



INTERNATIONAL BOARD ON BOOKS FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

IBBY
AUSTRALIA

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 35

November, 2017

President's Letter

Dear members and supporters of IBBY Australia

IBBY Australia is a national organisation with members from all around our vast country. It was great to be able to hold the recent AGM in the SLQ in Brisbane, and we thank the Queensland Writers' Centre for the use of their room. Elections for the executive committee are held in alternate years, and this is not an election year, so the formal AGM was brief, and people from different states could contribute to discussion. Afterwards we enjoyed an address by David Metzthen, Australia's HCA Nominee for Writing, entitled *Writing Fiction: Cursed and Blessed!* Nella's report on p 3 captures some of the insights, anecdotes and wisdom shared by this thoughtful writer with his attentive audience.

The selection of our Honour Books is also an Australia-wide task, with a selection panel this time from Queensland and NSW. They chose Zana Fraillon's *The Bone Sparrow* and Matt Ottley's *Teacup* (see p 2), both books which treat themes of migration and the search for a safe place. These book creators join a rollcall of esteemed names in Australian literature, beginning in 1962 with Nan Chauncy. All can be found at <https://ibbyaustralia.wordpress.com/honour-list/>. These 2018 Honour Books will form part of an exhibition of 191 titles, from more than 61 countries, on display at the Congress in Athens, and travelling throughout the world. For the first time as far as we can ascertain, an Honour Book award sticker will be included on the cover of the next edition of *Teacup*.

A number of Australians have submitted abstracts for presentations and posters at the 36th IBBY International Congress, to be held from 30 August to 1 September 2018 in Athens **and the extended deadline for abstracts is 20th November**. If you attended the Auckland Congress last year, you will have experienced for yourself the special excitement of attending such a truly international event; so we do recommend that you get planning now for the Athens Congress.

Back home, note two important dates for the 2018 diary. In WA the Quiz Night will be held on Wednesday, 4 April. And in NSW, International Children's Book Day will be celebrated on Saturday, 7 April, with a seminar afternoon at our usual friendly school hall at Santa Maria del Monte, Strathfield. Details of both events will appear in the February newsletter.

Please renew your membership if you have not yet done so, (see last page), and help us continue IBBY's vital work of supporting *every child's right to read*.

Your president and executive committee send best wishes as we approach the busy end-of-year, and hope you will have a peaceful and happy festive season, with plenty of time for reading.

Robin Morrow, AM.

International Recognition For Australian Author And Illustrator

IBBY Australia proudly announces its biennial Honour Books for 2018. Many Australian authors and illustrators for young people have a deep concern for the plight of refugees. It happens that the two books selected, one for excellence in Writing, one for excellence in Illustration, treat themes of migration and the search for a safe place.

For Writing: *The Bone Sparrow* by **Zana Fraillon**, Lothian Children's Books, an imprint of Hachette Australia

Subhi is a refugee of Rohingya origin, born in an Australian permanent detention centre, and life behind the fences is all he has ever known. But as he grows, his imagination gets bigger too, fed by *The Night Sea*, the faraway whales and the birds. One night Jimmie, a scruffy, impatient girl, appears from the other side of the wires, bringing a notebook written by the mother she lost. Unable to read it, she relies on Subhi to unravel her own family's love songs and tragedies. Subhi and Jimmie might both find a way to freedom, but not until each of them has been braver than ever before. The writer succeeds—mostly through Subhi's first-person narrative—in presenting the claustrophobic world of the detention camp, with its tedium and heartbreak, major and petty cruelties and unexpected humour. The reader is left pondering themes of hope, freedom, friendship, memory and the power of stories



For Illustration: *Teacup* by **Matt Ottley** (text by Rebecca Young), Scholastic Press

Teacup is the story of a boy 'who had to leave home' and his long and arduous journey by sea, bringing with him only a book, a bottle, a blanket and a teacup full of earth from the place where he grew up. The journey includes peaceful days, and days when storms threaten to overturn his boat. When at last he reaches land, it does not feel complete . . . until another traveller joins him. Matt Ottley has crafted images of this transformative journey, using a combination of oil paintings and digital art. He has brought dramatic and luminous skiescapes and seasapes, skilful changes in perspective and studies of reflection to the spare, poetic text to create an eloquent tale of migration. The symbols of the teacup, the soil and the tree that grows from it will evoke recognition in many readers.



Every two years an Advisory Panel of three children's literature experts makes the selection from all books published in the period. These outstanding books become Australia's representative books in a travelling exhibition of about 150 international titles. The exhibition will be shown at the IBBY Congress in Athens in 2018, at the Bologna Children's Book Fair and in many other countries.

2017 AGM and Presentation by David Metzenthen

An enjoyable evening was held on Thursday, 19th October in the QWC Meeting Room, State Library of Queensland, Brisbane. As it was a non-election year, the AGM was brief, giving us time to look at the dossier created by Dr. Robyn Sheahan-Bright for David Metzenthen's nomination for the Hans Christian Andersen Award for Writing 2018. Robyn spoke about the importance of being nominated for HCA. In closing the meeting, President Dr Robin Morrow reminded us of Wally de Doncker's Call to Action http://www.ibby.org/fileadmin/user_upload/IBBY_S_CALL_Auckland_2016.pdf.



