



THE CHILDREN'S
BOOK COUNCIL
OF AUSTRALIA

NSW BRANCH

2018 ANNUAL REPORT

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In 2018 CBCA NSW Branch continued to achieve its mission of engaging the community with quality literature by offering a diverse range of events, focused on our core business, the CBCA Book of the Year Awards.

Our Patron

Many thanks to Ms Megan Mitchell, the National Children’s Commissioner, for continuing in the role of patron of the CBCA NSW Branch. Megan champions the rights and interests of children, and the laws, policies and programs that impact on them. Reading and access to books is at the heart of our mission and the right of every child.

2018 Activities

February: The Night of the Notables, held for the third time in collaboration with Dymocks, Sydney, and sponsored by Scholastic, proved to be very popular and very successful once more. So many schools were represented by their teachers & teacher-librarians, plus creators and other members who loved the opportunity to network with lots of book creators and lovers of literature. Margaret Hamilton achieved the impossible by telling us, in ten minutes, what makes a Notable Picture book and this is still available in the members section of our website. Danny Katz & Mitch Vane entertained as the dynamic duo, talking, drawing and giving an insight into their new title: *“The Poppa Platoon in World War Chew”*. Such hilarity in the show bag pavilion will surely entice readers. The audience certainly was engaged. The Notables were unveiled and all agreed this was a stellar night with a list of books that will take you to the stars and back. This has become an important event on our calendar, to mark the release of the CBCA Notables, and is helping to generate a lot more awareness of the quality of these titles.



Danny Katz & Mitch Vane



Margaret Hamilton

March: AAA

One month later, the announcement of the 2018 Short List, was celebrated at the newly NESAs endorsed Professional Learning one day conference - **Anticipate! Appreciate! Applaud! The CBCA Short List – with a theme of connecting Geography and Literature: Find your treasure.** Our keynote speaker was James Roy, ably supported by Jackie French and Bruce Whatley, Susanne Gervay, Wai Chim and Tim Harris. Anna Moulton from Magabala Books ensured that an Indigenous Australian Perspective which focused on sustainability and place was highlighted.





Practising Teacher Librarians, Liz Bowring (Primary) and Bill Cohen (High School) and Wendy Bean from Reading Australia gave in-depth presentations of titles with teaching and learning activities to support our theme. Panelists Cathie Tasker (Early Childhood) Oliver Phommavanh (Younger Readers) Helen Chebatte (Older Readers) Paul Macdonald (Picture Book) and Joanne Potter (Eve Pownall) delivered their personal picks with diverse and delightful presentations.

Of course the highlight of the day is the announcement of the Short List to much Anticipation! Appreciation! And Applause!

We thank these panelists for their time to read so many books, their presentations and for their invaluable support.

The ongoing support of the many publishers who supported the Trade Fair and supplied speakers is very much appreciated. The Children's Bookshop, Beecroft brought a huge array of wonderful titles which were eagerly snapped up. CBCA NSW Branch acknowledges and appreciates the financial support given by way of a percentage of sales. Rydges World Square, Sydney, our new venue, proved to be an excellent venue. We thank Michelle Dona for convening this huge event so capably. Quality Australian Literature was certainly the star of this day.



Special event: community partnership

For three days during March, we partnered with the Sydney Design Festival to showcase the innovative design Playpod, a flexible and portable modular unit that can be manipulated for a variety of uses. Cate James, Liz Anelli, Susanne Gervay, Anne Donnelly, Aura Parker, Shelley Unwin, Gavin McKormack, Kylie Westaway, Elizabeth Cummings, and Toni Cary entertained the passing throng with story, illustration and craft responses. We thank those creators, committee and sub-branch members for showing how the Playpod could be used as a play are for kids, a library, a classroom or a cinema. This gave us an opportunity to raise the profile of the CBCA NSW Branch to the general public and promote membership.

