



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 23**

**November, 2014**

### **President's Letter**

Dear members and supporters of IBBY Australia

Welcome to our final newsletter for 2014, a year of consolidation and progress for IBBY Australia.

It was exciting for Dr Robyn Sheahan-Bright and me to attend the International Congress in Mexico City (see pp 2-3), and we returned feeling newly inspired about the importance of IBBY's work. I also had the privilege of travelling on to Boston, where I met with colleagues at Simmons College, home of the renowned Center for the Study of Children's Literature, headed up by Prof Cathryn Mercier.

Back in Australia we have just held the AGM, this time in NSW (see pp 4-5). At this meeting the members of the executive committee were confirmed as in the previous committee, but with one change. Tina Price is retiring, and I want to offer my personal thanks to Tina for her contribution, and in particular her skilful and untiring work as merchandise convenor for the Limited Edition Prints. The new member is Nicola Robinson, and we welcome her as she joins this vital national group.

At the AGM we raised \$300 with a raffle to support the IBBY Children in Crisis Appeal, with its present aim to rebuild the recently-destroyed children's library in Gaza. (This library had originally been funded from the great American children's author Katherine Paterson and her family foundation). Please consider an event in your school or library to add to our Australian contribution, and we'll send the money off together for this urgent need (see more p 11).

Dates to note for 2015: International Children's Book Day events will vary from state to state. The NSW event will be on Saturday 28 March; the WA International Children's Book Day Quiz Night will be Wednesday 22 April.

Our first Honorary Life Member, Dr Maurice Saxby AM, will celebrate his ninetieth birthday in late December. Among the many achievements and activities of his life, Maurice has been a loyal advocate and friend to IBBY. A highlight of the ICBD event in NSW last April was his account of being a member of the jury for the Hans Christian Andersen Award (the only Australian to have filled that role so far). We join with many throughout the world of children's literature in sending our heartfelt best wishes to Maurice for this special birthday.

Finally, please accept my sincere good wishes for a happy festive season and a well-earned holiday, and may your gifts, given and received, include many special books.

*Robin Morrow, AM*

La lectura como experiencia de inclusión  
Reading as an inclusive experience

# 34 CONGRESO INTERNACIONAL DE IBBY

## 34<sup>th</sup> IBBY International Congress

Ciudad de México • Mexico City

10 - 13 • Septiembre  
September • 2014

### Conference Theme: **QUE TODOS SIGNIFIQUE TODOS** may everyone really mean everyone

How to summarise the typically eclectic program, which was the 34<sup>th</sup> IBBY Congreso held in Mexico City? Held just prior to Independence Day (16 September), there was much festivity, with the main square, the 'Zócolo', being decorated, as were many public places, in the red, green and white colours of the flag.

Registration opened on 10 September at the Fiesta Americana Reforma Hotel, situated in the graceful avenue Paseo de la Reforma, which runs diagonally through the heart of Mexico City. That evening around 1000 delegates attended a gala dinner at the Biblioteca de México which began with a warm tribute to Jella Lepman, founder of IBBY, by Belgian writer and incoming IBBY President, **Wally de Doncker** [See page 7]. The **Hans Christian Andersen Awards**, generously sponsored by Nami Island Inc., were presented to Illustrator **Roger Mello, Brazil** and Writer **Nahoko Uehashi, Japan**, and their speeches are available here:



Robyn Sheahan-Bright, Robin Morrow, David Almond (UK) and Jehan Helou (Palestine)

<http://www.ibby.org/index.php?id=1315> We were also informed of the launch of the new **IBBY Libraries in Gaza, Palestine** appeal [See page 11]

Delegates were welcomed on Thursday, 11 September, by the IBBY Mexico, President, **Bruno Newman**, and international Vice-President, **Azucena Galindo Ortega**, followed by the presentation of Honorary Membership awards by **Liz Page**, director of the IBBY Secretariat, Basel. **Plenary Session 1: Concept of Inclusion** began with **Alicia Molina's** address, and a panel; in **Plenary Session 2: Inclusion in Young Adult Literature**, **David Almond (HCA winner 2010)** was inspiring; another panel was followed by parallel sessions, a **Poster Session**, and a **Spectacle: Sign and Verb: Who Understands You?**

On Friday 12 September, **Plenary Session 3: Literature as a Hospitable House**, by **Maria Teresa Andruetto**

(**HCA winner 2012**), continued with a round table in which **Jochen Weber** (International Library of Munich *Jugendbibliothek*) used the metaphor of literature being a 'welcoming home; in the middle is the kitchen; a lot of cooks make dishes; the tastiest dishes are prepared by those who don't follow recipes'. Poet **Mardonio Carballo** in ***Another Heat of Breath: Other Ways to Call us Mexico*** spoke of the Indigenous languages (such as his Nahuatl) threatened in Mexico by the prevalence of Spanish. **Bookbird**, the official IBBY journal, hosted a lunch for their correspondents, welcomed by Valerie Coghlan,



