



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 37
May, 2018**

President's Letter

Dear members and supporters of IBBY

International Children's Book Day was celebrated with splendid events in WA and NSW (see pp 2 and 3). Thanks to the many people who contributed to the success of these events. We were reminded of the joys and challenges of belonging to a worldwide movement which marks this day, birthday of Hans Christian Andersen.

At *Windows on the World* in NSW, for the first time we had the Ena Noël Award winner present to receive his medal: Will Kostakis for *The Sidekicks*. This marked the culmination of the work of the interstate selection panel, chaired by committee member Claire Stuckey (see p 4).

A number of Australians are planning to attend the 36th IBBY World Congress in Athens, late in August. Speakers will include Deborah Ellis, Perry Nodelman and Jeannie Baker. Please be sure to let us know if you will be attending, as we are keen to have a get-together of Australians there. As well as meeting children's literature enthusiasts from every corner of the world, a highlight of an international congress can be meeting up with like-minded people from one's own country!

It is nearly ten years since Jenni Woodroffe and I met at the 31st IBBY World Congress in Copenhagen in 2008. On a post-Congress excursion to Odense, birthplace of 'dear Hans', we discussed our ideas for reinvigorating IBBY Australia, and soon found ourselves in the roles of president and vice-president. IBBY Australia, led by the talented and hard-working executive committee members, has achieved many things since then. We are proud of this firmly established, incorporated body with its own constitution, and members from every area of the children's book community, both in occupation and region; but aware it will need to flourish and grow.

You will see on the membership form (see last page) that Jeannie Baker, 2018 HCA nominee for illustration, has generously donated a Limited Edition print, hand worked and embossed, for one lucky member joining or renewing. You will receive an email to remind you if your membership is due, and if it is paid before 30 June your name will go into the draw for this print. Please help IBBY to continue to 'make an impact'!

Dr Robyn Sheahan-Bright, as chair of the HCA selection panel, is starting the process for choosing the next Australian nominees. Members are invited to contribute suggestions for consideration (see p 6).

I'll be in Fuller's Bookshop, Hobart, in late May to launch IBBY member Julie Hunt's new book, so am looking forward to meeting Tasmanian members and friends at that time.

And we give advance notice of the forthcoming Annual General Meeting in October 2018, to be held in Canberra (details available soon).

Best wishes

Robin Morrow, AM

Windows on the World

International Children's Book Day Celebration, NSW

7th April 2018

IBBY Australia President Dr Robin Morrow opened an informative and illuminating seminar at Santa Sabina College, Strathfield, NSW.

Apart from the illustrious presenters, IBBY nominees Jeannie Baker and Ursula Dubosarsky were present, as well as IBBY members from Tasmania; Clare Hallifax and Ana Vivas from Scholastic (Australia); and Kirli Saunders, author of Matt Ottley's new book, *The Incredible Freedom Machines*.

Matt Ottley described his colourful life in words, pictures and music. He was born in the highlands of Papua New Guinea, grew up speaking Melanesian and Pidgin and was particularly influenced by his mother's drawing and painting. He moved to Sydney as a boy and had a difficult time with the lack of respect he saw shown to some adults. His mother teamed him with a cartoonist from *The Bulletin* who became an important role model. He managed to stay in touch with his creativity while working as a stockman but 'this didn't go down well with other stockmen'. Much of Matt's work explores 'bridging perceived differences'. Music has always been part of Matt's life and travel, and he played recordings of several of his compositions with graphics from his books, including the spellbinding first movement from *Requiem for a Beast*.



Matt Ottley, Tamsin Janu and Will Kostakis. Photo: Penelope Janu

In her session, 'Books as mirrors and windows of refugee experiences' **Dr Robin Morrow** shared resources for early childhood to young adults. Books included *Flight* by Nadia Wheatley and Armin Greder, several graphic novels, Clare Atkins' YA novel *Between Us*, and our current IBBY Honour books, *Teacup* by Rebecca Young and Matt Ottley and *The Bone Sparrow* by Zana Fraillon. Robin concluded with the important observation that these books counteract influences where 'the other' are regarded as the enemy.



Margot Lindgren and Tamsin Janu drawing a raffle prize. Photo Wendy Blaxland

Two of **Tamsin Janu's** novels are shortlisted in the 2018 NSW Premier's Literary Awards. She outlined her three months in Ghana where she lived with a local family and worked at an orphanage, which became the genesis of her three 'Figgy' stories. She has incorporated Ghanaian experiences such as driving in tro-tros; food such as fufu and jollof rice; lack of running water and electricity in homes and schools; and poverty and sickness into the books. Similarities between Ghanaian and other children from around the world are more important to Tamsin than their differences. She highlights love of family and friends and what is 'common to all children' – 'determination to do what is right'. Tamsin succeeds in her desire to make the books 'funny and fun' to show the spirit of the Ghanaian

people. *Blossom* is Tamsin's other new book. It's a 'mystery fantasy novel set in Australia'. Blossom's unusual characteristics suggest that 'she may not be from this world and she's taken away and mistreated because she's different'. It deals with justice and injustice and how 'people are persecuted because they're not like us'.

The afternoon concluded with the presentation of the Ena Noël award to **Will Kostakis** for his YA novel *The Sidekicks*. Will's supportive family attended, and he affirmed, 'My books are about families – families in real life and the families you make.'

