



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 30A
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A great celebration in Aotearoa

Kia Ora Everyone

Here is a special edition of our newsletter to share the kaleidoscope of the many highlights experienced during the 35th IBBY International Congress in Auckland.



Children from Bairds Mainfreight School performing the Kapa Haka at the Opening Ceremony and Welcome.
Photo: Courtesy of Doris Breitmoser

IBBY CONFERENCE highlights by **Sophie Masson of Invergowrie, NSW**

First time in New Zealand--first time at an IBBY conference too. And what a stimulating pleasure it was! Listened to some fascinating papers, on all kinds of amazing subjects to do with children's literature all over the world; loved seeing the beautiful prize-winning Hans Christian Andersen books, and the gorgeous exhibition of New Zealand illustrators too. Enjoyed very much meeting up with fellow authors, both dear friends and new acquaintances, from both sides of the Tasman, and also discovering a whole range of New Zealand literature. Some highlights of the program



Children performing the Kapa Haka at the Opening Ceremony and Welcome. Photo: courtesy of Doris Breitmoser

were the spine-tingling Maori powhiri, or welcome; the gorgeous kids performing the kapa haka; hearing Witi Ihamaera talking about Whale Rider; listening to a wonderful international panel of authors: Ursula Dubosarsky, Katherine Paterson, Kate de Goldi, talking to stellar British critic Julia Eccleshare; the fabulous Sir Richard Taylor whose infectious enthusiasm made me absolutely determined to go and see Weta workshop in Wellington (which I duly did and thoroughly enjoyed!) And also I must say I loved the response to my own talk on afterlife fiction for young adults, based on the research I'm doing for my Creative Practice PHD: with an international cast of wonderful audience members not only responding warmly but also giving me some fantastic new titles to look at. And of course to cap it all off, brilliant weather in Auckland and the city and its harbour looking at its very best: and the friendliest of friendly New Zealand welcomes! Thank you, IBBY, for a fabulous few days in the City of Sails!

Sherryl Clark of Melbourne writes:

What I loved most about IBBY was meeting so many people from all over the world. Every time I sat down (or stood) with my cup of coffee or lunch, those near me were happy to strike up a conversation and introduce themselves. This made it truly a friendly international event for me. A highlight was the two sessions by Sir Richard Taylor and Martin Baynton about the work that Weta Workshops do. While I was blown away by the video, it was also wonderful to hear them talk about the importance of great TV for pre-schoolers and see their understanding of how to create inspiring work for the littlies.

Many of the speakers gave me real insights into books and stories from other countries. We truly are all very different, but all wanting the same thing - great stories for children. The thing that stays with me most strongly is the statement that great books are moral compasses, that a story with real heart and a deep theme can act as an agent for shaping a child into an empathetic, compassionate person!

Eva Mills, also from Melbourne:

It was all wonderful, but I think my most unexpectedly enjoyable event was the World Kids Lit Quiz. I almost didn't go until several locals said it was a lot of fun – and I was quite blown away by the incredible knowledge and amazing memories of the young competitors. Such a close finish too! Very exciting.



Eva Mills, Leigh Hobbs and Ursula Dubosarsky at HCA Gala Dinner – photo Eva Mills



Leigh Hobbs, Nadia Wheatley and Ursula Dubosarsky at the HCA Awards Gala Dinner
Photo: courtesy of Ursula Dubosarsky.

Ursula Dubosarsky, 2016 Australian HCA Award nominee for writing:

I admit I'm still reeling from the wonders of such a spirited and intense conference dedicated to the vital and varied international world of children's books. The days overflowed with panels and papers and precious conversations, walks and dinners with new and old friends too seldom seen. I'm so grateful to have been included in this very special time.

Trish Amichi of Sydney comments:

The one thing that left the biggest impression on me was the final speech given by IBBY President, Wally De Doncker.

As I am sure you recall, he spoke about the world in which 5 year olds are being killed in dreadful conflicts while at the same time - others (due to different circumstances) attend beautiful schools.

