



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

## 2022 ANNUAL REPORT

### LIFE MEMBERS

Muriel Barwell OAM  
Mary Gimondo  
Grant Stone

### HONORARY MEMBERS

Catherine Clark  
Elizabeth Spencer  
Carolyn Logan  
Stephen Carley

### 2022 COMMITTEE

#### Executive Committee:

<b>President:</b>	Kris Williams	<b>Treasurer:</b>	Sheena Matthews
<b>Vice President:</b>	Jen McKay	<b>Secretary:</b>	Sue Stopher
<b>Past President:</b>	vacant	<b>Ex Officio:</b>	Tracey Willis, Jan Nicholls

**\*\*N.B.** As there was no immediate past President, Jan Nicholls was appointed Ex Officio member to mentor incoming President.

#### CBCA National Board Representative:

Kris Williams attended Board meetings (as an observer) until a new Board Representative could be appointed. Marjorie Johnson-Mwenda was appointed in late January and resigned in March. The position was readvertised and Jane McCrory was appointed but did not take up the position. Kris Williams continued as an observer.

#### WA Judge 2022-2023 Claire Kierath (Younger Readers)

#### Committee Members: *Denotes new member\**

Liz Allen, Nola Allen, Jenny Botje\*, Bianca Breen\*, Sharon Coppin, Sharon Giltrow\*, Mary Gimondo, Felicia Harris, Lorraine Horsley, Sarah Klass, Chloe Mauger, Trish Montgomery, Louise Moore\*, Julie Muir\*, Denise Robins, Wendy Rudge\*, Gail Spiers, Jane Stanton, Tracey Willis and Sally Woffenden.

#### Subcommittees

A Night with our Stars (ANWOS)	Merchandise / eStore
Archives	Make Your Own Story Book
Book Discussion Group	Muriel Barwell Award (Biennial - even years)
CBCA Book Week Dinner & Opening	Newsletter
Facebook	Oasis House
Grants & Regional Centres	Penny Hutchens Memorial Fund (Biennial – odd)
Instagram	Shadow Judging
Judges Talks	Travelling Suitcase
Membership	Website

#### From the WA Branch President      Kris Williams

It is my pleasure to present this Annual Report to our membership.

We were delighted to welcome new committee members Jenny Botje, Sharon Giltrow, Louise Moore, Julie Muir and Bianca Breen, and looked forward to their contribution to the WA Branch. During the year we farewelled Beck Barona, newsletter editor, committee member Lindsay Fletcher, Sue Stopher as Secretary and Instagram account manager Bianca Breen. We thank them for their work and contribution to the Branch. During the year Louise Moore was appointed Secretary upon the resignation of Sue Stopher.

I took part in a CBCA Strategic Planning weekend in Melbourne from 4-6 November. Attended by all Branch Presidents and Board Members, the main focus was to determine CBCA's Purpose, Vision, Mission and Values. The Branch committee held a Planning Day on 27 November.

The WA Branch continues to actively support creatives through promotion on social media, letters of support and assisting them with grant applications. Many hours are spent organising and attending WA Branch events and supporting our partner organisations.

**Finance Sheena Matthews, Treasurer**

The financial position at the end of the 2022 year showed a surplus of \$16,218.03. This was a significantly improved position on the deficit last year of \$12,134.89. Expenses were managed prudently and surpluses were achieved in our major events.

Income from membership was marginally up by 1.22 per cent, or eight memberships, on the previous year. This was the first year that merchandise purchases were only available via the CBCA e-store website. Branch members were no longer entitled to a member discount nor were institutions permitted to use purchase orders. The changes, pleasingly did not impact on the income received from a percentage distribution of e-Store sales from WA. The income received was up 28 per cent or \$2,431.99 over the surplus received in 2021.

The 2022 grant allocations resulted in an underspend of \$6,500. Approval was obtained from Healthway for this underspend to be used for an online Kids Book Buzz Project in 2023. The project will have videoed interviews of children interviewing authors/illustrators. Regional councils accounted for ≈65 per cent of the total grant allocation for 2022.

ANWOS continued to be a well-supported and successful annual event for the Branch. The surplus from ANWOS was \$1,503.76. This was down on the previous financial year by 57 per cent or \$2,047.83 due to the COVID-19 restriction on numbers at the venue and the decision not to hold a raffle to eliminate concerns with cash handling. The Book Week Opening and Dinner produced a surplus of \$1,280.37 despite the marginally lower attendance numbers. . There was a rent increase for the Oasis House storeroom in July 2022 of 12 per cent.

