



SINCE 1945 — YOUR CONNECTION TO STORY

# ANNUAL REPORT

## 2022/2023

### **Executive Committee:**

President: Jo Panckridge  
Vice Presidents: Karys McEwen & Leanne Rands  
Treasurer: Geraldine Woolnough  
Secretary: Ruth Woolven

### **Committee Members:**

Robyn Burke, Marissa Caluzzi (resigned February 2023), Angela Crocombe (representing Readings Kids), Anne-Louise O'Donoghue (representing The Geelong College), Christine Oughtred (resigned February 2023), Leanne Rands, Erin Wamala (representing The Kids Bookshop), Annette Wright, Julie Pearce, Ruth Thatcher (from February 2023), Sarah Mayor Cox (from March 2023)

**CBCA Board Victorian Branch Representative:** Jo Panckridge

### **Regional Directors:**

Ballarat: Loretta Kaval & Ruth Oppenheim  
Bendigo: Sarah Mayor Cox  
Geelong: Krista Thomas & Tye Hudson  
Gippsland: 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, Ann James & Anne Haddon

Sadly, Pam Horsey, one of our life members passed away in February 2023. Pam was an active Branch Member, as is evidenced in this report and we acknowledge her enormous contribution to the CBCA VIC Branch over many years.

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

ABN 46 659 828 173; Registered Association A0014226Y



## **CBCA VIC – AGM 2023 PRESIDENT'S REPORT 2022**

2022 was a more settled year after disruptions by the global pandemic, but CBCA VIC Branch continued supporting our members with both online and reimaged in-person events. The committee continued to meet online which has been a more inclusive and flexible option for communicating and collaborating, despite the challenges of generating robust discussions over Zoom and a sense of isolation by some members. As a voluntary organisation, it is acknowledged that face-to-face meetings will always be the most collegial form of networking and planning. However, online meetings have allowed our committee to meet with a full contingent.

The national rollout of the Shadow Judging program was a highlight for the year. The CBCA VIC Branch received over 40 applications for national funding for 21 places and another 11 schools/groups registered as self-funded groups. A total of 31 groups participated successfully in the program. Mentors, volunteers from the branch committee, supported facilitators and feedback was overwhelmingly positive.

Our online Judges' Talks also proved popular for our members, with the additional of pre-recorded talks available to watch on demand. Regions adopted hybrid models where members were able to network with other interested adults whilst enjoying online judges' presentations.

We held several very successful in-person events including a Celebration of Creatives in Carlton. Many of our Victorian creatives enjoyed catching up after years of isolation and the CBCA VIC Branch presented Ann Hadden and Ann James with Life Memberships.

The presentation of Jane Tanner with the Albert Ullin Award for services to the children's literature industry was held at the North Fitzroy and our Night of Notables this year, 2023, held in the same venue was extremely well supported. Walker Books Australia partnered with the CBCA VIC Branch to host a wonderful event.

Our social media following has grown, as has our newsletter reach. We noted feedback from our November 22 survey and have begun to add more Early Childhood content and a broader variety of community events for our members as a consequence.

During 2022, we farewelled two CBCA VIC Branch staff – Lu Smith (Office Manager) and Helen Bulpin (Administrative Assistant). We thank both for the way they contributed to the smooth running of the CBCA VIC Branch office. Lu worked with us over many years and we are extremely grateful for the work she did and her extensive knowledge. We welcomed Angie Cui to the role of Office Manager in September.

CBCA VIC Branch membership is currently at 584. A portion of the membership have taken Personal Membership, rather than Institutional Membership, due to limited budgets in schools.

Institutions	366	61.1%
Schools	282	
Early Childhood	5	
Publishers	10	
Booksellers	16	
Public Libraries	40	
Other	6	
Personal	71	11.85%
Professional Concessional	103	17.2%
Concessional	39	6.51%
Family	2	0.33%
Life Members	11	1.84%
Free	7	1.17%
<b>Total</b>	<b>599</b>	<b>100%</b>

**Jo Panckridge**  
President



## **CBCA VIC - AGM 2023** **TREASURER'S REPORT - 2022**

This financial year (ending January 30, 2023), shows CBCA VIC Branch with an operating loss of \$7,661, compared with \$18,011 in 2022.

Due to CBCA VIC Branch's 'healthy' cash position, this loss was expected by the committee. Cash reserves held are currently over \$240,000, of which is \$110,850, which 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 \$120,000 in the bank.