He said this disparity was totally unacceptable.

Of course he is absolutely right and his words were all the more powerful because of the straightforward way in which he delivered them.

This speech was both sincere and very touching. It also ended with hope, as the President underlined IBBY's commitment to all children - no matter who they are or where they live.

It was a privilege to be at the conference and in the same space as all those people doing good things for kids!

Alison Giles-Damjanovska, of Sydney and her IBBY NZ reflection:

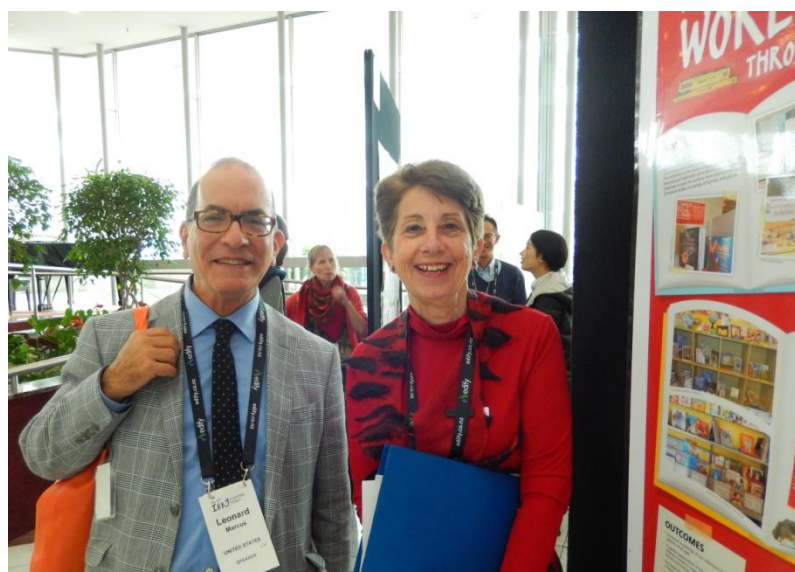
As a writer I never thought I was good enough to write an adult novel. I've always loved reading literature for children, and I've thoroughly enjoyed writing literature for children. IBBY brought to my attention the fact that writing for children is of far greater importance than writing novels for adults. And as an author, I am in the best place to be.

What I most enjoyed was the camaraderie and friendship. There was a definite absence of 'ego' that one so often finds at writers festivals. IBBY has a definite focus and delegates in NZ were obviously passionate about literature for children for entertainment's sake as equally as literature for children being therapeutic.

It was so much fun to meet such wonderful women as Ursula and Joy and the many others I did meet.



Joy Cowley with Alison Giles-Damjanovska



Leonard Marcus of the US with Claire Stuckey beside her poster.
Photo: Courtesy of Bruce Stuckey.

Claire Stuckey, IBBY Australia EC member emailed the following: Marcus Leonard was one of the many International participants that spent time reviewing the poster presentations. I was thrilled to talk Leonard through the World Through Picture Books project and relate how the exhibition provided multiple opportunities to showcase picture books from 36 countries. Marcus immediately recognised Katrina Germein's title, *Big Rain Coming*, illustrated by Bronwyn Bancroft, as he had chaired Bronwyn's panel session at the Congress.

The Japanese contingent from the International Children's Library in Tokyo were thrilled with our poster as they hold

and distribute the southern hemisphere exhibition. The French Co-coordinator of the project has just this week asked that we send the file for publishing on IFLA CHILD Facebook page

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

Jane Stanton of Canberra, and soon to move to WA, discovered:

There was a great feeling of collegiality right from the beginning of the Congress in Auckland. This was my first IBBY Congress, and I was not sure what to expect. I feel that the Congress far exceeded my expectations in every way. I particularly enjoyed the sessions held by people from other countries, and the amazing cultural diversity that was displayed through the posters in the foyer. One theme that resonated with me is the idea that books provide a mirror for the reader, that they see themselves in familiar settings but can then be transported to another world, another time. Books create a bridge between cultures that develop our understanding of one another, wherever we live, and give us a global identity.

