



CBCA ACT NEWS

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

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STOP THE PRESS!

ACT Branch has a new committee, decided at last week's AGM.

Making up the new committee are:

President: Leanne Barrett

Vice President: Dr Belle Alderman AM

Immediate Past President: Margaret Carmody

Treasurer: Justine Power

Secretary: position vacant

Minutes Secretary: Rosemary Thomas

Membership Secretary: Julie Long OAM

Author Visits Coordinator: position vacant

Christmas Book Appeal: Jaclyn Green, Jill Howard

Merchandise Coordinator: Kathleen Kinsella

Branch Archivist: Pat Smith

Webmaster: Christian West

Newsletter Editor: Jaz Beer

2014 Conference Convenor: Gai Dennett

Children's Seminar Coordinator: Julie Long OAM

Book stall: Norma John, Molly B

Public Officer: Eileen Dunstone

A huge thank you to all outgoing committee members
for their tireless work over the past year.



**National
Year of
Reading
2012**

www.love2read.org.au

From the President

Champions Read

Champions read is the theme of this year's celebration of children's books, culminating in Book Week and the celebration in the ACT of the Awards at the National Library of Australia.

When I look at the Medal Count from the London Olympics, I can see all the countries at the top of the medal count are also at the top for reading. They all have exceptionally high literacy rates.

Here are the statistics: 12 of the top 15 countries in the medal count have literacy rates of 99% or more and the remaining three have rates of 91% or more. Most of them are in the top 26 countries: they are all in the top 120 countries in the world for reading.

The countries with the top readers are also the countries with the top medal count. Clearly champions are readers and readers are champions. CBCA Book of the Year Awards The CBCA gives awards to books for children of all ages and interests: from small babies to teenagers. They cover all interests and genres from fantasy to picture books to information books.

These award winning books will be read eagerly by children across Australia. They will be shared with brothers and sisters, swapped with friends, read and read again and most likely kept for many years. They will become part of the childhood of the children who read them, just as the classics we all read and heard became part of our Australian childhood. Not only will

children enjoy these books. I know that many adults too will want to read them. Adults will share in the thrill of these beautifully published and illustrated books.

Our own champions

What we have here in our Canberra authors and illustrators are our very own champions. They are those who achieve at the highest levels of children's literature in Australia. They have won awards this year and in the past. We had as our guests at the Awards celebration those who champion children's literature – they promote it, they battle for it, they stoutly maintain the cause of ensuring that Australian children have the very best literature to read and enjoy.

Thank you

As the President of the Children's Book Council, ACT Branch, I am honoured to thank the authors and illustrators of the magnificent Australian children's books, especially the ones which received Awards this year. I am also honoured to thank particular people who attended the Awards celebration personally. Thank you to the children and Julie Long OAM for a wonderful performance of *That's not a daffodil* and to Mollie Bialkowski for telling us the story of *Come down cat!*

Thank you to Dr Andrew Leigh MP for supporting children's literature and announcing the winners. Thank you to our Olympic Champion, Petria Thomas, for being an excellent role model, inspiring us all to be champions. Thank you to Anna McCormack for reading all the hundreds of books as ACT CBCA

Judge and to Pauline Deeves, Susan Hall, Tracey Hawkins, Tania McCartney, Stephanie Owen-Reeder and Katie Taylor for your contribution to Australian children's literature as authors and illustrators. I would like to say thank you to the National Library of Australia bookshop, and especially to Maureen Brooks, for hosting the Awards celebration and all your friendly help and lastly, thank you to the CBCA ACT Committee for months of hard work to make Book Week a success.

A valuable contribution

On a wider scale, I would like to thank all members for helping to celebrate children's books. Your participation in Book Week helps the CBCA to support and promote quality children's literature for all Australian children. This year's winners and all the books by our Canberra authors and illustrators represent a valuable contribution to Australian children's literature. They will help to raise and to satisfy our young Australians' thirst for the very finest books.

