



THE CHILDREN'S
BOOK COUNCIL
OF AUSTRALIA

ACT Branch ANNUAL REPORT

2022



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Branch Committee 2022

Executive:

President: Julie Long OAM
Vice President: Kirrin Sampson
Treasurer: Justine Power
Secretary: Veronica Melville
Membership Officer: position filled by Treasurer.

Ordinary Committee Members:

Colleen Caddey
Maura Pierlot
Catherine Morgans
Kellie Nissen
Dawn Shield
Heather Wilkinson

Events Committee:

Reader's Cup: Rachael Hind
Christmas Book Appeal: Julie Long OAM and Justine Power
Shadow Judging: Rachael Hind

Marketing Committee:

Social media: Kirrin Sampson & Catherine Morgans
Enews: Heather Wilkinson
Website: Catherine Morgans
Facebook: Julie Long OAM, Catherine Morgans, Justine Power, Kirrin Sampson

Partnerships Committee:

National Centre for Australia Children's Literature: Kirrin Sampson
Love 2 Read: Julie Long OAM & Kirrin Sampson
Children's Week Committee: Julie long OAM
SCWBI: Maura Pierlot
Authors/Illustrators: Kellie Nissen
Teacher Librarian Network: Veronica Melville
Catholic Education Office: Colleen Caddey

Appointed Representatives:

National Board Director: Julie Long OAM
National Centre for Australia Children's Literature Board: Kirrin Sampson
Public Officer: Justine Power
CBCA Book of the Year Judges: Colleen Caddy - 2022-23 Younger Readers
National eStore Sub-Committee: Justine Power
National Conference Committee: Julie Long OAM & Justine Power

ACT Branch President Report



In 2022 the Branch delivered many successful events (they are each mentioned further in this document) and all were well attended. Some highlights this year were having the National CBCA Conference held in Canberra, the inaugural Shadow judging event which resulted in several school groups performing at the Awards Announcement at the National Library, another successful ACT Reader's Cup and preparing and delivering books to organisations for the Christmas Book Appeal. The activities of the Christmas Book Appeal brought mixed emotions as we worked, feeling the absence of Rosemary Thomas, who passed away in August. Rosemary had been the organiser for many years and was a valued member of our Branch. She is deeply missed.

We were again pleased to see two ACT book creators appear on the Notables List – Tania McCartney for illustrating “Wonderful Shoes” written by Emma Bowd (Early Childhood) and Larry Brandy for writing “Wiradjuri Country” (Information Books). It has been a busy year for our member creators, and Branch members have shown their support by attending numerous local children's book launches.

Representing the Branch at National level was Colleen Caddey as a Judge in the Younger Readers category in the CBCA Book of the Year Awards. We are pleased to have as many ACT representatives on the Judging Panel as we can, and Colleen has fulfilled her role admirably. Her online Judge's overview/talk shone with her depth of knowledge and passion for all the books she discussed. Justine Power also represented the ACT Branch on the National Merchandise subcommittee, which looked at various options for marketing the merchandise and what types of products to incorporate. Once again, the Children's Book Week merchandise was colourful, eye catching and useful.

We continue to focus on improving communications with our members and the broader community by working on a higher Facebook profile, keeping our website up to date, informative and appealing and by delivering a more regular eNews. This year we have successfully moved to a Hello Club membership database and have been discovering many facilities it can offer, such as sending out reminders for upcoming events and delivering PL paperwork online to attendees after events. Thank you to Justine Power for setting this up and surviving all the teething problems. Our membership numbers have been steadily growing since we moved to this online option.

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 2022.

Julie Long OAM
President

Events

2022 was again a very busy year for the ACT Branch. With ACT hosting the CBCA National Conference in June, having actual face to face events, and sharing in many opportunities for celebrating the amazing children’s literature we have in the ACT and region.

The excitement grew as authors and illustrators from around Australia helped launch the notables which was on 22.2.22. Our ACT Branch representatives were:



February - Notables Night

The Night of the Notables was notable as our first event held using Hello Club for the registration and payment process. There was a good turn up of 30 people and 8 apologies. The online announcement was preceded by videos of the authors and illustrators who had featured themselves with a representation of 2 in recognition of the announcement date of 22/2/22. Cate Whittle, Stephanie Owen Reeder, and Maura Pierlot ably represented our Branch. After the Announcement, ACT Judge for the books for Younger Readers, Colleen Caddey, gave an overview of each Notable book from her category. Attendees were welcome to look at the books at the end of her presentation and many were prompted by this opportunity to purchase copies. The Book Cow once again proved to be a perfect venue and thank you to Peter and Sarah for helping to make things go smoothly.



March - Shortlist Night & AGM Dinner



This event was well attended, with 25 present and 5 apologies. All 2021 Committee members were returned and as President I was grateful for the stability that this provided for our functioning. After the business of the AGM was dealt with, we were all served a delicious main course, after which our guest speaker, Samantha Rutter, shared the story of her path to launching



Storytorch Press. She also showed copies of books already published and some upcoming releases. It is very exciting to have a new publisher in

Canberra (and one that is a Branch member and whom we know in

person!!!). This was followed by dessert and much convivial chatter. The service and attention from staff at the Southern Cross Yacht Club was excellent.

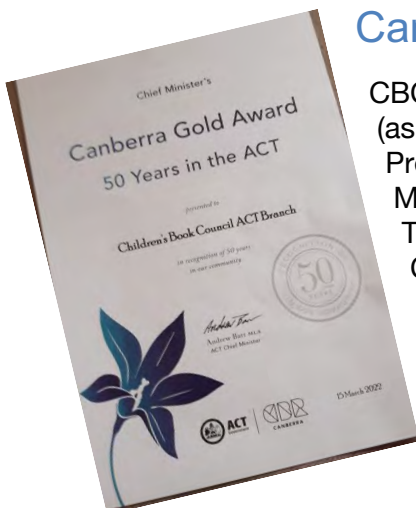


March – Chief Ministers Canberra Gold Award

CBCA ACT was represented by Maura Pierlot (as a Committee Member and creator) and President Julie Long OAM at the Chief Minister's Canberra Gold Awards.

The ACT Branch of the Children's Book Council of Australia has been promoting literature and literacy in Canberra for 65 years.

Volunteerism and service are great ways to contribute to community life and to make meaningful, often lifelong connections.



April – Judge’s Talk

This was a live, online, and recorded event that was accessed by local authors, librarians, teacher librarians, teachers and others interested in supporting younger readers to access high quality, current Australian Children’s Literature. It was coordinated by Branch President, Julie Long and Branch Treasurer, Justine Power and facilitated by ACT Committee member and CBCA Book of the Year Judge for the Younger Reader category, Colleen Caddey. This event enabled participants to explore the 2022 six shortlisted books from the Younger Reader category. Aspects of the books that were considered included details about the authors and illustrators, age range suitability, major themes and interests, literary features that make it a notable book, Australian Curriculum links and links to resources provided by publishers, the CBCA website, and Reading Australia.