Joy Lawn Children's and YA literature specialist and NSW IBBY member



Will Kostakis with his mother and grandmother: Photo: Wendy Blaxland

IBBY Australia International Children's Book Day Quiz Night 2018

It was *Heads down* for the the 5th fabulous Quiz Night, ceremonially mastered by the mercurial Glenn Swift, at Perth and Tattersalls Bowling Club, East Perth on Wednesday, 4th April. The night was well attended by 100 plus quizees - teachers, librarians, authors, illustrators, booksellers and parents. The competition was fierce as we plumbed the depths of our memories and knowledge banks.

The evening got underway with some formalities announced by IBBY Life Member Jenni Woodroffe and EC member Joanna Andrew..



Quiz Master Glenn Swift holding the participants' attention. Photo: Jan Nicholls

As we have come to expect from these quiz organizers, the table competitions and questions were inventive and imaginative. The accurate identification of illustrations of foxes, mostly from picture books, was one table quiz that had us delving deep; the other was the continuation of some traditional rhymes. The quiz questions ranged from book titles, dog books, a particularly challenging set about pirates and literary general knowledge - to name a few. Had I known at the time that 'to shiver' originally meant 'to splinter or split', I would have been well on the way to correctly answering the origin of the phrase 'shiver me timbers'.

The serious questioning was alleviated by a half-time *draw-off*, where the audience was challenged to identify a Hans Christian Andersen story title as illustrated by two teams of three illustrators. As happens so often, the audience was in awe of the talent of the illustrators. Hats off to these unsung heroes.

There were prizes aplenty, with each table having a sample bag of prizes on the table as if for



1st Prize Winners – Table 9 from Armadale Libraries. Photo: Jan Nicholls

decoration; then, there were the door prizes, the raffle prizes, as well as heads and tails and, of course, the actual quiz winners. 1st prize went to Table 9 Armadale Libraries; 2nd prize to Table 5 State Library of WA and 3rd prize to Table 11 an Orphans Table. Judi Willmott was the lucky successful bidder for the Gabriel Evans illustration, a whimsical drawing of a balloon house, and can pair it with the Kylie Howarth illustration she bought in 2017.

lived up to his name and had the evening moving at a rapid pace, with a pleasant, light-hearted atmosphere. Thanks to the generous sponsors and to the committee and organisers – Jenni Woodroffe, Joanna Andrew, Jan Nicholls, Cate Sutherland, Jane Stanton, Chloe Mauger and Barry Stanton – for a very entertaining evening.

Carmel Ballinger WA children's and YA literature reviewer



Team WA. Photo: Norman Jorgensen

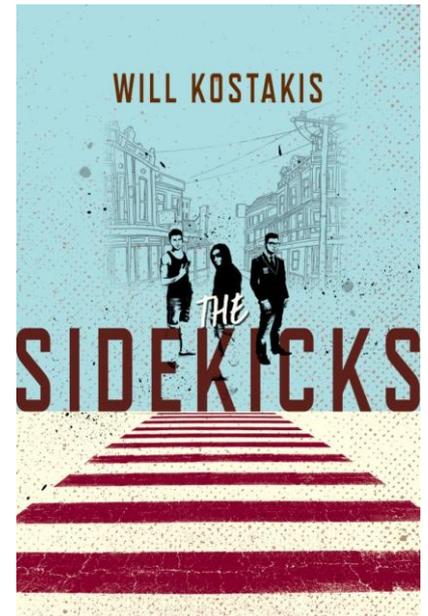


Ena Noël Award 2018

The Ena Noël Award - to encourage young emerging writers and illustrators - has been a significant identifier of talented authors and illustrators since its inception in 1994. The panel of three judges is pleased to announce the 2018 winner for the IBBY Australia Encouragement Award for a young emerging writer or illustrator is:

Will Kostakis for *The Sidekicks*, published by Penguin Random House

Meet the *Sidekicks*: a swimmer, a rebel and a nerd. Through the different relationship each shared with Isaac, they become more than these public personae. Each young man deals with grief and the situation that forces them together to cope with Isaac's untimely and suspect demise. The relationships with one another and the people around them bring them to face difficult choices they need to make: the choices that free them to be the multi-dimensional people they truly are. These peripheral characters enhance but do not overwhelm the narrative. This intricately designed narration weaves the stories of Ryan, Harley and Miles together. These characters scream silently out for help, and each finds strength or solace, if in different places. *The Sidekicks* concludes with Miles narrating an external film sequence. The boys come together around the picnic table providing a new catalyst for the future, a future where they can remember and finally forget Isaac.



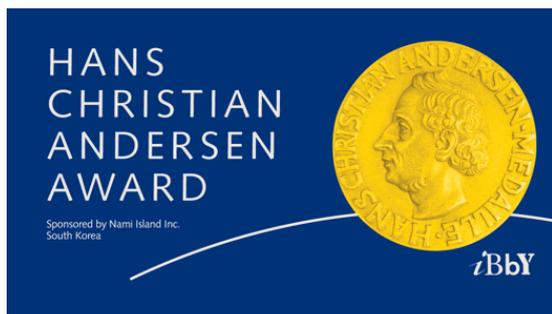
The Sidekicks is Will's third novel for young adults, and American debut. His first novel, *Loathing Lola*, was released when he was just nineteen, and his second, *The First Third*, won the 2014 Gold Inky Award. It was also shortlisted for the Children's Book Council of Australia Book of the Year and Australian Prime Minister's Literary awards. As a high school student, Will won *The Sydney Morning Herald* Young Writer of the Year for a collection of short stories.

