



INTERNATIONAL BOARD ON BOOKS FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

**iBBY**  
AUSTRALIA

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 26

August, 2015

### President's Letter

Dear members and supporters of IBBY Australia

We're on Facebook! Go to <https://www.facebook.com/IBBYAustralia> and be kept up-to-date with our own and international doings. Many thanks to EC member Nicola Robinson for this initiative.

Thank you, too, to the many members who have renewed membership. This year there were 138 renewals\*, and 17 members included a donation with the payment—wonderful support, enabling us to continue IBBY's vital work. A special thank-you to Mark Wilson for his generous donation of a beautiful limited edition print as a membership incentive (see p 7 for the winner). If you have procrastinated with your renewal, please scroll down to the last page of this newsletter and act now.

On a personal note, this has been a challenging year, with my diagnosis of breast cancer in July, 2014 followed by surgery, chemotherapy and radiotherapy. I did emerge briefly from the cycle of treatment to attend the Mexico City Congress in September, and to visit Tasmania in April. I am gradually regaining energy, and am specialising in visiting cities beginning with *Br*-. First it was off to Brisbane for the Book Links Lecture (see p 4). And in late August I'll travel to Bratislava, Slovakia. It is an honour to be invited to participate in the IBBY Institute there, *Seeing Differently Through Picture Books*, where I'll present some from our country's cornucopia of superb picture books to an international audience. The Institute coincides with the opening of the 25th Biennial of Illustration Bratislava (BIB), which has been held since 1967, and awards highly prestigious prizes including the Golden Apple.

Yes, IBBY does lead us to new and sometimes unexpected places, both in physical travel and imaginatively through reading.

I commend Chloe Mauger's enthusiastic account (p 3) of the Regional Congress in Malaysia. These words especially stand out for me, from Murti Bunanta of Indonesia: 'merely giving kids books is not enough—you need to physically interact and engage with them in sharing the stories and re-building a sense of trust that there are good things in the world'.

With best wishes

*Robin Morrow, AM*

\*Here are the latest membership figures for 2015-6: 92 individual members renewed for one year; 33 individual members renewed for two years; 12 institutional members renewed for one year, and one for two years. Total 138

**IBBY AUSTRALIA INC** invites you to a special IBBY event

**Tuesday, 22<sup>nd</sup> September at 5.00 pm**

at

The Great Southern Room, Level 4, State Library of Western Australia

**Grit and Gumption, Sass and Verve: Learning from  
Multicultural Picture Book Biographies**



with

**Rhoda Myra Garces-Bacsal**

Myra is the Coordinator of the Masters of Education in High Ability Studies at the National Institute of Education, Singapore and the Programme Director of the Asian Festival of Children's Content in Singapore

**Discover more about IBBY Australia at our brief AGM, a welcome with tea, coffee and nibbles and the interesting and vibrant presentation by Myra**

RSVP Jenni Woodroffe on 9367 4759 or [jennij@iinet.net.au](mailto:jennij@iinet.net.au) by Friday, 18<sup>th</sup> September

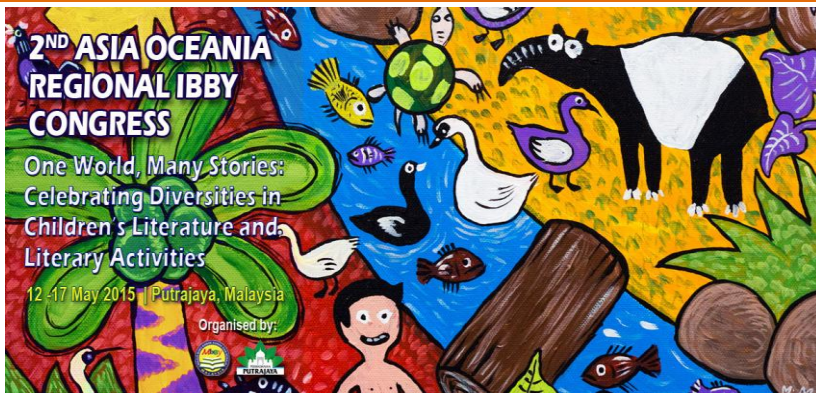
Golden Anniversary of IBBY Australia

Keep the date free!

NSW celebration of

International Children's Book Day

Saturday, 2 April 2016



## Report on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Asia Oceania Regional IBBY Congress: One World, Many Stories:

In May I travelled with Jenni Woodroffe to the IBBY Congress in Putrajaya (40 kilometres from Kuala Lumpur) where we experienced four stimulating days of immersion in **Celebrating Diversities in**

**Children's Literature and Children's Activities.** The program was indeed diverse, with almost 160 IBBY delegates from Afghanistan, Belgium, Cambodia, Canada, China, Czech Republic, India, Indonesia, Iran, Japan, Malaysia, the Netherlands, New Zealand, the Philippines, Singapore, South Korea, the United Kingdom and the USA – as well as 3 from Australia (Jo Henwood from Sydney, Jenni and I).

