



CBCA ACT NEWS

Issue 6 / May 2010

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I have been asked by Rebecca to write this column in her absence, not an easy task for me! Our Branch has been busy with events leading up to and including the announcement of the Notable and Shortlist for 2010. These events are covered in reports contained further in this newsletter.

It sad to hear the passing of Patricia Wrightson, Anne Bower Ingram and Jill Midolo, who have all contributed some much to fostering children's literature in Australia. For those of you who missed the emails I have included information for you to read.

You will have read in the media of the Federal Government's push for an inquiry into teacher librarians, quality literacy and information delivery in schools. Many of you will have submitted individual or association feedback on the website. The National Executive has also sent a submission on behalf of the CBCA. I am sure we will all be eagerly awaiting the outcome.

Our next major event will be the Judges' talk on May 18. This year Jacaranda Educational has kindly offered to host the talk. Refer to the flyer in this newsletter for details. Katrina will also be distributing flyers to the schools she visits and through their Book shop. The ACT Branch is asking all who attend to donate a gold coin (or note if you are able) to go towards the CBCA ACT Branch Xmas Book Appeal instead of a set entry fee.

I would like to thank all members who helped me by contributing reports for this newsletter, I know some of you have very busy schedules and time is precious. My special thanks to Tracey Hawkins for writing the author feature for this newsletter. I look forward to meeting you at the Judges' talk.

Rosemary Thomas

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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

CLAYTON'S NIGHT 2010

We had our Clayton's Night on Tuesday the 9th of March at the Centre for Teaching and Learning in Stirling, with 28 people in attendance. We are very lucky that so many of our members are keen to share their passion for children's literature! We had all brand-new presenters this year for each of the 5 categories of the CBCA Book of the Year Awards. The categories are: Early Childhood, Younger Readers, Older Readers, Picture Book and Eve Pownall Award for Information Books.

Jacaranda Educational Supplies brought along the "shortlisted" titles, which we available for purchase. We also had merchandise for sale to support our Children's Book Appeal. Tea, coffee and nibbles were served during the intermission, and gave attendees the chance to catch up and chat about the books. All the presenters gave interesting and informative presentations, and we are very grateful for all their time spent reading and preparing! Thanks everyone!

Rebecca Kemble

MEMORIAL NOTICES

It was with great sadness we hear the passing of Patricia Wrightson, Anne Bower Ingram and Jill Midolo each in their own way have given so much to the growth of children's literature in Australia.

A tribute to Patricia Wrightson from Marc MacLeod.

'It's hard to believe the news of Patricia Wrightson's death. No doubt like all her friends, I thought she would live forever - with that sharp, searching intelligence, that gravelly voiced, old fashioned correctness of delivery, that passion for justice, that kindness and modesty. Few Australian writers for young people have equaled and none have surpassed her achievements.'

Read more on his blog <http://markmacleod.blogspot.com/2010/03/farewell-patricia-wrightson.html>

Anne Bower Ingram a tribute from Marc MacLeod.

'Anne Ingram is another great and sad loss to those who love Australian children's books, and although her work has influenced generations of children here and around the world - children who are now parents and grandparents themselves - you won't hear much about her in the media.'

Read more on his blog <http://markmacleod.blogspot.com/2010/03/anne-bower-ingram-too-soon.html>

A tribute to Jill Midolo from WA CBCA Branch

It is with great sadness that the WA Branch reports the passing of Jill Midolo on Easter Sunday. Jill was a long-standing committee member, WA and formerly National Website Manager and a CBCA Judge in 1998-99 - well known and respected in the Children's Book Council community Australia wide.

The Children's Book Council of Australia Awards Foundation

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

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Scholastic Australia
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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>

BOOK WEEK AUTHOR AND ILLUSTRATOR VISITS

The CBCA ACT Branch is pleased to co-ordinate author and illustrator visits to ACT schools during Children's Book Week in 2010. A number of talented and exciting authors and illustrators are available for school visits during the period 23 – 27 August and 30 August – 3 September.

Bernadette Kelly will be in Canberra for a May Gibbs Fellowship and will be participating in the school visits. Bernadette is the author of the *Riding High* and *Pony Patch* series.

