



CBCA ACT NEWS

The newsletter of the Children's Book Council of Australia (ACT Branch)

Issue 1 / February 2012

PO BOX 5548 HUGHES ACT 2605

The CBCA ACT Committee is busy preparing for the traditional Shortlist Showcase Night in March. This is a wonderful chance for teachers, librarians and students to hear about all the latest Australian children's books. This is an important occasion because it demonstrates the purpose of the Children's Book Council of Australia: "Engaging the community with literature for young Australians". CBCA seeks to promote the use and research of Australian Children's Literature and it injects this into all its events and activities. This is what makes CBCA distinctive.

Recently, there has been a Summer Picnic at Lake Burley Griffin and a Dinner with guest speaker Canberra author and illustrator, Dr Stephanie Owen Reeder. Late last year, the CBCA ACT held a very successful Christmas Book Appeal and in addition, the Members donated a generous Christmas hamper of children's books and toys to Barnardo's. These events and the events in the 2012 Program show the ways that CBCA links to the community and to its Members to provide opportunities for discovery of Australian Children's Literature.

With the National Year of Reading, 2012 was always going to be an exciting year for those of us who are enthusiastic about Children's Literature. So far, all our events have been well attended and we are anticipating increased membership which will be necessary as we prepare to host the 2014 CBCA National Conference in Canberra.

I would like to thank the Committee Members who work so hard to bring events to you and to maintain the ACT Branch. I would also like to thank the Members for their support of the events and their continuing commitment to quality children's literature in the Nation's Capital.

Margaret Carmody
President

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CHILDREN'S BOOK COUNCIL OF AUSTRALIA (ACT BRANCH)

Executive Committee

President: Margaret Carmody

Minutes Secretary: Rosemary Thomas

Vice President: Belle Alderman

Treasurer: Justine Power

Membership Officer: Julie Long

Author Visits: Leanne Barrett

Event Coordinator: Vacant

Merchandise: Kathleen Kinsella

Secretary: Vacant

2012-13 ACT Judge: Anna Beth McCormack

Children's Book Week Seminar: Julie Long

Christmas Book Appeal: Jill Howard & Elena Battey

Newsletter: Jaz Beer

Archives: Pat Smith

Website: Vacant

RECENT EVENTS

Dinner with Stephanie Owen Reeder



On 7 February, CBCA members and guests enjoyed dinner at the Canberra Yacht Club in Yarralumla. Guest speaker Dr Stephanie Owen Reeder spoke about her latest book, *Amazing Grace*.

Summer picnic



CBCA ACT Summer Picnic at Lake Burley Griffin on 22 January, 2012. In the photo are children's author Katie Taylor, Rod Taylor, Anne Taylor, Margaret Carmody and Mollie Bialkowski.

Xmas Dinner

On 15 November, 2011 members enjoyed the refreshments provided by the friendly Dymocks' staff while they were doing their Xmas shopping at Dymocks Belconnen, taking advantage of the discounts offered on the wonderful selection of books. After the excitement of the shopping, Members celebrated Xmas with a bistro dinner at the Southern Cross Club Jamison. Table decorations and party hats with very corny jokes made for a convivial evening. Many thanks to the Members who so generously contributed to the Xmas Hamper for Barnardo's.

CBCA Awards Foundation

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

Benefactors:

Scholastic Australia
Allen & Unwin
Laurie Copping OAM (in memoriam)
Thyne Reid Trust No. 1

Major Donors:

Australia Post, Sandy Campbell, Era Publications, Five Mile Press, Libby Gleeson AM, Bob Graham, Hachette Children's Books Aust, Hardie Grant Egmont, HarperCollinsPublishers Aust, Ipswich District Teacher-Librarians' Network, James N Kirby Foundation, Kinross-Wolaroi School, Koala Books, Library Bd of Q'land, Beryl Moncrieff Matthews (in memoriam), Jill Midolo (in memoriam), Angela Namoi, NT Gov, Parents & Boys of Sydney Grammar Edgecliff Prep, Penguin Books Aust, Random House Aust, Marion E Robertson (in memoriam), Emily Rodda (Jennifer Rowe), Gillian Rubinstein, Maurice Saxby AM, SA Dept of the Arts & Cult. Dev, University of Queensland Press, Julie Vivas, Walker Books Aust, Cassandra Weddell, Qld (in memoriam), Maisie Williams, Garah, NSW (in memoriam), Margaret Wild, Sue Williams.

