



INTERNATIONAL BOARD ON BOOKS FOR YOUNG PEOPLE



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

## **NEWSLETTER No 22**

**August, 2014**

### **President's Letter**

Dear members and supporters of IBBY Australia

IBBY worldwide is committed to the Convention on the Rights of the Child (UN 1990). These rights are based on what a child needs to survive, grow, participate and fulfill their potential; and a secure place to live is the most fundamental of those needs. Among projects supported by the IBBY Children in Crisis Fund is the award-winning Tamer Institute for Community Education project in Gaza. Please read p 3 for news of the distressing situation there.

In Australia our AGM will be held on November 6th (see p 2) and is an important one, as all executive positions will be open for nomination. Financial members of IBBY Australia will receive notice in time to make nominations. If you are a NSW member, please try to attend; proxy forms will be provided for those who can't make it.

Our HCA nominees continue to shine. Ron Brooks was the creator of the artwork for the CBCA Book Week 2014 merchandise, to which he brought his hallmark originality and meticulous design skills. Nadia Wheatley was a Keynote speaker at the July ALEA/AATE Conference in Darwin, *Anticipating new territories: building strong minds, places and futures*, and a fortunate few were able to attend her pre-conference workshop.

It is sad news that the Aora collection had to be dismantled (see p 6). Miranda Harrowell is to be congratulated on her inspired work for Aora. Miranda and Karyn Green, two NSW IBBY members, rescued Aora and maintained it for many years with the help of generous volunteers.

And looking to the future, IBBY New Zealand is busily planning the international congress to be held in Auckland in August 2016, which promises to be richly stimulating. We'll supply program details as soon as possible, and encourage you meanwhile to mark your diaries for a most worthwhile trip across The Ditch at that time.

The original piece of art by Bob Graham, so beloved of those who bought limited edition prints, is still for sale. If you wish to make an offer for it, contact Tina Price, IBBY merchandise convenor.

*Robin Morrow, AM*

# AGM of IBBY Australia Inc

Thursday, 6th November

at The Children's Bookshop, 6 Hannah Street, Beecroft NSW

7 pm arrive, pre-meeting drinks  
7.30 AGM of IBBY Australia, including elections

8.00 pm Dr Robyn Sheahan-Bright *What's Wrong with the Wobbegong? Across Borders: the Inclusive and Multinational Work of Gregory Rogers*



And



Dr Robin Morrow *Mixed Messages: Australian picture books about refugees, more hospitable than our political discourse*

[both papers first delivered at the Mexico World Congress]

Entry free but RSVP essential, to the bookshop, phone 02 9481 8811  
or [staff@thechildrensbookshop.com.au](mailto:staff@thechildrensbookshop.com.au)

Financial members will receive formal notice of the AGM, including a proxy form for those unable to attend, later in the year



## CHILDREN IN CRISIS FUND

Dear All

For the past five years IBBY has been supporting two children's libraries in Gaza through the IBBY Children in Crisis Fund. In 2013 an IBBY delegation of the President, IBBY Foundation President, IBBY Palestine President and myself, visited the two libraries and we have subsequently helped them to upgrade the services and collections with support from the *Katherine Paterson Family Foundation* and the *IBBY Children in Crisis Fund*.

See the IBBY website for a report of our visit ([IBBY Project in Gaza](#)) and for a recent report from the project by IBBY Palestine ([IBBY Project Gaza July-December 2013](#)).

Therefore, it was with great dismay that the following message arrived this morning.

### IBBY Libraries in Gaza/ Israeli Aggression

19/7/2014

The two IBBY library areas that are border areas (Rafah and Beit Hanoun) have been heavily bombarded by Israeli military, thousands of Palestinians living there have been displaced. The two areas are now military zones after the Israeli land invasion. IBBY received this message from the librarian in Beit Hanoun, Abla Hassan, about the situation there before she was displaced two days. (It is getting worse):

The al-Ata' community based centre that hosts the library has been targeted and very badly damaged. The children court yard has been destroyed as well as books, computers, windows and walls. As to houses of the children who use the library, three houses have been completely destroyed and thirty houses partially destroyed. The number of children or their family members killed is not known yet.

No known news about the library in al-Shawka – Rafah. All families are displaced, including the librarian Mahmoud who left two days ago and described the situation as 'horrific': tens of civilians killed and tens of houses destroyed and no specific news about the situation of the children using the library and the library building.