May - NCACL Tour

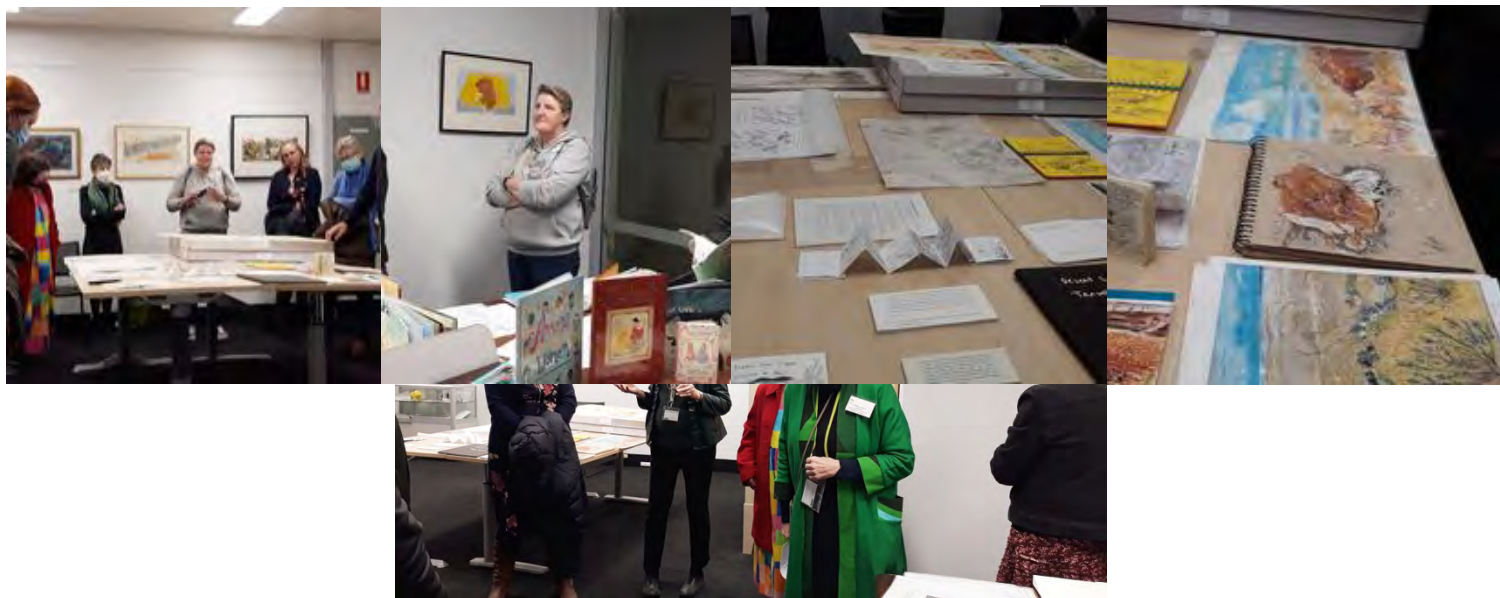


On Tuesday 17 of May a group of about 15 CBCA ACT members joined with some NCACL volunteers to tour the Centre’s facilities at The University of Canberra. We explored a showcase of its treasures, and learned how the NCACL volunteers manage such an important Australian cultural and literary resource.



Refreshments were provided and everyone enjoyed a convivial time gaining insights into the Centre’s processes, challenges and successes.

The ACT Branch of the CBCA supports NCACL through a portion of its annual membership fees. The National Centre for Australian Children's Literature has been housed at the University of Canberra for decades and the collection has grown to be worth over \$10 million.



June - National Conference in Canberra

CBCA National Conference was hosted again by ACT. Held over a chilly long weekend the conference started with our local authors and illustrators sharing their stories at firesides after being welcomed to country by the Wiradjuri Echoes

QT Canberra was a buzz for the weekend where opportunities for professional learning for teachers, creators and librarians was dispersed with celebrations, belly laughs and catching up with friends from around the country that hadn't been seen for the pandemic years.



The Margarets were celebrated at a dinner at the newly opened Marion at Regatta Point. Margaret Hamilton AM honoured for her decades-long service and instrumental role with CBCA by being named a CBCA Awards Foundation benefactor and Margaret Wild who won the CBCA Lifetime Achievement Award.

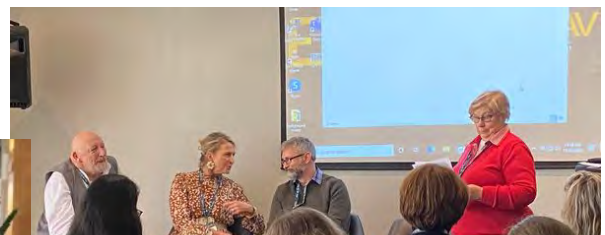


The audience was entertained by the Great debate where authors fought the battle of fantasy verses reality. There were even guest appearances from Oliver and Lord of the Rings.

Stories were shared and ways to bring story to all children were explored, especially how to share First Nations Stories and to connect with creators in the classroom. SCBWI helped curate the conference program and a new stream for authors and illustrators to explore their craft, enabled them not only to present but gain interesting insights from their peers.

We got a seek peek at many new books and the Royal Australian Mint launched their CBCA partnered coin for 2022 – Diary of a Wombat.

Most importantly it was an amazing opportunity to share with like-minded friends from around Australia and share our love of Australian children's books.



August - CBCA Book Week Dinner

On Thursday 18 August we had a Children's Book Week dinner at Olim's Bistro in Braddon. There were 2 guest speakers – performance poet Harry Laing and Anna Battese from the Victorian Branch who shared news of the second story in her junior fiction series, PD McPem's Agency for Mysterious Mysteries. There was an opportunity to purchase books which Peter from The Book Cow brought. Attendees could donate to the CBCA's annual Christmas Book Appeal by purchasing one of the books and donating it to the Appeal. There were some very happy raffle winners.



August - CBCA ACT Branch Book Week Announcement at NLA

On Friday 19 August - 11.30am - 1.00pm we held a Children's Book Week Awards Announcement at the theatre, National Library. We welcomed ten local authors and illustrators to the stage at the beginning of the proceedings. There were presentations from five schools which had participated in the Shadow Judging this year, both Primary and Secondary students from Belconnen High, Radford Junior campus, Campbell High, CGGS Junior School and St Clare's College. We crossed to the National Award ceremony part way through.

October - Readers Cup

It was wonderful to do our first 'in-person' Readers Cup event in 2022, after two years of remote competitions. 22 teams from 10 schools participated this year in a very close competition. The books the teams read were:



Image Source: Booktopia 2022



The Judges:

Thank you to our wonderful judges: Justine Power, Julie Long and Sally Judd.



Winning teams:

1st place: Hughes Team 1

2nd place: Hughes Team 2

3rd place: Canberra Grammar School Team 1

A big thank you to Gemma Wilson from Radford College for hosting us on the night, as well as Veronica Melville and Terri Robb for their extra support.