Jamie Campbell Naidoo and Robert Bittner; USA; Dora Isabel SottoMayor Portugal, Robin Morrow (Aust) and Wafa Thabet Mezghani, Tunisia from the Parallel Session: *Literature as a Hospitable House*. Photo: Jo Schreuder

and attended by outgoing editor, Roxanne Hardy, and incoming editor, Björn Sundmark. Delegates included Yasmine Samir Motawy, IBBY Egypt; Susanna Coghlan, IBBY Cambodia; and Timotea Vrablova, President, Slovak Section of IBBY.

In **Plenary Session 4: Literature a Place Where All Can Be Recognised**, **Yolanda Reyes's** address was followed by a panel including **Roberto Innocenti**, creator of the stunning *Rose Blanche*. Robin and I delivered papers that afternoon, and later, at the Papalote Child Museum, the **ASAHI Reading Promotion Awards** were presented to

The Project for the Study of Alternative Education in South Africa (PRAESA), and The Children's Book Bank in Toronto, Canada.

On Saturday 13 September, the **IBBY Honour List Presentation 2014**

(<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6QLLA2fi8E4&feature=youtu.be>), preceded *Plenary Session 5: Inclusion Actions Panels*, and the **General Assembly**, election of IBBY Council members; **Deborah Soria** spoke inspiringly of “**Silent Books: from the world to Lampedusa and back**”

([http://www.ibby.org/fileadmin/user\\_upload/SilentBooks\\_Lampedusa\\_IBBYItalia\\_InformalReport\\_Aug2012-Aug2013.pdf](http://www.ibby.org/fileadmin/user_upload/SilentBooks_Lampedusa_IBBYItalia_InformalReport_Aug2012-Aug2013.pdf)) An undoubted highlight for all was the moving final night performance at the beautiful Palais de Bellas Artes, by the **Mexican Symphony Orchestra**, joined by the **Mexican Youth Choir**. After that, we attended closing speeches at the Franz Mayer Museum; the NZ delegates launched the next Congress to be held in Auckland in 2016; and a lively cocktail party concluded the Congress.

I was delighted to catch up again with **Doris Breitmoser** of the **Association for Children's and Youth**



Josiane Polidori (Canada), Robyn Sheahan-Bright (Aust) and Doris Breitmoser (Germany)

**Literature Arbeitskreis für Jugendliteratur (AKJ)**, whom we'd met in Santiago in 2010. The **AKJ**, based in Munich, established in 1955, is supported financially by the German Federal Ministry for Families, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth, and administers the annual **German Youth Literature Award (Deutscher Jugendliteraturpreis)**. Since 1956, the jury has considered four categories: picture books, children's books, young adult books and nonfiction. In 2003 an independent youth jury was introduced to give its own award. A special jury also awards the *Sonderpreis* (special award) that is given alternately to a German author, illustrator or translator for their complete work. The prize

announcement ceremony takes place at the Frankfurt Book Fair. Excitingly, two Australians were shortlisted for the 2014 Awards: Gus Gordon's *Hermann und Rosie* and Joanne Horniman's *Über ein Mädchen*. See winners <<http://www.jugendliteratur.org/pressematerial-35.html> >

**Viva Mexico!** To attend any IBBY conference is to immerse yourself not only in reading, but in the diversity of the richly layered local culture. We were so charmed by Mexico that we would love to return. Meanwhile, mark your calendars for Auckland in 2016, and Istanbul in 2018...

COPYRIGHT AGENCY  
**CULTURAL  
FUND**

*Dr Robyn Sheahan-Bright*, EC and Qld IBBY Member

## ERIC CARLE MUSEUM

A sunny fall day was perfect for the drive from Boston, past farms and orchards to the Eric Carle Museum of Picture Book Art, Amherst. Prof Cathryn Mercier, Director of the renowned Center for the Study of Children's Literature at Simmons College, had hosted a lunch for us the day before; now she arranged for three Australians to visit 'the Carle,' which she described as *a quietly magical place*.

A pleasant surprise was that the airy, light and accessible buildings have apple orchards right up to the door. Courtney Waring, Director of Education, met us and answered our eager questions. The exhibition *Eric Carle: Re-Imaged and Re-Imagined* includes original art from well-loved books, including *the VHC* as we called it in my bookselling days. We learned that Carle painted onto plain white tissue paper to create the collage materials for this 1969 classic. In the art studio, children and flexible adults can create their own collages from a smorgasbord of enticing materials. We enjoyed the *Harriet the Spy Turns Fifty* exhibition; from November there will be *Madeline at 75*.

