



INTERNATIONAL BOARD ON BOOKS FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

iBBY

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 who are committed to bringing books and children together

NEWSLETTER No 7

November, 2010

President's Letter

Dear IBBY members and supporters,

THE CONGRESS IN SANTIAGO DE COMPOSTELA: How wonderful it was to be able to attend this enlightening and challenging conference. Spain is a country where democracy was achieved quite recently after a long struggle, and the conference theme of *The Strength of Minorities* was palpable in Santiago de Compostela, proud centre of Galician culture and language. As well as Spanish input, there was a lively presence from the countries of South America. A highlight for me was the meeting of all the Australians. Jenni had arranged for us to have a room in the lunch break and we met one another, many for the first time, and were able to exchange ideas. Read Robyn Sheahan-Bright's account and see photos in the following pages.

Travelling on to London I was able to attend a session of *Flow: the Free Word Festival* that was entitled 'At home in a strange land,' about children's books in translation. Chaired by Sarah Ardizzone, award winning translator, the panel included librarians, publishers and illustrator Axel Scheffler. Discussion extended from translation into some hard-hitting questions about representation, and anticipated the theme of the next biennial Congress in London in 2012.

INTERNATIONAL IBBY: IBBY has from its inception been fired by international ideals. From its base in Europe, it has grown and spread to be the truly worldwide organisation we know today. Canadian Ronald Jobe became in 1992 the first international president from outside Europe, and IBBY had begun its unstoppable progress across the globe. Now the newly elected president in 2010 is Ahmad Redza Ahmad Khairuddin, from our neighbouring country Malaysia. We in IBBY Australia congratulate him and wish him well in this responsible position. The contribution from Asia is vital to IBBY. Generous benefactors include the Japanese, Hideo Yamada responsible for the IBBY-Yamada workshop program, and the newspaper *Asahi Shimbun* which has sponsored the reading promotion award for twenty years; and the Korean Nami Island Inc, supporter of the Hans Christian Andersen Award (as well as the Nambook Festival: see Margaret Zeegers' report below).

IBBY AUSTRALIA ELECTIONS AND AGM: It has been customary for an election of office-bearers to be held by IBBY Australia as soon as practicable after the biennial international Congress. This time there will be a slight delay, as the elections will be held in conjunction with the first AGM of the newly independent IBBY Australia. This will be in Sydney on Saturday 2nd April 2011.

All members will receive notice of this meeting closer to the time, but please pencil it into diaries now.

Nominations will be called for, for executive positions and committee, and proxy votes will be arranged if needed. The AGM will coincide with an exciting event for International Children's Book Day. This one will be in Sydney but as a national body we hope to hold future meetings in other cities.

Very best wishes from the IBBY executive to all members and supporters for the end-of-year season. May Santa bring you lots of books!

Robin Morrow

The Strength of Minorities
32nd International IBBY Congress at Santiago de Compostela 8-12th
September, 2010.

Report by Dr Robyn Sheahan-Bright

'The point or function of minorities is to make majorities think' (Keynote Address by Emilia Ferreiro, Argentina/ México)

'Words become weapons to ensure our survival' (Keynote Address by Victor Montejo, Guatemala - USA)

Statements like these resonated throughout the recent IBBY congress which was imbued not only with a love of young people's literature but with a strong and potent ideal of social responsibility towards children and young people. In both keynote addresses and in the many workshop sessions, we heard repeated calls for assistance to children in crisis from the seventy-two member countries. The session by Mohammad Yousef on his work with street kids in Afghanistan was particularly moving, as was another address by Basarat Kazim about the flood crisis in Pakistan.

Canadian publisher Patsy Aldana, the outgoing International President of IBBY, was an extraordinarily calm and yet impressively focussed presence, hosting all the major sessions and participating in others, and her conduct of the AGM was exceptional. Her new role on the IBBY Foundation will be informed by her active involvement over recent years in advocacy on behalf of children and the literature which fuels their adult independence and lifetime opportunities.