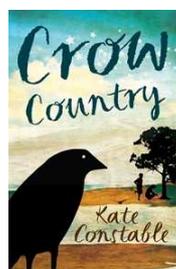
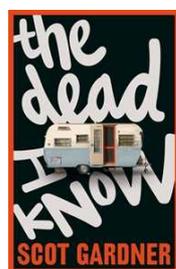
Champions do indeed read!

Reading fine literature is a must for our young champions, whom Australia will certainly need in four years' time and again four years after that. Thank you again to all CBCA ACT Members. With your support, whether as a reader, a writer, an illustrator, a teacher, a parent or a politician, Australian children's literature is in good hands. Champions do indeed read!

Margaret Carmody
President
August 2012

Book of the Year winners announced

Congratulations to the winners and Honour Book award recipients in all categories.



Book of the Year: Older Readers

(These books are for mature readers)
Scot Gardner, *The Dead I Know*
Allen & Unwin

Honour Books: Older Readers

Bill Condon, *A Straight Line to my Heart*
Allen & Unwin
Robert Newton, *When We were Two*
Penguin Books, Penguin Group (Australia)

Book of the Year: Younger Readers

(These books are intended for independent younger readers)
Kate Constable, *Crow Country*
Allen & Unwin

Honour Books: Younger Readers

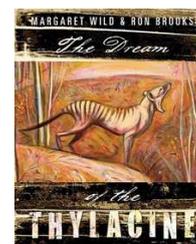
Jackie French, *Nanberry: Black Brother White*
Angus & Robertson, Harper Collins Publisher
Susan Green, *The Truth about Verity Sparks*
Walker Books Australia

Book of the Year: Early Childhood

(Intended for children in the pre-reading to early reading stages)
Nick Bland, *The Runaway Hug*
Scholastic Press,
Illustrator: Freya Blackwood
Scholastic Australia

Honour Books: Early Childhood

Sonya Hartnett, *Come Down, Cat!*
Puffin Books,
Illustrator: Lucia Masciullo
Penguin Group (Australia)
Elizabeth Honey, *That's Not a Daffodil!*
Allen & Unwin



Picture Book of the Year

(Intended for an audience ranging from birth to 18 years. Some books may be for mature readers)

Arranged by Illustrator
Bob Graham, *A Bus called Heaven*
Walker Books Australia

Honour Books: Picture Book of the Year

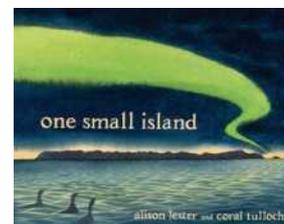
Ron Brooks, *The Dream of the Thylacine*
Allen & Unwin
Text: Margaret Wild
Bruce Whatley *Flood*
Omnibus Books,
Text: Jackie French
Scholastic Australia

Eve Pownall Award for Information Books

(Intended for an audience ranging from birth to 18 years range. Some books may be for mature readers)
Alison Lester & Coral Tulloch,
One Small Island: The Story of Macquarie Island
Penguin Group (Australia)

Honour Books: Eve Pownall Award for Information Books

Anh Do, & Suzanne Do, *The Little Refugee*
Allen & Unwin
Illustrator: Bruce Whatley



Visit www.cbca.org.au to view all the short listed books.

Your Committee

President: Margaret Carmody

Vice President: Dr Belle Alderman AM

Secretary - Minutes: Rosemary Thomas

Secretary - Communications: Jaz Beer

Secretary - Membership: Julie Long OAM

Treasurer: Justine Power

2012-13 ACT Judge: Anna Beth McCormack

Children's Book Week Seminar:
Julie Long OAM

Christmas Book Appeal: Jill Howard, Elena Battey & Mollie Bialkowski

Merchandise: Kathleen Kinsella

Author Visits: Leanne Barrett

Event Coordinator: Vacant

Archives: Pat Smith

Website: Christian West

Book Week Author and Illustrator Visits

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The CBCA ACT Branch organised two weeks of Author and Illustrator Visits in ACT schools to celebrate Children's Book Week. Seventeen primary and high schools participated, giving over 4,600 students the opportunity to listen to one of our interstate guests; Christina Booth (Tasmania) or Simon Mitchell (Victoria) or one of our local guests; Mollie B, Pauline Deeves, Tracey Hawkins, Tania McCartney, David Murphy, Katie J. Taylor.

