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 16
February, 2013

President’s Letter

Dear IBBY members and friends

In our first newsletter for the year, I send best wishes for 2013. And a special greeting to those affected by extreme weather events, heatwaves and bushfires, or torrential rains and flooding. As I teach some US students about Australian children’s literature, one of the books they are asked to read this month is Ivan Southall’s Ash Road. Although it was written almost fifty years ago, the book’s bushfire scenes are only too evocative of events this summer in some regions of Australia; and now I am wondering whether we should also set Hills End, Southall’s flood survival story . . . Ivan was the first Australian nominee for the HCA Award.

A special thank you to IBBY Australia members who have renewed their memberships. To maintain our activities, we have two main income sources. One is the membership fees, which we try to keep pegged at a very low $25 per annum for individual members. The institutional members, such as publishers and libraries, are also very much appreciated.

The other source of funds is the sale of the Limited Edition prints. There are a few (very few) Bob Graham prints remaining. The new print, Shaun Tan’s Furnace Reader, is strictly limited to 200 copies and is proving a popular gift. Shaun signed and numbered 20 for the first batch, and they sold so quickly before Christmas that we had to enlist him to rush and sign some more. Please contact Tina Price, IBBY Merchandise Convenor, to order your copy and avoid disappointment.

A highlight of 2012 was the awarding of IBBY certificates at ceremonies throughout the country. In this newsletter you can read about presentations to our Hans Christian Andersen nominees, Christobel Mattingley and Bob Graham; to IBBY Honour Book certificate recipients, Greg Rogers and Glenda Millard [See November newsletter]; and Amy Barker (at last!) received her Ena Noël Award, the biennial encouragement award given by IBBY Australia.

Looking ahead to events of 2013, International Children’s Book Day will be celebrated on Saturday, 6th April. Read on the following pages how you can book for events on this day in WA and NSW. And if you are a member in another state, perhaps you could organise something to mark the day. It is a time to feel linked to those throughout the world who work to bring quality books to children, whatever their circumstances.

With very best wishes

Robin Morrow
2013 INTERNATIONAL BOOK DAY
NSW EVENT

IBBY Australia invites you to celebrate International Children’s Book Day

Feasting on Literature
Santa Maria del Monte School
59 The Boulevards
(cnr Carrington St), Strathfield NSW
2pm, Saturday 6th April

First course

Quality Literature in the Australian Curriculum with Robyn Ewing

Robyn Ewing is Professor Teacher Education and the Arts at the University of Sydney. She is passionate about the role quality literature should play in children’s lives and literacy development.

Second course

Tashi and the World with Anna Fienberg and Kim Gamble

The Tashi series has been translated into 22 languages. Enjoy watching Kim do a large pastel drawing, which a lucky winner will take home after the event.

Anna Fienberg has written more than 40 well-loved books for children and young adults. Since her first CBCA award for ‘The Magnificent Nose and Other Marvels’, other awards include the Victorian Premier’s Prize for ‘Ariel, Zed and the Secret of Life’; and ‘Borrowed Light’, an American Library Association Best Book for Young Adults.

Kim Gamble began illustrating for the NSW School Magazine in 1988. His first picture book was ‘The Magnificent Nose and Other Marvels’, written by Anna Fienberg, published in 1992. Since then, he has worked with Anna on many other books, most notably the Tashi series.

Includes delicious afternoon tea

$30 IBBY member/concession
$40 non-member

Purchase tickets from Eventbrite:
http://ibbyaustralia2013.eventbrite.com

Teachers are advised to apply to their school for TPL funding for this course

IBBY
INTERNATIONAL BOARD ON BOOKS FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

Book sales & signings
2013 INTERNATIONAL CHILDREN’S BOOK DAY

WA EVENT

Come and celebrate International Children’s Book Day on Saturday 6 April 2013 to raise funds for IBBY Australia. This year we have both a new venue and a new format for the evening.

Join local authors and illustrators and WA IBBY members to discuss your favourite animal character from children’s books (make sure you bring the book along, too!) Will it be Piglet, Toad, Edward the emu or someone quite different? Share your love of children’s books over a light supper. Drinks are available to purchase from the bar, and there is off-street ticket parking at the venue.

