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 committed to bringing books and children together

NEWSLETTER No 11
November, 2011

President’s Letter
Dear IBBY members and supporters

As we near the year’s end, I wish to thank my fellow national committee members and in particular Jenni Woodroffe, who manages many tasks as vice-president and secretary, including editing these informative newsletters. To all who help organise events, serve on judging panels, and support IBBY’s activities, hearty thanks and best wishes for the festive season.

As we review the year, we can report that membership subscriptions and sales of the Bob Graham print have enabled us to feel more relaxed about the finances, and with a little in reserve, are less anxious about our ability to pay our 2012 dues and levies. We have been able to look outwards, to consider some of our neighbours’ needs, and to put energies into two events, one in WA and one in NSW, for fundraising for book delivery to Japanese children affected by tsunami and earthquake. Wonderfully, Leeming Primary School with its own fundraising effort raised the great sum of $1184.35. The total we have sent is $3,700.00. We are proud to make this contribution in the IBBY spirit of international cooperation.

The building of a broad membership base is still a priority. Please encourage friends and colleagues to join. I spoke about IBBY at the Professional Learning Day for Teacher Librarians of Penrith, Mt Druitt, Blacktown and Windsor (NSW), and thank Ms Jenny Scheffers for this opportunity.

We acknowledge the passing of Juliana Archbold (formerly Juliana Bayfield) who served as President of IBBY Australia on two occasions; and express our sympathy to Ralph, Juliana’s husband. See Christobel Mattingley’s tribute to Juliana in this newsletter.

Christobel herself, our Hans Christian Andersen Award nominee for writing, has recently celebrated her eightieth birthday, for which we extend congratulations and best wishes.

International Children’s Book Day is 2nd April. WA members, note the item about the Fremantle dinner on 31st March. See p 9 for great ideas for celebrating the day in your school or library.

I extend thanks to Judi Jagger (WA) and her two colleagues from Victoria, Sarah Mayor Cox and Suzanne Thwaites, who worked with energy and flair to select the two Australian nominees for the 2012 Honour Book List (see item p 2). The ongoing work of subcommittees continues, with three judges (Qld, Tas, NSW) starting to read the entries for the Ena Noel Award. We have extended the due date for entries and encourage publishers to enter eligible books.

My best wishes for the New Year.

Robin Morrow

STOP PRESS We have just heard from Naoko Torizuka at JBBY that the money from Australia will go towards building a wooden library for children in Rikuzentakata-city, one of the most damaged areas. Photos next newsletter.
Queensland illustrator Gregory Rogers and Victorian writer Glenda Millard are the most recent Australian creators to appear on a prestigious international list of books for young people. Both have had publications recognised on the 2012 Honour List for IBBY, the International Board of Books for Young People. The biennial list contains the most highly regarded titles of the previous two years as selected by participating IBBY countries.

Rogers and Millard join previous Honour Book awardees, such as Julie Vivas, Nadia Wheatley, Allan Baillie, Margaret Wild and Jeannie Baker, all of whom have received significant international recognition for Australian children’s literature.

The wordless picture book, The Hero of Little Street, is the third in a series by Gregory Rogers that features a boy and characters such as a medieval baron, Shakespeare and a bear. In this latest story, the boy finds himself in the Delft of the Dutch Old Masters after a chase through Trafalgar Square and the National Gallery. Many references to famous paintings are scattered throughout the pages as the boy and an escapee dog have multiple and often hilarious adventures. No words are required as the reader pores over the masterful watercolour and pen-and-ink drawings to join in the visual jokes. The Hero of Little Street was the Children’s Book Council of Australia Picture Book of the Year in 2010. The IBBY listing will bring Rogers’ work to the attention of an international audience.

A dystopian, but very recognisable, Melbourne is the setting for Glenda Millard’s A Small Free Kiss in the Dark. War has come suddenly and unexpectedly to the city, leaving a disparate group stranded in the State Library, including the narrator, street kid Skip. Billy, an older homeless man, young Max, whose mother has not returned and Skip make a hazardous journey to Luna Park where they find shaky refuge. There they meet up with Tia and her very young baby. Millard challenges readers with notions of family, and although the subject matter is grim, her storytelling is both powerful and hopeful and is conveyed through lyrical prose. A Small Free Kiss in the Dark has been recognised by the US Branch of IBBY on a list of significant foreign titles, was an Honour Book in the 2010 CBCA Awards and won its category in the 2010 Queensland Premier’s Literary Awards. Both titles are published by Allen & Unwin.