Each day included plenary sessions of broad interest, then parallel sessions of four presenters, so there was plenty of choice of topic and aspects of focus, making the decision of which to attend quite difficult. Very interesting IBBY international Reports from the Executive were followed by country Reports on IBBY activities in the region. At the end of each day, we were entertained by dinner and cultural performances before returning, exhausted but buzzing with ideas to our hotels. And I can thoroughly recommend the Pullman Hotel in Putrajaya – unlike most of the modern high-rise city planned to house Government ministries, our spacious two-storied hotel, with extremely helpful staff, was built in a traditional Malaysian style with red-tiled roofs, high-ceilinged cool foyers, garden courtyards and a delightful restaurant overlooking the large, man-made lake.

We heard of some wonderful programs to connect children to books – often in extremely difficult situations. Most memorable for me was hearing Indonesian President Murti Bunanta who, after the 2004 tsunami filled her car with children's books and drove hundreds of kilometres to reach devastated areas of Aceh, and subsequently spent weeks personally telling stories to children on her knee or crowded around her feet. Her message was that merely giving kids books is not enough – you need to physically interact and engage with them in sharing the stories and rebuilding a sense of trust that there are good things in the world.

Bringing home the vital work of IBBY were comments from members of the Executive who were waiting anxiously to hear of IBBY friends in Kathmandu, Nepal, which had been struck by severe and continuing earthquakes, just the previous week. The Executive concluded that nothing could be done immediately until the country had stabilised, but that IBBY will set up an action plan and funding to try to bring some help to children in Nepal.

Yet another intriguing program was of storytelling in Bangkok parks – an IBBY program which has continued for some years, with university students going each Sunday, rain or shine, to set up their collapsible display of books with mats for children and parents to come and hear stories.

I also learned of the exciting work in South Korea, on Nami Island, where the entire small island becomes a showcase for a month-long celebration of children's books and activities. Videos showed the ferry (completely transformed into a dragon), bearing crowds of excited children and their families to this magical place. Nami Island Children's Book Festival was in progress while we were in Putrajaya.

Despite the extremely cold air-conditioning in the spacious and well-appointed convention venue, where we had to resort to wearing multiple layers of the light summer clothing we had packed for tropical Malaysia, highlights for me were learning so much more about the amazing work of IBBY, and meeting some wonderfully warm and welcoming friendly delegates and members of the Congress Committee, who ensured our welcome and comfort. I can thoroughly recommend IBBY Congresses to open our eyes, minds and hearts by broadening our perspective of other ways to engage children in books and story throughout the world. My thanks to Jenni for urging me to go!

*Chloe Mauger*, Reviewer and WA IBBY member



Jenni Woodroffe and Chloe Mauger in Putrajaya

# NEWS FROM QUEENSLAND

## [Inaugural Book Links Lecture in Children's Literature](#)

*Reading the wider world: Books as bridges for young readers* with Dr Robin Morrow, AM



Dr Robin Morrow, AM Photo courtesy of Yvonne Mes

Dr Robyn Sheahan-Bright introduced and chaired the inaugural [Book Links](#) Lecture in Children's Literature on Thursday 25th June, 2015 at the State Library of Queensland in Brisbane. Robin Morrow commenced her lecture reflecting on her experiences of the first years of opening and running her children's bookshop in Beecroft 40 years ago. At that time there was only one very small section of Australian children's books between the many imported children's books from London and New York. She also talked about the influence of colonial books on her own childhood.

Through the influence of the CBCA (Children's Book Council Australia), teacher-librarians and

booksellers, this has changed so that many Australian children's books are available today. Robin warned, however, not to close our minds to international books, remarking on the importance of Jella Lepman's work, including her publication *A Bridge of Children's Books*, and the first exhibition of children's books from 20 countries in Munich in 1946. Robin urged us to make a conscious effort to change our attitudes towards international books and to look for the best quality books for children and, most of all, to recognise and advocate for the 'right of every child to be a reader'. Robin talked about the importance of children having access to books suited to their age and stage—books that represent them in their own language. And she also acknowledged the role that books have for children in building bridges to very different lives.

Highlighting the 2015 *IBBY Selection of Books for Young People with Disabilities*, Robin shared many Australian books that represent children's race, gender and disability. She noted the loss of Indigenous languages in Australia and mentioned how the representation of girls has come a long way in Australia and how frustrated she is by the current divide of the muscly blue and the sparkly pink sections in bookshops. But she does feel that Australian publishers have excelled in books on refugee experiences. Slowly and erratically, our books are embracing other lands....Books can break down barriers and help us know each other.

