



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 43
November, 2019**

President's Letter

Dear IBBY Australia members and supporters,

This newsletter again records international successes for several Australian creators – in the German Youth Literature Awards 2019, the IYL White Ravens 2019 list, and the Astrid Lindgren Memorial Award 2020 nominations. (See p 15.) IBBY Australia also recently announced its nominations to the IBBY Honour List 2020. (See p 2.)

Our AGM event was a huge success with Mark Greenwood and Frané Lessac's extremely generous and highly entertaining address on 'Books Without Borders' held in conjunction with Book Links (Qld)'s Story Arts Brisbane program, on Saturday 19 October at State Library of Queensland. Jenny Stubbs, President of Book Links (Qld), and her committee were gracious partners and hosts of the afternoon tea which preceded the meeting, and we thank them again for their support. (See p 3.)

IBBY relies on the passion of those who believe in the power of 'bringing books and children together'. So it's fitting to pay tribute to one of our committee members who retired at our recent AGM, and whose love of story has informed her work for this and many other organisations, throughout her career. Jenni Woodroffe has been a longstanding member of IBBY Australia, and also a mainstay of IBBY Australia's Executive Committee since 2008, prior to its incorporation in 2010. Jenni has been Vice-President and Secretary, Newsletter Editor since the first issue was released in March 2009, and also Membership Officer. She announced her retirement at the AGM and we thank Jenni for her enormous contributions to the Australian section. She not only attended and spoke at several International Congresses but also at the inaugural Asia Oceania Regional Meetings, and formed many strong contacts there, which have been invaluable in informing the news included in our quarterly newsletters. Jenni was made a Life Member in 2016 as acknowledgment of her work. Her colleague in organising highly successful fundraising Quiz Night events in WA for several years, Joanna Andrew, has said: *Jenni's gift has been to share her passion for an international view of children's literature with librarians, teachers and book creators, through the many events she has organised for the WA Branch of IBBY, her comprehensive newsletters for the National membership, and her encouragement to attend the Congresses. She has opened up our world and our minds. Thanks Jenni.*

I also welcome Joanna Andrew who has been a member of the committee since 2011, as our new Vice-President. Joanna is Coordinator Library Services, City of Perth Library. We met at the IBBY Congress in Santiago in 2010, and WA members were very much the major Australian contingent there. We thank WA members for their on-going support of IBBY Australia. Finally I'd like to formally welcome Bernice Cusack who has now stepped into the roles vacated by Jenni Woodroffe, as Membership Officer, and by Robin Morrow, as Treasurer. We greatly value her expertise in both roles.

The fifth Australian Children's Laureate, Morris Gleitzman concludes his two year term shortly, and what a powerful advocate he has been. We congratulate and thank Morris for the outstanding work he has done to promote Australian literature for young people both here and overseas. The sixth Laureate will be announced on 11 February 2020. This is our final newsletter for 2019, and Jenni's, as editor. We wish you all a happy and prosperous festive season, and to sharing our love of all things 'bookish' again in 2020.

Best regards,

Robyn Sheahan-Bright

International Recognition For Australian Author and Illustrator

IBBY Australia proudly announces its selection of two books to be included in the biennial IBBY Honour List for 2020. One highlights Indigenous history and the environment, and the other, the experiences of a teenage asylum seeker. Every two years an Advisory Panel of three children's literature experts makes the selection, and these outstanding books become Australia's representatives in a travelling exhibition of international titles. The 2020 exhibition will be featured at the Bologna Children's Book Fair, at the IBBY Congress in Moscow and in many other countries.

For Writing: *Between Us*, by Clare Atkins published by Black Inc.

Is it possible for two teenagers to fall in love despite their separation by barbed-wire fences and great cultural differences?

Anahita, an Iranian asylum seeker, is allowed out of an internment camp near Darwin only to attend school; her mother is expecting a new baby. Ana is clever and sensitive, but has witnessed and suffered great violence. At school she meets Jono, who lives with his Vietnamese 'boat person' single father, Kenny, whose new job as a guard at the Detention Centre makes him mistrustful. Each narrator tells their story in the first person, and the characterisation is nuanced. Events build to a seemingly inevitable crisis. This book is timely in dealing with the themes of migration, prejudice towards outsiders, the yearning for freedom, and a relationship built through such links as shared music, and despite many barriers, cultural and systemic...In *Between Us* Clare has told a powerful tale, which includes understanding gained as a volunteer visiting detainees in a Detention Centre.



Clare Atkins. Photo: Courtesy of Black Inc

For Illustration: *Willam: A Birrarung Story* illustrated by Lisa Kennedy, text by Aunty Joy Murphy and Andrew Kelly, published by Black Dog Books (Walker Books Australia).



Lisa Kennedy. Photo: Courtesy of Walker Books Australia

This landscape-format picture book starts with the perspective of Bunjil the wedgetailed eagle, as it soars above Birrarung, the Yarra River. Elements of modern Melbourne appear, but the natural world is the centre of celebration in this pageant of flora and fauna. The book traces the river from its source to its mouth, from dawn to dusk and from pre-history to the present day. The artist uses luminous acrylics to highlight yellow-gum blossom sprays, possums and black cockatoos. We see creatures which are usually hidden, such as the *dulai-warrung* (platypus). Curved lines and shapes represent the sky and the underground world; blue and brown patterned bands are decorated with stars, dots and zigzagging, diamond or rainbow shapes. Birds, leaves and ferns create a stylised effect, with myriad elements in these richly-detailed spreads for readers to explore. Art and bilingual text combine to show the river sustaining all its creatures: it is *wilam* or home...The experience of loss and reclamation is embedded in Lisa's work.



