



CBCA ACT NEWS

Issue 1 / February 2009

PO BOX 5548 HUGHES ACT 2605

Hello and Happy New Year to all! I hope everyone had a safe and relaxing holiday break. Now we are all back at work and into the swing of things, it's time to look ahead and see what's coming this year! There are a number of exciting things to look forward to in 2009 with the Children's Book Council ACT Branch.

I'm very pleased to say that we will have a flowerbed display in the flowerbed at Kambah – on the intersection between the Tuggeranong Parkway and Sulwood Drive. As the flowerbed is only large enough for five characters, we have decided to have 'CBCA' and the logo (the child with the book). I believe it will be created in April and stay until October. Keep an eye out for it if you are passing through that way!

We will be running all our annual events again this year – Clayton's Night, the Short List dinner, the Judge's Talk and of course the Awards Announcement, Book Week and Author Visits. Please see further on in this newsletter for more information about upcoming events.

We hope to continue raising money for our Christmas Book Appeal this year. Watch out for me selling merchandise at our events! All the money from these sales goes towards buying books for disadvantaged children in the ACT as Christmas presents. If you would like to help out with this, please let me know.

Finally, it is that time of year again – membership renewals! You can find a membership form with this newsletter. We now have direct deposit available for the payment of fees, so please see the form for more information. I look forward to seeing you all again at our events this year. Thank you for supporting your Branch!

Rebecca Kemble
President, CBCA ACT Branch

IN THIS ISSUE

PRESIDENTS REPORT	p1
COMMITTEE LIST	p1
UPCOMING EVENTS	p2
AUTHOR / ILLUSTRATOR VISITS	p2
AT THE ACT PUBLIC LIBRARY SERVICE	p2
DONOR LIST	p2
CBCA JUDGE: THE VIEW FROM THE FINISH LINE	p3
RECENT AWARD WINNERS	p3
LU REES ARCHIVES NEWS	p4
LOOKING FOR WORK?	p5
UNDERCOVER STORIES	p6
THE CHILDREN'S BOOK COUNCIL OF AUSTRALIA MEMBERSHIP	p7

CHILDREN'S BOOK COUNCIL OF AUSTRALIA (ACT BRANCH) Executive Committee 2008-9

President: Rebecca Kemble **Vice President:** Belle Alderman
Treasurer: Amanda de Jongh **Secretary:** Margaret Carmody

Membership Officer: Julie Long **Author Visits:** Rachael Hind **Website:** Dot Hepburn
Newsletter: Kimberley Gaal **Archives:** Pat Smith **Merchandise:** unfilled

Children's Book Week Seminar: Julie Long
Christmas Book Appeal: Mollie Bialkowski
2008/2009 ACT Judge: Michael Janssen-Gibson
2010/2011 ACT Judge: Rosemary Thomas

UPCOMING EVENTS

March – Clayton's Night

Clayton's Night is the awards shortlist you have when you're not having a shortlist! We try to pick which books will be shortlisted by CBCA judges for the Children's Book of the Year Awards. It is an entertaining evening of kid's books, stimulating discussion and informative presentations. Five members of the CBCA ACT Branch will each present what they feel are the best books entered into the Awards in the following categories: Picture Book, Early Childhood, Younger Readers, Older Readers and Information Books.

April – Shortlist Announcement and Dinner

The shortlist of the CBCA Book of the Year Awards is announced in April each year, and the ACT Branch organise a dinner for members to come along, eat, talk, look at the books and discuss the judge's decisions.

AUTHOR AND ILLUSTRATOR VISITS

In 2008 the CBCA ACT Branch hosted 70 author and illustrator visits to many of the schools in our region, over the duration of a fortnight. The authors and illustrators included Christine Aldred (ACT), Greg Bastian (NSW), Christina Booth (TAS), Mark Carthew (VIC), Sherryl Clark (VIC), Pauline Deeves (ACT), Tracey Hawkins (ACT), Anthony Hill (ACT), Kate Forsyth (NSW) and Claire Saxby (VIC). We were delighted to share a meal with Kate Forsyth, an event at the Lu Rees Archives and a panel session and dinner with Margaret Wild and Ann James, as well as our annual Children's Seminar.

