



INTERNATIONAL BOARD ON BOOKS FOR YOUNG PEOPLE



**The International Board on Books for Young People (IBBY) is a non-profit organisation which represents an international network of people from all over the world committed to bringing books and children together**

## **NEWSLETTER No 15** **November, 2012**

### **President's Letter**

Dear IBBY members and friends

In Fremantle a number of us were engaged in a conversation about IBBY Australia; and Joanna Andrew commented that it is attendance at an international Congress that really fires up a person's enthusiasm for IBBY.

Certainly the IBBY Congress in London, August 2012, was a great way to be enthused and informed. Most of all it confirmed for me the vital work of IBBY worldwide. Here was a network of people from every corner of the globe, who work with children and story in varied ways, but linked by common goals. We left with new resolve to maintain and extend IBBY's presence in Australia.

Highlights for me included the three storytellers who told in languages I do not understand, but whose stories crossed all barriers; the opportunity to hear Michael Rosen read some of his funny and moving poems; and attending the Earlybird Session put on by IBBY Japan: 'For Children After 3.11' which showed us some of the work being done with children who have endured the tsunami and earthquake (work we in IBBY Australia are supporting). And in the Imperial College in Exhibition Road, London (right next to the Victoria and Albert Museum), in this hub of the old Empire, we Australians enjoyed hearing Shaun Tan tell, in his 'accent-free' voice, about the strong themes of migration in his own life and work.

You, too, could experience the thrill of attending such a Congress. It is not too early to start planning for:

The 34th IBBY Congress in Mexico City, September 2014

The 35th IBBY Congress in New Zealand, September 2016

And if you can't wait for these, meanwhile there is the Asia and Oceania Regional IBBY Congress in Bali, May 2013 where Dianne Wolfer has kindly agreed to join other representatives from 14 different IBBY National Sections to speak on the main theme *How to strengthen Asian-Oceania IBBY*.

Here in Australia it was great to be able to hold our AGM in Fremantle, thanks to the hospitality of Lesley Reece and her colleagues at The Literature Centre. WA is a hub of support for IBBY Australia. Both Jenni Woodroffe, vice president/secretary and editor for these informative newsletters; and Joanna Andrew, valued member of the national committee, are WA residents; as well as other enthusiastic and generous members. At the AGM, motions were passed which will speed our registration as a body able to accept tax-deductible donations, and this should help us in funding vital activities such as nominating Australian illustrators and writers for international awards.

Please continue to encourage your friends to join IBBY. We value your support, and will do our best to help fulfil the IBBY aims, more needed than ever in these times.

*Robin Morrow*

# 33<sup>rd</sup> IBBY Biennial World Congress

London 23-26 August 2012

## Theme: 'Crossing Boundaries: Translations and Migrations'

We live in an immigrant world where stories reveal the diversity and also the commonality of cultures. The Congress was truly a microcosm of a world community dedicated to stories across the globe in the promotion of peace and understanding. Delegates came from Argentina, India, South Korea, Slovenia, Canada, USA, France, Netherlands, Iceland and the four corners of the world. It was a United Nations of community dedicated to diverse cultural experiences from the IBBY-ASAHI Promotion Award awarded to SIPAR the French-Cambodian association that helped rebuild the educational network in Cambodia; Nami Island and South Korea IBBY sponsors of the Hans Christian Andersen Awards; and the powerfully moving presentation of *Children after 3:11: Reports from Japan*.

The opening of the Congress was beautiful with a moving performance of Kate Di Camillo's *The Miraculous Journey of Edward Tulane* by children from Theatre Peckham. Internationally awarded and loved children's authors gave inspirational speeches - Michael Rosen, Michael Morpurgo, Anthony Browne, Aidan Chambers, Bart Moeyaert, Julia Donaldson and Australia's own Shaun Tan. However there were surprises everywhere with the opportunity to meet and hear speakers such as Marjorie Coughlan the editor of PaperTigers who advocates for Australian books; Murti Bunanta head of SCBWI Indonesia who embraces local stories; children's author Candy Gourlay's brilliant presentation on 'Motherless Nation' an insight into the Philippines; Janet Evans, Lecturer at Liverpool Hope University UK who presented on some of the best international and Australian picture books. There was a feast of speakers.



Susanne Gervay, Robin Morrow, Shaun Tan and Frane Lessac  
Photo: Courtesy of Susanne Gervay

Australia and New Zealand had great representation at the Congress, headed by Shaun Tan who gave a brilliant keynote, but also including sessions by WA picture book author and illustrator Frane Lessac; WA author Mark Greenwood; lecturer and President of IBBY Australia Robin Morrow; WA IBBY Australia's Jenni Woodroffe; Libby Limbrick Head of School of Arts, Languages & Literacies University of Auckland New Zealand; and my session on my first picture book *Ships in the Field* illustrated by the award winning Anna

Pignataro, giving voice to migration.