As a voluntary organisation, the balance of providing our members with benefits of membership and achieving surpluses to run events and grow our financial position is a constant challenge. The committee, is fiscally responsible and prudent in managing expenses. The cash position, which includes the trading account, the cash management account and term deposit accounts is strong. The CBCA WA Branch is in a sound financial position and currently able to meet our financial responsibilities. The audited accounts are provided as a separate document.

**Membership Sharon Coppin**

At the end of 2022, there were 293 fully paid members, an increase of 1.22 per cent on last year. There was no increase in membership fees for 2022.

During 2022, the membership email list was continually updated; and overall changes to include institution names, membership number and tagging have made it easier to edit member details.

Members are reminded to advise the membership officer of any changes to membership records, including contact details. Reminders will continue to be sent via newsletters, mailing lists and Facebook.

Membership Categories	Member Numbers
Personal	78
Concessional	92
Institutional	120

Comparison of membership numbers 2022 to 2021

	2022		Variation	2021	
	Number	Total		Number	Total
Membership: Concessional	92	\$3,345.12	\$109.08	88	\$3,236.04
Membership: Personal	78	\$3,950.00	\$350.00	71	\$3,600.00
Memberships Institutional	120	\$8,181.60	-\$272.72	123	\$8,454.32
<b>Totals</b>	<b>290</b>	<b>\$15,476.72</b>	<b>\$186.36</b>	<b>282</b>	<b>\$15,290.36</b>

## **Oasis House Chloe Mauger**

The Oasis Lotteries House AGM was held on 12 October 2022 by Zoom meeting. The Management Committee Members elected were: Jane Chilcott (Linkwest); Stephen Truscott (Fullness of Life); Carrie Clark (Kalparrin), Kerry Harper (Health) and Chloe Mauger (CBCA WA). with Sharon Coppin listed as the second CBCA WA contact.

During the year, PICYS returned to their previous offices after renovation. The Allergy Support Hub left their tenancy, leaving several suites vacant.

Late in 2022 Jane Chilcott retired from Linkwest, after many years of dedicated service to the Management Committee at OLH. For the interim, Mihaela Nicolescu and Ghylene Palmer (Business Manager) will continue to lead the Linkwest team until a new CEO is appointed.

Major refurbishment of Oasis Lotteries House was due to commence in November 2022 but did not begin until February 2023. Major delays have occurred in part due to flooding in the Eastern States and other transport difficulties including strikes at ports which seriously interrupted the supply chain of materials. The refurbishment includes work on the entry and foyer, demolition and restructure of the main meeting room, rear bathroom, sound-proofing of some suites and upgrade of 2 kitchenettes. The AV systems in the main meeting room will be overhauled and a training session on new equipment will be held for all interested tenants.

As a consequence of the refurbishment work, since November CBCA WA branch meetings have been held at the South Perth Library and at The State Library, with the April AGM to be held at The Literature Centre in Fremantle.

## **Branch Sub-Committees**

### **Grants and Regional Centres Nola Allen, Mary Gimondo**

CBCA WA Branch secured funding of just over \$87,000 from the State Government of Western Australia through the Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries and Healthway Go for 2&5. This funding was dispersed to thirty-six metropolitan and country communities to celebrate CBCA Book Week 2022. Around 20,000 children, parents, teachers and librarians embraced this year's theme *Dreaming with eyes open...* attending 456 writing and illustration workshops, artist talks, drama and storytelling events in 93 libraries and community resource centres in regions from Kununurra in the East Kimberley to Kalgoorlie in the Goldfields to Denmark in the Great Southern.

Forty-five high calibre WA children's authors, illustrators, graphic novelists, performers and storytellers engaged, inspired and informed young people as they shared their passion for words, images and stories. Aboriginal artists including Cheryl Kickett-Tucker, Justin Martin, Brenton McKenna, Alton Walley, Tyrown Waigana and Julianne Wade shared their knowledge of culture and country, and their writing and illustrating journeys through hands-on art and graphic novel workshops, creative writing and storytelling sessions.

Many libraries toured artists to local schools or funded the cost of school buses to enable students to attend sessions and visit their local library for the first time. Nine author and illustrator tours throughout country WA brought the magic of CBCA Book Week to children living in remote communities including Djarindjin/Lombadina in the Broome region, Strelley Community School in the Pilbara, and Mullewa in the Mid-West.