According to Robin, the big issue we now face is needing more books translated from other countries into English. Fifty percent of books translated worldwide are translated from English, while only three percent of books translated worldwide are translated *into* English. The audience seemed to agree with Robin that there is a need for an award in Australia for the translation of books into English—if this award doesn't already exist.

Robin indicated that the opportunity exists in Australia to translate children's books from other languages and then export these to other English-speaking countries.

This successful evening was celebrated afterwards at the Queensland Writer's Centre, and it is expected to be the first of many years of spectacular, thought-provoking and contemporary lectures on children's literature.

*Yvonne Mes.* Author, Vice-President Book Links and IBBY Queensland member.

# News From New Zealand

35<sup>th</sup> International Congress Auckland 18-24<sup>th</sup> August 2016

## Literature in a Multi-Literate World

*This is the first time this prestigious conference for those interested in children's literature and literacy has been held in the Australasia-Oceania area - a once in a lifetime opportunity*



Featured Speakers include: New Zealand - Kate de Goldi, Joy Cowley, Martin Baynton, Sir Richard Taylor and Witi Ihimaera.  
England – Julia Eccleshare  
United States – Leonard S Marcus  
Germany – Rotraut Susanne Berner  
Ghana – Meshak Asare  
Australians – Nadia Wheatley, Markus Zusak, Ursula Dubosarsky and Bronwyn Bancroft

Important dates to remember:

Current call for presentations or posters

**30 September 2015:** deadline for submissions

31 January 2016: notification of acceptance

1 September, 2015 – **31<sup>st</sup> March, 2016:** Early Bird registration

1 April – 30<sup>th</sup> June, 2016: Standard registration

1 July: late registration

More information about the Congress can be found at [www.ibbycongress2016.org](http://www.ibbycongress2016.org)

## More International News



The International Literacy Association recently awarded their Lifetime Social Justice Literature Award to NSW IBBY member Susanne Gervay OAM in recognition of Susanne's writing on social justice issues and the impact on young readers internationally. She responded in her acceptance speech: *My family were refugees who survived war and communism. They were targets, bullied, not registering as human. We know about the Cambodian Killing Fields, Armenian genocide, Syrian massacres, the Holocaust. But we can't fully comprehend these huge atrocities. We see, are horrified, but what can we do? Young people feel powerless. These stories of victimisation are too big, make us turn away, as we go about our lives...I write so that young people have a safe place to be. Inside my stories, there are friends, humour, love and ways forward to navigate a world which is overwhelming...* See <http://www.sgervay.com/lifetime-social-justice-literature-award/>

# News from Tasmania – Nan Chauncy Celebrations

2015 is the 70th anniversary of the founding of CBCA nationally; the first Book of the Year Award was presented in 1946. CBCA Tasmania will be celebrating these milestones with a range of Nan Chauncy activities:- a travelling suitcase exhibition, presentation of the Nan Chauncy Award at a Picnic in the Vale, showing of the film *They Found a Cave* and an oration by John Marsden.

Why Nan Chauncy? Tasmanian based Nan Chauncy won the Children's Book of the Year award three times: in 1958 for *Tiger in the Bush*, in 1959 for *Devil's Hill*, and in 1961 for *Tangara*. *The Roaring 40* was Highly Commended in 1964, with *High and Haunted Island* and *Mathinna's People* Commended in 1965 and 1968 respectively. She was the first Australian to win a [Hans Christian Andersen Award](#) diploma of merit, and was nominated by the United Kingdom in 1962.

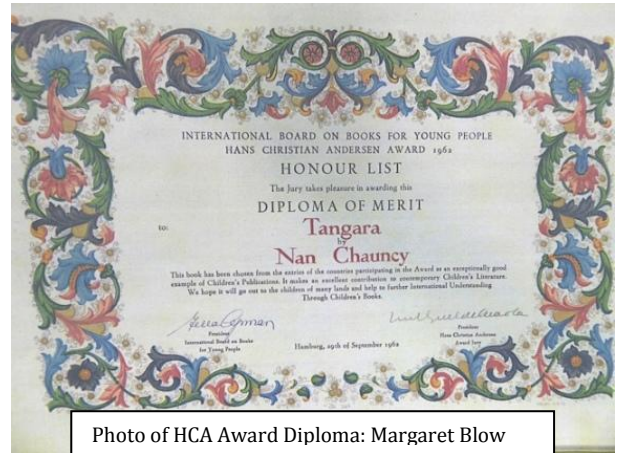


Photo of HCA Award Diploma: Margaret Blow

The travelling suitcase exhibition opened in the Allport Library and Museum of Fine Arts with a launch on May 28<sup>th</sup>. Life member and retired lecturer from UTAS, Hugo McCann spoke on how Nan Chauncy's personal life is reflected in her novels – her love of the Tasmanian wilderness, her admiration for its flora and fauna, her nostalgia for a 'Golden Age of childhood' in which a child may run unfettered in this untamed land. He described *Tangara* as 'a deeply moving classic by one of our great children's writers – part fantasy, part history and one hundred percent masterpiece'.



