



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

## 2021 ANNUAL REPORT

### LIFE MEMBERS

Muriel Barwell OAM  
Mary Gimondo  
Grant Stone

### HONORARY MEMBERS

Margaret Allen  
Stephen Carley  
Carolyn Logan  
Lesley Reece AM

### 2021 COMMITTEE

#### Executive Committee:

<b>President:</b>	Natalya Hawrylak	<b>Treasurer:</b>	Sheena Matthews
<b>Vice President:</b>	Vacant **	<b>Secretary:</b>	Kris Williams**
<b>Past President:</b>	Jan Nicholls	<b>Ex Officio:</b>	Chloe Mauger**

**\*\*N.B.** At the June 2021 meeting Tracey Willis was appointed Ex Officio member replacing Chloe Mauger. At the August 2021 meeting Kris Williams was appointed Vice President and Sue Stopher was appointed as Secretary.

#### CBCA National Board Representative:

Tania Longman (resigned May 2021). Natalya Hawrylak and Kris Williams alternated attendance at Board meetings (as observers) until a new Board Representative could be appointed. Three EOIs were received in December 2021.

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

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

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

Liz Allen, Nola Allen, Beck Borona, Sharon Coppin, Lindsay Fletcher, Mary Gimondo, Felicia Harris, Lorraine Horsley, Sarah Klass, Tania Longman, Tyshana McEwen, Jen McKay\*, Trish Montgomery, Denise Robins, Gail Spiers, Jane Stanton, Tracey Willis and Sally Woffenden.

#### Subcommittees

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

#### From the WA Branch President      Natalya Hawrylak

It is my pleasure to present this Annual Report to our membership. As the WA Branch Constitution states that Executive positions may only be held for a maximum of five consecutive years, Jan Nicholls stepped down as President at the AGM and I was appointed to fill that role. In August, Kris Williams assumed the position of Vice President while Sue Stopher assumed the position of Secretary.

We were delighted to welcome new committee member Jen McKay and look forward to her contribution. At the end of 2021 we farewelled Tania Longman. We thank Tania for her work as Board representative and Merchandise Coordinator. Felicia Harris stepped down as Judges Talks coordinator and Tracey Willis took on the role. Thank you to them both.

In August we congratulated our immediate Past President Jan Nicholls, on receiving the 2021 Nan Chauncy Award for her contribution to Australian children's literature through passionate advocacy, mentoring and volunteer work. COVID-19 restrictions prevented Jan from travelling to Adelaide to accept the award, which was presented at the WA Branch CBCA Book Week Dinner, where Jan was given a standing ovation. At our final 2021 meeting committee members were presented with official certificates of recognition from the WA Government Department of Communities acknowledging their outstanding contribution as volunteers.

The WA Branch continues to support creatives through letters of support and assisting authors and illustrators with grant applications. Many hours are spent organising and attending WA Branch events and supporting our partner organisations. We were exceptionally fortunate in WA to be able to run all our events successfully despite the COVID-19 restrictions across Australia.

### **Finance      Sheena Matthews, Treasurer**

The financial position at the end of the 2021 year was a deficit of \$12,134.89. There was an exaggerated surplus in the 2020 financial year of \$41,515.52 due to unspent grant monies. The unspent balance, marginally under \$23,000, arose from event cancellations due to COVID-19 restrictions. The deficit, in the main, was a result of the unspent monies allocated to a Grants Online Project in 2021 and a balance of grant funds for 2021 totalling \$12,000 that was not received until 2022. Surpluses that were achieved in our major events were marginal in comparison to the previous financial year.

Income from membership was marginally down on the previous year by \$227. Merchandise sales were up by 19%; however, expenses were up by 33% resulting in a loss of \$1,877. The limited-edition Shaun Tan giclée prints are included in the expenses. They did not attract a purchase discount, as other CBCA merchandise did and there were unsold prints.

The Grant expenses are significantly higher due to the Grants Online Project that reflects the unallocated funds from 2020 and allocated funds from 2021. Grant funds from 2021 were also allocated to MYOSB expenses. Regional councils accounted for 60% of the total grant allocation for 2021.

ANWOS was a well-supported and successful annual event for the Branch. The event achieved a surplus that exceeded the 2020 surplus by \$244. The CBCA Book Week dinner, an equally popular event, produced a marginal surplus of \$440 over the previous year. The annual rent increased by 25%. This was due to the three-month moratorium offered in 2020 due to COVID-19, that was not offered in 2021.