### **eStore / Merchandise Sharon Coppin**

The national CBCA eStore was launched in March 2022. Previously, merchandise had been purchased through the Branches. An eStore committee, made up of representatives from each State and Territory, was formed to work with the National committee on all aspects of the running of the eStore. Due to teething problems with the eStore website, it will be updated to a new system 2023 to make it easier to access.

CBCA WA Branch retained the merchandise email for 2022 to handle any local enquiries. This will be reviewed in 2023.

## **The Muriel Barwell Award for Distinguished Service to Children's Literature**

**Gail Spiers**

The 2022 recipient of the Muriel Barwell Award was Nola Allen for her outstanding contribution to children's literature and literacy in WA through her work as a public librarian and as a long-serving member of CBCA WA. Thank you to the MBA judges Gail Spiers, Jan Nicholls and Trish Montgomery.

### **Website Sarah Klass**

The major project for the website during 2022 was continuing work on the WA Author and Illustrator page that had been initiated the previous year. Western Australian creators were invited to submit their profiles inclusive of social media platforms for inclusion on the page for a launch date in early 2023. The branch hopes that this page will be a well-used resource for local schools and libraries to connect with local creators for Book Week and other times.

### **Social Media – Facebook Jan Nicholls**

The WA Branch Facebook Group started the year with 1558 members and continued to attract interest reaching 1800 in July. The year ended with close to 2000 members of whom 1867 are from Australia with 1048 from Perth.

A snapshot of Facebook statistics for the period of 28 days which covered both ANWOS and the CBCA Shortlist announcements showed 120 posts in total which attracted 43,311 views – an average of 360 views per post which is quite an impressive outreach.

The highest number of views was for the post on 29 March announcing the CBCA Shortlist and especially congratulating our WA creatives listed there. It attracted 2298 views and was closely followed by the post congratulating Cindy Lane shortlisted for the New Illustrator award with 1048 views.

The top post of the year with 3552 views was about the anniversary edition of Sunshine by Jan Ormerod featured in the CBCA Book of the Year WA Winners display at City of Perth Library.

Sponsors Healthway were very pleased with our outreach in the lead-up to and during CBCA Book Week 2022 with numerous Healthway posts attracting good numbers and positive responses.

### **Social Media – Instagram**

Account Manager Tyshana McEwen resigned at the AGM in April and Bianca Breen took over briefly until work pressures forced her to resign in September. Since when the account has been dormant while we search for a new manager.

### **Newsletter Wendy Rudge**

Five issues of the newsletter were published during 2022. On average 56.3 per cent of members are opening the e-mailed newsletter. This represents an increase in engagement of 4.45 per cent on the 2021 figures. Along with the newsletters, six other communications were also sent to members via mailchimp including adhoc updates, CBCA Book Week and BOTY judging, and the Sun Project Shadow Judging information. Engagement for these emails was 60.7 per cent.

### **Archives Trish Montgomery**

The goal for 2022 was to streamline the Archive collection by way of creating a more theoretical approach to record the holdings. This has for the most part been achieved with a considerable amount of time spent by the Archivist sorting, evaluating and creating an official archival structure of Series – Accession – Item – Provenance – Description – Format Location – etc.

This information is shown by way of an Accession Sheet which is physically housed with the appropriate item and then recorded on a Master Excel Spreadsheet. At this time there are 63 Accessions with more to follow. This method will provide an electronic form of accessing the information and providing efficient

retrieval. As a result of this work there will be a need to purchase further archival housing items in the future.

As the majority of the hack work has been completed there is no longer a need for a sub-committee however the Archivist will seek assistance for specific tasks as required.

As an adjunct to the Archives Gail Spiers has continued coordinating the WA Collection of the CBCA BOYA Winners.

### **WA Collection of Book of the Year Winners Exhibition**

During the months of August, September and October 2022, an exhibition of WA winners of the Book of the Year Awards was on display in the foyer of the City of Perth Library. Showcased in secure cabinets were books from the WA Collection of Book of the Year Winners along with biographical information, book blurbs and artefacts collected from WA creators and their descendants.

Screening continuously on the huge video wall above the front desk was a slideshow of the WA winners from 1946 to 2022. A quiz designed to encourage viewers to examine the exhibits more closely was also available.

The exhibition was a result of months of behind-the-scenes research and preparation by Gail Spiers and Jan Nicholls with assistance from Sue Wyche who wrote an article about the history of the awards from a Western Australian perspective, and Elaine Forrestal who helped with setting up and taking down the exhibition.

