



CBCA ACT NEWS

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

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From the President



Welcome to our spring issue of the ACT Branch newsletter.

I am now one year into the role of President and I would like to thank the branch committee and members for your support during the year, not only for me but for the events that we have hosted this year. There have been some changes during the year in how events are run, thank you members for adapting to these

changes. I am thrilled to announce that this financial year we have achieved a surplus.

There has been a wonderful buzz at our events this year. Since May we have hosted nine events and this newsletter will feature articles for most of these events.

I would like to acknowledge the ACT judges, both fiction and Eve Pownall, for all the work they have done in 2013. We were delighted to have two speakers at this year's Judges Talk night, Lynne Babbage (Eve Pownall judge) and Anna McCormack (fiction judge). Thank you to Jaclyn Green (PD Events Coordinator) for running the event and St John the Apostle Primary School for hosting the talk.

Anyone who had the opportunity to attend the CBCA 2013 Book of the Year Awards announcement will agree that there was a jubilant atmosphere in the lecture theatre, which included around 80 school students, it was fantastic!

From the President *continued*

Congratulations to our Award Coordinators Julie Long OAM and Rosemary Thomas and our National Board Member, Justine Power and all the people working in the background for creating a wonderful celebration of children's literature. I would also like to thank the National Library of Australia for hosting the event and all the NLA staff who worked closely with our team to make the day memorable. Finally thank you to the year four girls from Canberra Girls Grammar Junior School for their readers theatre performance of *The Terrible Suitcase* written by Emma Allen (local author) and illustrated by Freya Blackwood.

On behalf of the ACT Branch I would like to congratulate our local member Emma Allen, author of *The Terrible Suitcase* for winning the award Book of the Year: Early Childhood.

Thank you also to Julie Long OAM (Children's Seminar Coordinator), Chris Roffey (Schools Coordinator) and Sue Short (Social Events Coordinator) for the events that you organised during Book Week.

With the support of Libraries ACT, schools and members we had a very successful month long donation campaign for the Christmas Book Appeal. We are still finalising the number of books collected but at this stage over 600 books were donated in August. Thank you for everyone's support.

At the end of September we held our AGM. The branch committee positions now reflect our revised constitution; see elsewhere in this newsletter who your committee is until the next AGM. In early 2014 we will hold a six month AGM that reflect the change of our financial year period. The new financial year operates from 1 January to 31 December, which will better reflect the timeline of our events, programs and membership.

At AGM time we find that we also need to say thank you to committee members who have retired or will not be continuing in their position. On behalf of the branch I would like to thank the following people;

- Kathleen Kinsella, Merchandise Coordinator, for all the times you ordered and delivered the Book Week merchandise to us.
- Margaret Carmody, Immediate Past President, for the many roles that you have taken on board in the last twelve months including the Summer Picnic and the Conference Committee.
- Eileen Dunstone, Public Officer, for your 25 years of service of making sure that we have reported to the Office of Regulatory Services and met our obligations as an incorporated body.
- Pat Smith, Archivist, for the many years that you have ensured that we have a collection of historical records, documents and materials, for the ACT Branch.

AGMs are also a time to make welcome new committee members. I would like to welcome and congratulate our new ex officios; Norma John our Public Officer and Rebecca Kemble our Archivist.

Finally, please remember that there are still more ways to celebrate children's literature this year.

- Book lovers can attend one of the many Lu Rees Archives Showcase events; and
- Bookshop connoisseurs can visit Pinerolo bookstore in the Blue Mountains with a special ACT Branch tour in November.

In the meantime, happy reading.

Leanne Barrett
CBCA ACT Branch – President
Ph: 02 6235 0082 or 0419 401 430
Email: act@cbca.org.au

More Bang for your Book!



Back Row L-R: Emma Allen, Peter Gouldthorpe, Margo Lanagan, Ron Brooks and Timothy Ide. Front Row L-R: Sue deGennaro, Freya Blackwood, Jackie French, Jackie Kerin, Julie Hunt, Sonya Hartnett and Kristin Weidenbach.

What began as a fairly sombre and cerebral affair, held in the auspicious National Library of Australia theatre, soon made a dramatic about face when the enthusiastic cheers from about 80 school students echoed through the auditorium after each one of their favourite books had been chosen as a winner of the prestigious Children's Book Council of Australia 2013 Book of the Year Awards.

The proceedings were opened on Friday 16 August, with a welcoming speech from Angela Briant, the Children's Book Council of Australia President. She acknowledged the Indigenous Owners of the Land, and thanked all present for their support and recognition of the importance of Australian children's literature. She shared her love and dedication for Australian children's literature with the fans in her captive audience.

Ms Briant was followed by guest speaker, Alex Sloan, well known ABC radio announcer and Canberra identity, who was passionate and enthusiastic.