The judges, coordinated by Claire Stuckey with other members of the panel from Qld and Tasmania, noted it was a pleasure to read such a broad and diverse selection of Australia's emerging children's and YA authors and illustrators and an honour to select such a truly deserving book. Congratulations to Will Kostakis and the publishers.

See <https://ibbyaustralia.wordpress.com/ena-noel-award/> for more details

Claire Stuckey Ena Noel Award Coordinator, EC and NSW IBBY member

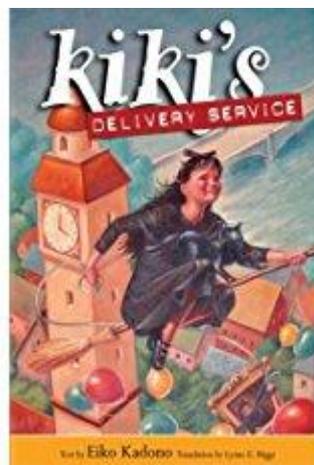
2018 Hans Christian Andersen Award Winners



The winners of the 2018 Hans Christian Andersen Award were announced on Monday, 26th March at the Bologna Book Fair. IBBY is very grateful to Nami Island Inc in the Republic of Korea for their sponsorship of this prestigious award, which is considered to be the Children's Nobel.

Eiko Kadono of Japan is the winner for Writing.

According to the Jury: There is an ineffable charm, compassion, and élan in the work of this great Japanese author. Whether in her many marvellous and funny picture books, or her great series of novels about the witch Kiki, or her novel set during World War II about a brave girl who must walk through a terrifying tunnel of trees to get to school, Kadono's books are always surprising, engaging, and empowering. And almost always fun. And always life affirming.



Igor Oleynikov of Russia is the winner for Illustration



According to the Jury: This exceptional illustrator can bring the page alive in a way that must be the envy of his peers. Coming from an early career as an animator, Oleynikov is a master of design and composition. Furthermore, he brings an extraordinary cast of characters to life –from young boys and girls, to witches and giants, to wolves and sharks, to fairies and trolls, to Joshua and Ruth from the Old Testament, to even a brilliant tiny

mouse who goes to Harvard! Though he claims not to like illustrating 'cute' children, he is more than capable of creating beauty – in his landscapes and in his characters. Beautiful or not, human or not, they burst with life, movement and expression.



The Emperor and the Nightingale illus by Igor Oleynikov

The Hans Christian Andersen Award jury also recommends 15 titles from the Shortlist of Nominees and these can be found at <http://www.ibby.org/awards-activities/awards/hans-christian-andersen-awards/hcaa-2018/the-jury-recommends/?L=0>

For further details about the Hans Christian Andersen Awards and the jurors see <http://www.ibby.org/awards-activities/awards/hans-christian-andersen-awards/hcaa-2018/?L=0>

Australian IBBY Members Have Your Say for 2020

IBBY Australia has begun work to decide on nominations of both a writer and an illustrator for the prestigious **Hans Christian Andersen Awards 2020**. We call on financial members to send suggestions for nominees to the chair of the IBBY Australia HCA sub-committee, Robyn Sheahan-Bright by **31 May 2018** at rsheahan5@bigpond.com. These will be added to the longlist and considered by the sub-committee. Each country's nominations must be received by the Secretariat by 30 October 2018.



Australia was honoured to win both awards in 1986: Patricia Wrightson (Writer) and Robert Ingpen (Illustrator). Our nominations since then have been: 2018 David Metzthen, Jeannie Baker; 2016 Ursula Dubosarsky, Bronwyn Bancroft; 2014 Nadia Wheatley, Ron Brooks; 2012 Christobel Mattingley, Bob Graham; 2008 Jackie French, Shaun Tan.

The guidelines state that:

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

- The aesthetic and literary qualities of writing and illustrating.
- The ability to see things from a child's point of view.
- The ability to stretch the child's curiosity as well as the child's literary and creative imagination.
- Cultural differences in literary aesthetics will be taken into account and appreciated.
- Freshness and innovation will be a great advantage.
- The complete works of the author and of the illustrator will be taken into consideration.

Please keep these points in mind when making your suggestions.

HCA Sub-committee: Robyn Sheahan-Bright, Robin Morrow and Jenni Woodroffe



IBBY Australia acknowledges the Copyright Agency Cultural Fund for supporting this project

News from Bologna Book Fair



Wally de Doncker of IBBY centre. Photo: IBBY Secretariat

On the 28th March, there was a public signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between three global organisations: IFLA (International Federation of Library Associations) ILA (International Literary Association, formerly IRA International Reading Association) & IBBY.

By signing this MoU all three global organisations promise to share knowledge, work together and participate in each others' congresses to stress the importance of reading and access to information, and find practical ways of making this a reality. If we can reach all children, ignite the passion for reading and explore the world's knowledge we build a better future for everyone. The ability to read is an essential tool for daily life in modern society, be it on paper or from a screen.