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2019 IBBY Australia AGM and Books Without Borders



Left to right: Frané Lessac, Shirley Stubbs, Sarah Davis, Lisa Shanahan and Jenny Stubbs. Photo: Maria Parenti-Baldehy

The 2019 IBBY AGM was held in Brisbane on Saturday 19th October. It was preceded by an afternoon tea hosted by Book Links (Qld) as part of Story Arts Brisbane. IBBY Australia thanks Jenny Stubbs, Book Links (Qld), the Queensland Writers Centre and State Library of Queensland for their support.

Robyn Sheahan-Bright spoke to her president's report, highlighting major events with a PowerPoint presentation. Robyn paid tribute to Jenni Woodroffe, longstanding member of IBBY Australia and mainstay of IBBY Australia's Executive Committee since 2008.

Jenni is retiring from Executive roles but no doubt will continue to 'bring books and children together'. Joanna Andrew is the new Vice-President and Bernice Cusack is the new Treasurer.

The AGM was followed by *Books Without Borders*, a fascinating presentation by Mark Greenwood and Frané Lessac. Both have won many awards for their writing and illustrating. Mark has a passion for history. Both use their travels to share books and stories with cultures all over the world, often working with remote communities. The travel provides opportunities to research information for further books. At times, travel/research took them to dangerous places, including Gaza.

They have promoted books for young people at international speaking engagements, such as the Bologna International Children's Book Fair, the Edinburgh Writer's Festival, Eric Carle Museum, Asian Festival of Children's Content (AFCC), UBUD Literary Festival, American Library Association (ALA) and numerous other international literary festivals and school visits.

Frané's first book, *The Little Island*, was about Montserrat, a small Caribbean island; unfortunately, in 1995, much of the island was destroyed by a volcano eruption. The volcano eruption has featured in Mark's most recent book *The Book of Stone*.

Mark has heard many poignant stories and, with the permission of story owners, has given the stories back to communities by producing books such as *Boomerang and Bat* and *Jandamarra*. Mark's most recent titles include: *Moonwalkers*, illustrated by Terry Denton, *The Happiness Box*, illustrated by Andrew McLean and *The Book of Stone*, illustrated by Coral Tulloch. Frané's recent books include the multi-awarding winning *We are Grateful: Otsaliheliga*, written by Traci Sorell and *Under the Southern Cross*.

Robyn has commented 'Our guest speakers were brilliant; so generous in their comments re the amazing work they have done all over the world. At the end of a mesmerising presentation, they announced that they wished to donate their speakers' fees for the night to IBBY Australia. It was a very moving gesture for which we sincerely thank them'.



Mark Greenwood, Frané Lessac and Robyn Sheahan-Bright. Photo: Richard Pickup

Nella Pickup EC and Tas IBBY member

News from New South Wales

Words Change the World

IBBY Australia invites you to celebrate

International Children's Book Day

Saturday 4 April 2020 1.30 – 5.00 pm

Santa Maria del Monte Primary School

59 The Boulevard (Cnr Carrington St), Strathfield NSW

\$40 for IBBY member/concession and \$45 for non member

Delicious afternoon tea included

Maxine Beneba Clarke is the author of nine books, including the ABIA and Indie award-winning short fiction collection *Foreign Soil* (2014), and the critically acclaimed memoir *The Hate Race* (2016). Her poetry collection *Carrying The World* won the 2017 Victorian Premier's Literary Award for Poetry. Maxine is the author of three picture books, including the CBCA and Boston Globe / Horn Book Prize winning picture book *The Patchwork Bike*, illustrated by Melbourne artist Van T Rudd. She is the resident poet for *The Saturday Paper* and the editor of *Best Australian Stories 2017*, and *Growing Up African in Australia* (2019). Her most recent books are *Meet Taj at the Lighthouse*, and *The Saturday Portraits*.



Gabrielle Wang is an award winning author and illustrator born in Melbourne of

Chinese heritage. Her maternal great grandfather came to Victoria during the Gold Rush and her father from Shanghai. Gabrielle's stories are a blend of Chinese and Western culture with a touch of fantasy. She has twice won the Aurealis Award with her novels *The Garden of Empress Cassia* and *A Ghost in My Suitcase* and many of her books are CBCA Notables. Gabrielle's young adult novel, *Little Paradise* received a Highly Commended in the 2011 Prime Minister's Awards as did *A Ghost in My Suitcase*. She has also written books in the highly successful *Our Australian Girl* series. Her most recent middle grade novels are *The Wishbird*, *The Beast of Hushing Wood* and *Ting Ting the Ghosthunter*. You can read more about Gabrielle at

www.gabriellewang.com



Our **Eventbrite link** will be available early in 2020 and will be shared on our Facebook Page and IBBY web site <https://ibbyaustralia.wordpress.com/>

Completing **Words Change the World** will contribute 2 hours of NSW Education Standards Authority (NESA) Registered PD addressing 6.2.2 from the Australian Professional Standards for Teachers towards maintaining Proficient Teacher Accreditation in NSW.

