



AUSTRALIA

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

NEWSLETTER No 3.
November, 2009

President's Letter

It is wonderful to be able to greet our many IBBY friends again, from my usual desk with its familiar clutter of books and papers, rather than from the austere world of a hospital bed. Not that I am ungrateful for the achievements of surgery and the great care of skilled nurses and therapists. As grateful, in fact, as I am to the friends and colleagues throughout Australia and around the world who sent messages of prayer and support when they were so needed and appreciated.

Now it is time to take up again the challenges and joys of working in the field of children's literature.

I was honoured to be a contributor at *Words, Images, Voices: Literature for Children and Young Adults – Speaking of Justice*, a one-day event hosted by the Edmund Rice Centre in Sydney, and my first speaking engagement since surgery. A number of outstanding authors contributed to this stimulating program. I am also glad to be back to such tasks as editing projects and writing book reviews.

In Australia IBBY has a proud tradition but has not always had as prominent a profile as we would wish. IBBY is and should be a grassroots organisation. In Australia we have no budget; we do not aspire to accumulate funds but just to pay our way. We are hoping to enable a low-cost Friends of IBBY membership fee and negotiations are under way with ALIA regarding this. And as a means of encouraging awareness and enthusiasm for IBBY we intend to hold small regional dinners for International Children's Book Day to be celebrated on 31st March 2010. Please consider planning such an event. We suggest an inexpensive and informal

meal as an opportunity for like-minded people to get together. Those attending are encouraged to speak briefly about a book that has influenced them, and to light a candle for world peace.

Another surefire way to capture the IBBY ideals is to attend an international congress. Read in this newsletter the report by former president, Dr Margaret Zeegers, who attended the recent regional congress in the USA. Many years ago the shoe-repair man in my shopping centre sighed when I returned from my first IBBY congress, as I asked him to repair my suitcase. I had crammed so many books into it that the sharp corners of books had worn holes in the lid! The international congress in Spain in September 2010 promises to be a feast of books and ideas. It will be held in the famous city of Santiago de Compostela, destination for pilgrims over many centuries. We hope for a strong band of Australians there. We may return with a cockle shell, the traditional sign of a Santiago pilgrim. We'll certainly return with inspiration from an international exchange of ideas and enthusiasm, and perhaps with some new holes in our suitcases.

I would like to extend best wishes, especially to those whose academic or school year is coming to a close, and hope for a joyful festive season and a peaceful holiday—with time for lots of reading.

Robin Morrow

International Children's Book Day

In 2010 IBBY Australia is celebrating this day on Wednesday, 31st March as HC Andersen's birthday, 2nd April falls on Good Friday. This year's theme is *A Book is Waiting for you, find it!* (Un libro te espera, buscalo!) This is a great theme for those working in libraries with its implications for a book hunt. Suggestions for celebrating this day include:

A book hunt by giving children call numbers so they can find appropriate books at lower, middle and primary levels – a good way to introduce 398.2 and other non-fiction titles.

Introducing titles with characters from other countries eg Carlo Collodi's *Pinocchio* illustrated by last year's HCA Award winner Roberto Innocenti, and others such as *Pippi Longstocking*, *Emil and the Detectives*, Elizabeth Honey's *The Boy In Berlin* and Sandy Fussell's *Polar Boy* for more recent titles.

Our previous newsletter had further suggestions.

We would like to encourage all who receive this newsletter to organize a gathering, big or small, either take-away, pot luck, or something splendid and wonderful, with a candle for world peace and IBBY, where those present can talk for 3 minutes about a children's book that has had a great impact on them.

Read the World

Photographic Exhibition

This exhibition is designed to highlight international reading experiences and is to be shown in Santiago de Compostela, during the 32nd International IBBY Congress. IBBY Australia has been invited to participate by sending 10 photographs showing different reading possibilities in different situations, including the needs of minorities and their right to read books. We thank Luci Karsay of Cranbrook Junior School, Rose Bay NSW, Rebecca Randle of Beenleigh Public Library, Qld, Shirley Shepherd for Yirrkala Storytime, Nhulunbuy Community Library, NT, Anna Boland for Assyrian Storytime, Hume City Council, Vic, Kamara Schlegel of ALIA for the National Simultaneous Storytime event, Nola Allen for the Better Beginnings Family Literacy programme in Perth, WA and Carol Saunders for Milpera State High School's Intensive English Language Preparation Centre, Qld who all supplied photos promoting reading in their different centres and diverse communities.