We were also lucky recipients of an ACT Children's Week grant which helps us fund the trophy, medals, and a sweet treat on the night for the students.

We were delighted to have Book Passion Belconnen run a book stall on the evening of Readers Cup and it looked like many happy students were able to purchase books. What a treat!

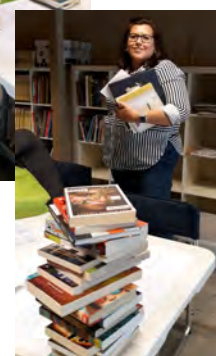
For further feedback see the full separate report.



December - Christmas Book Appeal

Continuing an annual activity that began in 1964, on Saturday 19 November, seven people packed over 800 picture books and novels which were delivered in late November to various organisations to be used as gifts for children in their care at Christmas time. These were distributed by their staff to children over the festive season. In some cases, extras were requested to be used at other times during the year. We were able to meet these requests with the help of our 2022 Children's Week grant.

Books were also donated by:
Dawn Shield, Tania McCartney, Stephanie Reeder, Krys Saclier, Julie Long, Rosemary Thomas, Justine Power, Attendees at the 2022 Children's Book Week dinner, Carol Lilleyman



2022 CBCA Book of the Year Awards

Media release from National

Sweeping from beach to bush and Daintree to Antarctic, this year's Children's Book Council of Australia Book of the Year Awards capture a panorama of Australian life.

CBCA Chair Wendy Rapee said diversity was the strength of the CBCA Book of the Year Awards and this year's record number of entries yielded a fascinating kaleidoscope of books in all six categories of award winners.

The CBC a book of the Year Awards provides us with a mirror image of our changing culture. They recognised the dedication of writers and illustrators who attend to their craft, of publishers who commit to making quality books, and the families, librarians and teachers who championed good quality literature. All are showing deep respect to Australia's young readers, and they deserve it.

At the time of continuing uncertainty, it is our privilege to award a record prize pool that supports the professional growth of Australian creatives and the imaginations of our young people. The excellence embodied in Australian children's literature today is a significant contribution to our cultural well-being.

For the first time this year, the CBC, a book of the Year awards- judged by a hardworking and passionate team of expert adult judges- have been shadowed by young readers in in the nationwide CBCA Sun Project: shadow judging.



CBCA Book of the Year Older Readers was awarded to Rebecca Lim's, beautifully written *Tiger Daughter* a take a tale weaving its way through the challenges and injustices of culture based domestic violence. And discrimination. Two exceptional honour books. *How to repaint a life* by Steven Herrick and *Girls in Boys' Cars* by Felicity Castagna also balanced the typically difficult topics of young adult fiction with emotional warmth.

The immigrant experience and challenges of identity and family loyalties are highlighted in *A Glasshouse of Stars* by Shirley Marr, winner of the CBCA Book of the Year, Younger Readers. Honour Books, *Dragon Skin* by Karen Foxlee and *Rabbit, Soldier, Angel, Thief* by Katrina Nannestad, bring real reading joy with their gripping stories and dynamic visuals.

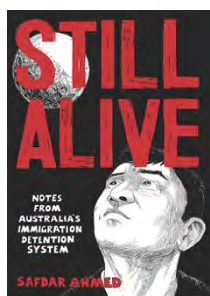


The CBCA Book of the Year award: Early Childhood, is awarded to books suitable for children up to six years old. For a child reading with an adult, their rhymes, rhythms and simple words create lifetime memories. This year's winner *Jetty Jumping* by and Andrea Rowe and Hannah Somerville is about the joys and fears of this quintessential Australian experience. Honour Books *Amira's Suitcase* by Vicki Conley and Nikki Johnson walks the reader through fears about new beginnings, while *Walk of the Whales* by Nick Bland encourages a connection with their animal neighbours and care of our shared environment.

Watery in illustrations bring a dreamy sense of wonder, while lyrical language conveys facts and technical vocabulary. In *Iceberg* by Jess Racklyeft and Claire Saxby, which won the Picture Book of the Year Award Honour Book *Stellarphant* by author illustrator James Foley revolves around the appealing character of Stella, a problem-solving girl astronaut who



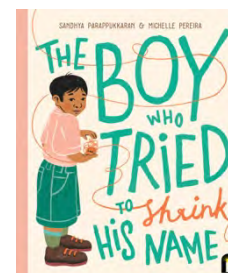
happens to be an elephant. A colourful world created by illustrator Christopher Nielsen reinforces the text by Margrete Lamond and Anthony Bertini in *Just One Bee*. The book encourages readers to act and not stand by feeling helpless.



Still Alive Notes from Australia's immigration Detention System by Safdar Ahmed won the Eve Pownall Award from a challenging and diverse field of information books suitable for readers aged up to 18. *Still Alive* represents a visual, personalised account of the history and treatment of asylum seekers and refugees which has been such a pressing national issue under successive Australian governments.

Heroes, Rebels and Innovations by Karen Wyld and Jaelyn Blumaiwai is a highly engaging Eve Pownall Honour Book which tells the story of each indigenous achiever twice - once in poetic lyrical style, the other in a more conventional non-fiction form. *The Illustrated Encyclopaedia of Particular Pairs in Nature* by Sami Bayly is a worthy addition to her award-winning series, combining fun and facts with high quality illustrations.

The CBCA Award for New Illustrator recognises a new or emerging Illustrator, providing an important springboard. Previous winners including Shaun Tan and Freya Blackwood, have become leading artists in the field. This year's winner Michelle Pereira, for *The Boy Who Tried to Shrink his Name* - was recognised by the judges for her appealing retro illustrations created with a colour palette drawn from the Indian flag and using bold strokes and splattered detail. The illustrations and text convey the difficult balance between being different and celebrating cultural heritage.



Shadow Judging

The Shadow Judging Project was an exciting new initiative from the CBCA in 2022:

<https://shadowjudging.cbca.org.au/>

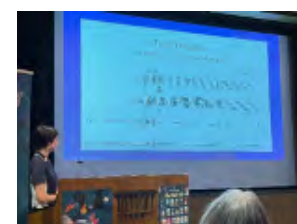
A vibrant network of young readers, from emerging to young adult, dived deeply into the CBCA Shortlist and expressed their opinions and shared their responses as judges 'shadowing' our own CBCA Judges.

The ACT had 11 funded school groups participating. 1x college, 2 x high schools and 8 x primary schools.

The funding for the purchase of a category of books and an author visit was greatly received and we appreciate the Book Cow bookshop in Kingston for making the access to the books as smooth as possible. Every group, and their facilitator, was supported by a mentor from our branch.

The author and illustrator visits from local Creators were a wonderful addition to the project. Emma Allen, Harry Laing and Tracey Hawkins did multiple sessions with great success.

It was amazing to see the variety of creative responses uploaded to the Shadow Judging website and shared at the CBCA Book of the Year announcement.