IBBY – 'All our members approve the introduction of a formal commitment to the principles of the International Convention on the Rights of the Child (1990). It is our responsibility to uphold these rights, as they reflect to seek, receive and impart information and to the elimination of ignorance and illiteracy' – Wally de Doncker, President IBBY

IFLA – 'Universal literacy remains one of the great challenges of our time. Truly sustainable, bottom-up development depends on everyone having the ability to read and engage with information. In signing this memorandum with IBBY and ILA, I look forward to continuing a partnership that is making a real difference for people and communities around the world' - Gerald Leitner, Secretary General IFLA

ILA - 'ILA views literacy as a fundamental, inalienable human right. This Memorandum reaffirms our collective commitment to our shared goal of literacy for all. We look forward to strengthening the partnership between our organizations' - Douglas Fisher, President of the ILA Board of Directors

IBBY Australia and the ACLF were also represented by Ann James of Books Illustrated, and the ILF by Patricia Genet, as guests and witnesses.

Gumnut babies and Puddin' thieves: Bush adventure stories for children

Dr Robin Morrow, AM

1918, the end of WWI, was the year *Snugglepot and Cuddlepie* by May Gibbs (1877 – 1969) and *The Magic Pudding* by Norman Lindsay (1879-1969) were published. At the Art Gallery of NSW Lecture series: *2018 The World in Transition - Repercussions and Legacies a Century On* in late April, Robin Morrow examined similarities and differences between these books and their attitudes to the bush; she looked at them as products of their time; she also compared them to children's books today.

The lecture opened with a quote from UK critic Peter Hollindale: 'A large part of any book is written not by its author but by the world its author lives in.' Robin highlighted some of the influences on UK born May Gibbs. Her parents attended art school in London; she lived in Western Australia where her father took her into the bush for sketching lessons. In WA May saw very large gumnuts, possibly Marri *Corymbia calophylla*. Professor of Botany Peter Bernhardt was later to praise her observation in the details of plants and flowers, especially her famous banksia men. She returned to London and contributed cartoons to *The Common Cause*, a suffragette magazine and she also published a children's book *About Us* (1912).

A breakthrough moment came when Gibbs designed a gumleaf bookmark with the peeping face of a 'bush sprite'. A similar image appeared on the cover of *The Lone Hand* in 1914, and then came postcards, which were sent to Australian soldiers serving in the trenches. It seems a natural progression to her next projects writing *Snugglepot and Cuddlepie: Their Adventures Wonderful* (1918), *Little Ragged Blossom* (1920) and *Little Obelia* (1921).



When she died in 1969 May Gibbs left the copyright of all her works to the NSW Society for Crippled Children (now Northcott) and the Spastic Centre of NSW (now Cerebral Palsy Alliance), which still benefit from royalties on sales of her books and products.. Transport NSW has named a new harbour ferry in her honour; and The Vivid Sydney 2018 light show will also feature her art.

Norman Lindsay was born in Victoria. He worked for *The Bulletin* as a staff artist for over fifty years. He founded and contributed to *The Lone Hand*, a monthly magazine fighting for an independent Australian culture. It is said Norman Lindsay was in an argument about what children wanted to read and he replied 'if a kid was given a choice between fairies and food in typematter it would plump for food.'

It is interesting to note references to *The Magic Pudding* in modern culture. A quote from *The Saturday Paper* November 25th, 2017: 'The treasurer... had great difficulty explaining how you could give away billions of dollars' worth of revenue to big business and ordinary punters while at the same time returning the budget to surplus. A magic pudding comes to mind.'

May Gibbs and Norman Lindsay settled in and near Sydney, NSW; they were skilled artists and cartoonists; both wrote books that are episodic and involve verbal play; both drew unclothed characters, although these were in different contexts; both may be called workaholics; and both their homes and galleries are open to the public.

Their influences on later works can be seen in bushland fantasies such as the work of Pixie O'Harris, Peg Maltby and Dorothy Wall. In 2009 Ursula Dubosarsky was inspired by a May Gibbs postcard to write her book *Tibby's Leaf*. We saw treehouses in *Snugglepot and Cuddlepie* and in *The Magic Pudding*, and today we have fabulous treehouses in the work of Stephen Michael King and the popular book series by Andy Griffiths and Terry Denton. Environmental conservation is firmly on the agenda today, especially in the work of Jeannie Baker.

Robin concluded that 'It seems that these books have endured because of the light touch of their humour compared with other publications around their time, and their distinguished and memorable illustrations'



Teatowel on display at talk.

Margot Lindgren EC and NSW IBBY member

Stories Make Us – Stories Create Our Future



Morris Gleitzman, Australian
Children's Laureate 2018-2019

On 12 February, months of conjecture ended when Morris Gleitzman was announced as Australia's Children's Laureate for 2018-2019. Then on 15 February, in front of a packed gathering in the Friends Room at the New South Wales State Library, he held aloft the official magpie statue representing his new responsibilities.

English-born Gleitzman began writing books about thirty years ago and is now the award-winning and best-selling author of dozens of children's titles, including *Two Weeks with the Queen*, *Toad Rage*, *Loyal Creatures* and *Maybe*, his most recent book.

Gleitzman moves into the demanding role that has been filled so admirably by past Laureates Alison Lester, Boori Monty Pryor, Jackie French and Leigh Hobbs since the program began in 2012. Supported by the Australia Council for the Arts and the Copyright Agency's Cultural Fund, the Australian Children's Laureate is a project of the Australian Children's Literature Alliance. And ACLA was the force behind the successful 15th February event.

On that evening, following ACLA chairperson Ron Gorman's welcome to guests, four very articulate and engaging speakers shared the podium.

