



THE MAURICE SAXBY CREATIVE DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

The Maurice Saxby Mentorship Program, which had been running for approximately eight years under a previous umbrella and had proved very rewarding for the many mentees who received places in the program, was in danger of being phased out.

The committee who had been running this program approached the Victorian Branch of the CBCA with a proposal. If we were able to secure a grant, could we align ourselves under the CBCA umbrella. Fortunately the committee approved the proposal and the Program committee began to look for support.

With the assistance of a former mentee, Nadine Cradenburgh, we applied for a grant from the Copyright Agency Cultural Fund and were fortunate to be successful in our submission. We thank Nadine for her invaluable help in this endeavour.

The subcommittee organised a press notice which was sent to every Writer's Centre in Australia offering emerging authors and/or illustrators to apply for a place. This was also placed on both the National and the Victorian Branch Websites, as well as on several Facebook pages which were shared widely.

The closing date was 31st January 2018 and we received a good number of entries from the time of the announcement, but on the last two days we were deluged. In the finish we had almost 100 entries and the judges were then very busy reading and grading them.

The subcommittee members: Pamela Horsey, Helen Chamberlin, Amanda Cooper, Mark Wilson, Suzanne Thwaites, Rebecca Green and Katie Flannigan were all qualified to judge the entries.

Pam worked in publishing for many years; Helen is a publisher/editor of note; Amanda is and Suzanne has been a judge of the CBCA Awards; Mark Wilson is an award winning author/illustrator; Katie and Rebecca are both emerging writers and belong to writing groups and do a lot of critical reading.

We would also like to thank Kay Sagar and Margaret Robson-Kett for reading some of the entries for us so that we would have an extra voice to help make decisions.

After many hours of reading and discussing the committee finally came up with the five Mentees for the 2018 Program.

- Ashleigh Hardcastle, from Western Australia (YA)
- Maggie Jankuloska, from Victoria (MF)
- Nat Amoore, from N.S.W. (PB)
- Maura Finn, from Victoria (PB)
- Mike Barry, from N.S.W. (PB)

These five people will join us in August for a two week program which will include visits to State Library of Victoria; Dromkeen; Books Illustrated; specialist children's book shops to meet Buyers;

workshop/presentations by published authors/illustrators; visits to publishers; and they will also have their work mentored by an industry expert.

The standard of the work submitted for the program was excellent and the judges had a very difficult time making the final decisions.

However all entrants will receive a personal letter from the committee with comments on their work. It would have been wonderful to be able to offer positions to many others but that is the way it has to be.

The work continues

Pamela Horsey

Coordinator

Maurice Saxby Creative Development Program