The Children's Seminar was held at Canberra Girls Grammar School – Junior School this year followed by dinner afterwards at ACT Rugby Union Club.

I am most grateful to the people who gave up their time to drive our visitors to their sessions.

Thank you to Christian West for adding forms and links to the CBCA ACT Branch Website making the information more accessible to schools and authors.

Thank you to Justine Power who handled the financial side of our visits and having the invoices sent using MYOB, a first for our branch.

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



Literacy: Every Child's Right

by Margaret Carmody

In this the International Year of Reading it is timely to consider what we mean by literacy and the role of children's literature in the acquisition of literacy.ⁱ

Books are a vital part of literacy. Mass literacy dates from the C14 invention of the printing press. We now potentially have global literacy, yet not in fact.ⁱⁱ An important debate exists about how best to ensure a literate society.ⁱⁱⁱ

In our daily lives there are many literacy events. People have different literacies which they make use of associated with different domains of their lives. If I write a note to a teacher, it is different from an annual report and different from a letter to a friend, and different from the electricity bill or the voting papers in the upcoming election. Yet I need literacy skills to engage independently in all of these activities.

What we hope to achieve through education and the provision of good children's literature is more than just knowledge of the alphabet or the ability to survive in a world of literacy.^{iv} What we want and we need as a society is for every child to have the confidence to read, write, speak, listen and ultimately, the ability to teach others to do these things clearly, effectively, elegantly.

Literacy is every child's right: it is about the passing of ideas and information from one person to another.^v The role of teachers who are arguably the guardians of our language, in the acquisition of

language and literacy is pivotal. In this Year of Reading it is important to remember that language empowers not only the learner but also the teacher. By teaching someone to read, a teacher is equipping students to participate in the political, the economic world.

What we want and we need as a society is for every child to have the confidence to read, write, speak, listen and ultimately, the ability to teach others to do these things clearly, effectively, elegantly.

There are different characteristics of literacy education in the different phases of schooling. "Students' understandings are constructed in language and each area of the curriculum uses language in a different way".^{vi}

Everything else depends on the success of those first years at school. And in turn, the success of those first years at school depends on their skills when they enter school. There is according to Whitehurst and Lonigan, a "strong continuity between the skills they have when they enter school and their later academic performance".^{vii} Hence Mem Fox's stipulation of 500 books for every child. Literacy is not an end in itself. Children who read well and more acquire more knowledge in numerous domains. They have an enormous advantage in vocabulary and content knowledge.

Language is primarily for two main purposes: as action and as reflection. As action, writing is directed at others, when you talk or write to or for others, such as your work related writing where there is an audience for that language other than you. As reflection, as thinking, when you talk to yourself, you think, you write for yourself, diaries, drafting papers, taking notes, making a journal.

Language conveys messages: information and facts. So a baby might say "I want teddy" But language also conveys feelings and attitudes "I want it right now and I'm really upset about it and I am going to make a terrible fuss until I get my teddy and I'm angry and upset and I expect you to do something about it right now."

With Language we can represent the world; we can express and understand our experience use different language in different areas of our lives, of the school curriculum. From a psychological perspective, language helps us define reality to ourselves. It mediates our thought. Language shapes us as we form and control it. So we can see that literacy is actually part of our thinking. It assists us in the construction of our ideas. It is part of the actual technology of our thinking.

People have different levels of awareness concerning literacy and we have different attitudes to literacy. The government's attitudes are most likely different from yours.^{viii} We have different values. In

Literacy: Every Child's Right (cont.)

this Year of Reading we need to ask ourselves the hard questions such as, Do you think everyone should be educated to the same level of literacy?