CBCA Tas Life Members Judy Moss & Berenice Eastman

The exhibition will travel around the state, and launches will be held in both Devonport and Launceston. CBCA Tasmanian Branch thanks Heather Chauncy for sharing her memories which have helped shape the exhibition.

John Marsden's oration in honour of Nan will be delivered at a High Tea held at Hodgkin Hall (The Friends' School)

on June 20<sup>th</sup>. This will be a special event with entertainment from choral group Heart and Soul and pianist Brien Connor.

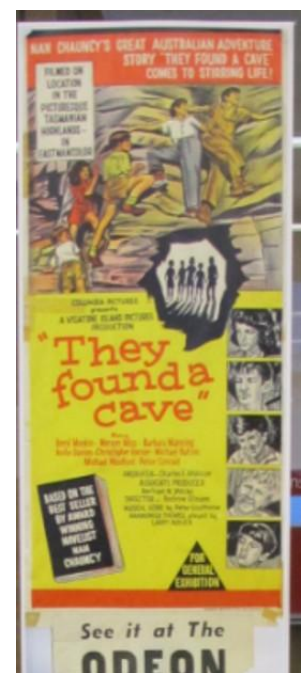
In August we will have the showing of the film *They Found a Cave* at the State Cinema on August 16<sup>th</sup> and at CMAX Devonport later in the month. Eight-year-old Michael Woolford, one of the child actors, and film-maker John Honey will be at the State Cinema talking about the film. We anticipate that Michael will be able to attend the Devonport showing and talk to attendees there as well.

On 11th October, there will be a picnic at Chauncy Vale. Highlights will include guided walks to the Cave. Day Dawn cottage will be opened, and guides will be available to answer questions. Picnic packs will be available and there will be a small entry fee to support the work of the Southern Midlands Council's Chauncy Vale committee. Event details will soon be available on our website.

<http://www.cbcatas.org/>

CBCA Tasmania thanks the Winifred D Booth Trust, Fullers Bookshop, Pan Macmillan Australia, Text Publishing and the Hobart Bookshop for their support in funding these events.

*Nella Pickup* Tas IBBY member



Original poster for film They Found a Cave. Photo – J.Mahjouri

## NEWS FROM WESTERN AUSTRALIA



Lesley Reece, AM

There was rejoicing at The Literature Centre, Fremantle when it was announced in the Queen's Birthday Honour List that their founder Lesley Reece had been appointed as Member (AM) in the General Division of the Order of Australia for significant services to children through improving literacy skills and promoting Australia authors and illustrators. Established in 1992 and formerly known as The Fremantle Children's Literature Centre, The Literature Centre was founded to celebrate, nurture and promote Australian children's literature. Workshops are provided for children from pre-primary to Year 12 as well as in Regional areas, and the Centre hosts an Open Day each term. The Centre relies heavily on corporate and government funding as well as money from private philanthropists and has recently established the Friends of The Literature Centre. A finalist in the 2014 and 2015 Western Australian of the Year Awards for Arts and Culture, Lesley was also awarded the Nan Chauncy Award by the Children's Book Council of Australia in 2010.

## NEWS FROM VICTORIA

On Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> July, *Picture This: A Celebration of Children's Illustration* was held at The Wheeler Centre, 176 Little Lonsdale St, Melbourne. Later, at the Queen Victoria Women's Centre, the inauguration of a new award, The Ullin Award for Children's Literature, was announced. IBBY member Albert Ullin OAM first opened the Little Bookroom's doors on 13 October 1960 with a vision of establishing Australia's first children's book specialist store. Over half a century later, the Little Bookroom stands as the world's oldest children's bookshop. The *Bunyips and Dragons* exhibition of the Albert Ullin Collection opened at the NGV on Saturday July 25.

Albert's impact on children's literature and young readers has been well recognised: he received the Dromkeen Medal in 1986, and in 1997 was awarded the Medal of the Order of Australia for his services to children's literature in Australia and beyond, and in 2009 he was the recipient of the Leila St John Award from the Victorian branch of The Children's Book Council of Australia.

