

SINCE 1945 — YOUR CONNECTION TO STORY

ANNUAL REPORT

2019/2020

Executive Committee:

President: Karys McEwen
Vice Presidents: Christine Oughtred & Ngaire Brown (*resigned Feb 20*)
Treasurer: Marissa Caluzzi
Secretary: Geraldine Woolnough

Committee Members:

Robyn Burke, Kylie Long (*resigned Jan 20*), Sarah Mayor Cox, Diem Nguyen (*resigned Jan 20*), Michelle Nye (*resigned Jan 20*), Jo Panckridge (casual vacancy), Jane Parsons, Adele Walsh (casual vacancy), Erin Wamala (casual vacancy) Ruth Woolven, Annette Wright

CBCA Board Victorian Branch Representative: Sarah Mayor Cox

Regional Directors:

Ballarat: Debbie Marshall
Bendigo: Sarah Mayor Cox
Geelong: Jane Parsons
Gippsland: Karen Fleischer

Life Members:

Pam Horsey, Alan Jager, Stella Lees, Dr. Virginia Lowe, Kay Sagar & Geraldine Woolnough

CHILDREN'S BOOK COUNCIL OF AUSTRALIA (VICTORIAN BRANCH) INC.

ABN 46 659 828 173; Registered Association A0014226Y



CBCA VIC – AGM 2020 PRESIDENT'S REPORT 2019

I became President of the CBCA VIC Branch in April 2019, and it has been an incredibly rewarding and eventful position so far.

In 2019 the Victorian Branch consisted of 589 members, a marginal increase from the past year. The social media presence on Twitter and Instagram helped to promote and celebrate our events throughout the year, as well as our monthly CBCA VIC Branch newsletter. Our communication is a strength of the Branch, and has been commented on by other State Branches.

It was a big year for the Victorian Branch, as we volunteered to host both the CBCA Book of the Year Awards Shortlist and Winners Announcement. Both events were considered a success, with excellent quality speakers, catering and an impressive turnout by the children's literature community. My thanks go to the sub-committee that worked tirelessly on these events: Christine Oughtred, Geraldine Woolnough, Marissa Caluzzi, Robyn Burke and Lu Smith.

This year we have continued to increase our partnerships with likeminded organisations including the Australian Children's Laureate Alliance and School Libraries Association Victoria, companies such as Story Box Library, publishers and member bookshops and retailers. Our networking with these organisations and companies is mutually beneficial for all.

We are fortunate to have four Victorian regional directors leading their communities in promotion of Children's Literature. Ballarat, Bendigo, Geelong and Gippsland each have a regional group which develops local events and programs tailored to the community. Judges talks, Claytons Nights, local professional development and presentations on storytelling and children's literature are included in each program.

I would like to thank the Victorian Branch Committee, who have given their precious free time over the past year to ensure our events and programs are a success. Together, we share the joys and possibilities of promoting children's literature. I feel very grateful to be working with you.

KARYS MCEWEN

President



CBCA VIC - AGM 2020

TREASURER'S REPORT - 2019

This financial year (31st January, 2020), shows CBCA VIC Branch with an operating loss of approx. \$24,000. However this does not indicate that the association is in financial difficulties.

With a healthy cash balance, the committee agreed to host two of this year's CBCA Book of the Year Awards events, the announcement of the Shortlist and the official BOTY Awards winners. The cost was initially agreed to be shared 50:50 with the National, but to stage these events at such wonderful venues in Melbourne (The State Library and Deakin Edge, Federation Square) triggered an overrun of the budget. The cost of these events, plus VIC Branch's celebration of the Notable List was approx. \$12,000. The committee thought this expenditure worthwhile, promoting the CBCA Brand as well as increasing the prestige of these Awards. As well as upholding one CBCA VIC Branch's purposes

- *provide assistance and support to the national body of The Children's Book Council of Australia.*

CBCA VIC Branch also donated \$5,000 to the CBCA Awards Foundation, becoming a Major Donor.

Membership numbers remained constant, however the category of membership has seen an increase in concessional memberships at the expense of personal memberships.

Additional bequeathed funds from Albert Ullin were received this year and will remain in trust until the sub-committee decide what form this Award will take.