We are very grateful to our visiting authors and illustrators for their time and the effort put into their visits. We are also very appreciative of the teachers and librarians who organise school visits for their students and for the wonderful volunteers who kindly drive our visitors around our city. It is a wonderful experience for our students to attend author and illustrator visits and can be very inspiring for our budding writers and artists.

In Book Week 2009 we are looking forward to May Gibbs Fellowship winner Dianne Wolfer visiting from W.A. Popular published writers Jack Heath and Ingrid Jonach, both from the ACT, will be doing author visits this year for us. We are hoping illustrator Freya Blackwood will be able to do visits for us this year or perhaps in 2010. We will once again be drawing on the talented local authors and illustrators to do school visits as well.

Rachael Hind, Author and Illustrator Visits Coordinator

AT THE ACT PUBLIC LIBRARY SERVICE

Online resources

Scholastic BookFlix is now available to library members. BookFlix pairs classic video stories from Weston Woods (e.g. Where The Wild Things Are and Curious George) with related non-fiction eBooks to help reinforce early reading skills and introduce children to knowledge and exploration. To access this new resource, follow the link on the library web site (www.library.act.gov.au), and have your membership number and PIN handy.

Coming soon at the ACT Public Library

Author and illustrator Jeannette Rowe will pay a visit in March. Jeannette will present a session for adults on how to engage children in drawing and communicating with pictures, as well as a session for children aged 3-7. Booking information will be announced shortly.

Sarah Steed

The Children's Book Council of Australia Awards Foundation

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

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Donations to the CBCA Awards Foundation are tax deductible and can be sent to:

PO Box 172, Blackheath NSW 2785

Ph: 02 4787 8492 or 9630 2424

Fax: 02 9630 2594

Or donate on line:

<http://cbca.org.au/foundation.htm>

CBCA Judge: The view from the finish line

I am rapidly approaching the end of my two-year tenure as the 'CBCA Book of the Year' ACT Judge, and Rebecca asked if I could write about my experience. It is probably a good time to ask me, before time and distance turns my recollections into a nostalgic reverie.

Words to describe the experience? Intense, lonely, thrilling, frustrating, humbling...a roller-coaster that is exhilarating to be on. Here is my take:

THE GOOD

The chance to read close to everything published in a given year, to meet with other passionate advocates of quality literature and discuss, argue and collaborate on a list of what you believe is the best in that year. You will be leaving your mark on the future history of Australian children's literature. Few opportunities will afford you the position of having such a powerful influence and voice to shape that future. Judge's talks - not only are these enjoyable, I believe they are a crucial part of the judges' responsibility in promoting good books.

THE BAD

On average you will read between 350 and 400 books. Unfortunately you will receive about 100 of those books in the first 8 months, and the balance in the next 4 months. It is achievable however, as countless previous judges will attest.

It is a lonely experience. The judges are 'silos' until they get to meet at the conference, and it seems unnecessary in this modern age of digital communication that this is still the case. The processes are also in need of a face lift. Collaborative technology should make the administration of this job effortless rather than effort-full.

THE SAD

That the awards are in danger of losing public interest, that publishers and booksellers see little return in assisting or promoting both the awards and the judges.

Looking back at what I have written, it seems overly negative to have two 'con' categories to one 'pro', but I hope my criticisms are received as intended - to help the awards become the best they can be, and recognise that any process needs to be continually questioned and adapted to maintain relevancy. I think the CBCA is extremely important for what it does - engaging the community by promoting quality literature. The awards are our flagship.

Is it hard? Yes, most pursuits that are worthwhile are hard. But I will be back in four years to apply again.

Michael Janssen-Gibson (Judge 2008/2009)

Recent Award Winners

Michael L. Printz Award

Melina Marchetta's novel *On the Jellicoe Road* (published by HarperCollins) is this year's winner of the Michael L. Printz Award for Excellence in Young Adult Literature.

Margo Lanagan's novel *Tender Morsels* (published by Random House) is one of the four shortlisted books for the same award.