## MORE NEWS FROM QUEENSLAND

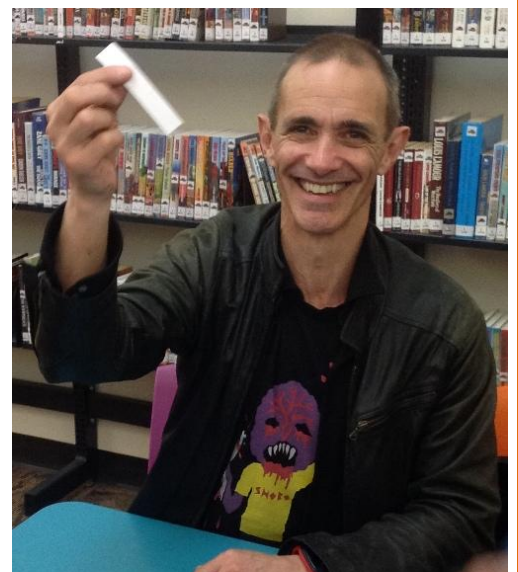
Presented by the Curtis Coast Literary Carnivale and the Brisbane Writers Festival, with the support of the Gladstone Regional Council, Andy Griffiths' visit to Gladstone from the 13th - 15th July was an enormous success, with nearly 3,000 students from Gladstone and surrounding areas participating in sessions with this very popular and outstanding author. *The 52-Storey Treehouse* illustrated by Terry Denton won ABIA Book of the Year 2015 - the first time in the 15-year-old Australian Book Industry

Awards history that a children's book has been overall winner. *The 52-Storey Treehouse* also won the prize for best book for younger children. On Tuesday, 14th July Andy also attended an open session for the public at the Gladstone Regional Library and after two and a half hours signing books for avid readers he happily drew the winning ticket from the draw of all IBBY members who had renewed their membership by the 30th June - and the winner

is: Bronwyn Bancroft. This exciting visit will long be remembered by all the children and their parents who had the opportunity of meeting Andy.

For information re associated events visit:

<<http://carnivale.gladstonerc.qld.gov.au/>>



Andy Griffiths pulls out the winning ticket from the IBBY membership draw...  
And the winner is: Bronwyn Bancroft

## A Book Feast

Have you ever noticed how many connections there are to children's literature in your everyday life? I have just spent a month in Scotland – specifically in the Shetland and Orkney Islands, and as I travelled, so many references to books and reading leapt out at me, so I decided to make a list.



My trip to this remote part of Scotland was partly inspired by the wonderful picture book **Puffling** by Margaret Wild and illustrated by Julie Vivas. Puffins seem so odd that they almost don't seem real. When we read this book with our classes, I always show the children pictures of puffins and a few short videos, so seeing these little clowns of the sea up close is an utterly amazing experience.

The other 'fun' thing about seeing puffins, in Scotland is all the souvenirs you can buy which feature puffins including picture books. The publisher of **Puffling** is missing a huge market opportunity here. You can find lists of books about puffins [http://www.goodreads.com/list/show/79025.Picture\\_Books\\_About\\_Puffins](http://www.goodreads.com/list/show/79025.Picture_Books_About_Puffins) and <http://kinderbookswitheverything.blogspot.com.au/2015/05/30th-may-puffin-day.html> and also the series by



Lynne Rickards: **Lewis Clowns around** and **Harris the Hero**. There is a famous bus stop in Unst (See left) and this month it features puffins with a display that included many of these books.



My adventure in Scotland also included visits to local public libraries, beginning in Aberdeen and it was a splendid space. I spent a happy hour reading all the Katie Morag books by Mairi Hedderwick, and I admired their beautiful Elmer floor rug. Next stop the Ferryhill library, also in Aberdeen. Another lovely space with very appealing displays which I think are essential to hook in young readers.

In Kirkwall I visited the Orkney Library and Archive, which deservedly won Library of the Year 2015. This library had the largest audio book collection for children I have ever seen, along with fabulous acrylic shelf display units with very smart labelling again to entice readers. Finally I popped inside the Children's library in Edinburgh. This is a new space in a very old building and it is one of the most special library spaces I have seen anywhere on my travels. You can see little of the inside here : <http://www.cityofliterature.com/12-days-of-edinburgh-city-of-literature-2014/day-3-libraries/>

Other book connections on my trip included seeing copies of *The Lighthouse Keeper* series by Rhonda and David Armitage in lighthouse gift shops, overhearing a conversation about the play of *The Railway Children* soon to be staged in York <http://www.nrm.org.uk/PlanaVisit/Events/railway-children.aspx>, seeing the café in Edinburgh where JK Rowling is purported to have written Harry Potter, and finally spending a joyous hour reading the program for the forthcoming Edinburgh Literary festival (15-31 August), which includes some wonderful children's book creators, such as (this is a tiny sample) Julia Donaldson, Jacqueline Wilson, Sally Gardner, Catherine Rayner, Nick Sharratt, David Melling, Debi Gliori, Michelle Paver, Emer Stamp, Giles Andreae and Petr Horacek. I even picked up a magazine to read on the plane and found another connection - an article about Catherine and Laurence Anholt. <http://www.catherineanholt.com/index.php/psychologies-magazine/>