Member subscription income is almost the same as last year, \$39,551 this year and \$39,516 in 2022.

The committee did not renew the lease at the Hawthorn office in February 2023, thereby reducing office running costs.

The revenue from CBCA Book Week merchandise sales was \$5,694, a significant decrease from 2022.

Events and programs held by CBCA VIC Branch, such as the *Night of the Notables*, *Book Club*, *Creators' events*, *Judges' Talks* etc. provide wonderful opportunities for members to network and receive professional learning. Some of these events operate at a loss. All costs are approved by the committee.

Shadow Judging continues this year. It has now been adopted by CBCA National under the name of *Sun Project: Shadow Judging*. Our CBCA VIC Branch President, Jo Panckridge, is the CBCA VIC Branch – Annual Report 2022/23

event convenor. It is currently operating in all eight states & territory branches and has been embraced by many schools, libraries and reading groups.

The committee considers these events and programs as part of our ‘core business’ and they also uphold purposes in our Constitution.

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

In closing, CBCA VIC Branch can once again look forward to a bright future, upholding the CBCA’s purpose - *to enrich young lives through Australian stories.*

## GERALDINE WOOLNOUGH

Treasurer



## CBCA VIC – AGM 2023 MERCHANDISE/ESTORE REPORT – 2022

State	No. of orders	Total Sales*	Total Marketing Services (20% of total sales)
CBCA VIC Branch	1225	\$ 42,689.49	\$8,537.90 Returned to Branch
CBCA All Branches	6404	\$222,618.73	\$44,523.75

- Merchandise sales for the CBCA VIC Branch were \$8,537.90 and the income from these sales will be used to resource new and ongoing programs such as the Shadow Judging program.
- CBCA VIC Branch, like all other branches were involved in marketing through our social media platforms and newsletters. We were given a promotional pack which was displayed at the Judges Talk and at the Celebration For Creators the Mint Coin was used as a raffle prize.

### CBCA eStore (NOP Commerce)

- The 2022 merchandise sales enjoyed phenomenal success, with favourites being new products and bulk packages, including the CBCA Book-Week-in-a-tube and Library Packs as our most popular.
- A newsletter opt-in option in the cart was set up to utilize the contact list for direct email marketing. Forwarding contact details to the relevant branches to be followed-up is under consideration.

- The 2023 Yearly Planner was launched in early January prior to the commencement of the school year to entice teachers and other interested people.
- Sales from the 2022 Diary of a Wombat anniversary coin were boosted after the death of the monarch as it became an unexpected collector's coin.
- Shipping, packaging, and handling were managed through Endeavour. Strategies to reduce these costs and provide cheaper options particularly for small orders are being evaluated.

### **Planned Changes for 2023**

- A major purchasing change in 2022 saw the removal of the Purchase Order payment option and the introduction of Credit Card only payments. However, it is anticipated that the Purchase Order option and direct debit for authorized schools, libraries and customers will be reinstated in the new 2023 eStore software program.
- eStore vouchers are being considered for refunds or replacements, event prizes, and branch gifts.

### **eStore/Merchandise Subcommittee**

- Being the CBCA VIC Branch Subcommittee representative has involved monthly meetings to share effective promotion strategies and sales updates.
- All committee members have been coached in professional marketing and social selling techniques.

### **Partner Products**

#### **1. Merchandising Libraries**

The new partnership with Merchandising Libraries facilitated the introduction of a supply-on-demand Artisan Range which was very popular equating to \$42,857.77. These included:

- 2022 CBCA Vinyl Window Decal
- Acrylic Bird Flock
- Acrylic Black Cockatoo
- Acrylic Galah
- Acrylic Sulphur-Crested Cockatoo

#### **2. Vista Print**

The 2022 Book Week Pull Up Banners were quite successful and it is expected that sales should increase in 2023.

#### **Discounts**

- Early discounting of merchandise was implemented to ensure the accuracy and management of stock control and shipping calculations as well as the efficient reporting of lost, damaged, and reimbursed goods.
- Last minute discounts and specials prior to Book Week were advertised through our social media resulting in a substantial reduction of left-over goods compared to previous years.

### **Digital Products**

The downloading efficiency of digital products were very popular as it improved customer experience and satisfaction of the CBCA online transactions. A reduction in administrative

costs was another benefit of digital products for CBCA.

