

The Children's Book Council of
Australia ACT Branch



THE CHILDREN'S
BOOK COUNCIL
OF AUSTRALIA



1945 - 2015
YOUR CONNECTION TO STORY

2015 Annual Report

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Branch Committee 2015

Executive:

President: Leanne Barrett
Vice President: Belle Alderman AM
Vice President: Rosemary Thomas
Treasurer: Justine Power
Secretary: Jo Purcell
Membership Officer: Julie Long OAM
National Board Nominee: Justine Power

Events Subcommittee:

Chair: Rosemary Thomas
Schools Coordinator: vacant
Author / Illustrator Coordinator: Leanne Barrett
Social Events Coordinator: Leanne Barrett and Rosemary Thomas
Professional Development: Margot Firth
Children's Book Week Seminar: Julie Long OAM
Christmas Book Appeal: Jaz Beer and Rosemary Thomas
Other: Joanne Purcell, Diana Richards and Dawn Shield

Marketing Subcommittee:

Chair: Leanne Barrett
Newsletter: Jaz Beer
Website: Christian West
Publications & Promotional Materials: vacant
Other: Justine Power

Partnerships Subcommittee:

Chair: Leanne Barrett
Lu Rees Archives: Belle Alderman AM
Libraries ACT: Jaz Beer
Other: Justine Power, Diana Richards and Rosemary Thomas

Ex-officio

Archives: Rebecca Kemble
Public Officer: Norma John

ACT Branch President Report

CBCA ACT Branch had another successful year in 2015. We delivered many services during the year and we continue to grow and review these services.

This year we introduced two new events, Celebrate Our Story Creators Night and Explore Our Indigenous Story. Both were successful with more than 30 people in attendance at each event. In 2015 our events were well attended with an increase in attendance at most of our events.



At our planning meeting we reviewed the Book Week Author / Illustrator Visits program. The outcome of the review was to develop another outreach program for our school members. The first stage of this program will start in 2016 with a Travelling Suitcase. The Travelling Suitcase will highlight the author, Jackie French. Member Schools will be able to borrow the suitcase for no cost, at a time convenient for them, for 1-4 weeks.

In 2015 we had our most successful Christmas Book Appeal. The Appeal delivered over 1600 books to disadvantaged children in our region. The increased support enabled us to deliver books to four extra organisations. I would like to acknowledge and thank our partners and schools who help us deliver this program.

To improve our online communication we focused on communicating through our website, Facebook page and eNews.

- In early 2015 our Facebook page was “rebooted”, resulting in doubling the number of likes for our page over the last twelve months. The Facebook page allows us to deliver immediate information and direct people to our website.
- Our eNews continued to be popular with both members and those interested in our organisation with over 250 recipients. This weekly communication links our followers to more information about our events, programs, our member’s newest book publications/launches and to our partner’s programs.
- In mid-2015 we launched our new look website. The website pages provide an avenue for detailed communications; resources, book week and events including online booking and membership forms.

The Branch committee continued to review the organisation’s Governance. Job descriptions for all current committee positions were created and a diagram showing our Branch structure. These were all ratified.

CBCA ACT Branch continued to partner with the National Centre for Australian Children’s Literature (formerly the Lu Rees Archives) and Libraries

ACT. We developed a new partnership with the Harry Hartog Bookseller who sold books at our events and sponsored our Book Week Competition. Through a variety of partnerships we were able to deliver show bags at the Playgroup expos reaching more than 200 families with children under six years of age.

Finally, (as this is my last report as President) I would like to thank all of the committee members, volunteers, Branch members and partners for their support to help me deliver the CBCA ACT Branch events and programs

Leanne Barrett,
CBCA ACT Branch President.

Annual General Meeting

18th February 2015, 6pm

ALIA House, Deakin

We were delighted to present the inaugural Laurie Copping Award for Distinguished Service to Children's Literature in the ACT, in the presence of his wife Rene Copping and other family members.

