



**ACT BRANCH
THE CHILDREN'S
BOOK COUNCIL
OF AUSTRALIA**

SINCE 1945 — YOUR CONNECTION TO STORY



2018 Annual Report

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Branch Committee 2018

Executive:

President: Julie Long OAM

Vice President: Dawn Shield

Treasurer: Justine Power

Secretary: Rosemary Thomas (resigned in May) Rowan Simpkin

Membership Officer: Norma John

National Board ACT Director: Justine Power

Ordinary Committee Members:

Kirrin Sampson

Veronica Melville (From 6 June)

Maura Pierlot (From 6 June)

Colleen Caddey (From 6 June)

Jen Ferdinand (From 6 June)

Events Subcommittee:

Chair: Julie Long OAM

Schools Coordinator: Veronica Melville

Social Events Coordinator: Julie Long OAM

Professional Development: Justine Power

Christmas Book Appeal: Dawn Shield, Julie Long OAM, Rosemary Thomas

PlayFest: Dawn Shield and Rosemary Thomas

Marketing Subcommittee:

Chair:

ENews: Odette Holweg (resigned in July) Jennifer Ferdinand

Website:

Newsletter: Kirrin Sampson

Publications: Norma John

Partnerships Subcommittee:

Chair: Julie Long OAM

National Centre for Australia Children's Literature: Julie Long OAM

Libraries ACT: Jan Thurling (Partnerships)

Love 2 Read: Julie Long OAM

Children's Week Committee: Julie Long OAM

ALIA: Kirrin Sampson

Ex-officio

Archives:

Public Officer: Norma John

ACT Branch President Report



In 2018 the Branch delivered many successful events, all were well attended. As President I represented the Branch in several different roles at meetings of the NCACL Board, ACT Children's Week Committee, Love2Read Canberra and the CBCA Awards Committee of Responsible Persons. Vice President Dawn Shield represented the Branch at the Chief Minister's Reading Challenge Award presentations at the National Library. Once again several of our member authors were ACT ambassadors for the Challenge.

The Branch applied for two Children's Week grants, one to support PlayFest and one for Our Christmas Book Appeal. Both were successful and contributed to the cost of implementing these events.

During the year several members showed their support for NCACL by attending the launch and then volunteering at the IBBY (the International Board on Books for Young people) exhibition at Woden library. The collection of international Honour books for 2018, comprising 191 books in 50 languages from 61 countries, has been sent from Switzerland. A separate part of the exhibition comprised Australian IBBY honour books from 1962-2018, totalling 48 titles.

Representing the Branch at National level were Kirrin Sampson as Picture Book judge and myself as Eve Pownall judge. We also had Justine Power and Rosemary Thomas as Co Convenors of the Awards Sub Committee. Justine Power is our Branch Board Representative and Rosemary Thomas is an Independent Board member.

We continue to develop our partnership with Harry Hartog Books and particularly thank James and his staff for their ongoing support. We continue to focus on improving communications to our members and the broader community by working on a higher Facebook profile and eNews. Engagement with these forums has been very productive.



I would like to thank all the committee members, volunteers, Branch members and their partners for the support that helped the ACT Branch to deliver the CBCA events and programs throughout 2018.

Julie Long OAM

CBCA ACT Branch President.

ADMINISTRATION & GOVERNANCE

CBCA ACT Branch Strategic Planning Meeting

The strategic planning meeting held on 16 January asked attending members to review the Strengths, Opportunities, Weaknesses and Threats to the ACT Branch.

Ideas for events to be held in 2018 were brainstormed and partnership opportunities with NCACL were canvassed.

Professional Development for members:

- Judge's Talk to be more workshop style
- Investigation of TQI accreditation for PD events
- Noted CBCA National Conference in Sydney
- Continue to provide Teachers Notes for events and exhibitions

Social Events:

- Compile list of top events ideas nominated

Planning for succession for committee positions was explored. Discussions of ensuring that all positions had adequate turnover of personnel and mentoring of new people for event co-ordination and Executive positions.

