

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 19**

November, 2013

#### President's Letter

Dear members and supporters of IBBY Australia

It is a great pleasure to announce the Australian IBBY 2014 Honour Books, Patricia Mullins for *Lightning Jack* and Ursula Dubosarsky for *The Golden Day* (see p 2). These books will be part of a select exhibition at the Bologna Children's Book Fair, at the IBBY International Congress in Mexico City, and in many other places. To be chosen for this biennial listing is an honour indeed.

As we proudly showcase our Australian HCA nominees to the world, we salute their recent achievements: Ron Brooks, 2014 nominee for illustration, has won CBCA Picture Book of the Year for *The Coat* (text by Julie Hunt); and Nadia Wheatley, 2014 nominee for writing, has published the impressive *Australians All: a history of growing up from the Ice Age to the Apology* (illus Ken Searle). Such achievements confirm the elite status of these book creators. Australia has one living winner of the Hans Christian Andersen Award (awarded for the whole body of work), illustrator Robert Ingpen, and it is exciting news that he will be guest speaker at the NSW International Children's Book Day event next April (see p 3).

Tina Price, member of the executive committee and Melbourne resident, phoned and emailed people on the lapsed membership list; thank you, Tina, and thank you to those who responded by renewing their membership. Memberships are the backbone of IBBY Aus, enabling us to continue with the day-to-day tasks of letting the world know about the quality of our books.

My aunt died recently, a woman tiny of frame but large in her energy and commitment to children, education and freedom. I have been musing about her influence on me, especially in the books she chose as gifts from babyhood, and the discussion she would elicit about them. Behind every keen reader, there is often a *book person* who has given encouragement as well as the books themselves: it may be a parent, grandparent, teacher or librarian . . . How fortunate are those of us who have had such a person (or more than one) in our lives. And this is a role many of us can and do play in the lives of children now. It may be many years later that the recipient realises the importance of this gift, but believe me, it is of inestimable value.

A timely thought as we approach Christmas gift-giving?

Very best wishes for the end-of-year and festive season

Robin Morrow

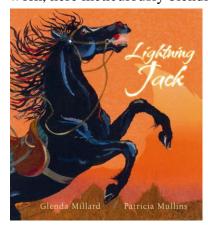
# INTERNATIONAL RECOGNITION FOR AUSTRALIAN AUTHORS AND ILLUSTRATORS



Victorian illustrator **Patricia Mullins** (left) and NSW writer **Ursula Dubosarsky** (right) are the most recent Australian creators to join a prestigious international list of books for young people. An expert Australian panel selected their books to appear on the 2014 Honour List for IBBY, the International Board of Books for Young People. This is a biennial list of the most highly regarded titles of the previous two years.



*Lightning Jack*, the Honour Book for Illustration, showcases Patricia Mullins' characteristic collage work, here meticulously blending torn and crushed tissue, Japanese and Indian papers. And her love and

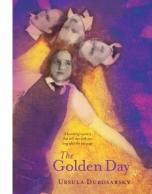


knowledge of horses come to the fore, too. With text by Glenda Millard (a previous Honour List awardee), the tale in powerful, thundering rhythm tells of a galloping blue black stallion. Pages resonate with typical Australian imagery - rusty red earth, tall and spindly gumtrees, fierce storms and arid plains. The variety of textures and colours in the landscape is beautifully portrayed and the whole has a dreamlike quality. Movement is paramount. Even as the horses and the cattle race through the pages, so do the seasons change and the iconic Australian historical events pass by. *Lightning Jack* repays many readings, and children delight in poring over the subtle depictions of action and atmosphere. The book was shortlisted in the Picture Book category,

CBCA 2013. Publisher: Scholastic Press.