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

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**CULTURAL
FUND**



An exciting story of the work of Ngukurr’s Families as First Teachers (FaFT) playgroup became known nationally when Gabby Lyons, NT ABC reporter covered a project resulting in *Det Brabli Jigibala Beya*, a Kriol version of Nick Bland’s *The Very Cranky Bear*. Kriol is the main language spoken in Ngukurr, a community of about 1,000 on the banks of the Roper River, 630 kms south-east of Darwin. With support from Meigim Kriol Strongbala (Make Kriol Strong) the playgroup parents and staff worked together in choosing for translation into Kriol, the well-known Australian children’s book about a bear who was disturbed in his cave by a moose, a lion, a zebra and, a sheep. The translation task was lengthy and complicated and for most of the participants, a new experience. Nor was it easy, with a number of unfamiliar English words, such as a moose’s horns being called ‘antlers’ and the ‘gnashing of a bear’s teeth’. In addition, participants often did not have a lot of experience with reading Kriol. The translation took shape over weekly sessions, with the Ngukurr mums and workers becoming more confident and familiar with the story and reading Kriol too. A natural progression was to turn the story into a roleplay and bring the story to life.

The visit of the NT Minister for Education, Selena Uibo, and Tina Raye of the Indigenous Literacy Foundation (ILF) was a great opportunity to showcase *Det Brabli Jigibala Beya* at the end of Term 3. The Minister commented ‘The FaFT program recognises that families are a child’s first and most important teachers, and are key to building strong foundations for their children’s learning, so they arrive at day one at school ready and able to learn.’ FaFT has partnered with the



Selena Uibo, Minister for Education, with Tina Raye of the Indigenous Literacy Foundation. Photo: Gabrielle Lyons of NT ABC

ILF, a charity of the Australian Book Industry, to distribute more than 5,000 picture books to remote Aboriginal communities. Ms Uibo explained that ‘English is not the first language for about 40% of our NT students so this new partnership to deliver translated books through the FaFT Book Buzz program enables families to support their child’s early years in their own language.’ As Member for Arnhem, Ms Uibo added that ‘Since coming into government in 2016, we have nearly doubled the amount of FaFT sites from the very central desert right to the Tiwi Islands. By December 2020 we should have 53 FaFT supported sites.’

Tina Raye, ILF program director, watching the Ngukurr performance said ‘it is incredibly important for kids to have access to books in their first language. Just providing books in English is almost like a disconnect, especially when mothers speak to their babies primarily in their first language...Research shows that kids do best when they first learn in their parent’s first language. They go on to do better in English as they proceed through school.’



One worker commented ‘things have changed in our community now. One little boy’s mother now works in the centre here and her children love coming to school.’

With thanks to Gabby Lyons, Dr Greg Dickson and Kim Stephens for their input. [Ed.]



2019 | INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF
Indigenous Languages

Nhã Nhunu Nhãñal? and *I Saw We Saw*

It was a thrill to be able to attend the launch of *Nhã Nhunu Nhãñal?* in Yolgnu language, last month at the Garma Festival in the Northern Territory. For over two years we and Lee Burgemeestre, the book's designer, have worked on this project with the Indigenous Literacy Foundation. It has been a wonderful collaboration involving Yolgnu students and teachers at Nhulunbuy Public school and community members, resulting in this beautiful picture book, written and illustrated by the children in two versions, *Nhã Nhunu Nhãñal?* in Yolgnu, and *I Saw We Saw*, in English with some Yolgnu words.



Ben Quilty's thought-provoking and memorable launch of *Nhã Nhunu Nhãñal?* included reading the heartfelt speech prepared by Richard Flanagan who was unable to attend. It gave insight into the history of the Yolgnu people and the importance of language for the continuation of culture. The launch of *I Saw We Saw*, the English version, took place at the Sydney Opera House on the 4th September, 2019 as part of the Indigenous Literacy Day celebrations.

The Garma Festival

It was a real privilege to attend this Festival which is hosted by the Yothu Yindi Foundation in North East Arnhem Land. For four days in early August we, along with around 2,700 others from all over Australia and beyond, camped in 2,700 tents at Gulkula, ceremonial land of the Yolgnu, and were immersed in a full program from political forums to ceremonial dances. It was an inspiring, inclusive, joyous experience. We slept soundly and dreamt, and keep dreaming, of an Indigenous Voice in the Parliament. Voice. Treaty. Truth. These three key elements to the reforms set out in the *Uluru Statement from the Heart*, was read by Jack Thompson at Garma.

Books Illustrated With thanks for permission to include this article from their September newsletter.

And in Queensland

To celebrate the International Year of Indigenous Languages, the Hope Vale Indigenous Knowledge Centre (IKC) Coordinator, Shirley Costello worked with her local community and State Library to compile language words to feature on signage during their recent IKC refurbishment. Step inside the revived IKC space and you'll find 3D Guugu Yimidhirr signage identifying the kids' area as *Bithagurr nhinga-nu* and collection signage for everything from *Milbi gaari manu-buthun* (Fiction) to *Mayi Balganu* (Cooking). The community feedback has been overwhelmingly positive, with one resident exclaiming "Bout time we had this out in the open!" The initiative is just one more step this vibrant community has taken to revive their historic Aboriginal language...why not consider bilingual signage as a way to create your own Deeply Local Outcomes.



