



# CBCA ACT NEWS

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

Issue 4 / November 2011

PO BOX 5548 HUGHES ACT 2605

Hello everyone, and welcome to our final newsletter for the year, and my final newsletter as President! Or as Immediate Past President, to be precise. Ideally, the new ACT Branch President would be writing this, but unfortunately our newly elected President Sue Warren was unable to take up the position. As I write this, we have called for nominations for president, and are awaiting them to arrive by post. Once we have the nominations we will call an election. More details on this to come.

We've had a good year this year – attendance has been high at most of our events, we've had new people join the Branch and get involved with our events, and we have some new people on the committee following the AGM! We're also getting excited about taking up the role of National Executive – planning for the National Conference and Judge's Conferences are well under way. We still need some more National Executive members though, so if you're interested, please get in touch!

Sadly we say goodbye to some of our committee members – Rachael Hind, Author Visits Coordinator; Amanda de Jongh, Treasurer; Margaret Carmody, Secretary; and Rosemary Thomas as Judge for 2010 & 2011. We very much appreciate all their hard work and dedication over the past few years. Thank you everyone!

The flip side of farewelling committee members is welcoming new committee members! We are very pleased to have Leanne Barrett as our new Author Visits Coordinator, and Justine Thomas as our new Treasurer. Rosemary Thomas has taken up the role of Minutes Secretary. Our new judge, Anna McCormack, has been on board since the end of last year, as she started her reading this year.

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## CHILDREN'S BOOK COUNCIL OF AUSTRALIA (ACT BRANCH)

### Executive Committee

**President:** Margaret Carmody

**Vice President:** Belle Alderman

**Treasurer:** Justine Power

**Membership Officer:** Julie Long

**Author Visits:** Leanne Barrett

**Event Coordinator:** Vacant

**Merchandise:** Kathleen Kinsella

**Minutes Secretary:** Rosemary Thomas

**2012-13 ACT Judge:** Anna Beth McCormack

**Children's Book Week Seminar:** Julie Long

**Christmas Book Appeal:** Jill Howard & Elena Battey

**Newsletter:** Jaz Beer

**Archives:** Pat Smith

**Website:** Kathleen Cobcroft

We are also very pleased to announce a new Life Member of the CBCA ACT Branch. Mollie Bialkowski has been awarded Life Membership for her hard work over more than ten years! She has held various positions in the Branch, and is a regular attendee and helper at our events. You can read Mollie's citation below.

Finally, I would just like to say farewell and thank you to everyone. I have been President for the past 5 years, and it has been quite an experience! I've learned a lot and had the opportunity to meet many wonderful people. I can't praise the committee members highly enough for running the Branch and getting things done.

Merry Christmas everyone, and I hope you have a wonderful and safe holiday period. Hopefully I will see some of you at the Christmas shopping night!

Rebecca Kemble

Editor's note: Since this report was written, Margaret Carmody has been elected as president. Congratulations Margaret!

**LIFE MEMBERSHIP OF THE CHILDREN'S BOOK COUNCIL OF AUSTRALIA**  
**ACT BRANCH**  
**MOLLIE BIALKOWSKI**  
**Citation**

Mollie Bialkowski has been an active member of the CBCA ACT Branch for several decades. During this time she has provided sustained and exceptional service to many facets of the organisation.

Her passionate work for the Christmas Books for Children over more than 10 years involved opening up her home for garage sales as well as for book sorting, selection and packing sessions. She willingly stored books, bought books and encouraged members to donate books so that there were always quality books to be given. For many years, with the assistance of her husband Tom and a few others, Mollie braved the cold at the Fyshwick markets to set up stalls and sell donated goods to raise funds. She tirelessly applied for community grants during this time to be able to purchase increasing quantities of books. Mollie B has been, and continues to be, an active participant in all the Branch activities. In particular, her involvement in the annual Awards announcement and the Children's seminar during Book Week has been invaluable. This has included entering into the spirit of the Book Week theme, being a guest presenter at the Awards ceremony, helping with catering and being an effective liaison with the Public Libraries.