We very much look forward to doing the project again in 2023, with a lot clearer of an idea of what we are required to do and a better grasp of meeting the deadlines of the project. We all learnt a lot about the judging process and the criteria but would all like to know a lot more about the process.

The Shadower's Choice Awards were exciting and gives our students a voice when it comes to the shortlist. The Awards video was a very professionally put together and a great way to finish the project.

Report prepared by Rachael Hind

For feedback from the participants see the full separate report.

CBCA Children's Book Week Merchandise

The National Merchandise Subcommittee developed the 2022 CBCA Book Week merchandise range from artwork created by Jasmine Seymour for the theme *Dreaming with eyes open....*

The 2022 CBCA Book Week merchandise range comprised standard products: CBCA Book Week poster, Shortlist poster, bookmarks (packs of 30), round stickers on an A4 sheet, bunting, button badge and enamel pin, plus lanyards and metallic pens. The 2022 range also featured two digital products, the Yearly Planner, and the Colouring Poster. New products included a mousepad, set of three wall decals, large see-through glass decal, and hanging acrylic birds. Pull up banners were available in the premium range from Vista Print, as a produce-on-demand product. 2022 also featured new bundled packs of items and an easy all in one display product called Book-Week-in-a-Tube, which sold exceptionally well even in an up-sized version.

Selected products were available in bulk packs with slightly discounted prices. These proved hugely popular and will be featured in the 2023 season.

The 2022 CBCA Book Week merchandise range was sold nationally via the CBCA eStore (NOP Commerce) and only supported by the branches eStore representatives locally. It was agreed late in 2021 that the branches would provide promotional assistance through local channels for the sale of merchandise and advise members and state customers that the Purchase Ordering system would not be available. All ordering needed to be completed by credit card payment. The branches would then charge CBCA National 20% of the sales attributed to their state.

State	No. of orders	Total Sales*
ACT	118	\$ 5,059.18

The top 5 national selling products in the 2022 season are listed below and come from a list of a total 59 products:

- 2022 CBCA Vinyl Window Decal
- 2022 CBCA Library Pack
- SOLD OUT 2022 CBCA Book Week Bookmark Bulk Buy (7 packs of 30)
- 2022 CBCA Book Week Poster (flat)
- 2022 CBCA Book Week Bunting

For feedback and details of other states see the full separate report.



Communications

eNews

The eNews has been sent out on a more regular basis this year, with 12 monthly editions. On top of this, we had 3 members only issues, 5 for Book Week and 10 other issues. There was an average of 270 subscribers per issue, with an average of 48.25% opens. This does not include where the issue is read in a preview frame. Book Week issues had an average 51% openings. The eNews will continue to be refined to suit the messages that need to be communicated to subscribers.

Heather Wilkinson



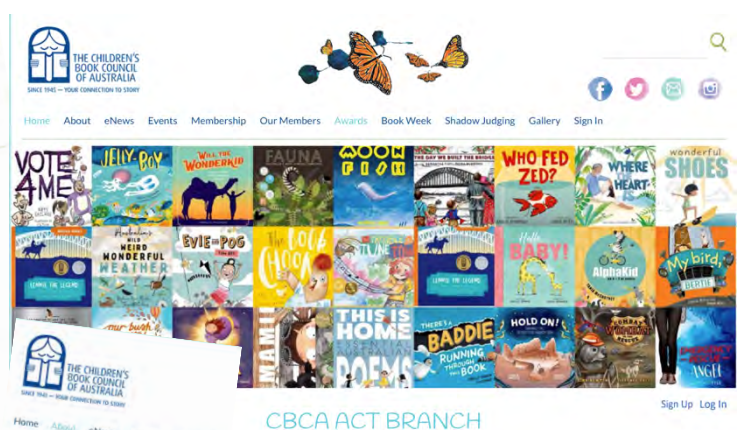
Website

The CBCA ACT website significant updates in 2022:

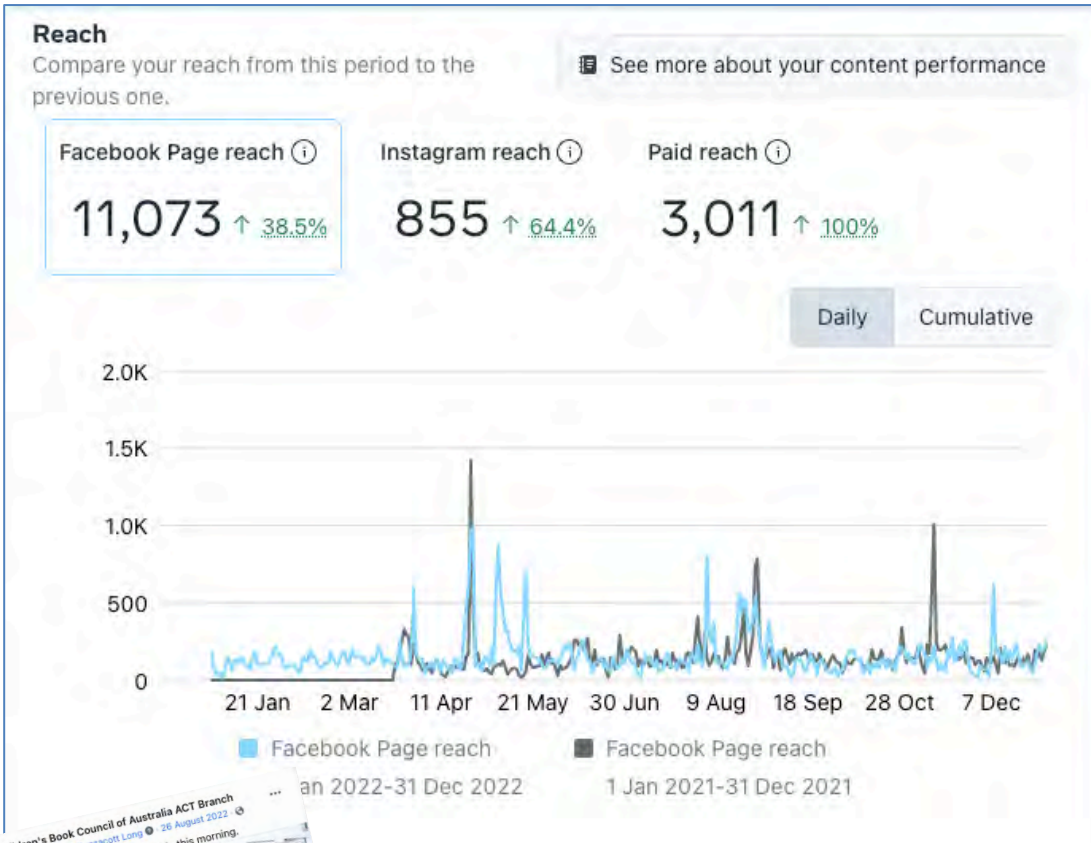
- changes to membership and events pages with links to our new membership portal, Hello Club,
- updates to historical Life Member Award recipients (precedes the Laurie Copping Award) and work continues developing this information,
- moved historical events to separate pages per year to make them accessible,
- removed member only news from the website.