Merchandise Sales continued to decrease this Book Week, with a realized profit of only approx. \$3,200, a 47% decrease in revenue from last year. The removal of the 40% wholesale discount traditionally extended to Branches was one of the major reason for this lack of profit, as well as the Board's decision to dramatically discounted many items on the eStore by 50%.

Once again, CBCA VIC Branch's Judge's Talks remain a highlight of the year, enjoyed by members and non-members alike, upholding another CBCA VIC Branch's purposes:-

- *promote discussion, debate, talks & exhibitions in relation to children's books*

The 'Authors in Schools' program is still considered by the committee to be a program worth supporting and six schools benefited this year. It also fulfils the Council's following purposes:-

- *encourage and promote Australian authors and illustrators*
- *foster young people's enjoyment of reading*

The major outgoing expense is the cost of staffing the office. Unless more people volunteer their time, there is no alternative. The other major expense is rent, but CBCA VIC Branch is fortunate to have found a place at Habitat, SWell Centre where the cost of renting Room 9 is very advantageous.

In closing, CBCA VIC Branch can once again look forward to a bright future, upholding CBCA's mission "to achieve a positive social impact by engaging the community with literature for young Australians".

MARISSA CALUZZI
Treasurer



CBCA VIC – AGM 2020 MERCHANDISE REPORT - 2019

Bob Graham beautifully illustrated this year's theme "Reading is my Secret Power".



Like the National, this Branch relies on making a profit from merchandise sales to sustain our presence. The funds raised via these sales allows this Branch to fund our outreach programs, programs like Authors in Schools.

Unfortunately, the National decided to change the customary 40% wholesale discount to Branches on this year's merchandise. This decision has seriously impacted our profit margins for 2019. Last year, CBCA VIC Branch realised a profit of \$6,000+ on merchandise sales; this year the profit figure is only \$3,200, which equates to a 47% decrease in revenue.

A total of 215 orders were received, 69% from our current members, 21% from non-members and 10% from interstate schools. It is interesting to note, the number of orders received in 2018 was almost the same as this year, but 2019's profit was reduced by almost half.

2019 saw the introduction of large and small Wall Graphics, RRP \$50 & \$25 respectively. Branches were advised that these items were considered "evergreen" stock and therefore would not be eligible for any wholesale discount. Despite this advice, close to the start of CBCA Book Week, the National dramatically discounted these items on the eStore by 50%, as well as the cost of the Tote Bag. To ensure our members were not disadvantaged by purchasing their merchandise via this Branch, the subcommittee decided to reduce the cost of the stock by the same amount. Matching the national's discount cost this Branch money, but sadly no compensation was offered, nor were the Branches given any opportunity to express the financial effect this decision would have on their bottom line.

Another reason for this lack of profit was the overestimate of merchandise stock levels. The lack of a Short List poster, the inclusion of five varieties of bookmarks, the reduction to the number of Book Week stickers on a page and the introduction of so many new items (10 different wall graphics, plus a very expensive tote bag) didn't help matters for the sub-committee. The enamel pins were popular; the Tote Bags were considered too expensive; the demand for 200 pkt bookmarks was larger than expected (probably due to the low RRP); the smaller graphics were more popular than the larger ones (this could have been a financial decision or an aesthetic one) and the stickers lacked appeal.

2019 also saw the removed of the Short List poster, replaced with six downloadable files from the National website. These were available to everyone, members and non-members, free of charge. With no consideration given to the benefit of membership, the National makes the task of retaining members very difficult for Branches.



CBCA VIC – AGM 2020 MERCHANDISE REPORT – 2019 (continued)

Last year, CBCA VIC Branch requested the email addresses of the 2018 online orders from Victorian based purchasers from the National. The purpose of this request was to solicit new members for 2019, thereby ensuring the financial viability of this Branch. Without new members, this Branch will fail to grow. Sadly, the National declined to respond, even though this information had been available to Branches in previous years.

MARY MOORE

Co-ordinator

CBCA VIC Branch is extremely grateful for the enormous amount of time Mary Moore put into this portfolio, particularly as she is no longer a committee member.



VICTORIAN JUDGES' REPORT - 2019

During the year, 12 CBCA BOTY Judge's Talks were facilitated throughout the state.