#### Social Media Promotion

- A team Canva account was introduced in 2022 to share social media artwork generated from a template which was used to maintain consistency across the social media platforms of National and branches.
- CBCA VIC Branch are now able to create our own version of the product tiles with our branch logo. These tailored tiles can be used for our local campaigns, programs and events.

#### LEANNE RANDS

EStore/Merchandise Subcommittee Representative

(Based on report prepared by Kayt Duncan, October 24, 2022)



#### VICTORIAN JUDGES TALKS REPORT - 2022

We were able to hold many more in-person Judges' Talks in 2022 and already have several requests for Talks in 2023. Our Metro Judge's Talk saw our three Victorian judges present in-person. Geelong hosted a hybrid Talk, with Michael Earp and Bronwyn Joseph presenting, and Sarah Mayor Cox sharing her categories online. Bendigo held an in-person Judges' Talk while Gippsland held a very successful online event with eight more Talks requested at schools and local libraries.

Our 2022-23 Victorian Judges were:

Older Reader category	Michael Earp (for 2022)
Younger Reader category	N/A
Early Childhood category	Bronwyn Joseph
Picture Book & New Illustrator category	Sarah Mayor Cox
Eve Pownall category	Alida Galati

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

#### JO PANCKRIDGE

Convenor



#### LEILA ST JOHN AWARD 2022

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. The 2022 recipient of the Leila St John Award was Paul Collins, founder of Ford Street Publishing. A recording of Paul's acceptance speech can be accessed from our website.

In 2006, Paul approached Macmillan Distribution Services, asking if they would distribute his books if he started publishing for younger readers through to young adults. Ford Street Publishing launched in 2007 and grows with each year.



Paul has written more than 140 books for children and young adults, ranging from picture books to door-stopper fantasy novels. His work has been translated into many languages. He has edited well-regarded anthologies for young readers, giving authors and illustrators the opportunity to have their work released with major publishers in series such as *Shivers* (HarperCollins), *Spinouts* (Pearson – co-edited with Meredith Costain), and *The Quentaris Chronicles* (Lothian/Hachette – co-edited with Michael Pryor).

Along with publishing and writing, Paul hosts events, such as An Evening With..., and professional development days such as Keeping Books Alive for the Children’s Charity Network (of which he is an ambassador). Paul also runs the Creative Net Speakers’ Agency, organising literary festivals across the country for primary and secondary school students.

Paul is to be commended for his contribution in enriching Australian children’s literature through his commitment to children’s publishing.

### **KARYS MCEWEN**

Convenor LSJ Award



## **CBCA VIC – AGM 2023 EVENT REPORTS - 2022**

### **Night of the Notables**

After two challenging years we were able to host our first face-to-face event for Night of the Notables. Held at the Queen Victoria Women’s Centre (QVWC) in Melbourne’s CBD, the event was easily accessible by all modes of public transport and our relationship with Wilson’s Parking offered an affordable alternative for those driving with a reduced flat rate. Many thanks to Wilson’s Parking!

With the lifting of lockdown restrictions the event managed to attract 65+ people, generating a buzz among the gathered librarians, authors, illustrators, publishers, and our Victorian Judges for this year, along with CBCA committee members past and present. Unfortunately, our speakers Sofie Laguna and Marc McBride were unable to attend in person due to a family COVID-scare, so through incredible teamwork we were able to connect with them over Zoom.



Victorian Branch President Karys McEwen engaged Sofie and Marc in a captivating Q&A. Karys's enthusiasm and joy conducting the discussion was infectious, drawing out insights into their individual creative processes. Thank you to Sofie and Marc. Further thanks to Marc for donating a painting from the picture book written by Isobelle Carmody called *From the Centre of the Earth*. The painting was won by Michael Earp, our Victorian judge for the Older Readers category.

The announcement of the Notables List produced sounds of excitement from some of the authors and publishers present.

As always an amazing team of helpers contributed to this very successful evening. Thank you to the support in sponsorship by Colin Brooks State MP and the Claremont Hotel.

**GERALDINE WOOLNOUGH**  
Convenor

### **Clayton's Night**

Once again, we held a very successful Clayton's evening via zoom, with over 80 people attending. Our guest presenters covered four categories of books, from the Early Years though to the Older Readers, and provided a range of practical ideas and suggestions for how to use selections from the Notables list in the classroom or library. Shannon Wong-Nizic, from Oh Creative Day, presented some innovative ideas for Early Years craft activities; Jackie Small, a favourite presenter from last year, once again did an amazing job of presenting ideas for the Picture Book category; Erin Wamala delved into Younger Readers; and Angela Crocombe from Readings Kids gave her insight into the Older Readers category. Feedback was extremely positive and delegates were able to walk away with lots of ideas for using books across a number of learning areas.