Rosemary Thomas was presented a glass book trophy for her tireless work with the Children's Book Council ACT Branch



Rosemary Thomas is a very worthy recipient of the Laurie Copping Award. Since graduating from Teacher's College in the 1970s she has been a member of the Children's Book Council of Australia, both in Victoria and the ACT. She is passionate about the importance of reading to children and is a positive and visible role model who reads voraciously. She is diligent and reliable and participates in all aspects of the ACT Branch. Most recently Rosemary has been a Fiction Judge, an Awards Co-ordinator and an energetic member of the 2014 Conference Committee. Rosemary promotes the CBCA wherever she can and has been responsible for attracting new members to our Branch. For her significant and sustained contribution to the ACT in the field of Children's Literature we are honoured to present this award to her.

Laurie Copping Award

The award is named after Laurie Copping, member of the CBCA ACT Branch from 1962 to 2003. Laurie's roles within the organisation included being the President of the ACT Branch numerous times as well as National President, ACT judge for the CBCA Awards (1973-74), National archivist (1988-2003), regular reviewer for the CBCA journal Reading Time and a member of its editorial board. He was also instrumental in the setting up of the Lu Rees Archives at the University of Canberra in 1980.

The Laurie Copping Award for Distinguished Service to Children's Literature in the ACT is a biennial award of The Children's Book Council of Australia ACT Branch, the accent being on Service. A recipient of the award, then, will have given service well beyond his or her professional association with children's literature. Such service may have come in one or more ways:

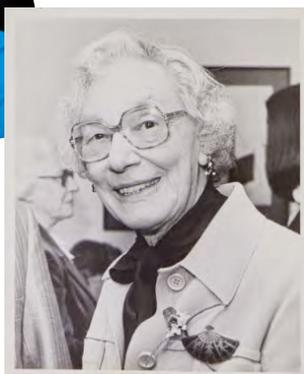
- Helping promote children's literature through activities and vigorous work with the Children's Book Council and other associated organisations.
- Raising consciousness of the value of literature to children through speaking to or working with parents' groups and community organisations.
- Bringing literature to children themselves— working in schools, through literary events, club activities, Children's Book Week activities.
- Writing, lecturing, debating on areas of children's literature, organising seminars and conferences relating to children's literature.
- Personal and professional assistance and encouragement to writers, illustrators and publishers of children's books
- Being a resource person for the community i.e. a bookseller, teacher, librarian to whom parents and interested persons turn for information, guidance and advice.



The recipient will have made a contribution primarily in the ACT, but services nationally and internationally will be regarded with favour.

Life Member Award Recipients (This award precedes the Laurie Copping Award)

- Belle Alderman AM
- Lynne Babbage
- Mollie Bialkowski
- Laurie Copping OAM
 - Jill Gamble
 - Julie Long OAM
 - Kate McDonald
 - Lu Rees
 - Eleanor Stodart
 - John Tyrrell



Events & Education

The Branch provides our membership with a variety of events that allow them to build their social networks with children's literature enthusiasts. At times these events are social and at other times for professional learning.

And the winner could be...

March 2015

Previously this event has been known as the Clayton's Night or the Short List Showcase Night.

Our panel talked about their nominations for Short List from the books entered in each category of the CBCA Book of the Year Awards.

The Panel members were:

Kirrin Sampson –
Picture Books
Sue Short – Early
Childhood
Sonia Brown –
Younger Readers
Rachel Richards –
Older Readers
Margot Firth – Eve
Pownall



31 people attended



The book shop that was invited to sell books at this event was Harry Hartog Bookseller, Woden

World's Biggest Playgroup

March 2015



Our 4th ACT Playgroup Expo where 88 families came to talk with us about reading and books for early childhood. Many families took the time to sit down in our book corner and share a story with their children.

We were lucky to have a show bag of goodies and information to give to all who visited. Our show bag sponsors were ALIA, Dymocks Canberra, Harry Hartog Bookseller Woden, Libraries ACT, Little Sprout, National Centre for Australian Children's Literature and Walker Books Australia.



Short List Announcement Dinner April 2015

16 people attended and enjoyed a lovely meal at the Haig Italian Restaurant in Civic. Copies of the just announced Short List books were available for browsing and prompted lively discussion on the chosen titles.

Richard Yaxley OAM, as a Fellow of the May Gibbs Children's Literature Trust spoke of his work. His entertaining after dinner presentation was a great example of quality children's literature as shown through the CBCA Short List.