IBBY's founder, Jella Lepman, believed that books could build bridges of understanding and peace between people. These are our friends and colleagues, people who like you and I, who believe that through good books and reading we can change our futures and bring understanding between people. These children have no such belief any more.

As time goes on the situation in Gaza and the life of these children and families gets worse - they are trapped. This abominable war must stop and the blockades must be lifted. Tell your governments, share the news.

With deep sorrow,  
Liz Page, Executive Director, International Board on Books for Young People.

For latest updates see: <http://www.ibby.org/index.php?id=257>



## HAVE YOUR SAY! HANS CHRISTIAN ANDERSEN AWARD NOMINATIONS



Committee members of IBBY Australia Inc have resolved to continue to make nominations of Australian creators for the biennial Hans Christian Andersen Award. To be included in the exhibition of nominees, and showcased in the IBBY journal *Bookbird* is clearly a tremendously important validation of the nominees' work, and also an influential promotion of Australian children's literature.

A sub-committee, chaired by Robyn Sheahan-Bright (who prepared the 2012 and 2014 dossiers), has been appointed to select the two Australian candidates for nomination for the next cycle of the HCA Award. Robyn will work with Robin Morrow (President) and Jenni Woodroffe (Vice-President/Secretary) to prepare the nominations for 2016.

The Hans Christian Andersen Awards are presented to an author or an illustrator for their complete body of work to date and are judged by the following criteria:

- a) The aesthetic and literary qualities of writing and illustrating
- b) The ability to see things from a child's point of view
- c) The ability to stretch the child's curiosity and well as the child's literary and creative imagination
- d) Cultural differences in literary aesthetics will be taken into account and appreciated
- e) Freshness and innovation will be a great advantage
- f) The complete works of the author and illustrator will be taken into consideration [These criteria are for the 2014 Award; details of the 2016 Award have not yet been released by the IBBY Secretariat.]

To assist in the selection process, all **financial** members of IBBY Australia are invited to submit a suggested nominee as a candidate in each of the two categories, writer and illustrator. Recommendations are to be emailed to Robyn at [rsheahan5@bigpond.com](mailto:rsheahan5@bigpond.com) or mailed to c/- PO Box 648, Gladstone, Queensland 4680 by 30 September 2014. We look forward to receiving members' suggestions, which will be taken into account by the committee in its deliberations. However, please note that the committee reserves the right to make the final decision and no correspondence will be entered into.

**Background:** Since the establishment of the Australian branch of IBBY in 1966, Australia has rarely submitted nominations for these prestigious awards – the 1976 and 1978 nominations for Ivan Southall and Patricia Wrightson in 1984 were unsuccessful, but memorably in 1986 Australia was successful in winning both awards with Patricia Wrightson and Robert Ingpen. Since then, we have made only three pairs of Australian nominations: Shaun Tan and Jackie French in 2008; Bob Graham and Christobel Mattingley in 2012; and Ron Brooks and Nadia Wheatley in 2014.

### Are You Our Mystery Renewing Member?

On the 25<sup>th</sup> June, 2014 a \$30 Bank Deposit from an unknown member was made to our Bank account from the Commonwealth Bank of Australia. Please notify the Secretary at [jennij@inet.net.au](mailto:jennij@inet.net.au)



# DISCOVERING NATIONAL TREASURES

## 11TH NATIONAL CONFERENCE OF THE CHILDREN'S BOOK COUNCIL OF AUSTRALIA

### CANBERRA 16-18 MAY 2014



This year I attended the opening and first day of the Children's Book Council of Australia's National Conference. The weather was cool but hadn't as yet reached the chilly depths of a Canberra winter, and the autumn colours were beautiful and much appreciated by this Perth dweller, as we really don't see them much in the West.

The opening was held in the entrance hall of the National Library with the beautiful Leonard French stained glass windows. There was a launch by the Director-General of the NLA Anne-Marie Schwirtlich of *The Fairy Who Wouldn't Fly* – a retelling of the Pixie O'Harris story by Bronwen Davies, using the original Pixie O'Harris images. This was followed by a visit to, and a highlight of my trip: a visit to the Bob Graham retrospective exhibition, *A Bird in the Hand*. Wonderfully curated by Ann James and Ann Haddon of Books Illustrated from material from the Lu Rees Archives and Bob Graham's own studio, this exhibition is well worth a visit. See <http://www.museumsandgalleries.act.gov.au/slideshow/bobgraham.html>

The theme of the conference was *Discovering National Treasures* and there were quite a few in attendance. It began with Barry Jonsberg and Michael Gerard Bauer bouncing off each other in an ad-hoc game of one upmanship in an amusing but not totally useful session on the search for "Story Gold". This was followed by four women writer/illustrators discussing *Motherhood and Mayhem*; as a mother, I could empathize rather than be inspired.