One highlight included the enthusiastic contingent from Slovenia. A small picturesque snow-capped county, with a population of two million and twenty two major publishers with a huge number of smaller presses, Slovenia publishes beautiful children's books from around the world. Even my *I Am Jack* is published in Slovenian. The talk by Veronica Rot Gabrovec, university lecturer at the University of Ljubljana, included a wonderful selection of English children's books translated into Slovenia with a special emphasis on Australian children's books.

There were so many highlights with book launches, poster sessions, discussions about children's literature, awards, IBBY's work in social justice advocacy. However the great legacy of the Congress was establishing friendships across the world.

### *Susanne Gervay*

Regional Advisor SCBWI

Society of Children's Book Illustrators and Writers

Australia East & New Zealand.

## STORYTELLING AT THE IBBY CONGRESS, LONDON 2012

Two Sunday morning Plenary Sessions on the 26<sup>th</sup> August focused on the importance of stories. Three British panelists addressed the theme *Since Time Immemorial: Stories From Everywhere for Everyone*. Of particular relevance to Australians, especially in relation to indigenous stories, is the question “How can a writer approach telling a story about a culture that is not their own?” For further details see <http://www.ibbycongress2012.org/blog/wearethetale>

Elizabeth Laird, long associated with Ethiopia, heartened us when relating the Ethiopian response “If you hadn’t come, we wouldn’t have thought the stories were important” A look at the website [www.ethiopianfolktales.com](http://www.ethiopianfolktales.com) introduces the Story Collecting Project and its aim of producing story books in simplified English so that children in each region of Ethiopia could practice reading English while learning stories from their own cultural heritage

Jamila Gavin spoke of the significance of folk tales and how they interact with Biblical stories and posed the question of which came first as trade, silk and spice routes were traversed by many travellers and tales were adapted by different tellers to suit different audiences. Her *School for Princes* is a new version of the Panchatantra, bringing ancient wisdom to a modern audience.

Beverly Naidoo charmed us all with her love for the African animals she saw in the local zoo in Johannesburg where she grew up. She was led to an understanding that Aesop’s 2,500 year old tales have an African feel. Life is tough and if you don’t use your head you’d better watch out. In her book *Aesop’s Fables* Beverly explains “Nowadays I think that Aesop was African. He was probably captured somewhere in North Africa and forced to go to Greece. His name sounds like the old Greek word for a black African ‘Ethiop’.”

A trio of tellers in the oral tradition then delighted the audience, with Michael Harvey involving his listeners in his telling of a Jack story, alternating between Welsh and English as the tale moved along. Sonia Nimr then told a Palestinian folktale first in Arabic, and then briefly in English, before Dashdongdog Jamba danced and sang his way into our hearts; and the images on the screen, and the sheer joy with which he told his stories, captivated one and all.

Immediate past international president of IBBY, Canadian Patsy Aldana raised the question “What right do you have to tell my story when I cannot tell it myself?” She spoke of her search to find writers and illustrators who could tell their own story, and publish them through Groundwood Books, which she founded in 1978. The Congress ended with former Children’s Laureate and well known poet, Michael Rosen keeping the audience spellbound with tales of growing up in the East End, and promoting the richness and variety of a multicultural literature and background.

*Jenni Woodroffe*



The Professional Storytelling Meeting.  
Storytellers Left to Right: Ann Lazim (Co-Director IBBY Congress), Beatriz Montero, Jenni Woodroffe (Australia), Patrick Ryan (UK) and Michael Harvey.

# Crossing Commonwealth Boundaries at the 33<sup>rd</sup> IBBY World Congress

By Dr Alice Curry

Children's Literature Advisor, Commonwealth Education Trust



As the Children's Literature Advisor to the Commonwealth Education Trust – a charity that invests in primary and secondary education across the fifty-four nations of the Commonwealth – I was delighted to see so many diverse countries represented at this year's IBBY Congress in London. Such a multicultural group generated a wealth of discussion about the continuing importance of children's literature as a medium of cultural exchange, and showcased an award-winning selection of children's books in several languages. The acclaimed plenary speakers told stories, recited poems, sang songs and made us laugh but more importantly encouraged us to think deeply about the significance of children's literature as a cross-disciplinary venture in the wider context of a worldwide community.

Of particular interest to me were the Commonwealth contributors; papers from South Africa, Canada, India, Singapore, Cameroon, New Zealand, Uganda, the United Kingdom as well as Australia demonstrated that children's literature in the Commonwealth is not only growing – both in terms of book publication and analysis – but is also finding its place as a unique and valued literature within the international arena. The theme of the Congress was therefore particularly apt. The varied ways in which literature can cross boundaries and migrate across borders is central to an understanding of Commonwealth literatures for children. Commonwealth stories that have crossed borders – whether through the retelling of traditional tales, the remembered stories of migrant populations, or collaborations between authors of different nations – encourage a wider appreciation of Commonwealth literatures and promote understanding of the values, experiences and story traditions of fifty-four nations.