IBBY Australia Executive Cttee Claire Stuckey, Robin Morrow and Robyn Sheahan Bright. Photo courtesy of Maria Parenti-Baldey.

Robyn Sheahan-Bright introduced David Metzenthen, whose talk was entitled *Writing Fiction: Cursed and Blessed!* With the average Australian author income being about \$11,000, most authors are cursed to supplement their income. David has a career crisis every day; he writes questions for Family Feud and acts as an extra in television shows. He compared writing to the Flying Dutchman except with a keyboard around the neck. David's books often feature people who have been in armed conflict. He did not want to write about the Vietnam War, which he believed to be pointless. However, after looking at photos of Australians on patrol there, he decided to write *Dreaming the Enemy*, a philosophical treatment of the effect of war on the young men involved.

The blessings of writing are made possible by the global fellowship of people who work with children's books - writers, publishers, parents, teachers and librarians. This support has enabled David to live in a writer's world. He said it can be very grounding to work with literature for children; but can be a curse too. David loves the obliviousness of teenagers, often observing them in places such as Glenferrie Road. Writers are two sides of a coin; they are obsessive, pigheaded etc, BUT they want to give everything and shape the world. To be literate is a gift which changes people's lives. David acknowledged Agnes Nieuwenhuizen and also Geoffrey Dutton who helped him get some short stories published.

He joked about his criminal past. As an 18- year- old hitch hiker, he stole a copy of Kerouac's *Lonesome Traveler* from the place where he was a house guest. He was impressed by Jack Kerouac, whose voice still inspires him. As a penance, he gives away copies of the book.

David needs two ideas for a book, the basic one, and then another as a catalyst and goes with the flow.

Jarvis 24 was written when a friend told David about his son's worrying.

He spoke briefly about his new books - a comic novel about a scholarship boy at an elite school and a 'Zen picture book' with 21 words about an escaped rabbit.

Writing is a solitary pursuit but a team effort. Sometimes an author can write at the wrong time. David finished by saying that it is an honour to write about something well. Jenny Stubbs thanked David and participants had a chance to ask questions over nibbles.

Nella Pickup Tas IBBY member



L to R: David Morrow, Peter Williams, Robin Morrow (NSW) Nella Pickup (Tas) Judith Russell (Qld), Richard Pickup (Tas) In front David Metzenthen (Vic) Photo courtesy of Maria Parenti-Baldey

USBBY Regional Congress – Seattle, Washington

October 20-22, 2017

“Radical change beyond borders : the transforming power of children’s literature in a digital age”

The conference topic was inspired by the writing of the late Dr Eliza T Dresang. Read more here <https://tinyurl.com/yaz4dzks>. I have just returned from this fascinating and inspirational conference. The days began with two Pre Conference Tours. One was to the Seattle City Library – a spectacular space with the most amazing automated book sorting system and a joyful light-filled children’s area. We also made a visit to the Washington State Library Rare Book Collection. Sandra Kuropa showed us an amazing array of book formats from pop-up books to miniatures, and it felt as though there truly is nothing new under the sun. You can read more about either Special Collections here <http://guides.lib.uw.edu/friendly.php?s=research/bookarts> Margarita Engle, the national Young People’s Poet Laureate, delivered the Spencer G Shaw lecture. Peace is her theme for 2017. Margarita is a Cuban-American author of 22 books and verse novels, including the Newbery Honor Book **The Surrender Tree**. Here are some quotes from her inspirational speech : ‘*Writing is a journey not a destination.*’, ‘*Poetry is an experience not a genre*’ and ‘*Poetry moves into the quiet spaces in our minds.*’ Take a look at this article Top 10 signs of hope for own voice poetry <http://tinyurl.com/ychnx7mu>

On the first evening we gathered in the HUB (Husky Union Building) where we meet 12 Seattle authors, including Karen Cushman, Bonny Becker, Julie Paschkis and Laurie Ann Thompson. I was excited to tell Laurie Ann that I had explored her book **Emmanuel’s Dream** with my students in Australia just last term when we were reading a range of books about bicycles and children in Africa linked with the short-listed title **The Patchwork Bike** by Maxine Beneba Clarke. The after-dinner speaker was PJ Lynch and he shared his creative journey and shared a film similar to this one <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CVmPlTGiqIU> Over the following two days there were eight general sessions, two breakout sessions, book signings, a bookshop/display and a celebration dinner with Cao Wenxuan, 2016 HCA winner for writing. Speakers included Peter Sis, Margarita Engle, Uma Krishnaswami, Linda Sue Park, Suzy Lee, Cao Wenxuan, Pam Munoz Ryan, Jerry Pinkney and many others.

Poster Sessions – There were ten poster sessions at this conference. Here is the description of two that particularly interested me.

1. We shall overcome : Picture books, protest music and pedagogy for change. ‘*Protest songs are an underutilized genre in international children’s literature, yet they support language, literacy content, as well as influencing readers to act with courage against tyranny.*’ Western Oregon University
2. Raising awareness around refugee issues to enrich the curriculum through international children’s literature. ‘*Today’s children and youth need international perspectives to confront world conditions and challenges brought into their lives.*’ Texts included **The Journey**, **Azzi in Between**, **Lost Girl Found** and **The Red Pencil**.