In The Golden Day, Honour Book for Writing, Ursula Dubosarsky subverts the myth of lost children. A

class of eleven little girls 'lose' their teacher, Miss Renshaw, who takes them on an excursion on a beautiful summer's day in 1967 and never returns. The girls, haunted by her loss, feel responsibility and a claustrophobic bond of secrecy. Dubosarsky hints at dark shadows that threaten their golden world. This compelling mystery has a strong narrative and fully realised characters, firmly grounded in place and time. It is the year of the last hanging in Australia, of the Vietnam War, and a missing prime minister; even the cocooned world of school is changing. This richly textured novel draws on some of the best-loved works of Australian literature. It ends with hope: as the girls finish school, 'although it was the end of the day, for all of them it felt like morning.' Readers' eyes are opened to other worlds, other possibilities. It was shortlisted in the Older Readers category, CBCA 2012. Publisher: Allen & Unwin.



Writers and illustrators from over 60 countries will be recognised on the 2014 IBBY Honour List.

# Around the world and back again in Sydney

When is an IBBY Australia AGM just an AGM? Never! With IBBY Australia, the AGM always seems to be just part of a noteworthy larger event. No exception this year.

On September 12, the dynamic Paul McDonald once again generously opened the doors of his Beecroft Children's Bookshop to IBBY NSW members (including lifetime member Maurice Saxby) for a stellar event. The free glass of champagne on arrival, courtesy of the bookshop, was a sign of the special evening ahead.

Following an efficient AGM, conducted by IBBY president Dr Robin Morrow, guests were transported on a fabulous journey with Dr Alice Curry, Children's Literature Advisor of the Commonwealth Education Trust. Alice, who is also an Honorary Associate of Macquarie University, described the evolution and role of the Trust, and then captivated listeners with an



Claire Stuckey, Alice Curry, Robin Morrow, Maurice Saxby and Karen Jameyson at the Children's Bookshop

account of her adventures in compiling and editing A River of Stories: Tales and Poems from Across the Commonwealth, illustrated by Jan Pieńkowski.

The book is an extraordinary collection of stories and poems from the 54 countries of the Commonwealth. The Trust had requested that the collection be linked to sustainability, and the chairman chose the specific theme of water. So off Alice went, travelling the world, to find one appropriate contribution from each of those diverse countries. Not a straightforward task!

Alice's fascinating presentation provided many insights into twists and turns of her publishing journey. There is, for instance, an enormous disparity among the publishing capabilities of the different countries to begin with. And although English is common to all the countries, Alice also had to deal with the problem of retaining indigenous languages. Many other challenges came up too, of course, including, eventually, the heart-pounding visit to Buckingham palace to present a finished copy of *A River of Stories* to the Queen.

For IBBY members, the evening was rich and satisfying, and anyone who missed out does, at least, have the option of ordering the book. Anyone interested in purchasing *A River of Stories*, compiled by Dr Alice Curry, can do so through The Children's Bookshop, 6 Hannah St, Beecroft, NSW 2119 Tel: (02) 9484 0519.

Karen Jameyson NSW and Executive IBBY Member

# CIRCLE THIS DATE - 5<sup>th</sup> APRIL, 2014

IBBY Australia is delighted to celebrate International Children's Book Day on Saturday, 5<sup>th</sup> April, 2014 with an event at Santa Sabina College, Strathfield, featuring Hans Christian Andersen Award Winner: **Robert Ingpen** 

Come on foot, by car, by train, by sea or by plane. Don't miss this unique and exciting event. Let's make it a Reunion occasion for all who attended the 1986 Tokyo Congress and witnessed the presentation of the HCA Medal to Robert.

Bookings now available at: https://www.eventbrite.com/event/9025530605

# **QUEENSLAND NEWS**

#### FROM REEF TO RIGGER: This is my Place! (A CCLC Project) (30 July–2 August 2013)

Students in the Gladstone region were offered a rare treat recently when they attended sessions with inaugural Australian Children's Laureate, artist and writer **Alison Lester**. Organised by the committee that manages the biennial Curtis Coast Literary Carnivale (to be held again in July 2014), the CCLC also supports another alternate year project which focuses on creating local stories.

