



INTERNATIONAL BOARD ON BOOKS FOR YOUNG PEOPLE



The International Board on Books for Young People (IBBY) is a non-profit organization which represents an international network of people from all over the world committed to bringing books and children together

NEWSLETTER No10

August, 2011

President's Letter

Dear IBBY Members and supporters

One of the great joys of involvement with IBBY Australia is that members and activities are scattered throughout our sprawling continent. In this newsletter you can read about events in just about every state and territory of Australia. On a personal note, I have been spending time in Tasmania and in September shall travel to Queensland to participate in the Ipswich Litfest.

As announced in our last newsletter, Christobel Mattingley and Bob Graham are the two Australian nominees for the 2012 Hans Christian Andersen Award. They have each made an outstanding contribution to Australian children's literature. If you work in a school or library, please consider putting on a special display of the books of these two creators, and so focus attention on the HCA awards and the honour of being nominated.

We congratulate the award-winners in the CBCA book awards. The slogan for this year Children's Book Week is highly suited to IBBY and its ideals: *One World, Many Stories*. IBBY Australia is happy to work with the CBCA and hopes to have a presence at the CBCA National Conference in Adelaide in May 2012.

A very special thank you to the energetic WA members, especially committee member Joanna Andrew for her work in organising a successful fundraising evening, and to those planning the fundraiser for Japanese children.

Dr Robyn Sheahan-Bright, committee member based in Queensland, has an important article as the lead piece in Bookbird. Entitled *Red, Yellow and Black*, it is an overview of Indigenous publishing in literature for children.

In the words of the President of IBBY worldwide, Ahmad Redza Ahmad Khairuddin :
The children of the world are our children. They have the right to be cared for, the right to be read to, the right to quality books and pictures and the right to become readers themselves.

Robin Morrow

IBBY AUSTRALIA INC

Introduces
Limited Edition Prints
by
2012 HC Andersen Award Illustrator Australian Nominee
Bob Graham



Bob Graham has created this work exclusively for IBBY Australia. Fine art prints (360mm (w) x 240mm (h) on paper 545(w) x 429 (h)) are now available, in a special edition which will be limited to 50 unmounted copies, each signed and numbered by the artist. The printer is Splitting Image in Melbourne, who are known for the quality of the prints they produce for artists around Australia. Giclee printing is a relatively new form of print technology that results in a remarkably accurate reproduction of the original artwork, whether the original be in watercolour, oil, pencil, pastel or some other medium. The process uses light-fast inks on archival papers

As well as enhancing the private collections of picture book lovers around the nation, these will make an excellent retirement or farewell gift from any school or library. Our thanks to Bob Graham for the gift of artwork, Ann James and Ann Haddon of *Books Illustrated* for their technical advice, and Tina Price for her support and agreeing to be our Merchandise Convenor.

Tina's email is tina.price@gmail.com The cost is \$175 + \$15 postage in Australia.

Payment can be made by EFT to Westpac Bank, Account Name IBBY Australia Inc, BSB 032087, Account No 283440; or by cheque to IBBY Australia Inc, posted to PO Box 329, Beecroft, NSW 2119.

PRESIDENTIAL VISIT TO TASMANIA

During a recent stay in northern Tasmania Robin Morrow was able to be part of the Children's Book Week Dinner celebrations in Launceston on Friday, 19th August, and she spoke about IBBY and its work. Penny Garnsworthy, Nella Pickup, Robin and Carol Fuller are pictured in the photograph below.



ENA NOEL AWARD PRESENTATION



Lili Wilkinson receiving the 2010 Ena Noel Award, a biennial encouragement award for a young Australian writer or illustrator of a published book.