More inspiring though were the later sessions. *Picture Book Partnerships* brought together some of Australia's leading creative combinations: Libby Gleeson & Freya Blackwood, Glenda Millard & Stephen Michael King and Julia Vivas & Margaret Wild (unable to attend, but her contribution read by Margaret Hamilton). It was wonderful to see the deep appreciation the pairs had for each other and for each others' work; to see and hear such beautiful artwork and poetic prose was a privilege. A small insight was Julia Vivas mentioning that she wasn't always happy with the final choice of images for a book.

The two sessions I enjoyed the most were the plenary sessions of Bronwyn Bancroft's *Journey of Inspiring Moments* and Anthony Hill's *Bullet-proof! A Century of War, ANZAC and Children's Books*. Whilst I have seen the beautiful indigenous artwork of Bronwyn's books, I knew little about her, and to discover that she is a prodigious artist with significant art installations was staggering. An artist of immense talent and energy, her life story is unusual and exceedingly interesting.

However Anthony Hill's talk was for me the most interesting. Using textual illustrations, Anthony discussed the changes in the style of writing about war for children over the last century: reading from a 1918 piece by a Reverend gentleman, who likened the WW1 soldiers to the warriors and heroes of the ancient world to the more realistic depictions of wartime by today's children's literature writers. In today's world, war footage is available 24/7. It is all too easy to become immune. So it becomes vitally important for writers to interpret its effects, to humanise an all too often de-humanising experience. Anthony's talk fitted well with the conference dinner that was held at the Australian War Memorial. Attendees arrived to a haunting lone piper, ate amongst airplanes and were treated to a wonderful performance of Morris Gleitzman's *Loyal Creatures* and an impassioned speech from Australian Children's Laureate Jackie French. I was sorry to have missed it.

Saturday finished with a series of concurrent sessions. I was torn between Robin's IBBY talk and the *Voices from Afar*, featuring WA's treasure, author Dianne Wolfer. I opted for IBBY and learnt more of IBBY's work both here and overseas, including the HCA award. I finished the day with Steven Herrick discussing verse novels, particularly his own award winning titles. Overall my conference experience was enjoyable and a success.

*Ruth Nitschke* WA IBBY member

# FAREWELL TO AN ICONIC COLLECTION

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## Aora

Children's Literature Research Centre NSW Inc.

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Aora closed in December 2013. In its efforts to find homes for the 20,000 items the Aora Management Committee invited the Sydney University volunteer team to select titles for their Chancellor's Committee Book Fair to be held in the Great Hall on Saturday 13 to Wednesday 17 September 2014

Aora's beginnings were in the 1960s when lecturer in children's literature, Margaret Trask, saved discards from public libraries to be a resource collection for her students. This collection was returned to Sydney public libraries in 1992 and a group of ex children's librarians maintained the collection as it expanded with donations from the NSW Department of Education offices at Ryde, bibliographer Kerry White, Penguin publishing, authors, public library discards and individual donors.

The aim of the collection was to make it the children's literature research collection for New South Wales, available to students and researchers of children's literature and the general public. Sadly this area of study has diminished over the years and low memberships and high insurance costs made Aora unsustainable. A Business Plan for its future launched by the State Librarian of NSW in 2010 was only partly implemented.

A newsletter was produced and circulated to public library librarians, school librarians, teachers, academics, publishers, bookshops and parents. The historical and cultural value of the collection was highly regarded by Aora's Patron Dr Maurice Saxby AM, internationally acknowledged as the expert on Australian children's literature and Vice-President Dr Robin Morrow AM. Aora was housed in the original kindergarten classroom at St Peters Public School and it was a room filled with memories and stories from childhood.

The collection was representative of fiction and picture books children of NSW have grown up reading since white settlement in 1788.

While 95% of Aora's books can be found in libraries scattered across Australia this room housed them all under the one roof. Old favourites, girls' and boys' annuals, the history and teaching of children's literature, early NSW School Magazines, Australian Children's Book of the Year awards, overseas awards and classics of Australian, English and American children's literature.

Aora was unique and loved and appreciated by all who visited.