Apart from the scheduled sessions, the conference organisers allowed people to meet in their own smaller sessions in order to cement relationships. I attended two such meetings. The first was conducted by Sylvia Vardell and Catherine Kurkjian, the editors of the IBBY journal *Bookbird*, who invited members of national chapters to an information session about the latest developments with the journal. (I attended on behalf of Robin Morrow who was delivering her paper at the time.) The key points made were that: *Bookbird* is now more accessible via a new link from the IBBY website [<http://www.ibby.org/index.php?id=276>], conference proceedings will be published in various Spanish dialects on the web; *Project Muse* [<http://muse.jhu.edu/journals/bookbird/>] now provides back issues (2008-July 2010) online; the editors are always looking for content; they try to balance the two themed issues a year with the non-themed issues (in 2011 April will focus on Poetry and October on Graphic Novels); they are seeking referees for journal articles; and are also seeking writers of 'Postcard Reviews'; they will publish one annual colour issue; and have signed an agreement with Mighty Books (Japan) to publish an edition there (Kimiko Matsui, President, Mighty Books, Japan, spoke enthusiastically about the first issue of 5000 copies, which was delivered free in order to create a subscription base). Representatives of various national chapters were also invited to speak about their programs (Germany, Slovakia, Estonia, Chile, China, Japan, Greece, Turkey, Cyprus, Pakistan, Australia) and it was very impressive and exciting to hear of the range of their activities. One representative from China summarised the work of IBBY: *'To bring together the people who bring people and books together'*.

The members of the Australian branch of IBBY also got together in another meeting, and Robin Morrow (President) and Jenni Woodroffe (Vic-President/Secretary) reported on progress with our incorporation as an independent body and on the challenges and opportunities that entailed. The key points made were that: the decision to seek independence from the ALIA was made in order to widen IBBY Australia's constituency; the branch's constitution will be completed by mid-October; members introduced themselves; there are several corporate members and we should be advocating for more; there are now 100+ members; conferring will be facilitated by email; the branch will need to arrange for a polling officer for the election of officers when incorporation is complete; various members offered to work on cementing our relationship with other affiliate bodies in Australia (such as ACLA, CBCA, the ASA, War Child Australia and the Indigenous Literacy Project), as well as generating ideas for publicity to increase our membership; IBBY's role is to link with neighbouring countries and

promote our books overseas, and in this respect it is unique amongst other groups advocating for young people's literature; it's a two-way traffic, though, in that we would like to see more overseas books available in Australia (Wilkins Farrago was mentioned as an example of an Australian publisher endeavouring to publish in translation here, as is Allen and Unwin within its wider children's list); copies of the IBBY poster will be sold to celebrate International Children's Book Day (ICBD) on 2nd April, 2011; events might also be convened to celebrate the day, perhaps in affiliation with another partner; the final possible promotional idea discussed was the production of postcard packs of Australian illustrators' works.



Those in attendance included critics, lecturers, teachers, librarians, a bookseller, and a publisher: Back Row: John Foster (SA), Joanna Andrew (WA), Heather Foster (SA), Jenni Woodroffe (WA), Tetsuta Watanabe (author/translator Vic), Shirley Shepherd (NT). Front Row: Elizabeth Beck (WA), Joscelyn Leatt-Hayter (WA), Debbie Froome (WA), Kimiko Matsui (formerly of Vic, now JBBY) Robin Morrow (NSW) and Robyn Sheahan-Bright (Qld). All in all, it was heartening to see such a strong group at this meeting representing Australia and revitalising our IBBY chapter.

We attended many excellent sessions, but what were the 'standout' moments? The cocktail party in one of the courtyards at the glorious historic hotel the Hostal Dos Reis Católicos was a fabulous night. It included the presentation of the IBBY-Asahi Reading Promotion Awards which showcase the fantastic work being done all over the world. These awards have been generously sponsored by Asahi Shimbun for many years; hearing David Almond and Jutta Bauer accept their HC Awards was a thrill; the various musical performances which showcased Galician culture including the concert at an ornate local theatre featuring the electrifying Mercedes Peón; and the closing dinner at the fabulous Pazo de San Lourenzo was a lavish event few of us will forget.

But for me the emotionally arresting address was by ardent Galician writer Manuel Rivas on the final morning of the conference. His fascinating performance included revealing 'objects' from his leather satchel which denoted various aspects of his appreciation of language and literature. He spoke passionately about his love of the Galician language and this resonated strongly for all of us, in terms of the many dialects and languages which are either endangered or have been lost including those of Indigenous Australians. One key quote from his address has stayed with me: *'The right to dream is a subversive energy'*.

I last attended an IBBY congress in Tokyo in 1986, the year Australian creators Robert Ingpen and Patricia Wrightson were the recipients of the Hans Christian Andersen Awards, but I now look forward to attending more in future. Bookmark your diaries to attend the next IBBY Congresses in London in 2012, and Mexico in 2014 ... and dare to dream!