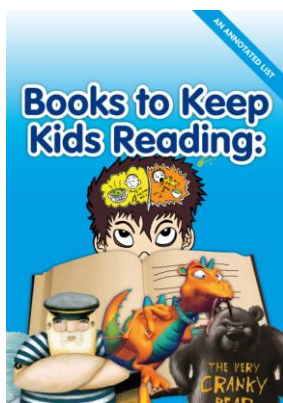
The presentation was made by IBBY Australia Inc President, Robin Morrow, at the biennial *Reading Matters* Conference, Melbourne in May. The announcement of Lili's award for *Scatterheart*, published by black dog books was first made in the August, 2010 edition of our newsletter.

Photo by Jan Nicholls.

NEWS FROM TASMANIA

CBCA Tasmania Inc. Community Trust Project: Books to Keep Kids Reading

Who hasn't walked into a book store or a library and been overwhelmed by the number of choices placed before the prospective reader? As a Literacy and Language teacher whose tools in trade are books, I might be expected to find choosing a book an easy task. Far from it!



Unless I have a title recommended by a fellow reader, or a favourite author through whose books I am currently wading, or my book club leader has told me this title is the next on the list, I find myself not only reluctant but sometimes just plain unable to choose just any book off the shelf. I don't want to choose or buy a dud when there are more good books to read than I will manage to read in my lifetime. I need guidance, recommendations from someone or some list. Does this strike a chord with you?

So what about busy parents not in the trade? How do they fare? How do they choose and guide their kids? Do they fall back on those favourites from their childhood? Perhaps these books are a bit out of date but do children really mind? Do parents go along with the publishers' blurbs and best seller lists which, after all, are designed to sell the publishers' own stable of writers? Or do they just give up and opt out of their children's literary development, leaving that business entirely up to dedicated teachers who, by the way, can also find it difficult to stay in touch.

In her former life as a librarian, Nella Pickup found that parents, even clued up, educated, dedicated book reading parents, were just like me and completely at sea when deciding what to read to or with their children. Enter one CBCA Tasmania Inc. project submission to the Tasmanian Community Fund to procure money to tackle this problem. The official name of the project is ***Books to Keep Kids Reading***. This project, in line with the objectives of CBCA, aims to equip parents with the skills to choose the **what to read** rather than demonstrating the **how to read**. It also wants to put more emphasis on the age group from grade three upwards when most children are developing into independent readers and at which stage many parents stop actively supporting or participating in their children's reading activities.

All the research and any classroom teacher will tell you that it is at this stage that the degree of parent/home participation in reading is in direct proportion to the reading success which in turn relates directly to learning success of the individual child. The free booklet will also encapsulate the basic skills and information encompassed in the group discussions. So where will these parent/carer discussions take place? Well, anywhere that a group of parents might meet together: Neighbourhood or Community Houses, Child Health Centres, playgroups, P&F meetings - anywhere around the state where interest is shown. If you know of any group or organization that might be interested in hosting a discussion/information session in your area, please contact Carol Fuller on 0419 116 636 or email carol.fuller@bigpond.com.

Carol Fuller

NEWS FROM WESTERN AUSTRALIA



Joanna Andrew receiving ticket money

Congratulations to IBBY Australia Inc committee member Joanna Andrew who kindly organized a Film Fundraiser on Sunday, 7th August to help contribute to our coffers and to pay our nomination fees for the 2012 HC Andersen Award. The film *Red Dog* showcased the Pilbara area and the legendary story of the Red Dog, whose statue now stands at the entrance to Dampier. Eight-year-old year old Carla Ryan of Swanbourne picked the winning ticket for our Raffle prize, which was a

piece of original artwork by Mark Wilson from his illustrations for *Stranded* by Jan Ramage (black dog books) and framing donated by Lesley Reece, Director, Fremantle Children's Literature Centre. The winner was Professor Terry Woodings of the School of Electrical, Electronic and Computer Engineering at the University of Western Australia. The painting is now hanging in his home study and is particularly appropriate as his son, Simon, did his Physics honours thesis on the sound attenuation from whale calls in shallow water. In addition Professor Woodings is active with the Save the Children Fund charity so his win is most serendipitous. The evening raised a total of \$950.00 and we thank Joanna Andrew, Mark Wilson and Lesley Reece and all who attended for their wonderful support.



