

ANNUAL REPORT 2021/2022

Executive Committee:

President: Karys McEwen Vice President: Jo Panckridge

Treasurer: Geraldine Woolnough

Secretary: Ruth Woolven

Committee Members:

Robyn Burke, Jane Burrows (resigned 16JUN21), Marissa Caluzzi, Angela Crocombe (representing Readings Kids), Diana Kelly (representing Lauriston Girls' School), Anne-Louise O'Donoghue (representing The Geelong College), Christine Oughtred, Leanne Rands, May Vos-Rutter (representing Boroondara Park PS), Erin Wamala (representing The Kids Bookshop), Annette Wright

CBCA Board Victorian Branch Representative: Karys McEwen

Regional Directors:

Ballarat: Loretta Kaval & Ruth Oppenheim

Bendigo: Vacant

Geelong: Jo Panckridge

Gippsland: Karen Fleischer (resigned 03FEB22), Susan O'Malley

Life Members:

Emeritus Prof. Margot Hillel OAM, Pam Horsey, Alan Jager, Stella Lees, Dr. Virginia Lowe, Debbie Marshall, Christine Oughtred, Kay Sagar & Geraldine Woolnough

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

ABN 46 659 828 173; Registered Association A0014226Y



CBCA VIC – AGM 2022 PRESIDENT'S REPORT 2021

2021 was another year disrupted by the global pandemic, but CBCA VIC Branch took plenty of lessons from the past year to continue supporting our members during these challenging times. The committee continued to meet online which has been a more inclusive and flexible option for communicating and collaborating.

Our Shadow Judging trial was a highlight for the year, and we look forward to the national rollout of the program in 2022. Online judges talks also proved popular for our members, with the additional of pre-recorded talks available to watch on demand.

We commenced an online book club, featuring author interviews and children's literature suggestions, and held our annual events successfully online including Night of the Notables and Clayton's Night.

Our social media following has grown, as has our newsletter reach. We are thrilled that people are able to connect in with our Branch in this way.

CBCA VIC Branch membership is currently at 596. A portion of the membership have taken Personal Membership, rather than Institutional Membership, due to limited budgets of most schools.

Institutions		366	61.41%
Schools	293		
Kinder/ECC	5		
Publishers	8		
Booksellers	15		
Public Librar	ies 40		
Other	5		
Personal		82	13.76%
Professional Concessional		89	14.93%
Concessional		40	6.71%
Family		4	0.67%
Life Members		9	1.51%
Free		6	1.01%
Total		596	100%

KARYS MCEWEN

President



CBCA VIC - AGM 2022 TREASURER'S REPORT - 2021

This financial year (ending 31st January, 2022), shows CBCA VIC Branch with an operating loss of approx. \$18,000.

Due to CBCA VIC Branch's "healthy" cash position, this loss was expected by your Committee. Cash Reserves held are currently over \$250,000, of which \$120,850 is held in trust for the biennial Albert Ullin Award. These funds are part of legacy and can only be used for this Award, leaving almost \$130,000 in the bank.

Despite 2021 being impacted by more COVID-19 lockdowns, revenue from merchandise sales equated almost \$4,000, a complete turnaround from last year's loss of approx. \$8,300. This year's merchandise was co-ordinated by Robyn Burke, ably assisted by our office staff.

Events and programs held by CBCA VIC Branch, such as the "Night of the Notables", "Book Club", "Creators in Schools", "Judges' Talks" etc. operate at a loss. This year's 2nd pilot program of "Shadow Judging", cost approx. \$7,600. However, this Branch was very proud to have been able to finance this initiative, under guidance of Christine Oughtred, together with Jo Panckridge & Leanne Rands. This program has now been adopted by CBCA National, with the help of a RISE Fund, Australian Government grant, under the name of *Sun Project: Shadow Judging*. It is currently operating in all eight state & territory branches and has been embraced by many schools, libraries and reading groups.