Future website development will continue to find new ways to engage, promote and celebrate members.

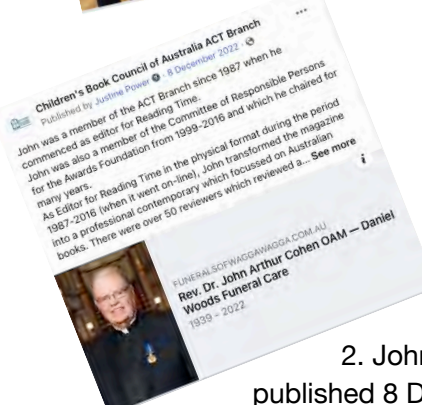
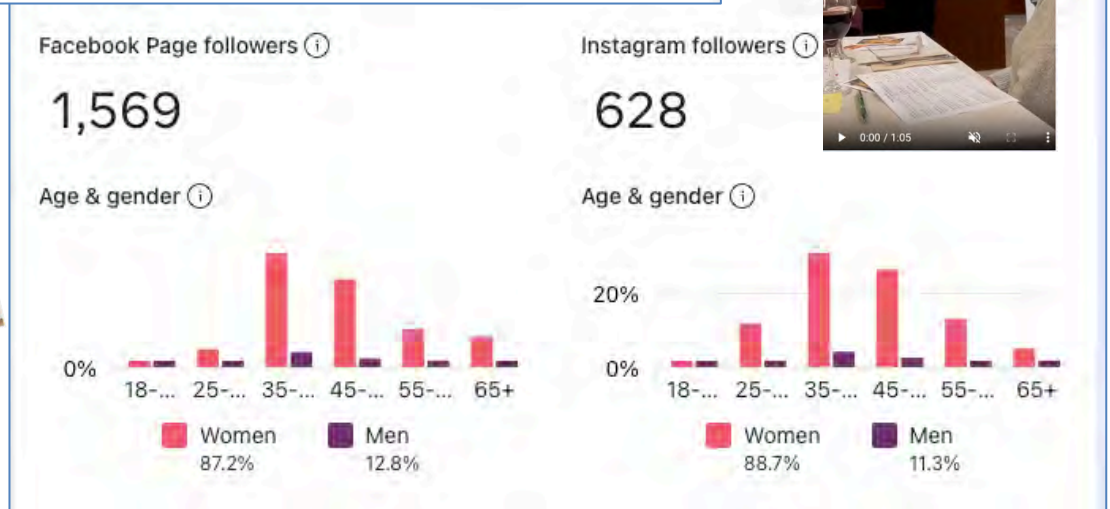
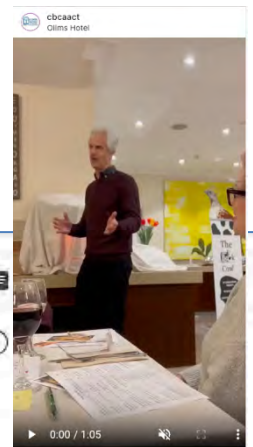
Catherine Morgans



Social Media

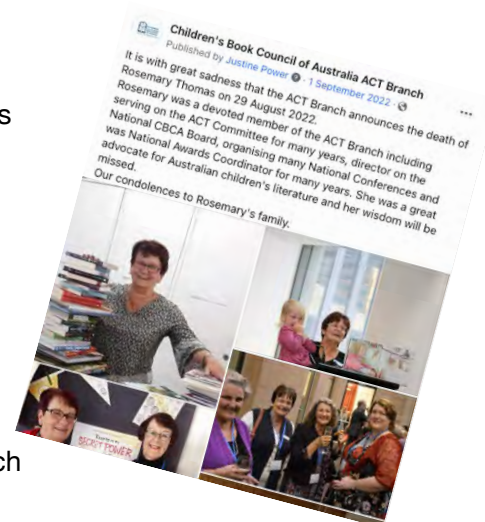


- Facebook Page visits
422 up 2.7%
- Instagram profile visits
281 up 6.4%
- Facebook new likes
118 up 37.2%
- New Instagram followers
108



Top 5 posts for the year

1. Event: Judge's Talk – Younger Readers published 21 April 2022 (reach 2.5K)
2. John (Cohen) was a member of the ACT Branch published 8 December 2022 (reach 950)
3. It is with great sadness that the ACT Branch announces the death of Rosemary Thomas published 1 September 2022 (reach 625)
4. A fabulous Children's Book Week assembly published 26 August 2022 (reach 483)
5. Poet/performer Harry Laing in fine form published 19 August 2022 (reach 451)



Partnerships

NCACL

The CBCA ACT Branch is pleased to be able to continue to support the National Centre for Australian Children’s Literature, at the University of Canberra, through a portion of its annual membership dues.

We were able to arrange a tour of the Centre for our members in May and follow along with their many projects this year.

Highlights include the development of a comprehensive database of picture books for older readers, a significant number of donations of translated book editions from a variety of publishers, the launch of the NCACL blog, a partnership with the State Library of NSW for their ‘Imagine: The World of Picture Books’ exhibition, and another partnership with the Australian Children’s Television Foundation, Screen Australia and NITV, creating educational resources for a new television series based on *The Barrumbi Kids*.

We are looking forward to supporting them as they prepare for and celebrate their 50th anniversary in 2024.

Kirrin Sampson, NCACL Board Member

Further information can be found on NCACL website.

<https://www.ncacl.org.au/publications/ncacl-annual-reports/ncacl-annual-report-2022/>

A brief history of the Centre

The Lu Rees Archives was established in 1974 by the ACT Branch. In 1979 work commenced on collecting the foreign language editions of Australian children’s authors and illustrators. With the collection growing a more public location was sought to house the collection, in July 1980 the collection was accepted by the College Council. The Children’s Book Council retained ownership of the collection, and the College Library to house, catalogue and provide support.

A management committee separate to the ACT Branch was established in 1983 and a formal agreement to house the Archives was made in 1991 with the University of Canberra. A Deed of Acknowledgement was made in 2013 between the Archives and ACT Branch when the archives became a separate incorporated organisation.

In 2016 the Archives changed their name to the National Centre for Australian Children’s Literature (NCACL) and are now a registered charity.

Executive Summary

In late November 2021, the Centre settled comfortably into its new shopfront in the University of Canberra Hub. Here it has a lively and visible presence with a new facility to showcase artworks with display areas that attract and inform visitors. The new workplace for volunteers is particularly amenable to collaboration with additional spaces for private meetings. In February 2022, the Centre welcomed its new Board Chair, University of Canberra’s Professor Tracy Ireland who brings with her a wealth of cultural heritage knowledge and experience to augment the Centre.

The Centre is committed to collecting, preserving, documenting and sharing the stories that touch our hearts and stir our imaginations both as children and as adults. We continue to be guided by our [objectives](#).