When: Saturday 6 April, 6.30pm for 7.00pm start
Where: Perth and Tattersalls Bowling Club, 2 Plain Street, Perth
Cost: $40 (including a raffle ticket) – pay on the day.

RSVP: Jenni Woodroffe on 9367 4759 or email: jennij@iinet.net.au

SPECIAL MEMBER OFFER – FREE DOWNLOAD OF POSTER

A different National section of IBBY is invited each year to produce a poster and message to observe this special worldwide day, which is celebrated as near as possible to the 2nd April in honour of the birthday of Hans Christian Andersen. The 2013 message is on the poster, which has been hosted by USBBY. This year we are inviting all financial members of IBBY Australia to download the attached jpg using the password included with the February newsletter. We invite you to celebrate this day in your schools and libraries and as it coincides with Easter and school holidays in a number of states, suggest you choose your own day and activity.

Some suggestions include:

- Reading a selection of HCA fairy tales
- Inviting a local storyteller to tell some of HCA stories
- A dress-up competition based on one of the characters from HCA tales
- A cake decorating competition based on a favourite book
- Inviting parents, prominent citizens or celebrities to read a favourite book in their own language
- A literary quiz based on HCA fairy tales or characters from overseas titles eg Pinocchio, Pippi Longstocking, Emil and the Detectives, Babar the Elephant, Inkheart etc
- Decorate paper plates based on a folk tale from another country
- Draw flags of the 78 countries that make up IBBY – click on to Worldwide at www.ibby.org.

Holding Hands Across the Tasman

In New Zealand they will be holding their Margaret Mahy Lecture Medal Award on Saturday, 6th April and toasting the Australian International Children’s Book Day events, as we also remember their special event.
Shaun Tan

The perfect gift to celebrate a special occasion

Birthday, Anniversary, Retirement, Thank You, or Farewell

These fine art prints are in a limited edition run of 200
Signed and numbered by the artist

Splitting Image printers in Melbourne offer high quality and accurate Giclee prints
using light fast inks on archival papers
The prints are 210mm (w) x 270mm (h) and the original medium was Gouache on paper

Cost: $150 (unframed) $15 postage in Australia/overseas on request.
Contact Merchandise Convenor Tina Price on ibbysales@gmail.com to purchase

Payment can be made by EFT to Westpac Bank, Account Name IBBY Australia Inc, BSB 032087,
Account No 283440; or by cheque to IBBY Australia Inc, posted to PO Box 329, Beecroft, NSW 2119
I am pleased to be representing Robin Morrow (IBBY President) in presenting a certificate to Christobel Mattingley to celebrate her nomination as Australia’s candidate for the Hans Christian Andersen author Award in 2012. It is a great honour even to be nominated as a country’s candidate for this biennial award. The most prestigious international award in the field of children’s literature, it is given to a living author and a living illustrator whose complete works have made a lasting contribution. The winner for 2012 is Maria Teresa Andruetto of Argentina.

Australia’s nominated illustrator this time was Bob Graham, and you may be interested to know that only two Australians have ever won The Hans Christian Andersen Award – legendary author Patricia Wrightson and illustrator Robert Ingpen, both in 1986.

Christobel has published 51 books, most of them for children, and in a variety of genres. They have won or been shortlisted for awards here and in the UK. The 2010 Alice Award, from the Fellowship of Australian Writers, is another prize that recognises the recipient’s body of work.

In South Australia in particular, Christobel is lauded for her courage and persistence (and is revered and loved by our indigenous people) for producing Survival in Our Own Land, about Aboriginal experiences in this state since 1836.

We also attribute to her the leading role in reviving the successful grass-roots appeal to save May Gibbs’s lovely and unique home, Nutcote in Sydney for our nation.

Christobel’s chief trademark is how much she cares about people and about our world. The IBBY Press Release about the award recognises this: ‘In her writing Mattingley has bravely and inventively confronted some of the most pressing ideas and issues of our time.’ Three examples immediately jump into my mind. First, she is deeply concerned about world peace, as shown in her trilogy about a Bosnian refugee, the first volume of which is the extremely successful No Gun for Asmir. Then there are her works for both children and adults that feature conservation issues, including a recent addition, Chelonia Green, Champion of Turtles. I personally relate not only to this theme but also to her books promoting understanding of disabilities. My favourite (having a child with a hearing loss) is The Race.