Your committee considers these events and programs as part of our "core business" and they also uphold some of the purposes in our Constitution.

- promote discussion, debate, talks & exhibitions in relation to children' books
- encourage and promote Australian authors and illustrators
- foster young people's enjoyment of reading

Member subscription fees almost cover the cost of office staff and rent, however your committee is reluctant to increase these charges. Regional sub-Branches also add to the cost of running CBCA VIC Branch, approx. \$3,000 – Ballarat (7%), Bendigo (5%), Geelong (19%) & Gippsland (69%).

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".

GERALDINE WOOLNOUGH

Treasurer



CBCA VIC – AGM 2022 MERCHANDISE REPORT – 2021



Shaun Tan was the creator of this year's theme "Old World, New World, Other World".

Like the National, this Branch relies on making a profit from merchandise sales to fund other projects. Revenue from 2021 sales was \$3,344; profit from P&H totaled \$751; total funds raised \$4,095.

Again, the restrictions imposed due to COVID affected this revenue stream. Locked down for most of the year, the majority of our schools and local libraries were closed.

Like in 2020, the committee extended a discount of 20% to members on most items in the 2021 range. This reduced the total profit raised, but acknowledged the difficulties experienced by our Members.

171 orders were received this year, an increase of 30% from 2020 (133) but not back to 2019 numbers.

Of those 171 orders, 132 from members (77%), 3 from interstate (2%) & 36 from non-members (21%). The majority of these orders (86%) used a Purchase Order to facilitate the transaction.

This equated to almost 30% of the Victorian Branch membership ordered something for CBCA Book Week.

ROBYN BURKE

Convenor



VICTORIAN JUDGES TALKS REPORT - 2021

This outreach program didn't escape COVID-19 influences but did experience a positive effect. Following 2020s success, 2021 saw most CBCA Judges' Talks online.

Our 2021 Victorian Judges were:

Older Reader category Karys McEwen & Erin Wamala

Younger Reader category Ruth Woolven
Early Childhood category Marissa Caluzzi

Picture Book &

New Illustrator category Julie Faulkner & Brook Tayla

Eve Pownall category Narissa Leung

Despite the trying circumstances, fourteen CBCA Judges Talks were presented (including one talk to Queensland CBCA Members), which equated to our Judges donating their time on 24 occasions.

The committee wishes to thank our Judges for helping to achieve the aims of this outreach program.

JO PANCKRIDGE

Convenor



LEILA ST JOHN AWARD 2020

The Leila St John Award is an annual award of the Victorian Branch of the CBCA. It is awarded for services to children's literature in Victoria for the previous year. This year, the 2020 recipient of the Leila St John Award was Christine Oughtred.

Her citation, along with a recording of her acceptance speech can be accessed from our website.

Chris' long-standing commitment to children's literature in Victoria is astonishing and admirable, and the outcomes of her work will have an impact on the industry. She is an outstanding role model and colleague, well-deserving of the Leila St John Award.

KARYS MCEWEN

Convenor LSJ Award

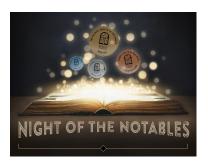


CBCA VIC – AGM 2022 EVENT REPORTS - 2021

Night of the Notables

2021 CBCA Book of the Year Awards began on Tuesday 23rd February, when the Notables List was announced at 7pm.

We were thrilled to have three guest speakers join us at our event "Night of the Notables": Jane Godwin, Leigh Hobbs and Bren MacDibble.



GERALDINE WOOLNOUGH

Event Convenor

Clayton's Night

This year's Clayton's Night, held online, was both entertaining and informative and although it differed somewhat from previous events, it was well received by a large group of attendees. Conducted as a zoom meeting on the afternoon of Wednesday 17th March 2021, a panel of three speakers previewed the best children's books published in Australia in 2020 and provided attendees with a host of practical ideas for using these titles in the classroom or library.