The Museum's mission is *to inspire a love of art and reading through picture books*. Since its founding by Eric and Barbara Carle in 2002 it has had more than half a million visitors. As well as three galleries, resources include more than 10,000 picture book illustrations, a theater, scholarly library and also a library where local children can borrow picture books. Educational programs include professional training as well as those for children.

Now for a guess-the-answer quiz: 1. Did we ship a large box of books from the superb bookshop?

2. Having learned that the architect of the Carle was Norton Juster, author of *The Phantom Tollbooth*, did I buy all the bookshop's autographed copies of this gem?

3. Do I already dream of a return visit?

*Dr Robin Morrow, AM* National President, IBBY Australia

# AGM Sparkle

As usual, IBBY Australia's Annual General Meeting provided members and guests with much more than a basic agenda of business and elections.

Held at The Children's Bookshop in Beecroft, NSW, thanks again to the generosity of owner Paul Macdonald and his stellar staff, the event took place on November sixth. Due to the ill health of President Robin Morrow, who was unable to attend, the meeting was convened by Executive Committee member Robyn Sheahan-Bright, from Gladstone, and well supported by IBBY Vice President and Secretary Jenni Woodroffe, from Perth.

After acknowledging the traditional owners of the land, Robyn issued a special welcome to lifetime member Maurice Saxby and to esteemed writer Ursula Dubosarsky. After conducting some general business, Robyn then recounted some of the major IBBY accomplishments from the previous twelve months including: the compilation of a Disabilities list; member attendance and presentations at the Mexico Congress; and the successful securing of a three-year Copyright Agency Cultural Fund grant. IBBY Australia, as Robyn pointed out, continues to grow and strengthen.

The election of officers followed, all of whom were elected unopposed to their positions as follows.

**President:** Dr Robin Morrow,  
**Vice-President/Secretary:** Jenni Woodroffe,  
**Treasurer:** vacant  
**Executive Committee Members:**  
Joanna Andrew (WA)  
Karen Jameyson (NSW)  
Nicola Robinson (NSW)  
Robyn Sheahan-Bright (QLD)  
Claire Stuckey (NSW)

Robyn acknowledged the valued contributions of Executive Committee member Tina Price, who is stepping down this year, and welcomed Nicola Robinson, who has been involved in IBBY at the state level and is now joining the EC.

Jenni Woodroffe then presented Ursula Dubosarsky with her Honour List Certificate ("all the way from Mexico") for *The Golden Day*, which appeared on the 2014 Honor List for IBBY: a biennial list of the most highly regarded titles of the previous two years.



Ursula Dubosarsky and Jenni Woodroffe

Then came the spellbinding segment of the evening when attendees were treated to readings of the two Australian speeches given at the September Mexico World IBBY Congress. Robyn Sheahan-Bright read aloud her insightful, fascinating and moving tribute to Gregory Rogers: "What's Wrong with the Wobbegong? Across Borders: the Inclusive and Multinational Work of Gregory Rogers." Robin Morrow's daughter Jo Schreuder, followed, sharing her mother's riveting and thought-provoking paper "Mixed Messages: Australian Picture Books about Refugees, More Hospitable than our



Dr Robyn Sheahan-Bright reading her paper

Political Discourse". The audience listened, transfixed; many remarked later how grateful they were to have heard such intelligent offerings delivered so well.



Josephine Schreuder reading Robin Morrow's Mexico paper



Wendy Blaxland drawing the raffle prizes

At that point the raffle was drawn, , with proceeds going to the Gaza appeal (see details elsewhere in this newsletter) And the night concluded with thanks to the participants, the Children's Bookshop and, from Jenni Woodroffe, a moment of special appreciation to the Morrow family, whose ongoing efforts do so much to support and extend IBBY Australia.

**Karen Jameyson** EC and NSW IBBY member

## ENA NOËL AWARD PRESENTATION



On the 23<sup>rd</sup> August the art deco foyer of the Sun Theatre in Yarraville was brimful with fans, family and friends of the worthy recipient of the 2014 Ena Noël Award, Melissa Keil. They were there to celebrate the launch of Melissa's new book, *The Incredible Adventures of Cinnamon Girl*. The Sun Theatre originally opened in 1938 - the most luxurious in the area. After several lives it has been beautifully restored to host 6 cinemas. Cinema staff recounted that unique to that cinema in the 1950's and 1960's was the Pram Room where babies in their prams were placed and given a number. If your baby started crying, your number was flashed on the screen.

No baby would have been able to sleep through this excitable crowd! The venue was wonderful ,with foyer access to the Sun bookshop meant that Melissa's books sold like there was no tomorrow.

Things slowly settled as delicious home-baked nibbles and champagne added to the celebration and the room became so full that movement was impossible. I presented flowers and the Ena Noël medal to Melissa for her debut novel *Life in Outer Space*, a young adult comedic mix of movies, music, karate, the Astor theatre, 'Star Wars' and other geeky things.

