

Children's Book Council of Australia  
ACT Branch

# Table of Contents

Branch Committee 2023	3
ACT Branch President Report	4
Introduction	5
February - Library Lovers Day	5
February - Notables Night	5
March - Matt Ottley's Screening	6
March - Australia Reads	6
March - Playgroup PlayFest	6
April - Short List Showcase and Judge's talk	6
April - AGM Dinner	7
May - National Simultaneous Storytime	8
June/July - Creatives Workshops for Shadow Judging teams	8
August - CBCA Book Week	9
August - CBCA ACT Branch Book Week Announcement at NLA	10
August - Shadow Judging team presentations	11
October – Launch of Street Library	11
October - Readers Cup	12
November - Christmas Book Appeal	12
December - Member Survey	13
2023 CBCA Book of the Year Awards	13
Communications	15
eNews	15
Website	15
Social Media	15
Our Members in the News	16
Membership 2023	18
Partnerships	18
CBCA National Board	18
NCACL	19
National Library of Australia	20
Libraries ACT	20
Member Authors and Illustrators	21
Book of the Year Judges	23
Finance	24
Summary of Income Statement	24
Summary of Equity Statement	24

# Branch Committee 2023

## Executive:

President: Julie Long OAM  
Vice President: Justine Power  
Treasurer: vacant  
Secretary: Veronica Melville

## Ordinary Committee Members:

Kirrin Sampson  
Colleen Caddey  
Dawn Shield  
Heather Wilkinson  
Catherine Morgans

## Other Positions

Archives: vacant  
Reader's Cup: Rachael Hind and Sally Judd  
Christmas Book Appeal: Justine Power and Julie Long  
Shadow Judging: Rachael Hind  
Social media: Catherine Morgans, Kirrin Sampson, Julie Long, Justine Power  
Enews: Heather Wilkinson  
Website: Catherine Morgans

## 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 Caddey - 2022-23 Younger Readers category  
National eStore Sub-Committee: Justine Power

## ACT Branch President Report

One of the highlights of 2023 was the ease with which we could use Hello Club for our membership and events database. Most of the wrinkles have been ironed out as members find it easier to renew membership and register for events. From an organiser's point of view, once the event has been logged on to Hello Club, it is easy to see how many people have indicated they are attending and how frequently reminders need to be sent. The eNews has benefitted from the use of Hello Club as well.



Throughout the year our regular events were held, and you will find reports about them further in this Annual Report. Thank you to those who came and showed support for our efforts. I am pleased that Shadow Judging and Reader's Cup activities, which are specifically aimed at our child and youth readers, continue to grow as more schools register to attend. Thank you to Rachael Hind who manages these two important events and to Veronica Melville who actively promotes them to ACT schools.



Several ACT Branch story creators were well represented in the Awards for 2023. *Emergency! Emergency! Vehicles to the Rescue*, written by Rhian Williams, was Notable in the Early Childhood category, Storytorch Press title *Naturopolis* was Notable in the Eve Pownall category and progressed to being Shortlisted in the New Illustrator category, *We Are Australians* written by Duncan Smith and Nicole Godwin appeared on the New Illustrator Shortlist and John Sommariva, illustrator of *Neverlanders* was Winner in the Older Reader category. A fabulous result for Canberra.

Colleen Caddey once again represented the Branch as a Judge for the Younger Readers category for the CBCA Book of the Year Awards. This is a huge responsibility and Colleen was diligent in this task as well as volunteering to help at other Branch events. Justine Power represented the Branch on the E-Store subcommittee of the National Board which meets online to make decisions about the type of Merchandise that is produced for Children's Book Week and other opportunities for Merchandise and Marketing.

I would like to thank all the 2023 Committee members who worked tirelessly to keep the Branch events engaging and fun. Thank you all for sharing your skills and passion for Australian Children's Literature.

Julie Long OAM

President

# Outreach, Events & Education

## Introduction

The ACT Committee once again created a jam-packed year filled with events for the wide range of our membership. All events were processed through HelloClub and event fliers were sent out through MailChimp and through our eNews. The Committee have worked hard to ensure that events were value for money, but still cost neutral to the Branch. Members were given substantial discounts to most events. The Committee would like to thank the huge amount of effort that the volunteer organisers have put into the events for 2023.



## February - Library Lovers Day

For Library Lover's Day at 10.00am on 14 February, 6 Branch members met at Bookplate Cafe at the National Library to celebrate this special day. We certainly had a great time. We each had a children's book hidden/wrapped up and gave out clues for the others to guess which book it was. This proved to be an enjoyable challenge and we eventually guessed each one. There was a variety of Picture Books, Younger Readers novels and Older Readers Books. I am personally looking forward to doing this again.

## February - Notables Night

The CBCA ACT Notables Event was held at the Book Cow Bookstore at Kingston. It was attended by 34 people consisting of members and non-members. Julie welcomed guests to the event before the announcement was screened at 7pm. Colleen Caddy-Murphy, a judge in the Younger Reader category was able to answer guests' questions before they spent time locating the books and networking.



A very successful ACT Night of the Notables. Two ACT folks on the list. Storytorch Press (Samantha Tidy) published Naturopolis in the Eve Pownall category. In the Early Childhood category, author Rhian Williams for Emergency! Emergency! Vehicles to the Rescue. Congratulations all round.

## March - Matt Ottley's Screening

Several of us attended a screening of Matt Ottley's latest picture book for adults and young adults, *The Tree of Ecstasy, and Unbearable Sadness* at 2pm at The National Portrait Gallery on 4 March. This was followed by a Q&A at which Matt shared his personal experience of bipolar disorder. It was fascinating to hear of his journey with the disorder and how it influences and affects his creative ability. He is a pioneer in multi-modal approaches to picture books and this beautiful book includes a 50-minute CD featuring orchestra, choir and solo tenor with full narration of the text. The music is an auditory exploration of the themes in the book.



## March - Australia Reads



We joined millions of other Australians in the Australian Reading Hour Thursday 9 March.  
<https://australiareads.org.au>

And with The Book Cow  
To celebrate Australia Reads, we ran not one but two giveaways. One for adults and one for kids. (Kids need parent / guardian ok to take part). All you had to do is tell us what you love to read and where. Add a photo if you're feeling creative! Winners were announced on 10 March 2023.