Shirley Costello who gave permission to use this photo

Nicola McGeown ALIA CYSS Group Convenor and Qld IBBY member

News from Tasmania

Write Here Launceston

<https://www.facebook.com/WriteHereLaunceston/>

EC Committee member Nella Pickup spoke briefly to the Write Here Launceston group on the 3rd August. Write Here Launceston is an informal monthly get together of writers of all genres. Members meet around a table for half hour during which any new attendees give a one minute introduction of themselves as writers. They have a folder so newbies can learn about the regular attendees (they invite regulars to supply a one-page introduction of themselves for inserting into the folder). Then news of writing events and/or reasons to celebrate are invited from all attendees. The group ranged in age from late teens to 70s – a mixture of new writers, fan fiction writers, published authors, playwrights, filmscript writers, etc.

After the first half hour, they can find a corner to write as this is a carved out monthly writing space for some. They occasionally have a half hour sharing discussion re writing craft but “mostly it’s worked for over two years now as a connecting space where nobody’s eyes glaze over when you talk writing, and as a springboard for new writing groups to form”. (Dr Shirley Patton, one of the facilitators and author of *The secrets we keep*.)

The group generously gave Nella 5 minutes to speak about children’s literature. She mentioned CBCA, suggested YA group members keep an eye out for the Reading Matters conference scheduled for next year and then spoke very briefly about IBBY, and our brief to use children’s books to ‘build bridges to international understanding’. Nella left about a dozen IBBY flyers and a lucky draw prize of a copy of the new YA title *It sounded better in my head* by Nina Kenwood. It was won by a lady celebrating her birthday.

The ‘Write Here’ concept is part of the national ‘Writers Bloc’ organisation’s support of writing groups across 10 regional areas in Australia. <https://thewritersbloc.net/courses>

Nella Pickup EC and Tasmanian IBBY member

News from Sydney

Opening of New Children’s Library

The new Children’s Library inside the State Library NSW was officially opened on Saturday morning 12th October with State Librarian, John Vallance, Master of Ceremonies. After a short introduction John invited a family from Orange to cut the large ribbon adorning the entry.

A wave of excited families surged in, exploring the light-filled space with comfortable chairs and bright decoration. Books were off the shelves in minutes with lots of reading aloud from the just over 2000 books now, with 20,000 proposed.

There were quite a few children’s literature professionals sharing the celebration, including IBBY members Ursula Dubosarsky, Karen Jameyson, Elizabeth Hughes, Miranda Harrowell, Mike Botham, Margot Lindgren and Victoria Roberts.



IBBY members Elizabeth Hughes, Karen Jameyson, Ursula Dubosarsky, Miranda Harrowell and Mike Botham

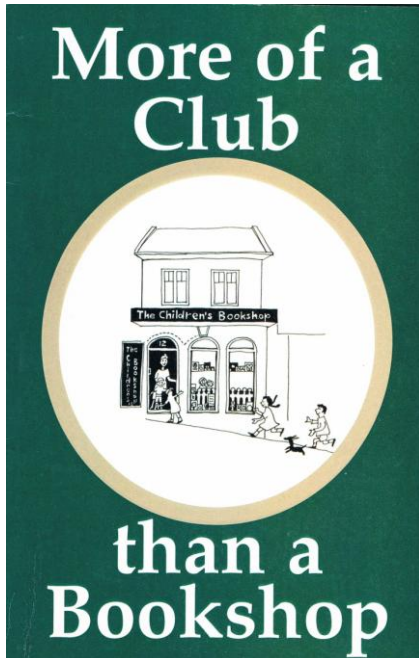
Susanne Gervay, Donna Rawlins and Jasmine Seymour also attended, joining several other local creators at the many events scheduled for this busy Open Day. John Vallance said ‘that the public appeal for this library was one of the most successful in the State Library’s history - certainly the most broadly based - and that the Children’s Library was essentially made possible through these donations from individual members of the public.’

Claire Stuckey EC and NSW IBBY member

News from New South Wales

Farewell to The Children's Bookshop, Beecroft

The Children's Bookshop, Beecroft is closing this month. My mother, Beryl Moncrieff Matthews and I opened the shop in 1971 in the suburb's tiny former post office. There was an inevitability about my becoming a bookseller: at school our English teacher Dorothy Brown had inspired a love of literature, and as she lent us a new book she would mention which of Sydney's bookshops she had bought it in; my uni student part-time job was in Macquarie Bookshop, Parramatta. Albert Ullin had opened The Little Bookroom in Melbourne, but there was no such specialist shop in Sydney, so we were pioneers. From the start we stocked the highest quality books, and soon were catering to schools and libraries as well as families. The shop became known for book launches, author visits and signings by both Australian and overseas authors and illustrators. We moved to larger premises in Hannah Street, to accommodate the huge stock. We were aware of being a force for good, as our knowledgeable and enthusiastic staff members encouraged thousands of young people in their book choices. The short account I wrote about our first 25 years was entitled *More of a Club Than a Bookshop*, from a phrase used by US author Robert Cormier at his visit.