Professor Woodings receiving his Mark Wilson artwork from Jenni Woodroffe

NEWS FROM SOUTH AUSTRALIA

Congratulations to The Storytelling Guild of South Australia on a wonderful weekend (29-31st July) devoted to storytelling. *If on a Winter's Night...* was a concert featuring 11 storytellers at the Church of the Trinity and attracted an audience of 140 empathetic listeners. As lovers of storytelling know well, there is something very special and nurturing about a tale well told, and hearts were warmed and at times a tear or two were not far off as the evening proceeded with its rich and varied programme. The following day was time for business to discuss the future of storytelling in Australia, with interstate participants joining South Australians around the table, and 6 others skyping in from other states. Sunday, *On a Winter's Day*



featured Workshops led by Helen Lawry (SA) Jenni Woodroffe (WA) Monty Kelly (currently SA) and Jackie Kerin (Vic) with many ideas shared that would be useful for this year's Children's Book Week celebrations and its theme *One World Many Stories*. Thanks to Ruth Carson and Graham Ross for organizing this weekend to promote and stimulate storytelling in South Australia and also Australia wide.

Left: Jacki Kerin demonstrating Kamishibai with her special Kamishibai theatre and telling the HC Andersen story *The Princess and the Pea* with artwork by Leonie Kervin

More News from South Australia

After attending the South Australian Storytelling Gathering I was able to spend time with Heather and John Foster, last seen at the 2010 Santiago de Compostela IBBY Congress. Reminiscing on IBBY matters and the children's literature scene in Australia was interspersed with discovering Adelaide. A special treat we enjoyed was afternoon tea with Christobel and David Mattingley, providing John with a hands-on encounter with Christobel's HC Andersen Award dossier and both of us the chance to see the draft of Christobel's forthcoming book, *My Father's Islands: the Heroic Life and Voyages of Abel Janszoon Tasman*, to be published by the National Library of Australia.

As Heather and I walked down Norwood Parade I was surprised to find the plaque commemorating the arrival of May Gibbs and her family in South Australia-very serendipitous given the current concerns in South Perth regarding the future of the Heritage House Cultural Centre and May and Herbert Gibbs Art Collection.

While in Adelaide, contact was established with Jane Brummitt. She and co-author Robert Holden are having their latest work *May Gibbs: More than a Fairy Tale: an Artistic Life* (Hardie Grant Egmont) launched at *Nutcote* on the 8th October, by Marie Bashir, Governor of NSW, a Patron of *Nutcote* and a fan of May's since childhood

Jenni Woodroffe

News from Queensland

2008 HC Andersen Award Australian nominee for writing, Jackie French, has just released her book *Flood*, with illustrations by Bruce Whatley (Scholastic). According to Jackie, the book focuses on the community spirit in the aftermath of the Queensland floods earlier this year. She hopes it is this that the children remember. It was the incredible, everyday heroism of ordinary people, many of whom came from interstate to assist, that contributed to this extraordinary story. With his sensitive watercolours Bruce tells the story of a dog, and this runs parallel to the words. A copy of the book is being sent to every Australian primary school and proceeds are being donated to the Qld Premier's Flood Appeal.

Bookbird

Two items of particular interest to Australians can be found in the Vol 49 No 3 July edition of *Bookbird*. The leading feature article *Red, Yellow, and Black: Australian Indigenous publishing for young people* by IBBY Australia committee member Robyn Sheahan-Bright is a seminal work providing practical references and sensitive insights into the development of indigenous publishing for young people from the beginning of colonisation to the present day. This article would provide valuable information for those preparing to celebrate Indigenous Literacy Day on Wednesday, 7th September.