One of the poster sessions I attended was Refugees Crossing Borders and Boundaries , delivered by Ann M Neely (Vanderbilt University) and Bettie Parsons Barger (Winthrop University SC). Ann used the framework of flee, confinement, resettlement to structure her presentation. I was fascinated to see the US edition of **My Two Blankets** with a different cover, book shape and changes to the illustrations by Freya Blackwood.

Conference Reading list : We were given this reading list <https://tinyurl.com/yamqxm7o> and then spent one session in small groups discussing a category of our choice. I selected the picture books and was interested to talk with Sonja Danowski and discover how she came to write **Little Night Cat**. I am also glad I read **Fatty Legs** by Margaret Pokiak-Fenton, a moving story about life in the Arctic , which would be excellent to pair with Australian books such as **The Burnt Stick** by Anthony Hill and **Rabbit Proof Fence** by Doris Pilkington. We have several books from Australia on the USBBY Outstanding International book list and all of these were on display at the conference http://www.usbby.org/list_oibl.html

If you ever have the chance to go to an IBBY conference – National or International – go! You will inspired by the commonality of passion, friendships and beautiful care of young children who may live in very different places around the world, and we can all hope for a more tolerant and compassionate world in the future.

Margot Lindgren EC and NSW IBBY member

News from Russia

The Museum of Cosmonautics

It was a humbling experience to have my recent children's picture book, *Belka - Little Face*, received so well at the Museum of Cosmonautics in Moscow last month. After originally visiting the museum in 2015, and learning about the history of Soviet space dogs, I penned a small tale about a street dog and her adventures before she was snatched away for the Soviet space program.

A Russian friend contacted the museum telling them about the book and they, in turn, showed a great deal of interest in the story. As luck would have it, my husband was invited to give the closing address at a technology conference in St Petersburg so, with several copies of *Belka* packed, we were off.

After meeting with Vyacheslav Lavovich (Deputy Director and Candidate of Pedagogical Sciences) and Daria Chudnaya (Head of Publications and Marketing Director) it was decided to re-launch (no pun intended) a Russian version with several of the surrounding schools when translation is complete.

They were touched that an Australian writer had written a story about their little Soviet space hero and I am chuffed that *Belka - Little Face* will now go on permanent display in the museum, right next to Belka herself.



L - R. Vyacheslav Lavovich, Alison Giles, Vlado Damjanovska, Daria Chudnaya, and Dimitri

IBBY- Russian Section, Moscow Branch

If you plan to attend the 2020 IBBY World Congress, in Moscow, then a visit to the Russian State Children's Library is a MUST. Just my luck, I arrived a day too late to have a walking tour through the library with Wally De Doncker and Liz Page. They were in town overseeing early-stage plans for the 2020 IBBY Congress to be held 5th – 7th September.

However, it was still a privilege to be shown through the 'largest children's library in the world' by the very generous Angela Lebedeva. Many of you will know Angela through her many years of



L-R. Alison, Tatyana, Marina and Angela. IBBY Moscow.

involvement with IBBY. Also, I was quick enough to catch most of the exhibition of IBBY Honour Book posters dating back to 1968 (when Russia became a member of the board) before it was dismantled. Angela heads the Department of Children's Literature in Foreign Languages and I was delighted to have *Belka* added to the foreign (Australian) collection. The library is currently celebrating fifty years of operation and collection.

IBBY- Russian Section, St Petersburg Branch

My next visit was to The Central Children's Library of St Petersburg (also known as The Pushkin Children's Library) and my meeting with another IBBY veteran, Ekaterina Zagorskaya. Ekaterina is the

My next visit was to The Central Children's Library of St Petersburg (also known as The Pushkin Children's Library) and my meeting with another IBBY veteran, Ekaterina Zagorskaya. Ekaterina is the head of the Cultural Department of Central St Petersburg Children's Library and Executive Secretary of the St Petersburg branch of IBBY Russia. Once again it was a great privilege to be invited to add my book *Belka* to their collection.



L-R. Alison, Ekaterina Zagorskaya and Victoria in front of their IBBY Honour Book collection (and it is complete).



November Readings Festival Poster: Open a Book and You Open a World.

Although busy with preparations for the annual 'November Readings' Festival, Ekaterina generously squeezed me in to talk about IBBY Russia and the St Petersburg IBBY collection (the collection is complete in its entirety from IBBY's inception). St Petersburg joined IBBY Russia in 1998. This city is currently abuzz with celebrations to commemorate one hundred years since the October Revolution (Russians acknowledge all their histories rather well.)

One thing you'll notice when visiting Russia is their love of reading. It's heartwarming to see many Russians still reading novels on trains and in cafes. Reading is considered of utmost importance for the 'shaping of moral values and interests of Russian children'. The bookstores I visited, crammed with adults buying books for children, are evidence of this.

Alison Giles NSW IBBY member and children's author/illustrator on her 5th trip to Russia with thanks to IBBY Australia for the contact details of the IBBY Russia sections..