## March - Playgroup PlayFest

CBCA ACT prepared to participate in the annual Playgroup PlayFest to be held at a family friendly inclusive outdoor playground. Unfortunately, it rained so heavily that despite everyone being ready to go ahead it was deemed unsafe to proceed by the officials from Playgroup ACT and the event was cancelled. We maintained our connection with the organisation who were grateful for our support and attendance.

## April - Short List Showcase and Judge's talk

April began with a useful and insightful event, held at the delightful lakeside Yhuuramulum multipurpose space - made available for our use very graciously by Canberra Girls Grammar School.

Around 25-30 people joined us on the day to hear current and past Book of the Year judges showcase and discuss the books that made the shortlist in each of the award categories. We also introduced the student Shadow Judging program to the audience and encouraged the teachers present to register some of their students for the 2023 program. Afternoon tea was provided, and The Book Cow once again made a wide array of the showcased books available for purchase.



## April - AGM Dinner

A small gathering of members and friends came together to celebrate 2022 and listen to Meredith Wright and her journey with children's books and enjoy a two-course meal at the Canberra Southern Cross Yacht Club.

Julie presented the 2022 Annual report and the members present voted to change the Branch Constitution, the major changes being:

- Change to membership appointment.
- Removal of sub-committees
- Change to donation to CBCA Ltd and NCACL instead of membership payment.
- Preamble changed to align with CBCA National new purpose, vision, mission and values and objectives.
- Change to committee composition.
- Membership Form, Nominations Form

The members present also voted to increase membership fees for 2024.



## May - National Simultaneous Storytime



## June/July - Creatives Workshops for Shadow Judging teams



The Committee decided to use the Shadow Judging Creator's Workshop funds from the National CBCA towards two workshops inviting all Shadow Judging schools to attend. ACT authors Amelia McInerney and Cate Whittle talked to students involved in the Shadow Judging project.





## August - CBCA Book Week

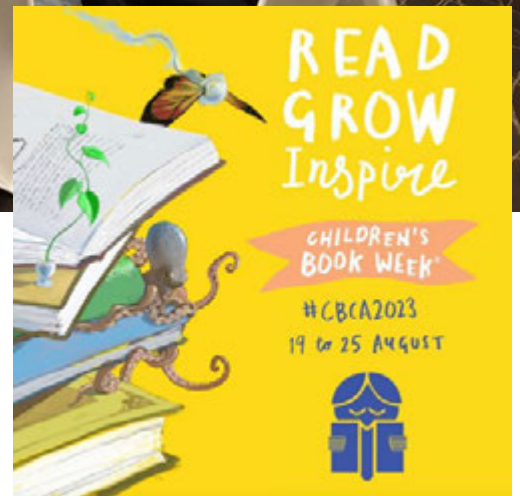


Branch Children's Book Week dinner was



at Olyms on 24 August in the Carlton Room. Great food, lucky door prizes but the highlight was guest speaker Sami Bayly.

Julie Long visited an ACT Cub Scout group to talk about the CBCA Awards, read stories and do activities. Great fun.



Fabulous launch of Good Shepherd's Street Library on 23 August. Decorations inspired by Shortlisted Picture Book "Farmhouse". Congratulations Bernadette Aitken who timed it for Children's Book Week and Australian Schools Library Day.



## August - CBCA ACT Branch Book Week Announcement at NLA

Children's Book Week® was quite a success in Canberra. 666ABC radio had daily items regarding reading and local authors were interviewed. Listeners were asked to call in to talk about various topics about memories of being read to, favourite books and their children's current favourite books. There were photos and items in The Canberra Times as well, including one about the launch of the Edward the Emu coin, which took place at our Branch Children's Book Week® Announcement ceremony at the National Library.



Canberran illustrator Jon Sommariva was interviewed on radio and had an item and photo in The Canberra Times for *Neverlanders*. his Winning graphic novel in the Older Readers category.

It was Matt Frawley, Product Development Officer for the Royal Australian Mint, who



unveiled the next title for the book/coin collaboration between the Mint and the National Board of CBCA. Staff from the Mint were also on hand to give out Edward the Emu stickers



and bookmarks as the audience left the event. Timed around the live cross to the National announcement were creative presentations from 5 of the ACT Shadow Judging teams. Each school received a goody bag for each participant containing a certificate, a CBCA 2023 bookmark, and a chocolate frog.

Twenty members and supporters of our Branch stayed on to have a Children's Book Week® lunch at Bookplate, the National Library restaurant. Jon Sommariva joined us for this.

## August - Shadow Judging team presentations

**Sun Project  
Shadow Judging 2023**  
Congratulations

for judging the  
category

**shadow judging**  
BOOK OF THE YEAR AWARDS



- Belconnen High School
- CGGS Junior School
- Canberra Grammar School – Early Childhood
- **Canberra Grammar School – Primary**
- **Canberra Grammar School - Senior**
- Fadden Primary
- **Good Shepherd Primary**
- Holy Trinity Primary School
- Karabar High School
- Monash Primary
- Rosary Primary School
- **St Matthew's Primary School**
- **St Monica's Primary**
- **St Thomas Aquinas Primary School**
- Taylor Primary
- University of Canberra High School Kaleen
- Wanniasa Hills Primary School



## October – Launch of Street Library



Helping to launch a wonderful Street Library with ACT author Amelia McInerney. The impressive artwork was by the schoolteacher librarian.



## October - Readers Cup

Readers Cup 2023 was held on Friday 27th October at St Monica's, Evatt. Congratulations to all the teams who competed. First Place Canberra Girls Grammar Team 3, 2nd Place Canberra Girls Grammar Team 2 and 3rd place Hughes Primary Team 1.

Our webmaster has been very busy and now you can see the past winners. [Click here](#) for the list.

The big news is the Year 7/8 Readers Cup competition coming to the ACT in 2024! From 2024 Readers Cup will only be available to current school members. Schools not members by 30 June 2024, will not be able to participate.