There is also a review of Juliet O'Conor's *Botthersnikes and Other Lost Things: A Celebration of Australian Illustrated Picture Books* (The Miegunyah Pr, 2009) by Claudia Soffner

Congratulations

To Susanne Gervay, OAM who was awarded the Medal of the Order of Australia for services to children's literature and professional organizations on the 13th June, 2011. Susanne is well known as a writer and for her leading role in the Society of Children's Writers & Illustrators (SCBWI) and is a member of IBBY Australia.

Also to Dr Mark Carthew, IBBY Australia member, who has been accepted to present at the IBBYUK/NCRCL Poetry Conference University of Roehampton, London, 12th November 2011; his paper is *Slam dunk: bringing poetry to life through performance*.

Symbol of Hope

Older members may remember the visit to the east coast of Belfast's Liz Weir and her paper presented to the Children's Libraries Section of the LAA in Sydney, March, 1987. An account of her recent activities has been promoted by her storytelling friend, Cathryn Wellner of British Columbia, Canada. As we never cease to be amazed about the power of story, do check out Cathryn's blog with news of her good storytelling friend:

<http://www.thisgivesmehope.com/2011/08/08/113-flags-of-hope-fly-in-belfast/>

Inspired by Scherazade's 1001 Nights of Storytelling, Cathryn's blog aims to discover 1001 stories to bring hope to our world.

Asian Festival of Children's Content 2011



A Reflection by Ken Spillman

Organised by the National Book Development Council of Singapore, the first Asian Festival of Children's Content (AFCC) was held in 2010. It had grown out of the Asian

Children's Writers and Illustrators Conference (ACWIC), which now forms one component of the expanded festival which has a more regional focus. I'm proud to have had a connection with this festival from the outset: I was keynote speaker at the final stand-alone ACWIC, and I'm a foundation member of the advisory board for the AFCC. Last year I chaired an Australia-Asia dialogue as part of AFCC, bringing together writers, illustrators and publishers from across the region.

AFCC 2011 ran from 26-28 May, with workshops and masterclasses extending until 30 May. It was held at Arts House, Singapore's former parliamentary building, with plenary sessions in the grand old chamber. There, SCBWI president Stephen Mooser (USA) delivered a fine keynote, reflecting on changes and continuities in reading and children's writing since his childhood.

The gathering was further dignified by the presence of a newcomer to the world of children's writing, the current President of Timor Leste, Jose Ramos Horta. Don't be fooled, though – the Nobel Peace Prize winner is no fan of ceremony, and the atmosphere throughout the festival was delightfully informal. There were book launches galore and well-attended sessions on diverse aspects of writing, editing, illustrating, publishing and marketing. A publishers' symposium and a media summit picked up on the buzz around digital futures, and every spare corner was filled with informal meetings of minds. Sessions run by Australians included Chris Cheng on collaborations and marketing; Dianne Wolfer on history and life

experiences in fiction; and my own session on gender difference and engaging boys.

For me, the highlight was chairing an international panel of judges for Singapore's new \$10,000 award for children's books. This was one of two new prizes launched last year, with the other (the \$10,000 Scholastic prize awarded to an unpublished manuscript by an Asian writer) chaired by Hong Kong's Nury Vittachi. The awards ceremony required me to address a full parliamentary chamber immediately following a Nobel Prize winner – not something I'd have expected when I began writing for children!

The AFCC is a wonderful event in a beautiful city that is 'just round the corner' for most Australians. Let's see more Aussies there in 2012 – taking off for a few days in late May will not be regretted.

.MALAYSIA

The inaugural Malaysian International Storytelling Festival will be held on the 11-12th September at Sunway International School and Monash University. Over 1,000 teachers, parents and children will come together for two days of storytelling workshops and performances. Further information about the seven master storytellers can be found at

<http://www.malaysiainternationalstorytellingfestival.org/>

ENGLAND

For those attending the 2012 IBBY Congress in London, useful information about children's literature in Britain can be found at <http://www.ibbycongress2012.org/london-and-childrens-literature.php>

PORTUGAL

We have pleasure in welcoming back IBBY Portugal whose membership lapsed at the end of 2008. Portugal will be the guest of honour at the 2012 Bologna Book Fair. Worldwide there are now 74 IBBY sections.