News from Nepal

NSW IBBY member and children's author has forwarded the following:

Bec Ordish, Director of the Mitrataa Foundation, put this on Facebook, but in case you missed it: this is a lovely rendition of a song from the musical *Sangita's Singing* about a child's transition from a village to a big frightening city Kathmandu, to learn to read and to love her new home.

The musical was performed there this year based on my book *Singita's Singing*. We're hoping to bring the musical to Australia one day, as its themes are familiar though the setting foreign- change, bullying, friendship, migration etc.

Thought you might enjoy this item and these kids and it reminds me that children are the same everywhere- they love performing! <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tmt6s9mhwdo> The Song of Kathmandu, from the musical, Sangita's Singing - The Musical, was performed in Boudha, Bhaktapur and Wilson Academy by the students of Wilson Academy.

Libby Hathorn NSW IBBY member, children's author and poet.

From the Page to the Stage:

Shaun Tan's *Rules of Summer*

Astrid Lindgren Award winner Shaun Tan says his books are always half-finished: 'people finish them with their imaginations.' In their 2017 production of *Rules of Summer*, Fremantle-based Spare Parts Puppet Theatre have created a fabulous finishing. The powerful illusion of puppetry in myriad forms takes Tan's 2013 book in a sublime leap from the page to the stage.

In the performance seen on September 26 at UWA's Dolphin Theatre, the two young boys from the book are articulated marionettes, with the puppeteers doubling as the characters as well. Shadow puppetry was the real star though - the three puppeteers used torches for this medium to explore, illuminate and explain the action. Tiny stencilled cut-outs of the rules were projected onto surfaces for viewers to read aloud, and that wasn't the only audience involvement: three of them were invited onto the stage to participate in the performance. All of this was achieved by puppeteers Rebecca Bradley, who also co-directed; Allan Girod and Nick Pages-Oliver vocalising solely with kazoos.



The two young boys as marionettes: Photo courtesy of Spare Parts Puppet Theatre.



Children's written rules. Photo courtesy Margaret Robson Kett

In conversation after the performance, Bradley (invoking her experience in street theatre) described how she approached the project with the aim of 'breaking the conventions to safely connect.' The substantial risk of audience being cast as players without ever having been at a rehearsal has paid off with every performance's intergenerational audiences thoroughly engaged. This engagement extends to an interactive wall in the foyer with children's own written rules.

During the conversation, Tan laughed about how the snail, which featured throughout and crawled its way into all of the show's publicity in the media, started life as a smudge of oil paint. The children sitting in front of me began avidly turning the pages of their picture books to find it. Readers will never be finished with this story.

Margaret Robson Kett WA IBBY member



The marionettes and puppeteers gazing at the snail. Photo courtesy of Spare Parts Puppet Theatre

Vale Agnes Nieuwenhuizen



Photo: Courtesy of State Library of Victoria

The sudden death of Agnes Nieuwenhuizen on 14 September in Woodend, Victoria, is a loss to the community of YA literature, and indeed to the cultural life of Australia. Agnes understood that young people are deserving of books of the highest standard, and devoted her life to encouraging reading in inspired and practical ways. She influenced many lives, as a teacher and through her advocacy for *Good Books for Teenagers*, which she took as the title for her 1992 book. She pioneered interviewing Australian writers for the young in *No Kidding*, and continued to write influential reading guides and reviews.

Agnes's innovative Youth Literature Project began at St Martins Youth Arts in South Yarra, with performances by young actors and visits from writers, both famous and emerging. The Reading Matters biennial conference began there too, now established as a vital item on the literary calendar. The Centre for Youth Literature at the State Library of Victoria has its origins in the energy, skills and determination of this extraordinary woman.

Agnes was brave and forthright as well as considerate and respectful of others' opinions. In recent months she was as ever reviewing and discussing books, for example in talks with me about the state of translation in YA and children's books in Australia.

Agnes is survived by her husband John Nieuwenhuizen, who is a distinguished translator (and recipient of the IBBY Australia Honour Book for Translation 2016), and her children, Max and Jackie, and her grandchildren. Son John sadly died earlier from the same heart problem that has now claimed his mother.

Robin Morrow, AM

National President, IBBY Australia.

News from Western Australia

Still going strong - Make Your Own Story Book Competition 2017– Celebrating 40 years!



Bing Tan, Denise Robins, Christine Tan, Jenni Woodroffe, Mary Gimondo, past entrants Renae Hayward, James Foley and Simone Tolhurst. Photo: J Nicholls

Two delightful events celebrated the West Australian Branch of The Children's Book Council of Australia's 40th Anniversary of its *Make Your Own Story Book Competition*. On Friday 11th August, at the exciting 'new' multi-story Perth City Library, invited guests viewed a display of past and present MYOSB entries in the foyer prior to the official welcome from Branch President Jan Nicholls. MC, award-winning author Norman Jorgensen, introduced selected guests both from 2017

and past years to speak briefly about their connection with the MYOSB Competition. Mary Gimondo, a CBCA Committee Member for 42 years and continuing, conceived the initial inspiring idea to encourage literary creativity in young people to learn the joys of reading and writing by making their own real-life book.