State Librarian John Vallance spoke personally about the important of reading and his commitment to children's literature, including his memories of being read to and how those experiences helped define his path through life.

Noni Hazelhurst, founding Patron of ACLA and the Laureate program, used strong words and facts to draw the audience's attention to the poor funding of literacy in Australia and her concerns for the future, urging Gleitzman to muster all his talents and strengths to do battle when necessary.

Renowned journalist and television presenter Jenny Brockie-- also one of Gleitzman's longtime friends-- talked about that friendship and her confidence in his ability to tackle the challenges of the Laureate role with intelligence and success.



Morris, Magpie and Jenny Brockie
Photo: Joy Lai, State Library of NSW.



Morris. Photo: Joy Lai, State Library of NSW.

Gleitzman himself spoke with assurance and passion about reading and young people, about the fact that now more than ever they need stories. Stories, he maintains, will help arm them to face, with strength and optimism, the challenges of a world that is often difficult and uncertain. He intends to champion stories and whatever they have to offer young people and to use his magpie 'beak' to 'peck' as necessary to unite literature and young people.

And so his term begins.

Karen Jameyson EC and NSW IBBY member

Radical ICBD Lecture

To celebrate International Children's Book Day, Jen Banyard and I attended a public lecture at UWA given by Kimberley Reynolds, Professor of Children's Literature, School of English Literature, Language and Linguistics, Newcastle University and the 2018 UWA Institute of Advanced Studies Visiting Fellow. Kimberley was involved in founding the UK's Children's Laureate and setting up Seven Stories: the National Centre for Children's Books and is a member of IBBY UK. She has also been a judge in The Little Rebels Award which recognises children's fiction that promotes social justice or social equality, challenges stereotypes or is informed by anti-discriminatory concerns.

The talk, *Reading for Little Rebels: internationalism and radical writing for children*, presented a selection of radical children's books which were published in the first half of the last century in an attempt to encourage children to work towards building a progressive, egalitarian, peaceful and sustainable modern world. Titles included *War in Dollyland* by Harry Golding and Albert Friend (1915) and *Red Comet: A Tale of Travel in the USSR* by Geoffrey Trease (1937). The talk considered whether current writing for children similarly cultivates visions and skills that will help the rising generation believe in and build a better future.

Follow this link to listen to the talk: <http://www.ias.uwa.edu.au/lectures/kimberleyreynolds>

Gail Spiers WA IBBY member

Celebrating 25 years in WA



Matt Ottley signing *Teacup* for Chloe Mauer

Wearing her gold AM medal, Lesley Reece welcomed an inclusive audience to Silver Anniversary celebrations of The Literature Centre, (the Old Prison Hospital), Fremantle in March and April. Quotes from authors, illustrators and students who had participated in presentations and workshops were interspersed with Lesley recounting the pioneer days of the Centre to the statewide enterprise it is today with its annual Celebrate Reading National Conference. A highlight in March was the multi-modal performance of *Teacup* with words and lyrics by Rebecca Young and images and music by Matt Ottley. For further

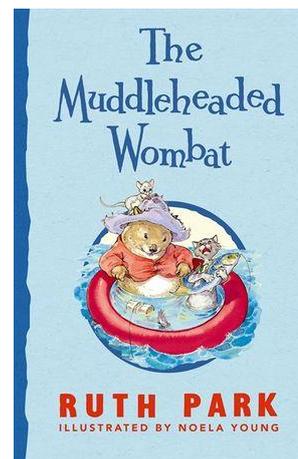
information regarding the celebrations see <http://www.thelitcentre.org.au>

VALE NOELA YOUNG

Noela Young, who died in April, was born in 1930 and attended the National Art School (at that time East Sydney Technical College), where she won the College Medal for Highest Honours. She went on to illustrate over seventy books, including many award-winners. Noela's husband was illustrator Walter Cunningham.

We salute the achievements of this wonderful illustrator, whose pictures have delighted and inspired Australian children of several generations. It is impossible to imagine what the NSW *School Magazine* would have looked like without Noela's input. Her illustrations formed both backdrop and foreground to many children's reading experiences, such that *The Muddle-Headed Wombat* is unthinkable without them. Then there is the small gem that is *John, the Mouse Who Loved to Read*; and Emily Rodda's first book, *Something Special*; and the gentle but gritty combination of Lilith Norman's text and Noela's pictures in *Grandpa*. The roll call continues . . . Here was such a meticulous artist, especially talented at depicting the outback, rural life and animals, but brilliantly observant too of the nuances of exchanged human glances (look again at *Grandpa*). She will be deeply missed, but her legacy lives on in many an illustrated page.

Robin Morrow, AM





Re-Imagine – the world according to children's books

Geelong Gallery, Little Malop Street, Geelong, Victoria

24th March – 27th May 2018

The art of children's books is not a stranger to galleries: it's three years since the [Bunyips and Dragons](#) show at NGV Australia. This exhibition, called 'a selective survey' by co-curators Lisa Sullivan and Jason Smith, is a chance for lovers of picture books to see splendid original work.

Drawing, painting, collage, prints and roughs are all here – many lent by artists and the collections of [Books Illustrated](#), [The Literature Centre](#) and the [National Centre for Australian Children's Literature](#).

