



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 5

May, 2010

President's Letter

Dear IBBY friends throughout Australia

This is an exciting time for our national organisation, a time to look back on the past with pride but also to look forward to a period of new independence and challenges.

IBBY is defined by its global vision. Our special responsibilities include promoting Australian books to the world and enabling readers here to access the best books from other countries. In some countries IBBY is better known, as it performs roles that the CBCA performs here, such as promoting Children's Book Week and the awards system. IBBY Australia wishes to cooperate on such matters, while remaining mindful of our unique role as a link in a worldwide chain.

The banner logo at the top of this newsletter signals our identity as Australian but also part of IBBY worldwide. Thank you to the illustrator Louise Pfanner for creating our special kookaburra. This kooka, it seems, is not only enjoying a book but also happy to discuss it . . .

A recent event of great impact on IBBY Australia was the death of Patricia Wrightson on 15th March. While her passing has been deservedly noticed in the general press and within the literary community, it is significant for us as she was the recipient in 1986 of the Hans Christian Andersen medal. This is awarded every two years by IBBY and judged on the writer's entire output by a jury of international experts. Only two Australians have ever been honoured in this way, Patricia for writing and Robert Ingpen for illustration. Patricia Wrightson contributed greatly to the development of children's literature in Australia, as she pioneered the integration of characters and stories from indigenous tradition into novels for contemporary readers. Her *Nargun and the Stars* became a favourite for many, and the Wirrun trilogy is a major achievement. I will always have a soft spot for *A Little Fear*, expressing as it does the independent spirit of Mrs Tucker, refugee from a nursing home. I treasure my Japanese translated copy of *A Little Fear*, (bought in Tokyo in 1986) with the Japanese illustrator's version of the Njimbin looking strange to Australian eyes. When she was in her eighties, Patricia's thoughts must have often turned to the characters and themes of this book.

Also in March a meeting of the ALIA board decided to agree to our setting up as an independent entity. Since its beginnings in 1966 IBBY Australia has been a group of ALIA, the librarians' association. Over this period ALIA has supported IBBY generously, for which we are grateful. But being under the

umbrella of this organisation has in some ways restricted the development of IBBY Australia. IBBY national sections are meant to have a representative membership from all areas of children's literature, including librarians and teacher-librarians but other professions and interests as well.

Now as an independent body we have many tasks ahead. We need to raise enough money each year to be self-supporting, including payment of our dues to IBBY international in Switzerland. We are working on a draft constitution and plan to become incorporated; and a new website is being developed and can be seen at <http://ibbyaustralia.wordpress.com>

Recent successes include a number of celebrations to mark International Children's Book Day. Thank you to those who hosted and attended these events. Sales of the poster made a small profit and spread the message of *A Book is Waiting for You, Find It!* Thank you to all who bought and distributed the poster (there are still some left if required). And special thanks to those who have shown support by joining IBBY Australia. Another source of pride is the generosity of Australians in sending contributions to the Children in Crisis Fund, to aid IBBY's work in Haiti. This includes \$250 raised by CBCA in WA as the result of a raffle on A Night With Our Stars.

Many are looking forward to attending the 32nd IBBY International Congress in Santiago de Compostela this September. We know of seven Australians who have had papers accepted for presentation. With its theme *'The strength of minorities'* the Congress promises to be a richly rewarding experience.

IBBY Australia is the only body that can nominate writers and illustrators for the Hans Christian Andersen awards, and books for the IBBY Honour list. We encourage publishers to become institutional members, and we give a hearty welcome to our first institutional member, Fremantle Arts Centre Press. With 45 individual members and more joining daily we are establishing a firm base from which IBBY Australia can grow and thrive.

Robin Morrow

HANS CHRISTIAN ANDERSEN AWARD

The Hans Christian Andersen Award Jury of the International Board on Books for Young People (IBBY), has announced that David Almond, from the United Kingdom, is the winner of the 2010 Hans Christian Andersen Author Award and that Jutta Bauer, from Germany, is the winner of the 2010 Hans Christian Andersen Illustrator Award. The announcement was made at the Bologna International Children's Book Fair and the Andersen medals and diplomas will be presented to the winners on Saturday, 11 September 2010 at the international IBBY congress in Santiago de Compostela, Spain.

In awarding the 2010 Hans Christian Andersen Medal for writing to David Almond, the jury has recognized the unique voice of a creator of magic realism for children. Almond captures his young readers' imagination and motivates them to read, think and be critical. His use of language is sophisticated and reaches across the ages.

The 2010 Hans Christian Andersen Medal for illustration recognizes Jutta Bauer as a powerful narrator who blends real life with legend through her pictures. The jury admired her philosophical approach, originality, creativity as well as her ability to communicate with young readers.