Nicole Deans, Coach of the Australian Kids Lit Quiz team writes:



Freya, Emma, Nicole Deans (Coach and National Coordinator) Emily and Freya. 2016 Kids' Lit Quiz Australia team from Kinross Wolaroi School in Orange, NSW. Photo courtesy of Nicole Deans.

The opportunity to be a part of a community of readers was a wonderful experience for the 2016 Kids' Lit Quiz Team from Australia in August this year. While Emma, Emily, Freya and Lila were in New Zealand to represent Australia in the World Final of Kids' Lit Quiz, being a part of IBBY was an amazing bonus. To have a group of Australians with a love for literature and books there to cheer us on in the final was a special treat and we are sure helped us to achieve our

third place. The opportunity to meet our wonderful Australian authors, including Children's Laureate Leigh Hobbs, CBCA Award winner Nadia Wheatley (and be there to hear about her award winning book) and the wonderful Ursula Dubosarsky, and to hear Markus Zusak speak (and then meet him) was a highlight of our literature journey. The Aussie Kids' Lit Quiz Team 2016 would like to thank the IBBY community for including us in your wonderful conference and supporting us in the KLQ World Final.

From Tasmania, Nella Pickup sent the following:

As an IBBY congress newbie, I was unsure what to expect in Auckland. Highlights included any discussion of reading programs, including the winners of the IBBY-Asahi Reading Promotion Awards, and a previous winner Kathryn Knowles with the libraries in Ghana.

Hisako Kakuage's talk, *Children in crisis in Fukushima*, was heartbreakingly eye opening – not only have the families suffered from the actual disaster but parents are so fearful that their children (including those born afterwards) may suffer long-term consequences that these children are suffering from a form of PTSD.

Joy filled moments - Prof Osayimwense Osa's message that a Year of Reading is LAW in UAE and Mingzhou Zhang's enthusiasm about encouraging reading for the 387 million (and growing) children in China.



Photo: Melanie Laville-Moore, Allen & Unwin, NZ.

And perhaps only in the world of children's literature would you meet someone from the other side of the world (UK) who knew Tasmania from Nan Chauncy books and mentioned her childhood favourite UK author as Arthur Ransome to someone who has the plans to build the Swallow!

Zaklina Mihajlova from NSW gives a global perspective of children's literature

This year, I attended the IBBY Congress in New Zealand for the very first time. The cordiality displayed by the delegates and the hospitality received from the hosts made me feel welcome, comfortable and at ease; as if I have been part of the IBBY family for a long time.

I am an author who belongs to two countries: I write for both adults and children in my native Macedonian language, despite having lived in Australia for the past 27 years. Some of my books, including children's picture books, have been translated into English. Participating in the 35th IBBY Congress has enabled me to make a self-evaluation of the motives and themes of my prospective children's books and it also made me analyse the path I'm currently on. The workshops and the posters provided a great overview of what the current trends in global children's literature are. I will apply my knowledge and experience into practice while teaching Macedonian to students in Sydney, but I will also transfer them to my colleagues – children's authors, in Macedonia. It was my great pleasure to meet authors of children's books which I use in my language classes.

Taking part in the Congress is contagious, so, I will definitely attend the one in Istanbul.

Joanna Andrew from WA, and IBBY Australia EC member, adds her highlights:

Kate de Goldi's description of how and why she decided to recreate a children's annual, soon to be available for the Christmas market

Witi Ihimaera questioning how people are bringing reading and stories to children; how people are ensuring stories are keeping up with technology - this needs expansive ways of thinking. He reminded us that children need stories that affirm life, and help to bring children up in joy and light and hope.