ACT Branch aims were reviewed and compared to National objectives. It was acknowledged that all activities needed to relate to at least one of the Branch aims.

Aims and Objectives of ACT Branch

1. Promote meaningful (touches children, adults and all readers) children's literature, including highlighting quality examples.
2. Celebrate and support Australian authors and illustrators
3. Collaborate with all stakeholders in children's literature
4. Reach a diverse audience including children of all ages, adults, teachers, librarians, non-English background and speakers, indigenous, people with disabilities, elderly, etc
5. Social networking with children's literature enthusiasts
6. Provide professional development and education on children's literature
7. Provide discussions on children's literature
8. Be a recognised authority of children's literature
9. Define the criteria for judging quality children's literature

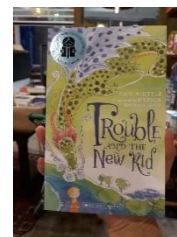
These objectives are in line with those in the ACT constitution and aims of the CBCA nationally.

Outreach, Events & Education

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

Night of The Notables

This was held at Harry Hartog's Bookstore Woden on February 27. The Notable books were revealed and the twenty-four people who attended shared the excitement and raised a glass to those on the list. We were lucky to have Tania McCartney present to celebrate the inclusion of her picture book "Merry Everything". Other local authors Cate Whittle for "Trouble and the New Kid" and Simon Mitchell with "The Fighting



Stingrays" both appeared in the Younger Reader Notable List. Other Canberra creators notable in the Eve Pownall category were Kathleen Cusack and Brett Hatherly for "Comradeship: Stories of Friendship and Recreation in War Time" and Jenet Cole_Adams and Judy Gauld for "Decisions: Stories of Leadership in the Services".. Julian Laffin the CBCA PB judge travelled to Canberra to do a presentation on the books in his category and Julie Long OAM described the EC books she had judged.

Rosemary Thomas and Justine Power presented the other three categories.

And The Winner Could Be...

A group of 19 children's literature enthusiasts gathered together at St Francis Xavier College, Florey, on Wednesday 21 March to listen to several speakers give their predictions on some of the Notable Books from the Book of The Year Awards which they felt could be Winner and Honour books.

Picture Books: Tony Flowers

Early Childhood: Dr. Stephanie Owen Reader

Younger Reader: Bernadette Aitken

Older Reader: Rachael Hind

Eve Pownall: Jen Ferdinand



Short List Dinner

Attendees were able to explore the CBCA Book of The Year Awards Short List on 27 March at Thai Urban Restaurant Canberra. A small number of people enjoyed viewing and discussing titles and sharing a meal. There were numerous apologies for this event. In hindsight the Committee felt that the year had begun with many events crammed together.

AGM

All positions were filled at the meeting held at ALIA House. 10 people attended with several apologies. Sarah Steed from ACT Libraries addressed the meeting, informing us of the programmes provided by ACT Libraries and information on her Dromkeen medal presentation. The annual report and financial reports were presented. Refreshments were served.



Romancing the Stars

An appreciative group of 36 people attended the Creators' Night at ALIA House on July 25. Jacqueline DeRose-Ahearn, Craig Cormick, Pauline Deeves, Jack Heath, Kerry Malone, and Maura Pierlot shared their passions – creating Australian children's literature.



It was interesting to hear the different ways each has developed into an author. We were held spell-bound by the way that each explained how she or he had embarked on the creative journey. James Redden from Harry Hartog Bookseller provided the opportunity to buy books from our creators, as well as many of the Shortlisted books.

Book Week Event



Annually, the Branch hosts a Local celebration of the announcements at the National Library of Australia to celebrate the commencement of Book Week. This year we began with an award from the ACT Branch to Hannah Lutze, the highest achieving student at the Australian Catholic University in the Children's Literature for



Literacy Unit. The prize consists of a certificate, a \$100 cheque and one year's free membership to CBCA ACT. This was followed by two performances. Students travelled from St. Bede's in Braidwood to perform their interpretation of the Book Week theme, Find Your Treasure and Canberra Girls' Grammar Junior School Library Committee dramatised "The Very Noisy Baby". To finish the celebrations, many local authors and illustrators held a book signing in the foyer of the National Library.



