



CBCA ACT NEWS

Issue 4 / November 2009

PO BOX 5548 HUGHES ACT 2605

We are now on to the last newsletter of 2009. It's been an active and productive year in the ACT Branch. Thank you to everyone who helped out, especially our executive committee. We could do nothing without you!

Since the last newsletter Book Week has come and gone – the Book Safari theme was very popular and we had a lot of fun with it! The announcement of the winners and honour books in the CBCA Book of the Year Award was enjoyable and well attended. Book Week itself was also successful, with author visits, the Children's Seminar and a Lu Rees exhibition. See page three for a run down of these events.

The ACT Branch Annual General Meeting was held early this year – on the 24th of September. We needed to get it done early so as to get any Branch motions for the National AGM in on time. There is a report back of the Branch AGM on page two.

This month month we also had our Annual Christmas Shopping Night at Dymocks Belconnen, which included the launch of local illustrator David Murphy's first picture book, *Snowy's Christmas*. Dymocks was very generous, and provide nibbles and drinks as well as a huge 20% discount. It was a great chance to support local talent, as well as getting our Christmas shopping done!

The National AGM of the CBCA is being held in Brisbane from Friday the 20th to Sunday the 21st of November. I will be the delegate and our VP Belle Alderman is coming along as the Observer and the Lu Rees representative.

Enjoy our last newsletter of the year, and I'd like to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a safe and happy holiday period. Next newsletter, February 2010.

Happy holidays everyone!

Rebecca Kemble
President

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CHILDREN'S BOOK COUNCIL OF AUSTRALIA (ACT BRANCH) Executive Committee 2008-9

President: Rebecca Kemble **Vice President:** Belle Alderman
Treasurer: Amanda de Jongh **Secretary:** Margaret Carmody

Membership Officer: Julie Long **Author Visits:** Rachael Hind **Website:** Dot Hepburn
Newsletter: Kimberley Gaal **Archives:** Pat Smith **Merchandise:** Kathleen Kinsella

Children's Book Week Seminar: Julie Long

Christmas Book Appeal: Mollie Bialkowski (handing over to Jill Howard and Elena Battye)

2008/2009 ACT Judge: Michael Janssen-Gibson

2010/2011 ACT Judge: Rosemary Thomas

ACT BRANCH 2009 AGM

Venue: Ainslie Football Club

Summary by Rebecca Kemble

First up on the agenda were acknowledgements and thank you presents for: Pat Smith & Rosalie Richards, for working on our Branch Archives and getting them ready for deposit; Michael Janssen-Gibson, for his 2 years of judging; and Mollie Bialkowski for 10 years of the Christmas Book Appeal (among many other things!). Thank you very much to these people for all their hard work. Thanks were also given to the Branch Executive for their work in Branch business and events.

Next up were reports from the President and Treasurer. The Presidents report looked at the events and activities the Branch was involved with this year, and the Treasurer's report included the audited accounts of the Branch. The Lu Rees report was also given. The Archives' achievements for 2009 were outlined and there was discussion about fund-raising and possible projects.

This was followed by the Election of the Office Bearers. President: Rebecca Kemble; Vice-President: Belle Alderman; Secretary: Margaret Carmody; Treasurer: Amanda de Jongh; Membership Officer: Julie Long. All elected unopposed. Other positions in the Executive do not have to be filled by election – thank you very much to Rachael Hind, Kathleen Kinsella, Elena Battye, Jill Howard, Kim Gaal and Pat Smith for being on the Executive for 2010! A vote of thanks was given to Dot Hepburn for working on our website for the past few years - including the change-over from the old to the new. We need a new Website manager, so if you can do it, please let me know!

No motions were raised for the National AGM, but suggestions were gathered for the 2011 Book Week slogan, which will be voted on and decided at the National AGM at the end of November.

We had dinner in the restaurant afterwards and were joined by the National Archivist Judith Russell, who drove down from Queensland that day. Thanks everyone who came, I was very pleased to have a quorum!

Recent Award Winners

NSW Premier's Literary Awards 2009

Patricia Wrightson Prize for children's literature (\$30,000)

Ursula Dubosarsky & Tohby Riddle (illus), *The Word Spy*, Penguin Group (Australia)

Ethel Turner Prize for young people's literature (\$30,000)

Michelle Cooper, *A Brief History of Montmaray*, Random House Australia Pty Ltd



Ursula Dubosarsky, Tohby Riddle and Michelle Cooper

The Children's Book Council of Australia Awards Foundation

Proudly Funding Prizes for the Children's Book of the Year Awards

Benefactors:

Scholastic Australia

Allen & Unwin

Laurie Copping OAM (in memoriam)

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Beryl Moncrieff Matthews (in memoriam)

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The Northern Territory Government

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Emily Rodda (Jennifer Rowe)

Gillian Rubinstein

Maurice Saxby AM

SA Dept of the Arts & Cultural Development

Julie Vivas

Walker Books Australia

Cassandra Weddell, Qld (in memoriam)

Maisie Williams, Garah, NSW (in memoriam)