The CCLC Committee partnered with the Australian Children's Literature Alliance (ACLA) and the Gladstone Regional Council to welcome Alison Lester to Gladstone, from 30 July to 2 August 2013, to participate in the *From Reef to Rigger: This Is My Place!* project.

An exhibition of the works from her book *Are We There Yet?* was also held from 20 July to 31 August 2013, at the Gladstone Regional Art Gallery and Museum in partnership with Books Illustrated in Melbourne.

Alison Lester's work is ideally suited to the CCLC's aim of Alison Lester – Photo courtesy of Gladstone News initiating local stories in written and visual texts. The project enabled a region-wide focus on the unique aspects of this place, inviting students to express their feelings about living here. Prior to her arrival, several schools also created postcards and class murals to celebrate the theme.



Samara Belton –Tannum Sands State School

Alison spent Tuesday and Wednesday at CQUniversity Australia (Gladstone Campus), and Thursday at Tannum Sands State School conducting smaller workshops and large group presentations attended by 585 students. At the end of the project we created a permanent record in a 'virtual' gallery powerpoint presentation of the gorgeous watercolour images and stories made up of students' responses (Yrs 2-5) to their environment and to Alison's unique style. Their excitement in working in watercolour was very evident in their rapt attention during these workshops, and in the artworks they created.

We were also fortunate to have been offered a special tour of the port facilities (which are not accessible to the public) by the Gladstone Ports Corporation Limited, which included a drive through the RG Tanna Coal

Terminal and onto the coal loading facility. The views of the current construction of LNG gas plants on adjacent Curtis Island, and of the port expansion at Wiggins Island, were unique. But the end of the tour provided an unexpected excitement, when a dugong surfaced several times at Spinnaker Park while we were viewing the harbour!

At the celebratory dinner with the committee on Thursday evening at Scotties Bar & Restaurant, Alison was presented with a silver kookaburra shell charm (our logo), and a certificate of thanks. Her exhibition was launched by Cr Gail Sellers, Mayor, Gladstone Regional Council, at GRAGM on Friday 2 August 2013, an event which was attended by an excited crowd of over one hundred people, including students from Yarwun State School, South State School, St Stephen's College, Tannum Sands State School and Stepping Stones Childcare Centre. Alison's book *Sophie Scott Goes South* has since been awarded an Honour Book commendation in the 2013 CBCA awards.

This inspiring four days for the Gladstone region and community were also the CCLC's first very successful partnership with ACLA, and we look forward to working with them again in future.

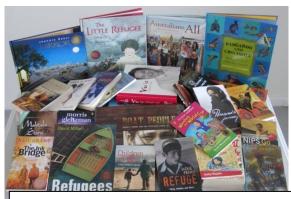
Robyn Sheahan-Bright (Qld IBBYand Exec Member, and President CCLC)



### NEWS FROM WESTERN AUSTRALIA

In 1980 the WA Branch of the CBCA initiated a trust fund to perpetuate the memory of Penny Walton (née Hutchens). Penny passed away at the end of 1979 and is remembered as a person who gave much of her time and effort towards children and their books. Penny was a member of the Children's Book Council for many years and was the WA Judge for the Australian Children's Book of the Year Award for 1978 and 1979. In her memory the Penny Hutchens Fund was established for the purpose of donating books biennially to an organisation that cares for children, as Penny's concern was always to get books into the hands of children.

This year on Thursday, 8<sup>th</sup> August WA CBCA President Chloe Mauger and Gail Spiers, both IBBY members, presented the Coalition for Asylum Seekers, Refugees and Detainees Inc. (CARAD) with a huge box of books purchased through the Penny Hutchens Fund. CARAD chairperson, Eira Clapton, expressed her gratitude for the gift, saying that the books will provide many opportunities to engage, inspire, encourage, educate and entertain the CARAD community. The selected titles will greatly enhance the CARAD reference library and expand members' awareness of the refugee experience. Many of the titles are appropriate for use by volunteer tutors in their work with students learning English as a Second Language.