The full list of candidates can be read at www.ibby.org.

The Hans Christian Andersen Award is considered the most prestigious in international children's literature, is given biennially by IBBY to a living author and illustrator whose complete works are judged to have made lasting contributions to children's literature. Her Majesty Queen Margrethe II of Denmark is the Patron of the Andersen Awards. The Author's Award has been given since 1956 and the Illustrator's Award since 1966. Nami Island Inc. is the sponsor of the Hans Christian Andersen Awards.

Information, including a history of the awards is available at www.ibby.org.

INTERNATIONAL CHILDREN'S BOOK DAY CELEBRATIONS

From **Beecroft**, NSW, Margot Lindgren writes:

An amazing group of Children's Literature advocates/lovers/fanatics/creators gathered in the home of IBBY National President Robin Morrow to celebrate Hans Christian Andersen's birthday. Our focus could have been fairy tales; the setting certainly felt like a real life fairy tale rubbing shoulders with famous authors and illustrators, but instead it was so much more. Each guest was asked to bring and talk about a personally significant book, possibly one from another country. I was fizzing with excitement to see what treasures each guest would share. This was certainly the right place for such a magical evening - walls lined with original book illustrations, shelves filled to the brim with familiar and loved books and even a little set of handmade (not Disney) Winnie the Pooh toys on the hall table.

I grabbed my notebook - I didn't want to miss one title. I could never have anticipated such variety. Three people chose *The Little Prince* (Antoine de Saint-Exupery) but this was the only title to 'double up'. People shared magazines, early basal readers, books with no words, adult books, books about *Moomintrolls* (Tove Jansson), *Miffy* (Dick Bruna), *Charlotte's Web* (EB White), *The Silver Sword* (Ian Serrailier), *The Snowy Day* (Ezra Jack Keats), *The Chicken Thief* (Beatrice Rodriguez), *The Thief Lord* (Cornelia Funke), *Hamid of Aleppo* (Clive King) and *The Wicked Enchantment* (Margot Benary). I must also mention *Noriko-San* by my namesake, Astrid Lindgren.

It was especially poignant to have one person talk about Patricia Wrightson and her famous book *The Nargun and the Stars*.

I am fairly sure most guests struggled to find that one perfect book but for me the choice was so easy. I knew it would be *Momo* by Michael Ende, which was originally written in German. I had three reasons for picking this book. Firstly it was recommended by a young student not long after I first became a Teacher-Librarian, secondly it is an allegory about time and we all need time for reading in our busy world and finally Momo is my blog name - yes it is a blog about children's books! I do hope there might be an event like this next year but perhaps we will be 'allowed' to take more than one book. On second thoughts perhaps we Children's Literature enthusiasts do need limits or the night might stretch on for over 200 years, just like the stories of Hans Andersen.



Nadia Wheatley and *The Wicked Enchantment* by Margot Benary



Left:
Lindy Batchelor,
Maurice Saxby and
Julie Vivas in
conversation

From **Rose Bay**, NSW, Elizabeth Hughes writes:

The parish centre of St. Mary Magdalene Church, Rose Bay was the venue for a joyous celebration of International Children's Book Day and a comemoration of the birthday of "our dear Hans", as our dear Ena Noel used to say when she presided over such events in the past.

Those who attended were given a large envelope tied with rainbow-coloured ribbon. Inside was information about the goals, history and many achievements of the International Board on Books for Young People. There were 18 guests, 9 men and 9 women from a variety of backgrounds, all linked by their association with story, either in its spoken or written form.

They were wined and dined in a candlelit room under a canopy of yellow, blue and white balloons – it was, after all, a birthday party! During the night people discussed their much-loved books and the list ranged from *Biggles* to *Alice in Wonderland* and the *Iliad*.

It was a lovely night, and an interesting one. As people shared their stories they also shared something of themselves. That seemed to me a fitting outcome for an event designed to promote the ideals of IBBY.

From **Gosford**, NSW, Claire Stuckey writes:

During the April school holidays Gosford City Library held a series of programmes for children all based on Hans Christian Andersen to celebrate International Children's Book Day.

We presented *The Steadfast Tin Soldier* and the *Emperor's New Clothes* in the teahouse at the Gallery Garden. <http://www.gosfordregionalgallery.com/garden.htm>

We held three special workshops at various branches to make dioramas of stories including *The Little Mermaid*, *The Ice Queen* and *Thumbelina*. To enjoy the wonderful autumn weather we presented two "stories by the stream" in Kibble Park outside our central branch. Presenting to at least 20 children (and usually more) each Thursday we told *The Ugly Duckling* and the *Princess and the Pea* and all programmes were booked out. At each programme we displayed a large range of H.C. Andersen books for borrowing.