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 at the bank, 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 able to currently meet all its financial responsibilities. The audited accounts are provided as a separate document

### **Membership      Sharon Coppin**

Membership fees remained the same as for 2020.

At the end of 2021, there were 282 fully paid members, 4 members less than in 2020.

Membership Categories	Member Numbers
Personal	71
Concessional	88
Institutional	123

Membership runs parallel with the calendar year with renewal notices sent out in January. An attractive Member discount for A Night with Our Stars, our first major annual event in March is designed to encourage members to renew promptly.

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

Ghylène Palmer was appointed Building Manager following the retirement of Jude Summers. Current tenants are Perth Inner City Youth Services (Andrew Hall); Fullness of Life Centre (Stephen Truscott); Linkwest (Jane Chilcott); Allergy Support Hub (Monique Kerr); Kalparrin (Carrie Clark); and CBCA WA Branch. COVID-19 restrictions limited the capacity of the meeting room, and all users of the building were required to sign in using the ServiceWA app.

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

The recipient of the Penny Hutchens Memorial Fund for 2021 was Ngala. Chloe Mauger and Gail Spiers delivered \$1,000 worth of books purchased through the fund plus donations from WA Branch members for Ngala to use in two programmes:

- The Nurturing and Parenting Program for Youth (NAPPY), based in Rockingham, which builds parenting capacity and knowledge in a welcoming, nurturing, and supportive environment.
- The Ngala Residential Parenting Service (NRPS) – Stronger Families, based in Kensington, which works alongside families to address parenting concerns such as sleep and settling, feeding and nutritional difficulties, child development and behaviour concerns, anxiety and postnatal depression, parent child relationship difficulties and other factors putting the family at risk.

Margaret Walton from Child Education Services was able to source many of the books requested by the NAPPY and NRPS supervisors, including high-contrast books and bilingual Noongar/English books and these were supplemented by board books and picture books by Australian authors and illustrators.

In her letter of thanks, Ngala CEO, Fiona Beermier stated 'Ngala believes that every child deserves the opportunity to be their best, and that raising children should be a joyful and rewarding experience. Ngala is proud to have been supporting Western Australian families for over 130 years through a range of programs and services. Both nominated programs will greatly benefit from this resource.'

Chloe Mauger made the official announcement at the CBCA Book Week Dinner and Ngala publicised the gift of books on their website.

#### **Website            Sarah Klass**

Transition to the new website platform occurred over January and February and the new site went live in March 2021. We were able to maintain the wa.cbca.org.au URL as opposed to registering a separate address, which was preferable in that it provided continuity of web address and the added security of the national website URL. The Weebly platform has proven to be much more user-friendly, which has allowed more timely and simplified updating of the information on the website.

WA authors and illustrators who are also WA Branch members were invited to submit their profiles for inclusion on a new and improved page that will allow local schools and libraries to contact them directly for work during CBCA Book Week and beyond. This page has been completed with all submissions to date. We have yet to choose a suitable time to launch the page to members.

A blog page was also added – title WA Branch News Archive – which will allow us to store interesting and important WA Branch information and articles that are no longer current news.

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

We started the year with 1304 Facebook members and ended with 1558. A blitz by Jan on ANWOS promotion with daily posts advertising all aspects of the event including sponsors Westbooks and Fremantle Press, and all the presenters, attracted new members in March and raised awareness of the

event. Josh Langley was a top contributor with posts from WA authors on Books We Loved as Kids as part of the CBCA Book Week 2020 Grants Extension program.

The Shortlist announcement and posts on Tuesday 30 March produced a spike in interest and were seen by 508 members with 210 reactions and 31 comments. As of 11 June 2021, Facebook changed the rule for public groups with people being able to join automatically without needing to be approved. There were a couple of instances where people posted inappropriately and those comments were swiftly removed and the users blocked. Our Facebook presence should really be a PAGE rather than a GROUP. Ideally, the page should be set up by an Administrator who can commit to the role and continue to manage it into the future. This is something for consideration next year. Currently there are only two Administrators – Jan Nicholls and Felicia Harris.

### **Social Media – Instagram      Tyshana McEwen**

Our CBCA WA Instagram page was set up in August 2020 with the aim to provide timely announcements about CBCA events and an interesting, up-to-date, well-curated selection of posts that are relevant to Australian children's literature. We currently have 731 active followers (an increase of 259 since the last annual report) with numbers increasing daily. These include Australian publishers, financial CBCA WA members, authors, illustrators, local libraries, bookshops, teachers, librarians, academics, educators and others interested in children's literature.

