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 40
February, 2019

President’s Letter

Dear IBBY Australia members and supporters,

A belated happy new year to you all. I’m pleased to report that over the summer break we’ve completed the dossiers to accompany our Hans Christian Andersen Award 2020 nominations, and sent them off to the Secretariat in Basel, Switzerland, with the books to support our nominations. We extend our grateful thanks to the publishers who contributed books and information. The names of all nominees will be announced at the Bologna International Children’s Book Fair on 1 April.

‘The whole world is a series of miracles ... but we are so used to them we call them ordinary things.’

Hans Christian Andersen

IBBY celebrates International Children’s Book Day each year on 2 April – the birth date of Hans Christian Andersen in 1805 in Odense, Denmark. Three exciting ICBD events are being organised by our committee members on or close to that day this year – in Launceston, Tasmania, on 2 April; in East Perth, WA on 3 April; and at Strathfield, Sydney on 6 April. (See pages 2, 3 and 4.) Karen Foxlee and Tohby Riddle will speak at the Sydney event. I’ve just finished reading Karen’s marvellous Lenny’s Book of Everything, having been told by a friend what a splendid book it is, and I can only agree. I’m also looking forward to reading Tohby’s Yahoo Creek, which is due to be published by Allen & Unwin in March this year; it’s said to be a fascinating exploration of a mysterious Australian phenomenon. Hearing Karen and Tohby speak will be a rare treat.

IBBY Australia is delighted that the Honour Books exhibitions, jointly launched in October 2018 with the NCACL, will again be on display during the CBCA Conference in Canberra, in May. Several of our committee members will be attending and we look forward to meeting any IBBY members there. In coming months we’ll also be organising the Ena Noël Award and the Honour Books nominations processes again.

Creators and promoters of literature are looking forward to the release of the CBCA Notables List 2019, to be announced on 26 February. And this month, too, on 28 February, the Australian Children’s Laureate Summit, organised by the Australian Children’s Laureate Foundation, will take place at the University of Sydney. For the first time, all five Laureates will participate in a seminar discussion regarding reading promotion and outcomes. Then in April, current Laureate, Morris Gleitzman, will be heading to Bologna for the fourth International Children’s Laureate Summit. The latter meeting has resulted previously in forging strong partnerships with overseas counterparts and to further international touring and speaking engagements shared with fellow Laureates, as well as appearances at international festivals. The ACLF pursues similar goals to IBBY Australia’s and we value our partnership with this organisation. The Laureate’s ‘Stories Make Us’ calendar message for February is: ‘Feel the Feelings: Stories make us Connected’. <http://www.childrenslaureate.org.au/project/childrens-laureate-story-calendar/>

In short, another busy year of Australian children’s book promotion has begun!

Best regards,

Robyn Sheahan-Bright
Images into Words

IBBY Australia invites you to celebrate
International Children’s Book Day
Saturday 6 April 2019 1.30–5.00
Santa Maria del Monte School
59 The Boulevarde (cnr Carrington Street) Strathfield NSW
$35 for IBBY member/concession, $40 for non-member
Delicious afternoon tea included

Bookings Eventbrite: https://tinyurl.com/yamqflxt

Tobby Riddle  Mystery Flights
How the creative process can take one on unexpected journeys to unknown places.
An exploration of Yahoo Creek.

Karen Foxlee  Writing Worlds – inside and out
How I create the internal worlds of characters as well as the worlds they live in and
why this is important in my writing.

Tobby Riddle’s award-winning picture books and illustrated books have been published in many
languages around the world. His picture books include Nobody Owns the Moon, My Uncle’s
Donkey and The Great Escape from Cry Zoo. He is also creator of the innovative The Greatest
Gatsby: a visual book of grammar. His upcoming book, Yahoo Creek: an Australian Mystery,
is ‘bound to open up conversations about history, storytelling and truth’. Tobby believes good
work comes from good thinking and enjoys sharing his love of words, images and ideas with
audiences of all ages.