While the range of work on display showed process in its variety of forms, the labels gave little information about the artists. In keeping with the theme of the exhibition, the labels were annotations of the work inviting viewers to reflect on how the works introduce to children 'concepts of humanity, nature, caring, cultural difference and belonging, and the challenging realities of loneliness and intolerance'. All of the books represented would be in public and school libraries now.

The highlights for this viewer were : [Joshua Button's gorilla](#) from *Steve Goes to Carnival* and Van T Rudd's paintings on deconstructed cardboard boxes for Maxine Beneba Clarke's [The Patchwork Bike](#).

Bern Emmerich's paintings on ceramic tiles, which told the story of [Bennelong and Phillip's relationship for the book written by Michael Sedunary](#) were glorious, and comparing them to the final printed version raises many questions about what happens to artwork as illustration.



Bern Emmerich with her ceramic tiles

The centrepiece of the exhibition - well worth the \$26 train fare from Melbourne - is a large set of panels which make up a canon of 'characters who have captivated children for centuries'.



Angela and Robert Ingpen with the centrepiece

Alice, Winnie, Bunyip Bluegum and Dorothy, among others, as seen by the distinguished Robert Ingpen who has painted them for sumptuous printed classic editions in his career. Ingpen is the only Australian to have won the Hans Christian Andersen Medal for Illustration (so far). Part tapestry-like panorama, part bookshelf, the panel delighted visitors who could search for well-known characters and finding small details. The gallery staff we spoke to did not know whether this work will be in the collection permanently; as Ingpen is a longtime resident of the Bellarine Peninsula, it would be fitting.

A small island of rugs and chairs in the centre of the space invited visitors to linger over the titles represented. Local children made and published their own 8-page books during a holiday program conducted by Kids' Own Publishing. A program of artists' talks, held in the award-winning [Geelong Library and Heritage Centre](#) next door, complement this engaging exhibition. All photos courtesy of Geelong Gallery



Margaret Robson Kett Vic and WA IBBY member

News from Queensland



IBBY Australia Vice-President, Robyn Sheahan-Bright, with Jeannie Baker

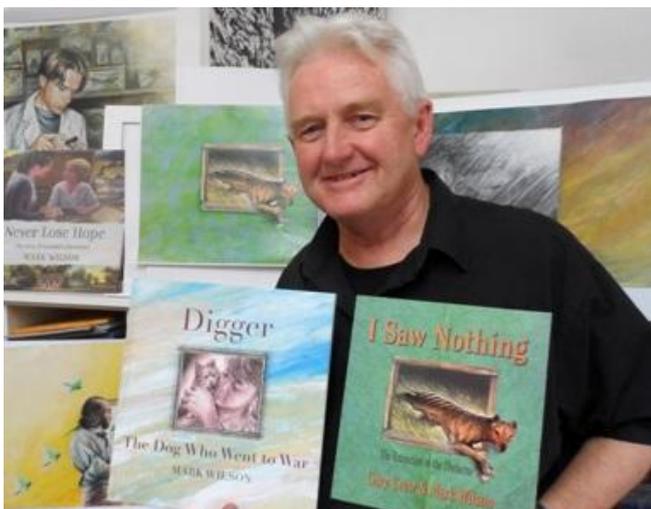
Great Sandy Strait on the Fraser Coast.

2018 Australian Hans Christian Andersen Award nominee for illustration, Jeannie Baker, attended the opening of her *Circle* exhibition at the Bundaberg Art Gallery which was open from the 7th March – 6th May, 2018. The beautiful collage illustrations from her book *Circle* follow the 11,000 km migration of the Bar-tailed Godwit from Australia through Southeast Asia to its Alaskan breeding grounds, then back to Australia. This travelling exhibition began on the 19th May, 2016 at the National Maritime Museum and appeared at Newcastle, Canberra, Melbourne, Adelaide, Hobart and Brisbane. This amazing circle of life reminds viewers of the importance of the world's remaining wetlands, including the

News from Victoria

At the Celebrate Australian Children's Literature Day on March 11 at Dromkeen, award winning author-illustrator Mark Wilson opened his exciting new exhibition called *Stories of Life, History and Nature*, presented by Bernadette Joiner and Mark Wilson.

During the opening, author **Corinne Fenton** launched Mark's beautiful new picture book, *Never Lose Hope - The Story of Australia's First School*, published by Hachette. Corinne mentioned the sense of hope Mark conveys throughout this book, indeed, many of his books, and the need to 'follow your dreams with all your heart and soul'. **Bernadette Joiner**, the director of Dromkeen, then announced the inaugural **Mark Wilson – Dromkeen - Young Author/Illustrator Award**, open to students between years three to eight, for both writing and illustration. Further information about this award can be found at www.dromkeen.com.au



Mark with two of his picture books featured in the exhibition.

Mark Wilson's exhibition features illustrations from many of his books, including his very first picture book *Hello, Barney*, written by Mary Pershall for Penguin Publishers. Almost all of the artwork from Mark's Convict series, *Beth – the Story of a Child Convict* and *Never Lose Hope – the Story of Australia's First School*, are on display. There are many of Mark's preliminary sketches, photos, observations, layout drawings and artefacts that enhance the illustrations on display. These include early pencil drafts, notes and manuscripts.

After the exhibition and book launch, children's literature lovers of all ages attended writing and

illustration workshops presented by Mark Wilson, Corinne Fenton and Marc McBride.