Marj Brown's talk about how she runs the Phendulani Kids Lit Quiz in South Africa was inspiring, as she has twinned well-off schools who participate in the Kids Lit Quiz with under-resourced schools, providing 'container libraries' with copies of the 16 - 20 books selected for the quiz. It has broadened and expanded the quality of books for these schools and engaged the students, increasing literacy scores in the 50 schools involved.

Sir Richard Taylor's passion for his profession and the astonishing number of partnerships and projects he has undertaken was remarkable, I was in awe of his energy and ability. He quoted Douglas Adams, saying his attitude is to 'throw yourself at failure and try to miss'.

Nakoko Uehashi was the Hans Christian Andersen award winner from 2014 - a Professor of Ethnology from Japan, she has spent years working with an Aboriginal community in Mingenew, Western Australia. She said that 'stories bring us together - we become the protagonist. Stories transcend the bounds of other cultures, even that of being human. Diversity enriches us, and gives us the ability to see in many ways'. She finished by saying 'we can grasp each others' hands through our imagination'.



Felicity Castagna with her 2016 IBBY Honour Certificate and Jenni Woodroffe. Photo courtesy of Jenni Woodroffe

Margot Lindgren, Teacher-Librarian from NSW comments on Library Tours

Working in a school library is so special and I always embrace any opportunity to visit other schools to see their library. On Wednesday morning we boarded our bus in downtown Auckland. We visited five libraries over the day. Somerville Intermediate <http://www.somervilleintermediate.school.nz/> – a school with an impressive campus for 1000 from Grades 7 and 8, Bailey Road School K-6 <http://www.baileyroad.school.nz/1/pages/6-welcome> with their brand-new library, Carmel College – a girls high school, Devonport Public Library – again very new and with very impressive architecture and The National Library Services to schools in Parnell.

The National library – Services to Schools is a treasure trove for any teacher-librarian. This unique organisation began seventy years ago and they now boast a collection of over 600,000 resources. The shelves filled with multiple copies of each title purchased to provide curriculum based resources for New Zealand schools. Take a look at their web site <http://schools.natlib.govt.nz/information/school-librarians>

Robyn Sheahan-Bright, IBBY Australia EC member from Queensland summarised the Congress:

Since IBBY Congresses are such international gatherings, I very much look forward to their difference from the national conferences I attend in Australia. Each one has a focus on the local host's culture, and also offers a panorama of the many cultures represented there. Over 50 of IBBY's 75 sections attended in Auckland. I met with friends made since 2010 when I re-joined the IBBY family (having only attended Tokyo in 1986 prior to that), and made some new friends as well.

New Zealand opened the Congress, which was themed 'Literature in a multi-literate world', with a spectacular Pōwhiri (Māori Welcome) and presented a panoply of cultures with children and teenagers in traditional Pacific nations costumes singing and dancing traditional songs. The closing ceremony again included young people, this time in exquisitely-voiced choirs. All that came between was packed with delights.

Highlights:

1. Insights into NZ Literature: Witi Ihimaera, author of *The Whale Rider*; delivered a moving account of his beliefs on writing. Joy Cowley was charming in both opening and closing ceremonies. The great Gavin Bishop (on a fabulous panel about cultural diversity with Nadia Wheatley and Nahoko Uehashi) offered an intriguing perspective on his Maori heritage. The extraordinary Weta Workshop (which produces special effects for films such as Peter Jackson's Tolkien series and *Avatar*) was spoken about by co-owner Sir Richard Taylor whose session was shared with writer Martin Baynton – they clearly have a creative partnership made in heaven. The literary breakfast with Kate De Goldi, Des Hunt and Philippa Werry was an intimate insight into how each have expressed their New Zealand culture and history in distinctive ways. And I can't wait to read the *Annual* (Gecko Press, 2016) of NZ literature which Kate has co-edited and spoke about in an earlier session.