Writers and illustrators from more than 60 countries will be recognised on the 2012 IBBY Honour List. Their work will be exhibited at the 2012 London Congress from 23-26th August.
JULIANA ARCHBOLD (NEE BAYFIELD) 1938-2011

After long-time president of IBBY Australia Ena Noel died in 2003, vice-president Juliana Archbold, better known by her maiden name Bayfield, again stepped into the role, which already in 1992 she had filled with dedication. Small of stature like Ena, she also was a nugget of energy, a dynamo of determination and drive, with a dry wit.

South Australian born Juliana Bayfield, a gifted pianist, was educated at PGC and the University of Adelaide. In 1955 she joined the staff in the Country Children’s Book Service of the Public Library of South Australia, later renamed State Library of South Australia, where she had a distinguished career. Her ability was soon recognised and in 1959 she was appointed to take charge of the new Pitman Library, SA’s second public library, at Marion. Later she returned to the State Library in the city to run the Children’s Library and Youth Lending Service. This she did with strong commitment to children and their books, understanding that the cause of children’s reading must also involve the active participation of parents and teachers as well as librarians.

In 1982 she was appointed Librarian-in-charge of the Children’s Literature Research Collection, a reference collection of rare and historical books of Australian origin. She expanded this with the addition of children’s games and toys, and developed it by her policy of judicious purchase and donations, including twentieth century children’s literature from many countries, so that it became one of the most significant in Australia.

She was an active member of the Children’s Book Council of Australia, and of the Children’s Library Section of the Library Association of Australia. She also gave valuable support to the campaign to save May Gibbs’ Sydney home Nutcote, organising an important exhibition of Gibbs’ material at the SLSA in 1990. Later she became a member of the Nutcote Board, travelling to meetings in Sydney at her own expense.

She retired in 2001, married librarian and fellow music lover Ralph Archbold in 2002, and for some years continued the research she had begun on children’s board games. After suffering two strokes, she died on 20 October 2011.

As Maurice Saxby, a founding member of IBBY Australia and authority on Australian children’s literature, wisely said to me, “Our memorial relates to the influence we’ve had on others.” Juliana’s passion for children and their books and her dedication to promoting reading will be long remembered, and with the collection she so indefatigably built up, will indeed be her memorial.

Christobel Mattingley AM, DUnivSA

14 November 2011.
CHILDREN IN CRISIS FUND – JAPAN APPEAL
NSW FUNDRAISER

The Sydney contingent of IBBY Australia has a rare knack for scheduling events in blistering heat. But despite the elevated temperatures, more than forty dedicated supporters sizzled their way to Beecroft on November 9th, where Paul MacDonald generously opened up the doors of his Children’s Bookshop to host ‘More than a Bookshop: A Conversation with Robin Morrow’.

Platters of sushi and other Japanese delicacies greeted those game enough to venture out. Sushi? Japanese delicacies? Sense a theme of some sort? Yes, this event aimed to raise funds to help the Japanese section of IBBY with its project of delivering books to children living in areas affected by earthquake and tsunami. We particularly welcomed Yuko Kamada and Emi Murakawa’s attendance.

In a fitting overture to the main event, Claire Stuckey gave a brief, engaging presentation about her personal experiences with JBBY while in Japan. (Faithful readers of this newsletter may recall her article on this topic in an earlier edition.)

Then, against a fascinating power point of historical images, our IBBY national president spoke in conversation with Owen Belling with her inimitable humour and passion about her varied life dedicated to books - particularly about her twenty-five years of experiences related to that same Children’s Bookshop in Beecroft. Founded forty years ago this month by Robin and her mother, Beryl Moncrieff Matthews, it was the first children’s bookshop in NSW.

A dedicated group helped in many ways, including running a raffle with some generous donated prizes. The total raised was $1175.