The Commonwealth Education Trust's own interest in promoting children's literature as a vital aid to education coalesced last year in the publication of a collection of stories and poems sourced from the fifty-four Commonwealth countries, entitled *A River of Stories: Tales and Poems from Across the Commonwealth*: the subject of the poster I exhibited during the conference. Thanks to the striking images drawn by the award-winning illustrator of the collection, Jan Pieńkowski, this poster was immediately eye-catching and provoked some useful discussion about the significant role children's literature could, and to a greater or lesser extent already does, play in the developing world. The Trust's initiatives to encourage the writing, illustration and publication of high quality local children's literatures are considerably strengthened through the support of those IBBY members who are working tirelessly to promote children's literature around the world. The 2012 Congress gave such like-minded people a creative space to discuss all aspects of children's literature production and reception, and renders IBBY itself an extraordinarily valuable organisation.

This report originally appeared in the autumn 2012 issue of IBBYLink, the journal of the United Kingdom IBBY. *A River of Stories* can be obtained via <http://1886investments.com/products/62-a-river-of-stories>

## KIDS' OWN PUBLISHING

Victoria Ryle of Kids' Own Publishing, Australia and Orla Kenny, of Kids' Own Publishing (Ireland) represent sister arts organisations and presented together at the first parallel session timeslot on Friday, 24<sup>th</sup> August. In Ireland Orla works extensively with Traveller children to give voice to 'unheard voices' and over the past 15 years they have worked with many children and artists to create numerous publications reflecting Traveller culture – including the first book in Cant - a Pictionary made with collage where "all were equal, yet all different".

Victoria left Ireland in 2003 and established a new way of working in Australia, utilising print-on-demand to meet the needs of local communities. One example, *The Book of Sudanese Cows* was published in 4 languages: English, Dinka, Arabic and Nuer to give voice to the unheard voices in mainstream Australia.

In 2008, the first Kids' Own Book Cubby was built as a showcase for books by children for children in Australia, followed by the Kids Own Travelling Library in Ireland in 2010.

See [www.kidsownpublishing.com](http://www.kidsownpublishing.com) and [www.kidsown.ie](http://www.kidsown.ie) for more information.

# PRE AND POST IBBY CONGRESS TOURS

We had booked the three-day pre-conference tour to the Lakes District. In early-morning London, still jet-lagged and searching for the coach departure point, this did not seem such a good idea. But as we talked with our fellow tour-takers, Japanese, Thai, Israeli, Russian, some from the US, on the long



Amazon at Ruskin Museum. Photo – David Morrow

drive north to Cumbria, we knew we were in for a stimulating time. From Bowness on Windermere we took a boat trip to Ambleside, looking at the lake scenery and small islands which inspired Arthur Ransome, and passing wooden boats which we liked to imagine could be the Swallow or the Amazon. Next day we drove along Coniston Water, admiring the moss-topped stone walls and happy to believe that Peel Island could be the original for Wild Cat Island. In Coniston we found Ruskin's grave and spent some time in the Ruskin museum, which includes some Ransome treasures. In Grasmere we paid tribute to Wordsworth, including squeezing into tiny Dove Cottage. A riverside walk from Grasmere, despite the muddy path full of trippy tree roots, gave a feel for the beauty of this mossy, green landscape beloved of so many writers.

The highlight of the next day was our visit to Hill Top Farm with its Beatrix Potter museum. As well as being a genius at watercolours and creating picture books, Potter was a collector of art and miniature objects; my favourite was the original of the tiny ham that Tom Thumb tried to cut with a knife, and then attacked with the fire-irons in a rage when he found it was inedible (*The Tale of Two Bad Mice*). Potter's many-faceted life as local farmer, naturalist and conservationist is reflected in this museum.

The whole tour was worthwhile both for giving entrée to places rich in literary associations and for the conversations among our diverse group, speakers of many languages and yet sharing knowledge and enthusiasm for children's literature. When the Congress began the next day, we had formed bonds with delegates from across the world.

After the Congress, David and I took a one-day tour to the Fens to visit places linked with Lucy Boston and Philippa Pearce. This included an excellent guided tour of Ely Cathedral, which plays an important part in *Tom's Midnight Garden*, and a peek at Philippa Pearce's lane, with her birthplace, the Mill House, and the nearby cottage where she lived and worked. My ooh-ah! moment was the visit to the Manor House at



Manor House, Hemingford Grey. Photo-David Morrow

Hemingford Grey, the ancient house which is Green Knowe in the books of that name. Lucy Boston's daughter-in-law showed us through the house, with its quilt collection and the music room where her



Ely Cathedral. Photo – David Morrow

wartime concerts were attended by young airmen. Best of all for lovers of *The Children of Green Knowe* was

climbing the staircase to Tolly's room: there was the rocking horse, there was the birdcage, and the toy box still hid Alexander's flute, Toby's sword and Linnet's book. All this had the best effect of any literary tour, a resolve to reread the Green Knowe series and introduce them to a new generation of child readers.