Donations to the CBCA Awards Foundation are tax deductible and can be sent to: PO Box 172, Blackheath NSW 2785



Shortlist Showcase Night

Children's Book Council of Australia ACT Branch

Engaging the Community with Literature for Young Australians. .

Enjoy coffee and cake as you listen to experts in Children's Literature give you the inside story on this year's entries in the CBCA Awards. This is a must for all teachers, librarians and students.

Date: Tue 6 March 2012 **Time:** 6.00—8.00pm.

Entry: \$10 for non Members, **Members FREE.**

Venue: Australian Catholic University, Blackfriars Building
127 Phillip Ave Watson. Go to Reception and follow the signs.

RSVP: Mon 5 March 2012.

Contact: Margaret Carmody act@cbca.org.au

*Invited guests of Members most
welcome.*

Children's Book Council of Australia ACT Branch

Website: <http://act.cbca.org.au/index.htm>
Email: act@cbca.org.au



GET REAL AWARD

The ACT Branch presented its annual award to the best illustrator at the University of Canberra's Get Real project held on 23 November 2011. Get Real has been running since 1999. It involves students from Writing for Young People and Publication Design in a collaborative project to write and illustrate a picture book for children. The winning illustrator for 2011 was Jessica Lenehan, who created amazing silkscreen, collage and ink illustrations for Duncan Sargeant's picture book, *Why is Mummy so sad?* This was a moving story told by a young girl whose mother was suffering from depression and the impact this had on the family. The illustrations were novel in approaching the story metaphorically, by using birds and the environment. It was a tough story, beautifully told and illustrated.

There were about 50 entries, eagerly pored over by the 200 or so who attended. The competition judge was local artist, Franki Sparke, who talked about the value of the Get Real project and praised the excellent work produced by the students. Students noted the verso of title pages and most included ISBNs, some unusual subject headings, heartfelt dedications and inventive publishers such as 'Intended Books Publisher' and 'Accidental House Publications'. Belle Alderman and Belinda Gamlen held sessions for the 150 creative writing and publication design students before the creation of their picture books, talking and showing artwork, dummies, storyboards and various drafts of authors' texts. The students presented them both with a present on the night as thanks for these sessions.

Belle Alderman
Vice President

JOB VACANCIES

Website Officer

Volunteer position

Significance: Highly important position – the Website is the first impression of the Branch and we only get one chance to make a first impression.

Duties: Maintain and update regularly CBCA ACT Branch website. Training available. This position involves uploading information about the Branch on a regular basis.

Time commitment: Two to three hours four times a year.

Interested? Contact Margaret Carmody

Secretary – communication & record keeping

NB The position of Minute Secretary has already been filled

Volunteer position

Significance: High – helps create and maintain a team spirit amongst Members of the Committee.

Essential Requirements: efficient, good at personal relations

Duties: Communication – write letters on behalf of CBCA, keep Members and Committee informed by sending news sheets for each CBCA event to all Members, assist President with Agenda development & distribution for Committee Meetings, assist Website Officer and Newsletter Editor by providing information about happenings for publication.

Record keeping: Manage storage and retrieval of CBCA documents.

Time commitment: 2-3 hours per week.

Interested? Contact Margaret Carmody

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

March: Shortlist Showcase Night. Enjoy coffee and cake as you listen to experts in Children's Literature give you the inside story on this year's entries in the CBCA Awards. This is a must for all teachers, librarians and students. Venue: Australian Catholic University, Blackfriars Building 127 Phillip Ave Watson. Go to Reception and follow the signs. Date: Tue 6Mar12 Time: 6.00 – 8.00pm. Entry: \$10 for non Members, Members FREE. Contact: Margaret Carmody act@cbca.org.au RSVP: Fri 2Mar12.