70
1945 - 2015

SHORT LIST 2015



OLDER READERS



YOUNGER READERS



EARLY CHILDHOOD



PICTURE BOOK



EYE POWNALL INFORMATION BOOK



books light up our world

Children's Book Week 22-28 August 2015

Celebrate Story Creators Night May 2015



We celebrated the work of our local story creators who shared information about their current work and new releases within a 5 minute time frame.

The speakers were:

Emma Allen, Mollie Bialkowski, Tony Flowers, Tracey Hawkins, Jack Heath, Harry Laing, Tania McCartney, Gina Newton, Stephanie Owen Reeder and Katie Taylor



interstate May Gibbs Fellow – Pam Harvey.

This new event was enthusiastically received and enjoyed by 34 members and friends.

The book shop that supported this event was Harry Hartog Bookseller, Woden, who sold a range of our story creators books.

HARRY HARTOG
BOOKSELLER

Judge's Talk June 2015



Michele Huet, the ACT fiction judge who has many years experience in children's literature gave an insight into the world of judging quality children's literature and spoke about the Notable and Shortlisted books for the 2015 CBCA Book of the Year Awards.

39 people attended and participated and an informative presentation and question time.

Explore Our Indigenous Story 4 August 2015

A new teacher professional development event was developed with Aboriginal Studies Press and AIATSIS.

The program included;

- Kim Johnston – The relevance of Aboriginal Studies Press publication content and how it fits with the curriculum K-10.
- John Paul Janke (Communications and Outreach) – AIATSIS and its research activities.
- AIATSIS Librarian – Information about the collection, study guides, online exhibitions and general information about accessing the catalogue.
- Maureen Brooks (Aboriginal Studies Press) – Books suitable for college students, ASP new releases and the new ethical publishing guidelines.
- Tour of the library and a display of items from the collection.
- A display of Aboriginal Studies Press publications available for purchase



Book Appeal Launch August 2015

The Christmas Book Appeal was launched at the ACT Libraries Civic Branch on 30 July at 12.30pm. Minister Shane Rattenbury, Minister for Territory and Municipal Services met with Mel Thompson (CanFaCS) one of our recipient organisations and representatives from some of our partner organisations Sarah Steed and Jaz Beer (Libraries ACT), James Redden (Harry Hartog Bookseller) and Kirrin Sampson (ALIA). It was a wonderful exchange of thoughts about the importance of reading and the impact of Book Appeal for disadvantaged children in the Canberra Region.



A target of 1000 book donations was set for 2015.

1613 books were donated from the following collection sites; ALIA House Deakin, Dymocks - Belconnen, Canberra Centre and Tuggeranong, Harry Hartog Bookseller Woden, Libraries ACT, Queanbeyan City Library, Sacred Heart Primary School, St Clare of Assisi Primary School and Turner Primary School.

CBCA Book Week Highlights Competition 21 August – 6 September

All ACT and Capital Region schools (Preschool to Year 12), Childcare Centres and Playgroups were invited to enter our competition highlighting their Book Week celebrations. Harry Hartog Bookseller, Woden, donated the prizes.

The winners were Brindabella Christian College, Hughes Preschool and Rosary Primary School.



CBCA Book Week Children's Seminar

The seminar was held at Chapman Primary School on Wednesday 26 August between 4.30 and 6pm. 45 Students from Year 4 to Year 6 attended. Authors and Illustrators that formed the panels were: Tania McCartney (author/illustrator), Pauline Deeves (author), Stephanie Owen Reader (author/illustrator), Emma Allen (author), Chris White (author), Robyn Goodwin (author/illustrator), Irma Gold (author) and Cate Whittle (author)



Halfway through the session we had an opportunity to celebrate CBCA's 70th birthday with a huge cake and a special rendition of Happy Birthday.



Celebrating CBCA 70th Birthday



CBCA Book Week 2015 – Books Light up our World

Westfield Woden held a special display of art work for Book Week created by children from Sacred Heart Primary School. Each weekday at 4pm there was a reading of a local author's children's book.