Karen Jameyson

MORE NSW NEWS

The NSW Branch of the Children’s Book Council of Australia honoured children’s author and IBBY Australia member Margaret Wild with the Lady Cutler Award. The Guide to the Margaret Wild Papers, held at the Lu Rees Archive in Canberra, gives some indication of the great contribution Margaret has made to children’s literature in Australia.

During the evening the inaugural Dr Maurice Saxby AM honour lecture was announced by Libby Gleeson and Margaret Hamilton, with the first lecture to be held at the State Library of NSW during 2012, rather fittingly the National Year of Reading.

Authors Belinda Murrell and Kate Forsyth shared their family insights into the life and times of Charlotte Barton, their ancestor and the author of A Mother’s Offering to her Children: By a Lady, Long Resident in New South Wales published in 1841, the first children’s book to be published in Australia. It seems fitting that on the 170th anniversary of its publication, the NSW Branch of CBCA have named the Frustrated Writers Award in her memory.
CHILDREN IN CRISIS FUND – JAPAN APPEAL
WA RESPONDS

A culturally rich and interesting event was hosted by the Hyogo Prefectural Government Cultural Centre in City Beach, WA when Director Akio Kawanabe and Deputy Director Melissa Luyke welcomed participants to a fundraiser. It was the last day of a 3 week visit from Kobe interns Miki Nishimura and Maiko Tsutsumi, who organized a programme for children. This included a power point presentation of aspects of life in Kobe; the opportunity to do shodo (calligraphy) and sumi-e (painting) using the traditional black ink and brush; tasting Modan yaki (meat and vegetable pancake with fried noodles), Macha cake (Green Tea cake) and Gopan (rice bread).

This was followed by a Meet the Authors session when WA authors Cristy Burne and Briony Stewart took the floor to entertain and delight the audience with stories of how they became published – coincidentally for both authors it was through winning a competition. Cristy was influenced by her experiences of living in Japan and Briony was inspired by her Japanese grandmother. The afternoon concluded when Mr Akio Kawanabe presented IBBY Australia Vice-President, Jenni Woodroffe with an envelope resulting in $1,310.00 to assist JBBY with their work in the disaster zone.

CONTRIBUTION FROM LEEMING PRIMARY SCHOOL

As a result of Japanese teacher Terri Ingleton encouraging her students to think about the impact of the 11/3 tsunami/earthquake/nuclear disaster on the lives of children, her students were keen to help. The Leeming PS students discussed various ideas, including a raffle, guessing the number of lollies in a jar, and by supplementing the school canteen, offered sushi and yakisoba one Friday lunchtime. Altogether, the project took about six weeks of keen and dedicated work by the students, led by Head Girl Kaytlen Mahon. There was an enthusiastic response on the day from their fellow students. Assisted by Terri’s five Japanese friends and some parent help, the students’ hard work in planning the project, drawing up rosters, approaching local businesses for donations, and food preparation resulted in raising $1184.35. At the School Assembly on the 17th November, Principal Graeme Sassella-Otley introduced Vice-President, Jenni Woodroffe, who spoke briefly about the work of IBBY and the Children in Crisis Fund and the Japan Appeal for funds to take mini-vans to the devastated areas.

Left: Head Boy Gary Lo and Head Girl Kaytlen Mahon about to present their cheque to Jenni Woodroffe, with Principal Graeme Sassella-Otley. In the background are the Pre-Primary children dressed in bathers, hats and sunscreen relaxing after performing their item Having Fun at the Beach to the Wiggles music.
BOB GRAHAM LIMITED EDITION PRINT SERIES

Interest and sales in 2012 HC Andersen Australian illustrator nominee Bob Graham’s print series continue to do well. Orders have been taken from every corner of Australia from schools, individual collectors, bookshops and libraries. Bob Graham has generously provided the print and his time in signing each and every one of them. Expected orders (with all payments being received) total around 30 prints to date. We have around 20 more available for purchase. They would make such lovely gifts for Christmas or a retirement farewell. We have had some wonderful feedback from buyers delighted with their print! For further details please contact Tina Price, IBBY Australia Merchandise Convenor at ibbysales@gmail.com. Prints are available at $175 each, plus $15 postage.