Afterward , I mingled with the crowd and met Melissa's family. Melissa was delighted by her award; it was a pleasure to be there. A lovely afternoon.

**Tina Price** Victorian IBBY member and retiring member of the National Committee

## NEWS FROM WESTERN AUSTRALIA

Guests at the recent dinner and opening of the 2014 Children's Book Week in Western Australia were delighted to celebrate the presentation of the biennial **Muriel Barwell Award for Distinguished Services to Children's Literature to Jenni Woodroffe.**



CBCA & IBBY members Elizabeth Allen, Jenni Woodroffe and Aniek Ragan.  
Photo: Jan Nicholls

Recipients of this award have given service well beyond their professional association with children's literature - a description that truly fits Jenni.

Passionate about Australian children's literature, Jenni has worked tirelessly to promote, engage with and foster reading and writing. Apart from her professional life as a teacher and a librarian at the State Library, at John XXIII College and at Curtin University, Jenni's enthusiastic commitment has also benefited the WA Branch of the Children's Book Council of Australia. When she was elected as Convener of the Sixth National CBCA

Conference, her energy and insights ensured the success of this event. Under her editorship, the Newsletter grew from a few mimeographed pages to a lively and professional document. Jenni also has an amazing ability to come up with inspired, workable ideas, such as "A Night with Our Stars", initiated in 2004. This highlight of the WA literary calendar showcases new works of both established and emerging writers and illustrators: the life blood of a vibrant children's literature scene.

In 1986 Jenni travelled with other enthusiastic Australians to Tokyo to support the two Hans Christian Andersen Awards winners, Robert Ingpen and Patricia Wrightson, and has presented papers at three different IBBY international congresses. In other fields Jenni has been involved as both a member and past President of the Storytelling Guild of WA for many years, both locally and at the international level. In addition, her long-term interest in local history is reflected in her many years of involvement in the ALIA Local Studies Section.

Members of the dinner audience acclaimed Jenni's tireless and often inspired advocacy for children's literature internationally and locally, her careful nurturing of children's writing and storytelling and her generosity in sharing her passion for literature, and wholeheartedly agreed that she well deserves the Muriel Barwell Award.

*Ruth Nitschke* and *Chloe Mauger* WA IBBY members

## HIGHLIGHTS FROM BROOME

In the June-August newsletter, Magabala Books announced the four successful applicants for their Indigenous Creators Scholarship programme for 2014. Seven of the eight applications came from remote or regional areas where it is often difficult to get professional development opportunities for writers/illustrators. In addition Magabala Books have established a new literary fund to help keep culturally important books in print. CEO Anna Moulton said "we are under increasing pressure to keep culturally important books in print, even though they may not be our biggest sellers...and this fund helps us stay true to our mission of spreading the seeds of culture."

Broome youngsters looked to the sky for inspiration when they joined the Magabala Books event of the volunteer run 2014 *Corrugated Lines: a Festival of words*. Themed around Broome's famous phenomenon known as Staircase to the Moon, the event combined science and the arts to create beautiful artwork. Astronomer Greg Quicke explained how the moon and tides worked together to produce the shimmering staircase effect caused by the full moon rising over gleaming sand flats at low tide. Local artist and author Bronwyn Houston read her magical children's *Staircase to the Moon*, in which Rosie and her grandfather climb the staircase all the way to the moon with plenty of adventures on the way and helped participants create their own piece of take home magic with a Staircase poster. [Reproduced with permission from Magabala Books]

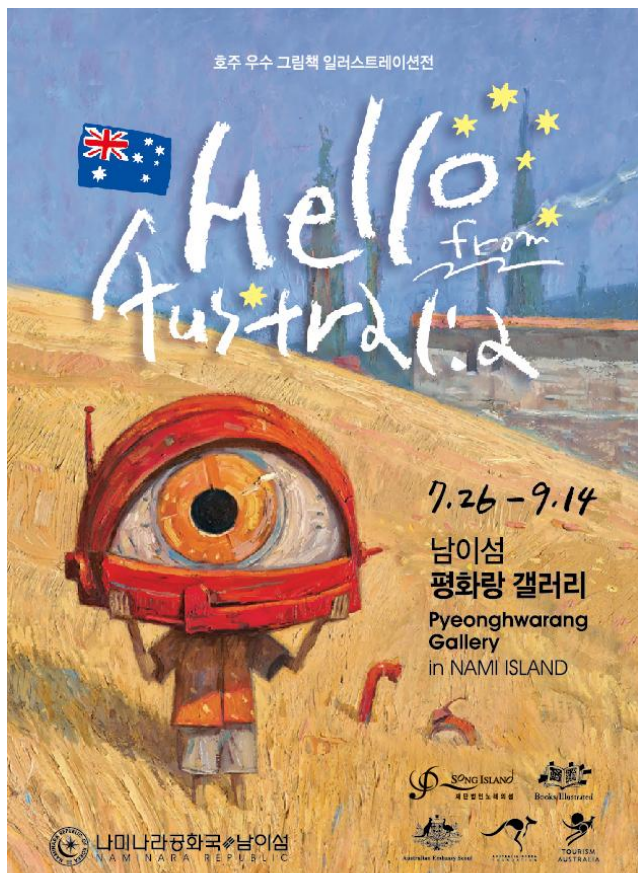
## Dorothea MacKellar Poetry Competition