May – August: Merchandise

Merchandise sales in 2018 were significantly lower. Although less stock was ordered than in 2017, we were left with large quantities, particularly of posters. Feedback from members was that the Book Week poster was too dark and the interpretation of the theme did not fit the target audience of primary schools which predominantly purchase merchandise from us. Considerable surplus stock of bookmarks also remained. A member enquiry pointed out that bookmarks were marked as "out-of-stock" on the e-store, managed by the CBCA National Board. NSW Branch requested that a message should be posted on the e-store if items were out of stock, stating "check with your branch". However unfortunately this sales opportunity was lost in 2018 and the Branch has requested that this automatically occurs in future.

Our process of packing and posting orders as they are received is proving of great benefit to our members, especially schools and libraries. We thank all our volunteers, especially Nigel Van Reyk and Alison Roy, who packed our branch orders each week during the period from May to August. Book Week Merchandise sales are important to the continued well-functioning of our branch.

Product	Past Sales		
	2018	2017	2016
Book Week Poster	506	643	619
Short List Poster	341	415	345
Badge - Single	323	573	739
Book Week Stickers (36/sheet)	581	973	790
Bookmarks - Pack of 10	24	598	566
Bookmarks - Pack of 30	119		
Bookmarks - Pack of 200	100		
Bookmark - Comparison Singles	23,810	5,980	5,660
Bunting: Indoor only 9 flags 200x300mm	283	324	267
Pen	387		
Wristband	452		
OFFICIAL CBCA BW Handbook		135	164
CBCA Book of the Year Award Stickers			
4 Sheet Set-35 winners, honour, short list, notables	69	99	82
1 Sheet Winner - 35 stickers	30	52	35
1 Sheet Honour - 35 stickers	23	38	18
1 Sheet Short List - 35 stickers	53	82	49
1 Sheet Notable - 35 stickers	27	35	21

August: CBCA Book Week

A buzz was in the air at the NSW Teachers Conference Centre auditorium on the day that **The Book of the Year WINNERS WERE ANNOUNCED!** Over three hundred students attended **The Kids Book of the Year** event and listened intently to YA author **Erin Gough** who MC'd with her brilliant, dry humour and entertained the audience with the back story to her book *Amelia Westlake*. Courtesy of Freemantle Press, WA author, **Diane Wolfer** was the keynote speaker and spoke to her two titles *In the Lamplight* and *The Dog with Seven Names*.



The theme of Book Week this year was 'Find Your Treasure' and Diane spoke about how she found the treasures that inspired her historical stories. But there was even more treasure in the room in the form of the **student talent!** We listened to students review the books on the Short List, and they were passionate, eloquent and insightful. The student reviews of the Older and Younger Reader categories are fast becoming a highlight of this event. The winning and honour books were announced to much applause and some discussion, before students rushed to purchase books from the

Bloomin' Books pop-up bookshop and have them signed by the authors. We thank Bloomin' Books for

their financial support of a percentage of sales. The event was live-streamed thanks to a collaboration with The NSW Premier's Reading Challenge, ensuring a wider audience across NSW.

We acknowledge the work of all the judges who devote so much time and energy to the Book of the Year Awards, especially Denise Cramsie, Kristin Twomey and Claire Elliott, from NSW.

September: The Lady Cutler Award & Maurice Saxby Oration



Any volunteer organisation wishes to acknowledge the dedication and service of those who promote its mission. The 2018 Lady Cutler event took the form of a cocktail party and was held in the sumptuous surrounds of the Royal Automobile Club, Sydney. The Lady Cutler Award, sponsored by Peribo, was presented to Karen Jameyson who has devoted her life to the promotion and dissemination of children's literature through her editing, reviewing, advocacy, writing and volunteer work. Bruce Pascoe delivered the Maurice Saxby Oration, courtesy of Magabala Books. We thank Donna Rawlins for her continued support in the amazing artistic design of the certificate, Mylee Joseph for representing the State Library on the judging committee and Peribo for its ongoing sponsorship.