Instagram continued to be particularly popular around annual calendar events with traffic increasing during CBCA Book Week 2021 and during the MYOSB award ceremony. Followers used popular hashtags such as #cbcawa #cbca2021 and #cbcabookweek2021. The tone of posts continues to be friendly, warm, sincere and informed in order to communicate news about:

- the CBCA Book of the Year Awards (Notables, Shortlist, Winner and Honour Books)
- Branch activities
- Australian children's authors and illustrators and book titles
- research and news about how children read
- other Australian children's book awards

### **Newsletter      Beck Borona**

The standard five issues of the Newsletter were emailed to members and one interim bulletin including the CBCA Book Week 2021 surveys which was opened by 198 members. On average, 51.85% of newsletter mailouts are opened. Thanks to the proof-reading team of Jan Nicholls and Denise Robins for their support.

### **Archives      Trish Montgomery**

2021 was an active year for the WA Branch Archives. Liz Allen joined the team of Chloe Mauger, Sue Stopher and Coordinator Trish Montgomery. New projects commenced and Gail Spiers continued to work towards the completion of the CBCA Book of the Year WA Branch Collection (see report below). Thank you Gail, for your endeavour and passion with this project.

To create an accessible record of the history of the *Make Your Own Storybook Competition* Excel spreadsheets were compiled for each year of the competition detailing the first, second and third prize winners, the title of the book and school or home-school detail. The competition commenced in 1977 with some variation of the categories over the years. Unfortunately, records were unavailable for 1977, 1979 and 1981 but now complete to 2021. The respective winners' names and categories will be uploaded to the website in due course. Thanks to Liz and Sue for carefully proofing the entries spanning forty plus years.

Liz has been diligently sorting and categorising the newspaper clippings file which will soon be mounted into an archival display file for ease of access. Trish has been working on general processing.

The CBCA National Conference was held in Perth in 2002 and the WA Conference Committee engaged Shaun Tan to create the promotional logo. The original artwork of a numbat in his distinctive style had been stored in the Archives but has recently been valued and framed. This stunning piece is now a special item in the collection.

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

There was an amazing response from publishers to Kris Williams' call for donations of in-print Book of the Year (BOTY) winners. Kris is now in the process of requesting copies of the 2021 winning books.

Many responded to personal approaches and articles in the WA Branch newsletters including Elaine Forrestal, Michael Gerard Bauer, Scot Gardner, Jackie French, Frané Lessac, Mark Greenwood, Norman Jorgensen, Peter Williams, Margaret Walton, and Celia Walker.

Jan Nicholls sent a plea for donations of out-of-print winners via WASLA and WAIN and librarians and library officers from public and school libraries were quick to respond. These people and libraries were acknowledged in the newsletter along with a plethora of photos.

Gail used available funds to purchase hard-to-find books via Abe and eBay to complete the collection in July 2021. The thirteen BOTY winning books by WA authors and illustrators were displayed at *A Night With Our Stars* in February and a display of books based on the Book Week theme *Old Worlds, New Worlds, Other Worlds* was on view at the CBCA Book Week Dinner in August.

Many thanks to all those who have donated books and to committee members Gail Spiers, Trish Montgomery, Kris Williams, and Jan Nicholls for their assistance with this project.

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

Electronic flyers with MYOSB entry forms were distributed to schools and libraries through committee member contacts and Julie Bumford from Westbooks. The competition closed on Friday 11 June. Westbooks was again the entry collection point for which we thank Rose Caffey, Heather Cooper and Michelle Murphy.

574 entries received

63 individual entries:

- 56 Primary (50 metropolitan and 6 country)
- 7 Secondary (4 metropolitan and 3 country)

22 government schools:

- 17 Primary (15 metropolitan and 2 country)
- 8 Secondary (5 metropolitan and 3 country)

18 private schools:

- 14 Primary (12 metropolitan and 2 country)
- 4 Secondary (2 metropolitan and 2 country)

The first sort of entries was done on Sunday 13 June at Oasis House. The 15 MYOSB judges, a mix of teachers, librarians, authors and illustrators, collected their entries in the week of 13 June. Judging was finalised on Friday 16 July. Winners were contacted through schools or (for individual entries) via parents at the beginning of July. The sort of (non-winning) entries took place on Sunday 18 July at Oasis House.

The Awards Ceremony and author workshop were held on Sunday 22 August with Sean E Avery (author, illustrator and MYOSB video clip creator) as guest speaker. All 23 winners attended, some of whom were also previous winners. There were 143 guests in total. The ceremony returned to The Literature Centre and the venue was provided free of charge. The Literature Centre bookstore was open and stocked Sean E Avery's books.