Language and specifically reading is not only for academic purposes as used in the classroom. Language is also for telling stories, sharing gossip, making jokes. These apparently trivial uses of language provide a shared sense of values, ridicule, acceptable behaviour, in any group. That is why apparently trivial literature such as Bob Graham's *A Bus Called Heaven* is so important.^{ix}

As a reflection of the importance of shared values, consider how there have been changes in traditional tales over time to match changing public attitudes - *Tin Tin* has been taken off the children's book shelves in many book stores because he is now perceived as racist.^x Language changes as society changes. *Red Riding Hood* has changed over time from a sturdy peasant girl who deals with the wolf to a simpering maiden who needs the woodsman to rescue her.^{xi} There are plenty of other examples of traditional tales retold. Golliwogs are no longer seen, Noddy and Big Ears are not popular today.^{xii}

Language reflects the different realities of Australian children as they grow up in different regions in our multicultural society. An issue which should concern us is whether the current children's literature reflects those differences. There is a great risk that children's literature

will reflect only the dominant group.^{xiii} This has critical implications for children's literature for non participants whether because of language differences or differences due to disabilities or indeed illiteracy. This is why it is so important that the CBCA Awards are for books which acknowledge and address those differences.^{xiv}

All forms of communication, language, art, dance, drama, music, are a way of us representing the world to others. In this, the Year of Reading, we need to consider what is the relation of literacy to spoken language or to visual technology? Are you literate if you can speak but not write? Is visual technology part of literacy? This will have implications for the future of CBCA Awards as electronic books become more prevalent.^{xv}

Our individual life histories contain many events from early childhood onwards and the books we read are part of that experience. But literacy is not static. The present is built on the past. We change and as children and as adults we are constantly learning about literacy in all its various formats.

It is useful to consider what literate practices are considered by our society to be appropriate at different ages. What characterises literacy for preschool? What about primary school? What literacy do we require of university entrants? What do we expect of the literacy of our graduates? The current debate about "toxic teachers" has inherent literacy expectations of the students and the teachers.^{xvii}

Reading begins with and is dependent on letter recognition which in turn predicts reading success. It is a difficult process. It requires a balance of a systematic code instruction and meaningful texts including the very best children's literature we have to offer. Literacy is indeed every child's right.

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Diary Dates

October:

Boundless: The Festival of Australian Children's Literature

Venues: Various - Canberra.

Dates: 30Oct – 17Nov12

November:

Christmas Dinner

Venue: Canberra Rugby Union Club,
51 Blackall St Barton

Date: Tue 13Nov12 Time: 6.30 for 7.00pm.

Contact: Margaret Carmody

act@cbca.org.au

RSVP: Fri 9Nov12

Bring a small gift for our charity hamper

January 2013:

Summer Picnic

Venue: Weston Pk Rd, Yarralumla:
Lake Burley Griffin. (Turn right after the
Nursery and before Prescott Lane)

Date: Sun 20Jan13

Time: 12.00 for 12.30pm

Contact: Margaret Carmody

act@cbca.org.au

Bring your family and your own picnic and
catch up with other CBCA Members

Recent Events



What's Going On in the Lu Rees Archives by Belle Alderman, Director

Boundless: Festival of Australian Children's Literature 30Oct-17Nov 2012

Gabrielle Lord, creator of the very popular thriller or young adults, *Conspiracy 365* was our opening speaker. Here's the gist of her opening address, titled, 'The criminal mind of the writer' talking about the lengths she's gone to in research -- travelling overseas, hanging out with weapons inspectors, crime scene examiners, learning how to make anthrax in bulk..... She also launched #14 at Paperchain and spoke at Civic Library – 'Crime in the Library'.