Paul Collins was awarded the 2021 Leila St John Award for services to children's literature and we were thrilled that he was able to provide a video of his acceptance speech.



We also revisited the success of the Shadow Judging Project, viewing some of the outstanding contributions from schools round Australia and hearing from participants on how the program enriched their exploration of the shortlisted titles.

## **ERIN WAMALA**

Convenor



## **CBCA VIC – AGM 2023 OUTREACH PROGRAMS 2022**

### **Shadow Judging**

With the success of federal funding secured by Wendy Rapee in 2022 through the RiSE Grant, Shadow Judging became known nationally as the companion to the CBCA Book of the Year Awards. Shadow Judging offered CBCA members a well-resourced project to enable young Australians to have their voice heard on the BOTY Awards.

The CBCA VIC Branch secured registrations for 21 fully funded groups and 10 self-funded groups. The branch committee offered mentoring for each of these groups.

Again, creator visits were a highlight with the CBCA VIC Branch offering support to groups in booking Victorian creatives to present, particularly from our member-base. Feedback was overwhelmingly positive about the value of this program.

The challenge in 2023 was to maintain the interest in Shadow Judging nationally, without the significant funding from The RiSE Grant. The CBCA VIC Branch generously offered to fund up to 20 groups with \$500 each towards the purchase of books and a Creator Visit.

11 groups requested this funding, meeting the criteria of being from a remote, rural, disadvantaged or Indigenous setting.

In 2023, and with increased interest in the program, we now have 49 Victorian groups registered from a range of geographical areas and demographic backgrounds. The groups are both new to the program and returning groups in 2023 with participants from regional and metropolitan schools and public libraries.

Our newsletters and social media platforms assisted in our promotion of Shadow Judging as did our in-person events.

A promotional video sharing the highlights of Shadow Judging and a call to register was created by Jo Panckridge with the support of Christine Oughtred and filmed by Pat Coyle and shared on social media sites, at events and with members.

**JO PANCKRIDGE**  
National Convenor

### **Reading Together**



CBCA VIC Branch 'Reading Together' resources continued to be distributed to members in 2022.

These gorgeous graphics were created by Sue deGennaro (author & illustrator).  
<https://www.suedegennaro.com/>

### **Maurice Saxby Creative Development Fund**

With grateful thanks to the assistance from the Copyright Cultural Fund.

After two years of waiting and getting to know each other via email, the mentees and the Committee got together on the first day of the Program for a chat and morning tea at the home of Helen Chamberlin.

A special element of the program is that the participants have their work mentored and they were all fortunate to have their first choice of a mentor. These mentors were Erica Wagner, Jane Godwin, Judith Rossell and Penni Russon.

Over the course of the week the mentees met many authors/illustrators, Lucinda Gifford, Shaun Tan, John Marsden, Bernadette Joiner at Dromkeen, and author/publisher Paul Collins (Ford Street Publishing). They met with representatives from Allen & Unwin, Scribe Publications, Hardie Grant Publishers and Affirm Press. The bookseller perspective was explored at Reading Kids and The Little Bookroom and the benefits of having an agent was discussed at the Curtis Brown Agency.

They attended many sessions at the Melbourne Writers Festival, saw rare children's books at the SLV and visited Ann James and Ann Haddon at Books Illustrated.

**PAM HORSEY**  
Maurice Saxby Creative Development Fund Convenor

## Albert Ullin Award



This award was established by Albert Ullin on his death to recognise a body of work by an illustrator of children's books who has made a significant contribution to children's literature in Australia. It was Albert's wish for the award to go to a person with at least ten years of work behind them, who may have been recognised with awards in the past, but to give them the recognition they really deserved. In 2022, this was awarded to Jane Tanner.

Jane has illustrated sixteen books, seven of which she also wrote. Her foray into children's picture book illustration began with her collaboration with author Margaret Wild to produce the delightful and timeless *There's a Sea In My Bedroom*, still in print today and with a musical adaptation by the Australian Chamber Orchestra.