Due to the success of the lunch and author workshop in 2020, a similar format was trialled at The Literature Centre this year. The idea was successful and will be continued, with some tweaks to the lunch arrangements. Catering was provided by Butterfly Catering and the Coffee Table in Wembley with the cost covered by our sponsor Healthway. This year Rabble Books & Games joined our other supporting bookstores: Beaufort Street Books, Child Education Services, Crow Books, The Lane Bookshop, Paper Bird Children's Books & Arts and Westbooks. Many thanks for the vouchers and other support these stores provided. Thanks to Sean for his fabulous presentation and workshop – an amazing opportunity for the winners.

Thanks also to CBCA WA committee members, The Literature Centre staff and our CBW sponsors Healthway and their *Go for 2&5* program.

## 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

The 2021 CBCA WA Book of the Year Award Judges' Talks were held on the weekend of 22 and 23 May and attended by 31 people. Judges Sandi Parsons, (Younger Readers) and Jan Pocock, (Older Readers) gave passionate, insightful, and informative reviews of all categories in the awards. Interesting general discussion on the books, judging and the awards then ensued. It was wonderful to welcome and introduce Claire Kierath, the Judge for 2022/23 in the Younger Readers category to the Sunday event.

Thanks to Tracey Willis, Cottesloe Primary School, Lakeland Senior High School and Principal Cathy Baron for hosting these events and to sub-committee members Felicia Harris, Tracey Willis, Chloe Mauger and Sue Stopher. After five years of coordinating the Judges' Talks, Felicia has handed the reins to Tracey Willis. We thank Felicia for her contribution and welcome Tracey to the role.

## CBCA Book Week

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

The announcement of the 2021 Book of the Year winners and the opening of CBCA Book Week took place on Friday 20 August 2021. The event was very popular, with all available seats selling out well before the official closing date. The *Old Worlds New Worlds Other Worlds* theme was interpreted through many bright and brilliant costumes.

President Natalya Hawrylak announced the CBCA Book of the Year winners, a list that included local stars Meg McKinlay (author of the Picture Book of the Year winner) and Mel Pearce (illustrator of the Early Childhood Book of the Year winner), along with Honour Book recipients Kelly Canby, Sally Murphy and Briony Stewart. These talented creators attended the dinner, and we were honoured to join them in celebrating their success.

Natalya acknowledged 2020/21 WA CBCA Book of the Year Judges Sandi Parsons and Jan Pocock, who attended the dinner as guests of the WA Branch as a thank you for their service, and we welcomed the 2022/23 Judge Claire Kierath, who was presented with her official badge.

Jan Nicholls, immediate Past President, was presented with the 2021 Nan Chauncy Award and was well feted by dinner guests. A video citation by Wendy Rapee (CBCA Chair) demonstrated the high esteem in which Jan is held by those who have witnessed her tireless efforts to promote and support children's literature, authors and illustrators.

Gabriel Evans, 2021 shortlisted Book of the Year author/illustrator, who travelled from Bridgetown, was an entertaining and clever guest speaker. His early experiences as an illustrator, especially his 'boy with a broken neck' story and illustration, captivated the audience. Creative table decorations of teapots and bears recognised both Gabriel's shortlisted book *Norton and the Bear* and his ongoing search for 'the perfect teapot'.

Well done to Denise and Sally on another hugely successful event.

### Merchandise      Tania Longman

The 2021 CBCA Book Week theme was *Old Worlds, New Worlds, Other Worlds* featuring artwork designed by Shaun Tan. Shaun produced a limited edition Giclee print of only 100 numbered copies, which quickly became a collector's item. There was a choice of three bookmarks this year representing each of the three worlds. New items included a Colouring Poster which sold better than expected and Wall Decals, which were popular with Public Libraries. The Classroom Pack was produced, enabling teachers to purchase a classroom set of items with ease.

Thanks to the merchandise subcommittee (Trish Montgomery, Jan Nicholls and Liz Allen) and Sheena Matthews, Treasurer, for their assistance and support during the year. In a major departure from previous arrangements, it was announced that from 2022, all merchandise sales would be conducted through the

National e-Store and each Branch was invited to nominate a representative for the National e-Store subcommittee. As the position of Merchandise Coordinator no longer exists, Tania stepped down from the position and resigned from the committee in December 2021. We thank her for the considerable time and effort she dedicated to this role.