GLOBAL CONNECTIONS: VOICES OF HCA NOMINEES

In the spirit of IBBY’s mission to foster global connections to great books and stories, TeachingBooks.net has developed a digital collection of recordings and websites at http://forum.teachingbooks.net/?=6327. This archive introduces fans of children’s and young adult books to the authors and illustrators that have been nominated for the 2012 Hans Christian Andersen Award. Teaching Books contacted and recorded as many of the 57 nominees from 32 countries as they could, to present audio recordings of these men and women accurately pronouncing and speaking their names, as well as their personal websites or Wikipedia entries. It is hoped that these materials enable readers to become aware of the passion and the personalities that bring books and children together worldwide. Australia’s nominees, writer Christobel Mattingley and illustrator Bob Graham, are among those listed.

1986 HC ANDERSEN WINNER HONOURED

Patricia Wrightson, winner of the 1986 HC Andersen Award for writing, was recently honoured in Sydney. Eleven new plaques have been unveiled along the Sydney Writers' Walk at Circular Quay, bringing the total to sixty authors, including Patricia Wrightson. The Minister for the Arts, George Souris said: “These literary leaders have all made a significant contribution to our national identity and cultural landscape.”

IBBY AUSTRALIA WEBSITE

You can find the IBBY Australia website at http://ibbyaustralia.wordpress.com/ it's the place to find information about the Ena Noel Award, the details of Australian books that have been nominated for the IBBY Honour list, back issues of the IBBY Australia Newsletter, membership information and IBBY news from around the region. To date this year we've had 4,856 hits on the website with 48 people electing to receive automatic email updates when the website is updated with new information.
The latest issue of Bookbird: a journal of International Children’s Literature Vol 49, No 4 October, 2011 is recommended reading for all fans of Shaun Tan and the graphic novel. The front cover features “Warm Regards from our Tuesday Afternoon Reading Group!” from Tales from Outer Suburbia. Shaun Tan contributes the leading article as he discusses The accidental graphic novelist, and this is followed by Australian reviewer Linnet Hunter’s The artist as narrator: Shaun Tan’s wondrous worlds and Not all that’s modern is post: Shaun Tan’s grand narrative by Lien Devo. Former IBBY Australia President, John Foster’s contribution is Picture books as graphic novels and vice versa: the Australian experience and examines 5 different titles by Shaun Tan, Matt Ottley, Ruth Starke (text) and Greg Holfeld, Bob Graham and Gregory Rogers. IBBY Vice President, Wally de Doncker has written up the ALMA presentation to Shaun Tan, containing a photograph of Shaun receiving the Award from HRH Crown Princess Victoria of Sweden.

The new editors are Roxanne Harde and Lydia Kokkola and manuscripts may be forwarded to them at rharde@augustana.ca and lydia.kokkola@utu.fi

Imperial College, London, UK

Keynote Speakers to include Patsy Aldana (Canada), Aidan Chambers (UK), Bart Moeyart (Belgium), Emer O’Sullivan (Germany) and Shaun Tan (Australia). The congress will host the IBBY General Assembly and the presentation of the IBBY Honour List, the IBBY Asahi Reading Promotion Award and the Hans Christian Andersen Awards. There will also be the opportunity to meet colleagues at professional meetings. The official congress language will be English. Registrations are now open and the registration form is at http://www.ibbycongress2012.org/register.php Cost for Australian participants is 490.00 sterling.

Accommodation has been reserved for Congress Delegates at the Imperial College of London and more information is available at http://www.ibbycongress2012.org

We look forward to a good number of Australians making their way to London.

IBBY Documentation Centre of Books for Young People with Disabilities.

In a few years time Heidi Boiesen will retire from the Haug School and Resource Centre, which has been the home of the IBBY Documentation Centre since 2002. Originally established at the Department of Special Needs Education at the University of Oslo, Norway in 1985, the Documentation Centre moved to the library at the Haug School and Resource Centre (HSRC) in 2002. Librarian Heidi Cortner Boiesen has directed the Centre and been the curator of the collection ever since. However, she is approaching retirement and IBBY would like to ensure a smooth transition for the collection and Documentation Centre following the selection and exhibition of the 2013 list.