2010 Astrid Lindgren Memorial Award

Congratulations to the following Australians who have been nominated amongst the 168 candidates from 61 countries for the 2010 Astrid Lindgren Memorial Award: Hazel Edwards (author), Morris Gleitzman (author) and Shaun Tan (illustrator). IBBY International has been nominated in the category of Reading Promotion Organisation. Other familiar names include David Almond, Quentin Blake, Nancy and Aidan Chambers, Shirley Hughes, Margaret Spencer Meek, Michael Morpurgo, Jacqueline Wilson and Diana Wynne Jones from Great Britain; Joy Cowley and Margaret Mahy from New Zealand; Lisbeth Zwerger of Austria; Kate Thomson of Ireland; Tomi Ungerer of France, Roberto Innocenti of Italy and Russell Hoban, Lois Lowry, Anne Pellowski, Uri Shulevitz and Peter Sis from the United States. See www.alma.se for further details.

IBBY Australia online

Our thanks go to Mylee Joseph for all the hard work and creative effort she has put in to make sure IBBY Australia has a visible presence online. Our official website has been updated and can be found at

<http://www.alia.org.au/groups/ibby/>

As so many overseas people also use Wikipedia as their first port of call, IBBY Australia can be found at http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/IBBY_Australia In addition Mylee updated the entry for the Ena Noel Award and this can be found at

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/IBBY_Australia#Ena_Noel_Award_for_Encouragement

Ena Noel Award

This award is given biennially by IBBY Australia to an under-35 year old author or illustrator. The panel of judges to select the 2010 recipient is a truly nation-wide one, consisting of Jane Connolly (Queensland), Judy Moss (Tasmania) and Robin Morrow (NSW). The winner of the award receives a medal which was designed by the first winner, Arone Raymond Meeks

We have extended the closing date for entries until 4th December. Please inform publishers that there is still time for them to contact Robin for entry details.

2010 Santiago de Compostela Congress 8-12th September

Deadlines for the Call for Papers and Early Bird Registration have been extended to the 30th November, 2009. With the theme *The Strength of Minorities* and the Aussie dollar looking quite healthy and air fares cheaper now would be a good time to consider booking. Check out the Congress website at www.ibbycompostela2010.org with its hints on how to register, accommodation options, the best way to travel and a myriad of tourist possibilities as well as a wide range of seminar streams for your paper. For Australians we belong to Category 1. The full fee is 527 Euro and with 20% off it is 421.6 Euro

2010 IBBY Honour List

Our thanks also go to Sarah Mayor Cox of Victoria who chaired the team of Maurice Saxby (NSW) and Judi Jagger (WA) and nominated Sonya Hartnett's *The Ghost Child* (Penguin) for writing and Shaun Tan's *The Arrival* (Lothian/Hachette Livre) for illustration for the above list.

Children in Crisis Fund

Deborah Ellis, activist and author of many books including the 'Parvana' series, has two new books containing interviews with children whose lives are affected by war. *Children of War: Iraqi Children Speak* and *Off to War: Soldiers' Children Speak* (both Allen & Unwin). Both would make invaluable additions to school libraries. Royalties of these books are being donated to the Children in Crisis fund of IBBY.

8th IBBY Regional Conference St. Charles, Illinois, USA, 2-4 October

The USBBY regional conference proved to be of the same high standard as the international congresses, with speakers such as Shaun Tan, David Weisner, Katherine Paterson, Ana Maria Machado giving keynote addresses, and breakout sessions difficult to choose between, given the caliber of presenters and the topics they canvassed. Liz Page was there from Switzerland, as was Patsy Aldana, President of IBBY, from Canada. David Weisner kicked off proceedings, taking us through the creative processes he engages in producing his books, from initial thumbnail sketches through

individual 32 pages to the final version. He showed us his drawing approaches as story telling and then the creation of the art (including a plasticine model of the frog to be used, or a pig, and paper models for perspectives and possibilities...one particularly instructive picture was the use of a piece of broccoli inserted in the model to show what a giant piece of broccoli would look like in a visual representation of a neighbourhood). Shaun Tan took us through the year that he would normally take to plan and produce a book, referring to the photographs that he used for *The Arrival* as 'visual fossils' from which he drew inspiration, and a picture of the plasticine model that he used before stylizing and adjusting the proportions in the model to see how they would work when used for illustrations. He too, stressed that he is really interested in the story telling possibilities of his art. One of the interesting points he raised was the difference between creating fiction and making things up, an important distinction for his work.

