



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

### Annual Report April 2017- March 2018

<b>LIFE MEMBERS</b>		
Muriel Barwell OAM Grant Stone	Mary Gimondo	Alison Gregg
<b>HONORARY MEMBERS</b>		
Margaret Allen Lesley Reece AM	Stephen Carley Myrtle Spiers	Carolyn Logan

#### 2017 COMMITTEE

##### Executive Committee:

<b>President:</b>	Jan Nicholls	<b>Treasurer:</b>	Suzanne Pearse
<b>Vice President:</b>	Felicia Harris	<b>Secretary:</b>	Elizabeth Allen
<b>Past President:</b>	Sue Stopher	<b>Ex Officio:</b>	Chloe Mauger

**CBCA National Board Representative:** Angela Briant

##### Committee Members:

Nola Allen, Joanna Andrew, Kelly Canby, Mel Christiansen, Sharon Coppin, Dee Cunninghame, Jodie Davidson, Mary Gimondo, Trish Montgomery, Karina Oliver, Aniek Ragan, Denise Robins, Gail Spiers and Sally Woffenden.

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

**MYOSB Coordinator:** Denise Robins  
**Newsletter Editor:** Mel Christiansen  
**Penny Hutchens Fund:** Gail Spiers  
**WA Judges:** Margaret Merga, Older Readers  
 Ruth Campbell Hicks, Early Childhood  
**Judges' Talks Coordinator:** Felicia Harris  
**Website Manager:** Aniek Ragan

##### Subcommittees

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

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

#### From the WA Branch President **Jan Nicholls**

It is my pleasure to present this Annual Report (which covers the period from the last AGM held in April 2017 to the end of March 2018) to our committee and members as a record of another busy, productive and successful year for the WA Branch. When we tally the hours committee members spend behind the scenes on administrative work as well as organising events and activities it really is an impressive total and I thank them most sincerely for their ongoing efforts. The WA Branch is truly fortunate to have such dedicated volunteers and their efforts are much appreciated. At the 2017 AGM we welcomed three new committee members – Kelly Canby, Jodie Davidson and Mel Christiansen. Owing to the pressure of other commitments Kelly and Mel are stepping down, as is Karina Oliver, but we thank them for their input and

are grateful that Jodie is remaining on board and has joined our Facebook admin group. New committee members are always welcome.

In addition to our regular major annual events: ANWOS, the MYOSB competition and the CBW Dinner (which are detailed under their respective subheadings in this report), 2017 marked the 40th anniversary of the Make Your Own Story Book competition, a fine achievement by any standards and our celebration at the City of Perth library was a wonderful occasion. In September 2017 I was fortunate to visit Christmas Island and meet Farzian Zainal, one of our most remote MYOSB competition winners. In July the Branch was invited to the inaugural Mandurah Schools Network Conference where Trish Montgomery, Jodie Davidson and I manned a stall promoting the CBCA WA Branch and raising awareness of the important work we do.

Being WA Branch President offers so many wonderful opportunities to connect with the wider children's literature community and I was honoured to be asked to launch *1,2 Pirate Stew*, the latest picture book by Kylie Howarth which went on to be listed as a CBCA Notable. In November WritingWA invited me to be a guest reviewer on their Cover to Cover program which is hosted by Meri Fatin and can be viewed at this link [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dm\\_ZN7yl5no](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dm_ZN7yl5no) In February 2018 I was a Book Doctor at Perth Writers Festival prescribing great reads (many of them by our talented WA authors and illustrators, of course) to the children and their families who attended.

The National Board has appointed various taskforces and subcommittees that are working towards the challenge of moving our organisation forward towards the OneCBCA model. Last November we were delighted to host a visit from Board Chair, Dr Margot Hillel, who gave a progress report and addressed some of our concerns about how this process would be managed. In May 2018 I will represent the WA Branch at the 2018 National CBCA AGM in Canberra.

#### **Finance            Suzanne Pearse, Treasurer**

The Branch has finished the year with a deficit of \$2,651 of expenditure over income. The deficit was partly due to the additional costs in hosting a special event to celebrate the 40th anniversary of the MYOSB competition and other small increases in operating costs.