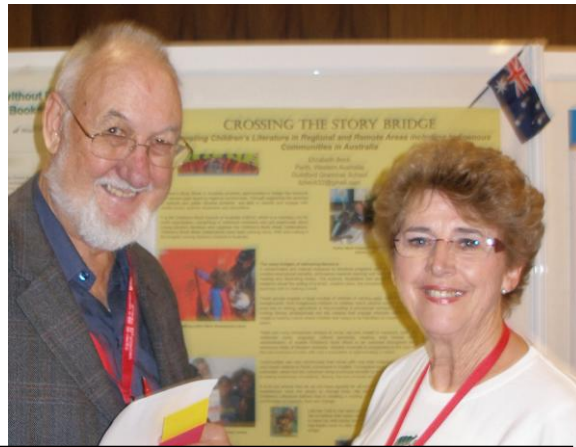
Some of the Australian contingent who have just met up after registering.



Joanna Andrew exploring her Congress satchel



Robyn Sheahan-Bright



Jay Heale (South Africa) with Elizabeth Beck



Jenni Woodroffe with Ron Jobe (Canada)



IBBY Children in Crisis promotion



Patsy Aldana (IBBY President), David Almond and Jutta Bauer prior to the HCA Awards presentation



Read the World photographic exhibition and the Australian contribution



South Australians Heather and John Foster relaxing after registration

Future Congresses

The USBBY Regional Conference will be held at The Arne Nixon Center for the Study of Children's Literature, California State University, Fresno CA, USA from the 21-23rd October, 2011 where the theme will be *Peace the World Together With Children's Books*. See www.usbby.org for further details

The 33rd IBBY World Congress will be held in London, UK from 28th-31st August, 2012 with the theme *Crossing Boundaries: Translations and Migrations*. See http://www.ibby.org.uk/congress_2012 for more information.

The 34th IBBY World Congress is to be held in Mexico City, Mexico at the tentative date of 15-21st September 2014 with the theme *Reading as a Social Inclusion Tool: In the Classroom, In the Library, and in Other Social Spaces*.

Santiago Revisited

On Monday evening, 18th October 22 people gathered in the Library of Perth Modern School for a presentation of the highlights and reprise of papers by the WA contingent at the 32nd IBBY World Congress held in Santiago de Compostela in September. Commencing with refreshments, Joscelyn Leatt-Hayter opened the evening with a power point presentation of aspects of the Congress and views of the many nooks and crannies that make exploring Santiago de Compostela on foot such a fascinating and rewarding experience. Elizabeth Beck spoke of the highlight of walking around the roof of the Cathedral and learning of the giant faces that preceded our evening at the Hostal Dos Reis Catolicos and spoke to her poster *The Story Bridge*. Joanna Andrew reprised her paper *Diversity and Multiculturalism in Australian Children's Picture Books* and spoke of other highlights from her visit to the UK. Jenni Woodroffe reprised *Curtain Up! From Book to Stage* and highlighted the next Congress to be held in London. See <http://www.ibby.org/index.php?id=1042> for online copies of photographs and papers of the Congress. We particularly thank Dr Robyn White, Principal and Librarian Rosemary Burton of Perth Modern School for making their wonderful new library available to us for this event. The evening made \$168.00 which will contribute to IBBY Australia coffers and next year's levies.



WA author Mike Lefroy and Director of FLC, Lesley Reece in front of the Anthony Browne poster for UK IBBY Congress 2012

Sweden

62 countries and 175 candidates are on the list for the 2011 Astrid Lindgren Memorial Award nominations and include Hazel Edwards, Morris Gleitzman, Robert Ingpen and Shaun Tan of Australia; Lisbeth Zwerger of Austria; Brian Doyle of Canada; Siobhan Parkinson of Ireland; Roberto Innocenti of Italy; Joy Cowley and Margaret Mahy of New Zealand; David Almond, Quentin Blake, Aidan and Nancy Chambers, Michael Foreman, Neil Gaiman, Mary Hoffman, Shirley Hughes, Margaret Meek Spencer, Michael Morpurgo and Michael Rosen of the United Kingdom and Eric Carle, Walter Dean Myers, Anne Pellowski and Jerry Pinkney of the United States and as an international candidate, IBBY International. Further details can be found at http://www.alma.se/Documents/2011/nomi_2011.pdf The 2011 winner will be announced on 29 March at the birthplace of Astrid Lindgren in Vimmerby, Sweden.