She spoke highly of Australian children's authors and illustrators and referred to her own childhood which, she announced, was filled with the excitement of reading and being transported to other lands, other times and the many adventures that this wonderful experience presented her.



A huge
Thank You

to

Eileen Dunstone & Pat Smith

for your many years of hard work
and dedication as Public Officer and
Archivist for the CBCA ACT Branch.

From the committee and members

More Bang for your Book! *continued*

All breaths were held as Angela Briant then began reading out the titles and authors and illustrators of the short listed books in the Early Childhood category. Cheers and applause broke out from the audience - parents, students, authors, illustrators, judges, librarians and members of the public, when the winning book was announced as Canberra's own Emma Allen's *The Terrible Suitcase*. What a popular choice, it seemed!

As each category winner was announced, it was received with much applause and comments from the audience, 'That's the one I chose!' Students were less inhibited with their cheers, which several authors and illustrators acknowledged, with humility and pride. Each author or illustrator was awarded a plaque and gave a gracious acceptance speech, thanking those who added to the success of their books, from publishers to editors and husbands and wives. There were chuckles from the audience sprinkled throughout these speeches, as personal stories were recounted.

See <http://cbca.org.au/winners2013.htm> for a full list of winners.

The announcement of the winners was followed by a Reader's Theatre presented by Year 4 from Canberra Girls Grammar School, strangely enough, of *The Terrible Suitcase* by Emma Allen, thus making valuable use of the 'cute' factor.

Throughout their performance there was much popping of camera flashes as very proud and excited parents chronicled their daughters' fifteen minutes of fame.



Belle Alderman, Michele Huet and Margo Lanagan

ACT Shadow Minister for Education and Training, Steve Doszpot, then declared that the Children's Book Council of Australia Book Week 2013 was now open. Mr Doszpot spoke about the value of teacher librarians in all our schools.

The Awards Announcements concluded with words from Margaret Hamilton, a well known children's book publisher and proponent of Australian children's literature. She took on the enormous task of raising a million dollars for the Children's Book Council of Australia to continue their promotion of children's quality books by Australian authors and used the occasion to request more sponsorship for this outstanding humanitarian vision.

Afterwards authors and illustrators mingled with the audience, signing books with patience mixed with pride, thus bringing to an end the 2013 CBCA Book of the Year Award Announcements.

That night, many of the authors and illustrators joined CBCA members and other enthusiasts for a dinner at the Southern Cross Yacht Club to celebrate the Awards and the opening of Book Week.



Tracey Hawkins, Emma and Richard Allen

There was a relaxed and exuberant atmosphere, with much sharing of personal triumph by winners and personal stories by friends and colleagues at several intimate tables. The marquee was draped in white cloth turning it into an event from the Arabian Nights. The meals were excellent and were complemented with wine and soft drinks.

To add to the relaxation and *joie de vivre* were table games based on the short listed books and author/illustrators, where some surreptitious eyeing off of other table answer sheets could be seen. Winners were presented with their choice of children's books and thank yous were given and received with grace.

It was a consensus that the night was a great success and a wonderful way to kick off Book Week 2013.

Chris Roffey
Events Subcommittee Chair

Children's Seminar

The CBCA Awards Foundation

*Proudly funding prizes for the
Children's Book of the Year Awards*

Benefactors

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Beryl Moncrieff Matthews (in memoriam)
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Julie Vivas
Walker Books Australia
Cassandra Weddell, Qld (in memoriam)
Margaret Wild
Maisie Williams, Garah, NSW (in memoriam)
Sue Williams



Back row L-R: Back: Pauline Deeves, David Murphy, Katrina Nannestad, Tamsin Ainslie and Emma Allen. Front row L-R: Tania McCartney, Katie J Taylor and Mollie Bialkowski.

The annual children's seminar was held at Brindabella Christian College in Lyneham during Book Week. The Teacher Librarian, Rachael Richards, had set up the Library to cope well with the 8 separate groups. This year 58 students attended (compared with 39 in 2012). These came from 9 schools (up from 5 in 2012). Once again, independent and Catholic primary schools were very well represented, with only two government schools attending (compared with 4 in 2012). The 8 speakers were Tania McCartney (author), Pauline Deeves (author), David Murphy (illustrator), Katie Taylor (author), Mollie Bialkowski (storyteller), Tamsin Ainslie (illustrator), Emma Allen (author) and Katrina Nannestad (author). This is the same number of speakers as 2012, although the original number for 2013 was 10 (Tracey Hawkins and Stephanie Owen Reeder were unable to attend).

A new format was trialled and appeared to work well. In place of having 6 rotations during the course

of the afternoon, the students listened to 4 speakers before afternoon tea and then all the speakers took part in a question and answer forum. Unfortunately there was no time for questions from the students, but those posed by the convenor provided those present with a further insight into the writing and illustrating process. Another change to the organisation this year was to have an adults group. The teachers and parents who took this opportunity thoroughly enjoyed listening to the speakers.