CBCA Book Week Dinner

18 members, local authors and illustrators and friends attended a special 70th birthday celebration at My's Restaurant in Weston. A great time was had by all with an opportunity to review the Short List and make predictions for the imminent announcement



CBCA Book of the Year 2015 Awards Announcement

Friday, 21 August 2015

Melbourne Town Hall

CBCA Book of the Year Awards

2014 - 2015 ACT Fiction Judge:

Michele Huet

Children's Week Competition

October 24 – November 1

The annual Children's Week competition was

“Your Favourite Book about Children”

The Capital Region children aged 3 to year 12 were invited to enter our Children's Week competition. The competition involves taking a photograph of the child with their favourite book. To accompany this photograph the child wrote 50 words or less explaining why it was their favourite story with children in it. The winning entries won a book for themselves and books for their school or group. The winners of this competition were;

- Sophia, aged 3 – Home Care
- Aurora, aged 7 – Home School
- Maya, aged 8 – O'Connor Cooperative School





Playfest 27 October 2015

During the 3 hours of this event we spoke with 131 families and were able to share show bags filled with goodies and information

from our sponsors: Aboriginal Studies Press, ACT Children's Week Committee, ALIA, ACT Bilingual Education Alliance, Dymocks Canberra, Libraries ACT and National Centre for Australian Children's Literature.



Literary Dinner with Libby Hathorn October 2015

18 members and friends shared a wonderful evening with Libby Hathorn. Libby spoke about her books and the process of writing *Eventual Poppy Day*. We were also given a sneak peek at two books Libby will release in 2016.



Christmas Book Appeal Packing and Distribution December 2015

11 members came together on Saturday 5 December to pack the donated books for each recipient organisation. Books were delivered to Anglicare Goulburn, Beryl Women, CanFaCS, Care and Protection, Communities @ Work (Family programs), Doris Women's Refuge, Inanna, Louisa Women's Centre, Office for Children, Youth and Family Support (Kinship), Premier Youthworks and Your Place Housing Support.



Administration & Governance

The three permanent subcommittees; Events, Marketing and Partnerships continued to help distribute the work-load of the committee members across the subcommittee.

Membership Database

The CBCA ACT Branch Membership database was redesigned to list past members and schools. The Membership Officer has been working on the database to ensure it is an up to date record, moving members who are no longer interested or can no longer be contacted to the past members list.

CBCA ACT Branch Strategic Planning Meeting

“What would we love to get done in 2015?” was the theme of our planning meeting held in March. Following a review of past objectives and initiatives the following list was established:

Membership

- Aim for 100 members, including areas surrounding ACT
- Continue to survey participants at events to gauge their interest
- Extend membership range to include childcare centres and preschools
- Develop membership database

Access to reading

- Improve access to reading opportunities for children through partnerships with others
- Develop information pack for parents
- Provide selection of quality books for school libraries

Author / Illustrator Engagement

- Discontinue Author/Illustrator School Visits
- Initiate “Celebrate with the Stars” event to promote local authors and illustrators to teachers
- Have a Q&A session with local authors/illustrators for students during Book Week as the format for the Children’s Seminar
- In 2016 have a One Day Seminar for authors and teachers
- Promote local authors/illustrators when Awards announced as media is more interested at that time
- List all new local publications in CBCA ACT eNews
- Each quarterly newsletter to have an interview with a local author

Promotion of meaningful engagement with Children’s literature

- Politician’s recording reading their favourite Australian children’s book
- Writing competition for students
- Publish winning student’s work

Collaborate with stakeholders in children’s literature

- Promote Indigenous Literacy Foundation work
- Participate in Simultaneous Storytime – special member only event at ALIA House, particularly aimed at preschool aged children

Governance & financial stability

- Write up sub-committee job descriptions
- Get other kindred organisations on-board
- eNews to be compiled in MailChimp
- Look for grants
- Review National outcomes and their impact on ACT Branch

Finance

The full audited report is provided as an attachment to this report. The ACT Branch continues to be financially viable. During 2015 we were able to secure a few small grants to help with funding and continued to have strong membership renewals. Donations from local community groups also contributed to the funding of the local Branch activities and administration. Each event at least broke even or made a small profit which was used to support payment of invited guests.

Donations were made to the National Centre for Children's Literature and the May Gibbs Children's Literature Trust.

Marketing & Communications

The Branch Committee and the Marketing subcommittee have been reviewing how and what we market to our members and the general public. Enhancing our communication with the diverse stakeholders of CBCA ACT Branch was also discussed.

eNews continued to be sent to members and subscribers and quarterly Newsletters sent to members via email.