The WA Winners exhibition generated a great deal of interest from the general public as well as children's literature enthusiasts and proved to be a highly successful partnership with the City of Perth Library.

### **WA Volunteer Service Awards**

To celebrate International Volunteer Day in December 2021, 49 WA Volunteer Certificates of Recognition provided through the Department of Communities were made available to members of our hard-working committee as well as friends and family members who assisted throughout the year.

Using the archival record of Members of the WA Branch, nine members were identified as being eligible for the WA Volunteer Service Award presented for at least 25 years of voluntary service: Mary Gimondo, (47 years), Nola Allen, (41 years), Liz Allen, (36 years), Muriel Barwell OAM, (31 years), Gay Tierney, (28 years), Gail Spiers, (26 years), Eve Morrissey (25 years), Stephen Carley (34 years), Grant Stone (37 years).

A Thank You lunch acknowledging their service and sponsored by Lotterywest, Volunteering WA and the CBCA WA Branch was held for past and present long-serving WA Branch Committee members and recipients of the Muriel Barwell Award for Distinguished Service to Children's Literature. Between them the recipients of the WA Volunteer Service Award have given more than 270 years of service to the CBCA WA Branch.

Volunteering WA through the Department of Communities produced the inaugural WA Volunteer Service Award Recognition Video in which Kris Williams and Gail Spiers are featured.

[www.wa.gov.au/organisation/departments-of-communities/wa-volunteer-service-awards](http://www.wa.gov.au/organisation/departments-of-communities/wa-volunteer-service-awards)

### **Make Your Own Story Book (MYOSB)**

**Denise Robins**

Flyers for MYOSB were distributed electronically to schools and libraries through committee member contacts and Westbooks. Westbooks was the entry collection point. The competition closed: Friday 10 June.

566 entries were received:

77 individual entries:

- 64 Primary (50 metropolitan and 14 country)
- 13 Secondary (11 metropolitan and 2 country)

26 government school entries:

- 21 Primary (18 metropolitan and 3 country)
  - 5 Secondary (4 metropolitan and 1 country)
- 16 private schools:
- 15 Primary (14 metropolitan and 1 country)
  - 1 Secondary (country)

The first sorting of entries took place on Sunday 12 June with the 14 MYOSB judges, a mix of teachers, librarians, authors and illustrators, meeting on Monday 13 June. The judging was finalised on Friday 15 July and winners contacted through schools or parents (individual entries) at the beginning of July.

The Awards Ceremony and author workshop was held on Sunday 21 August at the Fremantle Literature Centre with guest speaker Cristy Burne. All winners, including some from previous years, attended the event. Total numbers were 120 guests including two judges. Peter Stone from *The Big Picture Factory* in Rivervale offered to make published copies of the first prize winning books.

Thank you to The Literature Centre for hosting the event and to the following sponsors: - Healthway, Beaufort Street Books, Child Education Services, Crow Books, The Lane Bookshop, Paper Bird Children's Books & Arts, Rabble Books and games, Westbooks and The Literature Centre for providing prizes for the winners.

**Booklinks Jackie French Travelling Suitcase                      Sue Stopher**

This resource is available for loan to WA schools from a period of 4 weeks to a term. Priority is given to CBCA members.

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.

**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.

**Judge's Talk                      Tracey Willis**

The Judge's Talk was held on Saturday 28 May at Cottesloe Primary School library and was well attended. An advertising push for Library Officers to attend resulted in quite a few new faces in the audience who declared they would be back next year. The event was advertised on the CBCA WA Facebook page, Let's Talk Libraries page, WASLA page, in the CBCA WA newsletter and on Connect on IKON (Department of Education).

Claire Kierath, the WA Branch Judge for the Younger Readers category shared her thoughts and opinions, along with those from the other judges, treating us to an afternoon of literary delights. Claire gave a detailed insight into the Older Readers and Younger Readers shortlisted books, and also a great overview of the Early Childhood, Picture Book and Eve Pownall books. Everyone left feeling that they had a better insight into the 2022 shortlisted books and enjoyed the opportunity to view the books and discuss them with their peers.

**Shadow Judging                      Kris Williams**

In 2022 CBCA received seed funding for the Sun Project: Shadow Judging program which had groups of young voices from around Australia shadowing our main judges as part of the Book of the Year awards.

CBCA member schools, libraries and community groups applied to be part of the funded project that would judge the CBCA Book of the Year based on the shortlist. Using the same judging criteria as BOTY judges, these young voices would deep read and discuss the books in their selected category, write a creative response and vote for their favourite books.