As well as these passions and her skills as a storyteller it is Christobel’s warmth and immense enthusiasm that endeared her to her fellow creators as well as to a generation of children. Thank you – you are one of our state’s and Australia’s treasures!

Elizabeth Hutchins

National Year of Reading function
Melbourne

On Thursday, 29th November (the hottest night in Melbourne for one hundred years!), Ann James from Books Illustrated presented Bob Graham with the certificate for his nomination for the HCA Award for illustration.

This was included in an event organized by The Australian Children’s Literature Alliance and the City of Melbourne Library Services to celebrate the first year of Australian Children's Laureates Alison Lester and Boori Monty Pryor and to mark the last showing of the Are We There Yet? Exhibition that had been touring Australia during 2012 for National Year of Reading.

Ann Haddon
CELEBRATING GREGORY ROGERS AND HIS 2012 IBBY HONOUR LISTING FOR HERO OF LITTLE STREET

Book Links Qld Inc kindly hosted the evening on behalf of IBBY at the QWC, State Library of Queensland, Brisbane on Thursday, 8th November. Over 25 people (including several members of IBBY) enjoyed wine and cheese and then an intimate one hour conversation between Gregory and Robyn Sheahan-Bright about his career. Gregory generously shared images of his latest (yet to be published books) with the group, which included authors David McRobbie, Chris Bongers, Pam Rushby, Lucia Masciullo, Steven Axelsen, publisher Leonie Tyle, Book Links Qld Inc members Jenny Stubbs (President), Beth Green, Denise O’Connor, Shirley Stubbs, John Moffatt, Sam Sochacka and others.

Robyn Sheahan-Bright

PRESENTATION OF ENA NOËL AWARD TO AMY BARKER

On 4 December in Melbourne the IBBY Australia Ena Noël Medal was presented to Amy Barker at the Australian Society of Authors Christmas Party by Ann James. Amy Barker thanked IBBY for the award stating that receiving the recognition encouraged her to continue with her writing. The gathering at the Mount Erica Hotel in Prahran chatted and enjoyed the festivities, including a literary trivia quiz.

Tina Price

CHILDREN’S PICTURE BOOK ILLUSTRATORS’ INITIATIVE

4 February 2013

Applications for the 2013 Children’s Picture Book Illustrators’ Initiative will be accepted from 4 February 2013 until 5 March 2013. This program aims to support illustrators in creating new picture books, graphic novels and comics. Presented by the Australian Society of Authors, with the support of the Australia Council for the Arts, grants of up to $15,000 are available for emerging, developing and established illustrators who have a specific project they’d like to develop. Both illustrators and author/illustrators with some publication history and a work-in-progress are welcome to apply.

For more information and to download the Guidelines, visit www.asauthors.org/childrens-picture-book-illustrators-initiative. Applicants should ensure they read the eligibility criteria and the Frequently Asked Questions before they prepare their application.

More information about the 2012 winners, including the assessors’ report, can be found at: www.asauthors.org/winners-2012. For details or images of the 2012 winning submissions contact Lucie Stevens, Program Manager, Australian Society of Authors on 02 9211 1004 or asa@asauthors.org.
2013 Outstanding Books for Young People with Disabilities

We are delighted to receive news from Heidi Cortner Boisen of the IBBY Documentation Centre of Books for Disabled Young People that they have chosen the following Australian titles for this year’s list: *The Invisible Hero* by Elizabeth Fensham (UQP); *Two Mates* by Melanie Prewett, illustrated by Maggie Prewett (Magabala Books); and *Whisper* by Chrissie Keighery (Hardie Grant Egmont).

*The Invisible Hero* is a YA Novel about Philip, a dyslexic, mildly deaf boy who has been raised by his nan and is treated as stupid by his classmates and called ‘Phil the Dill’. The book includes diary entries by Philip in painfully misspelled forms. Jack Mackinnon, or Macca, is the star of the school and uses bullying to maintain his power. When the class is set the task of researching heroes and villains, the social order starts to unravel. This novel has a credible cast of teenagers and their teachers, and is a sensitive study of the challenges faced by one on the fringe. As Philip emerges from invisibility, he is revealed to have true courage.