PlayFest Event



On October 23, PlayFest was celebrated at Cook Hub. Once again CBCA ACT Branch joined forces with ACT Libraries to man a joint stall. We were overwhelmed with the increase of people visiting our stalls. This year we had over 200 families visit and chat. We were fortunate to have the help of students from St Francis Xavier College come and assist with setting up the stall. Our stall had the lucky stall visit prize again and this time two smaller boxes of books for younger readers were given away. The lucky winners were Alex Conroy of Isabella Plains and Bianca (2 years). We thank ACT Libraries for helping pack the gift bags and donating the 160 bags. We actually ran out of bags early on and had to make up extras on the day. In all we gave out 189 bags, containing pamphlets, a home craft activity, a picture book, balloons and stickers. The craft activities were a hit, especially the dinosaur one. Groups of children enjoyed storytime with members of the ACT Libraries. A special thanks to Dawn Shield and Julie Long for the support and help they gave Rosemary Thomas on the stall.



Christmas Book Appeal



This year saw the CBCA ACT Branch collect over 1750 books from libraries, bookshops, schools, members of our Branch and staff members from ALIA House. Yass Library joined as a collection point this year along with Bungendore and Braidwood Libraries.

Veronica Melville was unable to continue as coordinator of this event so Julie, Rosemary and Dawn took over the organisation, collecting, labelling and sorting of the books. Our thanks go to ALIA House for finding us a room in which to do this. There were 7 charities in ACT, Queanbeyan and Yass, that were packed for on Saturday November 17 at ALIA House. Deliveries were made to those organisations the following week. The quality of donations was much higher this year and we thank all the donors for their considered choices in literature.



A very special thanks to the Branch members who came to pack on the day - Veronica Melville, Craig Cormick, Margaret Bromley, Julie Long, Justine Power, Dawn Shield, Barb Selleck, Kirrin Sampson and Rosemary Thomas. Some of the surplus Christmas Book Appeal books were donated to Queanbeyan Library adult and non fiction collections. The remaining surplus books were offered to rural schools, Captain's Flat Pre School and Humula Public for their library collection and Christmas giving. For the first time, an offer was made to The Canberra Hospital to offer books for children who would be in hospital over the Christmas period.



The Hospital Foundation sent a message of thanks for the variety and quality of books that it received.

Finance

The full financial report was audited by an external CPA in time for our Branch AGM. The ACT Branch continues to be financially viable. All events are supported by suitable funding through events charges, grants or sponsorship.

Profit and Loss: Total Income - \$3,668.65 with net profit of \$111.26

Donations received \$200

Membership fees collected \$2,600.02

Balance Sheet: Total Equity - \$52,694.72

Cheque Account ending balance \$21,799.81

Term Deposit ending balance \$30,731.73 (funds from the profits of the 2014 National Conference held in Canberra)

Membership

In 2018 there was a total membership of 53 members, with the database of over 200 members. This number is significantly lower than in previous years (94 in 2017, 83 in 2016). Upgrade of the Branch Website would help improve membership uptake.

Implementing Try Booking as a means of renewing and joining the Branch would also help.

Marketing & Communications

The Branch Committee and the Marketing Subcommittee have been reviewing how and what we market to our members and the general public and how we can enhance our communication with the diverse stakeholders of CBCA ACT Branch.

eNews

This is now distributed monthly by email using MailChimp. It gives an overview of what is happening or notification of upcoming events, along with attachments of invitations, flyers and brochures. During 2018 there were several changes made to communicating with our members using the eNews and thanks to Jen Ferdinand for her work on this.

Website

The Branch continues to seek someone to upgrade/modernise our website. Facebook Statistics 498 people like our page and all of these people are regularly following our posts.