Patron Megan Mitchell, Karen, Bruce Pascoe, Gail Erskine



Past recipients of the Lady Cutler Award

November: A Night for Aspiring Writers

NSW Branch continues to foster creators and over one hundred and twenty-five entries were received from across Australia for the **Aspiring Writers Mentorship Program**. Congratulations to **Peta Miller** (Queensland) for her winning manuscript *Sing Us Home*. CEO of HarperCollins Australia and New Zealand, James Kellow presented Peta with the Charlotte Waring Barton Award, named in honour of Charlotte Waring Barton (1797–1867), the author of Australia's earliest known children's book.

Peta was presented with The Charlotte Waring Barton Award at an evening for aspiring writers who heard from guest authors, Sheryl Gwyther and Liz Anelli, along with 2017 winner, Maura Pierlot and HarperCollins publishers, Cristina Cappelluto and Lisa Berryman.

Peta receives an extensive mentorship program from HarperCollins Children's Books and we thank them for their sponsorship of this program 2016-2018. We are currently seeking a new sponsor to continue this important activity. Alison Manno convened this program and we thank her and the volunteer judges for their efforts in reading all entries in the period July to September.

Branch Administration

- **WEBSITE**

Our website has become a much more vital part of our communication strategy. *Kids' Corner* continues to deliver reviews, writing ideas, competitions, and links to interesting book 'stuff' in an appealing format. Thanks Jackie Hawkes and Cate James for this. Terry Fahy, our website convenor, has done

an amazing job in maintaining this important web presence. Judith Radin has redesigned our *Members' Lounge* as we attempt to offer greater member benefits. Social media is becoming increasingly an important communication tool and we thank Georgina Ballantine and other members who continue to contribute to facebook and twitter.

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/CBCANSW/?ref=bookmarks>

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/cbcansw>

Survey Monkey on line questionnaires have been used to gather feedback on all events and issues. We are always keen to hear member feedback and use this information in future planning and decision making.

- **i-Read**

The digital newsletter, i-Read, is now delivered to all members via Mailchimp and continues to be the main source of communication about NSW Branch activities and CBCA matters generally. Many thanks to the talented Lucie Towers for creating and delivering our news and activities and to Bronwyn Melville for advice re Mailchimp.

- **Membership**

Year	Date	Total	School/ Library	Junior	Corporate/ Bookshop	Life member	Author/ Illustrator	Adult
2013	30/10/2013	687						
2014	9/09/2014	691						
2015	30/11/2015	687						
2016	31/12/2016	645						
2017	31/12/2017	714	320	3	24	30	141	196
2018	31/12/2019	702	301	2	23	30	148	192

Membership has remained reasonably constant. We are mindful that membership is vital to the continuation of our organization and are constantly striving to offer greater benefits in order to inspire new members and retain current ones.

During 2018 the Branch initiated the development of an Early Childhood promotional pack for members to present to local early childhood /pre-school and family day carers as the focus of a membership drive for Early childhood educators. The pack includes information about CBCA and the NSW Branch, CBCA Book Week, examples of CBCA Book Week merchandise and the first of a regular literature resource for members in this sector. This membership drive is a top priority for 2019 and we are asking all members to assist in this. We believe that a personal invitation from a passionate supporter of quality children's books will help us succeed in this venture. A new membership brochure was designed during this process.

- **Sub-branches**

Communication between sub-branches is a high priority and attendance at the sub-branch liaison meeting allows for sharing of ideas across regions. WE thank all sub-branches for faithfully sending meeting minutes and promoting NSW Branch activities. It was particularly gratifying to see the establishment of a new Eastern Suburbs sub-branch. The dedication and support of our sub-branches means that now the reach of the CBCA is extended to seven local communities with activities and events for children and adults alike. (see amazing Sub-branch annual reports further in this report.)

- **CBCA National Board**

On behalf of NSW Branch, I thank Ms Megan Lavender, our Board Director, and all other Board members for their commitment and achievements at the national level for the past year.

2018 was a very difficult year in negotiations with the Board in regard to the oneCBCA proposal. A huge amount of the president's time and efforts was devoted to this issue. NSW and Victoria developed and proposed an alternative model to the board. This was discussed at Board level but has never been circulated to other member branches and has been left in abeyance since the 2018 National AGM.