Jane is an acute and highly sensitive observer of character, which she portrays mostly in pencil and pastel. The detail is vivid, moving and telling, never fussy or showy for its own sake. For all the evident realism of her work, the scenes are rich in atmosphere and emotional drama. Her illustrations have an immediate appeal to children, and they reward repeated readings. Her work is immediately identifiable, while never resting on past achievements.



Thanks go also to Albert Ullin convenor Pam Horsey and CBCA VIC Branch committee member and Albert Ullin sub-committee member Geraldine Woolnough for a wonderful and affirming event.

**PAM HORSEY**  
Albert Ullin Award Convenor

## Book Club

This online Book Club hosted three authors discussing their new releases in 2022 – Carly Nugent (*Sugar*), Karys McEwen (*All the Little Tricky Things*) and Nova Weetman (*The Jammer*). We also highlighted many other new releases for middle and older readers.

**KARYS MCEWEN & RUTH WOOLVEN**  
Convenors



## SOCIAL NETWORKING & WEBSITE REPORT

Twitter - @CBCAVic has 2,024 followers  
Instagram - @cbca\_vic has 1,655 followers  
Facebook - 2,800 followers / 2,400 likes

The CBCA VIC Branch social media presence is across three platforms with content that highlights our VIC Branch events and programs, as well as national initiatives including the CBCA Book of the Year Awards and CBCA Children's Book Week. We have an engaged audience of members, creatives and bookish friends. The content receives solid engagement (likes, reposts and comments) from our followers.

Mailchimp - 1,691 subscribers

Our newsletter has a large number of subscribers and each month is filled with engaging content for the children's literature community. We continue to receive much positive feedback about our monthly newsletter. This year, *Perform! Education* has paid for monthly ads throughout the year. We also include paid ads from *Booked Out* and other companies on demand. A new section entitled "What Committee Members Are Currently Reading" has proven popular. We continue to seek new content from our creator members, including information about their new titles, book launches, awards and achievements.

### KARYS MCEWEN

Social Media Convenor and Newsletter Editor



## CBCA VIC – AGM 2023 BALLARAT REGIONAL REPORT 2022

This past year was a strange mixture of highs and lows. Highs when we managed to pull off an event and lows when traditional events failed to get going.

We started the year optimistically and scheduled our annual Clayton's Night for June 8. This has always been a popular event in Ballarat, but a combination of winter colds, flu and covid plus overstretched teachers meant that we could not recruit any judges or indeed persuade people to attend!

Instead, Loretta and I decided to set up a forum for dialogue and conversation on the Ballarat page of the CBCA website. Loretta did a great job building that page, but the response was underwhelming.

Not to be deterred we settled on August 6 for our Judges' Talk. We had the venue, caterer's and Jo Panckridge and Sarah Cox kindly offered to travel to Ballarat to speak. Once again, the response was poor due to all the previous reasons. We also think that given the dreadful workload shouldered by so many teachers in the past few years, that a Saturday PD was just a bridge too far for most of our usual participants.



Then August arrived and just as we were at our lowest, Creswick Words in Winter festival kicked off and Imaginistik kicked in! Schools in Creswick were invited to submit stories written by their students which would then be performed by the Creswick Theatre Group on stage. Loretta and I attended as CBCA representatives and even took on roles with the theatre group. The story excerpts ranged from sci fi to fantasy to crime and were all exceptional. On behalf of the CBCA we presented the prizes to the winning entrants and were given the opportunity to spread the word about the benefits of the CBCA. It was a great night.

Our overarching goal this year has been to increase CBCA membership in our rural and regional areas and to that end we approached SLAV groups in both Warrnambool and Mildura. We wanted to have a meet and greet in both towns to acquaint smaller schools with the benefits of joining the CBCA. We were also eager to promote Shadow Judging. We had a great meeting March 29 in Warrnambool with their local SLAV group. We were the first CBCA representatives to visit them and they were very receptive and keen to work with us. We hope to organise an event with them in Warrnambool this coming term.

Throughout the year we have endeavoured to promote Shadow Judging with schools in our area, particularly those that are isolated or disadvantaged. To that end we have worked with several schools to access the special funding required for them to join. We both feel that while it was a difficult year for a variety of reasons, things are beginning to look up and we can look forward to a successful Children's Book Week.

**LORETTA KAVAL & RUTH OPPENHEIM**  
Regional Directors – Ballarat



**CBCA VIC – AGM 2023**  
**BENDIGO REGIONAL REPORT 2022**

In a year still reeling from the impact of Covid and the associated lockdowns, the CBCA has been very active in the Bendigo region largely due to its working relationship with the Central Victorian Local Council of ALEA (Australian Literacy Educators Association) and many active local schools.