Karen Foxlee spent most of her adult life working as a registered nurse while pursuing her secret
dream of becoming a writer. Her young adult novels The Anatomy of Wings and The Midnight Diner
have been published internationally to much acclaim. Her first novel The Anatomy of Wings won
numerous awards including the Dobbled Award and the Commonwealth Writers’ Prize for Best First
Book. Her books for younger readers include Ophelia and the Marvellous Boy, A Most Magical Girl
and Lenny’s Book of Everything. Her second novel for younger readers, A Most Magical Girl, won the
Readings Children’s Fiction Prize in 2017 and was CBCA shortlisted the same year. Her new picture
book entitled Howie the Squid illustrated by Erin Barrow will be published in 2019.

Book at Eventbrite https://tinyurl.com/yamqflxt
News from Tasmania

IBBY Children in Crisis Fund

IBBY Australia Quiz Night

Celebrate Hans Christian Andersen’s birthday with us on International Children’s Book Day

Tuesday 2 April 2019, 5.30pm – 7.00pm
Stories Bookshop, 75 St John Street Launceston

RSVP Stories Bookshop: info@storiesbookshop.com

Limited spaces available so book early; some refreshments provided.
Cost $15 per person - tables of 4

Funds raised will benefit
IBBY Australia and the Children in Crisis Fund
The WA Branch of the CBCA is proud to open bookings for

**A Night With Our Stars**

*on Friday 8 March 2019*

at the Bendat Parent and Community Centre, 356 Dodd St, Wembley 6.00 pm for a 6.30 pm start

With a fabulous line-up of emerging and first-time authors and illustrators, this wonderful evening of entertainment features Aška, Amanda Betts, Karen Blair, Cristy Burne, Fiona Burrows, Kelly Canby, Sigi Cohen, Mark Greenwood, Steve Heron, Kylie Howarth, Frané Lessac, Meg McKinlay, Margaret Merga, Sally Murphy, Ian Mutch, Michael Speechley, Alicia Tuckerman, and Dianne Wolfer.

It's an ideal opportunity to get a glimpse into what has been published in WA over the past 12 months and meet the talented creators.

**Tickets: $25 for CBCA members and $35 for non-members**

To book and pay go to: [www.trybooking.com/ZTFL](http://www.trybooking.com/ZTFL)

Enquiries to Joanna Andrew [jojomorrie@gmail.com](mailto:jojomorrie@gmail.com) who is an EC IBBY member and convenor of this event.
Australia Day Honours 2019
Talented Children’s Literature Creators Acknowledged

COMPANION (AC) IN THE GENERAL DIVISION OF THE ORDER OF AUSTRALIA
Jennifer June Rowe, Leura, NSW
For eminent service to literature as an author, particularly in the children’s fiction and adult mystery genres.

MEMBER (AM) IN THE GENERAL DIVISION OF THE ORDER OF AUSTRALIA
Alison Jean Lester, Nar Nar Goon North VIC

MEMBER (AM) IN THE GENERAL DIVISION OF THE ORDER OF AUSTRALIA
Sophie Veronique Masson, Invergowrie NSW
For significant service to literature as an author and as a publisher, and through roles with industry organisations. Author of over 60 books including: Hunter’s Moon 2015, The Hunt for Ned Kelly, Patricia Wrightson Award 2011, The Hand of Glory, Aurealis Award 2002. Chair and Executive Ctte member of Australian Society of Authors 2011-2017; Founding Partner and Co-director Christmas Press since 2013; Member, The Literature Board, Australia Council for the Arts, 2004-2008; Room to Read Writing Ambassador, current; Founder and Chair, The New England Writers Centre, current. Board Member, Small Press Network, current.

NSW IBBY Australia member, 2011-current.
Vale John Burningham
27th April, 1936 – 4th January, 2019

A pioneering Australian conference on children’s literature was the National Seminar held at Frankston State College, Victoria in 1975. I and many others there heard a talented couple from the UK speak about their picture books—John Burningham and Helen Oxenbury. Both were already Kate Greenaway Medal winners, Burningham for *Borka* and *Mr Gumpy’s Outing*. He spoke of his schooling at Summerhill, his almost accidental enrolment in art college, the stories he wrote himself as well as his illustrations for Ian Fleming’s *Chitty Chitty Bang Bang*.