## November - Christmas Book Appeal

July - Veronica, Justine and I represented CBCA ACT Branch at the Canberra Hospital. Volunteers thank you morning tea. We donate new books to the hospital.



This year's book appeal was hugely successful with over 1000 books given to 12 community organisations. Special thanks to the generous donations of books from Tania McCartney and ACT Branch members.



Every year we get such wonderful feedback from the organisations.

Maree Ashley Roundabout Canberra is very grateful for CBC's generous donation of books. Every clothing pack includes a carefully selected book for babies and children up to 16 years. Thank you 🙏😊



One of the organisations we donate new books to as part of our Christmas book giving is to Kids in Care ACT. Yesterday I received a certificate of appreciation on behalf of our Branch.



## December - Member Survey

Membership renewal is scheduled via Hello Club at the end of the year and as such the survey did not go out. The suggestion is that following the AGM, Colleen will meet with the 2024 Executive and identify key questions and information to be sought by the survey. The survey will need to be developed and a pilot trialled so that the survey can be sent out to members no later than first week in November 2024

## 2023 CBCA Book of the Year Awards



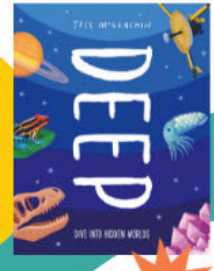
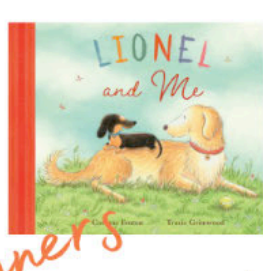
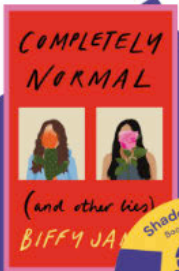
Older Readers

Younger Readers

Early Childhood

Picture Book of the Year

Eve Pownall Award



2023



shadow judging BOOK OF THE YEAR AWARDS

## The CBCA Awards Foundation

*Proudly Funding Prizes for the  
CBCA Book of the Year Awards*

### Benefactors

Allen & Unwin  
CBCA NSW Branch Inc  
Laurie Copping OAM  
Margaret Hamilton AM  
Maurice Saxby AM  
Scholastic Australia  
Thyne Reid Trust No. 1

### 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 · Dr Robin Moncrieff Morrow AM · 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 ·

### 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

*Donations to the CBCA Awards Foundation are tax deductible and can be sent to:  
PO Box 1163, Fyshwick ACT 2609. (April 2023)*

## CBCA Children's Book Week Merchandise



The eStore team recognised the ongoing challenges of inflation, the increasing costs from Endeavour to handle the fulfilment of the annual sales of Children's Book Week® merchandise, and the 40% drop in customers' orders equitably spread across the country against 2022 figures. The subcommittee accepted the drop of 20% of sales attributed to state/territory billing addresses for "marketing services" to just 10%, allowing the remaining funds to cover the loss of shipping, and to assist the budget for merchandise, administration of the products and service, as well as helping to fund fulfilment in 2024.

### The ACT Branch final sales figures \$3756.50 for 189 orders

The eStore committee are still in discussion about the redistribution of product sale profit in 2024 and onwards, looking at creative and sustainable ways that allow the National Office to continue to financially carry the fundraising venture and still provide benefits back to branches and members. Ideas currently include completely removing the service fee to allow all profit to cover administration of the merchandising activities, establishing funds for special projects and other Board approved ventures, and/or reestablishing member discount options in the cart. Now is a great time for your eStore rep to gather ideas from CBCA WA as to where/how they think profit (when it occurs) could/should be best used by the greater brand.