Presenters included Jackie Small, Story Box Library (Picture Books), Renata Ware, Ruyton Girls' School (Younger Readers) and Dani Vee, Words and Nerds Podcast (Older Readers). Aside from enjoying a stimulating and informative afternoon, attendees were also in the running to win 10 beautiful book packs.

The event also served as a platform to celebrate and acknowledge the work done to promote and support CBCA goals surrounding youth literature. COVID19 shutdowns last year prevented the awarding of the 2019 Leila St John Award and this year's Clayton's night provided a wonderful opportunity to present this prestigious award for 2020 to Christine Oughtred. Unable to attend, Chris gave a heartfelt thank you via an acceptance video. The afternoon was also a chance to review and celebrate last year's CBCA Shadow Judging Program. Videos of student judges provided valuable feedback on this innovative program, including how much they were engaged and impacted as readers. Overall, attendees commented that it was one of the most useful PD sessions they have attended recently.

ERIN WAMALA & JULIE PURCELL

Co-Convenors

THE CHILDREN'S BOOK COUNCIL OF AUSTRALIA VIC BRANCH

CBCA VIC – AGM 2022 OUTREACH PROGRAMS 2021

Creators in Schools

Unfortunately, repeated lockdowns in Victoria played havoc with the Creators in Schools program in 2021. Some visits we had organized were not able to take place. We did manage to support Jane Godwin visiting Davis Creek Primary School in Tarneit and Renee Treml visiting Tate Street Primary School in Geelong. Both schools enjoyed the visits very much.

We would like to thank all the schools and creators who expressed interest in and supported the program in 2021.

RUTH WOOLVEN

Coordinator

Shadow Judging

This year the opportunity to participate in the Shadow Judging Program was offered to 17 Victorian reading groups, up from 15 in 2020, from a range of geographical areas and demographic backgrounds. The groups were all new to the program and included participants from regional and metropolitan schools and a public library.

The groups self-selected the CBCA Awards categories from which to read, discuss and respond to shortlisted books. These included Older Reader, Younger Reader and Picture Book (five groups for each), New Illustrator (one group) and Eve Pownall (one group). No reading group selected to judge the Early Childhood category.

Packs of shortlisted books were sent to each reading group from 'Readings Kids' Bookshop and 'The Kid's Bookshop' and paid for by the CBCA Vic Branch. The Branch also supported a creator workshop to the value of \$300 for each Shadow Judging group. These were largely led online and conducted by Renee Treml, Leigh Hobbs, Corrine Fenton, Claire Saxby, Davina Bell, Jane Godwin, and Danielle Binks. Story Box Library also agreed to support the program with a free six month subscription for all participants to allow access to books available from their service, which was of great assistance.

During the period of the program, from May to August 2021, Shadow Judging bulletins were sent to participants fortnightly from the Shadow Judging Sub Committee in an endeavor to support the groups. Despite Covid presenting challenges in 2021, as it did in 2020, sixteen of the seventeen groups completed the program of responding to each shortlisted book in their chosen category and voting on their preferred winner. The standard of the responses was very high and was a further indication of the value of the program.

Michael O'Donnell worked as a volunteer to develop the Shadow Judging Wordpress website, answer IT enquiries and post all responses on the website at cbcashadowjudging.com. We are indebted to his support as well as that of Karys McEwen who posted sample responses on social media and forwarded a collation of relevant links to each creator and publisher, all of which were well received and prompted communication to the relevant schools.

The CBCA Vic branch office also provided considerable support with communication and by supplying and posting Shadow Judging certificates and sample merchandise at the conclusion of the program. Twelve groups responded to the feedback questionnaire. This included listing all the resources as helpful with the pack of short listed books being considered essential to their participation in the program. Feedback noted that participants enjoyed the program and engaged in the opportunity to respond to the shortlisted books.