***Miranda Harrowell* AM** Aora President and NSW IBBY member

## NEWS FROM TASMANIA

Christobel Mattingley DUnivSA, BA Hons Tas, ALAA was presented with the University of Tasmania's Distinguished Alumni Award for 2014 at a dinner for 450 in Hobart on 1 May. We congratulate Christobel Mattingley, IBBY Australia's 2012 HC Andersen Award nominee for writing, on receiving this accolade.



Photo courtesy of UTAS Alumni

Her citation includes the following:

“Born in Brighton, a seaside suburb of Adelaide, Christobel Mattingley came to Tasmania with her family as a fourteen year old. Her studies at the University of Tasmania began in 1948 and in May 1951, she successfully graduated with a Bachelor of Arts with first class Honours, majoring in German...

Christobel's writing embodies a keen community concern. Her children's books feature characters who may be viewed as desirable models for young people, without detracting from

the appeal of the stories. Many of her books have been translated into other languages and published in Braille and as Hear a Book for the visually impaired. Her writing reflects a passion for causes such as preservation of the environment, Aboriginal rights and heritage, the effects of nuclear weapons on innocent people, and international cooperation.

Christobel's strongly held principles and concerns are not only expressed in her books. Her energetic participation in workshops and community events throughout Australia and beyond, and her willingness to share her writing expertise with young people, is represented by a constant stream of activity which has continued through to the present day. Her contribution has been consistently recognised over four and a half decades through a number of awards and accolades.”

## NEWS FROM VICTORIA

Author/illustrator Mark Wilson writes:

Thanks for the opportunity to talk about our books for Timor Leste. *The Timor Sparrow* one of six books I have written, to be printed in the main Tetum dialect used in Timor Leste. Pam Horsey and CLAN (Children's Literature Australia Network) are producing the series to be published by NEEF (National Employment and Education Foundation). Both are volunteer organisations.

The six stories are picture books from pre-school level to roughly grade six. One book for each level. They are illustrated so that the story can be read to a child 'from the pictures', regardless of the language or dialect of the reader, as children often have a different dialect to a grandmother or teacher etc.

The books are important for what is essentially a new nation (since independence) where children need to be given the chance that should be the right of all children – to learn and grow and appreciate their own culture and history. This is why all the stories deal with an aspect of Timor culture, history, flora and fauna.

I have finished the first one, *The Timor Sparrow*, which NEEF has had scanned and digitised, ready for printing. We are trying to raise the funds to print it and start the second book in the series. I am waiting further information from CLAN.

## News from Western Australia: visit of Dr Ernie Bond



Dr Ernie Bond introduces his first image resulting in a lively discussion on the significance of colour on the left, and grey on the right hand page. Photo: Courtesy of The Literature Centre.

On a dark, wet, windy evening in Fremantle, Professor Ernie Bond, together with some of his students from Salisbury University (Maryland USA), kept children's literature enthusiasts enthralled with his presentation on "Reading the Image: Visual Literacy" at The Literature Centre, on Friday, 25<sup>th</sup> July.

Presented by SCBWI Australia West, and hosted by Lesley Reece, Director of The Literature Centre, Ernie involved his audience in a lively discussion on how to encourage readers of all ages to interpret images in books and how wordless picture books can be of inestimable value, especially as

children and young people with a different mother tongue can create the dialogue.

Professor of Children's Literature and Chair of the Teacher Education Department, Salisbury University, Ernie Bond has twice served as the USA jurist for the Hans Christian Anderson Award and is one of the founders of the Green Earth Book Awards. He is the author of *Literature and the Young Adult Reader* and is active in the Children's Book Guild, The USBBY and IBBY.

## News from Queensland: Curtis Coast Literary Carnivale a Big Success

The CCLC is a biennial regional literary festival held in the Gladstone Regional Council area of Queensland, encompassing Miriam Vale and Calliope. The event also services neighbouring regions, such as Biloela, Bundaberg, Livingstone and Rockhampton Shires. The sixth biennial event was held from 27–30 July 2014 and featured guests Tristan Bancks, Peter Carnavas, Sarah Davis, Anna Fienberg, Narelle Oliver and James Roy.

The festival began with the *Write On!* Workshops for teenagers and adults, held at both the Gladstone Regional Art Gallery and Museum and the Gladstone Library on Sunday 27 July. It was launched at the literary dinner that evening by Mayor Gail Sellers, and the six presenters entertained an appreciative crowd with hilarious stories and anecdotes. From Monday to Wednesday 28-30 July they conducted 54 schools sessions at CQUniversity, Tannum Sands SS and Calliope SS, attracting approximately 4000 bookings. The exhibition of Narelle, Peter and Sarah's



Peter Carnavas keeping a class of students enthralled.

picture book art ran from 27 June to 2 August at the Gladstone Regional Art Gallery and Museum, and the launch was conducted by Mrs Liz Cunningham, Member for Gladstone.