Teams have completed installing the six mini-exhibitions of original artwork, manuscripts, and other material from the Archives at Erindale, Tuggeranong, Dickson, Belconnen, Civic and Woden libraries. There are related educational activities for each mini-exhibit featuring on the Archives and Libraries ACT websites. Exhibition material:

- Deltora Quest 2/3 by Emily Rodda
- *Fiona the Pig* by Leigh Hobbs
- Bob Graham
- *Nim's Island* by Wendy Orr (feature film version)
- *Way Home* by Margaret Wild & Wayne Harris
- *Hist!* and *First Light* illustrated by Peter Gouldthorpe

Closing Festival events in mid-November with Andy Griffiths

- Speaks to 500 children, classes 4,5,6, at 3 combined schools, including Radford College, Rosary Primary and St Judes Primary
- Announces the COOL Award winners & speaks at Gungahlin Library
- Gives writers' workshop for adults on writing humour for children, sponsored by ACT Writers Centre
- Guest for dinner with our CBCA ACT Branch
- Appears and signs books in the National Library of Australia foyer

Check out full details of the festival at <http://www.canberra.edu.au/festival-childrens-literature/home>

Volunteers

Recently three of our volunteers have left the Archives to take up new positions: this is wonderful news for them but it leaves us with a need for more volunteers. Do you have a couple of spare hours? We'd love to hear from you. I'm sure we have something you'd find fascinating to do. For example, I'm working on Bob Graham's artwork for *A Bus Called Heaven*. It's truly heavenly!

Exhibition of *My Dog* by John Heffernan & Andrew McLean

Four CIT Museum Studies students spent an entire semester choosing artwork, creating a theme and text panels, mounting the artwork and

opening a three-week exhibition at the Learning Centre at Reid from 6 June – 25 June. The project was written up here http://cit.edu.au/design_fashion_photography/news_and_events/cit_student_exhibition_from_pencil_to_published

Business Plan for the Archives

The ACT Branch and the Archives agree that it would be a good idea to create a Business Plan given a new national board of the CBCA will form in November this year, and the Agreement between the ACT Branch and the University of Canberra is due to be reviewed by the end of this year. It will be discussed at the Branch AGM in October and subsequently at the November AGM of the national CBCA. The idea is that a Business Plan will market who we are, highlight our assets, attract sponsors, and profile what we need in the future.

Completion of Seniors Project & production of kit

Throughout 2011, the Archives ran an ACT government funded project to share Australian children's books with two retirement communities, Calvary and Kangara Waters. CBCA members involved were Pat Smith, Julie Long, Margaret Carmody and Shirley Campbell, who managed the project. The Archives gave a collection of 30 new books (furnished by a generous publisher) to each retirement community. We have produced a how-to kit with programs and resources which can be borrowed by others to run a similar program elsewhere.

YOU ARE INVITED TO THE
CBCA CONFERENCE
TO BE HELD AT THE
REX HOTEL
CANBERRA 16-18 MAY 2014

DISCOVERING NATIONAL TREASURES



Website: <http://act.cbca.org.au>

Email: act@cbca.org.au

Image source: <http://www.anbg.gov.au/emblems/actemblem.html>



What's Going On in the Lu Rees Archives (cont.)

Visit by Aaron Blabey

Aaron Blabey visited us on 8 June. He's absolutely charming, witty and fascinating. We had already created a research file with material about his work. He shared with us a miniature dummy of his first book, and we gave him an archival envelope to put it in and suggested

he toss out the rubber band holding it together! Aaron was transfixed by Bob Graham's artwork and dummies for *Oscar's Half-Birthday* as he enjoyed seeing how another artist worked. He has just launched a flash website at <http://www.aaronblabey.com/index.html>

Our Story

We'll be 40 years old in 2014 and plan to tell our fascinating story. We

hope to launch (possibly an eBook), promote and sell it at the CBCA National Conference in 2014. Naturally there will be giveaways for our stalwart supporters.

Remember we need you – volunteers welcome, please get in touch.

lu.rees@canberra.edu.au



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!

Individual \$50 (inc. GST)

Institution \$100 (inc. GST)

Student \$30 (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

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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