In her speech, Mary noted that this competition is the longest running of its kind in Australia. Over the years there have been about 60,000 entries, with each one read. In the first year (1977) there were 3 judges and 500 entries, while at its peak, MYOSB attracted over 5,000 entries per year. In some years, winning and commended entrants participated in a workshop with the Children's Book Week visiting author or illustrator. Entries have been displayed at different venues, including The Perth Concert Hall and the State Library of WA. While increasing technology in schools has resulted in changes in presentation, judges are ever mindful of the importance played by imagination and creativity in crafting a good story and attention to literary conventions. Mary's favourite entry of all time was *The Hungry Crocodile*. This large cloth book had patchwork illustrations; the ravenous crocodile's mouth zipped up; and you could put the Velcro animals in and out of its mouth. Such fun!

Another highlight was the acknowledgement of past entrants who have pursued their creative interests to become published authors and illustrators – including the celebrated Shaun Tan, James Foley, Karen Blair, Briony Stewart, Renae Hayward, Fiona Burrows and Sonia Martinez. A visual presentation outlining the history of the competition entertained guests, and a luscious slice of anniversary cake rounded off the evening.

The second event, the Awards prize-giving ceremony for the 2017 MYOSB, was held on Sunday 20th August at The Literature Centre in Fremantle, with families of the winning entrants. Convenor Denise Robins opened the Awards, while Norman Jorgensen gave an address and presented prizes. Young entrants, Year 7-8 Picture Book winner Jason Dean and Story Book winner Tayla Hancock, gave insightful speeches of their experiences as writer and illustrator, and their inspiration for entering the MYOSB competition. After viewing the winning books, all contestants and their families enjoyed morning tea with fruit, drinks and a special slice of the anniversary cake. Sponsorship by local book stores and Government departments were enthusiastically acknowledged.



Norman Jorgensen surrounded by prize winners in costumes as a tribute to his books, with President Jan Nicholls (top left) and MYOSB Convenor Denise Robins (top right). Photo courtesy of Jan Nicholls

Chloe Mauger

WA IBBY Member and Past President WA Branch, CBCA.

News from Tasmania

A magical occasion

The icy blasts of a particularly chilly Hobart winter day did not dim the excitement of those scurrying from the carpark to enter the warmth and shelter of Government House Tasmania, Hobart. Grand, historic Government House was an ideal setting for the announcement of the Children's Book of the Year Awards on Friday 18th August, 2017. It was the first time for the ceremony to be held in Tasmania, and the CBCA – Tasmania Branch had been extremely busy preparing for this prestigious event.

The ballroom was the venue for the presentation of the Awards, and it was abuzz with anticipation as we took our assigned seats. Our seating was organised in a wedding-like fashion, with guests seated on the left side, and recipients and others on the right.



Government House interior:
Photo: Jennie Bales



Cam Jones, CBCA Tasmanian Board member with Her Excellency the Governor, Kate Warner AC Photo :Jennie Bales.

The announcement was made by Professor Margot Hillel, OAM, Chair of the National Board, CBCA. Her Excellency Professor The Honourable Governor Kate Warner AC, Governor of Tasmania, presented certificates to the shortlistees, then Honour Book recipients and finally the winner in each category: Early Childhood, Younger Readers, Older Readers, Picture Book of the Year, and the Eve Pownall Award for Information Books. The Crichton Award for New Children's Illustrators was announced by Christine Oughtred, President of the CBCA Victoria Branch. A lively group of students, known as the Outhouse Legends of the Jordan River Learning

Federation, began the official countdown to the beginning of Children's Book Week, with an enthusiastic audience quickly joining in.

After the announcement of the Awards, we all retired to several elegant adjoining reception rooms to enjoy some light refreshments. This was an opportunity to mingle with the recipients of the Awards, the judges, CBCA Board members, writers and readers.

That evening, the celebratory dinner was held at the Hobart Function and Conference Centre, which is located on Hobart's waterfront. Guests were greeted by chamber music, and we enjoyed a delicious buffet meal. Between official announcements, guests completed a literary questionnaire, which proved fun and a great ice-breaker. In the weeks leading up to the dinner, we had been tantalised about the identity of the winner of the Nan Chauncy Award, and we were not disappointed to learn that Mem Fox had received the honour. Her acceptance speech was interesting, entertaining and heartfelt. She continually emphasised the vital importance of the role the illustrator plays in the creation of a picture book.

The combination of the two events, the announcement of the Awards at Government House Tasmania, and the dinner on the waterfront, were a fitting way to celebrate the strength of children's literature in Australia and to congratulate the winners in all categories.

Verity Croker, Children's and YA author, Tasmania.



Mem Fox, winner of the Nan Chauncy Award. Photo: Jennie Bales.

News from New South Wales

On 27 August Bronwyn Bancroft's new book, *Shapes of Australia*, was launched by Prof the Hon Dame Marie Bashir, at an event emceed by Sunil Badami. IBBY Committee members Robin Morrow and Karen Jameyson attended, and also active member Trish Amichi.