Suggestions for changes to the seminar are always welcome and indeed it has taken many different shapes since the original children-and-author dinners, which was the original format in 1978 at Downer Primary School.

Julie Long
Children's Seminar Convenor

Book Week Author and Illustrator Visits

CBCA ACT Branch
Kindred Organisations

Gold Level



<http://www.paperchainbookstore.com.au>

We had a successful two weeks in Book Week and Literacy and Numeracy Week with schools inviting the visiting author/illustrators to give students an insight into the world of writing and illustrating children's books. The feedback was very positive, with messages from some of the teachers and librarians passing on their thanks and appreciation for the opportunity that the CBCA ACT Branch provided for their students to meet some of their favourite authors and illustrators.

There were ten Australian authors and illustrators involved with the schools, many of whom were local Canberrans. They shared 45 sessions in the schools with 16 schools taking up the opportunity to host the visits as well as the Queanbeyan Library.

It was a mammoth task to coordinate the visits but it was well worth it. I was particularly pleased

to have the opportunity to take Tamsin Ainslie to her school visits and share in her enthusiasm, talent and experience which she was so excited to show the many students with whom she came in contact.

I would like to thank the following authors and illustrators for participating this year:

Anthony Hill
Emma Allen
Pauline Deeves
David Murphy
Tamsin Ainslie
Mollie Bialkowski
Katie Taylor
Katrina Nannestad
Tania McCartney
Tracey Hawkins

Chris Roffey
CBCA ACT Branch Events Committee
Chair

GET REAL CANBERRA

The University of Canberra in conjunction with University of Canberra College, the University of Canberra English Language Institute and the Lu Rees Archives invites you to enter the get Real Canberra 2013 Picture book competition. With over \$2000 in prizes, this competition will celebrate Canberra's special places, heroes and proud young population. The competition will be open to the public for books written, illustrated or first published in 2013 where Canberra is a central theme. Entries close early in November 2013. <http://www.canberra.edu.au/get-real-canberra>

Children's Picture Book Competition

*getreal*canberra 



<http://www.canberra.edu.au/get-real-canberra>

Diary Dates

October-November

Showcase: Second Annual Festival of Australian Children's Literature

Date: 1 October – 15 November

Further Details:

<http://www.canberra.edu.au/100/calendar/showcase>

Trip to Pinerolo in Blackheath NSW

Date: 23 – 24 November 2013

Expressions of interest to act@cbca.org.au

Celebrate Canberra's Creators Tania McCartney, Stephanie Owen Reeder, Susan Hall, Cheryl Westenberg and Nina Poulos

Date: Sunday 3 November 2013

Time: 11am to 1pm

Location: National Library of Australia Foyer

Bookings: (02) 6262 1424 or

<http://nla.gov.au/bookings>

Meet & Greet Nick Bland – Book Signings

Date: Thursday 14 November 2013

Time: 4 – 5.30pm

Location: National Library of Australia Foyer

Bookings: 02) 6262 1424 or

<http://nla.gov.au/bookings>

Views on Picture Book Apps with Nick Bland, Dyan Blacklock, Vanessa Little and Mark Macleod

Date: Thursday 14 November 2013

Time: 5.30 – 7pm

Location: National Library of Australia

Bookings:

<http://showcasepicturebookapps.eventbrite.com.au>

May 2014

CBCA Conference: Discovering National Treasures

16-18 May 2014

Rex Hotel

Northbourne Ave, Canberra



Judges' Talk



Lynne Babbage

This event is one of our most popular events of the year. As the Eve Pownall Award judges are currently ACT members, the committee decided to invite one of these judges, Lynne Babbage, to present, along with our Fiction Judge, Anna McCormack. Both judges took the audience on a journey through the books that made the short list for 2013.

Thank you to both judges for travelling a long way to present on a cold and rainy night in June. Anna lives in Goulburn and Lynne near Batemans Bay. Lynne however had an extra-long trip to Canberra as the Kings Highway was closed on the Clyde Mountain making it a trip to Canberra via Narooma and Cooma.



Anna McCormack

The branch would like to thank St John the Apostle Primary School in Florey for hosting this event. The branch always enjoys holding events in schools. This involves our schools in our events and enables members to discover what is happening in other libraries.

Mr Cappuccino provided the supper for this event instead of the branch committee members and the food was tasty and plentiful.

Finally, thank you to Jaclyn Green for organising her first event for CBCA ACT Branch and the members who came to hear the judges speak.



Mollie Bialkowski, Jill Howard and Lyn Wearne

The Christmas Book Appeal began in the 1960s when six small children were orphaned in a road accident near Canberra. At Christmas each of these children was given a book as a gift. The following year these children plus others were sent books for Christmas.