Ana Maria Machado stressed the importance of imagination and poetic language in sharing world experiences in her work. As she puts it, objective observation is not enough; the aesthetic appeal of words and phrases bring the story to life. She showed us the various translations of one of her book as not only the words...the pictures were also done by different illustrators working in various language translations for the visuals do not automatically transfer to a new language. Katherine Paterson's talks are always inspiring, and her talking about her latest book inspired me to buy it at the book shop being run as part of the conference. While only really an aside in relation to this conference, a high point was the film produced by the organizers for the Santiago de Compostela to promote the congress there next year. I am sure it would motivate a mass registration on the spot.

Margaret Zeegers

My Place

The World premiere of *My Place* will be on Friday, December 4 at 8pm on ABC3. The series is 13x30 min episodes that will screen weeknights at 8pm from Dec 4. The series is based on the acclaimed, multi award winning children's book written by Nadia Wheatley and Donna Rawlins in 1988 published by Walker Books Australia. It is also accompanied by a rich website in which kids and their families can explore the world of the **My Place** kids and have fun with the history of each decade. *My Place* was a 1990 IBBY Honour Book.

New Zealand Opportunity

JOY COWLEY WRITING WORKSHOP – *WRITING FROM THE HEART*

Saturday 27 & Sunday 28 February 2010

Take advantage of a wonderful opportunity offered to writers by Joy Cowley. Joy is generously donating her time to help Storylines in its national advocacy work for New Zealand children's reading and books, and will run a two-day interactive workshop in Auckland in February 2010. She has run many such workshops in America and other countries, but infrequently in New Zealand.

This is a rare chance to attend an intensive two-day course with this master storyteller, covering all aspects of writing for children and young adults (getting started, plot, character, voice, humour, writing disciplines, picture books, chapter books, YA novels, presenting a manuscript, getting support.)

- Maximum 30 participants
- \$500 (incl GST) – price includes critique of story (max 1000 words)
- Participants who wish to submit manuscripts to Joy for prior critique should send to Storylines by 22 January, 2010
- Venue – Kohia School, Kohia Terrace, Epsom, Auckland
- Sessions from 9am to 4pm

Applications accepted on first come, first served basis. To register, please send payment of \$500 with your full name, address, email and phone number. A receipt will be sent.

Make cheques payable to 'Storylines Children's Literature Trust' and send to:

Storylines Children's Literature Charitable Trust of
New Zealand,

PO Box 96 094, Auckland 1342.

For internet banking use Storylines' bank account: 123067 0187408 03. Please use your name as "Particulars" and "JC Workshop" as a reference so we can trace your payment.

We Are All Born Free

For those interested in pursuing the theme of an international vision for Social Justice, we recommend a new book published by Amnesty International and Frances Lincoln. It is entitled *We Are All Born Free: The Universal Declaration of Human Rights in Pictures*. A galaxy of award-winning illustrators has contributed the artwork, each illustrating one of the Rights: for example Australia's Bob Graham has pictured Article 12 ('Nobody should try to harm our good name'). A great discussion starter for a very wide age range.

IFLA News

IFLA Section Libraries for Children and Young Adults is starting a new project: Sister Libraries for Children's and Young Adults' reading. This is our Section's bid to encourage professional exchanges and solidarity: to enable libraries from different countries to find a sister library so that they can build partnerships, exchange views and experiences, and develop joint reading programs for children and young adults.

Experience has shown that many Sister Library collaborations have had beneficial outcomes for the participants. Our project will work through our Section's website, in English, French, Spanish and Arabic. Participant libraries may decide on the level of involvement with their partner library, according to their libraries' needs and wishes. The project pages already suggest possible joint activities.

We are currently building a list of participating libraries that are looking for a match. The link below will provide you with the necessary information on how to get involved.
<http://www.ifla.org/en/libraries-for-children-and-ya/projects>

Best regards,
Viviana Quiñones, Ian Yap
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