Some of the titles presented to CARAD by the Penny Hutchens Fund

The CBCA branch in WA donated the proceeds from the raffle, at their Children's Book Week dinner in August, to IBBY Australia. Sue Scott, treasurer, forwarded a cheque for \$540. This represents effort and generosity on the part of the branch, and a tangible expression of support. Thank you, WA!



IBBY members, Norman Jorgensen and Peter Williams with Wolverine, the exhibition mascot.

On the evening of Friday, 1<sup>st</sup> November the State Library of Western Australia proudly held two important events. On the ground floor an exhibition entitled *Picture A Story* with a little white dog, Wolverine as mascot, was introduced with the following:

In 2006, children's literature enthusiast, Dr Peter Williams donated 107 original picture book illustrations to the State Library of Western Australia. This was followed 6 years later by more of his cherished artworks. Peter's interest in picture books began when he taught primary school in a country town in WA in the 1970s. His love for children's literature increased over time, eventually leading to a collection of first edition children's books and original artworks. Though he later moved to NSW, Peter wanted to give back to WA – the place where his passion began. The artworks that Peter donated have been used to engage WA children with books and reading. The State Library has continued growing this collection through purchases of award-winning Western Australian talent (SLWA).

Having admired the collection of artwork on display, guests

assembled in the Theatrette where Professor Margaret Nowak, Chair of the Library Board, warmly welcomed those present, including members of Peter's family

who had flown from the east coast. Dr Peter Williams was presented with his citation, making him a Fellow of the Library Board of WA. In responding Peter commented "I loved seeing the illustrations again – they stirred the lust for collecting within me...This fantastic exhibition *Picture A Story* is hereby opened."



Muriel Barwell, OAM and Dr Peter Williams, inaugural winner of the Muriel Barwell Award

## **NEWS FROM TASMANIA**



On 19<sup>th</sup> August the Lieutenant Governor, the Honourable Chief Justice Alan Blow and Mrs Margaret Blow, IBBY member, hosted a reception for the CBCA, Tasmanian Branch to mark Children's Book Week (See left). Robin Morrow attended this festive event at Government House, Hobart, and

enjoyed meeting Tasmanian IBBY members and enthusiasts. The ballroom provided

Robin Morrow and Judy Moss in discussion.

a glamorous setting. Guests included included Peter Gouldthorpe, Julie Hunt, Nella and Richard Pickup. The photo (right) shows Judy Moss and Robin discussing progress with the entries for the 2014 Ena Noël Award. This encouragement award for a young Australian

author/illustrator under the age of 35 years was established by IBBY Australia's first President, Ena Noël, and the closing date for submission is the 30<sup>th</sup> November. The winner will be announced on ICBD 2014. Photos courtesy of Office of the Governor, Tasmania.

# MORE NEWS FROM NEW SOUTH WALES



Caroline Jones AO with Nadia Wheatley. Photo courtesy University of Sydney.

Australians All: Writing a new history for young Australians of the Twenty-First Century was the title for an evening in late October, hosted by the Faculty of Education and Social Work, University of Sydney. Nadia Wheatley, author of the recently published Australians All: A History of Growing Up from the Ice Age to the Apology (illustrated by Ken Searle) was 'in conversation' with Caroline Jones, renowned writer and broadcaster. The large lecture theatre was packed with an eager audience. Both Caroline and Nadia began with stories of their own convict ancestors; this set the tone for an emphasis

on the importance of personal stories in the web of history. Nadia stressed the sense of place underlying all her work; her vignettes of some of the young people in the history, Indigenous children, convicts, and migrants from a diversity of nations, whetted the appetite of many listeners. The queue to buy copies of the book and have them autographed was a long but cheerful one. Nadia Wheatley is IBBY Australia's nominee for the 2014 Hans Christian Andersen Award for Writing.