Christina Booth is a talented author and illustrator from Tasmania. She made her debut as an author with *Purinina, a Devil's Tale*, which was a CBCA Notable Book in 2008. Her latest book *Potato Music*, illustrated by Pete Groves, is a story about the hardship of war and how hope helps keep dreams alive. Christina's book *Kip* is short-listed in the CBCA's Early Childhood Book of the Year in 2010.

Christopher Cheng, from Sydney, was a primary teacher before becoming a full time author writing fiction, picture books and non-fiction. He was the Ambassador for National Literacy and Numeracy Week from 2005-2008. Christopher's recent publications include *60 Classic Australian Poems*, *30 Amazing Australian Animals* and *New Gold Mountain*.

Krista Bell is an award-winning Melbourne author of 23 books for young readers. Her books include *If the Shoe Fits*, *No Tears* and *Lofty's Mission*. Krista has been an ABC Radio Book Reviewer since 1985, and enjoys giving talks and doing writing workshops for adults and children. Krista's latest title *Peeking Ducks* was inspired by a trip to China.

Popular published writers Ingrid Jonach and Tania McCartney, both from the ACT, will be doing author visits again for us. We will also be once again drawing on our talented local authors including Christine Aldred, Pauline Deeves and Tracey Hawkins.

School Booking Sheets and Author and Illustrator Biographies will be circulated in the first week of Term 2.

Rachael Hind
Author and Illustrator Visits Coordinator

ONE PERFECT PIROUETTE

Where does an idea come from for a book? Sometimes that's a hard question to answer, but I can tell you where *One Perfect Pirouette* came from - my first visit to Canberra, thanks to you at CBCA.

I'd only been to Canberra once before, many years ago, so it was lovely to be driven around by my trusty "chauffeur", Moira McAllister. Along the way, we chatted about all sorts of things, including the school where Moira was a librarian. She told me about the kids there who were also at the AIS, their rigorous schedule of training and school, and how many families gave up so much to move to Canberra to give their child a chance at achieving an amazing dream - the Olympics.

Well, I went home and couldn't stop thinking about this. In Melbourne, we have the Australian Ballet School and gradually the idea of a novel centred around a talented young ballerina came into being. I was lucky to have the support of the Director of the ABS whom I interviewed, and then I was allowed to watch a class.

Yes, in my story, Brynna's family moves to Melbourne to give her a chance of getting into the ABS. Along the way, their lives are thrown into chaos in ways they never expected, testing Brynna's determination and passion.

Now *One Perfect Pirouette* is about to be published by UQP in June, and I want to offer you something in return - a lucky draw for a copy of the book and some extra materials from the publisher. I'm also planning a poster, so everyone who enters will get one of those, too! Just email me at clark.sherryl@gmail.com with your name, school or library and I'll put your name in the hat.

And thanks again, Moira. Serendipity is wonderful!

Sherryl Clarke
Author

ACU LECTURER PUBLISHES PICTURE BOOK FOR CHILDREN WITH AUTISM

A lecturer from Australian Catholic University (ACU) has published a colourful and entertaining picture book about feelings for young children.

I've got a feeling! is the fifth children's book by Dr Stephanie Owen Reeder, a lecturer in children's literature at ACU's Canberra Campus.

Dr Reeder said the lift-the-flap picture book was designed to help children explore their feelings and emotions through engaging verses, brightly coloured portraits of children, interactive questions and accompanying art, language and drama activities. The portraits, painted by Dr Reeder, feature strong colours which reflect the emotions depicted.

"I have a fascination with faces and what they can tell us about how people feel," she said. "I am also interested in producing concept picture books for preschoolers to help them learn about their world in an entertaining and enjoyable way."

Published by the National Library of Australia, the book is aimed at toddlers, preschoolers and junior primary, and is also suitable for ESL and autism spectrum students.

"Young children feel things deeply, but they are often unable to empathise with how others feel," Dr Reeder said. "This book is designed to help them learn to recognise how others are feeling."

"I hope that parents, carers and teachers will also find the book a useful tool for helping them discuss emotions with the children in their care."