In summary: Membership is down \$737.74 with contributions bringing in \$10,444.11. We now have a more comprehensive insurance policy costing \$1414 - a saving of \$213.50 due to the CBCA National Insurance arrangement. Rent at Oasis House represents a major operating expense \$4,181. We were advised of a rent increase in 2018 from a base charge of \$426 per month plus extra meeting charges to a flat rate of \$512.56 per month. Printing and photocopying costs increased despite the online delivery of the newsletter, promotion of competitions and events and EFT payments. Merchandise sales remain our greatest fundraiser with a profit of \$6,974. The Judges' Talks made a profit of \$255 due to reduced catering costs. The Book Week Opening & Dinner made a profit of \$1,122. ANWOS generated a profit of \$222 which was only possible due to sponsorship covering the venue hire and the donation of wine. Each event organiser has been very successful in keeping costs down to the absolute minimum and reducing operating costs. The Grants Program has seen \$74,350 distributed to Public Libraries for Children's Book Week Programs. Funds raised from the raffle at ANWOS (\$459) and the Book Week Dinner (\$488) were donated to Children in Crisis. Accounting and Bookkeeping costs were \$1,231. These costs should decrease as all parties become more confident with the use of MYOB online for invoicing and receipting of memberships and merchandise. The decision was made not to increase membership fees for 2018. These and other event charges may need to be reassessed for 2018.

Despite the deficit for this reporting period we are in a sound financial position and confident we will be able to meet all our financial responsibilities. Changes to the funding structure and reporting authorities for 2018 and beyond bring greater uncertainty with future funding. We will need to remain vigilant and responsible about how we spend and distribute our members' funds to ensure a sustainable future.

The audited accounts are provided as a separate document.

#### **Oasis Lotteries House            Chloe Mauger**

CBCA WA first leased the storeroom in Oasis Lotteries House in 2002, and subsequently the lease has been renewed in 2005, 2009 and 2013. In August 2017, the Oasis House Management Committee reviewed all tenancy agreements in an effort to ensure an equitable method of charging rent as rents from the leases fund the building management costs. In September 2017, a formula for determining the standard price of all tenancies was approved based on a fixed rate per square metre, taking into account all operating costs for Oasis Lotteries House. The CBCA storeroom measures 19.05 sq. metres and we

have now been allocated parking bay #12. All tenants now pay the same rate, have access to all common areas and pay a bond of one month's rent. In October 2017, the revised, updated and equitably rationalised Oasis House leases were brought before the AGM of the Oasis House Management Committee (comprising 1 member from each tenant organisation). At this time there were only 5 tenants, with two vacant suites. The revised leases are effective from 1 October 2017 - 30 June 2019.

At the meeting on 19 March 2018, the urgent need for more tenants was identified. Presently there are only 4 tenants (including CBCA WA), and a minimum of 2 more tenants is needed to cover future budgeted costs. All tenants were urged to seek not-for-profit organisations to take up tenancies at Oasis Lotteries House.

#### **Membership Sharon Coppin**

At the end of 2016 we transferred the membership database to a new format using Mind Your Own Business (MYOB) which streamlined many operations. I continue to work towards using this program in an effective way to benefit all members. At the end of 2017, there were 194 paid members with a further 88 members recorded as having "open" (as yet unpaid) invoices. Membership invoices were sent in late February 2018. The table shows membership as at 31/01/18

Concession \$30	37	\$1,110	
Personal \$45	46	\$2,070	
Institutional \$60	100	\$6000	
TOTAL	183	\$9,170	

#### **Penny Hutchens Memorial Fund Gail Spiers and Chloe Mauger**

The recipient of the Penny Hutchens Memorial Fund for 2017 was the Patricia Giles Centre. Their letter of thanks stated that, "The Patricia Giles Centre has abundant uses for these books across our refuge accommodation where we house and support families in crisis. We also provide support to clients from the local community. Our services for victims of domestic and family violence range from women's and children's counselling, child advocacy support work and safe at home services. The wonderful books you have supplied us with will be a permanent fixture in our child advocacy unit, where children and parents are welcome to sit and read to their hearts content!"

Special thanks go to Sue Wyche, Trish Montgomery, Chloe Mauger, Jenni Woodroffe and Ruth Nitschke for their personal donations, which raised the total number of books to 193, to Margaret Walton from Child Education Services for her assistance in selecting appropriate books and to Kelly Canby for her design of the new Penny Hutchens Memorial Fund book plates.

#### **Website Aniek Ragan**

The WA Branch website provides a useful means of communication for members. From December 2016 to November 2017 8,497 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 information and Programs for Children. Also frequently visited were the Merchandise and Authors & Illustrators pages. It is important to continue to develop these areas and keep them relevant.