To this end, the IBBY Executive Committee has issued a call for proposals to provide a new home for the Documentation Centre, which must be submitted by the 1st March, 2012. Should any Australian institution be interested, please contact Jenni Woodroffe/Secretary/IBBY Australia for proposal details at jennij@iinet.net.au.

OVERSEAS NEWSLETTERS

For Australians planning to travel to Europe in 2012 you might find some useful tips on what to see and where to go in the latest edition of the European newsletter to be found at http://www.ibby.org/index.php?id=932.

Mamang: keeping language alive

Kim Scott calls it the most important work he has ever done. Nine years after the project commenced, two picture books written in the Noongar language, with English translation, were launched yesterday in Albany, Western Australia. This is the country of Kim Scott, winner this year of just about every literary award going, including the Miles Franklin and the Commonwealth Writers’ Prize (SE Asia and Pacific) for That Deadman Dance. Yet he regards these two picture books as his most important work. Why would this be so?

Mamang and Noongar Mambara Bakitji are the products of a series of workshops held in WA's Great Southern Region since 2002 that have reclaimed some stories of the original inhabitants. The Wirilomin Noongar Language and Stories Project aims:

to reclaim Wirilomin stories and dialect, in support of the maintenance of Noongar language, and to share them with Noongar families and communities as part of a process to claim, control and enhance Wirilomin Noongar cultural heritage.

The Noongar people are indigenous to the south west of WA. I had not heard the term 'Wirilomin' before but the explanation in Mamang shows why:

Wirilomin? Literally, it means curlew-like. It is not a name that features even in the most commonly cited Aboriginal language maps, and only hinted at in the archives. Since we are considering language survival and the weight of heritage a tongue can carry, it's probably apt that the name is so very reliant upon oral history. The name is also associated with a particular site, ceremony and song.

So these books are preserving the language and culture of a very particular group of Noongar people. The stories came to light when the family of Gerhardt Laves, a US linguist, returned his notes to Australia to be placed under the guardianship of the Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies (AIATSIS). Laves had worked with the Wirilomin group and recorded their stories in 1931 and Kim Scott records the process of recovery and the creation of the picture books in a concluding essay in both volumes.

With Princess Royal Harbour in Albany the backdrop to the book launch, we wouldn't have been surprised to see a whale or two, echoing the images in Mamang. If you've heard Kim speak you'll understand how mesmerising he can be, but to hear him speak in 'language' was an additional joy. Curlew-like indeed.

Deeply involved in the project since the beginning, he acknowledged those who were there all those years ago who are now no longer here to see its completion, he spoke of the delicacy of a project that began with involvement of direct descendants of Laves’s informants and has rippled outwards until it reached the world yesterday, and he spoke of the empowerment that mastery of language can bring.

Kim Scott was introduced by Lester Coyne, a Noongar elder who is heading off to Geneva tomorrow to participate in a UN panel on the 'role of languages and culture in the promotion and protection of the well-being and identity of indigenous peoples'. He had been advised just that morning that his prepared 12-minute presentation had been cut back to five minutes, and he is speaking on behalf of all 500+ Australian Indigenous languages, not just Noongar - languages that are on the brink of extinction in a country where their speakers are the non-dominant culture, unlike many other countries that will be represented. He was not pleased, and you can bet he will be letting the UN know.

The number of young Noongar people at the launch is an indication that this generation is now realising the importance of the preservation of their culture. You can see why Kim Scott is so proud of this work, and with his status in the literary world now cemented, who better to bridge our two worlds and lead us across.


Kim Scott at the 2nd Workshop, Albany Prison. May, 2011. Photograph: Mary Gimondo
NEWS FROM QUEENSLAND

David Cox, acclaimed Australian writer and illustrator, was invited by the Curtis Coast Literary Carnivale Committee to visit the Gladstone region during Children’s Book Week in August to coincide with the publication of his latest book *The Road to Goonong* (Allen & Unwin, 2011). The book is set on a property where he lived near Ambrose (outside Gladstone) when he was a child during the Great Depression. David, who had not been back to the area for seventy years, launched his book at Ambrose State School on Wednesday 24th, an event which students from Yarwun State School also attended. It’s a touching story of a bush childhood – growing up on a family farm with animals, eccentric neighbours and a loving family, which despite the hardships of the Depression which are depicted in it, captures the enduring spirit of Australian country people. The visit was gratefully supported by IBBY Australia member, Allen and Unwin and the Gladstone Regional Council.