The exhibition is at the Dromkeen Homestead Gallery, 1012 Kilmore Rd, Riddell's Creek, Vic., and is open Thursday to Saturday, or by appointment, until December 2018. Enquiries: 0432282704.

Mark Wilson Author/illustrator and Vic IBBY member

More News from Western Australia

Inaugural Woylie Festival



The inaugural Woylie Australian Aboriginal Kids Story Festival was held in Fremantle in late March. Named after the rare marsupial whose home is Freo, the Festival was conceived, organised and run by a small team led by Paper Bird Story House's Jennifer Jackson and Cassie Lynch. Jen initiated the Festival with 'conversations with Noel [Nannup, a respected Noongar Elder] about bringing Aboriginal stories into the Paper Bird Story House through books and tellers. The search for these books led me to Noongar literature academic Cassie Lynch.'

Cassie's ancestral country is the Noongar nation and her background in bookselling made her the ideal Artistic Director for this event. A partnership with the City of Fremantle ensured the Festival's base at the Moores Gallery, an ideal space to exhibit pictures by Samantha Fry from her book *Alfred's War*; a fabulous animated underwater projection from Kamsani bin Salleh's board book *At the Beach I See*; and the Kids' Own Book Cubby loaned by the State Library of WA. Over 500 students from Perth schools visited on the three days before the Easter long weekend and made their own art on five huge canvases, inspired by the illustrations by Kamsani, who is also a former Paper Bird Fellow. The canvases will be exhibited in the Fremantle Library and other community spaces. Additional sponsorships ensured that all except one event were free.

Esteemed book creators Sally Morgan, Ambelin Kwaymullina and Gregg Dreise were welcomed to Whadjuk country along with Noongar artists, illustrators, publishers and musicians who delighted children and families alike. This achieved the Festival organisers' aim of 'recognising and appreciating the similarities and differences between authors and illustrators from different nations around Australia.' Kim Scott reading in Noongar and Ryan Brown in English from their Wirlomin story *Noorn* (with illustrations by Alma Winmar projected behind) was a favourite for me, and a crowd of 200. In the words of Cassie Lynch, this programmed feast of stories and tellers will undoubtedly 'encourage emerging Noongar writers and illustrators to get their work into print.' Barlay (look out) for the next Festival!

Margaret Robson Kett WA and Vic IBBY member

News from New South Wales

On working with the State Library of NSW for a short documentary on poet Dorothea Mackellar, I noticed her family plot had a really modest stone in her memory. I approached The Society of Women Writers, NSW where I am a committee member and am proud to say that we have raised funds over a two year period to place a fitting memorial to Dorothea Mackellar. There was an unveiling of the memorial by the Mayor of Waverley last November and 'his sister' becomes 'celebrated Australian poet' in the family plot. The familiar refrain is etched on the memorial.

I love a sunburnt country, A land of sweeping plains
Of ragged mountain ranges, Of droughts and flooding rains
I love her far horizons, I love her jewel sea,
Her beauty and her terror, The wide brown land for me.

As a result of an article in the local paper, congratulatory emails indicate it has been noticed by the public.



Libby Hathorn Author/Poet and NSW IBBY member

News from the United States



Association for Library Service to Children

Universe, written by Erin Entrada Kelly.

On Monday, 12th February at the ALA Mid-Winter Conference in Denver Colorado winners of well known Awards were announced. The 2018 John Newbery Medal for the most distinguished contribution to American literature was awarded to *Hello,*

The 2018 Caldecott Medal, awarded to the artist of the most distinguished American picture book for children, went to *Wolf in the Snow*, written and illustrated by Matthew Cordell.

Jacqueline Woodson received the Laura Ingalls Wilder award for lifetime achievement and Nina LaCour's *We Are Okay* was given the Michael L. Printz Award for best young adult literature.

The Coretta Scott King award went to *Piecing Me Together* by Renee Watson for an outstanding book by an African-American and the Pura Belpre Award for best Latino book was given to *Lucky Broken Girl* by Ruth Behar. See <http://ala.unikron.com/2018/> for more details

News from Sweden



Astrid Lindgren Memorial Award

© Illustration: Björn Berg, Ingrid Vang Nyman, Dan Wikland



Teen Author Jacqueline Woodson was announced as the winner of the 2018 Astrid Lindgren Memorial Award in Stockholm on 27th March, 2018. She is the author of more than thirty books, including novels, poetry and picture books. She writes primarily for young teens, but also for children and adults. One of her most lauded books is the award-winning autobiographical *Brown Girl Dreaming* (2014).

See <http://www.alma.se/en/Laureates/2018/> for further details.

News from New Zealand



BOP – Publisher of the Year Announced

Announced on the 27th March, New Zealand's One Tree House was the winner of the Oceania category in the Bologna Prize for Best Children's Publisher of the Year. Launched last year, One Tree House was established by Christine Dale and Jenny Nagle and publishes titles suitable for babies through to teenagers in English and the Maori language. For further information about this newly established publishing house in New Zealand see www.onetree-house.com

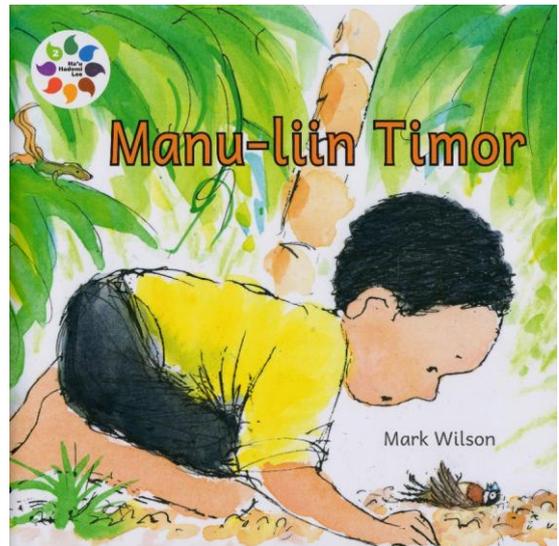
News from Timor-Leste

The *Timor Sparrow* Project

My children's book, *The Timor Sparrow*, a story about an endangered bird, has finally been printed in Tetun, the native language of Timor-Leste, and distributed throughout the country.