As an Affiliate of the University of Canberra, the Centre’s resources are valued for insurance purposes every three years. The Centre’s collection is valued at \$12,824,100 as of the end of June 2022.

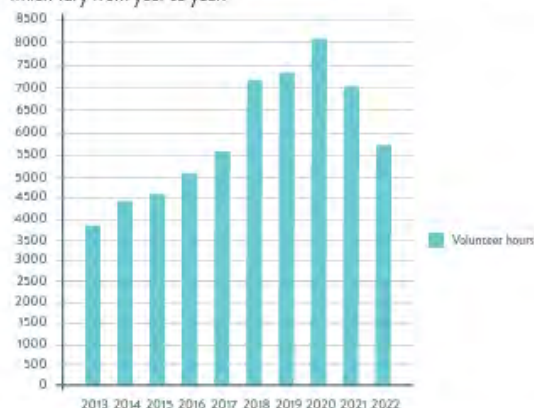
Overview of achievements

- Increased recognition as an authority and expert practitioner of Australian children’s literature
- Delivered and enhanced three databases which are the Centre’s most frequently visited webpages
- Offered events, exhibitions and social engagements onsite and through the Centre’s Facebook, Twitter, online newsletter, e-journal, website and collaborative partners
- Provided professional practice for Charles Sturt University Masters students and work-integrated learning for University of Canberra Cultural Heritage program
- Enhanced the book collection through donations from publishers, individuals, organisations and Centre purchases
- Continued building collections of artworks, papers and manuscripts donated under the Australian Government’s Cultural Gifts Program and outright donations
- Created and enhanced relationships with related organisations
- Expanded online access to the Centre’s book collection, artworks and guides to authors’ papers and manuscripts

ANNUAL REPORT 2022 FOR THE YEAR 1 JULY 2021 – 30 JUNE 2022

Graph 6 Volunteer hours

Volunteer hours reflect recurring activities as well as specific projects and tasks which vary from year to year.



NATIONAL CENTRE FOR AUSTRALIAN CHILDREN'S LITERATURE INC

Member Authors and Illustrators

Many of our members and local authors had book launches in 2022.



Our members received some awards and made the news a lot.

CBCA member Bernadette Aitken will be on 666 ABC radio around 2.30pm to talk about the Shadow judging.

Our member Samantha Tidy also received the Anne Edgeworth Writer's Fellowship Award.



CANBERRATIMES.COM.AU
Campbell mum wins big at Canberra Short Film festival
Fragments started as a play and is now a web series and book.



FRAGMENTS

IngramSpark Subject Sales Rank

#1 in YOUNG ADULT FICTION/ Social Themes/ Mental Illness

NOVEMBER 2022

JOURNEYS FROM ISOLATION TO CONNECTION

MAURA PIERLOT

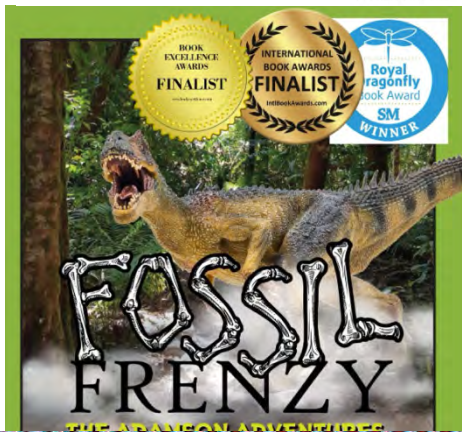
2022 Endies Endpaper Awards



CATEGORY: THE 'VARIATIONS ON A THEME' AWARD
Winner: SWOOP by Nicole Godwin, illustrated by Susannah Crispie



The Alice Literary Award is presented biennially in the form of a trophy to 'an Australian woman who has made a distinguished, long-term contribution to Australian literature'.
2022 winner - Jackie French, NSW



BOOK EXCELLENCE AWARDS FINALIST
INTERNATIONAL BOOK AWARDS FINALIST
Royal angonfly Book Award SM WINNER



Shelley Uwins reading her book Hello Baby! to the musms and bubs at Canberra College Cares. Pictures by Elena Kurtz

ever too young to be read a good story

It's always the chance to "have a little cuddle and think about how precious baby" as they read a book together. Backmann received a copy of Hello Baby!, which has also just been published in the United States. It's a tradition via International Literacy Day for the ACT branch of the Australian Librarians Association to donate books to Canberra College Cares, local hospitals and the local charity Foundation.

The innovation originates from local teachers who volunteer their time to spend the hours of books. "This year, Hughes Primary teacher-librarian Libby Baker brought the books along to Canberra College Cares. "Because we know how important storytime is for our kids and the more books we get into them, the better, she said to her musms. "It's a message strongly received."

The musms at Canberra College Cares are juggling getting their Year 12 qualifications while looking after their children. And that includes reading to their kids.

Alice Roseman, 20, has Mason, three, and Ivy, one. "I've been trying to read myself, even though it comes out as gibberish, he's really trying," Alice said.

Kaylee Johnson, 21, loves to read to daughter Skyla. "Skyla, 21, loves to read to daughter Skyla. "I get in trouble if I don't have a story ready before bed," she said, with a laugh.



ACT Writers Notable Awards

- WINNER** Irma Gold and Susannah Crispe, *Where the Heart Is* (Exisle Publishing)
- WINNER** Special Book Award Craig Cormick and Harold Ludwick, *On a Barbarous Coast* (Allen & Unwin)
- WINNER** Kryss Saclier and Cathy Wilcox, *Vote for Me* (Wild Dog)
- WINNER** Gina Newton and Rachel Tribout, *Hold On! Saving the Spotted Handfish* (CSIRO)



Highly commended Larry Brandy, *Wiradjuri Country* (NLA Publishing)

Highly commended Stephanie Owen Reeder, *Will the Wonderkid* (NLA Publishing)

Highly commended Stephanie Owen Reeder and Tania McCartney, *Australia's Wild Weird Wonderful Weather* (NLA Publishing)

Highly commended Catherine Meatheringam and Deb Hudson, *All Dogs Bark* (Windy Hollow Books)



Listening to Irma Gold on 666 ABC radio talking about her books



Nicole Godwin on ABC Radio 666 on 2 June 2022

National Centre for Australian Children's Literature Inc.
28 January 2022 ·
Congrats to our valued NCACL volunteer, Lynn Fletcher, awarded an OAM in this year's Australian Honours for services to children's literature.



Listening to Stephanie Owen Reeder on 666 ABC radio. 19 June 2022

ABC 666 radio will have Children's Book Week segment after 3pm news today. 23 August 2022

Catherine Meatheringam Author was at Woden Library Honoured to have Minister Steel MLA read *My Possum Plays the Drums* at the Kids Lit Festival on June 30. Thank you, Chris Steel, for reading it so well and joining the possum orchestra! Thank you Libraries ACT for the organising the festival.



One old member Tony Flowers came back to visit from Tasmania.