*'And just a final thanks for the whole event. It was just outstanding and hopefully some of the kids (and grown-ups) had as much fun as I did. All the best,'* **Peter Carnavas**

The presenters really enjoyed themselves, and locals were

enthralled by their presentations and bought many books from Brisbane-based The Book Garden. The CCLC Committee is grateful to them and to our other supporters listed on our website, for the success of this year's event. CCLC website <http://carnivale.gladstonerc.qld.gov.au/>

**Robyn Sheahan-Bright** EC and Qld IBBY member



## FURTHER NEWS FROM VICTORIA

### A tribute to Jo Goodman

I thought you may like to hear about the celebration of Jo's life held on the 2<sup>nd</sup> August at the wonderfully appropriate Monsalvat in Eltham, near where Jo lived.

Everyone gathered at the Great Hall, a very Hogwartish setting with its stone church-like structure, a large fireplace burning, and thick wooden tables with candles and rough slate floors, set amongst rolling green hills spotted with snowbells and daffodils, peacocks and geese. There were family, authors, illustrators, publishers, CBCA people, old friends and neighbours present. Over 100 people.

With all standing, Jo's casket was carried to the front of the room and on it were placed flowers, a stack of her favourite books and some of her stuffed toy collection, characters from her favourite children's books. In memory of Jo, people had been invited to wear their favourite children's book T-shirt and bring their favourite stuffed toy from a children's book. Many did, which added a lovely whimsical touch to the tables and provided a great conversation-starter.

Jo's family, neighbour and Virginia Lowe spoke and shared their loving and heartfelt memories. The last, Jo's grandson, led everyone in singing one of their family favourites: "May the fire be your friend and the sea rock you gently. May the moon light your way till the wind sets you free." We sang it several times over and it sounded beautiful with the high ceilings drawing the voices upward. Very ethereal.

People were invited to spontaneously come up and share a memory of Jo. In twos and threes they took to the stage and spoke. We got a glimpse of the many facets of Jo's life, which was lovely. Some common themes emerged... generous, detailed, determined, keen-minded, mischievous, creative and playful. Jo was very dedicated to her family, and some lovely stories were shared. Flutes of champagne were distributed and a toast to Jo made.

People stood as musicians played a slow version of *Hedwig's Theme* from Harry Potter. It sounded so beautiful and an appropriate farewell as the casket left the room. Great platters of sandwiches and fresh baked scones with jam and cream descended and people talked and mingled. Family and close friends then left for the burial. Jo would have absolutely approved.

A wonderful heartfelt celebration.

As Albert Ullin poignantly read out (with help from Pam Horsey):

"No man is an island, entire of itself,  
every man is a piece of the continent, a part of the main.  
If a clod be washed away by the sea, Europe is the less, as well as if a promontory were,  
As well as if a manor of thy friend's or of thine own were:  
any man's death diminishes me, because I am involved in mankind,  
and therefore never send to know for whom the bell tolls;  
it tolls for thee." [John Donne]

Farewell Jo

*Tina Price*

EC and Victorian IBBY member

## AUSTRALIAN – CHINESE CONNECTIONS

Two new South Australian IBBY members share their experiences of Chinese publishing connections:

### **Phil Cummings writes:**

In March 2013 publisher Jane Covernton of Working Title Press attended the Australia-China Publishing Forum in Beijing. The forum was organised by the Australian embassy to investigate market opportunities for Australian children's publishers, authors and illustrators. The specific focus for the two-day trade segment was on children's books. On the first day the forum offered a background on the Chinese publishing industry. On the second day delegates were introduced to a range of Chinese publishers. During this time Jane met with Jackie Huang, who runs the Beijing office of Andrew Nurnberg and Associates. The message that came through was that it was better to have an agent in this newly developing market and Jackie agreed to act on Jane's behalf. Subsequent negotiations saw Jane secure a publishing deal for thirteen of her titles, including two of my picture books: *Boom Bah!*, illustrated by Nina Rycroft and *Night Watch*, illustrated by Janine Dawson. They were picked up by a company called Dolphin Media, a part of the Hubei Changjiang publishing group who have a large share of the children's publishing market. The contracts are signed and the process is now under way so it will be interesting to see how it all develops.