A very positive consequence from the oneCBCA discussions, has been the improved lines of communication between branches. Branch Presidents have held several teleconferences and video-conferences to discuss common issues and build cohesion across the Member branches. Unfortunately despite the best efforts of our NSW Board Director, there remains a disjoint in communication and collaboration between the Board and the Member branches which needs to be resolved.

- **NSW Branch Committee:**

Our NSW Branch committee consists of ordinary people who go to extraordinary efforts to present exciting events and programs and to build member resources. We were pleased to welcome Lucie Towers, Judith Radin and Beth Macdonald to our committee during the year while farewelling Michelle Dona, Deb Hogg and Cate James for personal and family reasons. Committee meetings are held monthly, where we start with a friendly "Book Talk" over refreshments and in December we have a social Christmas dinner meeting.



Our Business manager, Felicity Jagavkar continues to be instrumental in the success of our Branch. Her expertise and efficiency ensures the smooth running of our office and she provides a delightful "face" and "voice" to our Branch. She goes above and beyond her role description and is a very valued part of our team. I would also like to acknowledge the ongoing efforts our office volunteers, Nigel Van Reyk, Emma Broos, Alison Roy and Sue Miro. Volunteers are the heart and soul of our organization and we are truly blessed.

The continued support of publishers, authors and illustrators and our bookshop members is gratefully acknowledged. The children's book community is filled with very generous people. This is evident across all our diverse sub-branches which continue to go from strength to strength in their regional areas, meeting the local needs of each community. The varied and exciting programs created by so many volunteers, means that CBCA is alive and thriving in a very large part of the state of NSW.

It has been an absolute joy to be President for the past few years, as I am very passionate about the power of books to change the life of each child. Research tells us that literature, like life, leaves its mark on our minds and bodies. The richer the literature, the more profoundly we are affected. Reading is my secret power. It is time for us all to be committed to making this true for each and every child.

Gail Erskine
President

ANNUAL REPORTS OF THE CBCA NSW BRANCH SUB-BRANCHES

• BLUE MOUNTAINS

We celebrated our fourth successful year of operations and promotion of children's literature in the mountains! In 2018, we expanded **Little Free Libraries** with the addition of a seventh library - at Hasty Tiger in Hazelbrook. Most other libraries are being well used and books being replenished regularly. We continue to investigate further expansion of this initiative.

One of our most successful events in 2018 was the **Day of the Notables**, held at Pinerolo in May. We were bursting at the seams with four local authors/illustrators who were included on the Notables list joined us for an informal chat regarding their inspirations and challenges as writers and illustrators. A huge thank you to Freya Blackwood, Owen Swan, Sadami Konchi and Jenny Rowe (Emily Rodda) who have continued to provide support with many of our ventures.

We applied for, and received once again, a community grant from Blue Mountains City Council that was used to fund a new venture – **writing/illustrating workshops** for students. This was organised in conjunction with WestWords. Participating students from a number of Blue Mountains schools reported a wonderful and inspiring day with illustrator, Jules Faber, and author, Jack Heath. Thanks go to Michelle Rickerby for organising this successful event and to Jackie Hawkes and Stephen Morris for assisting on the day.



We enjoyed visits by authors Glenda Millard and Stephen Michael King who entertained students at Blackheath PS. Thanks go to Gleebooks for supporting these ventures.

We had two very successful dinners at Le Petit Chalet where we enjoyed the hospitality and wonderful food of Monique and Roland. Our first dinner guest was the wonderful Glenda Millard and we rounded the year off with a Xmas dinner, where we were entertained by Anna Feinberg.

My thanks go to our hard-working committee, Michelle, Jackie, Cathy and Stephen, without whose efforts none of this would have happened. Thank you also to everyone who has been involved in whatever way, large or small, with any of our events in 2018. Last, but not least, a huge thank you as always to Margaret Hamilton, whose mentorship and guidance (and hospitality at Pinerolo) has continued to help and inspire us along the way.