Mollie inspires, encourages, supports and advocates the Children's Book Council and its aims to many people in the community through her outstanding contribution to the ACT Branch and is very deserving of Life Membership.

5th of October, 2011

**CBCA Awards Foundation**

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

**Benefactors:**

Scholastic Australia  
Allen & Unwin  
Laurie Copping OAM (in memoriam)  
Thyne Reid Trust No. 1

**Major Donors:**

Australia Post, Sandy Campbell, Era Publications, Five Mile Press, Libby Gleeson AM,  
Bob Graham, Hachette Children's Books Aust, Hardie Grant Egmont, HarperCollinsPublishers Aust,  
Ipswich District Teacher-Librarians' Network, James N Kirby Foundation, Kinross-Wolaroi School,  
Koala Books, Library Bd of Q'land, Beryl Moncrieff Matthews (in memoriam), Jill Midolo (in memoriam),  
Angela Namoi, NT Gov, Parents & Boys of Sydney Grammar Edgecliff Prep, Penguin Books Aust,  
Random House Aust, Marion E Robertson (in memoriam), Emily Rodda (Jennifer Rowe),  
Gillian Rubinstein, Maurice Saxby AM, SA Dept of the Arts & Cult. Dev,  
University of Queensland Press, Julie Vivas, Walker Books Aust, Cassandra Weddell, Qld (in memoriam),  
Maisie Williams, Garah, NSW (in memoriam), Margaret Wild, Sue Williams.

*Donations to the CBCA Awards Foundation are tax deductible and can be sent to: PO Box 172, Blackheath NSW 2785*

## BOOK WEEK WRAP UP 2011!

### Awards Announcement



This was held at the brand new Gungahlin Public Library, and was well attended with around 50 people there. Canberra Girls' Grammar Junior School performed *Noni the Pony*, which was very popular and very funny! The kids did a great job. Our storyteller Mollie Bialkowski gave a great rendition of *It's Bedtime William!* Then we had the announcement! Each child in the audience took one of the shortlisted books, and if that book won, they got to come up and receive a certificate on behalf of the author/illustrator. Refreshments were served afterwards, in the Book Week theme 'One world, many stories' – only we had 'One world, many foods!' Snack foods from around the world were put out, along with signs with their name and their country of origin. The venue was great – heaps of space, and with all the mod cons! ACT Public Library staff were very helpful and I'd like to thank them on behalf of the Branch for all their Book Week efforts.

### Author Visits

We had 6 authors and illustrators (including 2 from interstate), our judge Rosemary Thomas, and storyteller Mollie Bialkowski visit schools this year. Thank you to Rachael Hind for organising the visits and thank you also to all the people who volunteered to drive the out of state authors and illustrators around.

### Children's Seminar

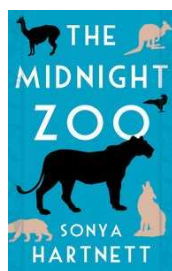
On the Wednesday of Book Week the Children's Seminar was held at Aranda Primary School. Our Book Week authors and illustrators talked to groups of students in the afternoon after school – 31 students in total. This was a disappointing number, as in the past attendance has been much higher. The continuance of the Book Week Seminar is something that future committees will have to consider.

After the Seminar members of the Branch and the Book Week authors and illustrators went out for dinner at the Bella Vista restaurant in Belconnen. Good food and lots of it!

We were very lucky to have so many events organised in Canberra during Book Week – as well as visiting schools, authors and illustrators also gave workshops and talks at the ACT Public Libraries. There was also a fun day of activities for kids at the Canberra Museum and Gallery. All in all a very busy Book Week!