*Me*  
*I wonder who I am?*  
*Or where I am meant to be?*  
*Or where I could be?*  
*Or how to leave?*  
*Or how to be a true person?*  
*I wonder!*  
*I wonder how I can fit in this world*  
*Or how to be right?*  
*But no one can answer my questions.*



Photo courtesy of Paul Mathews Photographics of Gunnedah. [www.pmphotography.com.au](http://www.pmphotography.com.au)

Gunnedah IBBY member Anne Bell sent us a news cutting from *The Australian* dated 29<sup>th</sup> August, 2014 with an account of twelve-year-old Maryam Sathat Sobhani's poem *Me* winning first prize in the assisted learning category of the above-named competition. Maryam and her family have been detained on Christmas Island, on Manus Island and in Darwin after the family fled Iran. Maryam began learning English at Christmas Island. Tom Hortrop, Maryam's teacher of North Footscray Primary School commented "Yes, our school also won the school award for their overall work. That is awarded to one school each year, so we were thrilled to receive that news. It was primarily students from the older years who put in poems... We have many others like Maryam, who generate large numbers of poems in between other work. It has just become a routine thing to do, as ideas arise. They have created a volume of work that will help us teach poetry, and many other language devices, for years to come".



Reproduced with permission from Books Illustrated and ACLA from the Nami Island website at <http://www.namisum.com/>

Renowned resident artist/illustrator and president of Nami Island, Mr Kang, invited Ann James to join him in painting a banner to welcome in the autumn season. We welcomed the opportunity to also revisit Paju Book City, and back in Seoul, the [National Children's and Youth Library](#) to make a presentation of Australian books and prints from the 2012 "Hello! From Australia" exhibition. This exhibition has travelled widely to 4 major venues and over 15 libraries over the last two years.



Mr Kang and Ann James with the Welcome to Autumn banner

*Ann James and Ann Haddon of Books Illustrated* Victorian IBBY Institutional member

## HELLO TO KOREA FROM AUSTRALIA

The "Hello! from Australia" exhibition of book illustration and contemporary children's picture books, shown in March this year at the Bologna Children's Book Fair, was beautifully re-curated for [Nami Island's Pyeonghwarang Gallery](#). Australia was the focus country for their Chusok Holiday festival in September and this exhibition promoted Australian culture and the link between Australia and Korea through children's illustration and books. Our visit from Sept 8 to 15, assisted by the Australia Korea Foundation, saw us involved in workshops for children and adults. Nami Island draws thousands of visitors every year. On our first day there were 15,000 visitors and on our second day 13,000. This is a huge number but the tiny island seems to cope very well with visitors spreading out to find places to relax and take in the nature and culture promoted on the island.

## WELCOME TO OUR NEW INTERNATIONAL PRESIDENT

We welcome and congratulate our incoming President, Mr Wally de Doncker of Belgium, who shared his aims for the future of the organisation in his maiden speech at the closing ceremony of the Mexico Congress : "one of our objectives is battling illiteracy. IBBY wants to promote a reading culture and give every child the opportunity to become a life-long reader and this is only possible if the child enjoys reading." He went on to say that, "it is unacceptable that there are countries in this day and age in which girls are banned from reading or even learning to read. It remains unacceptable that children's libraries are being closed because of financial cutbacks, thus rendering books inaccessible to children from underprivileged families." He stressed that IBBY must continue to advocate that all children in all circumstances have the right to read.



## NEWS FROM FRANCE

*The World Through Picture Books Project* an IFLA Children's and Young Adult project.