I look forward to another exciting year in 2019.

Sheryl Cootes

President

• CENTRAL COAST

2018 has been a most successful and rewarding year. Lyndall and Fran attended the CBCA NSW Branch Inc, Sub-branch Liaison meeting in March followed by the AGM at Balmain with other members from NSW sub-branches.

In May, Paul MacDonald (Children's Bookshop Beecroft) presented the **Shortlisted and Notable books** at Erina Library. A wonderful insight was given to us on the selected titles. Afternoon tea was served and the response this year was very pleasing. He generously gave his time as no CBCA judge was available to be with us.

Also members attended the Mantle Conference, the Sydney Writers Festival and the Catholic Primary Teacher Librarian Association Conference at Manly with guest speaker Morris Gleitzman. They were able to relate wonderful stories from all events.

We celebrated **Book Week** and **Draw Your Treasure** with our *Illustrators at Large*, Dub Leffler and Liz Anelli. These two fabulous author illustrators shared their skills and experiences with the students. Everyone had an opportunity to purchase signed books, as well as being shown drawing skills and

having a keepsake from the day. Also during Book Week Dianne Wolfer, the awarded author of *Granny Grommet and Me*, *Photographs in the Mud*, *Light House Boy* and her new title *The Dog with Seven Names* visited five schools on the Central Coast and the Erina Library to speak to Librarians and children.

The Lady Cutler Dinner was a great night with guest speaker Bruce Pascoe and winner Karen Jameyson. In October the Travelling suitcases "Telling Tales Tour" arrived and were distributed to East Gosford and the Entrance Public Schools. Suitcases contain an author's books, props, activities, teaching notes, posters etc.

Our last meeting celebrated Christmas with drinks and dinner.

We have a wonderful committee here on the Central Coast who have worked very hard in 2018 to promote the ideas of the Children's Book Council of Australia. Our sub-branch is financially secure and we look forward to 2019. I thank the committee for their commitment and contribution throughout the year..

Judy Stapleton
President

• EASTERN SUBURBS

I am pleased to present my President's report covering our achievements in the 2018 year. Some of our key achievements include:

- Increased participation at meetings and increased membership
- A very successful launch night that saw 80+ people in attendance, a profit of nearly \$800 and the unveiling of our new logo
- Bi-monthly meetings with consistent attendance
- A children's event which included readings by Antonia Pesenti, Lesley Gibbs, Yves Stenning.



I would like to thank the executive committee, Vice President Sue Mirow, Secretary Josephine Laretive, Treasurer Mel Tantchev and Chris Tantchev for their efforts and valuable contribution over the year. It makes the role of President a lot more pleasant when working with such a committed team. I thank all of our presenters who helped make 2018 such a very successful year. It has been an honour to be the President of the CBCA Eastern Suburbs Sub-branch.

In 2019, we look forward to a group excursion to Pinerolo, the Children's Book Cottage, a children's event to celebrate the launch of Susanne Gervay's new book and to seeing the continued, upward trend of success of our group.

Morag Tunks
President

• ILLAWARRA SOUTH COAST

This is my final President's report for the CBCA NSW Branch Illawarra South Coast Sub-branch, and I am happy to once again be able to report on a year of successful activities and opportunities to bring children, books, authors and illustrators together.

In March 2018, I attended the CBCA Sub-Branch liaison meeting followed by the AGM of the NSW Branch. It is an opportunity for us to report on our activities and hear what other branches are doing. The NSW Branch is very supportive of all sub-branches and the work we do at a local level. At the same time, it was disturbing to hear of the proposed changes to the structure of the CBCA nationally.

In June, Richard Harland was the guest speaker at our **Annual Dinner** at Villa D'Oro. We had a good attendance, although lower numbers, and Richard was an entertaining speaker. We all became better

acquainted with steam punk culture, and Richard's extraordinary guitar. Despite an amazing array of raffle prizes, our raffle raised less money than in previous years.