In the 1990s Mrs Hellene Boon bought the shop and moved to even larger premises, with an upstairs section for events and meetings. When Paul Macdonald became the proprietor in 2005, he brought his expertise as an English teacher, and special interest in YA books to the task; story times and school holiday workshops were established, and the reputation for personal service continued. Paul has been generous to IBBY Australia. He cites 'high rents and tough retail conditions' as reasons for closing. The Children's Bookshop has been described as 'the cornerstone of the Beecroft village life' for 48 years, so this is a sad time for the locality as well as for the book trade in general.



Robin Morrow and Paul Macdonald

I have had the good fortune to be able to continue working with books for young people, in a variety of ways, such as reviewing and university teaching, and through work with IBBY. But at heart I remain a bookseller, and in that role recommend to every reader: *support your bookshop*.

Robin Morrow, AM. HCA Juror and immediate Past President, IBBY Australia

Ena Noël Award 2020

Entries are now open for the 2020 Ena Noël Award, IBBY Australia's Encouragement Award for books by Australian creators. Publishers are invited to submit entries for this prestigious Australian Children's & Young Adult Literature Award by the 30th November, 2019. The nominated creator must be under the age of 35 at the time the title (or titles) submitted and was published in the two years prior to the closing date. Entry forms are available from Claire Stuckey, Coordinator, Ena Noël Award 2020 at troislouise3@gmail.com Mob: 0416 061 474

For more information and details of previous recipients see <https://ibbyaustralia.wordpress.com/ena-noel-award/>

News from Victoria

Community Literature Family Day

Fun and inclusivity were the highlights when children, parents and professionals met together at the Charles La Trobe College for the third annual Community Literature Day on Sunday, 15th September.

A combination of workshops, exhibitions, formal presentations and activities provided a creative mix. Tessa Weadman, a Certified Practising Speech Pathologist, introduced the day and her audience to the broad role of the speech pathologist in working with individuals across the lifespan within six areas of practice: speech, language, voice, fluency, swallowing and multimodal communication. Early literacy acquisition and development were presented via a range of developmental norms for different paediatric age groups, including shared book reading. An exploration of the five essential skills for literacy mastery - phonemic awareness, fluency, phonics, vocabulary and comprehension - were presented along with a range of practical strategies. Teachers and parents were able to leave with further knowledge and ideas for developing children's speech, language and literary skills.

Exhibitions included the Speech Pathology Australia stall promoting the speech pathology profession together with a range of resources to build on participants' knowledge of speech pathology in relation to literacy. Books Illustrated provided a display exhibiting a wide variety of fabulous Australian picture books for children of all ages offering an opportunity for browsing and purchase. A display of prints of Australian book illustration celebrated the diverse approaches of the artists using black lines and marks.

Ann James's workshop began with an introduction of a selection of her books and the different mediums chosen to illustrate different titles. Demonstrating on a sheet painted with random shapes and colours, Ann showed how they sparked her imagination as she added black lines and marks. A couple of young artists added their drawings to her painting too.



Ann James demonstrating the addition of black marks and lines to her random shapes and colours.



Children and parents shared in adding black lines and marks - thick, thin, smudgy or scratchy - to paintings prepared by Ann.

Adam Wallace,

New York Times bestselling author (and illustrator) another presenter, remarked: *'The day was so fun for a number of reasons. Hearing, a talk on Speech Pathology was so interesting, and not only gave me a new insight, but also snuck a few ideas into my head for stories...win-win'.*

An exciting aspect of the day was seeing children and their parents do a workshop together. The adults were prepared to sit down and have a go, especially when the parents weren't confident at drawing. The children were shown it is okay to have a go even if you think you may not draw so well, and they were so excited at seeing what their parents drew. The results were some wonderful drawings by children and adults and a lovely time was had during the day, partnered and organised by the CBCA Vic Branch, Speech Pathology Australia and Story Box Library.

All in all, it was an exciting day and a pleasure to be part of.

Geraldine Woolnough Secretary, CBCA Victoria

News From Western Australia

8th Annual Celebrate Reading National Conference 2019



Left to Right: Felice Arena, Dianne Wolfer, Lisa Shanahan and Shaun Tan
Photo: The Literature Centre.

After 18 months of meticulous planning, the 8th annual Celebrate Reading National Conference was held at the Literature Centre, Fremantle, on the 1st and 2nd November. The presenters for this year's event were Shaun Tan, Stephen Michael King, Lisa Shanahan, Felice Arena, Glenda Millard, Ronojoy Ghosh, Leila Rudge and Dianne Wolfer.

The two days of the conference were full of fascinating discussion, laughter, dancing and

tears, as the eight Australian authors and illustrators shared a wide variety of insights into their careers, and displayed their immense talents to an eager audience.

The conference has a unique format in which there are no concurrent sessions, the eight presenters all had individual talks, including Shaun Tan, who presented the keynote address of the conference. There were also a number of panel discussions ranging from the fact that green covered books are not unlucky by Glenda Millard and Stephen Michael King, to all the presenters discussing funny things that had happened to them on the road. Each of the guest illustrators had an 'Artist in Action' session where they revealed some examples of how they work, and the media they use to create their illustrations. Stephen Michael King created a beautiful painting from his book *Rainbow Bears*, which was shortlisted in the CBCA Book Week awards this year.