David says: 'I often think of my childhood and the farm that we were forced to leave. It was always the place we thought of as “home”. In fact it was the last time the whole family lived together: from then on some of us were at boarding schools, then new jobs. What is strange is that, when I speak to my brother or sister, we all have very different memories. "Is that so?" we say, and, "I don’t remember that happening." 'I thought I was writing a story about horses; but when I was asked: "What is the book about?" I answered that it was about the Great Depression. As soon as I had said that, the emphasis in the story changed. It is a story about going broke; but I don’t think any of my family look back on that time with great sadness. We went broke, that’s all. There are plenty of farming families now,,that are having a hard time. Perhaps my story might bring them just a little bit of hope.'


**Robyn Sheahan-Bright** (President, Curtis Coast Literary Carnivale Committee and Member, IBBY Australia Committee)

INTERNATIONAL CHILDREN’S BOOK DAY

This is a reminder that International Children’s Book Day is celebrated throughout the world on or around the anniversary of the birth of Hans Christian Andersen, the 2nd April. Looking ahead to 2012, the National Year of Reading in Australia we would like to remind readers of the many opportunities to promote reading a celebration of this day provides.

Suggested activities include

- promoting translated international titles or Australian titles set in other countries
- inviting people from another country to read a book in another language
- encouraging older students to talk about a children’s book that gave them a new understanding of what it might have been like to live in another time or culture
- displaying HC Andersen stories and folktales from a range of countries
- inviting prominent people from your community to talk to your children and young people about a favourite children’s book
- selecting titles from translated children’s books for your Book Club – both for adult and young people.
- organizing a gathering, big or small, either take away, pot luck or something splendid where guests talk for about 3 minutes about a favourite book.

Western Australians will be celebrating their 3rd ICBD Dinner at the Villa Roma, 9-13 High St, Fremantle on Saturday, 31st March at 7.00 pm with the theme Our Favourite Childhood Picture Book. We look forward to hearing about events planned for other groups.
IBBY AUSTRALIA MEMBERSHIP

Among the many prominent figures in the Australian children’s literature scene to have joined IBBY Australia Inc since becoming a separate, independent organization are nearly 40 well-known authors and illustrators, some of whom have had a long association with IBBY. They include: Nadia Wheatley, the Australian writer nominee for the 1986 IBBY Honour List with Dancing in the Anzac Deli, and for the 1990 IBBY Honour List with My Place.

Julie Vivas, the Australian illustrator nominee for the 1986 Honour List with Possum Magic.

Allan Baillie, the Australian writer nominee for the 1988 IBBY Honour List with Riverman.

Bob Graham, the Australian illustrator nominee for the 1988 IBBY Honour List with First There Was Frances, and the 2012 HC Andersen Award illustrator nominee for a body of work.

Jeanie Baker, the Australian illustrator nominee for the 1990 IBBY Honour List with Where the Forest Meets the Sea.

Libby Gleeson, the Australian writer nominee for the 1991 IBBY Honour List with Dodger.

Margaret Wild, the Australian writer nominee for the 2000 IBBY Honour List with First Day.

Catherine Jinks, for the 2000 Ena Noel Award with Piggy in the Middle.

Stephanie Owen Reeder, for inclusion in the 2011 IBBY Outstanding Books for Young People with Disabilities with I've Got A Feeling.

Christobel Mattingley, the 2012 HC Andersen Award writer nominee for a body of work.

It is encouraging to have the support of these well established authors and illustrators who are still creating and whose names appear in the many Awards and shortlists across the nation.

WANTED – 134 Members for IBBY AUSTRALIA INC

Thank you to all who joined in 2010 and renewed their membership, and a reminder that there are a few outstanding renewals still to come. We look forward to welcoming 134 more individual Members for IBBY Australia and another 13 institutional Members. Please join us and help us continue as 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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