Children's Week

We have a representative from the Branch who sits on the ACT Children's Week Committee in the capacity of Publicity and Promotions Officer. The Branch applied for 2 Children's Week grants. One for the Christmas Book Appeal and one for PlayFest. Both were successful.

The Chief Minister's Reading Challenge Awards

Vice President Dawn Shield attended The Chief Minister's Reading Challenge Awards as the CBCA ACT Branch representative in November 2018 at the National Library of Australia. This year 74 schools participated in the reading challenge. Several of our member authors were Challenge ambassadors.

Partnerships

Previous strategic plans have highlighted the need for the Branch to grow partnerships. CBCA ACT Branch continues to grow our partnerships and sponsorship for our programs and events.

Australian Library and Information Association (ALIA)

We would like to thank ALIA and their staff and Kirrin Sampson for their support throughout 2018 by providing the ALIA House Boardroom, pro bono, for our events and meetings.

Harry Hartog Bookseller

We acknowledge the support given to the Branch by Harry Hartog and James Redden. James from Harry Hartog sold books at some events that we hosted in 2018. They donated books; for prizes towards the Christmas Book Appeal.

National Centre for Australian Children's Literature (NCACL)

NCACL's relationship continues with CBCA ACT Branch. The CBCA ACT Branch members are also members of NCACL. Members receive the online NCACL journal annually, an eNewsletter and invitations to events held by NCACL. This year CBCA ACT members were invited to attend the following events; 2018 IBBY Honour List Exhibition at Woden Library, mini exhibits of How Australian Picture Books are created at 3 Canberra Public Libraries and a talk by Belle Alderman on Mirrors and Windows: Cultural Diversity in Australian Picture Books. Several CBCA members also attended a Sharing Stories Symposium with speakers Libby Gleeson and Freya Blackwood. The NCACL display of artwork, drafts, dummies and storyboards, including titles by Graeme Base, Jackie French, Bob Graham, Nina Rycroft, Elizabeth Honey and Peter Gouldthorpe at the Ann Harding Conference Centre was another opportunity for Branch members to show their support of NCACL. Julie Long OAM continued as the ACT Branch Board Member. In 2018 Kirrin Sampson was the ACT Branch member of the NCACL Management Subcommittee.

National Library of Australia & National Library of Australia Publishing

The Committee would like to acknowledge the support that the NLA staff gives to our Branch. In 2018, the NLA generously hosted the ACT Celebration of the CBCA Book of

the Year Awards Announcement. NLA Publishing also donated books to the Christmas Book Appeal. The NLA Publishing House continues to support Australian Children's Literature and many of our local children's authors and illustrators have published books through the NLA.

Libraries ACT

Libraries ACT continued to support and partner CBCA ACT Branch in August 2018 through the collection of donations for the Christmas Book Appeal. The Branch would like to thank Director Vanessa Little, Sarah Steed and the staff of Libraries ACT for supporting the Book Appeal.

Love2 Read Canberra

CBCA ACT Branch has been a member of Love2Read Canberra since 2014. Love2Read Canberra brings together organisations with a common interest in the advocacy and celebration of books, literacy, authors, illustrators, and the pleasure of reading, for the purpose of supporting and coordinating such efforts in the ACT and region (including Goulburn, Yass, Queanbeyan, Cooma, Bungendore).

Member organisations are; ACT Bilingual Education Alliance, Libraries ACT, Children's Book Council of Australia (ACT Branch), ACT Writers' Centre, National Centre for Australian Children's Literature (NCACL), National Library of Australia, Australian Library and Information Association (ALIA), Society of Children's Book Writers and Illustrators (SCBWI), Dymocks Bookstores, Harry Hartog Bookseller, Indigenous Literacy Foundation (IFL), Aussie Writers, ArtsACT, Library of the Alexander Maconochie Centre (AMC), Canberra Writers' Festival, Education Directorate and Queanbeyan Library.

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