On 8th August, we held our 11th **Primary Schools' Literary Lunch** at the Fraternity Club, attended by 15 schools and a group from the Smith Family Learning for Life Program. We are, as always, grateful to the authors and illustrators who share their time and talent so generously. It was good to see some new faces among our authors and illustrators. Our Vice President, award winning illustrator, Dale Newman ran the workshop session. It is a happy and exciting day for the students.

We have continued our partnership with Lake Illawarra High School and were able to sponsor an **illustrator visit** by Dale Newman. We also were able to fund an **author workshop** at Kanahooka High School with Sue Whiting. Both events were inspirational and enjoyable for students and staff.

The **Let's Share a Story program** continues. Thanks to Danika Hall, we have been updating and re-stocking books regularly and are always on the lookout for picture books to add to our boxes.



In the January school holidays, we held another free **Kids Day Out** at Dapto Ribbonwood Centre with over 100 children attending. This year we used the Eventbrite booking system used by the Wollongong Libraries for their activities. Overall, this worked extremely well and made for an organised, smooth-running morning. Once again, the staff at Dapto library are enthusiastic and welcoming and provided extra staff and activities on the day. We were also grateful to two volunteers who manned rooms all day. The bookshop ensured children could purchase titles however, sadly, the café was less well patronised this year, despite the same promotion provided as in previous years. Because we value the links within our community, a donation was made to Lyn Saad and her volunteers at Breast

Cancer.

Our facebook page continues to grow and our boosted notices about Kids Day Out and our AGM have attracted new followers. Social media is certainly the way for us to get our message across.

Use of Mail Chimp to send regular newsletters to our email followers is raising our profile and the efforts of our publicity officer has resulted in more media coverage this year.

A huge thankyou to those who have supported us financially or by donating books this year: Bluescope WIN Community Partners Program, Thirroul Bowling Club, Di Bates, Michelle Morgan, Premiers' Reading Challenge, Allen and Unwin, Random House, Hardie Grant Egmont, Hachette, CBCA NSW branch, and those who donated to our raffles.

This year we are farewelling three Committee members. Julie Telenta who has been our treasurer for 10 years and Dale Newman who has been our Vice President and committee member for the past few years. I will also be standing down. I attended the inaugural meeting of our sub-branch organised by Diane Bates 12 years ago. I have worked with some wonderful people, made good friends and will continue to support the sub-branch as much as I can.

Finally, my thanks to all committee members for all you have done this year. You are a wonderful group of friends to work with and I admire your commitment to our goals.

Jane Pretty
President

- **NEWCASTLE**

What an amazing year 2018! We saw a change in President and Vice President which was an exciting opportunity for myself and Liane with some big shoes to fill. I think we managed to fill the five toes, possibly the heel as well.

We started the year with the wonderful Liz Anelli and her inspiring illustrations and this was followed at our next meeting with a tour of the newly refurbished Newcastle Region Library and the Anne Spudvillas exhibition. Next we had Susanne Gervay and Deb Abela share with us the many experiences

they have had with literature, travel and their books. Ed Wright spoke to our members about the wonderful courses he offers at the 'Creative Wordshop' as well as his life in the editing world.

September saw us hold our children's event 'Stories After Dark: Find Your Treasure' for which some of



us are still recovering. It was an incredible night that saw almost 180 children and family members exposed to many of our accomplished and creative authors and illustrators. The night was a magical night of stories, craft, portraits, and a wonderful feeling of a love of books and community. A big thanks goes out to all those involved and Julie Swane and Newcastle Region Library for supporting this wonderful event.

October found us at Lake Macquarie Library and Lynne Jenkins engaging us in a relaxing yoga and mindfulness lesson to loosen up the minds and bodies of our members.

Before we knew it Christmas came around and our wonderful party was at The Junction amidst torrential rain and umbrellas!. A huge congratulations goes out to all our authors and illustrators that held book launches in 2018, made it on the Notable list and Short List for

Book Week 2018. And a large and heart felt thankyou to our committee and members for making 2018 so great! Here's to 2019!!