Karen Jameyson, Dame Marie Bashir, Bronwyn Bancroft and IBBY Australia President, Robin Morrow

Robin took the opportunity to present Bronwyn with her certificate as IBBY Australia HCA nominee. Robin emphasised the high prestige of HCA nominations: throughout the world, if Bronwyn were to introduce herself as Australia's HCA nominee, knees would be bowed, hats would be doffed, glasses would be raised. Bronwyn had addressed a plenary session at the recent International Congress in Auckland, but was unable to attend the presentation ceremony there, so IBBY Australia was grateful to Gleebooks and Little Hare for enabling us to present the certificate in front of an admiring audience.

News from South Australia

Congratulations to our 2012 Hans Christian Andersen Award Australian nominee for writing Christobel Mattingley, on two recent awards. *Our Mob, God's Story* received Sparklit's Australian Christian Book of the Year Award 2017 at a ceremony in Melbourne on Thursday, 17th August attended by Christobel (co-editor) and 300 other people. Since its publication by the Bible Society Australia in March this year (8000 copies so far), it will soon be going into its fourth printing. Shortly after Christobel travelled to Sydney, and on Friday, 1st September she received the Young People's History Prize for *Maralinga's Long Shadow: Yvonne's Story* published by Allen & Unwin. In making the 2017 NSW Premier's History Awards, NSW Premier Gladys Berejiklian said 'These awards celebrate new knowledge of who we are and where we have come from, which helps us to create the strong communities of the future.' We salute Christobel as she continues her long-standing commitment to social justice issues.



News from Western Australia

Honour for tiny author

By LEEROY BETTI

EIGHT-year-old Farzian Zainal made dinosaurs disappear into a picture book and earned herself a trip to Perth for WA Children's Book Week.

The Year 3 pupil from Christmas Island's district school created a picture book about dinosaurs which won her an equal third prize in the WA Children's Book Council's annual competition for making a story book.

This week Farzian made only her third visit to Perth, to collect her award along with 30 other young prize-winners at the launch of Book Week. Farzian and about 150 Perth primary school children met children's novelist Duncan Ball, twice voted favourite author by WA primary students.

Mr Ball, author of "Selby's Secret" and "The Ghost And The Goggle Box", said he had seen all 31 prize-winning stories and Farzian's "Ten Little Dinosaurs" had caught his eye.

Mr Ball, from Sydney, and other children's book authors have been visiting metropolitan primary schools and public libraries this week to encourage reading and literature among primary students.

Mr Ball will go to Kalgoorlie and Boulder to meet more students next week.



AUTHORS MEET: Farzian Zainal and Duncan Ball at the prize presentations.

In 1991 Farzian Zainal from Christmas Island was flown to Perth to receive her award in the Make Your Own Story Book competition and is shown left with visiting author and IBBY member Duncan Ball. During the 40th



Jan Nicholls with Farzian and her children. Photo: Norm Jorgensen

anniversary of the MYOSB (see p9) mention was made of Farzian's win. WA IBBY Member and President of the WA CBCA Branch, Jan Nicholls, met up with Farzian and her three children on Christmas Island in September. Jenni Woodroffe's article on the MYOSB appeared in the first issue of *Bookbird* for 2017.

Three Iconic Australian Creators of Children's Literature

The fog slowly lifted as the coach drove north-east from Mends St, South Perth, only a short distance from the site of the *Dune*, the home of Cecie and Herbert Gibbs and their artistic daughter, May. The South Perth Historical Society had organised a day trip to the Chittering and Bindoon Wildflower Festival that included a stopover at Enderslea Farm, and an Oral History Performance entitled *Uncovering May Gibbs*. The roadside verges were lush with golden wattle blooms, balga trees and blue leschenaultia and paddocks verdant with pasture. In the historic stone barn at Enderslea Farm we were greeted with a sumptuous morning tea provided by the local CWA, replete with vintage china and embroidered cloths.

We were surprised to discover the production was presented by Agelink Theatre and scripted and directed by Jenny Davis, OAM, who was Champion Senior of the Year in 2016 and founder of Agelink Theatre in 1993.



Mary Grant Bruce, Gum Blossom, May Gibbs, Ethel Turner, William Steele with Kookaburra looking down at Enderslea barn. Photo Courtesy of Agelink Theatre.

Through six professional actors we learnt about the journey to Australia of the Gibbs family; a discussion between the artistic May Gibbs, and authors Ethel Turner and Mary Grant Bruce; and the role played by William Steele of Ward Lock. In a well-researched performance we heard all three women discuss the events and social conditions of the times in which they lived, and how each strove to portray the quintessential Australian characteristics that would resonate with Australian children from the late 1890s to 1930s.

The performance was enhanced with piano accompaniment and appropriate songs, while a screen on the right augmented the script with apt illustrations from the work and life of May Gibbs. World War I was to play a significant role in the lives of all three women and impacted on their work in different ways.