An indicative response being 'It was a delight to see the students interact and respectfully analyse their responses to the different texts. Their conversations were inciteful and they drew on each other's perspectives. As an independent activity, they had to collaborate as a team and manage their time and the overall project'. (Bronwyn Keane St. Josephs Mildura).

The Chair of the CBCA Board, Wendy Rapee is presently using the experience of the Victorian trial to apply for grants and garner support from potential partners for a national roll out of the Shadow Judging program in 2022. The possibilities for this program are challenging but very exciting!

CHRISTINE OUGHTRED, JO PANCKRIDGE & LEANNE RANDS Co-Convenors

Reading Together



CBCA VIC Branch 'Reading Together' resources continued to be distributed to members in 2021.

These gorgeous graphics were created by Sue deGennaro (author & illustrator).

https://www.suedegennaro.com/

Her book **We're Stuck** (Scholastic) was shortlisted in the Children's Book Council of Australia Book of the Year Awards - Early Childhood category.



SOCIAL NETWORKING & WEBSITE REPORT

Twitter @CBCAVic has 2,035 followers

Instagram @cbca vic has 1,386 followers

Mailchimp 1,640 subscribers

Facebook 2,548 followers

The CBCA VIC Branch social media presence is across three platforms with content posted weekly and sometimes more frequently.

Twitter

Our account has 2,035 followers (increase of 100) and primarily promotes the products and services of the branch.

Facebook

In 2021 we transferrer our personal/individual account to a CBCA Victoria Group page. This means that analytics and scheduling tools are available which provides information that helps increase engagement.

Instagram

We currently have 1,386 followers (increase of 261) and an engaged audience of members, creatives and bookish friends. There is content posted weekly with a focus on events, promotions and Book Week which receive solid engagement (likes and comments) from our followers.

KARYS MCEWEN

Social Media Convenor



CBCA VIC – AGM 2022 BALLARAT REGIONAL REPORT 2021

On a chilly Ballarat evening, we held our first CBCA function - 2021 Covid safe Clayton's night.

The last Ballarat Clayton's Night was cancelled the day before the event and we were very eager to get it going again so as not to lose momentum.

We planned everything with public health and current restrictions in mind. Instead of a dinner, we started at 7.30pm and served individually wrapped snacks, sparkling wine, tea, coffee and separate treats throughout the evening.

Campion Education Ballarat kindly gave us their showroom and facilities for the evening so we could discuss and debate in warmth, surrounded by books and still within covid density limits. A big thank you to their retail manager, Dianne Woodhouse who made it possible for us to host this event. As per usual these days, plans had to be made at the last minute as who knows when the next lockdown is coming? But like all Victorians, we were quick to adapt and laid down new rules for judging so as to accommodate our limited time frame. In addition, as the shortlist had already been released, we really couldn't tip the nominees. Instead, each of our valiant judges was asked to pick their 5 favourites from the Shortlist in their category. If they had time (and many didn't as we could only give 3 weeks notice to start reading) they could also pick from the Notable list. Our primary motivation was just to keep the discussion of all our wonderful Australian children's books open and ongoing.

We were also lucky that we were able to find judges who, at such short notice, were willing to set aside their lives and read like mad for three weeks! Julie Bull, one of the Central Highlands stalwart of children's literature was first judge off the rank. Julie is the Children's and Youth Librarian for the City of Ballarat and a great supporter of the CBCA. She has judged for us previously and always gives an entertaining, yet informative talk on the Early Childhood books. We had two first time judges as well. Gwen McMullin is the Learning Resources Manager for the Junior Library at Ballarat Grammar. Gwen generously agreed to judge that most challenging category, Younger Readers. Michelle Thomason was our second novice. Michelle is the Librarian at Ballarat and Clarendon College. She is also an Early Childhood specialist so gladly took on Picture Books. Loretta Kaval formerly Head of Resource Centre, Damascus College and now retired and Co Regional Director of the Central Highlands CBCA, took on the Older Readers, while Ruth Oppenheim recently retired from Ballarat Books, judged the Eve Pownall Award.