Left to Right: Leila Rudge, Lisa Shanahan, Felice Arena, Glenda Millard, Stephen Michael King and Rhonojov Gosh. Photo: The Literature Centre

Next year, the 9th conference will have a secondary school focus. The presenters will include: Alice Pung, Barry Jonsberg, Michael Pryor, Meg Caddy, Tristan Bancks, Karen Foxlee and Michael Gerard Bauer.

The Literature Centre hosted an incredible two days which was a genuine celebration of Australian literature. Both delegates and presenters were 'buzzing' by the end of the conference. Felice Arena quoted that he 'did not expect to come away feeling so happy, buoyed and inspired.'

The Literature Centre has been nominated for the Astrid Lindgren Memorial Award in 2020 for their tremendous role in promoting children's literature, and connecting readers with fine Australian books.

Jane Stanton WA cttee and IBBY member



The 13th IBBY Regional Conference 25-27th October, 2019 Austin, Texas

*The shape of hope:
Finding wonder, joy, and strength in literature*

The theme of this conference was beautifully explored by each of the speakers - from local Texas creators, such as Hafsah Faizal, Don Tate and Naomi Shihab Nye to US creators, such as Allen Say, Grace Ling, Christian Robinson and Jacqueline Woodson along with international voices, such as Nicola Davies (UK), Roger Mello (Brazil), Qin Leng (Canada) and Elise Gravel (Canada). You can see a full list of the presenters here

<https://tinyurl.com/y38t2pku>



Qin Leng of Canada



Briley lecture table decoration

The annual Briley lecture was delivered by Nicola Davies. She focused on two of her recent books – *The Day the War Came* and *The Promise*. Both books perfectly matched the conference theme. I love this quote ‘*picture books are for humans*’. Nicola’s newest book, *Every Child a Song*, mirrors the ethos of IBBY and celebrates the UN declaration on the Rights of the Child. It is illustrated by Marc Martin from Australia. Nicola: ‘*I want children to learn, I want to furnish their minds, help them to be resilient and strong, I want children to be able to dream, to be active participants, to be engineers of community and I want them to enter the story space where they can imagine a new world.*’

Over the same two days Austin was host to the Texas Book Festival. This is the second largest book festival in USA and attracted over 300 speakers. We were invited to share an international perspective on books from Australia (Margot Lindgren), Canada (Mary Beth Leatherdale), and Russia (Angela Lebedeva) along with an overview of IBBY presented by Liz Page (Executive Director), all moderated by Junko Yokota (USA). You can read about the books I shared in this panel session here:

<https://tinyurl.com/y38dbey3>

This is the second USBBY Regional conference I have attended. I love having the opportunity to hear local authors along with the big international names. I was especially happy to talk to Qin Leng, who illustrated *Shelter* by Celine Claire, and Padma Venkatraman, whose book *The Bridge Home* affected me very deeply. Allen Say generously provided conference delegates with an advance copy of his forthcoming picture book *Almond*. I now have a huge list of books to explore many of which I may not have discovered without attending this event. I am especially looking forward to reading *The Boy, the Boat and the Beast* by local Austin author Samantha M Clark.

The 14th USBBY Regional Conference will be held in Nashville October 15-17, 2021 with the theme *The Music of Words*.

Margot Lindgren EC Secretary and NSW IBBY member

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



Padma Venkatraman: all photos by Margot Lindgren

News from Moscow

37th International Congress 5-7th September, 2020



The theme for the Conference is *Great Big World Through Children's Books: National and Foreign Literature — Role, Value, Impact on Young Readers in Different Countries.*

Russia joined IBBY in 1968 (it was a Soviet Section of IBBY back then), with its founders, creators of classics of Soviet and Russian children's literature, Sergey Mikhalkov and Agniya Barto. The St Petersburg Branch of the Russian IBBY was founded in 1998 on the initiative of IBBY. The numerous cultural activities of the Branch are centred at the Pushkin Children's Library of the city of St. Petersburg, (Department of Cultural Programs) and are an integral part of the Library's working plans.

Registration and the submission of abstracts is now open. Here are some important dates:

01/08/2019 Registration/Abstract submission opens

01/09/2019 Fee payment begins

23/12/2019 Abstract submission deadline

27/01/2020 Notification of acceptance

30/03/2020 Early Bird deadline

10/04/2020 Presenter registration deadline

For further information see <https://ibbycongress2020.org/en/congress/abstract-submission-en> and <https://ibbycongress2020.org/en/registration>

Join the 37th IBBY International Congress, come to Russia, discover our history, culture, and nature. We are waiting for you and we are ready to welcome you!
Congress Organizing Committee

News from China

4th AORIC Congress 26th – 28th September

Held in the Shangri-La Hotel, in Xi'an, China the Opening Day included contributions from Zhang Mingzhou, President of IBBY, Liz Page Executive Director of IBBY, and Ahmad Redza Ahmad Khairuddin, President of MBBY.