Other titles by Dr Reeder include *The flaming witch* (1997); *Colour my world!* (2008); *My reading journal* (2008) and *Lost! A true tale from the bush* (2009).

Lost! A true tale from the Bush, a retelling of the story of three small children lost in the Victorian bush in the 1860s, has recently been shortlisted for the Eve Pownall Award for Information Books in the Children's Book Council of Australia Book of the Year Awards 2010.

Dr Reeder has worked as a school and university teacher, and as a Hansard editor in federal parliament. She is currently a freelance writer and editor, as well as university lecturer.

I've got a feeling can be purchased online, from the National Library of Australia bookshop and in all other good bookshops.

NARELLE OLIVER'S VISIT TO CANBERRA

I attended Narelle's presentation to a fifth-sixth year class at the Australian Catholic University. It was excellent, definitely one of the best such talks I've heard an illustrator give. She had masses of developmental artwork which showed her initial ideas then how she developed these to the final project. There were many examples of original artwork from various books. The students and I especially enjoyed her real fox neck wrap which provided the details of their fur she needed for her latest book on the CBCA short list. If you haven't seen this book, it's a great mixture of story and factual detail. You probably remember Pauline Reilly's modest little information books about Australian animals. Narelle's latest book is a stunning example of quality book design and presentation.

Belle Alderman

Collections Development Manager, Lu Rees Archives

TANIA MCCARTHY WEBSITE

Tania McCarthy has a website on which she has information about her work and at present she is adding her reviews of shortlist books. Her website can be found at <http://taniamccartney.blogspot.com/>

MY WRITING LIFE BY TRACEY HAWKINS

The Moscow Circus is in town and I'm pretty sure I could get a gig with them. Walking the high beam wire, long pole in hand as I cleverly balance my writing life on one end, and my roles as a wife and mother on the other, of course I would be juggling balls of the unexpected with one free foot.

People mistakenly assume writers spend their days locked away, surrounded by dictionaries, mindlessly clacking away at computers, punching out words of brilliance. God forbid- maybe they do? Indeed I can claim that I too do have such days, but I also have a life and a family who come first on the priority scale.

Years ago I discovered it is possible to hold a conversation, sign school notes, cook dinner and work on a manuscript at the same time if necessary, but it's not recommended. Multi-tasking is one of my specialities, and I laugh when I think my teachers regarded this talent as being 'easily distracted in class'.

Fortunately for me, I love a deadline, smile when a challenge is thrown my way, and reach my true potential when 'all hell breaks loose.'

In fact, hell did break loose late last year when my father was diagnosed with cancer. It was a life changing time for my family. I travelled the highway from Canberra to Gosford many times, splitting hairs to cover a round of important moments in life where it seemed everyone I loved needed me. I made sure I was sitting in the Great Hall of Parliament House when my daughter graduated from University, I was there for my eldest son as he completed year 12. I spent weeks in Sydney with my parents in a time of great need.

Stealing time to write wasn't easy; it seemed impossible, but I realised it could be done. Rising to the challenge, I discovered I could work in the sterile confines of a hospital ward. Closeted in a corner on the floor, laptop on my knee, and huddled beneath the IV trolley, I patiently spent hours beside my father's bed as he recovered from surgery. Then again, I have to admit I'm a repeat offender. I once wrote a murder mystery in the Acute Care Cardiac ward.

After my father was discharged home, I helped my mother during the day and wrote in the wee hours when the world slept.

With a mobile USB you can achieve almost anything. Fighting for time against the ticking deadline of an International time zone, I somehow sent a submission to a UK Editor on a rare 'open door' event that I'd heard about through my writing network, kept in touch with my publisher, did valuable research for my manuscript and emailed the family.

Christmas flew by as I prepared my parents to move from their home of 27 years into a retirement village. I used the packing/unpacking time to think on my work. Call it mental editing.

Over the past couple of months, life has settled down to some degree and I can breathe again. Instead of pacing myself and recovering, I have been busier than ever. I'm currently engaged in a very exciting venture, unlike anything I've ever done before. This is also paid work upfront, a 'real' job as my non-writing friends would say, but it's writing all the same. With little time to spare, I am also working on a few ideas for a new picture book and still ploughing away with my YA novel. My most recent work, a picture book scheduled for release by New Frontier Publishing in April 2011 is currently being illustrated. I can't wait to see first roughs.