### **Janeen Brian writes:**

In 2011 Oriental Babies & Kids Ltd, Phoenix Publishing and Media Llc, in Nanjing, China, published *The way I love you*, written by David Bedford and *Little Humpty* written by Margaret Wild, both illustrated by Ann James. The editorial team loved Ann's work, and a short while later, were delighted to be invited to a festival exhibition of Australian Books and Illustration (*Swimming with Stories*) at the Children's Museum, Shanghai in 2011. It was an initiative organised by Books Illustrated, funded by the Australia-China Council and Copyright Agency Limited. (Books Illustrated, run by Ann James and Ann Haddon, promotes Australian picture books through exhibitions in Australia and internationally)

It was at that time that a fine two-way cultural relationship between Ann and Oriental Babies & Kids began. The Chief Editor was also a first-class Chinese illustrator of picture books, and Ann was invited to return to Nanjing in 2013 to lecture graduate students at the Nanjing University of Arts. In an exchange, Ann also planned an exhibition of Chinese illustrators of children's books.

Ann was invited to illustrate a story about kangaroos in an Oriental Babies magazine and in the process had the opportunity to speak with their production team and also address a publishing audience about picture book publishing in Australia. Books Illustrated continued onto Beijing with their exhibition, *Hello From Australia*, at the Capital Library as part of the Australian Writers Week. They hosted the publishers VIP night where both Australian and Chinese publishers and creators had the opportunity to meet and see a duplicate *Promotion and Rights Exhibition* to that going to Bologna. Ann and Ann later met the Oriental Babies team at the Bologna Book Fair in 2013. The company was so delighted with Ann's latest work for her *Bird and Bear* and for my book, *I'm a Dirty Dinosaur*, that they bought the rights to both along with the rights to *Lucy Goosey*, another of Ann's titles.

And so, the wonderful exchange both in culture and publication of picture books continues.

## ANOTHER ASIAN CONNECTION

### International Schools or Bust



Why does someone give up a dream Teacher Librarian job in Western Australia? A year ago, I was at my local regional Teacher Librarian network meeting when a colleague mentioned she'd seen a job on OZTL-net that she thought would be perfect for me: a position at a brand-new library at the British International School of Kuala Lumpur. So I applied, and several Skype interviews and lots of family discussions later, the job was mine.

One of my roles at Bunbury Cathedral Grammar School had been arranging exchanges with international schools, and I had been intrigued about this whole unknown world out there: amazing schools in incredible places filled with like-minded teachers with a sense of adventure. But it's not all glitz and glamour.

**Loneliness.** To begin with, the job seemed so huge and lonely I wasn't even sure I would last until Easter. Different language and different culture and completely by myself in a city with the craziest road system in the world. I just kept on repeating the mantra "What doesn't kill you will make you stronger". I was given a great condo, but I never saw anyone I knew there. I was very, very lonely. My only conversations some days were with the kids at school. Then, slowly but surely those Poms (being a British School, they were the majority of staff), who were not very friendly or overly chatty, finally started to open up and take me up on my offers to help their classes with research, read stories to their students, find a required book or piece of equipment, listen to their complaints, take a relief class, or go on an excursion with them... I did what I would do without thinking at home, and gradually they realised I was there to support them in what they were doing in the classroom and I, too, wanted the best for these students. Most of them had never come across this strange beast called a TEACHER Librarian before. They are beginning to get it. I was eventually invited socially to join them for a drink and meal and this has now progressed to social weekends away as a group.

**Budgets.** My library is beautiful looking on the surface level. But a huge injection of money will be needed over the next 5-7 years to get it up to speed. I was used to having amazing resources at my fingertips. And I had lost all my favourite titles, brilliant non-teaching library staff, suppliers and "take for granted" resources, like stationery, printers, book stands and book ends. My budget for the last 7 months of the year (I started late due to the school year difference) was 10,000RM (about AUD\$3,000). I have tried to become more imaginative and accepted that some things just take time to change.

**Professional standards.** My local Malay assistant is a qualified Librarian. Sounds impressive, but university standards are very different here. My non-qualified library assistants in Oz are so far in front of my very lovely librarian, who is just out of university, has English as a second language and is as quiet as a mouse with students. It made for a very painstaking start, putting the many necessary processes into place. Books had been catalogued, but there was no division between fiction and non-fiction, and the shelves were a jumbled mess. Processing of the stock was very limited. No books were covered or stamped, and my Librarian had been given no training on the software system we were using. On the other hand the KLLN (KL Library Network) have been a godsend for me. Filled with friendly, amazing, incredibly intelligent, professional Teacher Librarians (mainly trained in Australia through Charles Sturt University), they have encouraged me to stay strong, become close confidantes and taught me so much about librarianship, I had never realised how little I knew, despite all my years in school libraries.