The long hard struggle for Independence in Timor-Leste was achieved on May 20, 2002. Since that day, many people have been helping to rebuild a country brought to its knees by civil war. Shattered villages, few schools and even fewer opportunities for any form of education were the outcomes of the war.

In 2008 I joined a group called NEEF Australia that was looking for a way to help the people of Timor-Leste. We wanted to address the extreme shortage of appropriate books for school-aged children there. So I wrote six books for each level of reading ability, from entry level up to Australia's equivalent of year six, all focusing on some aspect of life in Timor-Leste. I knew there were many versions of the Tetun Language, the native language of Timor-Leste, but the plan was to print the books in the main Tetun Dialect. With this in mind, my idea was to illustrate *The Timor Sparrow*, the first book in the series, in such a way that the book could be 'read' from the pictures alone, regardless of the reader's knowledge of the Tetun dialect used in the book. I wanted a teacher, grandparent, sibling or parent to be able to read the book to any child, anywhere – home, community group, 'shelter' or school. The book was ready to go to the printer in 2012, but we struggled to find the funds needed to go to print.



Now, thanks to the late and wonderful Kevin Burgemeestre and his wife, Lee and the Rotary clubs of Melbourne and Kyneton, *The Timor Sparrow* has been printed and distributed in villages, schools and homes throughout Timor-Leste. As my friend Pam Horsey once said, '*Words are so powerful, and the words in children's books can help shape or change lives*'. This is what I hope for.

Apart from those already mentioned, I want to thank Albert Ullin, Helen Chamberlin, Tina Denham, the late Jeff Prentice, the NEEF Foundation, The Timor-Leste Government, the University of Melbourne, the Alola Foundation and the driving force behind everything, Sra Kirsty Sword Gusmão, the goodwill Ambassador for Education in Timor-Leste.

With all my heart, I thank you all.

Mark Wilson, Author/Illustrator and Vic IBBY member

[Editor's note: I have known of the existence of this work for many years and am delighted that it has now been published and taken wings, fluttering in the villages of Timor-Leste]

Forthcoming Conferences and Event

11th March – December, 2018. *Stories of Life, History and Nature - told through the picture books of Mark Wilson: an Exhibition* at the Dromkeen Homestead Gallery, 1012 Kilmore Rd, Riddell's Creek, Vic., and is open Thursday to Saturday, or by appointment, until December 2018. Enquiries: 0432282704.

19th May CBCA Vic State Branch Conference, Deakin University, Geelong, Vic. *Reimagine! New Ways with Literature.* See <https://vic.cbca.org.au/> for more details.

23rd May ALIA's National Simultaneous Storytime at 11.00 am with *Hickory Dickory Dash* by Tony Wilson and Laura Wood

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. Early Bird Registration closes 18th March, 2018. See <https://aplic.alia.org.au/>

18th - 24th August – Children's Book Week with the Theme *Find Your Treasure* and Announcement of the BOTY Awards.

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/>

5th - 9th September Asian Festival of Children's Content, Singapore See <https://afcc.com.sg/>

2nd - 4th October NCAACL opening events for *Sharing Stories* in Canberra and 2018 IBBY Honour Books and IBBY Australia Honour Books Display

10th - 14th October – Frankfurt Book Fair. See <https://www.buchmesse.de/en/fbf/>

26th – 28th October Under African Skies! Festival, Nairobi, Kenya. See <http://www.cfgintl.org>

26th - 27th October Celebrate Reading National Conference at The Literature Centre, Fremantle, WA. See www.celebratereading.org.au for further details.

2019 4th Asia Oceania Regional IBBY Congress, China

31st May – 2nd June CBCA National Conference. Theme: *And now they're laughing.* Canberra

14th - 18th August International Research Society for Children's Literature (IRSLC) Congress, Stockholm, Sweden. Theme: *Silence and Silencing in Children's Literature.* See <http://www.irsclcongress2019.com/> for further details.

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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MAKE AN IMPACT

JOIN IBBY AUSTRALIA OR RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP

TAX INVOICE
ABN 78 890 601 974
[Not registered for GST]

IBBY Australia membership for the coming financial year (1 July 2018–30 June 2019) 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's activities include:

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



One member who joins or renews by 30 June will be selected in a public draw to win a print kindly donated by **Jeannie Baker**, IBBY Australia HCA nominee 2018. This Limited Edition print, individually hand worked and embossed, is from her picture book *Home in the Sky* and shows the Woolworth Tower, Manhattan.

RSVP to Dr Robin Morrow AM
PO Box 329, Beecroft, NSW 2119 or email robin.morrow@wordsandphrases.com.au

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