The aim of this outreach program is to maintain a comprehensive overview of the titles on the shortlist and notables list and healthy discussion for practitioners across the state in a variety of sectors.

This year also saw the New Illustrator Judges (Ngaire Brown, Kathy Kozlowski & Marc Martin) joining the Victorian based Judges, now that this Award is part of the National Suite.



The committee wishes to thank (left to right) Jo Panckridge, Amanda Cooper and Brook Tayla for their preparation and travel time to help us in this outreach program.



LEILA ST JOHN AWARD 2019

At the time of publication, due to the restrictions imposed by COVID-19 regarding social distancing, this Award has not been announced.

KARYS MCEWEN

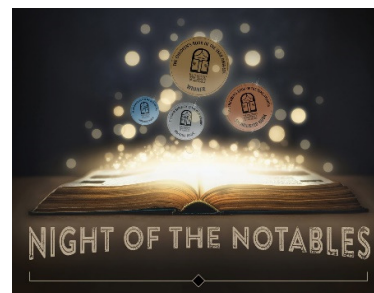
Convenor LSJ Award



CBCA VIC – AGM 2020 EVENT REPORTS - 2019

Night of the Notables

What an exciting evening our celebrations for the 2019 Night of the Notables was! 120 people enjoyed the opportunity to chat, eat and drink before the formal events of the evening began. Carrying a full glass, the guests entered the auditorium to be greeted by the sight of books enticingly set up in the distance – tantalisingly close enough to see their colours, but not close enough to see exactly which books were there. Victorian President, Christine Oughtred welcomed everyone present, after a group of pre-schoolers performed a Welcome to Country on the big screen.



Jo Panckridge (2019 BOTY Awards Judge) spoke on behalf of the judges of each section, Younger Readers, Older Readers, Early Years and Picture Books; addressing her comments to the criteria. Brook Tayla (2019 BOTY Awards Judge) gave an overview of the Eve Pownall Award, and how this category has grown and developed.

Jo Stanley then came to the front of the auditorium, to speak on her interpretation of 'What notable books have influenced you?' She invited us to imagine her bedroom – describing a 70s space in such detail to transport you to the location. She shared with us the books she liked, and how her parents' background and their influence had affected the books she connected with. The journey with books popular to the time and yet the consistent revisiting of her passion – *Anne of Green Gables*, and later followed by Jane Austen. Jo was not only an articulate speaker, but shared with us all her passion for the reading journey.

Alex Rance continued with the theme of 'What notable books have influenced you?' with the honest revelation that he was a reluctant reader growing up and only later got into *The Three Musketeers* and MAD magazines. His passion to write came about after Richmond's Premiership win in 2017. He wanted his fellow team mates to have something they could share with their children – either babies at the time, or twinkles in the eye at that period.

Fiona Wood rounded off the discussion of 'What notable books have influenced you?' with her journey with books, which was to be envied. She was consistent in her revisiting of Jane Austen and her style of writing. She spoke of her passion to connect with young adults and hope that when they read, they would be encouraged to question and develop empathy.

With the conclusion of the formal proceedings, the audience buzz was evident and many returned to the foyer to share a drink and chat about the varied speakers – each articulate, passionate about their craft and the purpose behind their books. The evening demonstrated that we all have a story to tell or share with others, but only few have the commitment, passion and drive to put words to print.

Clayton's Night

This dinner presentation event, held in our regular venue at Trinity Grammar School, Kew attracts a strong attendance by Teacher Librarians and School staff. Experts from the children's literature field gave their own personal short list of the best titles from the previous year, just ahead of the official CBCA Short List announcement.



This year's speakers included (left to right) Kim Yeoman (Younger Readers), Janet McLean (Early Childhood), Diem Ng (Older Readers) and Lorna Hendry (Non Fiction).

It's a night full of passion, fun and great conversation about books. Capably convened by Meg Moores, a booklet of each speakers' short list is available for reference and note taking. The 'Kids Bookshop' was on hand for book sales, there are plenty of generous raffle prizes supplied by Publishing Houses, and the delicious catering by 'Mary and Steve' is always popular.