*Two Mates* is a simple picture book for young children, telling about the day-to-day activities of two boys who are friends: together they search for hermit crabs, fish for salmon, explore the markets, dress up as superheroes. The pictures are clear and lively. The story is based on the real-life friendship of Jack, who is Indigenous, and Raf, who is non-Indigenous. The fact that Raf is in a wheelchair is revealed only by the illustration at the end of the story; he has spina bifida. The book succeeds in demonstrating that physical disability need not be a barrier to friendship.

*Whisper* is a YA novel about Demi, a teenager who has lost her hearing through meningitis. She has transferred to a school for the hearing impaired. This book deals with many of the usual struggles of teenage life, but with some extra frustrations and challenges, especially of how to choose one’s friends. The politics of deafness are interwoven into a very readable and engaging story.

These books will feature at the Bologna Book Fair, Italy 25-28th March and be part of the IBBY Press Conference Presentation of Outstanding Books for Young People with Disabilities at the IBBY Stand on the 25th March.

Two Mates

Raf and his friend Jack at their book launch held at Broome Primary School last year. Jack’s mother, Melanie Prewett, was inspired to write her first book by the friendship that had developed between the two boys since they were babies. Jack’s grandmother and mother of Melanie, Maggie Prewett has already illustrated two more picture books for Magabala Books and her artwork is in collections around the country. Maggie is descended from the Ngarluma people of the Pilbara region.

Photo: courtesy of Magabala Books.
The October 2012 issue of *Bookbird* Vol 30 No 4 is of particular interest to Australians as it contains the article *International Children’s Book Day in Australia* by the President of IBBY Australia, Robin Morrow. Details of the 2012 celebrations in Sydney and Fremantle are described with photos of Christobel Mattingley and Bob Graham, 2012 Australian nominees for the HCA Award, cutting the Kransekake; and Lesley Reeve of The Literature Centre launching the new edition of *Shy the Platypus* by Leslie Rees, published by the National Library.

Valerie Coghlan, President of Bookbird Inc, writes “Two fascinating articles about the two 2012 Award winners, Maria Teresa Andruetto and Peter Sís are featured, and there are shorter articles about the shortlisted illustrators and authors. There are also articles about the inspiring work of the two organizations from Argentina and Cambodia, which this year shared the Asahi Award. And there is a wealth of other fascinating articles, reviews and information from all over the world.

We all know that print journals are constantly competing with online only journals, but many IBBY members like to receive *Bookbird* in hard copy, and indeed many do not find it easy to access journals online. However, to ensure that we can maintain a print as well as an online publication we need to ensure that the number of subscribers is high. Therefore, on behalf of Bookbird, Inc., I ask that you do all you can to encourage IBBY members, friends, colleagues, libraries, organizations and others to subscribe to *Bookbird*.” For more information regarding subscriptions go to [http://www.ibby.org/index.php?id=297](http://www.ibby.org/index.php?id=297) and to order [http://www.press.jhu.edu/journals/bookbird/](http://www.press.jhu.edu/journals/bookbird/)

### Christmas and New Year Greetings

We received Christmas and New Year greetings from the following:

- IBBY president, Ahmad Redza Ahmad Kharuddin, and the treasurer, executive director and administrative assistant in Basel and IBBY Sections in Afghanistan, Italy, Iran, Pakistan, Palestine, Slovakia, Tunisia, Turkey, United Kingdom and Uruguay as well as Nami Island, South Korea and ACLA in Australia.

### Forthcoming Conferences

- **23-26th May, 2013** 1st Asia and Oceania Regional IBBY Congress to be held at the Ananta Legian Hotel, Jl.Werkudara no. 539 Legian, Kuta, Bali, Indonesia. Theme: *How to Strengthen Asia-Oceania IBBY*. See [www.inabby.com](http://www.inabby.com) for further information.
- **13-14th September, 2013** Celebrate Reading National Conference, The Literature Centre, Old Prison Hospital, cnr Knutsford St and Hampton Rd, Fremantle WA. See [www.thelitcentre.org.au](http://www.thelitcentre.org.au) for more details.
- **18-20th October, 2013** 10th IBBY Regional Conference, The Historic St Louis Public Library in St Louis, Missouri. See [www.usbby.org](http://www.usbby.org) for more details.
- **6-8th February, 2014** International Conference on Literacy through Literature to be held in New Delhi, India organized by IBBY India/Association of Writers and Illustrators for Children (AWIC) See [http://www.awic.in/events/forthcoming-events/international_conference_on_literacy_2014.html](http://www.awic.in/events/forthcoming-events/international_conference_on_literacy_2014.html) for further details.
- **16-18th May, 2014** CBCA National Conference, Rex Hotel, 250 Northbourne Ave, Braddon, ACT 2612 Theme: *Discovering National Treasures*.
Remembering Jan