April: Shortlist Announcement Dinner. Your chance to see the exciting new books that have been shortlisted for the CBCA Awards. Venue: TBA Date: Tue 3Apr12 Time: 6.30 for 7.00pm. Contact: Margaret Carmody act@cbca.org.au RSVP: Fri 30Mar12.

May: CBCA Multi Storied Conference. Venue: Adelaide Convention Centre Dates: 17-19May12. Register: www.cbca.org.au

June: Dinner with guest speaker Venue: TBA Date: Tue 5Jun12 Time: 6.30 for 7.00pm. Contact: Margaret Carmody act@cbca.org.au RSVP: Fri 1Jun12.

July: Dinner with guest speaker Venue: TBA Date: Tue 3Jul12 Time: 6.30 for 7.00pm Contact: Margaret Carmody act@cbca.org.au RSVP Fri 29Jun12.

August: Book Week Sat 18 - Fri 24Aug12

CBCA Awards Announcement Theme: Champions Read plus Foyer display and visit children's corner of the Bookshop. Venue: National Library of Australia Date: Fri 17Aug12 Time: 11.30 for 12.00pm. Contact: Margaret Carmody act@cbca.org.au No need to RSVP

Children's Seminar. Venue: CGGS Junior School. Date: Wed 22Aug12 Time: 4.30 – 6.00pm Contact: Julie Long OAM. Ph: 62 31 7531 RSVP: Fri 17Aug12

Authors' Dinner Meet the authors who have been our guests during Book Week. Venue: TBA Date: Wed 22Aug12 Time: 6.30 for 7.00pm. Contact: Julie Long OAM. Ph: 6231 7531 RSVP: Fri 17Aug12

September: Dinner with guest speaker Venue TBA Date: 4Sep12 Time: 6.30 for 7.00pm Contact: Margaret Carmody act@cbca.org.au RSVP: Fri 31Aug12.

October: Connecting Communities through Story: The Festival of Australian Children's Literature. Venues: Various - Canberra. Dates: 1Oct – 15Nov12

Annual General Meeting CBCA ACT Venue: TBA Date: Thu 18Oct12 Time: 6.30 for 7.00pm Contact: Margaret Carmody act@cbca.org.au

November: Christmas Dinner Venue: TBA Date: Tue 13Nov12 Time: 6.30 for 7.00pm. Contact: Margaret Carmody act@cbca.org.au RSVP: Fri 9Nov12.

AUTHOR AND ILLUSTRATOR VISITS

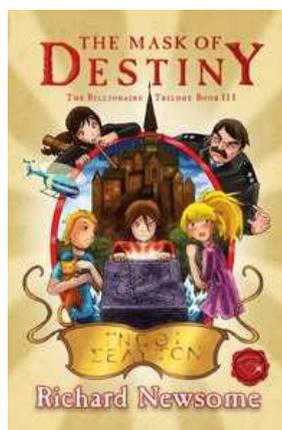
Invitations have been sent out to authors and illustrators from the region and interstate to visit schools in Book Week 2012. So far Katie J Taylor, Pauline Deeves, Tania McCartney, Tracey Hawkins, Anthony Hill, Stephanie Owen Reeder and David Murphy, all from the ACT, will be doing author visits for us this year. We look forward to adding other talented local authors and illustrators to the list.

We are very grateful to our visiting authors and illustrators for their time and the effort that they put into their visits. We are also appreciative of the teachers and librarians who organise school visits for their students. School Booking Sheets and Author/Illustrator Biographies will be circulated in early Term 2.

If anyone wishes to contact me with feedback or suggestions please do not hesitate to contact me.