Robin Morrow

On the 8<sup>th</sup> November, IBBY Life Member Dr Maurice Saxby was presented with an Honorary Doctorate of Letters at Sydney University. On the stage of the Great Hall, he spoke to the audience about his life and how his students had given him far more than he could have given them. Congratulations, Dr H Maurice Saxby AM MEd Sydney PHD UTS Doctor of Letters honoris causa. *Margaret Hamilton, AM.* 

### **AUSTRALIAN CONTRIBUTIONS OVERSEAS**



Donkeys Can't Fly on Planes is a collection of 25 stories collected from children living in the Latrobe Valley area, Victoria. These stories are real, as seen through the eyes of the children. They are the thoughts, feelings, experiences and stories of South Sudanese refugee children, now living in Australia. Over the past six years the dedicated and caring staff at the Latrobe English Language Centre and the Liddiard Street Primary School in Traralgon, eastern Victoria, have encouraged the children to record and illustrate their stories.

Other schools began to contact LSPS asking to borrow the books, and demand required a new approach. In late 2012 Kids' Own Publishing came on board and assisted the school to produce a published book of the collected stories, which had until then been distributed as A4 paper stapled together. KOP encouraged and guided the teachers to hold a workshop to produce illustrations to accompany the stories. Artist Lisa Gardiner worked with a group of students at LSPS to make the very textural collage work, which is as evocative as the words.

Sharing their stories and creating the accompanying artworks have been an important part of the healing process for these children. The book has also become a valuable resource for schools teaching cultural diversity, and the children's voices have become a powerful tool in turning attitudes around by helping the wider population to a better understanding of differences within their community.

Donkey's Can't Fly On Planes was launched on the 20th August by Arnold Zabel, who praised the young authors

for "their beautifully told tales – written with disarming honesty, directness and clarity. The young authors are to be congratulated for offering us their observations, their natural poetic vision, their unique vision and eye for detail." Over 100 people filled Artplay, Melbourne's creative centre for the arts for children and families, to hear Arnold and South Sudanese community leader Abraham Maluk speak of the power of stories to heal the traumas of war. Three of the young authors read their stories, and guests were moved by traditional South Sudanese songs, sung by men, women and children from the Traralgon South Sudanese community. A surprise guest was Molly the donkey, brought along by the Donkey Shelter (According to Molly's owner, May, apparently donkeys can ride on aeroplanes but it is very, very expensive.)



Donkeys Can't Fly On Planes at \$22.00 rrp can be purchased at: <a href="https://bocep.org.au">bocep.org.au</a> All proceeds will go towards building an orphanage and school – the Bor Orphanage Community Education Project – in South Sudan.

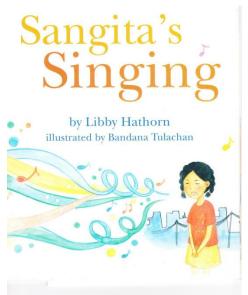


Kids' Own Publishing is a small arts organisation that uses 'community publishing' to bring together families, community groups and educators in an activity that promotes learning, shared discovery and mutual understanding. Our mission is to empower children, families and communities to tell and share their stories through innovative learning-based programs,

cross-sector partnerships, artist-led creative processes and published outcomes. www.kidsownpublishing.com

#### **AUSTRALIAN CONTRIBUTIONS OVERSEAS**

On a writers' retreat in Darjeeling, I met one of the founders of Mitrataa, a Foundation begun in Nepal to help educate girls and women. My writers' program 100 Views was being run in several Sydney schools and director Bec Ordish invited me to run it for teachers in Kathmandu. There I made a documentary co-produced by a Nepali film-maker entitled 100Views Kathmandu to help raise money for Mitrataa. Screened at Randwick Ritz, Sydney and on community channels it raised several thousands. As a writer and teacher, I now return regularly to Nepal to run workshops mainly for students in poetry and creative writing.