However, my most humbling and memorable 'writing' moment over the past week has been my visit with a new young Canberra author, Dainere Anthoney.

Dainere is a remarkable young girl, very mature for her tender 12 years of age, and sadly is fighting an aggressive cancer. Dainere's novel to be released this week is the story of her journey with cancer. It was Dainere's Starlight 'wish' to be published. I would also like to add my thanks to the Starlight Foundation for honouring me with an invitation to visit with Dainere to talk about my writing.

On the fun factor front, I have lots locked in- the CBC conference in June, Book Week in August, and the SCWBI conference in September. Life sure is busy.

Tracey Hawkins

Author (www.traceyhawkinsauthor.com)

WHAT'S UP AT THE LU REES ARCHIVES?

BY BELLE ALDERMAN, COLLECTIONS DEVELOPMENT MANAGER, LU REES ARCHIVES

Rippa Reading

It took us 14 months, but we now have all 52 issues of *Rippa Reading*, the journal that Jonathan Appleton created in the 1980s when he was a teenager. We're the only library in Australia with a full run. It has amazing profiles of most of the Australian children's authors and illustrators writing at that time.

Now that the shelf read is over

Thanks again to the eight ACT Branch volunteers who came out on October 9 last year and helped us finish the shelf read in the Archives. We now hold 20,000 volumes. Rose Howes, our long term volunteer, is now almost up to Emily Rodda, adding author-illustrator signed books to the catalogue. You know how big Rodda's collection is! We have all her foreign language titles too Her 24 boxes of papers and manuscripts have arrived, and I will be arranging and describing these over the year.

Think Tank

Our committee to come up with funding projects and ways to find money for the Archives has been busy. Our latest project is the foreign language cataloguing project. We've written to Embassies in Canberra to help us raise money to hire CAVAL, a professional cataloguing business in Melbourne, to catalogue the 400 books in 22 languages. The biggest languages are Japanese, Korean and French. Very soon, we will be in desperate need of volunteers to photocopy the title page/verso/measure the books to send to CAVAL so they can catalogue these 400 books. I will ask Rosemary, who's minding Rebecca's CBCA ACT Branch email, to send out a special request.

Volunteers

We've had an influx of volunteers over the last few months, so many that we had to make a list of tasks and borrow a laptop so we could provide productive and hopefully fascinating activities! One volunteer is from the Australian Catholic University and is donating 70 hours as part of his community service course requirement. He's done a unit in children's literature, and we are thrilled to have him. A literary studies exchange student from London has arranged and described a small collection of an author's papers, created a finding aid and biographical profile plus written to both the author and her publisher. And she's asking for another one!

Community Heritage Grant

We will apply for one, due on 14 May. It's a multi-staged project, and the first step is for an expert to consider the Archives is 'significant', that is an expert comes in, sees what you have, and makes such an assessment in the form of a written report. Then there is a 'preservation assessment' to determine what needs to be done. It's a lot of work but will be a useful document for us to have to apply for future grants.

CIT Artwork Grant

We have purchased the Mylar film to protect our artwork, borrowed 2 laptops from CIT for the conservation students to use to record the artwork. They haven't started yet, but we're looking forward to progressing the recording of details and preserving our artwork. If anyone likes working with Australian illustrators' original artwork, this could be the volunteer project for you! Leave me a message on 6201 2062 if you are interested.

Pauline Reilly

We have Pauline Reilly's papers and manuscripts in the Archives. Pauline is 92 years old and the forthcoming issue of the Lu Rees journal features her article about Bristlebird Books, the publishing company she set up after ending her association with Kangaroo Press/Simon & Schuster. Her papers provide an amazing insight into how a nonfiction writer works. For each of her books she had 2-3 referees who were scientific experts in their field, based on all over Australia. There were often many revisions and changes to make sure her stories were both accurate and a story suitable for around eight year olds. One reader of her manuscript suggested that her text featuring the mating of a particular animal was 'salacious sex!' The author pointed out that the details were factual and true to nature. It's always fascinating to undertake a person's papers and to understand how they worked and what was important to them.