Leanne Barrett
Author and Illustrator Visits Coordinator
leannebarrett@bigpond.com

BOOK REVIEW by Rosemary Thomas

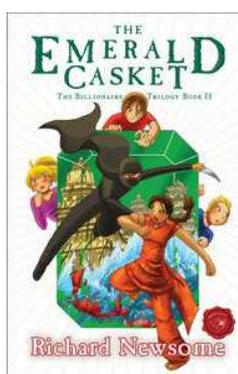
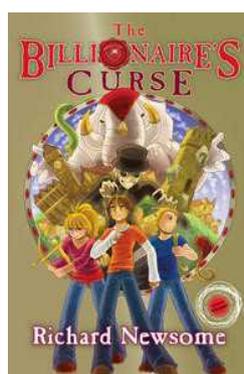


The Mask of Destiny is the final chapter in the Billionaire Trilogy by Richard Newsome. This gives closure to a fast paced well written series about inheritance and greed for money and power. In the final book the reader is drawn into a suspenseful fast paced adventure with a plot full of surprising twists and turns. The first book in the series was *The Billionaire's Curse*, followed by *The Emerald Casket*.

Gerard and his friends are shaken out of their sense of security when they face their nemesis, Mason Green in court and he mysteriously drops dead. Just when the reader thinks all is well and Gerard will live happily with his friends a new danger emerges from an unexpected source and has the reader absorbed in another Indiana Jones type adventure full of action and suspense. Gerald is falsely accused of murdering Mason Green. The quest to prove Gerald's innocence and solve the final part of the puzzle of the three caskets lies in the ancient city of Delphi.

Clear, concise and accurate descriptions by the author allow the reader to clearly visualise the settings and actions in this story and the previous two books adding to the pace and urgency within the plot. The author has used situations that will appeal to the younger and older reader in this series; poison, mysterious powerful chemicals, ancient cities and myths, murder, mayhem, friendships, quest for power, greed and a little bit of love.

This is a sophisticated and very well written series involving mystery, adventure and even murder with a tightly constructed plot that will appeal to both genders and all ages not just 8-12 year olds.



LU REES ARCHIVES NEWS by Belle Alderman

Seniors Project – Kangara Waters and Calvary Retirement Communities

The Archives received a grant from the ACT Government Seniors Grants and Sponsorship Program last year. Our project? Story: Mental stimulation, self-reflection and reminiscence, social interaction and personal well-being for seniors through Australian children's literature.

Between February and November 2011, five individuals presented a range of topics including Bob Graham's and Colin Thiele's books, familiar rhymes and songs, vintage NSW School Magazines, Enid Blyton, and favourite Australian children's books, to name a few, plus an occasional toy frog and fireman's helmet to jog favourite memories from childhood. We will soon have a resource kit based on our experiences. We hope this will support future delivery of the project by other groups.

Discussions with the Activities Coordinators at Calvary Retirement Community and Kangara Waters Retirement Facility confirmed the project's success. Each coordinator would like the project to continue. Typical comments included: 'stimulated some residents who were struggling and some who were isolated'; 'opened up nice memories'; and 'lots of joy and lots of learning'.

A special thank you to our Project Manager, Shirley Campbell, and presenters Julie Long, Pat Smith, Ann Campbell, Margaret Carmody and Helen Davis. Thanks also are due to Trish Milne, who researched Lu Rees material for the project.

Connecting Communities through Story: The Festival of Australian Children's Literature

The Archives heard recently that we received a grant to run Canberra's first festival of Australian Children's Literature. It will be a collaborative venture between the Archives, the ACT Branch and Libraries ACT with satellite events at the ACT Writers Centre. We propose to bring together people of all ages and cultures to share their life experiences through story; reflect on their diverse cultural backgrounds; celebrate contemporary children's favourites from Canberra's Own Outstanding List (COOL) awards; enjoy adults' remembered stories from childhood, and explore the creation of text and illustrations from the Archives' treasures. We will feature six mini-exhibits and associated programs in six ACT Libraries, and hold two major events at the beginning and end of the project, which extends from 1 October to 15 November 2012.

New materials in the Archives

We have received many elderly books from Lifeline over the recent months. Many we had been looking for over many years. We've successfully knocked off many from our new Hesba Brinsmead and our old Colin Thiele wish lists. Can you help us? Check this list:

<http://www.canberra.edu.au/lurees/donations/wishlist> – if you have any of the ones listed, we are aiming to have their complete works in the Archives.