Claire Stuckey, Children's Librarian of Gosford City Council, NSW, recently attended the International Federation of Librarians Association (IFLA) Conference in Lyon, France, in August. The Children's and Young Adult section has been promoting the above project for a number of years and Claire, assisted by two colleagues, developed the Australian list of 10 titles which will shortly appear in the updated IFLA publication *The World Through Picture Books*. The Australian team worked with various age groups reviewing visual quality and how children reacted or engaged with the story and, taking the fifty responses received, developed the following to reflect Australian children's picture books available in 2013 for an age range of one to eleven. Visiting Lyon Public Library, Claire saw the current exhibition of the project, including the Australian list:

*There's a Hippopotamus On Our Roof Eating Cake*, Hazel Edwards illustrated Deborah Niland (1980)  
*Possum Magic*, Mem Fox illustrated Julie Vivas (1983)  
*Wombat Stew*, Marcia Vaughan illustrated Pamela Lofts (1984)  
*Who Sank the Boat?* Pamela Allen (1988)  
*Edward the Emu*, Sheena Knowles, illustrated Rod Clement (1988)  
*Big Rain Coming*, Katrina Germein, illustrated Bronwyn Bancroft (2002)  
*Pete the Sheep*, Jackie French (2004)  
*Magic Beach*, Alison Lester (2004)  
*The Lost Thing*, Shaun Tan (2010)  
*The Little Refugee*, Ahn Do and Suzanne Do, illustrated Bruce Whatley (2011)

Claire took the opportunity during the IFLA conference in Lyon, August 2014 to further promote our talented creators. Sheena Knowles produced the classic picture book *Edward the Emu* which was the focus of her "fast talk" presentation. The 200 strong audience enjoyed the large slides highlighting the visual quality of Rod Clement's illustrations. Libraries in Australia have the opportunity to be part of this wonderful international initiative. Please let Claire know if you are interested in the project or the exhibition. For more information on hosting the Asian/ Oceania exhibition see <http://www.kodomo.go.jp/english/event/lend/index.html>.



Claire Stuckey talking about *Edward the Emu* in Lyon

**Claire Stuckey**, EC and NSW IBBY Member

## Australian nominees for 2015 ALMA

The list of nominees for the 2015 Astrid Lindgren Memorial Award (ALMA) was announced on the 9<sup>th</sup> October at the Frankfurt Book Fair by Boel Westin, the incoming chair of the ALMA jury. The list includes 50 first-time nominees among a total of 197 candidates from 61 countries.

Ursula Dubosarsky, Mem Fox, Libby Gleeson and Morris Gleitzman were the four Australians listed, and two New Zealanders whose work is well-known in Australia are Joy Cowley and Lynley Dodd. Two organisations familiar to IBBY Australia are also shortlisted: the International Youth Library in Munich and the Lampedusa Library in Italy. There were at least 14 nominees from the UK and about 5 from the US whose work is familiar to children's literature enthusiasts in Australia.

The 2015 Laureate will be announced in Sweden on the 31<sup>st</sup> March, 2015  
For further details see: <http://www.alma.se/en/Nominations/Candidates/2015/>

## NEWS FROM MYANMAR



Photo courtesy of Martha Keaney and Overseas/ROSL Royal Over Seas League

Martha Kearney, broadcaster, journalist and presenter of BBC's Radio 4's *The World at One*, chaired a panel discussion *Literary Heroes and Heroines* at the recent Irrawaddy Literary Festival. Aung San Suu Kyi, or Daw Suu as she is respectfully known, was taking part in this panel discussion and is patron of the Festival. She proved to be a star attraction with her loyal supporters coming in their thousands. Martha records that the session she was chairing was packed, so while most of the people watched on a large screen outside, they missed out on the simultaneous translation indoors.

Asked for her choice of literary hero, Daw Suu immediately responded with "Lizzie Bennet" in an affectionate tone that suggested a much-loved friend rather than a character from a book. This was a woman who wasn't afraid to speak her mind, she suggested, who was prepared to challenge the

rigid conservatism of her day...the resonances for the Irrawaddy Festival audience were clear. Jean Valjean from *Les Misérables* provided similar parallels. The other panellists selected the little boy who challenged the emperor with no clothes. Martha's favourite moment came at the end, with a rather tricky question from the audience "Who would the panel pick for an anti-hero?"

After the session, Daw Suu turned to her and whispered "Molesworth, isn't he an anti-hero?" As Martha laughed, she realised that the memory of the miscreant schoolboy must have come from her earlier incarnation as a mother and housewife, living a domestic life in Oxford before her world turned upside down. For further information see <http://www.rosl.org.uk/magazine-viewer.php/32/%3Cem%3EOverseas%3Cem%3E-September-November-2014.html>

## WHITE RAVENS CATALOGUE

Congratulations to the following Australians for their inclusion in the 2014 White Ravens Catalogue:

*Bakir and Bi* (Jillian Boyd, illus by Tori-Jay Mordey, Magabala)

*Alex as Well* (Alyssa Brugman, Text)

*The Sultan's Eyes* (Kelly Gardiner, HarperCollins)

*Song for a Scarlet Runner* (Julie Hunt, A&U)

*The First Third* (Will Kostakis, Penguin)

*My Superhero* (Chris Owen, illus by Moira Court, Fremantle Press)

*Parachute* (Danny Parker, illus by Matt Ottley, Little Hare)

*Donkeys Can't Fly on Planes: Stories of Survival from South Sudanese Refugee Children Living in Australia* (various authors, Kids' Own Publishing).