Burningham was to continue to produce original works, some evoking great affection, such as the *Mr Gumpy* books and *Avocado Baby*; others breaking new ground (in having ‘holes’ which need to be filled by the reader’s imagination), such as the two books about *Shirley*, and *Granpa*, which uses a subtle interplay of pictures, words and white space to tell of the death of a grandparent. Some books were more didactic, such as *Oi! Get Off Our Train*. Burningham mixed line drawings and ink washes in vignette pictures, but then would often startle the reader with contrasting large, double-page spread paintings in richer colours. His characteristic artwork retained a simplicity and spontaneity which deceived some viewers into thinking it came easily.

At his recent death, aged 82, Francesca Dow, managing director, Penguin Random House Children’s, said he was ‘an endlessly inventive creator of stories that could be at turns hilarious and comforting, shocking and playful. He never spoke down to children, always treating them with the utmost respect.’ Burningham returned to Australia for several visits, and had a loyal readership here. His last published work was the husband-and-wife collaboration, *There's Going to Be a New Baby* (Walker Books 2011), written by John and illustrated by Helen. He won many awards including the 1980 Deutscher Jugendliteraturpreis, and in 2012 was one of five finalists for the Hans Christian Andersen Award. Last year Burningham and Oxenbury were jointly given a lifetime achievement award from children’s charity Booktrust.

Robin Morrow, AM  Treasurer and Immediate Past President of IBBY Australia

News from New Zealand

*Children’s Literature in a Multiliterate World*, edited by Libby Limbrick and Nicola Daly, published by UCL Institute of Education Press (Trentham Books Imprint), has been shortlisted for the United Kingdom Literacy Association 2019 Academic Award. This collection by scholars of children's literature focuses on outstanding story and picture books that explore issues of identity, belonging and empathy in many parts of the world. The books discussed are as original and exciting in form as they are in content, developing children's literacies while widening their horizons. The foreword is by Wally De Donker, IBBY President, and the book features Cao Wenxuan's acceptance speech for the Hans Christian Andersen Award 2016, in which he likens children's books to ‘another form of housebuilding’. Two Australians, Robin Morrow and Joanne Purcell, are included in this anthology from the 2016 IBBY Auckland Congress.

https://books.google.com.au/books/about/Children_s_Literature_in_a_Multiliterate.html?id=h_8zuQEA_CAAJ&source=kp_cover&redir_esc=y
Solving the Mystery Translator
Australian – Japanese links

When NSW author Tohby Riddle was approached last year to sell the Japanese rights to his 2010 CBCA award-winning picture book My Uncle’s Donkey, he was surprised. He only knew that the translator was ‘enthusiastic’. He was amazed to discover it was Haruki Murakami, who had been on a visit to Melbourne to write up a travel piece for Japan Airlines. Having been shown around the State Library of Victoria which had several of his books, Murakami bought a few books at the Paperback Bookshop, including My Uncle’s Donkey. For further information see Jason Steger’s article in the Sydney Morning Herald.


Australian Legends of Children’s Literature

The Australia Post Australian Legends Award honours individuals who are leaders in their field of endeavour, having dedicated their adult lives to their chosen pursuit, shaping Australian society and culture in the process.

This year’s recipients are celebrated and award-winning authors – talented creators of narrative books and picture books for young people, from the youngest readers through to adolescents.

The Legends of Children’s Literature stamp issue, released on 17th January, 2019 honours Mem Fox AM, Morris Gleitzman, Leigh Hobbs, Alison Lester and Shaun Tan. Designed by Jo Muré of the Australia Post Design Studio, the stamps feature a portrait of each Legend together with a photograph of one of their iconic publications.

News from England

Alice Curry And Lantana Books

Small, independent publishers are thriving in Australia (see my ‘A Long Way from Grub Street,’ *Magpies* July 2017), and elsewhere too. On a recent visit to London I had the pleasure of meeting with Alice Curry of Lantana Publishing, a niche player making a big impact on British picture books.

IBBY Australia members who attended the 2013 AGM will remember Alice as the inspiring guest speaker. She was then Children’s Literature Advisor to the Commonwealth Education Trust, and had travelled widely to collect items for the anthology *A River of Stories*. On her return to the UK, Lantana’s Alice’s enthusiasm for diversity in literature led her to found Lantana, with two friends, one from her Oxford days, one from Macquarie University. Its mission is ‘to publish outstanding writing for young readers by giving new and aspiring BAME [black, Asian and minority ethnic] authors and illustrators a platform,’ as well as working with established creators throughout the world.