*Robin Morrow*

# The Story Museum, Oxford

Imagine you are asked to think of a way to celebrate story. Celebrate the creation we call story, the creators of these stories including the creators of illustration and celebrate the joy a wonderful story brings to the reader. Perhaps the last thing you might think of is a museum as a way to do all these things but this is exactly what the developers of a new museum in Oxford will do when their new Story Museum opens in 2015. Indeed they are already doing all these things, making use of the space that will one day house their museum.

As part of the IBBY Congress in London, delegates had the opportunity to participate in a selection of pre-congress tours, one of which was a day in Oxford. This famous university and city played host to a myriad of famous book names, such as CS Lewis, Lewis Carroll, JRR Tolkien, Michael Rosen, Dr Seuss, Michelle Paver, Diana Wynne Jones and many more.

Our tour concluded with a visit to the proposed Story Museum. In 2003 the perfect site, a combination of very old buildings and some not quite so old, all facing a small cobbled courtyard, were purchased. Put the traditional “museum” out of your mind. This place is already humming. Visitors will not be passive viewers but rather participants in the creation and enjoyment of story. Take a look at the website <http://www.storymuseum.org.uk>. I recommend taking a little time to read the series of newsletters you will see here which share some of the diverse activities they have already hosted; plus you can see their architectural plans.



Photo: Margot Lindgren



Photo: Margot Lindgren

Just before we visited, Korky Paul had been in residence for a series of art workshops. The space was old and ramshackle but you could just feel the excitement of the children as they developed artworks with this famous illustrator. While we were there we viewed an amazing collection of 100 original art works inspired by *Alice in Wonderland*. A part of this display included a room set up for the Mad Hatter's tea party, complete with suspended hats which we simply had to put on!



Photo: Margot Lindgren

I know I want to return and explore more of London and UK and now I have an excuse to revisit Oxford to see the vision of the Story Museum fulfilled. Young children might not be so enthralled by the old buildings and colleges of Oxford but I feel certain every child will see this famous city in a completely new way when they experience a visit to the Story Museum. All book lovers should put this special place into their future travel plans. You will not be disappointed.

*Margot Lindgren*

Teacher-Librarian Avalon Public School, NSW.

## WIZARDS AND WONKA TOUR

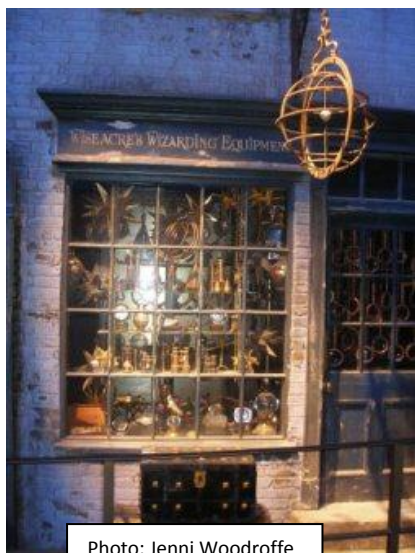


Photo: Jenni Woodroffe

With 6 grandchildren aged between 7 and 14, all of whom are Harry Potter fans, a chance to visit the Warner Bros Film Studio at Leavesden, on the outskirts of London, was not to be missed. Arriving early before our scheduled tour commencement gave us plenty of time to browse through the merchandise shop before the crowds swelled their ranks and long queues formed at the counters. It was a marvelous opportunity to buy something unique and different as Christmas presents for both the English and Australian children.

Once the door of the Great Hall had clanged behind us, queues were forgotten as we entered the magical world of Hogwarts, Daigon Alley™ (see Wisacre's Wizarding Equipment left), the Ministry of Magic, the Weasley home, Hagrid's Hut, the Backlot and numerous creatures and film effects. I was transported into an amazing, exciting world that was familiar, yet full of wonder and incredible feats of imagination where attention to detail astounded. I recommend a visit to the Roald Dahl Museum at Great Missenden should precede the journey to Leavesden.

*Jenni Woodroffe*

# 2012 AGM

Held in Fremantle on the 18 September, the AGM confirmed the national executive committee as follows:

President:

Dr Robin Morrow



Vice-President/Secretary

Ms Jenni Woodroffe



Treasurer: *Vacant*

Ordinary Members:

Ms Joanna Andrew



Dr Robyn Sheahan-Bright



Ms Claire Stuckey



Ms Tina Price



Ms Karen Jameyson



Since the AGM, a special motion of the committee has appointed Karen Jameyson as a member. Karen has supported IBBY Australia in many ways, including helping with the newsletter. We welcome Karen and Tina Price our valued Merchandise Convenor, to the committee.