CBCA National Board

As the ACT Director on the National Board, I attended monthly Zoom meetings and liaised closely throughout the year with the Royal Australian Mint as part of the National Partnerships subcommittee. The Mint was a sponsor of the June National Conference Dinner at which the newest book and coin set “Diary of A Wombat” was announced, with both Bruce Whatley and Jackie French present. Work continues in the lead up to the production of the next book and coin set for 2023.

As in 2021, all events surrounding the CBCA Book of the Year Awards process were announced online. This has enabled the Notables, Short List and finally the Winners to be transmitted to a huge audience in an entertaining and informative way. Congratulations must go to the team from the National Board that make this possible, but especially to Jane Moore from South Australia who is the driving force and creative brain behind it all.

With the aid of an Australian RISE (Restart Investment to Sustain and Expand) grant, the inaugural National Shadow Judging process was rolled out. All States and Territories took part, using funds from the grant to support creatives to visit schools and for schools to purchase books from their chosen Short List category. Student responses could be loaded onto a Shadow Judging site. There were artworks, videos of dramatic performances, poems, alternate cover illustrations and many other types of responses to the books that the students read and re-read to become immersed in the author’s message and the illustrators’ interpretations. The schools voted and the results were announced nationally. Justine Power and Rachael Hind were the ACT representatives who worked on this initiative.

At a strategic Planning meeting in Melbourne in early November, the National Board added a Purpose “To enrich young lives through Australian stories” and amended our Vision, Mission, and Values to reflect this new direction. Our future deliberations will have this focus.

Julie Long (ACT Director)

Some of the initiatives of CBCA nationally

Thirteen Australian professional associations, organisations, foundations, and councils, together representing thousands of English and literacy educators, authors, artists and community members, have collaborated to develop a series of online presentations that celebrate the power of literature and form a free Literature Symposium for 2022. The series begins in June and concludes in mid-November.

With sessions on everything from conversations with authors, artists, educators, and young learners, to short keynotes to panel discussions, the symposium explores literature from all angles – and highlights how story should be incorporated into learning and development across the curriculum.

Each free, online event will be useful for teachers, librarians, school leaders, early years educators, parents, and carers, and all interested in ensuring there is rich literature in every home, preschool, classroom, and library.

The videos can be seen here:

<https://www.youtube.com/@foundationforlearningandli7411/videos>



Royal Australian Mint coin for 2022



The second coin in the series is Diary of a wombat, launched at the conference dinner in June 2022 at the Marion, Regatta Point. The coin was then released in August where Julie Long OAM represented the CBCA at the Mint.

This beautifully designed coin is a glimpse into the life of a very busy wombat and is the second release in a collaboration between the Royal Australian Mint and the Children’s Book Council of Australia that celebrates the pleasure of reading.

Cheeky, hungry, and sleepy, this clever wombat has humans wrapped around its little paw. This year, The Diary of a Wombat celebrates 20 years since it was first published.



Outcome of National Strategic Planning Day



Purpose: To enrich young lives through Australian stories.

Vision: A thriving creative world embracing the transformational power of stories across generations.

Mission: To connect, communicate, celebrate and advocate for the value of stories.

Values:

Equity – Open to all through equal voice and opportunity.

Quality – Maintain a high degree of excellence in all that we do.

Integrity – Act in a socially responsible manner with honest, fair and transparent processes.

Diversity – Seek, welcome, and appreciate a diverse range of voices.

Respect – Recognise and acknowledge the contributions of all.

Book of the Year Judging

The opportunity afforded me to be a Book of the Year Judge for the Younger Reader Category this year has been enjoyable, inspiring, and personally and professionally rewarding.

My involvement in the Book of the Year judging process has provided an opportunity to collaborate with and learn from other judges in our team from across Australia, one based in Perth and the other in Brisbane and both of whom have had completely different career experiences to mine.

I have been able to read, explore, analyse, discuss, and extend my support of high-quality Australian Children's literature on a local and national level. For 2023 it involved reading over 140 diverse texts, that enabled the judges look specifically at literary merit and how each text offers the Younger Reader a connection to their own life, the world around them and hope for the future.

Overall, the books this year were of a high quality, covering a diverse range of genres, formats, and themes. The books entered trended towards contemporary topical themes such as neurodiversity, varied family units and Australian identity.

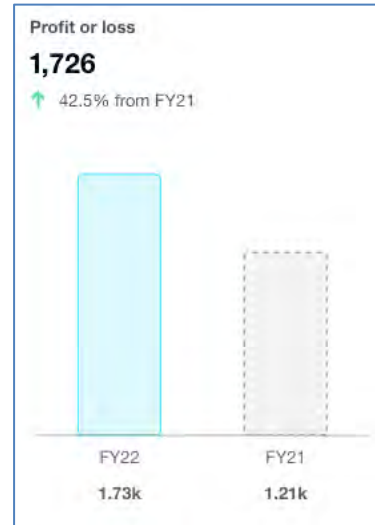
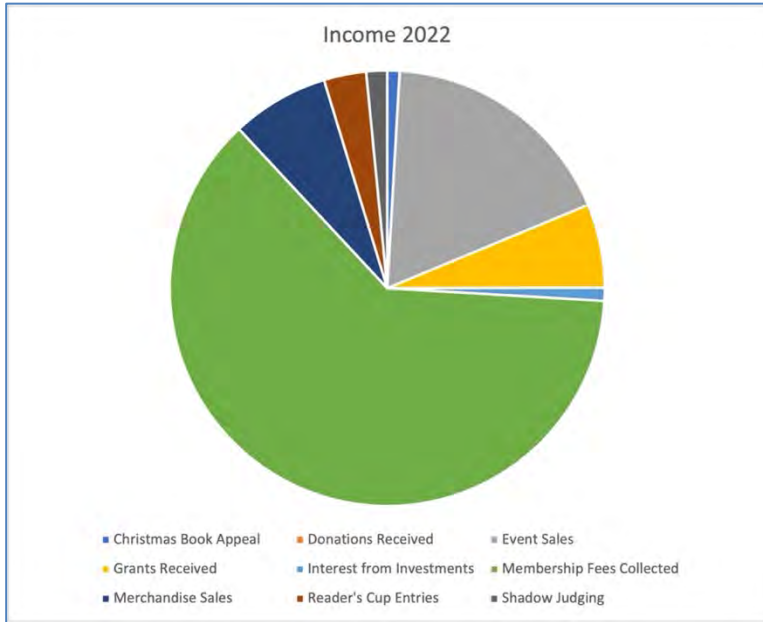
Being part of the Younger Reader panel and the overall CBCA Book of the Year Awards Team is life giving, challenging, inspiring, as well as lots of fun.

Colleen Caddey.