Denmark

A new Danish Award, named the Hans Christian Andersen Literature Prize was awarded to J.K. Rowling on the 19th October in Odense, the birthplace of Andersen. This is distinct from the Hans Christian Andersen Medal for writing which was awarded to David Almond at the IBBY Congress in September. See <http://www.guardian.co.uk/books/2010/oct/20/jk-rowling-hans-christian-andersen-prize>

Outstanding Books for Young People with Disabilities

Heidi Cortner Boiesen of the IBBY Documentation Centre of Books for Disabled Young People has written to confirm receipt of books forwarded by IBBY Australia and we look forward to hearing whether they have been selected for the *Outstanding Books for Young People With Disabilities 2011*.

Biennial Reports

We have received the Biennial Reports from the following Sections from the IBBY Secretariat in Switzerland: Argentina, Chile, Columbia, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Ecuador, Estonia, France, Greece, Haiti, Indonesia, Japan, Korea, Lebanon, Lithuania, Malaysia, Mexico, Pakistan, Poland and Uganda. Please do not hesitate to request any of these reports by email to jennij@iinet.net.au and they will be forwarded to you.

Mystery Member

Somebody sent \$25 by electronic transfer on 12th May, but did not include identification. We would love to acknowledge this mystery member. Please let us know who you are!

United Kingdom

Some time ago we received a request from the United Kingdom Section of IBBY for articles for their electronic newsletter for an issue featuring Australian children's literature. There was a pleasing response from our membership and other contributors which can be found in IBBYLink Vol 29 Autumn 2010 Australia. In her editorial Pat Pisent comments: We start with a glance at the work of IBBY Australia as well as at some of the book prizes awarded to outstanding books. We have the usual invaluable contribution from Pam Robson's database, while other articles feature such topics as mental health problems, transgender issues, masculinity and sports culture, and Australian-Muslim identity. But the largest area featured relates to the historical background, and the way in which contemporary Australian education is collaborating in the attempt to give Aboriginal culture its rightful place.

2010 Nambook Festival

In October, I attended the opening of the 2010 Nambook Festival on Nami Island, in South Korea. A large part of this year's festival was the launch of the Peace Project book, which incorporates stories by notable children's book authors and illustrations by notable children's book illustrators from around the world. Australia's contribution opens the book, a beautifully written and illustrated story by our own Susanne Gervay and Frane Lessac. Folk will be pleased to hear of the flourish with which their work was unveiled at the start of the book launch on Nami Island. Only their story, the first one, and Korea's were wrapped up, ready for unveiling before an enthusiastic crowd of people: those involved in the project itself, ambassadorial people, dignitaries, visitors and so on. Shrouded in white cloth, it stood at the start of the path along which excerpts from all the stories, with illustrations and text, were placed to the most magical effect. Susanne and Frane's work commenced proceedings and the collective gasp from the crowd as it was revealed to them was something to experience. All of us who have been working on the production of this beautiful book have been doing so in isolation, so we did not know just what to expect, even if we thought it would be something good. Yet none of us expected something so beautiful, or a ceremony so thoughtfully contrived, as what was shown to us on this day.

I would urge all of us to get our hands on what Patsy Aldana, IBBY President, calls a 'beautiful book'. and she is absolutely right.

[Title: *Peace Story*; Publisher: Lee Kye-Young, Nami Books, Korea. Address: 2nd Floor, Gallery Sang Building, 157 Insa-dong, Jongno-gu, Seoul 110-290, Republic of Korea
Email: wnpub@chol.com

Dr Margaret Zeegers

Past President, IBBY Australia

IBBY PAKISTAN

We have sent out separately a request to contribute to the Children in Crisis Fund- Pakistan to assist the Alif Book Bus Society with bibliotherapy and storytelling in flood devastated Pakistan

Kate Greenaway Medal

In June 2010 Australian illustrator Freya Blackwood received this award for *Harry and Hopper* (written by Margaret Wild, Omnibus Books). The Kate Greenaway Medal and its sister award for writing, the Carnegie Medal, are the UK's most prestigious awards for children's books. Freya joins fellow Australians Gregory Rogers and Bob Graham on the illustrious list of winners, a list that includes Brian Wildsmith, Janet Ahlberg, Anthony Browne, Helen Oxenbury, Shirley Hughes . . . Winners are chosen by CILIP (Chartered Institute of Library and Information Professionals).