## LONDON CALLING - IBBY at The Literature Centre 18 September, 2012



Robin Morrow with Dianne Wolfer. Photograph – Jenni Woodroffe

A wonderful evening was recently held by IBBY at The Literature Centre in Fremantle, WA. It was a great opportunity to meet and greet people involved in the production and promotion of great books for children and young people who are also passionate about the potency of international perspectives in reading.

Fine food, drinks and a celebratory birthday cake for IBBY Australia's inspiring president, Robin Morrow delivered a festive setting as the sun set over Fremantle and the Indian Ocean. Following a brief AGM we were lucky enough to hear from three

of the Australian presenters at this year's IBBY Congress in London.

Jenni Woodroffe spoke of the creative endeavour of bringing an award-winning picture book to a different life in a stage production. Her spotlight was on Shaun Tan's picture book *The Red Tree* and how the Barking Gecko Theatre Company under the direction of John Sheedy has created a mesmerising performance based around a sole performer (Ella Hetherington) with an integral musical accompaniment and a single stage setting. The production was acclaimed at the 2012 Perth International Arts Festival and had toured extensively through Western Australian schools. Jenni fully demonstrated how a metamorphosis to theatre is a challenging creative process in its own right.

Frané Lessac's account of *One World, Many Stories* was a rich and informative reflection on the deep parallels between peoples of the world and the importance of stories in creating connection. Frané's own colourful journey of illustration and authoring in many cultures provided an inspiring framework for her talk.

Robin Morrow gave a scholarly and insightful talk about much-loved picture-book creator Bob Graham and how his own migrations have impacted on the sense of home and wilderness and place he constructs in his books. The title of her talk was evocative: *The environment bleeds into the stories*. It is always fascinating to see a retrospective exhibition of an artist's work and look at the body of work as a whole. Robin's overlay of some of Bob's history and places he has lived (much more informative than Wikipedia!) with the works he has created provided some resonance with his depictions of wilderness and home amid rural and urban landscapes in his books.

The IBBY evening was a nourishing experience: A glimpse into some of the riches of the international IBBY 2012 Congress. Just imagine what it would be like to attend the next IBBY Congress! Start saving now to be in Mexico City in 2014...

*Marg Robinson*

IBBY Member, WA.



## 2012 IBBY HONOUR LIST PRESENTATION



Sarah Mayor Cox (left) and Glenda Millard with the 2012 IBBY Honour List certificate.

As one of the judges on the 2012 IBBY Honour List panel for selecting the Australian nomination for the biennial selection of outstanding, recently published books, honouring writers, illustrators and translators from IBBY member countries, Sarah Mayor Cox had the opportunity to present writer Glenda Millard with her certificate for *A Small Free Kiss in the Dark*. This was on Sarah's regular programme with Ann Jones, Morning program presenter at ABC Central Victoria 91.1FM, Friday 26<sup>th</sup> October. To hear Ann, Sarah and Glenda discussing the book and the IBBY Honour listing click on to the following blog at <http://blogs.abc.net.au/victoria/2012/10/congratulations-glenda-millard.html>

There will be a special presentation by Robyn Sheahan-Bright, committee member of IBBY Australia, to IBBY Honour List illustrator, Gregory Rogers, who was nominated for his *Hero of Little Street* at the Queensland Writers Centre (QWC), at the State Library of Queensland on Thursday, 8<sup>th</sup> November from 5.30 – 7.00 pm. Cost is a gold coin donation to Book Links (Qld) for hosting the event and RSVP by 2<sup>nd</sup> November to [info@booklinks.org.au](mailto:info@booklinks.org.au)

## IBBY Documentation Centre of Books for Disabled Young People



Heidi Cortner Boiesen in London.  
Photo: Jenni Woodroffe

Heidi Cortner Boiesen of the above Centre has written to confirm receipt of books forwarded by IBBY Australia and we look forward to hearing whether they have been selected for the *Outstanding Books for Young People with Disabilities 2013 List*.

The Centre was established in 1985 at the Norwegian Institute for Special Education at the University of Oslo under the direction of Nina Reidarson. In 2002 it moved to the Haug Municipal Resource Centre, just outside Oslo under the direction of Heidi Cortner Boiesen. The Centre has built up a large international collection of books catering not only for children and young people, but also for adults with language disabilities and reading difficulties. However, Heidi is approaching retirement and it was announced at the London Congress that the Toronto Public Library has agreed to host the Centre after the 2013 List has been finalised. We wish Heidi well in her retirement and congratulate Toronto Public Library on accepting this challenging responsibility.