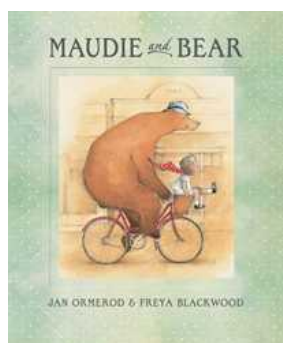
Rebecca Kemble

## THIS YEAR'S WINNERS



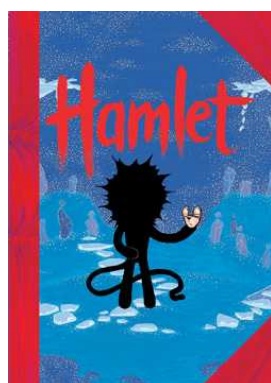
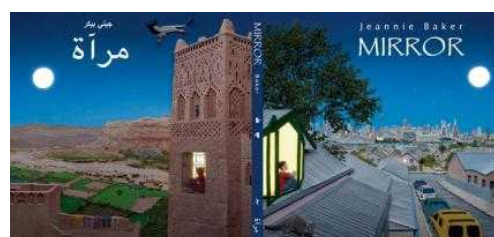
Older Readers Category: *The Midnight Zoo* by Sonya Hartnett  
Publisher: Viking Books, Penguin Group (Australia)

Younger Readers Category: *The Red Wind* by Isobelle Carmody  
Publisher: Viking Books, Penguin Group (Australia)



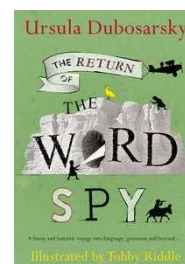
Early Childhood Category: *Maudie and Bear*  
by Jan Ormerod, Illus: Freya Blackwood  
Publisher: Little Hare Books

Picture Book Category: *Mirror*  
by Jeannie Baker (joint winner)  
Publisher: Walker Books



Picture Book Category: *Hamlet* by Nicki Greenberg (joint winner)  
Publisher: Allen & Unwin

Eve Pownall Award: *The Return of the Word Spy*  
by Ursula Dubosarsky, Illus. Tohby Riddle  
Publisher: Viking Books, Penguin Group (Australia)



A complete list of winner and honour books is available on the CBCA website at  
<http://cbca.org.au/winners2011.htm>

## CBCA BOOK OF THE YEAR 2011

I try to attend the presentation of the CBCA Book of the Year Awards, but unfortunately wasn't able to this year. This event is the culmination of over a year's work on judging the best of Australian children's literature. I like to be there to reinforce the role of the CBCA Awards Foundation and its importance in fulfilling the aims of the Children's Book Council of Australia: to promote quality literature for young Australians, to support Australian writers and illustrators of children's books and to celebrate outstanding contributions to Australian children's literature.

The CBCA Book of the Year Awards were first presented in 1946. Since then they have grown and changed. For many years there were no monetary prizes. If the winner was a female they received a camellia and if they were male, a handshake. While authors and illustrators enjoy the recognition that winning the awards gives them, there's nothing quite like receiving a cheque in an envelope. So several attempts to fund the awards produced some monetary prizes. There was a period of modest government funding, then five years of sponsorship - \$50,000 per year - by the Myer group. But in difficult times all this dried up and it was looking likely that we would have to return to a camellia and a handshake. Then, at the CBCA AGM in 1996, it was proposed that we set up a foundation, raise \$1million and therefore secure the financial independence of the awards. There were the doubters who said 'they'll never do it' but a vigorous national fund raising campaign realised our dream in 2006. It took ten years, but we made our million and are now able to pay monetary prizes to winners and honour books. We are grateful to the many publishers, booksellers, librarians, teachers and children who donated. We are also grateful to the many authors and illustrators who made contributions, as they recognised the importance of the encouragement they had received from the CBCA awards. Many received early recognition of their work from the CBCA and subsequently won major international awards and we're very proud of them.

This year's award of equal winners for the Picture Book Category presented a challenge. Would we have to split the prize money or would we have enough to double the amount paid? Fortunately we have realised enough on our investments this year to enable the full amount of prize money to be paid to both winners of this category, which is very satisfying. So congratulations to both winners of the Picture Book Category, and indeed to all recipients of winner or honour book prizes.