Gillian Rubinstein a.k.a. Lian Hearn has donated more of her papers and manuscripts to the Archives, this time, material from the Otori Chronicles, including handwritten manuscripts, and literally, boxes of reviews from around the world. This is a fascinating collection, which includes family correspondence and Gillian's school records from age four to eighteen years.

Pamela Lofts has donated all the artwork for *Koala Lou* and *Hunwick's Egg*. These artworks are simply exquisite – the detail and intensity of colour gives you an enormous appreciation that simply is not possible from the book alone.

CHRISTMAS BOOK APPEAL

Over the Christmas 2011 period we successfully delivered 1163 books to needy children.

Recipients were: Galilee Inc, Doris Women's Refuge, Innana Service, Beryl Women Inc, Child & Family Centres - Children's Plan, West Belconnen Child & Family Centre, Childcare & Protection After Hours Service, Gungahlin Child & Family Centre, CanFaCs and Care & Protection Service.

Thank you to our generous donors who helped to make our book deliveries possible: Rebecca Kemble, *Reading Time*, Rosemary Thomas (fees received from her book talks plus books from her judging position), Julie Wells, Rachel Hind, Tania McCartney, Children's Week Committee, Allan & Unwin and CBCA ACT.

Some of the feedback we received

The books donated through the Christmas Book Appeal were distributed to many of the families that we work with in both a case management capacity and within a number of our groups, including Playing Together, Learn Giggle and Grow, More Giggles and Atfaal. Some of the families added the books to presents they would be giving to their children on Christmas day, others were given as gifts from the Child and Family centre to celebrate Christmas.

All the parents were very surprised and grateful by the gesture, and some stated that they felt that giving out these books was a lovely idea and showed that people cared about them and their children. Some parents talked to their children about reading the special books together when they got home. The children from one particular family from a non English speaking background were so excited to receive the books and enjoyed the Child and Family centre staff reading the books to them. They were so happy that they were able to also keep the books.

Shiobhan Tunks

Practice Leader / Social Worker

Gungahlin Child and Family Centre

We very much appreciate your contribution of books for all the children at Doris. The books were a wonderful addition to the children's Christmas gifts from Santa and all of the children were delighted to receive them.

I cannot think of a more valuable gift for the children than books. Fostering children's reading skills and love of books is a gift that will last a lifetime. This is especially valuable to the children who come from non-English speaking backgrounds and live with a parent who has little or no literacy in English.

Thank you for providing such wonderful gifts to the children at Doris.

Kind regards

Patricia Jones

Assistant Coordinator

Doris Women's Refuge Inc

Once again thanks to Mollie for help with the deliveries to Galilee.

We are already starting to buy up for Christmas 2012 with some good book sales around. Please keep us in mind if you know of anyone who wants to donate children's books. All donations are much appreciated.

Jill Howard & Elena Battey

Convenors

CBCA Christmas Book Appeal



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

Tax Invoice

Please tick: **\$44.00 Full membership** (inc.GST \$4.00) or **\$11.00 student** (inc.GST \$1.00)

Renewal New Member

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Fax: _____ Email: _____

Student ID number: _____ Institution: _____

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If making an online payment, please note online that it is for membership and your surname.
Complete this form (incl. receipt number) and send to justine@melwoodt.com.au or post.

Please tick if you do not want your membership details included in the CBCA national members database



Address all correspondence to:
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 PO BOX 4062
 ASHMONT
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PUBLICATIONS

- 1. *Book of the year award 1946-2011 (A\$6.50 per copy)* \$.....
- 2. *History of the CBCA – Celebrate with Stories (1995) (A\$10.00 per copy)* \$.....
- 3. *Back copies of Reading Time if available – 2011 A\$12 each, (others A\$6.00 each)* \$.....
- 4. *CBCA Conference Papers, only May 2000 – (A\$38.00 each)* \$.....
- 5. *Very limited number of The Imagineers B Alderman & L Harman (eds) 1983 (A\$20.00 each)* \$.....

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THE JOURNAL OF THE CHILDREN'S BOOK COUNCIL OF AUSTRALIA