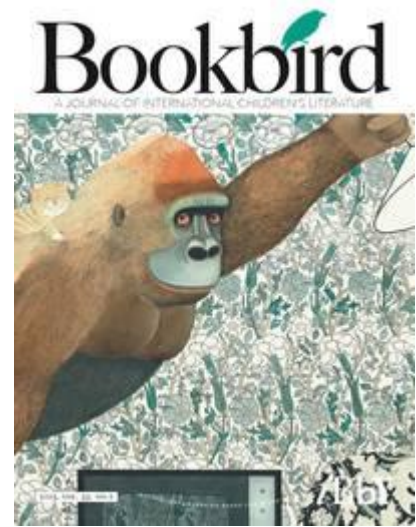
**Margot Lindgren** Teacher Librarian and NSW IBBY Member





## BOOKBIRD

Under the editorship of its new editor, Bjorn Sundmark, of Malmo University, Sweden *Bookbird* wings its way across many countries around the world. Vol 53 No 2 with its front cover of the Gorilla by Anthony Browne is of particular interest to Australian members of IBBY. *The Perfect Place to Set a Novel About the End of the*



*World? Trends in Australian Post-Nuclear Fiction for Young Adults* by Elizabeth Braithwaite, is a Research Fellow at Deakin University. This article touches on a number of titles, covering in greater depth Anthony Eaton's *Darklands* trilogy and Claire Zorn's *The Sky So Heavy*. *Challenging Stereotypes: Randa Abdel-Fattah's Use of Parody in Does My Head Look Big in This* in which Colin Haines, Associate Professor of English at Oslo and Akershus University explores the use of parody in addressing issues of racism in Australia.

IBBY Australia member, Victoria Flanagan's book *Technology and Identity in Young Adult Fiction: The Posthuman Subject* published by Macmillan in 2014 is reviewed by Maija-Liisa Harju. A tribute to the life of our much loved Maurie Saxby by our National President, Dr Robin Morrow is also included.

A new feature Authors & Illustrators & Their Books included an article *A Book Like Rain in the Desert* by Monica Zak with its title that is irresistible to those who live in our drought ridden land.

*"A Different Sunshine": Writing Jamaican National Identity Through a Girl's Coming-of-Age Story in Paulette Ramsay's Aunt Jen* by Paige Gray resonates with the story of Matilda O'Halloran in *A Waltz for Matilda* by IBBY member and current Australian Children's Laureate, Jackie French. The stories and influence of the 7 generations of pioneer women who are Jackie's ancestors permeate this coming of age story of Matilda as she matures from a 12 year old girl to a 21 year old woman, against the background of the forces of the suffragette, temperance and union movement that contributed to the federation of a nation in 1901, and which have been largely overlooked due to the events at Anzac Cove in 1915. As in *Aunt Jen* racial discrimination is an underlying theme in Matilda's story.

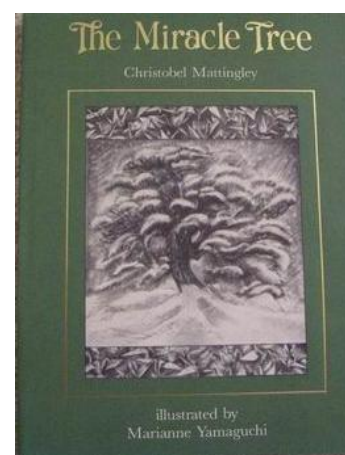
Two interesting feature articles were *The Portrayal of Puerto Ricans in Children's Literature* by Maria Acevedo and Sandra Stadler's *Debating Equal Representation in South African Youth Literature Written in English*, in addition there is Hala Bizr's letter *The Children's Literature of the Arab Countries: The Question of Language*. All were clearly written and provided an up to date picture of the state of play in three widely different parts of the globe.

As a preparation for the 35<sup>th</sup> International IBBY Congress to be held in Auckland, 18-21<sup>st</sup> August an examination of 6 pictures listed in the New Zealand Picture Book Collection (NZPBC) provides potential participants with insights into the varying cultural lifestyles they may encounter. *Cross-Continental Readings of Visual Narratives: an Analysis of 6 books in the New Zealand Picture Book Collection* is by Penni Cotton and Nicola Daly. Based on the concept of the European Picture Book Collection, the creation and purpose of the NZPBC can be found at <http://www.picturebooks.co.nz/> although unfortunately this is not identified as such in the article.