Award News

Short List announced for

CBCA CHILDREN'S LITERATURE BOOK OF THE YEAR 2010

The short listed contenders for The Children's Book Council of Australia's Book of the Year Awards were announced at Government House Queensland at midday Tuesday March 30.

The Children's Book Council of Australia celebrates and supports Australian authors and illustrators of books for children and young adults, through the Children's Book of the Year awards. The highly esteemed national awards Short List proves to be extremely influential in children's publishing and bookselling. It is commonly used as a buying guide, especially by schools and libraries, but also by young readers and those choosing books for them.

These awards play an important role in raising the prestige of Australian younger reader literature both nationally and internationally, and of celebrating the achievements of writers.

"With the nation's focus on literacy, history and literature as part of the National Curriculum, The Prime Minister has given us the message that '... teaching kids to read is deadly serious.'" It's equally important to get the message across that reading for pleasure is lots of fun. It takes the combined effort of the whole community – government, parents and schools – to create a literate Australia. The importance of parents reading aloud to children and the staffing of school libraries with professionally trained teacher-librarians are two issues needing attention," said CBCA National President Marj Kirkland. "We need to connect Aussie kids with Aussie books written especially for them."

"The Book of the Year Winners and Honour Books will be announced at the commencement of Children's Book Week celebrations on Friday 20th August.

This year the theme for Book Week is 'across the story bridge' with artwork created by Australian illustrator and author Kylie Dunstan. This is an exciting week of literary celebrations for young Australians," Ms. Kirkland continued.

Shortlist (Older Readers)

Title	Author	Publisher
<i>Stolen</i>	Lucy Christopher	Chicken House
<i>The Winds of Heaven</i>	Judith Clarke	Allen & Unwin
<i>Liar</i>	Justine Larbalestier	Allen & Unwin
<i>Jarvis 24</i>	David Metzenthen	Penguin Group Australia
<i>A Small Free Kiss in the Dark</i>	Glenda Millard	Allen & Unwin
<i>Loving Richard Feynman</i>	Penny Tangey	University of Queensland Press

Shortlist (Younger Readers)

Title	Author	Publisher
<i>Matty Forever</i>	Elizabeth Fensham	University of Queensland Press
<i>Darius Bell and the Glitter Pool</i>	Odo Hirsch	Allen & Unwin
<i>Running with the Horses</i>	Alison Lester	Viking, Penguin Group Australia
<i>The Whisperer</i>	Fiona McIntosh	Angus & Robertson, HarperCollins Publishers
<i>Pearl Versus the World</i>	Sally Murphy illus. Heather Potter	Walker Books
<i>Tensy Farlow and the Home for Mislaid Children</i>	Jen Storer	Viking, Penguin Group Australia

Shortlist (Early Childhood)

Title	Author	Publisher
<i>The Wrong Book</i>	Nick Bland	Scholastic Australia
<i>Kip</i>	Christina Booth	Windy Hollow Books
<i>The Terrible Plop</i>	Ursula Dubosarsky illus. Andrew Joyner	Viking, Penguin Group Australia
<i>Clancy & Millie and the Very Fine House</i>	Libby Gleeson illus. Freya Blackwood	Little Hare Books
<i>Bear & Chook by the Sea</i>	Lisa Shanahan illus. Emma Quay	Lothian Children's Books, Hachette
<i>Fearless</i>	Colin Thompson illus. Sarah Davis	ABC Books, HarperCollins Publishers

Shortlist (Picture Book of the Year)

Title	Author	Publisher
<i>Schumann the Shoeman</i>	John Danalis illus. Stella Danalis	University of Queensland Press
<i>To the Top End: Our Trip Across Australia</i>	Roland Harvey	Allen & Unwin
<i>Mr Chicken Goes to Paris</i>	Leigh Hobbs	Allen & Unwin
<i>Isabella's Garden</i>	Glenda Millard illus. Rebecca Cool	Walker Books
<i>Fox and Fine Feathers</i>	Narelle Oliver	Omnibus Books, Scholastic Australia
<i>The Hero of Little Street</i>	Gregory Rogers	Allen & Unwin

