input over my term has been invaluable.

CBCA Merchandise Sales by Item 2019

Item	2016	2017	2018	2019
Poster – Book Week	963	963	868	791
Poster – Short List	333	340	328	N/A
Handbook	117	94	N/A	N/A
Bookmarks – set of 10	770	733	43,180	60,090
Badge	889	881	1268	1160
Book Week stickers	771	828	683	718
Bunting	325	402	438	388
Pens			432	593
Wristbands			200	N/A
Award Stickers	234	193	136	104
Notable Stickers	28	59	87	62
PROFIT \$		\$6775	\$6905	\$6418

Note: Items donated to our supporting and other bookstores are in addition to the figures shown

Sales Analysis 2019 – Total Orders

Client	2017	2018		2019
Public Libraries	49	51		44
Independent Schools	41	37		40
Catholic Education Schools	61	50		52
Government Schools	183	161		159
Sundry Sales	10	5		10
TOTAL	344	304		305

Review

- The merchandise operation would **not** be viable if not for the generous support of the Education Department of WA, SIDE, Catholic Education and volunteer time
- As wholesale prices are set by the CBCA Board with varying discounts it is up to the marketing strategies of the Branch to stabilise or indeed increase profit
- A robust marketing strategy is required to ensure that the clientele is aware that ordering through the national eStore offers no advantage to WA, but ordering through the Branch provides personal contact, efficient customer service and follow through via the social media networks
- Postage and handling costs require a review.
- Government Schools are pushing to use a credit card for all purchases and discontinuing the order book method. In contrast Public Libraries appear to be content with the current system. However, researching the prospect of the WA Branch offering credit card facilities should be discussed
- Electronic invoicing, ie sent via email is now common practice in business. One particular Public Library will only pay on an electronic invoice. Following up late payments is invariably due to the hard copy being misplaced. Under the current restrictions of MYOB sending replacement invoices is problematic due to the conflict with membership, this will hopefully be resolved
- Overall, sales are not on a downward spiral, (albeit lower than some years ago) so there is hope that the merchandise operation will continue to provide a revenue stream for the Branch while assisting with the aims and objectives of the CBCA, promoting not only CBCA Book Week but recognising our authors and illustrators through the Book of the Year Award.

Grants program (Metropolitan and Regional Centres)

Mary Gimondo and Nola Allen

CBCA Book Week (BW) 2019 was celebrated nationally from the 17th to the 23rd of August with the theme Reading is my SECRET POWER. This year 28,401 children, parents, teachers and librarians celebrated BW in thirty-seven metropolitan (18,825) and country regions (9,576) in 86 libraries and community resource centres (CRCs) across the state. Author/illustrator, writing and illustration workshops and sessions were held in libraries as well as in a number of schools. Students from 203 schools – 98 schools in country regions and 105 schools in metropolitan regions – participated in BW events. Forty-two (42) high calibre Western Australian children's authors, illustrators and storytellers toured metropolitan, country and remote communities throughout August as part of BW. Several workshops related directly to the curriculum, providing opportunities for teachers to build and expand on the sessions back in the classroom. For example, Chris Owen inspired young poets, Mark Greenwood enthralled listeners with history's mysteries and author and storyteller Kerry-Ann Winmar shared her knowledge of the traditional stories and culture of Whadjuk country and introduced the Nyungar language to eager students.

Events were conducted in 16 metropolitan regions, 11 country regions and 30 isolated and/or remote communities from Roebourne in the Pilbara to Mullewa in the Mid-West to Gnowangerup in the Great Southern. One thousand five hundred and twenty-eight (1,528) Aboriginal children attended events in metropolitan, regional and remote communities. A total of 23,845 children attended 615 author/illustrator sessions and workshops, performances and preschool story time sessions in BW programs conducted throughout the state. The 2019 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/MC Jan Nicholls

Our 17th A Night with our Stars was held at the Bendat Parent and Community Centre in Dodd Street, Wembley on Friday 13 March 2020 from 6pm-9.30pm. Despite the threat of COVID-19 we had 200 people in attendance and the atmosphere was very positive. Catering was supplied by Butterfly Catering. Five raffle prizes were given away to lucky winners.

174 tickets were sold (111 members/63 non-members). There were 18 Presenters – eight new, six published by Fremantle Press and seven of them were listed in the 2020 Notables (out of a total of nine from WA). Four guests attended from event sponsor Fremantle Press and four Westbooks staff ran the bookshop. Thanks to everyone for a terrific team effort and to the family members and friends who willingly assisted. Special thanks to the various managers who coordinated their teams so well – Lorraine Horsley/Beck Borona (Floor), Denise Robins (Catering) and Sue Stopher (Bar).

Afternoon Tea with our Stars (ATWOS)

A collaboration between Jan Nicholls, Jan Pocock and Beth Herbert to assist our south west members, this inaugural event was scheduled to be held at Bunbury Cathedral Grammar School from 1.00pm-4.00pm on Sunday 22 March with 12 presenters and an audience of 50+ in attendance. Sadly, owing to escalating concerns about the spread of COVID-19 the event had to be cancelled and ticket costs refunded.

Book Discussion Group Coordinator Gail Spiers

The Book Discussion Group met ten times during 2019 at the UWA University Club and at Oasis House. The September meeting was cancelled because so many members were either on holiday or unwell. The April meeting, attended by 26 people, was devoted to the CBCA Book of the Year Shortlist. WA Judges, Felicia Harris and Anne-Marie Strother were invited to talk about the books they judged in the Younger Readers and Older Readers categories. This proved to be an enjoyable and informative evening. A. J. Betts was the guest speaker at the October meeting and delivered an entertaining and enlightening talk about *Rogue* for the 15 attendees. Of the 9 books discussed at regular meetings, 3 were by male authors and 6 were by female authors. Overall attendance was 98 with 42 different people attending throughout the year. The Book Discussion Group meetings provide opportunities for members to read and discuss the latest YA books, many of which go on to take their place on the CBCA Book of the Year Notable Lists.

Travelling Suitcase Sue Stopher

Responsibility for this resource was transferred from The Literature Centre to CBCA WA. It is available for loan to WA schools from a period of 4 weeks to a term and is mainly lent to school libraries.

It is part of the Booklinks Travelling Suitcase Program which was loaned around Australia when Jackie French was the Australian Children's Laureate in 2014-2015.

It contains:

- laminated newspaper articles and information about Jackie French, posters, magazine articles, folders containing display and activity ideas, realia including a soft toy hairy-nosed wombat
- a collection of 12 of Jackie's books – both picture books and novels
- a USB and DVD with ideas and author information
- roughs and final copies of artwork by Sue de Gennaro, who illustrates some of Jackie's texts

The suitcase was audited when it was returned in Term 3, 2019. There were no requests for Term 4. During 2019, the suitcase went to three schools: the School of Isolated and Distance Education, Penrhos College and Mercedes College. It has been fully booked for 2020.

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 in particular with regard to COVID-19. 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 gratitude for their commitment.

I would particularly like to acknowledge the Executive – Vice President, Denise Robins, who has been a terrific support and an invaluable source of wisdom and advice, and Liz Allen, Branch Secretary extraordinaire who so efficiently records and documents our official business and keeps those important lines of communication open. Sheena Matthews, our new Treasurer, brings great enthusiasm, expertise and an increased level of professionalism to our financial transactions and we are very fortunate to have her on board. Thanks also to 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 2019 – March 2020 *Please note that owing to restrictions imposed by the pandemic, the AGM planned for 23 April 2020 was rescheduled to 17 June 2020 where this report was tabled.*