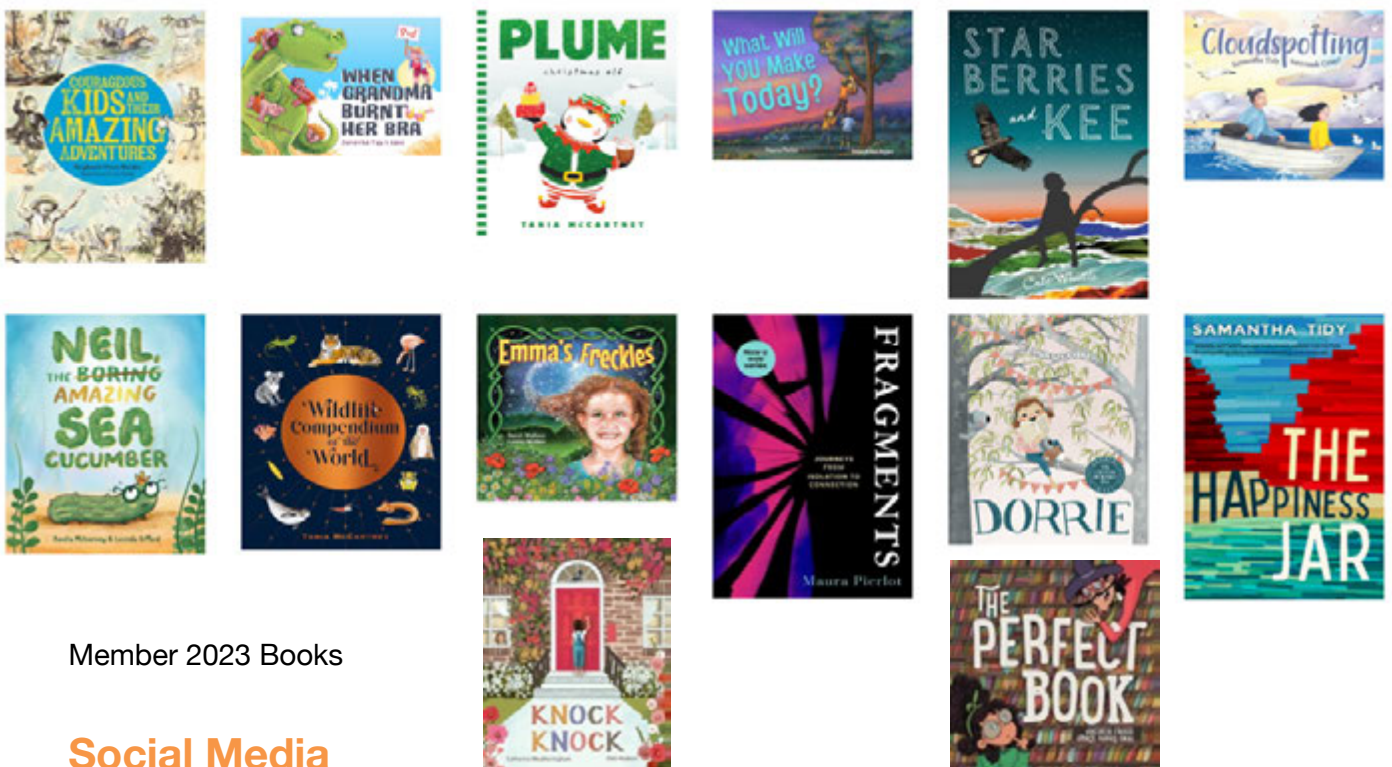
# Communications

## eNews

Twelve regular editions of the eNews were sent out during 2023. On top of this there were 5 Book Week (including Notables and Shortlist) editions, one Members Only and 10 other editions. These covered Notable films, PD Opportunities, and event reminders. There was an average of 261 subscribers with an average of 50% opens. This does not reflect those who read without opening the full email. The content is ever expanding, and we would like to add more book launches and events from organisations with similar interests such as NCACL and ACLF. We are working on getting the balance of getting timely information out and not bombarding subscribers with emails correct.

## Website

The CBCA ACT Branch website changes for 2023 were minimal involving day-to-day maintenance and updates.



Member 2023 Books

## Social Media

Our Branch Facebook page had 1,820 Followers during 2023. Of these, 34% are women aged 33-44 and 29% are women aged 45-54.

### Top 5 Likes on Facebook

1. Join us on Friday 18th August at the NLA for the BoTYAs (24 July)
2. With thanks to our Christmas book fairies today (18 Nov)
3. Branch Children's Book Week Dinner was at Olims (24 Aug)
4. Helping to launch a wonderful Street Library (11 Oct)
5. Book of the Year Shortlist Showcase (7 Mar)

Facebook followers ⓘ

1,869

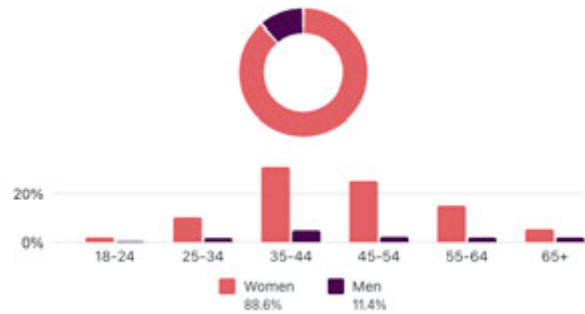
Age & gender ⓘ



Instagram followers ⓘ

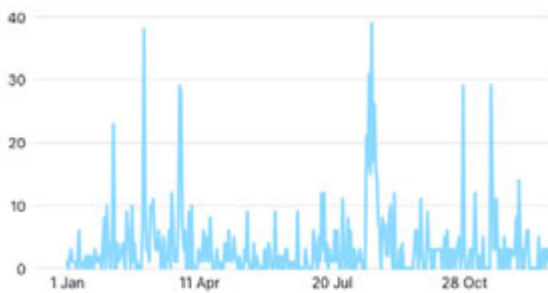
697

Age & gender ⓘ



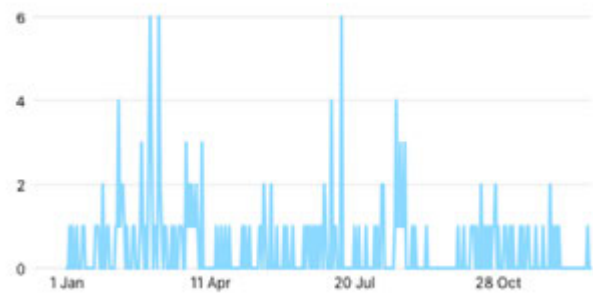
Facebook visits ⓘ

1.2K ↑ 234.6%



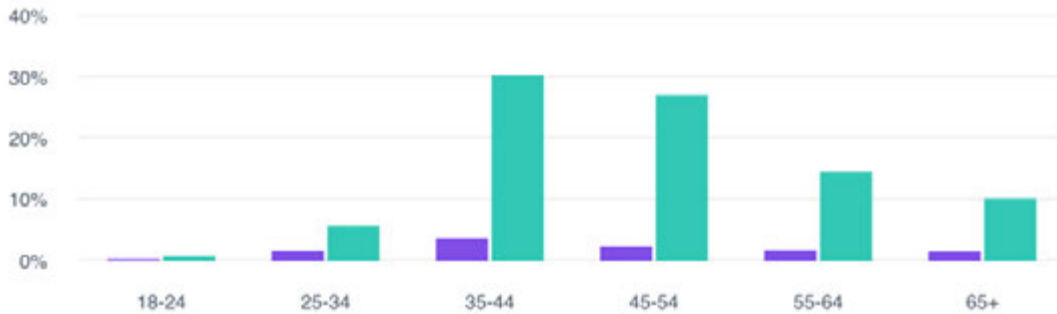
Instagram profile visits ⓘ

180 ↓ 20%



### Age and gender

Men 11.50%  
 Women 88.50%



## Our Members in the News



**Yvette Berry**  
 31 January 2023 · 🌐

Meet Sally Allen, after 22 years as a classroom teacher in the ACT public school, Sally Allen is taking up a new position as a teacher librarian.

Sally was drawn to being a teacher librarian after seeing the impact it made in schools.

"After working with fabulous teacher librarians in my early career, I felt the library was a space within a school where I could make a significant difference for teachers and students. The role of a teacher librarian connects the whole school community," said Sally.