All three were aware of their privileged status and the fact that women in England did not have the vote. Ethel was adamant that Australian children must be true to themselves and declared 'My children must be the heroes of their own stories'. The role of William Steele

of Ward Lock and the influence he tried to exert on the work of both Ethel Turner and Mary Grant Bruce enriched the unfolding story of these much loved authors. Ethel strongly protested that her story about Eliza Huggins published in 1897 had preceded the publication of *Pygmalion* which GB Shaw wrote in 1912. With her Gumnut postcards for Australians to send to their troops, May Gibbs had captured the spirit of Australia at that time. All three women were conscious of their need to uphold their professional status and be in control of their financial remuneration from their publishers.

Our trip into the past concluded with visits to the markets at the Bindoon Spring Flower Festival, the Heritage Museum with its range of artefacts from tractors to toys, the restored Holy Trinity Church and the journey home.

Jenni Woodroffe EC and WA IBBY Member.



May Gibbs with Gum Blossom: Photo courtesy of Agelink Theatre.

News from Thailand

I recently spent two days at Always Reading Caravan Association (ARC) in northern Thailand, and learnt about the fantastic work they do. ARC is a not-for-profit organisation which aims to share the joy of reading and learning with children and adults in rural areas of the country.

I visited their library and met with founder Yoshimi Horiuchi, as well as the passionate staff and volunteers. The next morning we went in the mobile library truck to visit a local kindergarten. The children were so excited to see the library set up outside, and enthusiastically read book after book. In the afternoon, we visited the classrooms to read stories, sing songs and create collage monsters (inspired by the book *The Colour Monster* by Anna Llenas).

Free, quality libraries and creative learning activities are rare to find in Thailand. ARC is making a significant difference in the community by making books accessible and fun, while fostering a love of reading and learning. I would love to see more initiatives like this, so that every person has access to books and the joy they bring.

ARC relies on donors to continue their work, and they welcome volunteers both in and outside Thailand.

If you would like to be involved, please go to www.alwaysreadingcaravan.org

Many thanks to The New Colombo Plan for funding my scholarship in Thailand, and to IBBY for connecting organisations and book lovers around the world.



Sara Khamkoed (right) sharing a book with mobile library in background.

Sara Khamkoed IBBY Australia member and New Colombo Plan Scholar

News from Sweden



Astrid Lindgren Memorial Award

© Illustration: Björn Berg, Ingrid Vang Nyman, Ben Wåland

Announced at the Frankfurt Book Fair on the 12th October 2017. Nine Australian authors and illustrators and one Australian organisation have been nominated for the 2018 Astrid Lindgren Memorial Award. The Australian nominees are:

Randa Abdel-Fattah, Ursula Dubosarsky, Mem Fox, Morris Gleitzman, Gus Gordon, Robert Ingpen, Margo Lanagan, Kirsty Murray, Margaret Wild and the Indigenous Literacy Foundation.

In total, 235 candidates from 60 countries were nominated for the award.

The Astrid Lindgren Memorial Award is the richest international children's and young adult literature award in the world and carries a cash prize of five million krona (A\$785,929). The winner of the 2018 award will be announced in Stockholm and Bologna following the jury's final meeting on 27 March 2018. Two Australian authors have previously won the Astrid Lindgren Award: author and illustrator Shaun Tan in 2011 and author Sonya Hartnett in 2008. See www.alma.se/en for further details.

News from Japan

It is interesting to note how far our newsletter travels. *Book and Bread*, journal of JBBY (Japanese Board on Books for Young People) June 2017, includes this item, which thanks to IBBY member Beverley George was translated into English and reads:

National Section Newsletters

IBBY Australia: Australia National Section

The Australian National Section Newsletter No 33 published in May contains a wealth of information including items introducing Australia's nominees for the 2018 Hans Christian Andersen Award, David Metzenthén for Writing and Jeannie Baker for Illustration, and a report on the 3rd Asia Oceania Regional Congress.

◆ Australia IBBY : オーストラリア支部



5月号発行の第33号では、国際アンデルセン賞にノミネートしたデビッド・メツエンゼン（作家賞）とジェニー・ベイカー（画家賞）の紹介や、アジア・オセアニア地域人会談が盛りだくさんの内容。

News from New Zealand

Storylines has won \$US5000 funding from the IBBY Yamada fund to undertake the Storylines/New Zealand IBBY committee's project to provide refugee children arriving in New Zealand with books in their home languages to help them as they settle in their new homeland. Storylines' IBBY section will work closely with the Mangere Refugee Resettlement Centre to implement the project during 2018. We're thrilled to be supporting new refugee children in this way.

Joy Cowley is New Zealand's 2018 Hans Christian Andersen Award nominee for writing.

The White Ravens 2017 List

The following Australian titles were included in this year's list recently announced at the Frankfurt Book Fair on the 12th October.



- *Iris and the Tiger* by Leanne Hall (Text)
- *Magrit* by Lee Battersby (Walker Books)
- *One Would Think the Deep* by Claire Zorn (UQP)
- *Somewhere Else* by Gus Gordon (Viking)
- *The Stars at Oktober Bend* by Glenda Millard (A&U).

The White Ravens catalogue features 200 titles from around the world and is produced annually by the International Youth Library in Germany. The library's language specialists select 'books of international interest that deserve a wider reception' based on 'their universal theme and/or their exceptional and often innovative artistic and literary style and design'.