CBCA WA Website usage December 2016 to November 2017 (provided by Murray Ware)

Page Name	Page Views	Time on Page	Web Address
WA Home	1,004	00:00:36	/index.htm
Join	589	00:01:06	/wajoin.htm
Committee	155	00:01:01	/wacommitee.htm
Programs for Children	1,066	00:01:14	/waprogramchildren.htm
Annual Program	697	00:01:12	/waprogram.htm
Merchandise	608	00:02:13	/wamerchandise.htm
MYOSBC	2,596	00:02:01	/wamyosb.htm
Books & Young People	582	00:01:10	/wabooks.htm
Authors & Illustrators	706	00:01:24	/wauthors.htm
Reading List	91	00:00:53	/wareadinglists.htm
Newsletter	403	00:02:39	/newsletter.htm

### **Donations and Gifts    Jan Nicholls**

A small group was established in mid-2017 with the purpose of streamlining the presentation of gifts at various WA Branch functions, to consider matters such as awards for long service and how best we might respond to requests for donations in the event of emergencies (such as natural disasters or a local library being destroyed) and for good causes such as the CBCA Awards Foundation. This is still a work in progress.

### **Facebook        Jodie Davidson**

Jan Nicholls, Jodie Davidson, Joanna Andrew and Kelly Canby are administrators of the WA Facebook page. As of March 2018 Facebook membership stood at 708 members with the majority of members located in Perth or Western Australia, which is our main target audience. We have some interstate members mainly authors or CBCA members from other branches including NSW, VIC and QLD with a further 20 or so members internationally based. 88.3% are female and 11.4% are male. The majority of female members are aged between 35 and 64 with the number of male members being consistent in each age bracket from 25 upwards.

An occasional pinned post inviting new Facebook group members to join as fully paid-up members has been implemented in an attempt to convert Facebook members to bona fide, financial WA Branch members which is necessary if the WA Branch is to remain viable.

CBCA Western Australia is set up as a Public Group using a Group Page format. Groups are generally set up for more personal interaction and are directly connected to the people who administer them. This arrangement will be re-evaluated in 2018, along with permission to post, to ensure that our Facebook page supports quality posts both for and from our members.

### **Newsletter       Mel Christiansen**

The September 2017 issue of the newsletter was the first CBCA WA Branch Newsletter produced entirely using the email marketing service MailChimp. The newsletter included the introduction of Photo Galleries via links to albums in Google Photos enabling access to a larger selection of photos for our members. Minor teething issues arose with this move including the requirement of SLWA to have a PDF version for archive purposes. These issues have since been resolved.

Many thanks to Denise Robins, Chloe Mauger and Jan Nicholls for their excellent proof reading services, and to everyone who provided content for each issue. Feedback received regarding the new format has been positive. At the beginning of 2018 we put out a call for a new editor and were delighted with the response. Joanne Morrell has been appointed and after a transition period with Mel will take over from the June 2018 edition.

### **Archives         Trish Montgomery**

2017 has seen increased archival activity thanks to the invaluable assistance of Chloe Mauger. Chloe has been working on the photo collection, the future of which needs to be addressed in 2018 due to the plethora of digital photos and the method of providing access and storage to significant images. Likewise, the now digitally produced newsletter will take on a slightly different look when printed in hard copy for preservation. Selected items continue to be forwarded to the National Archivist on an annual basis. Items from the Archive collection were utilised for the public display at the City of Perth library to complement the Make Your Own Story Book competition 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. Many tasks are yet to be undertaken but steady progress is being made with this valuable resource.

### **Make Your Own Story Book (MYOSB) and 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary    Denise Robins**

On Sunday 20 August, the talents of 25 budding young authors and illustrators were recognised and rewarded at the MYOSB Awards Ceremony at The Literature Centre in Fremantle. As a surprise tribute to CBCA Award-winning author Norman Jorgensen who presented the 2017 awards, the winners, guests and committee members wore a costume or item to commemorate his books. After the formal ceremony, winners and their guests enjoyed a slice of celebration anniversary cake, browsed, bought books and chatted with Norman as he signed them.

19 judges read almost 800 entries from 150 individual children, 31 public schools and 24 private schools. The prize-winning entries were on display at the City of Perth library for three weeks. Scans of covers and pages from the winning entries can be viewed on the CBCA WA website.