A new generation of children have been exposed to the wonderful experience of Andersen's tales. A new generation of parents also seemed to enjoy the programme as well.

From **Brisbane**, storyteller Bettina Nissen writes: *Our ICBD gathering went well. It was small, but a lot of fun and we exchanged stories and reflections on our favourite books. As we could not light a candle (the library smoke alarms wouldn't like it) we all made a wish for children and their access to stories. It was a lovely small ceremony.*

International Children's Book Day 2010 Launceston style –by Nella Pickup

Nine children's book readers met in the Miffy House at Stories Bookshop. We were a motley lot, teacher-librarians, booksellers, a Children's Book of the Year judge, a former narrator for Hear-a-Book and a very happy author (Christina Booth had been shortlisted in the Early Childhood section of the Children's Book of the Year Awards the

previous day). The session started with an edited reading of The Australian President's report. Prue McCausland spoke about Pat Scott who had known Ena Noel. Some of us brought well loved books from our childhood telling us of the importance those books played in our lives, while others spoke about more contemporary books. We listened to *Jennifer Jane* (published in the 1920s) and finished the evening with a lively reading of Vivienne Schwartz's *There are Cats in this Book*. [Photograph: Prue McCausland and Christina Booth]



From **Western Australia**, At St Mary's Anglican Girls School, Karrinyup, a library competition produced imaginative cakes. Thanks to Jan Nicholls.

The first HCA dinner to be held since 1985 was at the Maya Indian Restaurant, in Fremantle. Joanna Andrew writes: While the



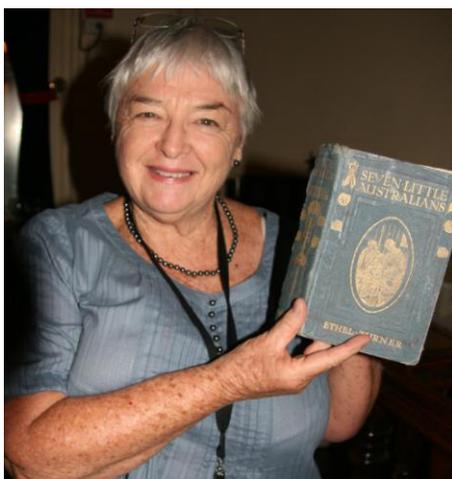
food was



wonderful and the company excellent, the most enjoyable part of the evening for me was hearing people's short description about why they had chosen their favourite children's book. As a mixed assortment of book lovers: librarians, bookshop people, authors, illustrators, and teachers, our favourite books reflected both the time and place of our childhood. Many people recalled being read to by their parents – such an important reminder to parents today, that these beloved stories and verses can be recalled with joy and passion so many years later.

Hans Christian Andersen, AA Milne, Norman Lindsay and Enid Blyton were all mentioned by several people, as well as Australian classics *Blinky Bill*, *The Muddle-headed Wombat*, *Seven Little Australians* and *Storm Boy*. Other favourites included Roald Dahl's *Gremlins*, Laura Ingalls Wilder's *Little House on the Prairie*, Jean Webster's *Dear Enemy*, Helen Bannerman's *Little Black Sambo* and *Vile Verse* compiled by Jane Covernton. Leonie Norrington's disbelief that ducks were

for anything but eating was very funny to hear (visiting from Darwin, her choice was *The Ugly Duckling*).



Top Above left: Joanna Andrew with her choices. Above Left: Joscelyn Leatt-Hayter Above: Chloe Mauger. Above right: Leonie Norrington. Photos by Jan Nicholls.

2010 IBBY-ASAHI READING PROMOTION AWARD

The International Board on Books for Young People (IBBY) announced the winners of the 2010 IBBY-Asahi Reading Promotion Awards. This is the 20th Anniversary of the awards given by IBBY and the Asahi Shimbun newspaper company for international projects run by groups or institutions judged to be making a lasting contribution to reading for young people. The awards are given every other year to two organizations. The 2010 winners are The Osu Children's Library Fund, Ghana, <http://www.osuchildrenslibraryfund.ca>, and Convenio de Cooperación al Plan de Lectura, Medellín, Colombia, <http://bit.ly/9kSlvg>. Each will receive \$10,000 US, which will be presented at the 32nd IBBY Congress in Santiago de Compostela, Spain, at a special event on September 10th. See www.ibby.org