By 2026 an additional 22 teacher librarians will be working across ACT public schools, a commitment made in the 2021-22 ACT Budget under the Future of Education Strategy - <https://www.education.act.gov.au/our.../future-of-education>

If you are interested in becoming a teacher librarian, please email - [edu.librarians@act.gov.au](mailto:edu.librarians@act.gov.au) See less





# Canberra Weekly

## Canberra creatives revisit warmth of childhood

Many moments from childhood follow us through life, evoked by a familiar place, smell or feeling, and transporting us back to that treasured time. For Canberra author Samantha Tidy, moments spent on the ocean with her father have always held a special place in her heart; moments she has captured in her newest children's book, *Cloudspotting*.

Tidy says the book is a quiet and patient reminder of how important it is to cherish moments with family when you're young. "I used the idea of clouds because when you look at clouds, they move on pretty quickly. For me, that captures the ephemeral nature of childhood," she says.

Crispe says marrying the nature of clouds to art was easy; the two go hand in hand. Coming from a background studying art history and zoology, the illustrator and her young son spend a lot of time in nature looking for faces in bark and trees and shapes in the clouds. She has brought her love of finding creatures in nature to the pages, where they may only be a hint of them in the illustrations.

"There are a lot of creatures if you look at the clouds; there's a dragon on the front cover. So, a little challenge for kids to go back through – a stegosaurus sleeping, a cat chasing a mouse," the artist says.

"It's not the words on the page, it's not the pictures, it's that marriage together and how that brings something out in you. That's what a good picture book is," smiles Tidy.



### Secrets from the Green Room

8 February 2023 · 🌱  
 We're baaaaaaack! And to kick off season 3 we have an absolute cracker of an ep that a must-listen for all writers. Irma chats to three booksellers who cover everything you need to know (but probably didn't) about bookselling, and how you can maximise your book sales.  
 Season 3 also sees Irma joined by her new co-host, Karen Viggers, and they chat about their very different styles of organising their writing lives. Lots of laughter ensues! So jump on board! And get ready for a fantastic new season with so many incredible guests.  
 Listen on Apple or wherever you get your pods: <https://podcasts.apple.com/.../secrets-from.../id1540540062>

## The Sydney Morning Herald

### Think comics aren't books? This graphic novel just won book of the year

**Kerrie O'Brien**  
 August 18, 2023 – 11:59am

Tom Taylor writes a comic a week and is the name behind the Netflix animated series *The Deep*. Now, the Melbourne-born and bred author can add a Children's Book Council of Australia award to his achievements.

His book *Neverlanders* – a contemporary reimagining of the *Lost Boys* from Peter Pan, illustrated by Jon Sommariva – has won the 2023 CBCA book of the year for older readers. It's the first time the coveted award has been won by a graphic novel, which the best-selling author says is about time.



Tom Taylor's *Neverlanders* riffs on the idea of Peter Pan's *Lost Boys*. ILLUSTRATION: TOM TAYLOR

## Local author is on CBCA notables list

BY SIMONE KERWIN  
 @simonekerwin

Local author/illustrator Mal Webster's latest release has made the list of notable books for this year's Children's Book Council of Australia (CBCA) Book of the Year Awards.

*Ship Ahoy! Box Boy*, written and illustrated by Mal as a follow-up to his much-loved *The Box Boy*, is now in the running for the annual award, which will be announced on March 28.

Mal sits among esteemed company, including that of Bob Graham, Anna Walker, Sally Ripplin and Sally Morgan, on the 24-book notables list for the CBCA Book of the Year: Early Childhood category.

"I feel a bit surreal to see my name alongside some really prolific names in contemporary Australian literature," he said.

"I can still remember having Bob Graham books read to us in the library as a primary school student.

"Knowing that *Ship Ahoy! Box Boy* has been recognised among established authors and illustrators feels pretty special.

"CBCA acknowledgement is something that bookshelves, libraries, schools and people working in early childhood education look out for.

"It's a big deal.

"I haven't thought too much about the shortlist announcement later this month, I'm just savouring the moment."

*Ship Ahoy! Box Boy*, which like *The Box Boy* was published by Windy Hollow Books, was influenced by COVID-19 lockdowns and remote learning.

"I'd tried to write the follow-up story to *The Box Boy* several times, long before the pandemic hit, but I kept experiencing difficulties with it," Mal said.

"Originally I'd planned that the book would set sail on an adventure at sea."

However, it was during a 2021 lockdown that Mal's story fell into place.

"I was having a coffee one morning in the backyard during one of the



notable books for this year's Children's Book Council of Australia Book of the Year Awards. PHOTO: SIMONE KERWIN

concept was born," he said.

Mal said drawing and creativity had been part of his life from the time he could hold a pencil.

"I guess it's just something I feel that I need to do. I mean, I'm good at it and enjoy it, but it also brings me a sense of solace and centres me in among the demands of everyday thing else in life," he said.

"It makes me feel complete.

"The importance of play, imagination and allowing kids to simply create is also very important to me. I write about this in my unit thesis, I wrote about this in my unit thesis, but it's even more important to me now, particularly after the last few years.

These ideas are at the heart of Mal's books, with *Ship Ahoy! Box Boy* inviting young readers and listeners to consider what they might craft from an everyday object – as the boy does in the story – if they just followed their imaginations.

*Ship Ahoy! Box Boy* is available at leading bookstores, directly from Windy Hollow Books, and locally at Edgars Books and News and Book-square Wangaratta.

Completing the book was therapeutic, and it was really satisfying to finally have it come to fruition."  
 - Mal Webster

Mal was inspired to celebrate imagination and home environment.

He used iconic backyard objects like a sandpit, clothesline and sprinker to set the scene for the story.

After establishing the storyline early in 2021, Mal completed a few draft illustrations, but his day job as a secondary school design teacher consumed much of the summer.

It was mainly over the summer breaks at the end of that year that he was able to dedicate time to complete illustrations and designing page layouts.

"I illustrated frantically all day every day, over those few weeks, and I didn't even tell the publisher I was working on it," he said.

"Completing the book was therapeutic, and it was really satisfying to finally have it come to fruition."