A highlight of the second morning was a speech by Cao Wexuan, the 2016 Hans Christian Andersen Award winner for writing. A Symposium led by Ellis Vance (IBBY

Treasurer, USA) discussed these issues: Fundraising; Ideas for strengthening sections, inclusivity, communications and co-operation in the region, and How to help children in crisis. The IBBY sections of: Afghanistan, Cambodia, Korea, Japan, India, China, Thailand, Indonesia, Malaysia, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Iran (EC), Lebanon (EC), UK, Russia (EC) were represented. IBBY Australia was included through the powerpoint presentation sent by IBBY Australia President Dr Robyn Sheahan-Bright. This was well received and full of useful information for other sections. [With thanks to Liz Page for her assistance. Ed.]



News from Sweden and Athens

The *International Research Society for Children's Literature* conference took place in Stockholm in August with the theme *Silence and Silencing in Children's Literature*. A session on Shaun Tan's work with Debra Dudek (WA), Maria Lassén-Seger and Ben Wilhelmy was fascinating. Participants heard many references to Shaun's work from a diverse range of speakers including Professor Joosen, the keynote speaker. Morris Gleitzman's work was also cited often.

It was with great pleasure that I moderated a session on the theme of *disability* with Australian Kit Kavanagh-Ryan presenting, Carl Miller sharing an insight on stuttering and Haewon Lee concluding the session speaking on communication. A lengthy Q & A session followed. (See photo.)



My own paper *Australian Picture Books for Children about Depression, Not a Silent Issue Now* was well received with interesting follow-up questions.* Fellow presenter Ben Screech focused on Adolescent mental health. Our Austrian colleague, Sabine Fuchs, featured titles on parental depression in picture books and children's nonfiction.

I met many other IBBY colleagues, including Junko Yokota, who presented *Interpreting Silent Spaces: Translating Asian Picture books*, a fascinating paper. In the same session Nicola Daly from New Zealand spoke on her scholarship research completed at the International Youth Library, Munich. Vassiliki Nika and Vagelis Iliopoulos from IBBY Greece co-presented focusing on the latter's fairytales. I spoke with the President of IBBY Poland, Anna Czernow, at the evening event at the [Junibacken](#). Many of us enjoyed a journey on the Astrid Lindgren Story Train after panels featuring Scandinavian authors and illustrators. This was a wonderful international children's literature congress in a lovely historical city.

*Please email bjs3@tpg.com.au if you would like the booklist of Australian picture book titles.

The Megaron Centre in Athens was the venue of the 85th *World Library and Information Congress of IFLA* a few days later. As a member of the Children's and Young Adult Section Committee, I enjoyed meeting the vibrant team of international children's librarians, including our secretary, Marianne Martens, from USBBY. The conference saw 3,364 librarians from 140 countries celebrate our profession with business meetings and workshops aimed at developing the future design of our environments, programs and communication. I met with the School Libraries Section a dynamic and committed group. Forty-four sections of volunteer professionals united to plan actions around our global vision led by a new president, *Australian Christine Mackenzie!* The cocktail event at the Australian Ambassador's residence was a noisy and happy occasion to celebrate Christine's new role. Over fifty people mingled on the warm Athens evening. Our colleagues from New Zealand, other IBBY members and the IFLA Executive shared the celebration.



C & YA Committee. Photo: Claire Stuckey

Claire Stuckey National EC and NSW IBBY member

IBBY International News

We are pleased to welcome two new sections to the IBBY family. **IBBY Cameroon** is based in Yaoundé at the headquarters of CREPLA (Regional Centre for Promotion of Books in Africa). The membership includes publishers, authors and illustrators and other members of CREPLA and AILE Cameroon (Association of Authors and Illustrators of Children's Books). IBBY Cameroon can be contacted at ailecameroun@gmail.com

IBBY Guatemala was born on the 19th July, 2019, with the creation of the KAWOK manifesto. This includes the following statement: Guatemala, Honduras and El Salvador, as well as some regions of Mexico, are witnessing the reactivation of their conflicts with a mortality rate that has reached numbers of the 80s. The repercussions of corruption, extreme inequality, police precariousness and the breakdown of social structures have caused governments to be virtually unable to protect their citizens. As in most conflict zones, children and young people suffer the most painful consequences. The avalanche of minors alone who seek refuge from violence is a direct result of the last 45 years of war in the area. That is why Guatemala joins the efforts of the International Board on Books for Young People (in English, IBBY), its US subsidiary (USBBY), IBBY Mexico /A LEER, REFORMA, the American Association of Libraries (American Library Association) and the Texas Library Association.



More details can be found at http://www.ibby.org/fileadmin/user_upload/GUATEMALA_MANIFEST.pdf



Our August newsletter contained information about the release of Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) by the United Nations and the publication of the first three SDGs for children between 5 to 12 years. #1 No poverty, #2 Zero Hunger and #3 Good Health and Well Being. Now available are #4



Quality Education and #5 Gender Equality. Each month a new SDG will be in focus, and a list of relevant books for children will be announced. The book selections will be in the six official languages of the UN: Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish. IBBY members are supporting the project by identifying titles in these six languages and contributing to the selection juries. For further information see

www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/sdgbookclub/.