2010 IBBY HONOUR LIST

This year's list includes *The Ghost's Child* by Sonya Hartnett and *The Arrival* by Shaun Tan (Australia), *Anila's Journey* by Mary Finn (Ireland), *The Three Fishing Brothers Gruff* by Ben Galbraith (NZ) *The Sandfather* by Linda Newbery and *Little Mouse's Big Book of Fears* illus by Emily Gravatt (UK), *The Wednesday Wars* by Gary D Schmidt and *We Are the Ship* illustrated by Kadir Nelson (USA)

READ THE WORLD PHOTOGRAPHIC EXHIBITION 32nd International IBBY Congress

First of all, we would like to thank you for your cooperation with our project of the Exposition "Read the world" joining photos that reflect international reading experiences. We have received the photos you sent some months ago, and we consider that your pictures will make an important contribution to the exposition.

In the last months we have received photos from several IBBY sections and have considered several options to present them during the Congress. Due to the fact that there are differences in the technical quality of the pictures, at last we have decided not to

present the photos as a "traditional" photo exposition, because for technical reasons it would not be possible to include all the pictures we received. Instead of this, we have decided to present them on a screen in form of a Powerpoint installation in the central hall of the conference venue. In our opinion, this is the best way to present the photos to all the participants of the Congress in a good technical quality. We really appreciate your cooperation sending these pictures for the exposition, and we hope that you will enjoy their presentation during the IBBY Congress. With best wishes, Mrs. Henrike Fesefeldt, Chairperson of the 32nd International IBBY Congress

2010 ASTRID LINDGREN MEMORIAL AWARD

The winner of the 2010 Astrid Lindgren Memorial Award is Kitty Crowther, an illustrator and author, born in 1970, who lives and works in Belgium. The jury's citation reads as follows: Kitty Crowther is the master of line but also of atmosphere. She maintains the tradition of the picture book while transforming and renewing it. In her world, the door between imagination and reality is wide open. She addresses the reader gently and personally, but with profound effect. In her deeply felt empathy with people in difficulty, she shows ways in which weakness can be turned into strength. Humanism and sympathy permeate and unify her artistry. See www.alma.se for more details.

WHITE RAVENS FESTIVAL

The International Youth Library (IYL) in Munich is organizing the first White Ravens Festival from 20-25th July where Bavarian and international contributions will serve as a bridge between different cultures. The main festival venue is the IYL itself. White Ravens invigorate, set new trends and stand for quality in terms of style, content and artistic quality. For further details see www.ijb.de

TRAVELLING JEANS

The IYL website gives a lovely insight into international co-operation between Gosford Public Library and the IYL with the story of the travelling jeans. Congratulations to Claire Stuckey for her initiative and we look forward to hearing more. For more details see <http://jeangeanies.pbworks.com>

OUTSTANDING BOOKS FOR CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES

The 2009 selection of two sets of these special books is currently travelling around the world and will also be on display at the Congress in Santiago de Compostela. It is now time to choose 50 titles for the 2011 project. The selection and preparation of the exhibition and booklist will be carried out under the auspices of IBBY Documentation Centre of Books for Disabled Young People at the Haug School and Resource Centre, Norway. The closing date is 15th October, 2010 and can only be nominated by a paid up IBBY Section.

STORYTELLING TOUR OF CHINA

The Nu Wa Storytelling and Cultural Exchange Delegation is organized by San Francisco-based storytellers Eth-Noh-Tec, comprising of Robert Kikuchi-Yngojo and Nancy Wang. At the heart of the trip is a visit to Gengcun Village, a traditional storytelling community outside of Beijing. This village, for the past 600 years has retained the body of folk tales and

mythology passed along at the taverns and watering holes of visiting merchants, travellers and way-farers. Deemed an "Ocean of Stories" this community of 1,000 residents, - mostly farmers, goat shepherds and brick factory workers - hold among their citizens over 100 storytellers from children to elders alike, - with some of the master tellers knowing more than 500 stories! Eth-Noh-Tec intend to bring a diverse delegation of storytellers representing many countries and cultures through the stories, myths, and folk tales. The storytellers that apply must be proficient in English (their core team of translators translate between Chinese Mandarin and English). Eth-Noh-Tec believe strongly in the power of the Arts to bring peoples of the world closer together. You could be a part of this endeavour!

Please take a look at their website for more details of this interesting storytelling tour of Beijing.

Dates: 10th – 26th September 2010

Web: www.ethnohtec.org

Email: contact@ethnohtec.org

Blog: www.ethnohtec.org/blog

WANTED – 255 FRIENDS FOR IBBY AUSTRALIA

We look forward to welcoming 255 more individual Friends for IBBY Australia and another 24 institutional Friends. 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

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