Merchandise

In 2015 we once again asked members to buy their Book Week merchandise through the CBCA website. A very small number of orders came through the Branch if the person could not order online; the Branch treasurer processed these orders. The Committee decided that the Branch would purchase a

small amount of merchandise to be used for promotional purposes. ACT Members brought \$5,071.30 through the eStore, an increase of \$3,678.80. There were 53 orders. The ACT Branch receives 10% commission on these sales.

Banner rrp \$195

Short List & Book Week Posters
rrp \$11 rolled \$8.50 folded

45 mm Stickers
rrp \$4.50
sheets of 35

Torch
rrp \$8.80

Badges rrp \$3.00 each

Notable Australian Children's Books 2015
rrp \$22.00
ebook \$12.00

Bookmarks rrp \$9.50 per 10

RRP Prices listed here include a postage rate
Membership discounts are available through member branches
and the CBCA eStore: <http://merchandise.cbc.org.au/>

books light up our world
CHILDREN'S BOOK WEEK AUGUST 22-28, 2015

70 YEARS
1945 - 2015
THE CHILDREN'S BOOK COUNCIL OF AUSTRALIA

Website

In mid-2015 we launched our new look website. The website pages provide an avenue for detailed communications; resources, Book Week and events including online booking and membership forms.

July (launch month) had 147 pages viewed by 86 people

August had 1658 pages viewed by 1067 people

September had 568 pages viewed by 354 people

October had 673 pages viewed by 408 people.

Facebook

In early 2015 our Facebook page was “rebooted”, resulting in doubling the number of likes for our page over the last twelve months. The Facebook page allows us to deliver immediate information and direct people to our website.

Top 10 Posts for 2015

Post	Date	Reach	Clicks	Likes / Comments / Shares
Neil Gaiman quote	20 Dec	1582	49	108
Thank You CGGS – Book Appeal	9 Nov	1182	25	36
Happy 70 th Birthday CBCA	28 Aug	772	42	52
10 great books children should read	23 Dec	575	38	6
Christmas Book Appeal Donation Call	4 Aug	451	38	20
Thank You Book Appeal Packing Volunteers	7 Dec	276	31	12
Explore Our Indigenous Story Program	2 Jul	255	20	14
Schools Join Book Appeal (3 schools)	12 Aug	248	11	12
Queanbeyan Library Joins Appeal	10 Aug	232	13	14
Children’s Seminar Open	24 Jul	215	43	15

CBCA Facebook Page Views	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Likes	86	98	123	126	140	141	144	151	156	169	180	182
Reach by posts (activity: dates for month)	0	67	0	290	675	562	794	2896	504	841	1808	2961

Partnerships & Advocacy

The National Centre for Children’s Literature formerly the Lu Rees Archives

During the year the Lu Rees Archives changed their name to the National Centre for Australian Children’s Literature. This name change was another step in





positioning the Lu Rees Archives as the premier collection of Australian children's literature. The partnership between CBCA ACT Branch and NCACL continued during the year with the ACT Branch providing a donation of \$15 000.00 to the Foundation. We also continued to support NCACL with their event and exhibition promotions; *Colin Thiele: His Work and Legacy* talk and exhibition and 'Hippopotomusing' with Hazel Edwards talk.

Love2 Read Canberra

Organisations involved include; Libraries ACT, Children's Book Council of Australia (ACT Branch), ACT Writers' Centre, Lu Rees Archives of Australian Children's Literature, National Library of Australia, Australian Library and Information Association (ALIA), Society of Children's Book Writers and Illustrators (SCBWI) Australia and New Zealand (ACT Branch), Dymocks Bookstores, Indigenous Literacy Foundation (IFL), ACT Education and Training, Aussie Writers, ArtsACT, Library of the Alexander Maconochie Centre (AMC).



Australian Library and Information Association

Australian Libraries and Information Association (ALIA)

ALIA continued to provide support to the ACT Branch by providing, gratis, the use of their boardroom and kitchen. Additionally, ALIA House in Deakin was a collection site for donations for the Christmas Book Appeal. In kind, the ACT Branch promoted relevant ALIA campaigns; Library and Information Week, Library Lovers Day, Great School Libraries, National Simultaneous Storytime and some of their professional development course.