Inspired by being in Nepal, my picturebook *Sangita's Singing* (*Pax Press*), tells of a child's transition from a small village to a large school in Kathmandu, also a fund raiser for Mitrataa and was launched on Children's Day in Kathmandu and at Orange Public Library, NSW, July 2013. With its themes of transition and longing, bullying and self esteem beautifully wrought in pictures, it demonstrates that despite our differences there are many similarities in our cultures. Having a small press allowed me to source student artists in Nepal to help them in their career. Chosen artist Bandana Tulachan and I visited a typical village just out of Kathmandu and with Bec's help and Skype, I was able to mentor her through 32 pages of illustrations, as what it is to be a book illustrator. Bandana has now gone on to do other books. Infant plans for a musical based on the book will help us source

student actors, musicians and dancers in Nepal and perhaps a playwright.

*Libby Hathorn* author/poet and NSW IBBY member

#### AND ANOTHER...

Travelling to different overseas countries in the Asia-Pacific region has resulted in Patricia Bernard's latest work: a number of illustrated titles to be published by Blake Educational Publishers in February 2014. Some of her titles include *A Horse Race To Win A Motor Bike*, featuring a brother and sister in Outer Mongolia who want to win a motor bike so their father can herd his yak, camels, sheep and goats to the summer pastures. In the Kiribati Islands, Agnes asks *Has Anyone Seen My Chook?* that has been lost because her island is being flooded by the tides that have risen due to Global Warming. A young

Cambodian boy tries to save the life of a young elephant that refuses to carry tourists around Angkor Wat in *The Elephant that Wouldn't Carry Tourists*. Published by Macmillan early in 2013, *The Lost Tail*, is set in Papua New Guinea and features the Gorok ceremony. These are just some of the books that Patricia's travels have inspired. This writer, traveller and NSW IBBY member certainly has many fascinating stories and photos to share, as demonstrated by the PNG photo at right. Photo courtesy of Patricia Bernard.



# **Towards World Peace**

Dr Izzeldin Abuelaish, renowned author of *I Shall Not Hate,* says: "There is a need to have a new culture of global peace...nurtured all around the world, with wisdom, kind words, good deeds - including those by Trish Amichi, especially through her BIG ONES LITTLE ONES program... It's up to those of us who care and who are passionate to act, so that everyone can enjoy dignity, peace and prosperity".

So – who is Trish Amichi? What is BIG ONES LITTLE ONES?

Such questions take us back to 2004, when Trish Amichi (Sydney based IBBY member) organised a small but rather unusual art exhibition: opened by the Governor of NSW, Her Excellency, Professor Marie Bashir AC, CVO; attended by several hundred people. The collection included children's works on paper hung alongside paintings by some of Australia's best loved and most distinguished Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander artists. The event was thought to be a "one-off".



Opening of Exhibition in Brunei Darussalam. Prof Marie Bashir, AC, CVO attends her  $4^{\rm th}$  BOLO exhibition.

Fast forward: 2013. The "one-off" has become a unique and very inclusive international visual art and literacy program. Name? BIG ONES LITTLE ONES® (BOLO), and thanks to Founder, Trish Amichi, more than 2000 Little Ones (children age 5 up, from 85 communities in 30 countries) have participated in activities they commonly describe as *interesting*, *challenging* and *fun*. Their creative efforts (paintings or drawing with titles, accompanied by personal comments or short stories) are showcased in BIG ONES LITTLE ONES® exhibitions in Australia, the United Arab Emirates, China and Brunei Darussalam, all the while with on-going support from those ATSI artists (Big Ones) who, in making their work available, provide

the children with role models, encouragement and inspiration.

Clearly, Amichi's aims are for positive change in the world. She especially focused on children, particularly those

in marginalised, disadvantaged, rural and remote communities, or with special needs. Politics, boundaries and borders carry little weight when welcoming Little Ones into this program: one which gives them a voice and provides a time and space for those voices to be heard by audiences around the world.