### CBCA Merchandise Sales by Item 2021

Item	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Poster – Book Week	963	963	868	791	555	606
Poster – Short List	333	340	328	N/A	267	256
Handbook	117	94	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Bookmarks	770 (set 10)	733 (set 10)	43,180	60,090	40,260	39,630
Badge	889	881	1268	1160	772	816
Book Week stickers	771	828	683	718	677	518
Bunting	325	402	438	388	306	284
Pens			432	593	283	403
Wristbands			200	N/A	N/A	N/A
Lanyards					372	436
Creature Pins					80	83
Wall Decals						80
Colouring Poster						311
Giclee – Limited Edition						14
Classroom Pack						16
Award Stickers	234	193	136	104	94 sets	71 sets
Shortlist (Individual)					4	78
Winner (Individual)					6	24
Notable Stickers	28	59	87	62	32	26

### Grants Program (Metropolitan and Regional Centres)

Mary Gimondo and Nola Allen

In 2021, 23,512 children, parents, teachers and librarians celebrated CBCA Book Week in 95 public libraries and community resource centres across twenty-nine metropolitan and country regions throughout Western Australia. Forty-nine high calibre WA children's authors, illustrators, storytellers and performers inspired young readers and aspiring young authors and illustrators through hands-on workshops and sharing their creative journeys. An Online program consisting of videos of WA short-listed authors and illustrators was produced and is freely available on the CBCA WA YouTube channel.

The 2021 CBCA Book Week program in WA was made possible with funding of \$85,000 from the State Government of Western Australia through the Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries and Heathway Go for 2 & 5, and through the financial and in-kind support of WA Local Governments and the WA Branch of the Children's Book Council of Australia.

### Events and Activities

#### A Night with our Stars (ANWOS)

Convenor/MC Jan Nicholls

Our 18<sup>th</sup> ANWOS was held on Friday 12 March 2021 at the Bendat Centre in Dodd St, Wembley from 6.00-9.30pm. Due to COVID-19 restrictions, attendance was capped at 180 seated guests and tickets sold out within a week of the event. Guests were welcomed by WA Branch President and MC Jan Nicholls.

Fremantle Press sponsorship covered the venue hire costs and they were represented on the night by Cate Sutherland and Chloe Walton. Eight out of the 20 presenters on the program were published by Fremantle Press. Westbooks were the official book supplier, as in previous years. The staff team of four was headed by Rose Caffey (owner).

Of the 20 presenters originally invited Shirley Marr and Tracey Gibbs withdrew. Shirley was represented by Katy Jiang who illustrated their book *Little Jiang*. Sharon Giltrow stepped in at short notice to replace Tracey Gibbs. Raewyn Caisley was a last-minute withdrawal due to COVID-19 isolation restrictions.

Catering was supplied by Butterfly Catering; the platters were beautifully presented as always, with the food varied, tasty and plentiful. All wine was donated from a variety of sources.

A bundle of books donated by Hachette was awarded to Jenni Woodroffe, the first person to book (other than a committee member). Four raffle prizes of bags of books from various donors were given out. The raffle raised \$502. The silent auction of an original signed sketch donated by Karen Blair raised \$460 with Justine Power from the ACT Branch the successful bidder. Thanks to Barry Stanton for coordinating the Silent Auction so efficiently. Wendy Binks donated a mounted canvas print from *The BOO-book* valued at \$98 plus an original artwork from the book, which was framed and offered for silent auction in the lead up to the CBCA Book Week 2021 Dinner in August.

Thanks to all committee members who combined in a magnificent team effort both in the lead-up and on the night. Thanks also to partners and family members who assisted. Special thanks to managers Lorraine (Floor), Denise (Catering) and Sue (Bar) for coordinating their teams to ensure the event was a huge success.

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

The Book Discussion Group met 11 times during 2021 at Oasis Lotteries House, Karen Goddard's house and via Zoom. The Shortlist discussion in April was held via Zoom due to a COVID-19 lock down. Overall attendance was 89 with 20 different people attending throughout the year. Of the ten books discussed at regular meetings, two were by male and eight by female authors. The book we discussed in January, *Metal Fish, Falling Snow* by Cath Moore published by Text Publishing, went on to become an Honour book in the 2021 CBCA Book of the Year: Older Readers category.

The Book Discussion Group provides 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 List.

### **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. During 2021, the suitcase went to four schools: Yaluma Primary School, St Marks Anglican Community School, Success Primary School and Karrinyup Primary School.

### **Acknowledgements and thanks**

As I step down as President, I thank all committee members and the wider CBCA WA membership for their time and effort and for all the ways they have supported the WA Branch throughout 2021.

**Natalya Hawrylak**  
**WA Branch President**