The WA Branch thanks The Literature Centre and our CBW sponsors Healthway and their *Go for 2&5* program. We also sincerely thank the following bookstores for their wonderful support - Beaufort Street Books, Child Education Services, Crow Books, The Lane Bookshop, Millpoint Caffe Bookshop, Oxford St Books, Paper Bird Books & Arts and Westbooks.

The MYOSB competition 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration was held at the City of Perth library on Friday 11 August with over 70 invited guests including past and recent winners. A revolving presentation was displayed on the video screens in the foyer above the main desk until 15<sup>th</sup> September, showcasing the competition, the celebration and the work of CBCA WA.

Guests viewed a display of past and present MYOSB entries in the foyer prior to the official welcome from Branch President Jan Nicholls. MC award-winning author Norman Jorgensen connected the historic threads of the competition as he read a congratulatory message from past winner Shaun Tan and introduced recent and past entrants.

Award winning author James Foley spoke on behalf of entrants who are now published authors and Simone Tolhurst, now a dedicated English teacher, spoke briefly about her win and gasped in surprise when she saw her younger self appear on the screen. Kate McQueen, Jessica Bruining, Zac Valverde and Flynn Hardcastle-Sharp gave us a glimpse of the talent that exists amongst our recent winners.

Mary Gimondo, the CBCA Committee member who conceived the inspiring idea to encourage literary creativity in young people, noted that this competition is the longest running of its kind in Australia. A visual presentation outlining the history of the competition entertained guests. The cutting of the celebratory cake by Mary, with Bing and Christine Tan (Shaun Tan's parents) rounded off the evening.

### **CBCA Book of the Year Awards**

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

#### **Short List and Judges' Talks Felicia Harris**

Judges' Talks in 2017 took place on Tuesday 20 June at SIDE in Leederville and Tuesday 27 June at AH Bracks Library in Melville. Both evenings were well attended with 25 participants at SIDE and 35 participants at AH Bracks Library. Judges Ruth Campbell-Hicks (Early Childhood) and Margaret Merga (Older Readers) were insightful and engaging, happy to answer numerous questions from the audience. Kylie Howarth attended the SIDE presentation and gave a brief talk about her wonderful Early Childhood shortlisted book *CHIP* which was very well received. Paula Hayes attended the AH Bracks talk and spoke about her Younger Readers Notable listed book *Lily in the Mirror* to the delight of the audience. Thank you to Jo-anne Monaghan at AH Bracks Library, the SIDE Library Resource Centre staff, the WA Branch Committee Members and all who attended for helping to make both evenings a great success.

### **Children's Book Week**

#### **Children's Book Week Opening and Dinner Dee Cunninghame and Sally Woffenden**

Held on Friday 18 August 2017 in the Ambrose Room at Wembley Golf Course the dinner was attended by 102 people. This was 18 fewer than last year and meant the event did not quite cover costs which is an essential factor to consider in future event planning.

Many guests followed the lead of our WA Branch President and some committee members by embracing the option of dressing up as a book character, which added significantly to the fun. Grant Stone was an accomplished MC and guest speaker Danny Parker entertained with an insightful and funny presentation about his career as both an author and undertaker. Denise Robins and students from St Stephen's deserve recognition for their colourful table centres linked to the CBCA Book Week theme of *Escape to Everywhere* and reference was made to the presentation of the Penny Hutchens Memorial Fund to the Patricia Giles Centre. Functions such as this are a team effort and our thanks are extended to all committee members for their contribution to the success of the evening.

### **Merchandise Trish Montgomery**

The CBCA Book Week theme for 2017 *Escape to Everywhere* was enhanced by the very popular whimsical images by award winning illustrator Freya Blackwood. This artwork and resultant merchandise attracted many positive comments. Bunting, ideal for instant promotion, again proved to be very popular with a 23% increase in sales from 2016. Overall, there was a 1.42% increase of items sold compared with 2016, with the bonus of increased membership that resulted from personal communications during the ordering process.

Although MYOB training was delayed the raising of 345 invoices went smoothly. Restrictions with reporting from MYOB meant that the reconciliation of payments was a lengthy manual process. All monies outstanding are expected to be received.