Short List Event

On Tuesday 26th March at 12 noon, this year's shortlisted books were announced at an event hosted by the Victorian Branch in the magnificent Isabella Fraser Room at the State Library of Victoria. Guests enjoyed a delicious morning tea, prior to a Wurundjeri Tribe Council "Welcome to Country" by Auntie Jacqui Wandin. The Chair of CBCA, Prof. Margot Hillel, highlighted the importance of these awards and our panel of publishers discussed books that they were proud to publish.

Niki Horin (Five Mile) spoke about The Big Hug Book series and her latest favourite: Love your Body by Jessica Sander, illustrated by Carol Rossetti. Jane Pearson (Text Publishing) described her instant love from reading the first paragraph of The Peacock Detectives by Carly Nugent - winner of the Text Prize (and excitingly announced as one of the shortlisted titles at this event). Erica Wagner (Allen & Unwin) held up her favourite book, Uhu by Annette Macarthur-Onslow - Winner of 1970 CBCA Book of the Year Award and delighted us in claiming all 'her' other wins!

Then it was the time we were all waiting for - the announcement of this year's Short List. Indra Kurzeme, Head of Audience Engagement at SLV read the first three categories: Older Reader, Younger Reader & Early Childhood, followed by CBCA Chair, Prof. Margot Hillel with the Picture Book of the Year, Eve Pownall Award and CBCA Award for New Illustrator.

CBCA Book of the Year Awards

CBCA VIC Branch hosted the CBCA Book of the Year Awards Announcement at Deakin Edge in Federation Square on Friday 16th August. It was an important occasion where we recognised the work of our incredible Australian creators and publishers. Congratulations to all the winning and honour books!

I was particularly thrilled that young students from schools around Melbourne were the ones to announce the awards. They did a brilliant job! The catering was provided by Mary & Steve and was commented on by many attendees.

I would like to extend my sincere gratitude to the CBCA VIC Branch committee and other volunteers for all their work in organising this event, in particular the efforts of Lu Smith & Geraldine Woolnough who truly went above and beyond to ensure the event ran as smoothly as it did.

The event was live streamed and recorded footage of some of the highlights was made available to CBCA members.

Community Literature Festival

Sunday 15th September saw the third year of the partnership of CBCA VIC Branch with Charles LaTrobe College, Speech Pathology, Bundoora Rotary & Story Box Library. Families and children interested, engaged and busily drawing together. Workshop were provided by:



Speech Pathology Australia - on the importance of building children's oral language and emergent literacy skill using shared-book reading and books as a tool.

Adam Wallace & Ann James, two very talented illustrators.

Night of Our Stars

The third CBCA Night of Our Stars event was held on Tuesday 12th November 2019. What an event it was this year in partnership again with Lamont Books and very much supported by Allen & Unwin, Penguin Random, Scribe and Affirm Press. A very big thank you to Michelle and Rob again.



Geraldine Woolnough, the Secretary of the CBCA Vic Branch shared with us a most moving acknowledgement to country. She shared a beautiful video presented by the children of Watsonia Kindergarten and this simply brings goosebumps to you.

This year we were celebrating with eight authors who were able to share their recently published books. It was wonderful to see these authors talking about recent publications to a range of professionals in the south eastern Children's Literature community. We played a game called "FIRST LINES" where our attendees had to guess who wrote a book and it was so much fun to see us all guessing the titles of new and upcoming books.

Session 1 was all about Early Childhood & Picture Book Stars. Davina Bell was unwell, and I had the pleasure of sharing about her award-winning and CBCA Notable picture book *All the Ways To Be Smart*, *Under the Love Umbrella*, *The Underwater Fancy-dress Parade*. It was very special to be able to have a raffle where the *Lemonade Jones* stories were won by three guests.

Katrina Lehman was our next guest and she is lucky enough to spend much of her working day crafting words as a writer and editor, across various platforms, helping other writers unleash their inner magic. Katrina and Sophie Beer created "*Wren*" a beautiful story about how one family coped with the arrival of a new and very loud baby. This book is published by Scribe Press and is an excellent way to talk about the importance of giving family members space from each other. Please welcome Katrina.