BOLO events now include special tours, presentations and interactive workshops, which, taking place in art galleries, community centres and schools, allow for easy exchange of ideas, language, history and culture - all communicated through art and story telling.



Workshop attended by 50 children from 5 schools in

Amichi's latest BOLO project, *Linked*, connects individual classrooms, further building on her plan to increase knowledge, understanding and acceptance of others. Similarly, her idea for *The Together Books*: a series of bilingual books based on a vast international collection of words and images; each book featuring the illustrated



The Mosque, by Jackson (Age 9) will be on the cover of *Together in Brunei Darussalam* 

thoughts, feelings and dreams of children from a particular country. The recently completed prototype means that first editions (Together in the UAE, Afghanistan, Iraq, China, Brunei) can soon be published. Amichi says: "With their work available to readers of all ages, the contributors can feel proud of themselves and know that they do matter! Readers, glimpsing life experienced and described by children, recognize a shared humanity and gain a new perspective, appreciation and respect for others. It's really all about education and increasing the chances of having a better, better, more peaceful world in which big and little alike can live - together."

GALLERY AMICHI®

#### **Bookbird**

The appointment of Dr Björn Sundmark as the incoming editor of Bookbird with effect from 2015-2018 inclusive, was announced recently. He is Associate Professor of English at the Faculty of Education, Malmö University, Sweden and has commented "My vision for Bookbird begins with what it is: a rare bird combining the academic with the journalistic, a creature both international and regional, a publication for the expert as well as the interested layperson...Bookbird caters successfully for members of the children's literature community, whatever their perspectives, throughout the world. I would like to keep it that way." Board of Bookbird Inc announcement 20/09/2013.

# Libraries Without Borders Conference

On the 11-12<sup>th</sup> October, Libraries Without Borders organised an International Conference in Paris on *The Urgency of Reading: Access to Culture, Information and New Technologies in Humanitarian Situations*. Patsy Aldana, President of the IBBY Foundation, IBBY was one of the keynote speakers. Further information can be found at <a href="http://www.urgencedelire.fr/index.php/en">http://www.urgencedelire.fr/index.php/en</a>

### 2014 ALMA Nominations

There is an increase of 15% to 238 candidates from 68 countries, according to Larry Lempert, Chairman of the ALMA jury at the Frankfurt Book Fair in October. Two Australians who previously won this award are Sonya Hartnett and Shaun Tan. The following Australians nominated for this prestigious award include: Ursula Dubosarsky, Mem Fox, Morris Sonia Kretschmar, Melina Gleitzman. Marchetta, and Marc Martin. Further details of the many familiar names in the children's literature world can be found http://www.alma.se/en/Nominations/Candidate s/Candidates-2014/

#### **IBBY Pakistan**

The Sharjah/IBBY Fund for Children in Crisis is sponsoring a project to initiate a network of community libraries across Pakistan, and the launch is marked by a national conference in Lahore. USAID is launching the Pakistan Reading Project, which is the biggest project they have undertaken to date in Pakistan. Alif Laila (IBBY Pakistan) is one of the sub grantees which will be working with USAID to set up 300 community libraries and running 6 mobile libraries that will operate for 5 years.

# **IBBY Lebanon**

The news coming from Syria is shocking, tragic and terribly sad. Refugees are pouring over the borders in their thousands and by the beginning of September there were estimated to be 723,000 refugees in Lebanon – for a country with a population of just under 4 million people that is a lot of extra people to cope with. By the end of this year the number of Syrian children refugees is expected to reach half a million in Lebanon.

Aid for shelter, food and medicines is steadily arriving from international donors, but as we know food and shelter is not enough for the children living through this terrible conflict. IBBY believes that children who are suffering from natural disaster, displacement, war and its aftermath, desperately need books and stories as well as food, shelter, clothing and medicines. These are necessities and are not mutually exclusive.