Sue Williams

Donations to the CBCA Awards Foundation are tax deductible and can be sent to:

PO Box 172, Blackheath NSW 2785

Ph: 02 4787 8492 or 9630 2424

Fax: 02 9630 2594

Or donate on line:

<http://cbca.org.au/foundation.htm>

- EVENT REPORTS -

2010 JUDGE'S REPORT
ROSEMARY THOMAS, ACT JUDGE 2010-2011

As I sit down to write this report I am half way through the latest box, G. Thankfully this is only a very small amount of books with very few Older Reader books. We have now passed the 160 mark in reading. There are some terrific books out there and some I'd rather not read again! All judges are busy writing allocated annotations for possible notable listing as well. We are only up to box D on this. I am certainly spending a lot of my spare time on reading and computer reports. All the same it is very rewarding work and I am enjoying the challenges immensely. I am so glad I am not working full time, as I just wouldn't be able to fit all the reading in. If you wish to share in some of the books I am reading do not hesitate to contact me, as I would love the feedback from children and adults in the ACT. Just email me at rojo2@bigpond.com for a list of books.

BOOK WEEK EVENTS 2009
REBECCA KEMBLE, PRESIDENT, CBCA ACT BRANCH

Awards Announcement

This was held at the Belconnen Public Library for the first time this year, and was well attended with around 50 people there. Canberra Girls' Grammar Junior School performed Special Kev before the announcement, which was very popular. Mollie B also did some storytelling. There were light – safari themed - refreshments served after the announcement. Our secretary Margaret in particular made some very special cupcakes – thanks Margaret!

The venue was great – very kid friendly – and the staff and volunteers at Belconnen Library did a wonderful job of creating displays and decorations. We felt like we were in a jungle! They were very helpful and I'd like to thank them on behalf of the Branch for all their Book Week efforts, and for giving us such a fun venue. They also took some photos and put them up on the ACT Public Library's Flickr page, do have a look! Visit www.flickr.com/photos/librariesact/page2/

Author Visits

We had 8 authors and illustrators, and one storyteller visit schools this year. We had mostly local talents this year – we're very lucky to have so many creative people in Canberra! Thank you to them for participating in Children's Book Week in Canberra. Thanks also to Rachael Hind for organising the entire visits single handedly, and to all the people who volunteered to drive the out of state authors and illustrators around. See Rachael's report on the Author Visits for more information.

Children's Seminar

On the Thursday of Book Week the Children's Seminar was held at Farrer Primary School. Our Book Week authors and illustrators talked to groups of students in the afternoon after school – 34 students in total. Students were also lucky enough to have their copies of the authors books signed at the Seminar. After the Seminar members of the Branch and the Book Week authors and illustrators went out for dinner at the Lemon Grass restaurant in Woden. Great food and lots of it!

Image right: (L-R) Ingrid Jonach, Laura Peterson, Christine Aldred and Tania McCartney at the Children's Seminar. Photo by Rachael Hind.



Lu Rees Exhibition

The Lu Rees Archives organised an exhibition which ran for two days (Wednesday the 26th and Thursday the 27th of August) during Book Week. It was very well attended, with over 70 people present at the opening, and many others (including school groups) visiting during the day. We were fortunate enough to have Margaret Hamilton open the exhibition. See Belle's Lu Rees report for more information.

AUTHOR VISITS 2009

RACHAEL HIND, AUTHOR AND ILLUSTRATOR VISITS COORDINATOR

The CBCA ACT Branch organised two weeks of Author and Illustrator Visits in ACT schools to celebrate Children's Book Week. 25 primary and high schools across Canberra enjoyed over 40 sessions of author and illustrator talks and presentations from local and interstate guests.

Sherryl Clark once again travelled to the ACT to discuss her latest novel *Tracey Binns is Lost*. Western Australian author Dianne Wolfer fitted many school visits into her busy May Gibbs Fellowship schedule discussing her latest book *Lighthouse Girl*. Acclaimed illustrator of *Kestrel* and *Eyes in the Night* Laura Peterson traveled from Adelaide to attend our school visits. Locals Anthony Hill, Tania McCartney, Ingrid Jonach, Pauline Deeves, Christine Aldred and Mollie Bee all enjoyed a busy two weeks meeting enthusiastic groups of Canberra students.

2010 is looking exciting already, with Krista Bell from Melbourne on her way to Canberra. We are still hoping to secure illustrator Freya Blackwood and we will have the pleasure of hosting the May Gibbs Fellowship winner who will be announced shortly.

WHAT'S UP AT THE LU REES ARCHIVES?