2. Renewing my friendship with Doris Breitmoser, director of The Association for Children's and Youth Literature – Arbeitskreis für Jugendliteratur (AKJ) which was established in 1955 as the umbrella

organization for children's literature in Germany was another highlight. Doris was my first real contact in Santiago in 2010, and we've enjoyed discovering more of each other's literature and programs since. The association also administers the German Youth Literature Prize (Deutsche Jugendliteratur Preis) begun in 1956.



Farewell drinks with Azucena Galindo Ortega (Mexico), Ann Lazim and Ferelith Hordon (UK) Hasmig Chahinian (France) and Doris Breitmoser (Germany) who supplied photo.

3. Actually seeing and hearing **Katherine Paterson** was such a thrill; the fact that she was paired with



Panel Session: Imagination in an Age of Reason. Ursula Dubosarsky, Katherine Paterson, Kate De Goldi chaired by Julia Eccleshare. Photo: courtesy Sophie Masson.

equally gracious and elegant writers Kate De Goldi (whom I heard speak in four excellent sessions) and Ursula Dubosarsky, and chaired so passionately by Julia Eccleshare, made this a brilliant session for me.

4. I've been preparing the dossiers for our **HCA nominees** since 2010 and very proud of Nadia Wheatley's participation. IBBY Australia was very pleased to support Ursula Dubosarsky and Bronwyn Bancroft, our recent HCA nominees, with CA funding to attend. Similarly, ACLA also supported Leigh Hobbs, who was clearly a huge success. Markus Zusak also represented Australia with a keynote, and the audience size indicated what a star he is. The HCA dinner was a 'grand finale' (although the congress actually wrapped the next day). The address by this year's HCA winner, writer Cao Wenxuan, was moving, and although she wasn't able to attend, HCA illustrator Rotraut Susanne Berner's short video acceptance was a whimsical delight.

5. In my **panel session 'Writing Globally'** I was paired with Danish critic Steffen Larsen and others; I was fascinated by the two writers he presented – Manu Sareen and Özlem Cekic. (I regretted that the many parallel sessions prevented me hearing those I wanted to. But that's the nature of IBBY ... it offers teasers and tasters and encourages further exploration.)

6. The **IBBY-Asahi Reading Promotion Award 2016** was presented to ***Read with Me***, nationwide Iran, and ***Big Brother Mouse***, Luang Prabang City, Laos. It's really inspiring to see such projects being honoured. (Previous winner Carole Bloch of South Africa's PRAESA was equally inspiring in a session I chaired.)

6. Hearing **US critic Leonard Marcus**, whose work I've so often referred to when writing about publishing trends and history on an excellent panel chaired by Kate De Goldi with Julia Eccleshare, offered rich perspectives on publishing.

I came away inspired by the richness of world literature, and the dedication of so many who devote their working lives to facilitating children's access to reading. I'm eagerly anticipating Istanbul in 2018, and have just read Richard Fidler's wonderful *Ghost Empire* (ABC Books, 2016) in preparation!

IBBY Honour List 2016

Presentation of the IBBY Honour List 2016 at the IBBY international Congress in Auckland, New Zealand. 19 August 2016. The 2016 Honour List comprises 173 nominations in 48 different languages from 57 countries. See You Tube presentation: <https://youtu.be/wRpSt6hw1iI>

IBBY'S CALL-TO-ACTION

For sixty years the International Board on Books for Young People has followed the ideal that books build bridges between people. Books give us wings and can demolish the walls that are built on fear and intolerance.

This work is as important and relevant today as it was sixty years ago, particularly now when so many children around the world are facing enormous upheavals in their young lives. We are currently experiencing a global crisis and IBBY is unwavering in its support for those working for peace and understanding. We believe that every child has the right to read and we fully support the principles of the International Convention on the Rights of the Child.

IBBY is committed to helping children in crisis, whether they are refugees in Europe, Africa, the Middle East, Asia and Oceania, North America or Latin America. IBBY looks for solutions. There are many IBBY projects, including the wordless Silent Books, book packs and introducing the library networks, which all work to alleviate the trauma that these young people are faced with. We also need to show children from different communities around the world how to welcome their new neighbours and how to live together in harmony. We firmly believe that stories and libraries can inspire this necessary accord.