**Jenni Woodroffe** Vice-President/Secretary and WA IBBY member

## NEWS FROM JAPAN

IBBY Australia member Margaret Hamilton, AM recently advised of the death of Marianne Yamaguchi in a Tokyo hospital on the 30<sup>th</sup> May. Marianne will be remembered for the exquisite charcoal drawings that enhanced *The Miracle Tree* written by 2012 Hans Christian Andersen Award nominee Christobel Mattingley, and launched by Robert Sharman, at the combined IBBY/Loughborough Conference held in Perth in 1985. This beautifully produced book has touched many hearts, and Margaret, Marianne and Christobel excelled in creating a work of lasting value with a dedication that resonates strongly through the succeeding thirty years: *For all who have suffered from Nagasaki and Hiroshima and for all who work for peace.* It was touching to learn that the book was on Marianne's bedside table in the hospital when she died.

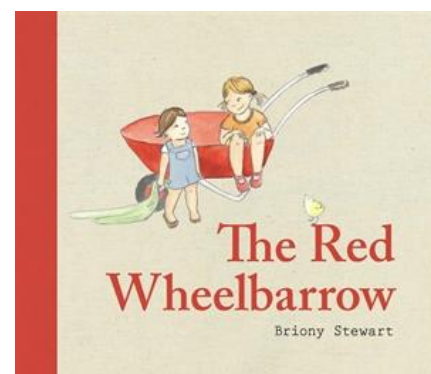


## NEWS FROM ITALY

IBBY Italia has announced the inauguration of the 2<sup>nd</sup> travelling exhibition, Silent Books Final Destination Lampedusa, in Rome on the 10<sup>th</sup> June, 2015. More than fifty books have been chosen by the IBBY national sections in eighteen countries worldwide. These books provide a sweeping overview of the world of wordless book publishing in



the five continents, testifying to their richness, to their originality and to their narrative force. We extend our congratulations to Briony Stewart, *The Red Wheelbarrow*, University of Queensland Press, 2012 as IBBY Australia's contribution.



## NEWS FROM KOREA

On the return flight to Australia, Teacher Librarian and NSW IBBY Member, Margot Lindgren found another connection to her Scottish book feast (See page 7). Browsing the movies available on her plane Margot saw the words "*How to Steal a dog*". She recalled this was the title of a book by Barbara O'Connor read many years ago. It has now been made in to a movie in Korea. As Margot found it to be an excellent movie, she emailed Barbara to find out how an American children's book had come into the hands of a Korean producer. Barbara's blog <http://www.greetings-from-nowhere.blogspot.com.au/search/label/Movie> gives further details and the following extract from her email response captures her excitement.

*The book rights for How to Steal a Dog were sold to a Korean publisher quite a few years ago just after it was published. I honestly have no idea why, but it was a big hit there. Sales were very good! Then I was approached by a Korean film producer who was interested. At the time, the book was already optioned to another producer. But after that didn't materialize and wasn't renewed, he snatched it up. He was very taken with the story and felt he could do it justice while in keeping with Korean culture, etc. So that's it! It's been a fun ride for me...staying in contact with the director and screenwriter via social media and following the pictures of the filming, etc. A thrill, for sure.*

## NEWS FROM BEIJING

YA author AJ Betts and philosopher-cum-picture book writer Damon Young delighted crowds at this year's Australian Writers Week, Beijing, an annual event of the Australian Embassy Beijing.

Now in its eighth year, this highlight of the Embassy's cultural program aims to introduce Australian writers, authors and publishers to the Chinese public through talks at schools, libraries, universities and festivals, and via a publishing forum.

Betts and Young joined other Aussies, Maxine Beneba Clarke, Brooke Davis and Tim Cope for this year's theme: 'bright and emerging – under 40'. Children's authors have been highlighted more specifically in the past, including a collaboration with Books Illustration on a display of prints from Australian picture books in 2011. Each year we're encouraged to include kids' authors as children's publishing in China goes from strength to strength, with Australian rights sales particularly strong for picture book and junior titles.

Of course kids' authors offer great opportunities for interaction with local children, students and their families, and AJ and Damon entertained through their storytelling, curiosity, honesty and close engagement with audiences, as well as with their ninja skills (Damon) and dumpling obsession (AJ). You can read and see more about their experiences at their websites: AJ <http://www.ajbetts.com/blog/china> and Damon's <http://damon-young.blogspot.com.au/2015/04/why-travel.html>



WA IBBY member AJ Betts cycling in Beijing in March, 2015.

**Nikki Anderson** NSW IBBY Member and project manager, Australian Writers Week China

## IBBY REGIONAL NEWSLETTERS

Australian members travelling to the UK and Europe may be interested in reading the latest European Regional newsletter at [http://www.ibby.org/fileadmin/user\\_upload/european\\_newsletter-04-15/IBBY\\_European\\_Newsletter\\_April\\_2015.htm](http://www.ibby.org/fileadmin/user_upload/european_newsletter-04-15/IBBY_European_Newsletter_April_2015.htm) and the following website <http://www.ibby-europe.org/> recommends titles for young people in a range of European languages. Those planning future trips to Europe might wish to include making contact with some of these IBBY sections.