The Chair of the CILIP Kate Greenaway judging panel, Margaret Pemberton, commented: 'In *Harry & Hopper*, Freya Blackwood excels in her use of muted colour, perspective, and exterior and interior space to give a powerful take on the father-son relationship, and a much-loved pet's death. A sensitive issue for young children is beautifully handled, with Harry's emotions and memories of Hopper expressed visually to great effect.'

New Zealand

On the 18th October, Joy Cowley was honoured in Wellington, NZ with the 2010 NZ Prime Minister's Award for Literary Achievement in fiction and will receive \$60,000 for her significant contribution to New Zealand literature.

Storylines NZ reports: Joy spoke movingly of her great pleasure in receiving the award, and of her belief in the importance of children growing up reading stories about the culture and landscape of their own country (an experience she and her generation lacked at a time when there were few New Zealand children's writers), and of her own commitment to and love of New Zealand.

This award is a fitting tribute to a beloved writer who has dedicated her life's work to ensuring that all children not only could read, but that they would enjoy reading – and enjoy reading stories about themselves and the country they grow up in. See <http://www.creativenz.govt.nz/> for further details.

Bookbird

Bookbird requires a new editor or team of editors. The application deadline is January 15, 2011. The new editor(s) should be in place by mid-2011 to prepare the first issue of 2012. The contract to edit *Bookbird* usually extends for three years. For detailed information See www.ibby.org

IBBY Cambodia

The past two years in Phnom Penh (Cambodia) have seen a significant increase in arts and cultural events targeting a wide variety of audiences, in particular the visual arts. Literature has taken a little longer to find its feet but in recent months there have been several events showcasing creative writing and supporting reading promotion. The number of new publications for young people in Cambodia is growing and, interestingly, there have also been an increasing number of foreign rights acquisitions. Recent publications are starting to move away from the didacticism that characterized almost all publications for children in Cambodia just three or four years ago.

IBBY Cambodia hopes to be able to complement the work of organizations already engaged in publishing for children and reading promotion. Currently we are planning events for writers, illustrators, publishers, and readers to identify interests and expectations of Cambodian audiences, in particular in attempting to address the dearth of publishing for teenage readers. Events to introduce international publications to Cambodian audiences are also anticipated. Although it is still early in the development of the IBBY network here, the IBBY vision has already received a warm response from individuals and organizations connected to children's books in Cambodia.

Susanna Coghlan

Previously an active member of IBBY Ireland, Susanna came to Cambodia in 2004 and has worked in public education, private education and local publishing there.

International Children's Book Day 2011

In 2011, ICBD which celebrates the anniversary of the birth of Hans Christian Andersen, will fall on a Saturday which is just before the end of first term (for states other than Tasmania), and precedes the CBCA Book of the Year Shortlist announcement and Easter. IBBY Estonia is the Section that will be producing the poster with its theme and message for 2011 and IBBY Australia is planning to have posters available as in 2010. In addition it is hoped to add to our merchandise with packs of bookmarks featuring an Australian illustrator. For those looking ahead and planning 2011 First Term events do check out our website at <http://ibbyaustralia.wordpress.com> early in the term for more up to date information. Possible activities include storytelling based on HC Andersen stories or international folktales, share a book with fellow students, teachers, celebrities, parents, grandparents, an evening gathering with takeaway or potluck, invitations to parents to come and share favourite childhood books and for Sydneysiders there is something special in the offing – mark the date in your diary.

Farewell to Kaye Keck of Dromkeen

It was with sadness that Congress participants returned to learn the news of the passing of Kaye Keck who left us on the evening of Tuesday, 14th September after a brief battle with cancer. Daughter of Courtney and Joyce Oldmeadow, Kaye continued her parents' dream for Dromkeen and as Director of the Dromkeen Children's Literature Collection worked in a close relationship with schools, parents and children. In 2003 Kaye received the Leila St John Award from the Victorian Branch of the CBCA for her outstanding contribution to children's literature. Interstate visitors to Dromkeen and the 2008 CBCA Biennial Conference *All the Wild Wonders* will long remember Kaye's vivaciousness and enthusiasm as she swirled through the crowds in the magnificent Dromkeen storytelling cloak.

WANTED – 203 Members for IBBY AUSTRALIA

We look forward to welcoming 203 more individual Members for IBBY Australia and another 18 institutional Members. Please join us and help us become 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: _____

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