BY BELLE ALDERMAN, COLLECTIONS DEVELOPMENT MANAGER, LU REES ARCHIVES

Jonathan Appleton Visit

You've heard me mention Jonathan Appleton, the teenager who created Rippa Reading while he was a teenager at Redlands School in Sydney. He came to visit his family in Sydney and came down to Canberra on 27 October (on the train!) to visit the Archives. We had 21 'personality probes' which he had included in Rippa Reading – but we couldn't tell who these people were. Here is an example of a personality prober: Who has brown eyes, blond hair, drives a Holden, liked INXS music and loved The Lion and the Witch and the Wardrobe as a child? Do you recognise this author? When I showed these to Jonathan, he knew all 21 immediately! We enjoyed his visit and he asked lots of fascinating questions. He poured over his favourites: Robin Klein and Colin Thiele. Friends who joined us for lunch included Victor Crittenden, Kathryn Ginn (the Associate Librarian at UC), Rebecca Kemble, Belinda Gamlen and myself. Jonathan is launching a new career in children's publishing when he returns to London in December.

Lu Rees Exhibition 26-27 August 2009

Many people from the Canberra community visited the exhibition. All the comments in our visitors' book were extremely complimentary. We had 2 school groups from Hawker College studying children's literature, and a group of Japanese students from Aichi University who were at the University studying English intensively. There were many individuals, and some came on both days, bringing another friend. Many thanks to all those who were able to help us out and supervise the exhibition. There was a suggestion that we should hold it every year during Children's Book Week, for the entire week, and to let schools know so they could 'book' classes in. That may be too ambitious for our limited resources, but it was a high compliment. On the Thursday, we held the professional development session for the ACT teacher librarians. It was attended by 23 people, from 10 different schools at all levels. We presented materials in the exhibition as visual literacy by examining the stories behind the six books on exhibition. We received great feedback from them.

Lu Rees Public Opening 26 August

Our formal opening of the exhibition was attended by some 75 people on Wednesday 26 August from 4.00pm-5.30pm. The food was excellent and totally woofed away! Anita Crotty, the University Librarian, welcomed everyone with some generous remarks about the value of the collection then Margaret Hamilton, our special guest and opener, gave a rousing speech with words we like to hear - the 'Lu Rees Archives is a national treasure'. We were very pleased that several children's authors and illustrators visiting Canberra schools during Children's Book Week—Pauline Deeves, Christine Aldred, Ingrid Jonach, Laura Peterson and Dianne Wolfer, attended the opening.

Shelf reading

Now complete! There were eight ACT Branch volunteers who come on Friday 9 October, and completed the majority of the task. As it turned out, this was my birthday and was duly celebrated with a delicious poppy seed cake by all who attended. We have now finished this task, and know that our books are in good order. But we still have all the signed books and for each one we are entering this information on the Library's catalogue record. A signed book is often valuable to researchers, and certainly augments the monetary value of the Archives.

Think Tank

The Archives has set up a small committee dreaming up ideas for funding the Archives. We've met twice and come up with 13 projects which should 'tug at the heartstrings', now if we could just find someone who'd like to fund these! Seriously, we do need money for so many projects, but we also need someone with expertise in locating funds and writing grants. If you are such a person, could you please contact us – we need you!

Work Experience Student

In November-December for six days, we will host an adult migrant student, Chairan Keesing, who is studying at CIT on a special program to build up workplace communication skills. She's from Indonesia and has worked with children's programs there, and sought us out for her work experience. Once she's completed this scaffolding coursework, she'll be undertaking librarianship studies at CIT. Perhaps she'll be a continuing volunteer at the Archives, we hope so!

CBCA Book Week Artwork

This artwork since Pamela Allen's 'Book Banquet' poster has now come to the Archives with the visit of Judith Russell, the National Archivist of the CBCA. The national body felt it would be more accessible in the Archives rather than in the National Library. The national CBCA archives are stored out at Hume. Another exhibition perhaps?

Emily Rodda Papers

We are expecting 28 boxes any time! Eventually, there will be a very special celebration of this donation.



The Children's Book Council of Australia

ACT Branch Inc.
PO Box 5548 HUGHES 2605

MEMBERSHIP

Are you passionate about encouraging children to read? Do you care about quality children's literature? Do you want to see Australia's best books for children and teenagers recognised and their creators rewarded? Then why not join The Children's Book Council of Australia!

For \$44 (inc GST) you will receive the following benefits:

- Free copies of the annual *Notable Australian Children's Books* (which lists and describes the best children's books published in Australia) and issues of the journal of the Lu Rees Archives
- Discounted rates on the purchase of Book Week merchandise such as bookmarks, badges, book bags, posters and Short List information
- Special members' rates for CBCA activities such as author and illustrator visits, the biennial national CBCA conference and local CBCA events. (Attendance at CBCA events can be attributed towards professional development obligations.)
- The opportunity to meet and network with other people committed to the same objectives, including some of Australia's leading authors and illustrators
- Substantial discounts on purchases at our annual Christmas shopping night
- A regular newsletter and email updates

Student membership of \$11 pa is also available. This includes everything above except the *Notables* list and the Lu Rees Archives journal. Please provide a current student ID number and name of institution.

To join or renew, please complete the form below and mail it with a cheque or money order made payable to The Children's Book Council of Australia - ACT Branch or you may join/renew in person at any CBCA event.

CBCA ACT Branch
PO Box 5548 HUGHES 2605
ABN 20 024 451 638

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