KL once you get to know it and brave the roads is a fantastic city for expats. Perth is now beginning to feel very small and isolated professionally. A lovely place to retire, but I think there might be lots more travelling and learning for me over the next few years on the international circuit. Now I don't think I want to leave, as I am beginning to see the potential of international school opportunities. Maybe two years here, then next maybe Paris? New York? My list is growing everyday.

*Julie Muir*

Secondary Teacher Librarian  
British International School Kuala Lumpur and WA IBBY member

## Irish Children's Laureate

Writer Eoin Colfer has been appointed the Laureate na nÓg, Ireland's laureate for children's literature, and will hold this position until 2016. He qualified as a primary teacher before travelling and working in Saudi Arabia, Tunisia and Italy. When his first *Artemis Fowl* book was published in 2001, it gained world wide recognition and became a *New York Times* bestseller, as have half his books. Speaking of his appointment, Eoin said, "I feel I am representing my family and my county and indeed all book people in Ireland which is not something I mean to take lightly. I intend to spend my time spreading stories to every nook and cranny in the country. Nobody is safe. It doesn't matter where you hide – I will find you and tell you a story." Eoin has proposed two special themes:

- A nationwide tour of story and storytelling in areas that might not otherwise have visiting authors and storytellers
- Special storytelling events in fantastic and unusual places.

Australians may also remember Eoin as a guest speaker at the 2012 Adelaide CBCA Conference.

For further details see

<http://childrenslaureate.ie/news/eoin-colfer-is-new-laureate-na-nog/>

## ALMA 2014

In a ceremony at the Stockholm Concert Hall on Monday, 2<sup>nd</sup> June author Barbro Lindgren was presented with the 2013 Astrid Lindgren Memorial Award by H.R.H Crown Princess Victoria. The Minister for Culture, Lena Adelsohn Liljeroth, paid tribute to the writer as a brave and innovative author and for giving her readers courage to face the world as it really is. Loneliness, setbacks and death are part of life and with her honesty, humour and openness she strengthens children to think and talk about difficult things for themselves. The Astrid Lindgren Memorial Award (ALMA) is the world's largest award for children's and young adult literature. The award, which amounts to SEK 5 million, is given annually to a single laureate or to several. Authors, illustrators, oral storytellers and reading promoters are eligible. The award is designed to promote interest in children's and young adult literature. For further details see <http://www.alma.se/en/>

## IFLA – Libraries for Children and Young Adults

Of interest to many IBBY Australia members will be the June newsletter of the above section of IFLA with its theme of Sport and Libraries. There is a contribution from the Bayside Libraries of Victoria and also featured is *The World Through Picture Books*. This is an annotated list of picture books from around the world and our EC and NSW IBBY member Claire Stuckey facilitated the contribution of the ten Australian titles.

The 80<sup>th</sup> IFLA Conference will be held in Lyon from 16-22<sup>nd</sup> August and the Satellite Conference to be held in the Bibliothèque Nationale de France, Paris features reading for 15-20 year olds. For further details see

[http://www.ifla.org/files/assets/libraries-for-children-and-ya/newsletters/newsletter\\_june2014.pdf](http://www.ifla.org/files/assets/libraries-for-children-and-ya/newsletters/newsletter_june2014.pdf)

## Bookbird

Australians may be interested in the contribution of South Australians Damien W.Riggs and Scott Hanson Easey in the January 2014 issue of *Bookbird*. The paper, *The Invisibility of Lesbian Mother Families in the South Australian Premier's Reading Challenge* was drawn from the project that

examined the educational experiences of South Australian lesbian mother-families, and the article focussed on an audit of the families and relationships section of the 2011 South Australian Premier's Reading Challenge. Editor, Roxanne Harde, wrote in her introduction to Vol 52 No 1 of the January issue of *Bookbird*: this issue offers "multiple scholarly perspectives on the state of queerness in texts for children and young adults, insightful commentaries on authors and books on the subject, and informative reviews of recently published books on the same."

Vol52 No 2 is a special issue with articles on the 2014 Hans Christian Andersen Award nominees including Australian Author nominee Nadia Wheatley and Illustrator nominee Ron Brooks.