Early memories of Jan Ormerod go back to 1982 when her wonderful and textless picture book *Sunshine* (1981 Kestrel Books, Penguin) won the 1982 CBCA Picture Book of the Year Award and the Mother Goose Award in the UK. I recall the excitement and enthusiasm with which this was greeted and our delight when her companion piece, *Moonlight*, was subsequently released. This was a groundbreaking work for early childhood books and the pocket books, such as *Reading* (1985), were much loved, portraying the role of a father in the daily life of a toddler. The introduction of silhouettes in *The Story of Chicken Licken* (1986) ensured the popularity of this quirky interpretation of a well-known folktale, as we eagerly watched the progress of the young baby onto the stage, unnoticed by the adult audience.

For Perthites and all visitors to His Majesty’s Theatre, Jan left her indelible mark in the city as she and Sam Abercromby painted the characters in the proscenium arch painting of the reconstituted historic theatre, which reopened with a Gala night on the 28th May, 1980. A careful search with opera glasses will discern Jan’s face painted by Sam amongst the audience watching a play based on the twin brothers Castor and Pollux.

An evening for Jan was held at The Singing Tree bookshop, back in the days of Rayma and David Turton, and we listened and watched Jan’s slides of a new work that was yet to be released. I seem to recall they included vignettes of dancing flowers. I was very excited as the new work showed illustrations for a much loved story from my childhood and resulted in *Father Christmas and the Donkey* (1993) by English storyteller Elizabeth Clark. My father used to read this to me from my now tattered copy of *Twilight and Fireside* (1945). As for those dancing flowers, they appeared in the endpapers and border illustrations of *The Frog Prince* (1990) and Jan’s interpretation has greatly influenced my own oral telling of this tale.

Another groundbreaking book for Jan in the country of her birth, was the publication by Little Hare Press of *Lizzie Nonsense* (2004), which became the Australian nomination for illustration in the 2006 IBBY Honour List and displayed at the 2006 IBBY Congress in Macau. Based on family stories of the daily life of a sandalwood cutter and his wife in the bush, Jan captured the essence of pioneering days and the value of a vivid imagination. The importance of observing Sunday brought back memories of tales told by my own grandparents.

2006 saw the appearance of another story set in WA with *Water Witcher*, another Little Hare Press publication. The vivid blue sky and ochre brown earth encapsulated the searing heat of drought conditions and evoked memories of the dogs and tankstands of my grandfather’s farm. I also remember the anecdote of a local bookseller, who had been approached by a local MP’s secretary for a book to give a distinguished visitor, but whose recommendation of *Water Witcher* was rejected because of the word *witcher* in the title.

*All the Wild Wonders*, the CBCA 9th Annual Conference in Melbourne, saw Jan joining us back in Australia and kneeling in the front row with the rest of the West Australians in their group photo. Linda Thorne from Fremantle commented on Jan’s keynote speech: “Jan Ormerod’s gentle, touching observations of real life contrasting beautifully [with superstar creators of other worlds: Neil Gaiman, Shaun Tan, Sonya Hartnett and Emily Rodda]”

In September 2008 before flying to Copenhagen for the 2008 31st IBBY Congress, Jan kindly picked me up from my daughter’s home in Market Harborough and we set off northwards to Seven Stories in Newcastle. It was a long trek and we made it, with the help of a regular sugar fix from Werther’s toffees. Jan was welcomed by all the staff and a special treat was visiting the Story Lab at Level 6, where original artwork from *Sunshine* was kept – in 2007 Jan donated all her artwork for this book to Seven Stories.