News from Greece

Important dates – For further information see <http://www.ibbycongressathens2018.com>



- 30.11.2017** - New deadline for abstract submission
- 20.12.2017** - Notification of acceptance
- 31.03.2018** - Early bird deadline
- 31.03.2018** - Deadline for submission of full paper
- 30.06.2018** - Digital files submission



Good News from the Eastern Congo (DRC)

Peace School gets a Chance

On 22 August the Peace School La Croisière became proud owners of their land and buildings, to great relief and jubilation in Bukavu in the Democratic Republic of Congo.

Dr Aembe Bwimana, staff and students send this message (in what is their third or fourth language):

To all that supported the fundraising campaign for the Peace School, we, on behalf of the Peace School, hereby wanted to convey our heartfelt feeling of gratitude for your generous benevolence. Confidence and hope are now ours.



Peace School staff

Through the Chuffed campaign, Australian donations plus gifts from the Netherlands, Germany, USA, UK and Timor Leste provided half the cost of the land. Then a Dutch Professor (whose work focuses on ‘gender, culture, violence, trauma, health and healing’) contributed substantially, the locals pitched in, and we organised a very low-interest loan to the school to get them over the line.

So, it’s a happy story of international cooperation, goodwill and trust. Securing the land is a huge step towards sustainability for this school. La Croisière is a little beacon of hope in a poor community, giving kids and war-damaged young women a chance in life.



Boys playing footy at school

Left is a photo of ‘the happiest boys’ playing footy, and above, the school management team expressing thanks and discussing plans for the school. The school building is no palace, and the grounds are bare, so there are challenges up ahead, but at least they have a place of their own. It’s a good site for a school, in their own neighbourhood, on a hill overlooking the city and Lake Kiva.

Thanks to everyone who responded to our call for help. We may visit Bukavu next year to learn more about the school and consider ongoing support. The school will always need money, but there may also be creative ways

to contribute – sharing stories, pictures, music, linking DRC and Australian students, inspiring teachers...

We’d love to hear from any of you who care to send a message to the school community, receive occasional updates, suggest ideas for collaboration, or make an annual \$ contribution, big or small.

You can donate at any time, via EFT, to this dedicated CBA account: Peace School Bukavu. BSB: 063 100, Account no 1032 7625, or online at <https://chuffed.org/project/peace-school> (Donations are not tax deductible). Contact: mail@rosalindprice.com

Thanks again, and best wishes,

Rosalind Price and Elizabeth Honey

Forthcoming Conferences and Events

7th December, 2017 Sydney Farewell to Australian Children's Laureate Leigh Hobbs at the Office of Allen & Unwin, 83 Alexander Lane, Crows Nest, Sydney, NSW. Cost \$30 Bookings: <https://www.trybooking.com/book/event?eid=318039>

2018

January-February. *The Art of Anne Spudvilas* exhibition has been extended until the end of January. Beginning of February an exhibition by Mark Wilson commences at the main gallery. Dromkeen Homestead, 1012 Kilmore Rd, Riddells Creek Victoria. Hours: Thurs-Sat 9.00 – 5.00 pm. See www.dromkeen.com.au for further details.

10th-11th March Children's Literature Festival, Norman Lindsay Gallery, 14 Norman Lindsay Cres, Faulconbridge NSW 2776. See info@normanlindsay.com.au for further details.

4th April International Children's Book Day Quiz Night, Perth and Tattersalls Bowling Club, 2 Plain St, East Perth WA at 6.30 for 7.00 – 9.30 pm.

7th April International Children's Book Day celebration at Santa Maria del Monte school, Strathfield, NSW.

1st – 3rd June Sydney International Storytelling Conference. Theme: *That Reminds Me of a Time When... Finding, crafting and telling personal stories.* The Australian Storytelling Guild (NSW) See <http://www.storytellersnsw.org.au/>

30th July – 2nd August Asia Pacific Library and Information Conference. Joint Conference of ALIA, LIANZA and LAS. Gold Coast Convention and Exhibition Centre, Broadbeach, Qld.

30th August – 1st September 36th IBBY World Congress, Athens, Greece. Theme: *East Meets West Around Children's Books & Fairy Tales.* See <http://www.ibbycongressathens2018.com/>

2019 4th Asia Oceania Regional IBBY Congress, China

2020 5th – 7th September 37th IBBY World Congress, Moscow, Russia, with the theme *The Great Big World Through Children's Books: National and Foreign.*

2022 5th – 8th September IBBY World Congress, Putrajaya, Malaysia. *The Power of Stories*

This is our Current Executive Committee – All Volunteers

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JOIN IBBY AUSTRALIA OR RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP

IBBY Australia membership for the coming financial year (1 July 2017–30 June 2018) is now available. Please join (or renew) and help us continue as an independent body, introducing Australian authors and illustrators for young people to the world stage. IBBY Australia:

- Nominates Australian authors and illustrators for the prestigious international Hans Christian Andersen Medal and IBBY Honour List
- Encourages young Australian authors and illustrators through the Ena Noël Award
- Provides books to children in need through the Children in Crisis Fund

RSVP to Dr Robin Morrow AM

PO Box 329, Beecroft, NSW 2119 or email robin.morrow@wordsandphrases.com.au

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