## Forthcoming Conferences and Events

**23<sup>rd</sup> August, 2014** Satellite Meeting of the IFLA Conference, Bibliothèque nationale de France, Paris, France. Theme: *15 to 20 year olds reading across the world: Why? Where? How?*

**10-13<sup>th</sup> September, 2014** 34<sup>th</sup> IBBY International Congress, Mexico City, Mexico. *Reading as an Inclusive Experience*. See <http://www.ibbycongress2014.org/> for further information.

**28<sup>th</sup> – 30<sup>th</sup> September, 2014** Inaugural International Library Symposium at The Southport School, Winchester Street, Southport, Queensland 4215. Theme: *Embracing New Landscapes* See [www.thesouthportschool.com/ils](http://www.thesouthportschool.com/ils) for further information.

**15<sup>th</sup>-17<sup>th</sup> October, 2014** South Island Children's and Young Adults' Librarians Conference, Balclutha, New Zealand. See <http://www.cluthadc.govt.nz/LibraryConference.htm> for further details.

**31<sup>st</sup> October-1<sup>st</sup> November, 2014** *Celebrate Reading National Conference*, The Literature Centre, Old Prison Hospital, cnr Knutsford St and Hampton Rd, Fremantle, WA. See [www.celebratereading.org.au](http://www.celebratereading.org.au) for further information.

**6<sup>th</sup> November, 2014** IBBY Australia Inc. AGM to be held at The Children's Bookshop, 6 Hannah St, Beecroft, NSW.

**2015 IBBY Asian-Oceania Congress** in Kuala Lumpur.

**18-21st August, 2016** 35<sup>th</sup> IBBY Congress, Auckland, New Zealand.

**2018** 36<sup>th</sup> IBBY Congress, Istanbul, Turkey.

## Exciting News From CBBY

On behalf of CBBY, I have the great honor to announce that the first round of the Chinese Edition of H.C. Andersen Awards Series has been successfully launched recently. 47 titles in total. Among them, 25 titles are picture books and 18 titles are novels. In addition, 4 IBBY related books are published, including the autobiography of Jella Lepman and the Introduction to IBBY and the Introduction to H.C. Andersen Awards as well the *Peace Stories* by Nami Island. There will be huge and continued promotion activities across China and about one hundred and seventy million Chinese children and young people and Chinese writers and illustrators as well as childrens literature scholars would have a chance to read books from the H.C. Andersen Awards Series. This is a very good chance to have your writers and illustrators to be highlighted and exposed effectively and deeply to Chinese readers and it is surely a very good chance to introduce your culture and arts to China as well. The Publisher, Anhui Children's Publishing House, and I myself would cordially thank you all for helping us to make this huge project happen by informing us of the copyright contacts throughout the globe.

Since this H.C. Andersen Awards Series Project is a continued one, the publisher will publish about 40 well selected titles EACH and EVERY year. There will be a huge series in the years to come. Thus we also need your continued kindness and passion to introduce authors and illustrator from your country and from your personal networks. Please kindly note that this project was authorised by IBBY and it includes not only the winners but also nominees of H.C. Andersen Awards. If you have any clues to copyrights of the authors or illustrators or if you have any questions please feel free to ask me any time.

Best wishes

*Mingzhou Zhang*, CBBY President

# FORGET TO JOIN OR RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP?



Well over one hundred of our members remembered and we are pleased to announce that Ursula Dubosarsky was the lucky winner of the Shaun Tan Limited Edition print *Story Furnace*, which was drawn by Anna Fienberg at the Literary Dinner of the Curtis Coast Literary Carnivale and is now winging its way to New South Wales.

If each member could persuade one other person to become a member, this would greatly assist in building our strength. For the financial year 2014-2015 Individual Membership is \$30.00 and Institutional Membership is \$100.00.

We are proud of our achievements in the past year, and we could contribute even more with a wider membership base. Our annual levy to IBBY International is CHF 6,000 (2014 AUD \$8,097.60)

Please join us and help us continue as an independent body to assist in introducing Australian authors and illustrators for young people to the world stage.

RSVP to Dr Robin Morrow, PO Box 329, Beecroft, NSW 2119 or Email [Robin.Morrow@wordsandphrases.com.au](mailto:Robin.Morrow@wordsandphrases.com.au)

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## **Payment**

Please make cheques payable to IBBY Australia Inc

## **Electronic transfer**

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## **This is our Current Executive Committee – All Volunteers**

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