Alice and I met at the British Library, and I should not have been surprised that this accomplished publisher was carrying a violin, on her way to orchestra practice. She told of Lantana’s development, from picture books only, to recent publication of a narrative nonfiction book, *Peace and Me*, endorsed by Amnesty Nobel Peace Prize winners. The Lantana list is full of vibrant books with characters from African, Asian and other backgrounds.

Because she knew of my interest in representations of home in picture books, Alice steered me to *Nimesh the Adventurer* by Singh and Amini, a seemingly simple text about Indian-British Nimesh’s walk home from school, but with a cast of imaginative characters, including a crossing helper who had been a guardsman for a Maharaja. ‘This is home’ states the final spread, with its superb and sensitive art by Mehrdokht Amini, who also illustrated the award-winning West African story, *Chicken in the Kitchen*.

Alice spoke of their many successes, such as the choice of the lyrical bedtime story *You’re Safe with Me* by Soundar and Mistry as Children’s Book of the Month by *The Guardian*. Of the support of teachers and librarians for Lantana books, of cooperation with other small publishers (such as Tiny Owl), and of export markets now established in many countries including Australia (through NewSouth Books). But most noteworthy—and I was not dry-eyed to hear it—was her telling of the family who drove for three hours to attend a school visit, so that they could meet a black author.

Alice has won the Kim Scott Walwyn Prize for women of promise in publishing. Yes, she is a woman of promise, and this promise is well on the way to fulfilment, the promise of bringing UK children’s publishing one step closer towards achieving a more inclusive children’s book landscape for the next generation of young readers. We in IBBY Australia are proud to claim her as a former member and for further information see [https://www.lantanapublishing.com/home/](https://www.lantanapublishing.com/home/)

**Robin Morrow, AM**  
Treasurer and Immediate Past President of IBBY Australia
IBBY Australia member Wendy Orr was among the five finalists in the $50,000 2018 TD Canadian Children’s Literature Award, which is awarded annually for creators of books for children up to twelve years of age. All five finalists were flown to Toronto by the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation’s program Canada Reads and Wendy was scheduled to do a radio interview and a school book club and attend the awards on October 30.

Wendy writes: ‘It was as tense as the Australian PM’s awards last December, but this time I had the opportunity to practise what I preach: when the $50,000 first prize went to the beautiful book Town is by the Sea, by Joanne Schwartz and Sydney Smith, I was simply happy for them. It was such an honour to be there, and I felt so welcomed by my Canadian publisher, Pajama Press, and the whole Canadian children’s lit community, that I couldn’t possibly feel disappointed. Besides, in that whirlwind week, I was also able to launch Swallow’s Dance at the lovely Queen Books, meeting many friends who I’d only known via email or social media.’

According to the jury: ‘Dragonfly Song is a beautifully told coming-of-age story... A combination of ancient history, mythology and fantasy elements thread through the lyrical narrative which is told in both prose and poetry.’

Wendy with Grade 5 students at Wedgewood Junior School at Etobicoke, Ontario on 26th October. Dragonfly Song tells the story of Aissa, a young girl who is struggling to find her voice and her place in society in the wake of a terrible tragedy. Inspired by the mythology of Bronze Age Minoa, the novel follows Aissa as she becomes what she was destined to be: a bull dancer.

For more information see https://www.cbc.ca/books/the-lesson-wendy-orr-wants-to-share-with-readers-we-re-all-stronger-than-we-think-we-are-1.4761310 and the message ‘We’re all stronger than we think we are’.

Wendy Orr Author and Vic IBBY member
News From Washington, DC.

‘Can I keep it? Forever?’

‘I have a bookshelf at home and now I have a something to put on it.’

These are just a couple of the uplifting quotes made by children clutching a personalised signed copy of my book to take home. Under the umbrella of An Open Book Foundation (AOB), I spent two days promoting the love of literacy with students from under-resourced settings in Washington, D.C.

On day one, the students received their very own copy of On the Same Day in March: A Tour of the World’s Weather. Although originally released in 2000, it’s part of the Grade 2 curriculum in D.C. On day two, I teamed up with debut author Traci Sorell and shared our new book, We Are Grateful: Otsaliheliga. Witnessing the joy on student’s faces when they realised the book they were hugging was theirs to keep, was a moving experience I will always treasure.