We changed more than the food at this new Clayton's. Talks were limited to 15 minutes. Julie said she felt like she was "speed dating" the books, but we wanted to keep the evening moving. We introduced a Q & A with the judges and audience. This proved to be a popular innovation and the discussion was spirited. It threw up lots of new ideas and approaches to the shortlisted books. We are considering making it a permanent feature of our Clayton's night. It is always challenging to get people to come out at night in Ballarat's winter, so we were pleased to have a turnout of nearly 30 teachers, librarians and interested reading enthusiasts.

LORETTA KAVAL & RUTH OPPENHEIM

Regional Directors - Ballarat



CBCA VIC. – AGM 2022 BENDIGO REGIONAL REPORT 2021

NO REPORT

POSITION VACANT

Regional Director - Bendigo



CBCA VIC. – AGM 2022 GEELONG REGIONAL REPORT 2021

Along with most regions, Geelong was a very quiet place last year with only one event

planned.

The Geelong regional Judge's Talk with an accompanying Geelong member-school's Book Week competition ran in parallel successfully in July.

An estimated 50+ people attended the 'in-person' Judge's Talk. Julie Faulkner and Ruth Woolven spoke in person and Karys McEwen and Marissa Caluzzi presented via Zoom to Geelong members on their categories, sharing ideas on how the Shortlist could be used with children. Showbags filled with teaching notes, CBCA bookmarks and merchandise along with flyers for future events were provided to participants. Emails after the event reflected the interest in and value of this event.

The planned Storytelling Masterclass was postponed due to COVID restrictions and a hesitancy with the venue in terms of COVID compliance even post-lockdowns. As a professional development opportunity, teachers, librarians, parents and interested others had been invited to develop their skills as story tellers. With the promise of teaching notes, resources, and a literature list along with a bit of collaborative story telling fun, this event proved popular with 30 participants registered. Consideration of a date early in 2022 will be considered.

Shadow Judging concluded successfully, despite many challenges faced by groups, particularly in metropolitan areas with long and difficult periods of lockdown. With many, many hours of organising, emailing, following-up with authors, illustrators and school conveners, along with the fabulous work of Michael O'Donnell in uploading student responses, and the energy of Chris Oughtred and Leanne Rands, we were all extremely busy. Groups reported very favourably on the program. Facilitators shared how well the Shadow Judging process was received by students and the pleasure they gained in discussing and responding to the Shortlisted books in their categories. The highlight for many schools and groups were the Creators Presentations, both in-person and online events. Creators, too, feedback to the committee the delight they felt in sharing their craft with such engaged students.

Supporting Geelong schools in the build up to Book Week was a further area of focus for 2021. I created Shortlist Discussion Notes for both the Picture Book and Early Childhood categories for use by members and also sent these to the shadow Judging schools and groups exploring these categories. This proved to be well received support, as indicated through many favourable emails and I hope to design a similar set of Discussion Notes for the CBCA 2022 Shortlisted books in the Picture Book and Early Childhood categories.

Sharing with the Geelong members ideas for simple dress-up Book week costumes to offer parents was another initiative well received. A discussion with the Vic Branch committee on ways to share online further ideas for Book week costumes, craft, resources etc for schools will be tabled early next year.

JO PANCKRIDGE

Regional Director - Geelong



CBCA VIC. – AGM 2022 GIPPSLAND REGIONAL REPORT 2021

During my time as Gippsland Regional Director, I have particularly loved viewing the Children's Book Council of Australia's artwork and merchandise of the CBCA Book Week theme. The creation of the merchandise is designed by the winner of the Picture Book or New Illustrators award. I will admit to hoarding some of my favourite laminated flat posters for nostalgia.