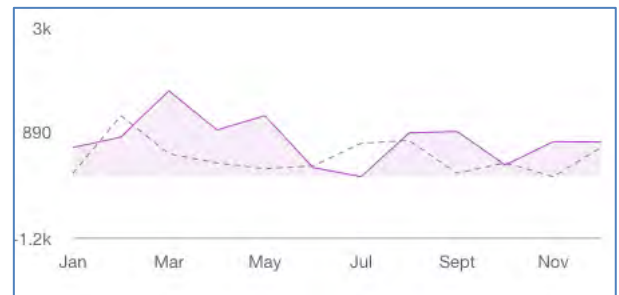
Finance

The full financial report was audited by an external CPA Robert Smith for the AGM. The Management Committee confirms that the association is financially viable with sufficient reserves to operate for 12 months.

Summary of Income Statement



Total Income \$8,778.79 up 86.7% from FY21
Net Profit \$1,725.65

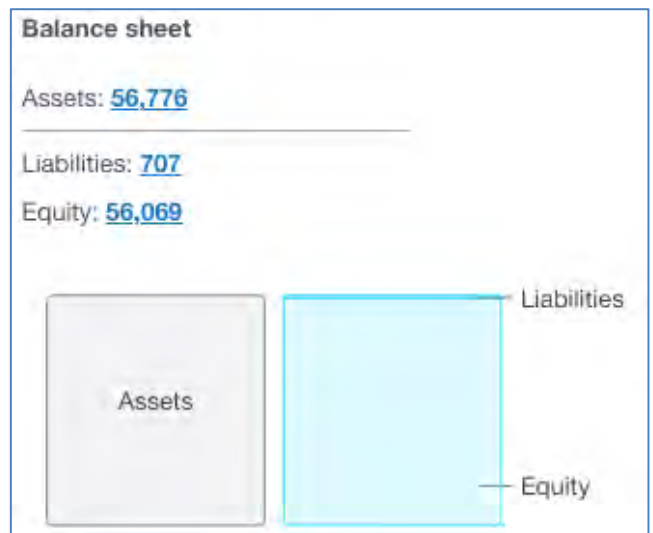


Notes

- The ACT Branch donated to the CBCA Awards Foundation \$1,500 to enable the branch to be recognised as a major donor.
- Merchandise sales were only available through the National e-Store; however, the branch was given a fee for promoting the merchandise sales as a percentage of items sold in the ACT.
- Largest expenses are (all have increased significantly in FY22 from FY21):
 - Payment to NCACL for membership \$1241
 - HelloClub subscription \$350
 - Printing \$451
 - Xero Subscription \$285
 - Merchant Fees \$262

Summary of Equity Statement

As at 31 December 2022 there was \$56,682 held in bank. The branch has 3 accounts – transaction account, term deposit and a pre-paid Mastercard.



Membership

In 2022 the branch moved to HelloClub to manage membership. It has been hugely successful. It has enabled payments to be processed for all memberships, events. As we continue to learn more about the functions of the on-line program, we will be able to better service our members.

For 2022.

97 members an increase of 40% (61 in 2021)

- 11 Concession (partner affiliated)
- 10 Concession (senior/student)
- 10 Individuals – author or illustrators
- 42 Individuals
- 14 Schools
- 2 Organisations
- 8 Life Members

There were several casual members throughout the year that attended various events.

School members enjoyed free entry for Shadow Judging and Reader’s Cup.

Sincere congratulations to Lynn Fletcher on the awarding of an OAM in the Australia Day Honours for service to the arts through children's literature. Lynn has been a staunch supporter of the ACT Branch and is a linchpin of NCACL.

In Memoriam

Rosemary Thomas 1950–2022

After graduating from Teacher’s College in the 1970’s she has been a member of the Children’s Book Council of Australia, both in Victoria and the ACT. She was passionate about the importance of reading to children and is a positive and visible role model who reads voraciously. She was diligent and reliable and participated in all aspects of the ACT Branch including being a long-serving member of the Branch Committee, organising the annual Christmas Book Appeal and judges’ workshops. In 2015 Rosemary was the ACT Branch recipient of the Laurie Copping Award for her significant and sustained contribution to the ACT in the field of children’s literature. Nationally, Rosemary was a director of the National board from 2018-2020 and has been a Fiction Judge, an Awards Co-ordinator and was an energetic member of the 2014 National Conference Committee. Rosemary promoted the CBCA wherever she could and has been responsible for attracting new members to the ACT Branch.



Rev Dr John Cohen (OAM) 1939–2022

Rev Dr John Cohen (OAM) was editor of Reading Time from 1987 until 2014. He increased the physical size of the Journal and added colour to its production. He travelled widely and always contacted children's authors and illustrators all over Australia and internationally to interview them for Reading Time. He was a financial member of both NSW and ACT Branches for many years as a way of supporting the smaller ACT Branch. He was passionate about Australian children's books and had an enormous personal collection. His contribution to CBCA was very significant. He received his OAM in 2016 for service to children's literature. His work over the years had a positive and far-reaching influence on the development of Australian children's books and publishing and he gave encouragement, advice and even practical assistance to countless authors and illustrators of children's books.



He lived in Wagga Wagga and served in a ministry capacity at both St. Paul's Turvey Park and St. Alban's Koorinal over many decades. He continued to serve in the pastoral and sacramental ministry at St Alban's.

CBCA ACT Branch

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ACT Branch is a member of the Children's Book Council of Australia (CBCA) established in 1957.

<p>The CBCA Awards Foundation <i>Proudly Funding Prizes for the CBCA Book of the Year Awards</i></p> <p>Benefactors Allen & Unwin CBCA NSW Branch Laurie Copping OAM Margaret Hamilton AM Maurice Saxby AM Scholastic Australia Thyne Reid Trust No. 1</p>	<p>Major Donors Australia Post • Jill B Bruce • Sandy Campbell • CBCA ACT Branch • CBCA SA Branch • CBCA VIC Branch • CBCA WA Branch • Era Publications • Five Mile Press • Libby Gleeson AM • Bob Graham • Hachette Children's Books • Hardie Grant Egmont • HarperCollins Publishers • Ipswich District Teacher-Librarians' Network • The James N Kirby Foundation • Kinross-Wolaroi School • Koala Books • Library Board of Queensland • Robin Morrow • Angela Namoi • Northern Territory Government • Parents & Boys of Sydney Grammar Edgecliff Prep School • Penguin Books • Random House • Emily Rodda (Jennifer Rowe) • Gillian Rubinstein • SA Dept of the Arts & Cultural Development • Gail Spiers • Myrtle Spiers • Cathie Tasker • University of Queensland Press • Julie Vivas • Walker Books • Margaret Wild • Sue Williams •</p> <p>In memoriam Jean Chapman • Max Fatchen • Beryl Moncrieff Matthews • Jill Midolo • Narelle Oliver • Jan Ormerod • Eve Pownall • Marion E Robertson • Gregory Rogers • Cassandra Weddell • Maisie Williams, Garah, NSW</p> <p>Donations to the CBCA Awards Foundation are tax deductible and can be sent to: PO Box 1163, Fyshwick ACT 2609. (June 2022)</p>
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