**Annual Bendigo Judge's Talk**

The Judge's Talk was again presented in conjunction with the local ALEA Central Victorian Local Council and held on May 2022 at the Quality Hotel Lakeside. Micheal Earp (Older Reader category) and Bronwyn Joseph (Early Childhood category) and Sarah Mayor Cox via zoom (Picture Book and New Illustrator Categories) spoke to an audience of approximately 75 teachers, teacher librarians, public librarians, pre-service-teachers, parents and students.

Some travelled for over 90 mins to attend. Participants were also treated to a sumptuous afternoon tea on arrival and, and a satisfying supper during the break. Bookish Bookshop was our bookseller for the night and local members organized book prizes for those making gold coin donations to the work of CBCA. At the conclusion of the evening local committee members had dinner with the judges. The 2023 the talk will be held on Wednesday 17th May in the same venue and will be given by Bronwyn Joseph (EC category), Alida Galati (via zoom – Eve Pownall category) and Sarah Mayor Cox (Picture Book and New Illustrator categories).

### **Notables and Beyond**

In conjunction with ALEA Central Victoria Local Council we decided to hold our own informal Notables night. Sarah Mayor Cox spoke in detail about each of the 25 Picture Books on the PB Notables list. Twenty five local teachers, teacher librarians and creators and librarians were in attendance.

### **Shadow Judging in Bendigo Region**

In 2022, three schools took part in this wonderful program – Kangaroo Flat Primary School (EC category facilitated by Brooke Cole), Raywood Primary School (EC category facilitated by Sue Gentry, one of our local MARV Van teacher librarians), and California Gully Primary School (Younger Reader category facilitated by Linda Windridge). At the end of Term 3, to conclude and celebrate all the hard work undertaken by these schools in this program a day of celebration was organised. Raywood Primary School bused in all their 15 students and together with the students of KFPS they had sessions with Claire Saxby and Jess Rackyleft (creators of Iceberg, winner of Picture Book of the Year 2022). The following morning Claire and Jess visited California Gully PS to meet with their Shadow Judging students.

### **Monthly Chat Group**

This group of voracious readers continues to meet each month, in our new meeting space – the back of Bookish Bendigo, Hargreaves St, Bendigo – on the second Wednesday from 5.30pm to share books they have read in the previous month/s. All CBCA members are invited to attend.

### **SARAH MAYOR COX**

Regional Director - Bendigo



## **CBCA VIC – AGM 2023 GEELONG REGIONAL REPORT 2022**

Along with most regions, Geelong was a very quiet place last year with only two events planned: The Geelong Regional Judge's Talk and the Storytelling Masterclass, both held in May.

An estimated 50+ people attended the hybrid Judge's Talk. Michael Earp (OR) and Bronwyn Joseph (EC) spoke in person and Sarah Mayor Cox presented via Zoom to Geelong members  
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on their categories, sharing ideas on how the Shortlist could be used with children. Show bags 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.

A Storytelling Masterclass was held in May 2022 with 35 in attendance. Jo Panckridge and Anne-Louise O'Donoghue presented ways of telling stories, to interested teachers and librarians in the Geelong region. Teaching notes, resources, and a literature list along with a bit of collaborative story telling fun proved popular with participants.

A Q&A session with author/illustrator Leigh Hobbs was scheduled for late in 2022 needed to be cancelled, with teachers over-burdened after a long COVID-interrupted year. No future date has been proposed.

**JO PANCKRIDGE** (for Krista Thomas)  
Regional Director - Geelong Region



## **CBCA VIC – AGM 2023 GIPPSLAND REGIONAL REPORT 2022**

2022 was my first year as Regional Director for Gippsland sub-branch CBCA. I am pleased to report that we successfully presented two major events to the members of CBCA Gippsland and are presently organising a big event for 2023. We also provided support to the local participants in the Shadow Judging Program.

On June 7 Gippsland Region hosted an online judge's talk. The talk was attended by 29 participants from across Victoria and some interstate. We were privileged to hear from Victorian judges Alida Galati (Eve Pownall Award) and Sarah Mayor Cox (Picture Book and New Illustrator categories). In addition, we heard from several local members who spoke about some of the books from the Younger and Older Reader categories.