Each year the themes and books have provided journeys to faraway places. Some of my favorite books include *Parsley Rabbit's Book about Books* by Francis Watts and Dave Legge, *Who's Your Real Mum?* by Bernadette Green & Anna Zobel and *Baby Business* by Jasmine Seymour. *The Little Wave* by Pip Harry, *Where We Begin* by Christie Nieman and *The Boy Who Steals Houses* by C.D Drews have been some of my favorite younger and older readers with *The Story of Tom Brennan* - 2006 CBCA Book of the Year - Older Readers probably leaving the most social impact.

Having got off to a slower start than the previous year, I didn't get to read all 2021 CBCA Book of the Year Shortlist books as had been done in 2020 however I did manage to read a large portion of them. With 2021 being the 75th year of celebration of the CBCA Book of the Year Awards, celebrating CBCA Book Week seemed more special. Having said that, whilst the 2021 CBCA Book Week date was August 21 - 27, because many schools celebrate CBCA Book Week outside of the national dates, I extended my CBCA Book Week initiatives to cater for Children's Week activities up to the middle of November. Thinking that I had covered by my base, I was surprised when two regional schools' book week dress up parades were held late November. Whilst I am mindful that schools have traditionally celebrated Book Week during Children's Week (last week in October), in 2021 Book Week celebrations occurred as late as early December.

The CBCA Book Week theme of "Old Worlds, New Worlds, Other Worlds" provided a wonderful platform for the Gippsland Branch Regional Photo Competition.

Thanks to support from the Paynesville opportunity shops which supported Gippsland's CBCA Book Week celebrations by donating clothing to repurpose into book week outfits. Thanks also goes to retired professional seamstress Margaret Hutton who donated her time and expertise to make a book week outfit from *Matthew Flinders - Adventures on Leaky Ships* by Carole Wilkinson, Prue Pittock (illustrator).

Imagining Old Worlds - Margaret used her skills to create garment that gave enjoyment to wear. To help promote CBCA Book of the Year Awards, the jacket was also used for Bonnie and her dad Dave Guest Presentations in Reading for Kids Gippsland Facebook.

Guest Presentation Two Part Series can be viewed here:

https://www.facebook.com/watch/?v=964607487598726 & https://www.facebook.com/watch/?v=495025038394749.





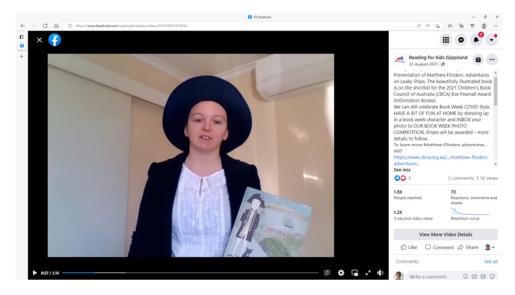


Thanks to Tracey Lucas, a secondary school teacher who wore a different outfit each day during CBCA Book Week.



Hear about how Tracey Lucas uses CBCA shortlisted books with her year 7 students at the Gippsland Regional Judges Talk and also, hear about how Tracey's beautiful long hair was shaved to raise funds for cancer research!

Tracey also reviewed Matthew Flinders: Adventures on Leaky Ships using repurposed clothing from the Op Shop: https://www.facebook.com/watch/?v=284492563075129



Photograph competition promotions.



Special mention to the Gippsland Network of Neighbourhood Houses which promoted the photograph competition; particularly Moe and Traralgon neighbourhood houses which supported the Gippsland initiatives by sharing the flyer within their networks.

https://www.facebook.com/readingforkidsau/videos/292524916061856

Gippsland Regional Judges Talk

The old saying 'If I had a dollar for every time I said...', I would have accumulated a small fortune for the many hundreds of people that I have been privileged to speak to let them know about CBCA Short List books. Being Gippsland wide, I have also spent many hours in the car travelling to country locations to engage mums, dads, grandparents, institutions, organisations and businesses to let them know that the CBCA Short List Book of the Year has a total of 36 books from six very different categories. This aspect has also been voiced in some of the hundreds of posts about CBCA books in Reading for Kids Gippsland Facebook page.