The White Ravens catalogue is produced annually by the International Youth Library in Germany, with titles chosen for 'the universal relevance of the themes they address, their literary and pictorial qualities, or their innovative content or design'. The list has traditionally been announced at the Bologna Children's Book Fair. However, from this year onwards, the list will be released at the Frankfurt Book Fair with the titles to be displayed at the following Bologna Children's Book Fair.

This year's catalogue has also been redesigned to mark the 50th anniversary of the White Ravens. The catalogue features 200 picture books, children's and young adult books from 50 countries published in more than 30 languages, with a short review of each title. <http://www.booksellerandpublisher.com.au/item/31610>  
For further details see <http://www.ijb.de/spezialbibliothek/white-ravens-2014.html>



### ***2014 has been a year notable for violence, conflict and destruction***

The International Board on Books for Young People (IBBY) was established shortly after the close of World War II in the hope of helping the world move beyond such things. IBBY's founder, Jella Lepman, believed that books could build bridges of understanding and peace between people. Children all over the world needed to know what all good readers know: you are not alone; others, even your enemies, have experiences, feelings and needs just like you do, and there is a whole world out there that you know little about. IBBY's work in the past sixty years has been informed by these ideals.

Projects in Afghanistan, Iran, with Syrian refugee children in Lebanon, and in Pakistan are recent examples of this work. Today we are launching an appeal for the reconstruction of IBBY's Gaza libraries.

In 2012 IBBY included in its mission statement that it is committed to protect and uphold the *Rights of the Child*. IBBY will voice its disapproval against anyone who harms or disregards these rights – regardless of the offender.

IBBY has been supporting two children's libraries in the Gaza Strip since 2008. One library was situated in the northern community of Beit Hanoun near the Israeli border, the other in the south in the town of Rafah, close to the border crossing with Egypt. The funding for the libraries came, to a great extent, from the great American children's author Katherine Paterson and her family foundation. The librarians had to be trained long distance because of the ongoing Israeli Government blockade and the Egyptian Government's frequent closure of the border crossing into Egypt, both of which makes travel impossible for the residents of Gaza. The books selected by IBBY experts in the region took months to arrive, but they did finally reach Gaza and the libraries could at last open. The children from the local communities found a safe refuge – as long as there was no war raging around them.

But in recent years there have been three devastating wars fought in this tiny, closed territory. And each time these children are invisible – "collateral damage". Anything, apparently, can be done to them with impunity.

At dawn on Sunday, 18 July 2014 the Israeli Occupation forces targeted the al-Ataa Charitable Society resulting in the partial destruction of the building. The damage was great and among the projects that were destroyed was the IBBY library.

Again at dawn ten days later on Thursday 28 July, just before the humanitarian truce ended, the Society was hit: a direct rocket from an F16 fighter jet completely destroyed the building levelling it to the ground. With this, Beit Hanoun lost an essential institution that had served all the sections of the Palestinian community: the children, women, young people and those with special needs.

The al-Shawka library in Rafah was occupied by the military and left in a very dirty condition with its windows broken. However, even though much of the equipment is broken or missing, the books are still on their shelves. This is good news for the children, although the majority of them have lost their homes and the librarian's house was completely destroyed. By the end of July it was reported that there were 182,604 internally displaced people in Gaza.

Since the beginning of the Israeli offensive, over 2,000 Palestinians have been killed, some 1,600 of whom are civilians, including at least 500 children and 300 women. Well over 10,000 others have been wounded. Again these are mostly civilians, many women and children. Thousands of houses have been completely or partially destroyed by the shelling. In April 2013 the IBBY President, Executive Director and Foundation President visited Gaza and saw just how much the young library users loved and depended on their libraries. They felt safe there. They could explore their feelings and find hope there. They could imagine a better life there. Today these children have been robbed of all that these libraries gave them.

The IBBY community has an obligation to rebuild these libraries, and we will – re-housing and re-stocking them in order to try to bring these children who have lost so much, help and the knowledge that they are not alone, not abandoned as they rebuild their lives once again. Perhaps with time they can regain a sense of safety and belief in the value of dialogue and hope for the future. They will know that we care.

If you would like to help IBBY carry on this valuable work as it endeavours to break the cycle of war and aggression and build justice and peace, please give generously. Thank you.