Vikki Conley is a children's author, presenter and her presentation was just like what you would see in the classroom, including puppets and loads of images about her workshops. She's worked as a journalist, photographer and professional communicator for over 20 years, across three continents. Vikki is part of the CBCA's authors in school's initiative, and the author visit program with Lamont Books. She is an active player in both the arts and literary industries. She loves creating multi-art form experiences for children at schools, libraries and festivals. Her creative literacy and story-art sessions bring the natural world, drama, puppetry, ceramics and innovative thinking into the classroom. *Ella and Mrs Gooseberry*, *Little Puggle's Song* and *Christmas Wonder* are Vikki's recent publications. In 2020 she'll release *Tomorrow Girl* and *The Lost Moustache*.

Jess McGeachin completed this session sharing his new book *Fly*, published by Penguin Random House. He draws on a love of natural history and why wouldn't you when your day job is at the Melbourne Museum. Jess hopes that his stories inspire the reader to explore both real and imaginary places and meet the characters that live in them.

During the signing break there was ample opportunity to purchase these recently published books and have them signed. It was a time too for eating, drinking, chatting about all things literary and

connecting as a group of like-minded people. There was a raffle for an amazing back of books donated by Allen & Unwin and Lamont Books and this was won by...

Session 2 was fiction for our Young Adult readers and Susannah McFarlane opened for us in style. Best known as the author, creator and publisher of some of Australia's most successful children's book series, such as the award-winning EJ12 Girl Hero and EJ Spy School series, Boy vs Beast, the Little Mates series of alphabet books for under-fives, and the series editor for Stuff Happens!, She shared her belief in the need for age-appropriate but fun content for kids. Her latest release published by Allen & Unwin is Bold Tales for Brave Hearted Boys.

Michelle Aung Thin spoke about Hasina a new Through My Eyes story recently published through Allen and Unwin. Born in Burma, now Myanmar, in the year of the military coup her story offers a real life connection with honesty and compassion.

Lili Wilkinson is the award-winning author of eleven YA novels including The Boundless Sublime, Green Valentine, Pink and After the Lights Go Out. She is also the author of a picture book called Clancy the Quokka, released in October 2019. Lili established the insideadog.com.au website and the Inky Awards at the Centre for Youth Literature, State Library of Victoria. She has a PhD in Creative Writing, and lives in Melbourne with her husband, son, dog and three chickens. Please warmly welcome Lili.

Adrian Beck finished the night by sharing his new release Derek Dool Supercool book with us. He has also written Stuff Happens – Dale, with Susannah McFarlane. All of Adrian's stories are fun to read – even for kids who struggle to get interested in books. Most recently his Total Quack Up! and Total Quack Up Again! have been very well received by our readers. Adrian shared his passion for raising childhood literacy levels across the country and is a fierce supporter of us teacher-librarians.

We had a raffle on the night raising \$127 and the prize winners were Andrea Heard, Helen Quinn, Grace Nolan and Elaine. Thanks to all who helped especially Geraldine Woolnough, Lu Smith and Annette Wright. Again, we had a wonderful star-studded evening.

MICHELLE NYE

Convenor



CBCA VIC – AGM 2020 OUTREACH PROGRAMS 2019

Author in Schools

- Nicki Greenberg attended St Margaret Mary's Primary School in Brunswick North
- Claire Saxby attended Moriac Primary School, outside of Geelong
- George Ivanhoff attended Traralgon College in East Gippsland
- Carole Wilkinson attended Mortlake P-12 College
- Vikki Conley presented at Delta Road Pre-School

CBCA VIC Branch also sponsored a Reading Cup Challenge with George Ivanhoff at the Braxholme-Wallacedale Community School, which saw six schools competing with each other.



Reading Together

CBCA VIC Branch 'Reading Together' resources continued to be distributed to members in 2019.



SOCIAL NETWORKING & WEBSITE REPORT

Twitter	@CBCAVic has 1,788 followers, increase of 184
Instagram	@cbca_vic has 820 followers, increase of 282 for the year
Mailchimp	1,240 subscribers, increase of 121 for the year
Facebook	1,570 likes, 1,761 people following the page.



CBCA VIC – AGM 2020 BALLARAT REGIONAL REPORT 2019

MARCH 2019: BALLARAT CLAYTON'S NIGHT

As always, this was a popular event amongst Ballarat members and a wonderful way to start promoting and celebrating quality literature for young Australians. Our five presenters came from different spheres but all were involved on a daily basis with sharing literature with children and all showed real passion for the books they had selected to discuss. We had a wonderful mix of classroom teachers, primary and secondary school librarians as well as librarians from our wonderful public library, both as presenters and in our audience. We were even lucky enough to have a picture book author as an attendee. To match the theme for Book Week, there were various competitions to help attendees unleash “the secret power of their reading”.