May Gibbs Fellowship, the May Gibbs Children's Literature Trust

During the year two Fellows of the May Gibbs Children's Literature Trust visited and were hosted by ACT Branch. Richard Yaxley and Pam Harvey. As part of our association we made a donation of \$200 to the Trust for their continued work.

MAY GIBBS
Children's Literature Trust



Libraries ACT

Our Christmas Book Appeal program continues to run successfully in 2015, giving underprivileged children books as gifts for Christmas. The Appeal partnered with

Libraries ACT to collect books on behalf of CBCA ACT Branch during the month of August. The library is also one of our Playgroups expo partners providing bags and information for inclusion in the show bags.

ANZAC Centenary Commemorative Grant

Finalisation of the grant was done in January with the sending copies of Mud, Blood and Tears: An Annotated List of Children's Books about War and Conflict to all primary and secondary schools in the ACT. The content of the resource was compiled in conjunction with two of our Branch members Julie Long and Rosemary Thomas. Notable books were sent to early learning centres and pre-schools.

The grant was acquitted to the Department of Veterans' Affairs.



ACT Playgroups

The ACT Branch again became a member of the ACT Playgroups Association, which enabled us to exhibit at the Playgroups expo and Playfest. During the year several visits were also made to various playgroups to discuss literature for early childhood.

Through the expos we have connected with over 219 families during 2015 an increase of 51 from 2014.



Book Sellers

Harry Hartog Bookseller Woden

The ACT branch would like to acknowledge the support from Harry Hartog Bookseller Woden. They

attend two of our events this year to sell a selection books to our attendees, provided prizes for our Bookweek Competition, contributed to one of our Playgroup expo show bags and was a collection site for the Christmas Book Appeal.



Dymocks Canberra Centre

The continued their support by providing information for both of our Playgroup expo show bags and was a collection site for the Christmas Book Appeal.



Dymocks Belconnen and Tuggeranong

Both locations supported us this year by becoming a collection site for the Christmas Book Appeal.

Tribute to celebrated Canberra teacher and ACT Branch Member - Patricia Cooper.



Patricia Cooper achieved plenty in her life before dying peacefully at age 87 on November 18, 2015, including having a school library and university accommodation named after her.

Patricia was born in 1928 in England. Her father, Harry McEvoy, established a Kellogg Company cereal plant in Manchester.

After living as an “armed forces” wife and as her husband neared the end of his career, she completed a bachelor of education at what is now the University of Canberra at age 41. She followed this with a master’s degree and one of her papers won the ACT Diabetes Association Prize.

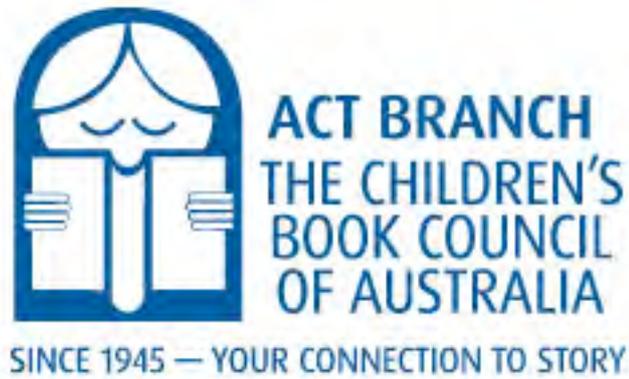
After teaching at numerous ACT schools, she was legally forced to retire from full-time work on her 65th birthday. But she continued as a relief teacher until the age laws changed and she was back to permanent teaching.

The Canberra Times reported her retirement in 2013 at the advanced age of 85, after 44 years of teaching. The last school she taught at was North Ainslie Primary School – a community which admired her so much its library was named after her.

Cooper’s vast contribution to education in Canberra earned her the title of Distinguished Alumna of the University of Canberra in 2008 and the Order of Australia for services to education in 2015.

Her nephew, John Healy, summed up his admiration for his “remarkable” aunt as follows: “Patricia Cooper, as well as leaving a lasting legacy which has enriched and continues to benefit many lives, should be remembered as the mother of a large family, a great friend, an amazing achiever, a splendid supporter, an inspirational influence, a role model for future generations and above all an educator extraordinaire.

This story was found at: <http://www.canberratimes.com.au/act-news/tributes-paid-to-celebrated-canberra-teacher-patricia-cooper-20151128-g12wx1.html>



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