***Liz Page***, Executive Director, IBBY

Please send Donations marked **Gaza Library** to Dr Robin Morrow. AM PO Box 329, Beecroft, NSW, 2119. Cheques made payable to IBBY Australia Inc or Electronic Transfer to Westpac Bank, Account Name: IBBY Australia Inc BSB 032087 Account Number 283440 **Please ensure your name is visible in the description box on your payment.**

## 2<sup>nd</sup> ASIA AND OCEANIA REGIONAL IBBY CONGRESS

Organised by  
IBBY Malaysia (MBBY)

Supported by  
University of Malaya



### One World, Many Stories:

### Celebrating Diversities in Children's Literature and Literary Activities

15-17<sup>th</sup> May, 2015 (Friday-Sunday)

Venue: Perbadanan Putrajaya, Malaysia

Welcome to the 2<sup>nd</sup> Asia and Oceania Regional IBBY Congress. IBBY Malaysia, or MBBY, is pleased to have the opportunity to organise and host this Congress and to welcome participants from around the world to Putrajaya to an exciting event which brings together children's book activists, researchers, educators, writers, illustrators, publishers, librarians, storytellers, literature experts, book promoters and policy-makers from around the world to discuss topical issues of our concern. This first Congress was held in Bali, Indonesia, on 23-26 May 2013, focusing on how to strengthen Asia-Oceania IBBY.

Our theme, "One World, Many Stories", highlights the importance of the richness of cultural diversity in Asia-Oceania and recognises the role of all those involved in children's book and literature in shaping the ways in which we respond to this richness. Malaysia is a particularly appropriate place to celebrate this theme as it is known for its rich fusion of cultures and is a home to a unique potpourri of Asian Cultures, especially Malay, Chinese, Indian—along with many indigenous and ethnic groups. Our popular tourism slogan, "Malaysia Truly Asia", is a reflection of the nation's rich cultural and heritage diversity as well as its peace, stability and warm Malaysian hospitality.

This congress is for participants to openly discuss strategies for meeting the informational, educational and literacy needs of children and young adults and their families. In this gathering, your presence and contributions to the theme will further enrich this setting as a place of learning. We look forward to welcoming you in person to the Congress. For further details see: <http://www.mbbby.org/index.php/aisa-and-oceania-regional-ibby-congress/home> Closing date for submission of 250-word abstracts is 15 January, 2015.

### Forthcoming Conferences and Events

#### 2015

**30<sup>th</sup> March – 2<sup>nd</sup> April** Bologna Book Fair, Bologna, Italy

**13-16<sup>th</sup> May** 2<sup>nd</sup> Asian-Oceania Regional IBBY Congress Perbadanan

Putrajaya, Malaysia with the theme *One World, Many Stories: Celebrating Diversities in Children's Literature and Literary Activities*. The Call for Abstracts closes on the 15<sup>th</sup> January, 2015 with further information available from the Conference website at

<http://www.mbbby.org/index.php/aisa-and-oceania-regional-ibby-congress/home>

**29<sup>th</sup> May-7<sup>th</sup> June** Asian Festival of Children's Content, National Library, Singapore. See

<http://afcc.com.sg/> for further details.

**16<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup> October** 11th USBBY Regional Conference, Léman Manhattan Preparatory School, New York City. Theme: *The Wonderland of Children's Books*.

#### 2016

**18-21st August** 35<sup>th</sup> IBBY Congress, Auckland, New Zealand. For further details see

<http://www.ibbycongress2016.org/new-zealand/>

**2018** 36<sup>th</sup> IBBY Congress, Istanbul, Turkey.

# You Are Always Welcome

If each member could persuade one other person to become a member, this would greatly assist in building our strength. For the financial year 2014-2015 Individual Membership is \$30.00 and Institutional Membership is \$100.00.

We are proud of our achievements in the past year, and we could contribute even more with a wider membership base. Our annual levy to IBBY International is CHF 6,000 (2014 AUD \$8,097.60)

Please join us and help us continue as an independent body to assist in introducing Australian authors and illustrators for young people to the world stage.

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

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Tel: (w) \_\_\_\_\_ (h) \_\_\_\_\_ Mob: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Cost: Individual \$30.00 Institution \$100.00

## Payment

Please make cheques payable to IBBY Australia Inc

## Electronic transfer

Westpac Bank

Account Name IBBY Australia Inc

BSB 032087 Account Number 283440

**Please ensure your name is visible in the description box on your payment.**

## Are You a Mystery Renewing Member?

**On the 25<sup>th</sup> June, 2014 and 24<sup>th</sup> October, 2014 we received a \$30 Bank Deposit from unknown members to our Bank account via the Commonwealth Bank of Australia.**

**Please notify the Secretary at [jennij@iinet.net.au](mailto:jennij@iinet.net.au) if this is you!**

## This is our Current Executive Committee – All Volunteers

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

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

**Vice-President/Secretary:** 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)

Nicola Robinson. Email: [nicolarobinson@bigpond.com](mailto:nicolarobinson@bigpond.com)

Robyn Sheahan-Bright. Email: [rsheahan5@bigpond.com](mailto:rsheahan5@bigpond.com)

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

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