Today, we urge all professionals working in the field of children's literature to join us take action and find solutions to help the children and young people who are caught up in this current turmoil.

35th IBBY World Congress,
Auckland, New Zealand
21 August 2016

Wally De Doncker and Liz Page

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Sad News

It is with great sadness that we must share with you the news that our friend and colleague Ernie Bond passed away in the early hours of Tuesday, 20 September 2016. He had suffered a massive stroke a few days ago. To those of you who were at the IBBY World Congress in Auckland last month this will be a shock since he was so happy and looked so well.

Ernie was a very loyal and keen member of USBBY and IBBY across the world. Ernie had a gift for making friends and had not only had a strong passion for children's literature, but also environmental issues. He served on the Hans Christian Andersen Award Jury in 2010 and 2012. He was a wonderful father of two sons and a great friend to many. We shall all miss Ernie.

We join together to send his family our deepest condolences. Liz Page, IBBY Executive Director

Our Future

International IBBY President, Wally De Doncker announced at the IBBY General Assembly on Sunday, 21st August that in future IBBY would have to do things differently and that a special Think Tank had been set up to plan for the future. This is something that IBBY in Australia also needs to think about.

I have a dream that in each state and territory we will have a hub or small group that will work together to plan a few events, such as the annual International Children's Book Day on or near Hans Christian Andersen's birthday on the 2nd April. In NSW, Sydney has established a tradition of a literary presentation, in Perth it seems as if a Children's Literature Quiz Night suits our part of the world, perhaps in Gladstone it is a continuation of Dad's Day with the emphasis on fathers reading to their children combined with a swim at the Aquatic Centre while in Brisbane it is emerging authors coming together to celebrate recent writing successes.

In other states, it could be a pot-luck or take-away meal to enjoy with a discussion of the work of previous Hans Christian Andersen Awardees, Honour List titles, Outstanding Books for Children with Disabilities, or translated titles from other countries. It doesn't have to be a big event – just a handful gathered together.

Other regions might wish to organise an Exhibition of say, the biennial IBBY Hans Christian Andersen Award nominees or IBBY Honour List titles with another IBBY section in our Region. Working with the Storylines committee in New Zealand, or Murti Bununta from Indonesia, or MBBY in Malaysia, or ThaiBBY would give each locality the opportunity to do something that is unique to their own gifts and talents.

There is boundless scope to make refugee children and families welcome in our community – Australians are noted for their generosity and hospitality, and Wally De Doncker has urged each and everyone of us to offer a hand of welcome. There may be some surprises in store for us, as Mark Macleod has indicated in his Golden Anniversary speech on the 2nd April.

Our libraries have been safe havens for many children who have felt isolated and different down through the years - whether it be protection from playground bullies who jeer and comment if clothes or food for lunch is different, or the provision of study facilities and peace and quiet that is not available at home.

Many of us in the children's literature network in Australia wear many hats, and it is important to conserve our energy, partner with like-minded groups, and seek support from one another.

Future events to nurture and nourish our dreams and creative energy include:

Thursday, 27th October at The Children's Bookshop, 6 Hannah St, Beecroft at 7.00 for 7.30 pm will be our AGM, followed by James Roy speaking about *One Thousand Hills*, Winner of the Young People's History Prize, NSW Premier's Awards 2016. Free entry but please RSVP to the Bookshop at 02 9481 8811 or email staff@thechildrensbookshop.com.au

9 – 12th May, 2017 The 3rd Asia Oceania Regional IBBY Congress (AORIC) will be held in Bangkok, Thailand and the theme is: *Read = Life: Children's Books in the Digital Age*. See <http://ibbyaoric2017.tkpark.or.th> for more details. 31st December is closing date for the Early Bird registration.

1st – 4th September, 2018 36th IBBY World Congress, Istanbul, Turkey

Jenni Woodroffe