## IFLA Project – The World Through Picture Books

Let us promote Australian books to the world.

We all have our favourite picture books and we know how and why they work with children!

Calling Library professionals around Australia: please assist us by providing your feedback.

Two simple questions and add your favourites as per the criteria - quick and easy.

<http://www.gosford.nsw.gov.au/library/childrenandyoungadults>

Claire Stuckey

Children's Librarian | Library Services

Gosford City Council

# Thank You to Dr John Foster

At the recent IBBY Australia AGM National President, Robin Morrow expressed our thanks to retiring Executive Committee Member and former President of IBBY Australia, John Foster. President of IBBY Australia from 2001-2006, John attended his first IBBY Congress in 1996 at Groningen, Netherlands and subsequently at New Delhi in 1998, Basel in 2002, Macau in 2006, Copenhagen in 2008 and Santiago de Compostela in 2010.



For nearly 40 years John taught Children's Literature at the University of South Australia and its predecessor institutions. Two research fellowships, one at the International Youth Library in Munich (Germany) and another in Osaka (Japan) enabled John to pursue his love of travel as well as research. One of his passions has been popular literature for children, and he instigated and ran the South Australian Children's Choice Award CROW during its existence.

As well as co-authoring three books on children's literature, in 2002 his *Popular literature for children and adolescents* was published. At the Macau IBBY Congress he spoke on *Harry Potter, Hans Andersen and the Significance of Folk and Fairy Tales*, while *From Mickey Mouse to Maus: The Comic Book is Dead, Long Live the Graphic Novel* was delivered in Santiago de Compostela. He has written various articles for Australian and overseas journals, including *The Ena Noel Award for Encouragement (Australia)* for the July 2007 issue of *Bookbird* and for the July, 2011 issue *Picture books as graphic novels and vice versa: the Australian experience*.

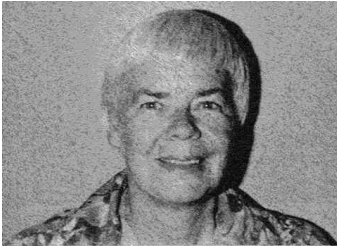
Keeping the IBBY flag flying during his Presidency, John attended *The Fascination of Fairy Tales*, a Seminar for the 200<sup>th</sup> Hans Christian Andersen Birthday held on the 2<sup>nd</sup> April, 2005 at Tara Anglican School for Girls, North Parramatta and also presented Dr Maurice Saxby with his Life Membership Certificate of IBBY Australia at the ICBBD celebrations at Santa Maria del Monte School, Strathfield, on the 2<sup>nd</sup> April, 2011. John's background knowledge of South Australia's contribution to IBBY Australia's presidency during the term of office of Juliana Bayfield and himself has been invaluable to the current executive and we wish him well as he opens a new chapter on life as a retiree.

## INTERNATIONAL CHILDREN'S BOOK DAY 2013

Each year the National Sections of IBBY celebrate International Children's Book Day as near as possible to the 2<sup>nd</sup> April, the anniversary of the birth of Hans Christian Andersen in Odense, Denmark in 1805. Due to Easter Sunday falling on the 31<sup>st</sup> March, and the different states and territories choosing a range of school holiday dates, IBBY Australia Inc has chosen Saturday, 6<sup>th</sup> April as the day on which to celebrate this important event in the worldwide IBBY calendar. We are planning to produce a poster for this event and encourage public libraries and schools in particular to choose the most appropriate date for your institution to highlight ICBBD. Check out our website at <http://ibbyaustralia.wordpress.com> early next year for more up-to-date information. Suggestions include storytelling based on HC Andersen's stories, promotion of international books and folktales, sharing a book with fellow students, celebrities, parents and/or grandparents, organizing a gathering for a meal - potluck or takeaway, a cake competition based on a favourite book, poster competitions or recycle a successful activity from your National Year of Reading programme.

# Patricia Scott, AM

28 March 1926 - 29 July 2012



Patricia Scott probably had more influence on the development of storytelling in Australia than most other individuals. It was her work and dedication to promoting storytelling that inspired many current and former tellers and raised the profile of storytelling in Australia in the late 1970's and 1980's. Her involvement with the Children's Libraries Section of the Library Association of Australia and, more particularly, her participation in the IBBY conferences of this period made her well known to those interested in children's literature and storytelling. Throughout the '70's and '80's she ran many workshops and in-service courses, and gave talks, lectures and demonstrations in many schools, tertiary institutions and community centres throughout eastern Australia and elsewhere.

Patricia's interest in storytelling began when she first heard the late Joyce Boniwell (later Saxby) who was a librarian with the Tasmanian State Library in Hobart in the 1950's and a charismatic storyteller.