Jan’s recent visits to WA included sojourns at the Fremantle Children’s Literature Centre, now The Literature Centre, where she met up with Boori Monty Pryor and a collaboration resulted in their innovative *Shake a Leg* (2010) The book launch was a joyful celebration among Jan’s family, friends and fans.

It is with sadness that I learnt Jan’s journey with cancer resulted in her passing on Wednesday, 23rd January. Through her CaringBridge website it was possible for her to share this journey with much loved friends. To her family, we extend our love and sympathy and give thanks for the wonderful legacy with which she has enriched the world of children’s literature.

Jenni Woodroffe
News from Thailand
Pornanong Niyomka Horikawa, General Secretary of ThaiBBY, has sent the following article written by Irene Zijp

Honey for a child’s heart

How passionate can you be about educating young children to travel almost 1000 kilometres to attend 2 days of training sitting outside in tropical temperatures? This is what happened to some of the 100 teachers and day care centre managers who are dedicated to change their children’s future and who travelled from all over the 29 provinces in northeastern (Isaan) and eastern Thailand. This part of Thailand depends on agricultural activities yet is subject to unpredictable seasonal drought. Economic and social conditions of the majority of people are at poverty level. Both parents often have to work long hours each day, while sending their young preschoolers to a day care centre. There are often no facilities, and one passionate and dedicated teacher has to look after up to 40 little children.

The first 5 to 7 years of a child can be very important in regards to the success in later life...Children’s books have only been around in this country for about 20 years, and most adults have never been read to or read themselves as a child. A local non-government organisation, the Tai Wisdom Association, has been working in this part of the country to change this by offering education and training about reading to children and the importance of it.

Six years ago the initiative of Past District Governor Somchai Chiaranapanit and Rotarians in district 3340 of Rotary International was to help these needy kids by providing them with opportunities to develop their brain based learning and sound reading habits at a critical age of development - up to the age of seven.

This ‘Library for Kids and Family’ project provides day care centres and schools with books and bookshelves as well as training to the teachers in how to read aloud and use the stories to educate the children. Many teachers gain a lot of benefit from the training and are very enthusiastic about using the picture books. One teacher commented, “I never understood why there were only one or two sentences on a page or sometimes no words at all, but now after the training I know what to do and how to use these books.” The books are of high quality, not only in content, as many of them are favourite classics, but also in making; the good quality paper and covers are a pleasure to just hold...

So far over 81000 books have been distributed to 325 recipients like schools, public libraries and day care centres. More than 700 teachers have been trained. Thanks to 34 local Rotary clubs and support from Rotarians from Australia, USA, Japan, Indonesia, Taiwan and Singapore already many lives of children have been changed. And with each training and handover more requests are made from other schools and day care centres far and beyond to be part of this library project and to make a change in their own local community.

Erich Fromm wrote in “The Art of Loving” that children need both milk and honey from their parents and carers. Milk symbolises the care given to physical needs like getting enough sleep, eating healthy food. Honey symbolises the sweetness in life, that special quality that makes life enjoyable.

How wonderful to think that we can give the children the world by giving them access to books and great stories.
2013 AWAITS US

Exciting opportunities await IBBY Australia Inc as the coming year unfolds. This year we will nominate a writer and an illustrator for the 2014 Hans Christian Andersen Award and we look forward to making this announcement later this year. We hope to nominate an author and an illustrator, and it would be marvelous if we could also nominate a translator for the 2014 IBBY Honour List, to be announced in the November newsletter. Already 2013 has brought news of the 3 Australian titles selected by the IBBY Documentation Centre of Books for Disabled Young People. Dianne Wolfer is to be our representative at the 1st Asia and Oceania Regional IBBY Conference in Kuta, Bali, from 23-26 May.

To continue our contribution in promoting our talented and creative authors and illustrators in the world arena we need your support. Our annual levy to the IBBY Secretariat is CHF6,000.00; the nomination fee for the HC Andersen Award is CHF 700.00 per nomination; and the nomination fee for the IBBY Honour List is CHF100 per nomination. A strong membership base in all states and territories is vital. We encourage you to inspire friends and colleagues to join IBBY Australia Inc to enable us to introduce our stories to new audiences overseas.

RSVP to Dr Robin Morrow, PO Box 329, Beecroft, NSW 2119 or Email Robin.Morrow@wordsandphrases.com.au

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