CORRECTION

Newsletter No 9 page 9 under Valette. Ian Tucker should have read Ian Abdulla.

News from the Northern Territory

Baby Board Book Launch, by Shirley Shepherd

A new baby board book was launched on 20th July at Yirrkala in North East Arnhem Land, Northern Territory. *Nganapu Nguli Marrtji Diltjiyi (We Go Out to the Bush)* is a dual language book written in Yolngu Matha and English.

The project was developed and managed by IBBY Australia member, Shirley Shepherd, who is the Library and Knowledge Centre Regional Manager for East Arnhem Shire Council. Members of Yirrkala and Gunyangara communities developed the storyline, artwork and song through a series of workshops coordinated by Tanya Hague. Nyalung Wunungmurra and Ritjilili Ganambarr from Yirrkala and Caroline Dhamarrandji from Gunyangara created the artwork. Nyalung and Ritjilili provided the translation. The baby board book has an accompanying CD with recordings of the story being read in both languages, an explanation in language of the pictures on each page and the song, which is performed by community members.

Copies will be given to Yolngu families of new babies as a gift. The Yolngu Matha baby board book is an important step in promoting the importance of own language and early literacy by encouraging exposure to books at the earliest possible age, whilst focussing on the importance of families.

At the launch, Djapirri Mununggurritj said the book reflected on the efforts by Shirley Shepherd to bring books and stories out to the community for children and families.

Djapirri said it is important to take the children out into the bush. “We need to remind our younger generations to explore the richness nature has to offer.”

The book was produced through a partnership between East Arnhem Shire Council and Northern Territory Library using funding provided by the Northern Territory Government’s ‘Families as First Teachers’ strategy.

Copies of the book are available for sale from East Arnhem Shire Council, email shirley.shepherd@eastarnhem.nt.gov.au or www.eastarnhem.net.au .



Nyalung Wunungmurra and Ritjilili Ganambarr at the book launch

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Saturday, 24th September at the Hyogo Cultural Centre, 20 Kalinda Drive City Beach, Western Australia at 4.30 – 6.00 pm

Meet the Authors: Cristy Burne and Briony Stewart, two WA authors with strong links to Japan. This will be preceded by a Japanese cultural presentation by two visiting university interns from Hyogo Prefecture at 3.00 pm. Cost is \$20 per person. This is a Fundraiser for the IBBY Children in Crisis Appeal to assist IBBY to purchase minivans to deliver books to children affected by the earthquake and tsunami and for bibliotherapy programmes. Reservations can be made at 9385 9002 or emailing hyogoprogram@inet.net.au

Wednesday, 9th November NSW members and friends, we suggest you keep this date free for an IBBY Fundraising evening at 7pm. Robin Morrow will talk about *A Life in Books*. Paul MacDonald of The Children's Bookshop, Beecroft, has kindly offered to host the event in the bookshop's upstairs room. There will be a Japanese flavour to the evening, too, and money raised will help the IBBY Children in Crisis Appeal to help IBBY buy minivans to deliver books to children affected by the earthquake and tsunami. Bookings through The Children's Bookshop, phone (02) 9481 8811.

WANTED – 140 Members for IBBY AUSTRALIA INC

Thank you to all who joined in 2010 and renewed their membership, and a reminder that there are a few outstanding renewals still to come. We look forward to welcoming 140 more individual Members for IBBY Australia and another 14 institutional Members. Please join us and help us continue as an independent and incorporated body to assist in showcasing Australian authors and illustrators for young people on the world stage.

RSVP to Dr Robin Morrow, PO Box 329, Beecroft, NSW 2119 or Email Robin.Morrow@wordsandphrases.com.au

Name _____

Address _____

Tel: (w) _____ (h) _____ Mob: _____

Email: _____

Cost: Individual \$25.00 Institution \$100.00

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