# Membership 2023

## Total members - 97

- Concession (Partner Organisations) - 8
- Concession (Seniors and Students) - 7
- Individuals - 29
- Individuals (Authors or Illustrator) - 11
- Institution (Organisation or Library) - 2
- Institution (School) - 24
- Life Members - 8
- Casuals – 33 (not counted in members figures)

### By gender



Membership continues to remain steady in 2023. There was a slight drop in individual membership but an almost doubling of school memberships, largely due to Shadow Judging and Readers Cup.

We saw many members renew before the price increase, showing healthy numbers continuing in 2024.

## Partnerships

### 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 and Street Libraries in my role as a member of the National Partnerships subcommittee. Other members of the Subcommittee worked with Storybox Library, Zart Art, Echelon, Merchandising Libraries and Spencil. The subcommittee is always looking for ways to engage partners and sponsors and there are others in the pipeline. The Mint



was represented at the ACT Branch Awards ceremony at the National Library where the Edward the Emu book and coin initiative was launched. The close partnership with The Mint continues in the lead up to the production of the next book and coin set for 2024.



All events surrounding the CBCA Book of the Year Awards process were announced online. This has enabled the Notables, Short List and then 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 made this possible, but especially to Jane Moore from South Australia who is the driving force and

creative brain behind it all. The results of the Shadow Judging by children were announced online a week after the Book of the Year Awards. Consideration is being given for all results to be announced at the one Awards ceremony in the future.,

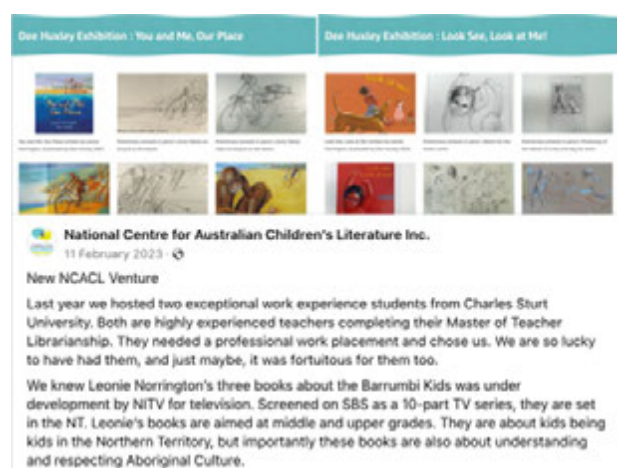
Throughout 2023, following on from the 2022 Strategic Planning meeting in Melbourne, much work has been done to create a National Strategic Plan. This has been through many iterations and credit must go to the National Chair, Wendy Rapee for her drive and commitment to this process. It will be a document that can be used for applying for Grants and for sharing with prospective Partners and Sponsors.

## NCACL

Once again NCACL had a busy year. Their annual report can be viewed (<https://www.ncacl.org.au/publications/ncacl-annual-report-2023/>)

Some highlights include:

“This year we continued to erase physical barriers to our Centre by using online communication in new and expanded ways. The Centre’s website has greatly enhanced our interaction and promotion of Australian children’s literature worldwide..... The Centre’s well-established social media presence on Facebook and X (formerly Twitter) continues to expand with over 10,000 followers. This year the Centre began offering a new monthly blog to increase our involvement with creators, partners, and friends. Other online offerings include our Annual Report, Behind the Imagined journal and our newsletter..... The ongoing growth and use of the Centre’s three online databases continues. Databases include the Cultural Diversity, Aboriginal and or Torres Strait Islander



NCACL.ORG.AU

**Thrilling Finds for NCACL - NCACL**

Angela Brown has been a Lifeline Canberra Bookfair volunteer sinc...

Resource, Picture Books for Older Readers plus its Verse Novels Resource. Over 1,200 books and related online resources feature in these databases. In 20222023 the Centre’s most frequently visited webpages related to our latest database, Picture Books



for Older Readers. More than 40,000 Australian and international viewers visited this new database on 1 July, the day after its launch.”

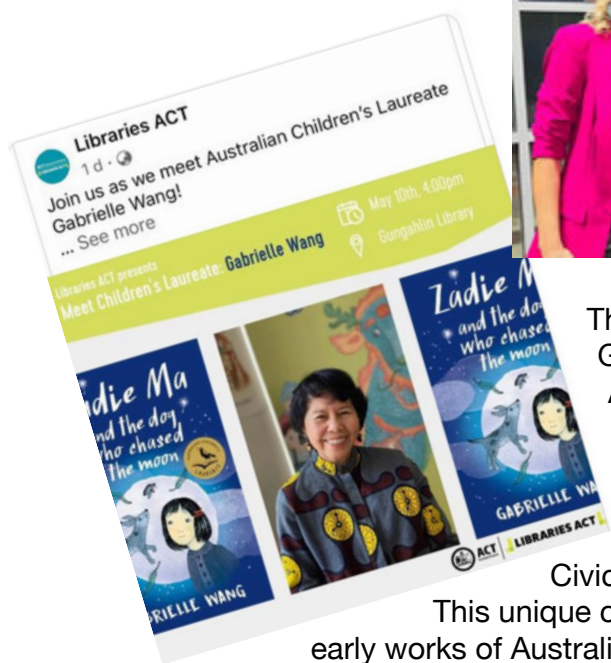
## National Library of Australia

The Branch was able to celebrate the Awards Announcement because of our partnership with the National Library of Australia. It is important physically and symbolically that we hold this event in such a culturally significant place. The NLA provides the venue free of charge and the staff are amazingly accommodating and friendly. Adam who provides IT support is also engaged by the NLA to make our IT component work effectively and efficiently. The National CBCA Purpose, Vision, Mission, and Values align completely with the National Library of Australia. We thank them for this valued partnership.

We also had the winner of the Older Readers Category there in person.