In 2017 the National Board entered into a contract with WA Library Supplies to sell and distribute Book Week merchandise from 1 July, soon after the WA Branch Packing Day. Unfortunately, this was without prior consultation or discussion with the Branch. It is difficult to know the effect of this arrangement and although sales from CBCA WA continue up to Book Week it is impossible for us to compete with the direct marketing ability of WA Library Supplies to their many thousands of clients. A report expressing our concern was sent to the Board with the response that there will be consultation in the future. Early in 2018, our Branch President met with a representative from WA Library Supplies and agreed that the time frame is too prohibitive for both organisations to compete for merchandise sales. It was agreed that in 2018 WALSCO would concentrate their email marketing campaign in SA (where the SA Branch does not sell merchandise direct to members) and leave the WA market to us. Purchasing merchandise through the WA Branch provides the benefit of discounted merchandise, a local contact and financial gain for the branch. Online orders directed to the national eStore do not result in any financial gain to the WA Branch, nor do they offer discount to members.

As this is my first year in the role of Merchandise Coordinator it has been a steep learning curve and I have been ably assisted by my fellow sub-committee members Jan Nicholls and Liz Allen. The enthusiasm and cooperation by past and present committee members and friends on the Packing Day was invaluable.

### **Grants program (Metropolitan and Regional Centres) Mary Gimondo and Nola Allen**

CBW 2017 was celebrated nationally from the 19th to the 26th of August 2017 with the theme *Escape to Everywhere*. The WA Branch managed over \$80,000 (GST inclusive) worth of grants funding to facilitate CBCA Book Week programs including author/illustrator and storyteller visits in both metropolitan and regional centres across the whole state. 31,027 children, parents, teachers and librarians celebrated CBW in thirty-six metropolitan (22,780) and country regions (8,247). 86 public libraries and community resource centres conducted CBW events in cities and towns in 17 metropolitan regions and 13 country regions including the remote communities of Looma, Warmun and One Arm Point in the Kimberley to towns in the Great Southern such as Pingrup and Gnowangerup. 2,229 Aboriginal children attended CBW events in metropolitan, regional and remote communities.

A total of 25,404 children attended 756 author/illustrator sessions and workshops and performances conducted at public libraries or through tours to schools. Students from 232 government, non-government and remote community schools participated in the program. Fifty-three WA children's authors, illustrators and performers, both established and emerging, had the opportunity to engage with new audiences with a number of libraries reporting increased memberships, loans and book sales. Many authors, illustrators and performers explored contemporary themes and issues including cultural diversity and cyber-bullying or provided practical insights into the creative process that resonated with teachers and students alike. The *A Recipe is a Story Too!* competition promoting the healthy eating message, attracted 59 entries from schools and individuals. Wiluna Remote Community School won both school categories and the winning individual entries were from Jayda Barnes and Azalia Turner.

The 2017 CBW 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* and the Western Australian Branch of the Children's Book Council of Australia.

At present the Grants Officers are immersed in a new round of funding applications which involves hours of painstaking work collating information and documenting evidence to prove that the WA Branch is meeting the objectives required by the funding bodies. We thank Mary and Nola for their tireless, ongoing professional work in this regard.

## Events and Activities

### **A Night With Our Stars (ANWOS)      Joanna Andrew**

The fifteenth ANWOS took place on Thursday 1 March 2018, with 175 people attending (145 audience, 18 presenters, sponsors and their invited guests.) There were several presenters and audience members who also attended the first event in 2004: Jenni Woodroffe, Frané Lessac, Elaine Forrestal, Sally Murphy, Norman Jorgensen, Julia Lawrinson, and the convenor.

2017 was again a bumper year in WA children's literature publishing, with so many first time published authors and illustrators that it was difficult to select emerging and established presenters to fill the program.

On the night, first timers Yasmin Hamid, Sian Turner, Leanne White, Glenn Swift, Tamara Moss, Campbell Whyte, Sandi Parsons and Aška held their own against returnees Kelly Canby, Rebecca Cool, Sabrina Dudgeon, Briony Stewart and Cristy Burne, and well-established presenters Julia Lawrinson, Sally Murphy, Frané Lessac, Karen Blair, and Meg McKinlay. Dianne Wolfer was unable to attend, and Andrew Frazer and Kamsani Bin Salleh withdrew on the day.

Thirteen (and by no means all) other titles published in 2017 were acknowledged at the end of the first half. Jan Nicholls as MC kept everyone on schedule so there was plenty of time for catching up with colleagues, buying books and meeting the presenters when getting them signed.