Please help us to help IBBY Lebanon bring relief to the children caught up in this latest disaster that has struck again at the very people who struggle throughout their normal lives. All donations are welcome. You can donate through the IBBY website by using a credit card or by making direct transfers using your bank: follow the following link: IBBY Children in Crisis Fund

<a href="mailto:</a>//www.ibby.org/index.php?id=813>

# **News from Lampedusa**

**Silent books: from the world to Lampedusa and back** is an international project organised by the Italian section of IBBY, to promote the value of illustrated textless books as crossing the boundaries of culture, geography and language (see newsletters 15 and 17). Two Australian books, Shaun Tan's *The Arrival* and Jeannie Baker's *Mirror* are included in their selection.

The project is continuing with the establishment of a library on Lampedusa, an island in the Mediterranean which receives thousands of immigrants every year, including many children. From 15-22 November 2013 a camp will be held on the island for volunteers to help establish the library there. This second IBBY Lampedusa camp will focus on reading promotion and familiarisation with the library, and will include training events (details from <a href="mailto:ibbyitalia@gmail.com">ibbyitalia@gmail.com</a> – att. Deborah Soria, project manager).

One volunteer, Francesca Rifiuti, who attended the first volunteer week, wrote:

"In my suitcase I had packed the desire for... stories, the desire to hear completely new voices. And on my arrival they were there waiting for me. I managed to hear them even in the air, in the silence, in the noise of the sea. Persons full of stories, all with the same desire to tell, to share and put together their strengths to create a situation which is coming into being so that these stories never die, and so that there is always somebody to hear them, read them, tell them, colour them, dream of them, play with them. And live them. We have tried to bring to the island the idea that books are important"

And Veronica Benuzzi wrote:

"What does it mean to live far away from books? Hunger"

This valuable project is flourishing and will probably inspire others in imitation—maybe by IBBY Australia?

# **Forthcoming Conferences**

**6-8**<sup>th</sup> **February, 2014** International Conference on Literacy through Literature to be held in New Delhi, India, organised by IBBY India/Association of Writers and Illustrators for Children (AWIC) See <a href="http://www.awic.in/events/forthcoming-events/international confrence on literacy 2014.html">http://www.awic.in/events/forthcoming-events/international confrence on literacy 2014.html</a> for further details.

**16-18**<sup>th</sup> May, **2014** CBCA National Conference, Rex Hotel, 250 Northbourne Ave, Braddon, ACT 2612 Theme: *Discovering National Treasures*.

30<sup>th</sup> May – 4<sup>th</sup> June, 2014 Asian Festival of Children's Content, Singapore. See <a href="http://afcc.com.sg/">http://afcc.com.sg/</a> for further details.

**6-8**<sup>th</sup> **June, 2014** Sydney International Storytelling Conference. See <u>www.storytellersnsw.org.au</u> for further details.

9<sup>th</sup> June, 2014. *The Fairy Tale in Australia*. Paddington Uniting Church, 395 Oxford St, Paddington, NSW. Contact Jo Henwood <u>jo7hanna@iprimus.com.au</u> 040 88 75 137 for further details.

27<sup>th</sup> – 30<sup>th</sup> July, 2014. Curtis Coast Literary Carnivale, Gladstone, Queensland. See <a href="http://carnivale.gladstonerc.qld.gov.au">http://carnivale.gladstonerc.qld.gov.au</a> for further details.

**10-13**<sup>th</sup> **September, 2014** 34<sup>th</sup> IBBY International Congress, Mexico City, Mexico. *Reading as an Inclusive Experience.* See http://www.ibbycongress2014.org/ for further information.

2015 IBBY Asian-Oceania Congress in Kuala Lumpur

25-28<sup>th</sup> August, 2016 35<sup>th</sup> IBBY Congress, Auckland, New Zealand.

**2018** 36<sup>th</sup> IBBY Congress, Istanbul, Turkey.

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