WA had 15 funded groups that received vouchers to buy the shortlist books and have a creative visit. Feedback from all groups was that so much was gained from the process.

At the end of CBCA Book Week on 25 August, the Shadower's Choice winners were announced. James Foley and *Stellaphant* won the Picture Book of the Year.

## CBCA Book Week

### CBCA Book Week Opening and Dinner Denise Robins and Sally Woffenden

The CBCA Book Week Opening and Dinner was held on Friday 19 August 2022 at Ambrose Estate, Wembley. The theme *Dreaming with eyes open...* was interpreted in many different ways including the wonderful table centre pieces created by Year 5/6 Carlisle Primary School visual arts students, coordinated by their teacher and committee member Jen McKay.

President Kris Williams announced the Book of the Year winners, congratulating our WA winner Shirley Marr, Book of the Year: Younger Readers for *A Glasshouse of Stars* and Cindy Lane shortlisted for CBCA Award for New Illustrator *Great White Shark*, both of whom were in the audience. Also acknowledged were James Foley, Honour Book Picture Book of the Year for *Stellaphant* and Gabriel Evans shortlisted for Picture Book of the Year *Blue Flower*. We were honoured to join them in a celebration of their success.

2021/22 WA Book of the Year Judge Claire Keirath and past judges including Jan Pocock, who was in the audience, were acknowledged and thanked for their hard work.

2022 Muriel Barwell Award for Distinguished Service to Children's Literature was awarded to Nola Allen. Nola is a long-time member of the WA Branch committee and her life work has had at its centre the selection, promotion and sharing of quality Australian books with children, their parents, families and teachers.

Guest speaker Briony Stewart, 2021 Book of the Year Early Childhood Honour Book recipient for *We love you, Magoo*, took us on a journey of her writing and illustration career. Amusing and entertaining, Briony ended her presentation with a song summing up her career.

The 2023 Book Week Opening and Dinner will be held on Friday 18 September.

Thank you to our sponsors and to the team lead Denise and Sally on another hugely successful event.

## Events and Activities

### A Night with our Stars (ANWOS) Convenor/MC Jan Nicholls

Our 19<sup>th</sup> ANWOS was held on Friday 18 March 2022 at the Bendat Centre in Dodd St, Wembley from 6.00-9.30pm, with tickets selling out within a week of the event. Attendance was capped at 150 seated guests (50% of venue capacity because of Level 2 Covid restrictions imposed by the state government). MC Jan Nicholls welcomed everyone and acted as timekeeper coordinating the presentations.

Fremantle Press sponsorship kindly covered the venue hire costs and they were represented on the night by publisher Cate Sutherland. Three out of the 18 presenters on the program were published by Fremantle Press. Westbooks, as always, was the official book supplier with Michelle Murphy and Julie Bumford ably taking care of book sales on the night. Catering was supplied by Butterfly Catering and all wine was donated from a variety of sources.

Of the 18 presenters originally invited two had to withdraw citing Covid concerns – Cindy Lane and James Foley. Seven were new to ANWOS and all presenters gave spectacular performances, entertaining the capacity audience with their wit, humour and originality.

A decision was made not to sell raffle tickets in the current Covid situation even though this represented a lost opportunity to raise funds for the Branch. Five door prizes of bags of books from various donors were given out and included signed copies by many of the presenters.

Briony Stewart generously donated a sketch of her character from *We love you, Magoo* which was framed and offered for Silent Auction at the CBCA Book Week Dinner in August 2022.

Thanks to all committee members who combined in a magnificent team effort both in the lead-up and on the night and to partners and family members who assisted.

**Book Discussion Group      Coordinator Gail Spiers**

Book Discussion Group meetings provide opportunities for members to read and discuss the latest Australian YA books, many of which go on to take their place on the CBCA Book of the Year Notable Lists. The group met 12 times during 2022 at Oasis Lotteries House and the Hampden Hotel. Seventeen people participated in an entertaining Book of the Year Shortlist discussion in April.

A special event with James Foley, author of shortlisted picture book *Stellaphant*, was held during *Love to Read Local Week* in June. Attended by 20 people, the event was funded by Writing WA and the Copyright Agency Cultural Fund.

**Acknowledgements and thanks**

Thank you to all committee members and the wider CBCA WA membership for their time and effort, and for all the ways in which they have supported the WA Branch throughout 2022.

**Kris Williams**  
**WA Branch President**