Ten authors, five illustrators and three author/illustrators spoke about 18 titles, showcasing 4 picture books, 8 junior fiction titles, 3 young adult novels and 3 non-fiction books. Many of the speakers were represented in the Notables. Sponsor Fremantle Press was well represented with five presenters, and four others mentioned in the segment about other WA titles published. Publishers included Allen and Unwin, Wild Eyed Press, Penguin, Walker Books Australia, Swan River Gothic Press, Affirm Press, Top Shelf Productions, and Faraway Nearby Ink.

Thanks to ever supportive sponsors Fremantle Press, and bookseller Westbooks, who were wonderfully organised prior to the event, and on the night. Prizes were given to the first booking made (Norman Jorgensen) and raffle prizes winners included Leanne White and Bethany Fraser. The money raised (\$528.50) will go towards the CBCA Awards Foundation Appeal for Narelle Oliver In Memoriam. Butterfly Catering provided delicious food was enjoyed with a glass of wine.

Thanks to all the committee (Liz, Nola, Sharon, Dee, Mary, Mel, Felicia, Chloe, Suzanne, Aniek, Denise, Trish, Gail, Sue, Jan and Sally) who helped out with the making of name tags, sourcing, collecting and serving wine, registration duties, photography, signage, liaising with the caterer, raffle creation and ticket sales, supplying the tablecloths and banners, helping out the presenters, and washing up. This contribution is much appreciated and absolutely vital to the success of the evening. The event made \$3828, before costs that include: graphic design and printing, liquor licence, venue hire (which is covered by Fremantle Press sponsorship), wine and catering.

After many years assisting inaugural convenor Jenni Woodroffe and five years at the helm Joanna Andrew suggested that it is time to reconsider this event and whether it is the best way to showcase newly published WA books, and their creators. Due to competing events and commitments, the inability to cover the increasing number of titles published each year, and the ever-changing landscape of children's publishing it is becoming difficult to select a balanced program and to draw an audience. A small subcommittee will be convened to consider the best way forward for this extremely popular event. Thanks to Joanna for her dedication and commitment to ANWOS over many years.

### **Book Discussion Group Coordinator      Gail Spiers**

The Book Discussion Group met 10 times during 2017 to discuss mainly YA titles. Norman Jorgensen was the special guest at the January meeting and the April meeting was devoted to the CBCA BOTY Shortlist. Seventeen people attended both these meetings. Attendance at regular discussions ranged from 4 – 9. Overall attendance was 82 with 26 different people attending throughout the year. These statistics are comparable with 2016. Members are encouraged to attend the Book Discussion Group meetings to share their views on a range of thought-provoking and enjoyable books in a relaxed social atmosphere. To date three meetings have been held in 2018 and the April meeting will be dedicated to discussion of the Short List. All members are welcome to join us.

**Outreach Program     Chloe Mauger**

As part of our outreach program the WA Branch supports the *heARTlines Children's Literature and Illustration Festival* which is a biennial event hosting local, national and international authors and illustrators for a series of talks, workshops and an art exhibition. The month-long festival from May to June 2017 was held at the re-vitalised Midland Junction Arts Centre (MJAC) effectively enhancing accessibility to literature and the arts while supporting WA authors, promoting recent publications and engaging the community in a cross-disciplinary event.

The CBCA WA Branch donated \$1,600 towards income support for presenters in the Schools Program. A total of 1079 children aged between 5-17 years from 12 schools and home-schooled within the City of Swan and the Shire of Mundaring participated. Presenters were Norman Jorgensen, Kelly Canby, Mark Greenwood, Frané Lessac, Meg McKinlay, Gabriel Evans, Sally Murphy, Briony Stewart, Aśka, Kylie Howarth and Danny Parker. Representing CBCA WA, Chloe Mauger assisted as a volunteer for each week of the Schools Program and on the Open Day.

**Acknowledgements and thanks**

The WA Branch has an enviable reputation within the wider CBCA network as a harmonious and hard-working group. The stability of the group is due in large part to the ongoing loyalty of many dedicated and long-serving committee members but also owes much to the willingness of members to work cooperatively as a team to share our passion for children's literature with the greater community.

Astute succession planning is important to ensure the long-term stability of the branch and it is critical that we attract new volunteers to shadow those in various leadership roles with a view to taking over the reins in future. Fresh faces and new ideas are always welcome.

Each and every member of the WA Branch committee deserves credit for the contribution she has made in the past year and in particular I wish to record personal thanks to Executive members Liz Allen (Secretary) and Suzanne Pearse (Treasurer) for their reliability, dedication and support.

**Jan Nicholls**  
**WA Branch President**  
**April 2017 – March 2018**