Melina Marchetta (left) and Margo Lanagan

Aurealis Awards

Aurealis Award Best Young Adult Novel: Melina Marchetta, *Finnikin of the Rock*, (published by Viking Penguin)

Best Children's Novel: Emily Rodda, *The Wizard of Rondo*, (published by Omnibus Books)

Best children's illustrated work/picture book: Richard Harland & Laura Peterson (illustrator), *Escape!, Under Siege, Race to the Ruins, The Heavy Crown*, The Wolf Kingdom series, (published by Omnibus Books).

Charlotte Zolotow Award

It is with great pleasure that we congratulate Bob Graham, whose picture book *How to Heal a Broken Wing* was the winner of the 2009 Charlotte Zolotow Award.

Five Honor Books were named for this award:

- *How I Learned Geography* by Uri Shulevitz (FSG)
- *How Mama Brought the Spring* by Fran Manushkin, illus. by Holly Berry (Dutton)
- *In a Blue Room* by Jim Averbeck, illus. by Tricia Tusa (Houghton Mifflin)
- *A River of Words: The Story of William Carlos Williams* by Jen Bryant, illus. by Melissa Sweet (Eerdmans)
- *Silent Music: A Story of Baghdad* by James Rumford (Roaring Brook/Porter)



Bob Graham

LU REES ARCHIVES NEWS

Graeme Base artwork

A big thank you to all the members of the ACT Branch for donating \$1,000 towards the cost of the jacket cover for Graeme Base's *The Eleventh Hour*. There were three other donors to make up the purchase price. Graeme held a big exhibition of his artwork in Melbourne for the first time in 20 years. He was selling major pieces ranging from \$5,000-\$12,000 for a single page from a favourite book. We were fortunate that Graeme donated 12 developmental artworks associated with the cover and has written a short article to be published in the Lu Rees Journal. Once these artworks are sold, they will not be seen again, so to have such a special one in the Archives for public display is an achievement for posterity.

Teenage Passion

Does anyone remember a teenager named Jonathan Appleton who edited a magazine called *Rippa Reading* from 1986 to 1995? He interviewed authors and illustrators, wrote reviews and articles and shared his passion for children's books during his high school years in Sydney. An email arrived in the Archives from Jonathan in December. Now a children's publisher in London, he wanted to know whether the Archives would be interested in a donation of all the letters he'd received over the years from Australian authors and illustrators. We said yes, please! We are now trying to acquire all the issues of *Rippa Reading* and have been very lucky so far after putting the news of our quest out on the CBCA email chat. Jonathan is writing an article about his teenage passion for a future issue of the Lu Rees journal.

Moving House

We have all experienced moving – all those boxes! Where did all this come from? Why did I keep that? The Archives was running out of shelf space for its collection of 20,000 books. The Library kindly installed more shelves in the entry room, and provided shelvers to respace the books. Belinda and I did some calculations of how much space to leave for writers of big books, like Isobelle Carmody and prolific writers like Jackie French, counted the 2,000 books waiting downstairs to be catalogued, then labelled all the shelves so the shelvers would know where to start the Ss, the Ts and so on. It took hours! We are very grateful to the Library for the shelves and the assistance. It looks terrific, and now we can shelve all those books that just wouldn't fit!

1001 Best Books for Children

On 12 December, I received an email from Quintessence Publisher in London with an urgent request. Would I please scan the jacket covers of 50 Australian children's books, and could I please do this urgently? We were perplexed. What 50 books? Why the Archives? (We don't have a scanner) Simultaneously, Ann James, Director of Books Illustrated, a gallery of children's book illustrations in Melbourne, received the same request. She rang me and together we looked at the list. We were worried. If this list were to represent the best of Australian children's books, there were many important omissions. We emailed the publisher and asked if we could help. The end result? We have added 30 more titles, persuaded them to substitute some different titles, and convinced them to usually include one book by an author or illustrator to better represent Australia's best. There will be 41 countries represented in the book to be published around October this year. Each book has a description of 300 words, and other recommended books related to the title selected. For our persuasiveness, we got to review the 30 new titles by 30 January. Four of us had our noses buried in books Christmas reading and writing reviews – all done!

The Library at the University of Canberra very generously scanned the jacket covers of the 80 titles chosen. We are extremely grateful for their support.