In 1950 while working at the State Library of Tasmania, Patricia was seconded to the then Bellerive Library. It was an opportunity to establish a weekly after-school story session, and, in those pre-television days, children flocked to hear the stories. (One, at least, a friend of mine, remembers these sessions vividly.)

Patricia later travelled to Toronto and worked for eighteen months with the highly regarded Children's Library Services, where storytelling was a central part of the service. Here was the opportunity to tell to children from a range of cultural and social backgrounds. Back at the State Library she held several senior positions, undertook further study and was also President of the Children's Libraries section of the Library Association of Australia.

In 1970 she moved to Victoria as a lecturer at the Library Training School and In-Service Officer for the staff, State Library of Victoria. Her degree studies had previously been suspended because of a back operation but she was now able to complete this at Melbourne University gaining a BA (Hons Politics) 1974. In between times, she visited schools and colleges when possible, to promote storytelling. She resigned from the State Library to complete a Masters degree but her mother's illness meant frequent visits to Tasmania and finally, in 1976, she returned to be with her father in Oatlands in southern Tasmania.

It was then she decided to see whether she could make a living as a freelance storyteller. She began by telling stories to as many children as possible with the hope that teachers and librarians would follow suit but realised that it was necessary to encourage them through workshops and demonstrations.

The years after this not only included the various IBBY conferences, The Pacific Rim Conference (Melb 1980) and the Conference on Child Language Development (Launceston 1980), but also visits throughout Australia and working for extended periods in Ballarat, Goulburn and Kuringai CAE's. At Goulburn, as writer-in-residence, she worked with all staff and students and visited many schools. There were trips to outback Queensland and the Northern Territory, lecturing and telling, and a memorable time on Palm Island. These were the means by which so many people around Australia were introduced to storytelling and its power, and convinced of its value.

Back in Tasmania, with encouragement and support from others, she organised weekend workshops and helped establish the Tasmanian Storytellers Guild. Visitors included Bob Barton from Canada, Dorothy Butler and Liz Miller from New Zealand, Anne Pellowski from the USA and many interstate storytellers and writers. With Tasmania's small, scattered population, it was hard to keep the Guild alive and it finally went into recess in 1993.

For her contribution to storytelling and children's literature Patricia received the Dromkeen Medal in 1988 and the Member of the Order of Australia (AM) in 1991. She was a nurse, librarian, student of history and politics, teacher, writer, printmaker and most of all, storyteller – a fortunate life, fortunate for all of us.

*Prue McCausland*

IBBY Member, Tasmania

(Excerpts from the above first appeared in *A Swag of Yarns: Australia's National Storytelling Magazine*. Spring 2002. Vol 5 No 3pp 6-7 and included here with permission)

# ASTRID LINDGREN MEMORIAL AWARD 2013

## 207 Candidates from 67 Countries

This figure is notably higher than last year's total of nominees.... The nominating bodies comprise organisations and research institutions at international, national and regional level working in the fields of children's and young adult literature and reading promotion. Living writers, illustrators, oral storytellers and active reading promoting organisations are eligible for the award. Of the nominees for 2013, 37% are writers, 25% illustrators, 14% reading promotion groups, 13% both writers and illustrators, 5% individual reading promoters and 1% oral storytellers. Among the 207 candidates, 5% have been nominated in multiple categories. The 177 nominated individuals comprise 93 men and 84 women. The recipient or recipients of the 2013 Astrid Lindgren Memorial Award will be announced on 26 March, 2013. See [www.alma.se/en](http://www.alma.se/en) for further details.

Congratulations to Ursula Dubosarsky, Jackie French and Melina Marchetta who are Australian nominees. Familiar names to Australian readers include: Lizbeth Zwerger (Austria), Jean Little (Canada), International Youth Library (Germany), Roberto Innocenti (Italy), Marit Tornquist (Netherlands), Joy Cowley and Lynley Dodd (New Zealand), Jan Pienkowski (Poland), Niki Daly (South Africa), Barbro Lindren and Eva Lindström (Sweden), Allan Ahlberg, David Almond, Quentin Blake, Aidan Chambers, Babette Cole, Michael Foreman, Morris Gleitzman, Shirley Hughes, Michael Morpurgo, Patrick Ness, Michael Rosen and Meg Rosoff (United Kingdom), Eric Carle, Anne Pellowski and Peter Sis (United States) and the International Board on Books for Young People (International).

## FORTHCOMING CONFERENCES

**7-9<sup>th</sup> December, 2012** Katha Yatra: Academic Conference, Pune, India. Theme: *Regional stories: colours and textures*. See [www.bhaashaa.org](http://www.bhaashaa.org) for more details

**23-26<sup>th</sup> May, 2013** 1<sup>st</sup> Asia and Oceania IBBY Congress to be held in Bali, Indonesia. Ananta Legian Ananta Legian Hotel, Jl.Werkudara no. 539 Legian, Kuta, Bali – Indonesia. Theme: *How to Strengthen Asia-Oceania IBBY* See [www.inabby.com](http://www.inabby.com) for further information.