The Children's Book Council (as it was known at the time) came into the picture in 1964-5. There were many more children in Canberra whose family circumstances were such that they would be unlikely to receive Christmas presents. The tradition of the gift of a book with a personal greeting began.

Christmas Book Appeal



Christmas Book Appeal Launch. L-R: Shane Rattenbury (Minister for Territory and Municipal Services, Jill Howard (Christmas Book Appeal Coordinator), Melanie Thompson (CanFaCS) and Leanne Barrett (CBCA ACT Branch President)

For many years CBCA ACT members braved the winter cold at the open air markets at Fyshwick. They sold items to make money for new Christmas books to give to a range of children orphaned or in foster care of one kind or another.

In recent years the CBCA ACT, along with generous individuals, donated funds or new books. They have met in people's houses, individually selected and gift wrapped books for children's specific needs and interests.

This year the Branch Committee approached Libraries ACT to collect books on behalf of CBCA ACT Branch for the Christmas Book Appeal for one month.

Libraries ACT launched the Book Appeal at Civic Library on 1 August with Shane Rattenbury - Minister for Territory and Municipal Services, Leanne Barrett and Melanie Thompson - CanFaCS (Canberra

Fathers and Children Services) giving speeches about the impact of reading books and the importance of the appeal. To see Leanne and Melanie's speeches go to http://www.library.act.gov.au/how_to_use_the_library/more-than-books

During the appeal many libraries decorated the donations box and visitors to Tuggeranong Library were greeted with a delightful Christmas tree made from books. Thank you to Gerry Rozdarz for her creative display.

Two schools also made the decision to participate in the appeal. (Read more about the school donations in the next newsletter.)

The committee would like to thank Libraries ACT Director, Vanessa Little, library staff and patrons for their support and generous book donations made during the appeal. During August the libraries collect 624 books. Congratulations!

Last year 840 books were donated to underprivileged children. Due to the month long appeal we will be able to give more books as Christmas gifts than we did last year.

Donations of books for the 2013 Christmas Book Appeal can still be made until Friday 29 November. Please contact CBCA ACT Branch at act@cbca.org.au OR drop your new books into Iken Commercial Interiors, 21 Wollongong Street Fyshwick, Monday to Friday during business hours.



Gerry Rozdarz with her book display at Tuggeranong Library.

Fiction Judge's Report September 2013

Congratulations to Gai Dennett,
winner of the Box of Books
competition.

All proceeds from the competition
will go towards the Christmas Book
Appeal.

Thank you to everyone who
entered.



So far there have been 130 entries. As expected the majority of the books so far have been early childhood, picture books and younger readers. The reading has been very enjoyable.

I would love to have some help in getting children's and young adult's responses to some of the entries. If you come across any books which are appealing to children (must be 2013 publications) I'd love to hear from you
(mjhuet@homemail.com.au) as child appeal is very important.

It has been interesting to note that many of the older readers' books are being simultaneously released as eBooks. When travelling overseas I was able to download some books to my Kindle to read while away. This was much easier than carrying the books themselves. Once home I scan the print copy before writing my reports.

Michele Huet

Prue Mason Dinner



Standing L-R: Sandy Swift and Leanne Barrett. Seated L-R: Prue Mason and Belle Alderman AM

Prue Mason, the author of the books *Camel Rider*, *Destination Abudai* and *Birdie in the Sky*, was in Canberra during May on her May Gibbs Fellowship. We held an intimate dinner for 5 at the Scholar Chinese Restaurant on 23 May.

Those in attendance were privileged to hear about Prue's research and her plans for her next book about an early Australian aviator.

Your Committee

Inky Awards short list

Congratulations to all the authors short listed for this year's Inky Awards for the best new young adult books, as voted for by teenage readers.

The short listed titles are:

Gold Inky (Australian books)

Girl Defective by Simone Howell
My Life as an Alphabet by Barry Jonsberg
Cry Blue Murder by Kim Kane and Marion Roberts
Life in Outer Space by Melissa Keil
Friday Brown by Vikki Wakefield

Silver Inky (international books)

The Diviners by Libba Bray
See You At Harry's by Jo Knowles
The Raven Boys by Maggie Stiefvater
This is Not a Test by Courtney Summers
Code Name Verity by Elizabeth Wein

Winners will be announced on 26 November. To find out more about the awards visit

<http://www.insideadog.com.au/>

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Sue Short

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Public Officer: Norma John

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Fiction Judge: Michele Huet

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Members Education Coordinator: Jaclyn Green

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Other members: Belle Alderman AM, Jaz Beer, Justine Power and Rosemary Thomas

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Conference Convenor: Gai Dennett

Other Members: Belle Alderman AM, Mollie Bialkowski, Leanne Barrett, Eileen Dunstone, Margaret Hamilton, Julie Long OAM, Justine Power and Rosemary Thomas