Art Project

Are you interested in art and artists' work for Australian children's books? We have a project coming up where you might like to volunteer your time. We have developed a framework to record the details of all the original artwork in the Archives. We need people who would like to take an illustrator's artwork and record the details on our framework. This would involve filling in a form by hand. Later, we will enter the information on a spreadsheet. This will enable us to have a full record of the Archives' artwork, and to put the spreadsheet on our web site for those interested in researching art, artists, particular books, types of media. This will facilitate exhibitions of the artwork. Finally, such a project will preserve the artwork by ensuring less handling and better preservation of these treasures. If you are interested in this project, phone the Archives on 6201 5075 or email us as lu.rees@canberra.edu.au and once the project starts, we'll be in touch.

POSITION AVAILABLE (VOLUNTARY)

NATIONAL ARCHIVIST

The Children's Book Council of Australia (CBCA) National Archives are collected in Canberra and stored at the National Library of Australia. A current vacancy exists for the voluntary position of CBCA National Archivist. Ideally, this appointment will cover the period from confirmation in the position to the CBCA National AGM in November 2010. The nature of the work involves collecting, sorting and arranging, according to agreed upon headings, the CBCA records.

Criteria for the Position

1. Active membership of the CBCA and at least five years' working knowledge, participation and evidence of networking with the CBCA on a national basis
2. Ability to effectively communicate and liaise with a national organisation dispersed across Australia
3. Completion of an associate diploma/certificate in library, archive and/or records management fields, or significant progress towards relevant study and/or related work experience
4. Demonstrated ability to effectively use computer applications for communication and record keeping
5. Demonstrated ability to perform a range of technical tasks, including acquisition, sorting and arranging materials using a record keeping system
6. Demonstrated ability to communicate effectively, both orally and in writing.

Provisions for the position

It is expected that the CBCA National Archivist will attend the Annual General Meetings of the CBCA, usually held in November for the years 2009 and 2010. The CBCA National Executive would cover expenses for attendance. The person appointed to this position will receive an annual honorarium of \$500, a fax/answering machine, and reimbursement for stationery, authorised telephone and postal expenses, including the provision of a post office box.

Applying for the Position

Those interested in the position should submit an application addressing the selection criteria, and provide the names and contact details of three persons from three different CBCA Branches. One of these should be from the applicant's home Branch.

Submit applications to:

The President/National Executive, CBCA, PO Box 704, Rochedale South, QLD 4123

Closing date for applications: 31 March 2009.

POSITION AVAILABLE (PAID)

ONLINE MAGAZINE EDITOR

Have you ever wanted to compile a fortnightly, online national children's literature industry magazine? Buzz Words online (www.buzzwordsmagazine.com) needs a new editor. This is a work-your-own-hours-from-home, be-your-own boss, paying position.

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The Children's Book Council of Australia

ACT Branch Inc.
PO Box 5548 HUGHES 2605

MEMBERSHIP

Are you passionate about encouraging children to read? Do you care about quality children's literature? Do you want to see Australia's best books for children and teenagers recognised and their creators rewarded? Then why not join The Children's Book Council of Australia!

For \$44 (inc GST) you will receive the following benefits:

- Free copies of the annual *Notable Australian Children's Books* (which lists and describes the best children's books published in Australia) and issues of the journal of the Lu Rees Archives
- Discounted rates on the purchase of Book Week merchandise such as bookmarks, badges, book bags, posters and Short List information
- Special members' rates for CBCA activities such as author and illustrator visits, the biennial national CBCA conference and local CBCA events. (Attendance at CBCA events can be attributed towards professional development obligations.)
- The opportunity to meet and network with other people committed to the same objectives, including some of Australia's leading authors and illustrators
- Substantial discounts on purchases at our annual Christmas shopping night
- A regular newsletter and email updates

Student membership of \$11 pa is also available. This includes everything above except the *Notables* list and the Lu Rees Archives journal. Please provide a current student ID number and name of institution.

To join or renew, please complete the form below and mail it with a cheque or money order made payable to The Children's Book Council of Australia - ACT Branch or you may join/renew in person at any CBCA event.

CBCA ACT Branch
PO Box 5548 HUGHES 2605
ABN 20 024 451 638

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