## Libraries ACT



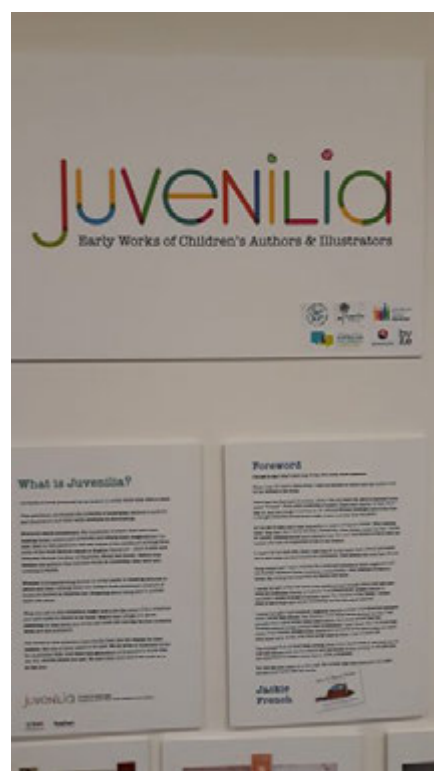
The Juvenilia Exhibition: A Glimpse into the Early Artistry of Children's Authors and Illustrators. Libraries ACT welcomed the highly anticipated Juvenilia exhibition to Civic Library.

This unique collection showcases the early works of Australian children's authors and illustrators and offers a rare glimpse into the humble beginnings of these talented creators, as they embarked on their artistic journeys from a young age.

From captivating stories penned on scrap paper to pencil sketches that were later erased, these artifacts provide a captivating insight into the formative years of renowned authors and illustrators.

The Juvenilia exhibition features works from prominent Australian children's authors and illustrators including:

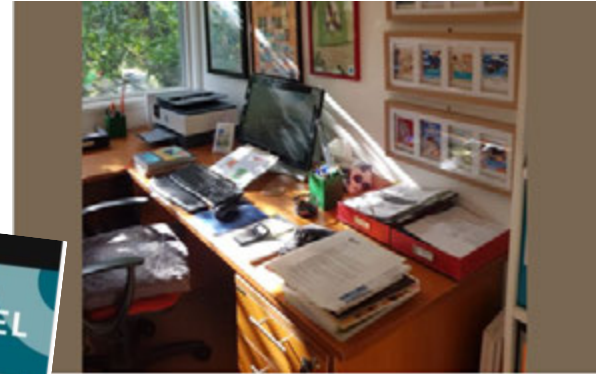
Andy Griffiths, Alison Lester, Graeme Base, Ursula Dubosarsky, Danny Katz, Oliver Phommavanh, Aimee Chan, Chris Kennett, Kylie Howarth, Trent Roberts, Dianne Wolfer, Susanne Gervay, Tim Harris, Hazel Edwards, Jeremy Lachlan, Craig Sheather and Mandy Foot



# Member Authors and Illustrators

2023 was a huge year for our member authors and illustrators - so many book launches (see website for list) which were supported through our Facebook, Instagram, Newsletter posts and on our website.

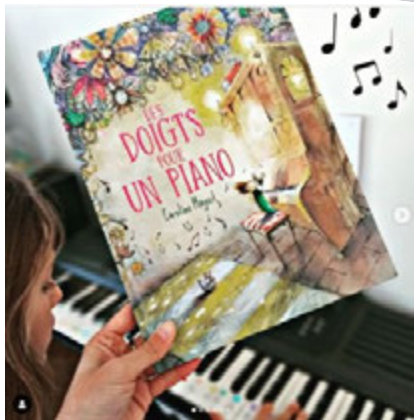
Not only were new books released, but many were also translated into various languages, and lots were reprinted.



**Dr Stephanie Owen Reeder Author**  
16 January 2023 · 🌐  
Justy start to the year with four new books on the go: a nonfiction large-format science picture book and a narrative nonfiction nature-study picture book, both with CSIRO Publishing; an exciting new historical project with MLA Publishing; and a book on writing historical creative nonfiction with Halstead Press that I've contributed a chapter to. I'll be spending a lot of time in my study. Watch this space!

Be at The

**Craig Cormick**  
12 April 2023 · 🌐  
Move over Judge Judy!



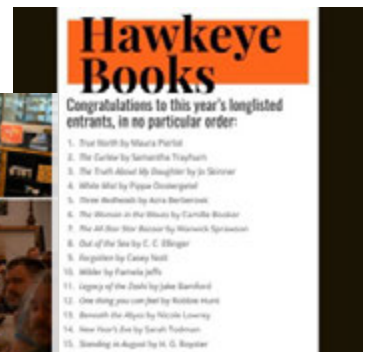
Book Cow at 2pm 1 July to meet Libby Hathorn and see her launch her new book of poems "Mother Earth" illustrated by Christina Booth.



**Maurs Pierlot - Author & Playwright** is in Canberra  
24 January 2023 · 🌐  
You're invited!!!  
Canberrans will get a sneak preview of Fragments (the web series) on 23 February at the National Film and Sound Archives.



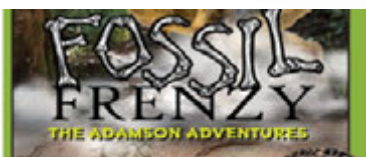
**Blast Off!** by Shelly Unwin, Ben Wood  
\$14.99 Paperback Picture Book | 4-6 yrs  
Rocket through the solar system in this funny, fact-filled whiz around the planets. Join two junior astronauts as they discover were to get too close.  
Are you ready to explore? 5, 4, 3, 2, 1...  
BUY



## Hawkeye Books

Congratulations to this year's longest-listed entrants, in no particular order:

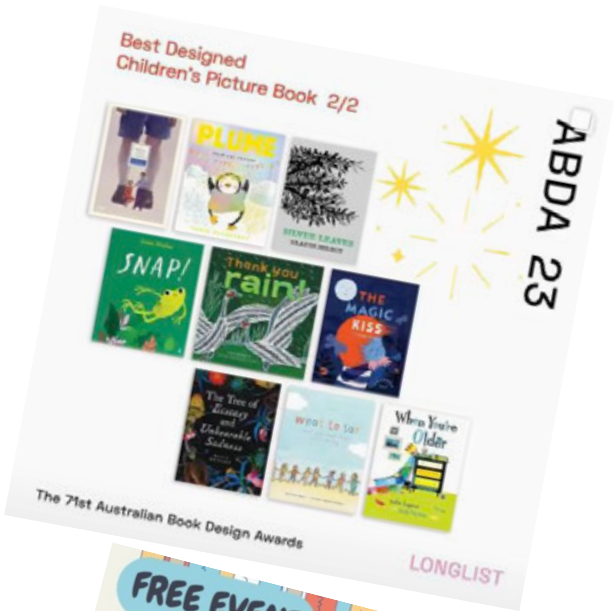
1. Star North by Maurs Pierlot
2. The Carter by Samantha Tripathy
3. The Truth About My Daughter by Jo Skinner
4. White War by Pippa Gooderson
5. Stone Medicine by Alice Bertram
6. The Moon in the House by Corinne Bruckler
7. The All-Star Soccer by Miranda Spry
8. Out of the Sea by C. C. Elgar
9. Resonance by Casey Neill
10. Milder by Pamela Jeffs
11. Legacy of the Duke by Jake Barnford
12. One thing you can't do by Nicola Lowery
13. Beneath the Alps by Nicola Lowery
14. New Year's Eve by Sarah Tothman
15. Standing at August by M. G. Register




**Sandra Bennett Children's Author**  
22 March 2023 · 🌐  
The book that keeps on giving. I'm proud to announce Fossil Frenzy: The Adamson Adventures 3 has won another award. This time it has been awarded Finalist in the Book Excellence Awards. I'm so pleased that judges and readers are recognising the thrilling adventure that is this dino-rific story. Thank you so much.

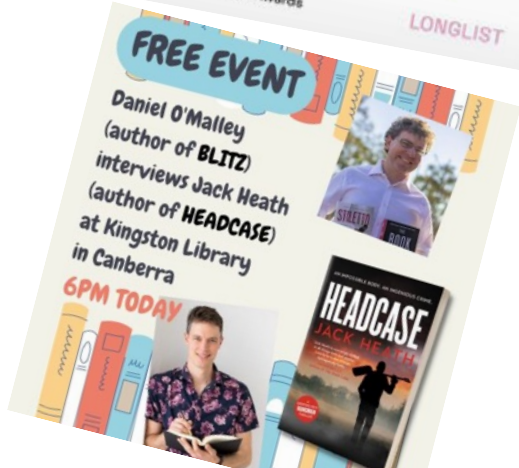


**Virginia Haussegger**  
20 February 2023 · 🌐  
What an honour to launch this fabulous book & brilliant initiative by Felicity Banks. What a labour of love its been!  
A gorgeous, fun picture book "Welcome to Australia" - for kids who are new arrivals, refugees, migrants.



 **Tania McCartney** is at Ngunnawal Country.  
17 March 2023 · Canberra · 🌐

To the many people who have asked if my Australia Map (Hardie Grant Explore) will ever reprint... it's going into reprint!



HERCANNBERRA.COM.AU

**Canberra authors to read this year (as recommended by you!) | HerCanberra**

If your New Year's resolution is to read more books this year, there is perhaps no better pla...



## Book of the Year Judges

This year the Younger Reader Category had 146 books entered from a range of genres including historical fiction, fantasy, adventure, own voice, verse, short story, and mixed format.

A new database, *Awards Force* was introduced this year and used by the judges, Awards admin staff and Awards convenor. It has been excellent, and has streamlined the judging process as well as providing up to date online access to the books entered for each category.

The judging experience has been inspiring, rewarding and been a profound, educative and life changing experience for me.



Colleen Caddey, 2022-23 Younger Reader Judge

# Finance

The full financial report was audited by an external CPA 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

### Profit and Loss

Children's Book Council of Australia ACT Branch  
For the year ended 31 December 2023

	2023	2022	2021
<b>Trading Income</b>			
Christmas Book Appeal	-	80.00	-
Donations Received	-	-	285.00
Event Sales	690.11	1,565.44	1,064.80
Grants Received	272.73	545.45	-
Interest from Investments	449.36	85.10	18.35
Membership Fees Collected	5,500.22	5,454.26	2,531.86
Merchandise Sales	375.65	635.83	438.18
Reader's Cup Entries	639.99	276.36	363.64
Shadow Judging	-	136.35	-
<b>Total Trading Income</b>	<b>7,928.06</b>	<b>8,778.79</b>	<b>4,701.83</b>
<b>Cost of Sales</b>			
Book Appeal Costs	205.68	-	-
Event Costs	1,391.39	2,474.58	753.99
Grant Costs	-	-	(45.45)
Merchandise Costs	-	86.22	1,177.27
Reader's Cup Costs	229.73	170.45	113.64
Shadow Judging Costs	45.45	-	-
<b>Total Cost of Sales</b>	<b>1,872.25</b>	<b>2,731.25</b>	<b>1,999.45</b>
<b>Gross Profit</b>	<b>6,055.81</b>	<b>6,047.54</b>	<b>2,702.38</b>
<b>Operating Expenses</b>			
Bank Fees	137.50	2.00	1.38
Donations	1,000.00	1,500.00	-
Dues & Subscriptions	998.53	1,590.00	981.82
Filing Fees	-	81.82	-
Legal & Accounting	314.37	285.25	274.33
Meeting Costs	-	-	33.14
Merchant Fees	52.45	261.93	56.94
Postage & Shipping	139.09	130.91	123.64
Printing	69.00	451.36	-
Public Liability Insurance	24.57	4.30	17.18
Travel & Entertainment	-	(136.36)	-
Volunteer's Insurance	2.42	16.18	2.98
Website Costs	239.95	134.50	-
<b>Total Operating Expenses</b>	<b>2,977.88</b>	<b>4,321.89</b>	<b>1,491.41</b>
<b>Net Profit</b>	<b>3,077.93</b>	<b>1,725.65</b>	<b>1,210.97</b>

## Summary of Equity Statement

For the year ended 31 December 2023

	2023	2022	2021
<b>Equity</b>			
Opening Balance	56,068.76	54,343.11	53,132.14
Current Year Earnings	3,077.93	1,725.65	1,210.97
<b>Total Equity</b>	<b>59,146.69</b>	<b>56,068.76</b>	<b>54,343.11</b>