**13-14<sup>th</sup> September, 2013** Celebrate Reading National Conference, The Literature Centre, Old Prison Hospital, cnr Knutsford St and Hampton Rd, Fremantle, WA. See [www.theliticentre.org.au](http://www.theliticentre.org.au) for more details.

**18-20 October, 2013** 10<sup>th</sup> IBBY Regional Conference, The Historic St. Louis Public Library in St Louis, Missouri see [www.usbby.org](http://www.usbby.org) for further information.

**16-18<sup>th</sup> May, 2014** CBCA National Conference, Rex Hotel, 150 Northbourne Ave, Braddon, ACT 2612 Theme: *Discovering National Treasures*.

**10-13<sup>th</sup> September, 2014** 34<sup>th</sup> IBBY International Congress, Mexico City, Mexico. *Reading as an inclusive experience*. See <http://www.ibbymexico.org.mx> for further information

**25-28<sup>th</sup> August, 2016** 35<sup>th</sup> IBBY Congress, Auckland, New Zealand.

## Wordless Books- IBBY Italia Project

IBBY Italia has announced an important project, *Silent Books: From the World to Lampedusa and Back*. The aim of the project is to put together a collection of the best-illustrated wordless picture books that have been published around the world. The project includes plans for a library on Lampedusa, an island in the Mediterranean that attracts thousands of immigrants every year, including children; a biennial travelling exhibition that will promote the books; and a documentation and research archive in the Palazzo delle Esposizioni art library in Rome.

IBBY Italia states: 'In the context of growing global migration, we feel that it is important for the world of publishing to recognise the need for quality materials that are designed to help children understand the world through books that do not rely on a language that is not recognisable to the child'.

Publishers who wish to nominate titles for this important project are encouraged to contact IBBY Australia c/o Robin Morrow ([robin.morrow@wordsandphrases.com.au](mailto:robin.morrow@wordsandphrases.com.au))

## VALE

Nina Bawden has died, aged 87. More than half of her over 40 novels are for adults, but she is best-known for her children's books. *Carrie's War*, about the evacuation of two children to a Welsh village, was published in 1973, and is based on the author's own experience during World War II. *The Peppermint Pig* is another favourite. Julia Eccleshare in *The Guardian* praised Bawden's 'natural gift for storytelling' and has commented that *Carrie's War* 'remains strangely timeless' while also being a sensitive account of 'the bewildering experiences and the complex emotions' of children who were evacuated.

### LOOKING TO THE FUTURE

Since IBBY Australia Inc became a separate independent incorporation we have achieved much thanks to the support of our members. IBBY Australia is proud of recent achievements. We have nominated writer Christobel Mattingley and illustrator Bob Graham for the 2012 Hans Christian Andersen Award. Writer Glenda Millard and illustrator Gregory Rogers have joined the prestigious 2012 IBBY Honour List. Of the twelve Australians attending the 2012 IBBY International Congress, London, six were presenters at the Parallel Sessions and Shaun Tan was a keynote speaker.

To continue our contribution in promoting our talented and creative authors and illustrators in the world arena we need your support. A strong membership base in all states and territories is vital and we need you to help spread the word and encourage friends and colleagues to join IBBY Australia

RSVP to Dr Robin Morrow, PO Box 329, Beecroft, NSW 2119 or Email [Robin.Morrow@wordsandphrases.com.au](mailto:Robin.Morrow@wordsandphrases.com.au)

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**President:** Dr Robin Morrow, PO Box 329, Beecroft NSW 2119

Email: [Robin.Morrow@wordsandphrases.com.au](mailto:Robin.Morrow@wordsandphrases.com.au)

**Vice-President:** Jenni Woodroffe, Unit 9/85 South Tce, Como WA 6152

Email: [jennij@iinet.net.au](mailto:jennij@iinet.net.au)

**Committee Members:** Joanna Andrew. Email: [joanna.andrew@slwa.wa.gov.au](mailto:joanna.andrew@slwa.wa.gov.au)

Karen Jameyson. Email: [kjameyson@netaus.net.au](mailto:kjameyson@netaus.net.au)

Tina Price. Email: [ibbysales@gmail.com](mailto:ibbysales@gmail.com)

Robyn Sheahan-Bright. Email: [rsheahan@tpgi.com.au](mailto:rsheahan@tpgi.com.au)

Claire Stuckey. Email: [Claire.Stuckey@gosford.nsw.gov.au](mailto:Claire.Stuckey@gosford.nsw.gov.au)

**Website:** <http://ibbyaustralia.wordpress.com>