Jodie Carlson
President

- **NEW ENGLAND NORTH WEST**

In 2018 our sub-branch has been busy as usual with great activities, including our regular themed meetings. At these meetings, we have speakers, sometimes sub-branch members, sometimes visitors, to talk about various themes and topics within the world of children's books. This year, visiting speakers included: Kathy and Peter Creamer of local picture-book publishing house, Little Pink Dog Books, who gave a fascinating presentation about their company and what it does, with a particular focus on the encouragement of new and emerging authors and illustrators; Bibliographer and children's literature expert Dr Kerry White, who talked about her recent donation to the National Library, about compiling bibliographies of children's literature, and brought some favourite ephemera and books encountered in her work.

Paula Stevenson, one of our far-flung members, who lives on a farm near Scone and who talked about writing and children's books activities near her home. Sub-branch members also presented talks at other themed meetings, including Sylvia Ransom on the theme of giraffes in children's books; Sophie Masson on her PhD work on contemporary young adult after life fiction; and Heather Fisher with her annual presentation of the CBCA shortlist.

We collaborated again this year with the New England Writers' Centre in the annual Booked In children's literature festival in May. Our featured visiting author was Judith Rossell, author/illustrator of wonderful books for children. Her visit took place May 7 -9, and consisted of in person visits to schools in the New England region – Armidale, Guyra, Uralla and Walcha, across a range of age groups and group sizes. Also part of her visit was Livelink, a live interactive video link presented in association with the New England Writers' Centre, and Judith also presented a workshop for adults interested in writing children's books.



Again with the New England Writers' Centre, we collaborated on a Poetry for Children day, presented by local poet John C. Ryan, post-doctoral fellow at UNE, during Book Week. John's lively workshops on creating nature poetry were very popular at the

schools he presented at and resulted in some interesting work.

We also participated in publicity and promotion around NEWC's New England Illustration Prize, which this year became a national award and was very successful. Our finances and administration are in great shape as ever, thanks to our Treasurer, Lyndal Knuckey and Secretary Sylvia Ransom, and we look forward to a new year full of great events and activities, including Booked In, which we will again collaborate on with the Writers' Centre and will feature a fabulous visiting presenter, author Jacqueline Harvey, as well as local author-illustrators Fiona McDonald and Trish Donald.

Finally, a note: on Australia Day this year (Jan 26 2019) I received the great honour of an AM in the Order of Australia, for significant service to literature, which includes my role with this sub-branch. As well as my personal pleasure of course, I am delighted that the work of the CBCA, its branches and sub-branches, can be highlighted in this way.

Sophie Masson
President

- **NORTHERN SYDNEY**

Four events were held in school terms to hear guest speakers and to discuss local activities.

1st March- AGM at Children's Bookshop, Beecroft with guest speaker Paul MacDonald who was interviewed by Marian McGuinness.

23rd May- Pitching Panel at Gordon Library. Guest Speakers- Kate Simpson, Belinda Murrell, Lesley Gibbes, moderated by Kristin Prescott.

8th August- Illustrator Spotlight at St Kevin's Catholic School. Guest speakers- Aura Parker, Jules Faber interviewed by Yvonne Low. Bill Saxby also gave an interesting talk about websites.

17th October- Publishing Panel at the Learning Hub in Lindfield. Guest speakers- Jan Latta and Zoe Walton, moderated by Louise Park.

The segment called "Book Babies", where members introduce their newly published books to the audience, was continued at each meeting.

Successful **author afternoon teas** were held at three schools:

St Kevins Catholic School, Dee Why - Authors included Oliver Phommavanh, Belinda Murrell, Ruth Devine, Yvonne Low, Jules Faber, Brydie Wright, Jan Latta, Anne Donnelly and Sonia Rapp.

St Joseph's Catholic School, Narrabeen - Authors included Yvonne Low, Oliver Phommavanh, Brydie Wright, Wendy Blaxland, Carolyn Alfonzetti.