Shortlist (Eve Pownall Award for Information Book of the Year 2009)

Title	Author	Publisher
<i>Prehistoric Giants: The Megafauna of Australia</i>	Danielle Clode	Museum Victoria
<i>M is for Mates</i>	Department of Veterans' Affairs in association with the Australian War Memorial	
<i>Australian Backyard Explorer</i>	Peter Macinnis	National Library of Australia
<i>Polar Eyes: A Journey to Antarctica</i>	Tanya Patrick illus. Nicholas Hutcheson	CSIRO
<i>Lost! A True Tale from the Bush</i>	Stephanie Owen Reeder	National Library of Australia
<i>Maralinga</i>	Yalata & Oak communities with Christobel Mattingley	Allen & Unwin

For more information visit www.cbca.org.au For all media enquiries please contact Maree Reason-Cain, C4 Marketing and Communications Pty Ltd on 0438 730 752 or at maree@c4marketing.com.au

CRICHTON SHORT LIST

This shortlist was announced at Government House Queensland.

Rebecca Cool (*Isabella's Garden*, text by Glenda Millard, published by Walker Books)

Sue DeGennaro (*The Princess and the Packet of Frozen Peas*, text by Tony Wilson, published by Scholastic Australia)

Andy Geppert (*Little Big Tree*, text by Tim Brown, published by Kidiki Publishing)

Andrew Joyner (*The Terrible Plop*, text by Ursula Dubosarsky, published by Viking, Penguin Group Australia)

Dan McGuinness (*Pilot & Huxley*, published by Omnibus Books, Scholastic Australia)

Brian Simmonds (*Lighthouse Girl*, text by Dianne Wolfer, published by Fremantle Press)

ADDITIONAL CONGRATULATIONS

We must be heading into book awards season. We congratulate our Australian authors on their recent recognition in the following awards:

Congratulations to Freya Blackwood and Margaret Wild for the inclusion of *Harry and Hopper* on the 2010 Kate Greenaway Medal Shortlist (www.carnegiegreenaway.org.uk/2010awards/greenaway_shortlist.php) and to Australian authors shortlisted for Locus Awards (www.locusmag.com/News/2010/04/locus-awards-finalists.html)

*Marj Kirkland
National President*

JUDGES REPORT

I returned from the judges' conference at the end of March. The six days spent there were exhilarating and very rich in children's literature. Each evening we were dined and entertained by the members of the National Executive and Queensland Executive while discussing more aspects of children's and adult literature.



It was such a wonderful learning and celebratory experience to be among so many people who loved and shared my passion for good quality children's literature. Each day started early and finished about 5-6pm. Each book entered was discussed for placement in the Notables list and then discussed again for inclusion in the Shortlist. Remaining true to the criteria we then discussed each selected book for its potential as a winner.

On the last day we all spruced up for our morning with the Governor of Queensland. Government House was truly an amazing construction for its era and is beautifully restored and cared for. I spent a lot of my time absorbing the amazing architecture and artwork. The Governor launched the 2010 Shortlist, which was duly toasted followed by morning tea. A celebratory lunch followed

at another Brisbane site with National and Queensland CBCA Executive members. All our flights home departed at different times so many of us were entertained by National and Queensland CBCA Executive members then delivered to the airport. We all returned home mentally exhausted to our respective states and territories. I would like to thank all members of the National and Queensland Executive who organised the judges' conference and freely gave so much of their precious time and friendship to make this such a rewarding, stimulating and delightful experience for me.

*Rosemary Thomas
2010-2011 ACT Judge*

CBCA 2010
ACT Judge's Talk on the Shortlist

Presented by
Rosemary Thomas

on
Tuesday 18th May
6.30pm at



15 Bowman Street Macquarie ACT 2614

Shortlist titles available at 20% disc. on the night

*This is an unique opportunity to learn about
both the selection and special qualities of
these outstanding Australian children's books*

Jacaranda will be providing bountiful
refreshments

Non-CBC Members are asked to give a gold coin donation to the Christmas book appeal. Any books purchased on the night to be donated will also receive a 20% discount.

Please RSVP by Friday 14th May to
jacaranda@jacaranda.com.au or 6251 5029