AOB was founded by Dara La Porte and Heidi Powell, former children’s booksellers, who recognised that many local students were unable to attend bookstore events, let alone buy a copy of a book. They felt that all children should have the chance to hear authors share their stories, watch illustrators draw and get a book signed by the people who created it! Last year alone, AOB offered nearly 300 presentations to students from primary through high school. I am honoured to follow in the footsteps of many fabulous authors and illustrators who have participated in AOB events such as, Mo Willems, Kate DiCamillo, Nick Bruel, Brian Floca, Paul Zelinsky, Bryan Collier and Matt de la Peña, to name a few.

AOB brings authors, illustrators and their books to thousands of children in low-income neighbourhoods in the Washington, D.C. area. Authors and illustrators traditionally published in the United States and interested in volunteering their time and talents can contact AOB at: http://anopenbookfound.org/contact

Frané Lessac author/illustrator and WA IBBY member
Forthcoming Conferences and Event

26th February CBCA Notables Announcement See https://cbca.org.au/announcements

26th February SCBWI EastNZ Creating Creative Writers conference at the State Library of NSW. See https://australiacentral.scbwi.org/events/creating-creative-writers/

28th February Inaugural Australian Children’s Laureate Summit: Reading Changes Lives! With Boori Monty Pryor, Alison Lester, Jackie French, Leigh Hobbs and Morris Gleitzman. Sibyl Centre, University of Sydney, 15 Carillon Ave, Newtown 2042 NSW. Contact lbatchelor@childrenslaureate.org.au for further details.


26th March CBCA Book of the Year 2019 Shortlist Announcement See https://cbca.org.au/announcements

1st - 4th April Bologna Children’s Book Fair, Bologna, Italy See www.bookfair.bolognafiere.it


2nd April IBBY ICBD Quiz Night, Stories Bookshop, 75 St John St, Launceston, Tasmania from 5.30 – 7.00 pm. RSVP info@storiesbookshop.com

3rd April IBBY ICBD Quiz Night, Perth & Tattersall’s Bowling Club, 2 Plain St, East Perth, WA at 6.30 for 7.00 – 9.30 pm RSVP Jenni Woodroffe, 9313 0453 or jennij@iinet.net.au

6th April IBBY ICBD Images into Words with Mystery Flights by Tobby Riddle and Writing Worlds – Inside and Out by Karen Foxlee, Santa Maria Del Monte School, Strathfield, Sydney. NSW 1.30 – 5.00 pm. Bookings: Eventbrite https://tinyurl.com/yamqflxt


8th - 12th May Scribblers Festival See https://www.scribblersfestival.com.au

31st May - 2nd June CBCA National Conference. Theme: And Now They’re Laughing. QT, 1 London Circuit, Canberra, ACT.


17th - 23rd August CBCA Book Week Theme: Reading Is My Secret Power. See https://cbca.org.au/announcements


25th October Opening of BIB’19: Bratislava. See www.bib-slovakia.sk

1st - 2nd November Celebrate Reading National Conference at The Literature Centre, Fremantle, WA See www.celebratereading.org.au for further details

2020

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

5th - 7th September 37th IBBY World Congress, Moscow, Russia, with the theme The Great Big World Through Children’s Books: National and Foreign. See www.ibbeycongress2020.org
The following are members of our newly elected voluntary Executive Committee

**President:** Dr Robyn Sheahan-Bright, PO Box 648 Gladstone Qld 4680 Email: rsheahan5@bigpond.com

**Secretary:** Margot Lindgren, 1/24 Goodwin St, Narrabeen NSW 2101 Email: momotimetobe@hotmail.com

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**JOIN IBBY AUSTRALIA OR RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP**

IBBY Australia membership for the coming financial year (1 July 2018–30 June 2019) 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 Eira Noel Award
- Providing books to children in need through the Children in Crisis Fund

**RSVP to Dr Robin Morrow AM**

PO Box 329, Beecroft, NSW 2119 or email robin.morrow@wordsandphrases.com.au

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**INDIVIDUAL 1 YEAR $35.00**

**INSTITUTION 1 YEAR $100.00**

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**INDIVIDUAL 2 YEARS $70.00**

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Please ensure you provide your name with payment.