IBBY-Asahi Reading Promotion Award

25 nominations have been received for the 2020 IBBY-Asahi Reading Promotion Award and can be found at <http://www.ibby.org/awards-activities/awards/ibby-asahi-reading-promotion-award/>

IBBY-iRead Outstanding Reading Promoter Award

19 nominations have been received for the 2020 IBBY-iReading Outstanding Reading Promoter Award founded in 2018 during the Athens IBBY International Congress. Further information can be found at <http://www.ibby.org/awards-activities/awards/ibby-iread-outstanding-reading-promoter-award/> and www.iread.org.cn

White Ravens Catalogue 2019



Here are the 6 Australian titles included in the White Ravens Catalogue, chosen by the International Youth Library, Munich, which was celebrated at the Frankfurt Book Fair on the 17th October, 2019.

Amelia Westlake (Erin Gough, Hardie Grant Egmont)
Catching Teller Crow (Ambelin & Ezekiel Kwaymullina, A&U)
Cicada (Shaun Tan, A&U)
Grandma Z (Daniel Gray-Barnett, Scribble)
Midnight at the Library (Ursula Dubosarsky illus by Ron Brooks, NLA)
The Things That Will Not Stand (Michael Gerard Bauer, Scholastic)



Astrid Lindgren Memorial Award

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

237 candidates from 68 countries are nominated for the 2020 Astrid Lindgren Memorial Award. The candidates were presented by the jury at the Frankfurt Book Fair on October 17.

Among the 237 nominees, the list includes 49 new names. The candidates represent all continents and are authors, illustrators, reading promoters and storytellers. 46 % are women, 41 % men and 13 % are organisations. More than a hundred nominating bodies worldwide have proposed candidates for the 2020 award.

The Australian nominees included:

Randa Abdel-Fattah, Author; Jeannie Baker, Illustrator; Bronwyn Bancroft, Illustrator; Ursula Dubosarsky, Author; Susanne Gervay, Author; Morris Gleitzman, Author; Indigenous Literacy Foundation, Organisation; Robert Ingpen, Illustrator; Margo Lanagan, Author; Magabala Books, Organisation; Melina Marchetta, Author and The Literature Centre, Organisation.

2019 German Children's Literature Award

(Deutscher Jugendliteraturpreis)

On the 18th October, the award in the **category Young Adult Book**: went to *Ich weiß, heute Nacht werde ich träumen* (Thienemann) by the Australian author Steven Herrick (original edition: *By the River*, Boyds Mills Press), translated by Uwe-Michael Gutschhahn. All categories carry a value of 10,000 Euro, except the award for a complete work, which has a value of 12,000 Euro. The prize money can be split up between authors, illustrators and translators. Furthermore, all laureates receive a bronze statuette depicting the character "Momo" from Michael Ende's children's classic. Unfortunately, Steven Herrick was unable to attend, so his translator, Uwe-Michael Gutschhahn, picked up the award for them both. See <https://www.jugendliteratur.org/deutscher-jugendliteraturpreis/c-62> for further information.



Forthcoming Conferences and Events

2019

22nd August, 2019 - 9th February, 2020 Storytime: Australian Children's Literature. National Library of Australia <https://www.nla.gov.au/whats-on> and <bookings@nla.gov.au>

30th November Closing date for submissions to the 2020 Ena Noël Award, the IBBY Australia Encouragement Award for creators of children's literature under the age of 35 at time of publication. See <https://ibbyaustralia.wordpress.com/ena-noel-award/>

2020

11th February 6th Australian Children's Laureate launch and announcement at 10.30 AEST at the National Library of Australia, Canberra.

25th February CBCA 2020 BOTY Notables announcement at 7.00 pm AEST See <https://www.cbca.org.au/book-of-the-year-key-dates>

31st March CBCA 2020 BOTY Short List announcement at noon AEST See <https://www.cbca.org.au/book-of-the-year-key-dates>

2nd April International Children's Book Day

2nd April The Book Links (Qld) Narelle Oliver Lecture will be delivered by the incoming Australian Children's Laureate.

4th April IBBY Australia ICBF *Words Change the World* with Maxine Beneba Clarke and Gabrielle Wang. Santa Maria del Monte Primary School, Strathfield, Sydney, NSW. 1.30 – 5.00 pm.

5th - 7th June Sydney International Storytelling Conference *Weaving Stories Together*. See <http://www.storytellersnsw.org.au>

28th July - 5th August World Library and Information Congress (WLIC) Auckland, announced by IFLA. To be held at the New Zealand International Convention Centre.

21st August CBCA 2020 BOTY Winner and Honour Books announcement at noon AEST See <https://www.cbca.org.au/book-of-the-year-key-dates>

22nd - 28th August CBCA Book Week Theme: *Curious Creatures, Wild Minds*.

5th - 7th September 37th IBBY World Congress, Moscow, Russia, with the theme *The Great Big World Through Children's Books: National and Foreign*. See <https://www.ibbycongress2020.org>

2021 5th AORIC Congress to be hosted by IBBY Sri Lanka.

2022 5th - 8th September 38th IBBY World Congress, Putrajaya, Malaysia. *The Power of Stories*.

IBBY Australia Executive Committee

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Join IBBY AUSTRALIA or renew your membership

IBBY Australia membership for the coming financial year (1 July 2019–30 June 2020) 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

RSVP to Bernice Cusack, Treasurer

PO Box 329, Beecroft, NSW 2119 or email cusackfamily@optusnet.com.au

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