Widening the profile in print, social media and by emails led to more than 100 people enrolling in 2021 Gippsland Regional Judges talk. Around 25 people enrolled for the 2020. My aims had been to

help promote CBCA Notable and Shortlist books whilst also promoting Australian books which in turn supported Australian authors and illustrators. I have been fortunate to meet some wonderful generous people during my 19-year term as the Volunteer Gippsland Regional Director, some of whom also served on the Victorian Branch of CBCA Committee of Management. Some also stemmed from schools and libraries. Here is an example of some of their commitment to promoting books from the 2021 Shortlist.



Gippsland Project Shaun Leane MP, Minister for Local Government (incorporating libraries)

You can view the presentation @ https://youtu.be/VdBisBpY9OU or

https://www.facebook.com/readingforkidsgippsland/videos/769434337263378



Angela Savage, CEO Public Libraries Victoria

You can view the presentation @ https://youtu.be/vmdtnEu7WDQ or

https://www.facebook.com/readingforkidsqippsland/posts/291063109695010

Summary of Parents, Schools and Libraries which encouraged reading the books from the CBCA 2021 Shortlist for Book of the Year.

Extended Book Week Community Development: Free Books



Paynesville Friendship Shed Opp Shop

https://youtu.be/z0mfmOLHF-w or

https://www.facebook.com/watch/?v=294849889313485

Paynesville Op Shop Children's Week costumes and other information



https://youtu.be/z0mfmOLHF-w or

https://www.facebook.com/readingforkidsau/videos/294028415860062

CBCA Book Week live in a Gippsland Boat Yard



Part One https://youtu.be/vmdtnEu7WDQ

Part two

https://www.facebook.com/readingforkidsgippsland/videos/495025038394749

CBCA Resource for Bush Fire Recovery



Hear how Mallacoota P12 College used *Bindi* by Kirri-Lee Saunders (CBCA Younger Reader) as a resource for bushfire recovery from Hannah Murphy, Years 7-12 English educator: https://www.facebook.com/watch/?v=325668109063693

CBCA Victorian Branch Support

I wish to acknowledge the support from the CBCA Victorian Branch in helping make it possible to donate books for community development and to raise the profile of the books nominated for the Book of the Year.

Books were donated to the Bairnsdale Regional Health Service Children's Ward and Aboriginal Health Unit.





Other 2021 items

Unfortunately, COVID factors did inhibit some planned activities. However, when I look back over 2021 activities some significant and new milestones were implemented.

I wish to thank everyone who has assisted me over the years. Special mention should go to Kylie Pinkerton and Jane Wembridge at the Bairnsdale Library. The East Gippsland Library Service has been supportive of the Judges Talk for a decade. They have also contributed to video presentations to promote CBCA Books.

Thank you to Charlotte King at Schoolworks Supplies, Bairnsdale for making available meeting rooms for a multitude of stakeholder engagement. Nothing is too much trouble for Charlotte when it comes to supporting the range of Gippsland initiatives. Over the years I have travelled many hundreds of kilometres throughout Gippsland in my role as a volunteer meeting all sorts of interesting people including authors and illustrators. It has been an absolute pleasure to promote good Australian books and Australian authors and illustrators.

After 19 years, I wish Susan O'Malley all the best as the Gippsland Regional Director. Susan and I met for a handover in April where she let me know of her previous involvement with the CBCA Gippsland SLAV Judges Talk and her desires to keep reading good Australian books. We discovered that we share similar passions for promoting literature to children and youth. As such, I would be available to assist with Gippsland projects into the future. I really look forward to attending the Gippsland Judges Talk and the professional develop/activities that Susan will provide into the future.

KAREN FLEISCHER

Regional Director - Gippsland Sub-Branch