Our Lady of Lourdes School, Seven Hills - Authors included Oliver Phommavanh, Belinda Murrell, Wendy Fitzgerald, Debra Tidball, Jules Faber, Matthew Shalvey and Anne Donnelly. Thank you to Lindy Batchelor and (teacher) for organising this.

Lunch with the Stars (LWTS)

With 20 authors, 18 schools and 200 guests, the ninth luncheon was held again on 4th Sept at St Pat's Estate in Manly. Again, brilliantly organized by Belinda Murrell, with guest speaker, John Flanagan who had the audience enthralled and the wonderfully talented Serena Geddes who helped the kids draw a baby dragon.

Children and teachers from Stewart House, Brookvale Public, International Japanese School, John Colet School, Killara Public School, Manly Village Public School, Manly Vale Public School, Maria Regina,



Mosman Prep, Oxford Falls Grammar, Pittwater House, St Kevin's, St Kieran's, St John the Apostle, St Josephs, St Mary's, St Thomas, Terrey Hills Public School and Wheeler Heights Public School. Authors and illustrators **were** Lindy Batchelor, Wendy Blaxland, Ruth Devine, Jules Faber, Wendy Fitzgerald, Kate Forsyth, Susanne Gervay, Lesley Gibbes, Jacqueline Harvey, Tim Harris, Jan Latta, Belinda Murrell, Louise Park, Aura Parker, Yvette Poshoglian, Felicity Pulman, Debra Tidball and Sue Whiting. Thank you to our sponsors- Bic (pens and textas), Penguin Random House (books and resource packs), Humphreys (book seller), Hornsby

Toyota (sponsored 2 tables from Stewart House and donated \$500 toward expenses.) Thank you also to Louise Park for co-ordinating schools and Jan Latta for creating the booklets and posters.

Once again the **LWTS writing competition** was organized. The winning students were awarded a writing workshop for their class.

St John The Apostle Narrabeena (1 entry) – **Wendy Fitzgerald**

St Kierens at Manly Vale (7 entries)- **Oliver Phommavanh**

John Collet at Belrose (2 entries)- **Jan Latta**

St Kevins at Dee Why (5 entries)- **Louise Park**

St Josephs at Narrabeen (3 entries) - **Wendy Fitzgerald**

Terrey Hills Public (1 entry)- **Debra Tidball**

Warringah Library Services Young Writer's Competition – theme: Tiny door

In August, some of our members were again invited to be judges in this writing competition. It involved judging stories, presenting prizes with the mayor at a special presentation night at Dee Why Council Chambers. Thank you to Tonya Alexandra, Wendy Fitzgerald, Tim Harris, Anna Fienberg, Rebecca Sharp Shelberg and Mick Elliot who were judges.

Travelling Suitcases- Kristen Prescott and Zoya Nojin brilliantly took on the challenge of looking after the travelling suitcases. Oliver Phommavanh added a suitcase to the collection along with Belinda Murrell, Louise Park, Jan Latta and Kate Forsyth. These were circulated around schools.

CBCA NSW Northern Sydney Sub Branch Xmas Party 2018

This event brought together 50 guests- authors, parents, teachers, publishers, booksellers and book lovers in a fun evening at Dee Why RSL. Keynote speaker was John Flanagan and Harry Hartog was the book seller. We held a raffle, a silent auction and we sang a specially written song to the tune 'Inside a Book' by Julia Donaldson.

Donations and Grants

We received a \$500 Youth Grant from Forestville RSL. Hornsby Toyota again donated \$1040 to the LWTS for 2 tables from Stewart House and \$500 towards expenses.

Our aim for 2019 and our 10th anniversary year is to help inspire children, librarians and parents with enthusiasm for books and reading. These events happen because of the generosity, good will, creativity and hard work of our committee members. Thank you to all the 2018 committee.

We will continue to support CBCA NSW Branch events and thank the CBCA NSW Branch for their terrific events, inspiration, encouragement and support.

Wendy Fitzgerald and Lindy Batchelor
Co-Presidents