With the proliferation of so many other awards: Prime Ministers Award, Premiers' Awards, etc., the CBCA is not the richest award in the country. However, it is still the most influential award for children's books in Australia, in fact probably in the world. No other award makes it necessary for publishers to reprint the books immediately. No other award sees schools and libraries buy the shortlisted books. No other award has such a far-reaching effect on the success of the creators of children's books.

We are still taking donations, still 'topping-up' the capital - so that one day we might be able to increase the prize money. Major Donors and Benefactors are permanently acknowledged and donations are tax deductible. So, if you haven't already, please consider a contribution: <http://cbca.org.au/foundation.htm>

Margaret Hamilton AM  
CBCA Awards Foundation Manager

Children's Book Council of Australia ACT Branch

# Xmas Dinner: 15 Nov 2011



**Website:** <http://act.cbca.org.au/index.htm> **Email:** [act@cbca.org.au](mailto:act@cbca.org.au)



## Welcome

The President and Committee warmly welcome members to our Christmas Party on Tuesday 15 November at 5.30 pm at Dymocks, Belconnen, then dinner at 7.00 pm in the Catchpole Room, Southern Cross Club Jamison, cnr Catchpole & Bowman Sts Macquarie. Invited guests of Members most welcome. Menu: Bistro meal. Please note that Members need to pay for their meal on arrival. Drinks are available from the bar: <http://www.cssc.com.au/dining-details.php?pid=1&content=17>

Please bring a donation toy for a Xmas Hamper for our 2011 charity, Barnardo's Canberra: [http://www.barnardos.org.au/barnardos/html/canberra\\_centres.cfm](http://www.barnardos.org.au/barnardos/html/canberra_centres.cfm)

**Contact:** Margaret Carmody [act@cbca.org.au](mailto:act@cbca.org.au)

Welcome to our guest speaker. Thank you to Margaret Carmody for organizing this event.

**Important notice:** Members and invited guests, please sign the attendance book.

**Annual Subscriptions:** Annual subscriptions can be paid to the Membership Secretary.

**News:** Book Week was a huge success in Canberra with many children and adults attending the functions where they could meet their favourite authors.

## Activities

If you wish to attend any of these activities, please phone/email the contact person where there is one listed.

### Next Meeting – February 2012 - TBA

**Summer Picnic** Contact: Margaret Carmody [act@cbca.org.au](mailto:act@cbca.org.au) **Date:** Sun 22 January 2012 **Time:** 12.00 noon **Venue:** Lake Burley Griffin. Bring your family and your own picnic and catch up with other CBCA Members.

**Dietary Requirements:** Would those members with special dietary requirements please mention this to the contact person for any activities.



*Engaging the Community with Literature for Young Australians.*

## AUTHOR AND ILLUSTRATOR VISITS

The CBCA ACT Branch organised Author and Illustrator visits for Book Week in 2011. Inter-state guests included Steve Isham from Tasmania and Judy Horacek now based in Melbourne. Local participants included authors Tania McCartney, Pauline Deeves, Katie J Taylor and Stephanie Owen Reeder. Storyteller Mollie Bialkowski and out-going CBCA Judge Rosemary Thomas were also kept extremely busy doing school visits.

The Children's Seminar was held at Aranda Primary School this year followed by a well-attended dinner afterwards at Bella Vista Restaurant.

These visits enable hundreds of local students and adults to be exposed to and learn from talented authors and illustrators. They are successful due to the hard work of CBCA volunteers, including those who provide lifts to our visitors, as well as the Teachers and Teacher Librarians who invest time and money into the visits.

After five years, this is my last year as Author Visits Coordinator. I am pleased to hand over the reins to Leanne Barrett who I know will do a fabulous job.