JUNE 2019: BALLARAT JUDGE'S TALK

It was delightful, as always, to welcome Victorian Judges to Ballarat for their annual presentation held at the Charlie Napier hotel in the heart of Sovereign Hill. For many Ballarat members this event is a genuine highlight of the year to be able to meet our Victorian CBCA Judges and to learn more about their role. As our day begins at 10.30 am and finishes at 3.00 pm, we had plenty of time for Amanda and Jo to “Unlock the Secret Power of the CBCA Shortlisted books.” In the afternoon we always offer two sessions from which our audience may choose, including one which focuses on opportunities to explore the Sovereign Hill Museum. In 2019 this was achieved in a fascinating session entitled: Hidden Objects/Hidden Stories. To quote from the 2019 handbook: “Museums tell stories and we find these stories in the things that people have used or made. Learning to look at lumps and bumps, scratches and stains, what is ‘weird’, ‘wonderful’ or ‘everyday’ about a ‘thing’ helps us to get to know different peoples, places and times. Join a museum professional to explore how we use objects as windows to the past. We’ll play with different ways to ‘interview’ an object to discover its journey (questioning) and ways we can use that information to tell all sorts of stories (interpreting). Along with the way you will meet some special treasures from the Collection and take with you some tips and resources to use in the classroom”. We must again thank Michaela Willison, a Sovereign Hill educator and librarian, who organised this session with the assistance of her colleagues in the Gold Museum. Feedback from the day clearly indicates that the professional development offered by the Ballarat Judges Talk was considered to be a valuable day of learning. We thank the CBCA Victorian Judges for their continued involvement, in particular the enthusiasm with which they promote the CBCA Short and Notable lists.

DEBORAH MARSHALL

Regional Director - Ballarat



CBCA VIC. – AGM 2020 BENDIGO REGIONAL REPORT 2019

REPORT UNAVAILABLE AT THIS TIME

SARAH MAYOR COX

Regional Director - Bendigo



CBCA VIC. – AGM 2020 GEELONG REGIONAL REPORT 2019

REPORT UNAVAILABLE AT THIS TIME

JANE PARSONS

Regional Director - Geelong



CBCA VIC. – AGM 2020 GIPPSLAND REGIONAL REPORT 2019

July 2019 – April 2020

The partnership with East Gippsland Shire Library has had another successful year in children's programming, kicked off with the CBCA Judge's Talk in late July. Amanda Cooper had the audience of 20 teachers, parents and readers engaged and enthusiastic about children's literature during her informative presentation.

This was soon followed by Children's Book Week with an activity session and dress up competition held to celebrate which was at full capacity. Prizes were also awarded for the annual Write a Story / Draw a Picture Competition.

Another annual event is the Summer Reading Club, which unfortunately was not as well attended as previous year's due to the bushfires greatly impacting East Gippsland Shire. The majority of the Summer School Holiday program was also cancelled due to the bushfires; however, Bairnsdale Library was able to partner with the East Gippsland Art Gallery to offer free drop-in in art sessions for children who were both directly and indirectly impacted by the bushfires.

The East Gippsland Shire Library also plays an active role in Children's Week celebrations in October. Events held this past Children's Week included:

- Storytime with Peppa Pig
- Children's Week Craft Activity Session
- Closing Ceremony Festival and Celebration

Storytime and Rhyme Time continue to be popular for children under five and their parents or caregivers. This is a great opportunity for both parents and children to interact in a safe and learning environment.

The partnership continues to provide residents with a fun assortment of events over the school holiday period including craft activity sessions. The library school holiday program provides varied and engaging programs that meet the educational, social and recreational needs of the community.

Craft Activity Sessions held this year combined reading, games and a craft activity which included Bead Bookworm Bookmarks.

A wide range of other programs were also offered over the school holidays and throughout the year including “Illustrate a Book” day

I would like to thank Jane Wembridge for her excellent work with the judges talk and the children’s activities.

KAREN FLEISCHER

Regional Director – Gippsland