Members of CBCA Gippsland were very excited to welcome Katrina Nannestad to Traralgon and Warragul on August 8 and 9. While with us, Katrina visited five schools and the local City Library and spoke to a total of about 300 children ranging from pre-school to Year 10. This was made possible by the schools, the library and CBCA contributing towards the cost of having Katrina visit.

The purpose of Katrina's visit was essentially two-fold:

1. To offer residents and children of the Traralgon area the opportunity of hearing an Australian children's author talk about their writing and experience of being an author.
2. To provide a talk from a creative to students who took part in the Shadow Judging program.

Each venue had the opportunity to present a session tailored to the needs of the children present.

**Stockdale Rd PS:** 5 classes of year 5/6 students heard Katrina talk about her experiences and journey as an author as well as about how she used people and experiences in her life to inspire her writing.

**At Kosciusko St PS:** 3 classes of year 6 students heard Katrina talk about her historical books.

**St Paul's AGS, Traralgon:** The select group of students have been proud of their contribution to the CBCA Shadow Judging of the Younger Years category books, choosing Katrina's book *Rabbit, Solider, Angel, Thief* as their top pick. So, having her come in person to see them was a very exciting moment. A very engaged 12 students attended her talk. All had come armed with questions, books and thoughts and Katrina patiently answered them all, signing every book that waited. Speaking to the students in the following days brought comments along the lines of 'fantastic', 'so good' and 'loved it'. Katrina was definitely a hit.

**St Paul's AGS, Warragul:** We had an invite only event of about 15 students who had participated in the Shadow Judging program from this year and last year, Premiers' Reading Challenge, and students that had excelled in the school's Wider Reading program. The students listened intently to how Katrina crafts her books, the research process she undertakes, and the effort taken to make sure each word used is meaningful and impactful. Many students since the event have spoken about how inspirational and motivating Katrina and her presentation was to them.

**Traralgon College:** TC had two sessions with Katrina, one for the Shadow Judges and one for Year 7 students.

Our [Shadow] judges met with Katrina Nannestad, who explained how she drew heavily on descriptive imagery to engage the reader, making them feel like they were present by appealing to multiple senses. How describing what things sound or smell like builds her readers' engagement with the story. She got them thinking about how an author would put large amounts of time into choosing the words that would best convey the image they wanted to paint, how each word was deliberately chosen to evoke a specific reaction in the reader.

Katrina also showed a small snapshot of the research that she would do as her preparation for writing, exploring both the events and the people involved. And how this process ultimately led to her discovering the image of a child soldier that would be her inspiration for *Rabbit, Soldier, Angel, Thief*. As one of our year 7 judges said, "It was very inspiring to learn about something that had actually happened in the war."

**Latrobe City Libraries, Traralgon Branch:** Katrina spoke to a group of 50 children and adults. She invited some children to join her and to be dressed as one of her characters while she read excerpts from some of her books. Many of the attendees enthusiastically took up the opportunity to buy books which were signed by Katrina and spoke to her one on one about her writing.



Finally, Katrina kindly agreed to join some of the teachers and librarians for a meal one evening leading to a very convivial time as well as an opportunity for teachers to receive further insights into Katrina's experiences as a children's author.

I'd like to thank Katrina for her generosity in making this visit happen and her kindness and attention when speaking to the children who attended the talks.

The benefits of hearing from an author in a child's life is unmeasurable and it was a real privilege to be involved in Katrina's visit.

I was very pleased to accept Sarah Mayor Cox's invitation to join the Shadow Judging event in Bendigo on September 15. There I had the opportunity to learn about the Bendigo group and how they roll out the Shadow Judging program. I met teachers, connected with librarians, chatted with students and asked many questions which have all helped me to understand more about how CBCA best provides for its community and has inspired me with ideas for the future.

In August, Anna Quinlan, a member who lives in Bairnsdale, agreed to support me in my role as Regional director for Gippsland sub-branch. Anna's experience as a TL and an author will be most helpful to me. She is based in Bairnsdale which will help CBCA provide experiences to the more eastern reaches of Gippsland.

I'd also like to thank Karen Fleischer for the ongoing support and guidance she has provided in my first year as director.

Presently, Gippsland Region is looking forward with great anticipation to the first of two visits from Jane Godwin on May 2-4. The second visit will be on August 7-11.

**SUSAN O'MALLEY**

Regional Director – Gippsland Sub-Branch