Rachael Hind

## NEW AUTHOR AND ILLUSTRATOR VISITS COORDINATOR

Firstly I would like to thank Rachael Hind for the 5 years that she dedicated to this role. Rachael organised a wonderful program for the schools and ACT Libraries during Book Week, thank you.

I am a qualified Teacher Librarian (currently not attached to any school) who has worked in both Primary and High School Libraries. Currently, I am a reviewer for *Reading Time* and working on a personal research project on ePortfolios. I volunteer at Lu Rees Archives, working on Mark McLeod's illustrations from his book *Reggie, Queen of the Street*. I love sharing picture books with students. One of my passions is the work of illustrators, having previously worked as a volunteer guide at the National Art Gallery.

I am looking forward to working with all the stakeholders of the Author and Illustrator Visits. I am willing to listen to any feedback or suggestions that you wish to contribute, to continue the success of this activity.

Leanne Barrett  
Author and Illustrator Visits Coordinator  
[leannebarrett@bigpond.com](mailto:leannebarrett@bigpond.com)

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Tuesday 15 November: Dymocks Discount Night

Tuesday 15 November: CBCA Xmas Christmas Dinner

Sunday 22 January: Summer Picnic

## CBCA (ACT BRANCH) ARCHIVES ANNUAL REPORT 2011

Each year CBCA(ACT) documentation in hard copy is sent to the National Archivist for inclusion in the CBCA National Archives housed in the National Library of Australia. This documentation includes AGM minutes, annual reports, the branch constitution, a list of executive committee members, audited financial statements, copies of newsletters and significant publications by the branch.

All other documentation relating to the CBCA (ACT) is collected and regularly added to the branch archive housed in the ACT Heritage Library. This documentation, as well as the above mentioned, includes correspondence, publicity, meeting minutes and other relevant documents.

Problems with long-term storage of much of this material are arising because of the increasing use of electronic technology for information sharing. Emails and websites provide convenience and immediacy of communication, but with the alarming rate that state of the art technology is becoming obsolete, there is no guaranteed long-term retention of significant information by this medium. E.g. information stored on floppies and disks is by and large inaccessible at this time.

The local archivist prints hard copy of attachments and correspondence for addition to the local archives, but the format of some emails and websites is problematic.

The **National Archives General Guidelines** for format of material to be added to the Archives state:

1. “ ... ALL documentation should contain a ‘footer’ which would include a title, date and page number, preferably shown as 2 of 24 etc.
2. Branch Newsletters should clearly identify the branch, month and year of publication with a change of masthead or format occurring at the commencement of a calendar year. It would be advisable to make an addition to the newsletter stating that this is the official newsletter of the organization etc. or words to this effect. A copyright word or symbol is not required in this instance.
3. **When communicating officially by email; letters, reports and official documentation should be in the form of an attachment, not in the body of the email. This will exclude any unnecessary informal text and will ensure that the information to be disseminated is more official and representative of the person, branch or affiliation. Such attachments should be dated and show authorship. ...”**

Discussion by the CBCA(ACT) branch is needed to create guidelines for delivery, format and selection of information deemed important enough to be included in the ACT branch archive.

P. Smith  
Archivist for CBCA (ACT)  
21.09.2011





# 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.

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

### Tax Invoice

**Please tick:**  **\$44.00 Full membership** (inc.GST \$4.00) or  **\$11.00 student** (inc.GST \$1.00)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ School    Personal

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

State: \_\_\_\_\_ Postcode: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone :    (H) \_\_\_\_\_ (w) \_\_\_\_\_ (M) \_\_\_\_\_

Fax: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Student ID number: \_\_\_\_\_ Institution: \_\_\_\_\_

Online Banking: BSB 062 905, Account No. 10101547. Receipt No. \_\_\_\_\_

If making an online payment, please note online that it is for membership and your surname.  
Complete this form (incl. receipt number) and send to [amanda\\_dejongh@stpandp.act.edu.au](mailto:amanda_dejongh@stpandp.act.edu.au) or post.  
Please tick if you do not want your membership details included in the CBCA national members database