The second Latin American and Caribbean newsletter is now available at [http://www.ibby.org/fileadmin/user\\_upload/ibby-boletin\\_julio\\_revisado\\_ok.pdf](http://www.ibby.org/fileadmin/user_upload/ibby-boletin_julio_revisado_ok.pdf) and for members wishing to learn more about these sections and their literature, this newsletter is a good introduction.

## IBBY FOUNDATION

On the 26<sup>th</sup> June it was announced that the IBBY Foundation will give a grant of USD 10,000 to support the important work REFORMA is doing to bring books to the thousands of unaccompanied refugee children sitting in detention centres close to the US/Mexican border.

Close to a hundred thousand children from Central America make the very dangerous trip to try and find safety and a way to survive in the United States. *Coyotes*, people whom they pay to 'help' them make the trip, often betray and abandon them. And when they finally make it to the border, thousands of them are turned back or arrested.

Many of the children who come to the United States alone are now sitting in detention centres for months along the Mexican border waiting to hear their fate. They are, in fact, prisoners. The cheque for USD 10,000.00 was presented to REFORMA by Prof. Janelle Mathis, president of USBBY, the United States National Section of IBBY, at the REFORMA President's Program, 1 to 2:30 p.m., Saturday, June 27, 2015, during the Annual Conference of the American Library Association in San Francisco. For further information about REFORMA see <http://refugeechildren.wix.com/refugee-children#!donat/c1ghi>

## Forthcoming Conferences and Events

### 2015

**4<sup>th</sup> September – 25<sup>th</sup> October** Biennial of Illustration Bratislava, Bratislava, Slovakia. See <http://www.bibiana.sk> for further details.

**9<sup>th</sup> September.** Society of Women Writers, NSW. 90<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Luncheon *Giving Women a Voice* Dixson Room, Mitchell Library, Macquarie St. Sydney from 10.00am – 2.00 pm. Guest speaker: Jessica Rowe AM. Cost \$70. Bookings: [www.WomenWritersNSW.org](http://www.WomenWritersNSW.org) or [swwlunchbooking@gmail.com](mailto:swwlunchbooking@gmail.com) or Phone 0403 177 208

**11-13<sup>th</sup> September** StoryArts Festival Ipswich, presented by the Ipswich District Teacher Librarian Network. Venues: Ipswich Civic Centre and Metro Hotel Ipswich. See [www.idtl.net.au](http://www.idtl.net.au) for further details.

**24-25<sup>th</sup> September** African IBBY Regional Meeting, Kigali, Rwanda, Africa. Theme: *Reading promotion and animation in Africa today and tomorrow*. See <http://www.ibby.org/1498.0.html> for further details.

**27<sup>th</sup> September** Writers in the Park Festival, Centennial Park, The Residences, Paddington Gates, Oxford St, Paddington, Sydney. 10.00 – 4.00 pm Free entry.

**16-18<sup>th</sup> October** 11<sup>th</sup> USBBY Regional Congerence, Léman Manhattan Preparatory School, New York City. Theme: *The Wonderland of Children's Books*. See [http://www.usbby.org/conf\\_home.htm](http://www.usbby.org/conf_home.htm) for further details.

**25<sup>th</sup> October** Australian Children's Laureate Fundraiser. *Draw a Story*. The Learning Hub, 14/12-18 Tryon Rd, Lindfield NSW 2070. See <http://www.trybooking.com/IMFM> for bookings.

**27<sup>th</sup> – 31<sup>st</sup> October** Congreso Internacional Lectura 2015: Para Leer el XXI. La Habana, Cuba. *We must get to know the forces of the world in order to harness them*. See [http://www.ibbycuba.org/congreso\\_lectura/](http://www.ibbycuba.org/congreso_lectura/) for further details.

**30-31<sup>st</sup> October** Celebrate Reading National Conference: *The Inside Story on Quality Australian Literature for Children*. The Literature Centre, Fremantle. For further details see [www.celebratereading.org.au](http://www.celebratereading.org.au)

### 2016

**20-21<sup>st</sup> May, 2016** 12<sup>th</sup> National Children's Book Council of Australia Conference. *Read: Myriad Possibilities*. Menzies Hotel, Sydney.

**18<sup>th</sup> – 21<sup>st</sup> August, 2016** 35<sup>th</sup> IBBY World Congress, Auckland, New Zealand. Theme: *Literature in a Multi Literate World*. For further details see [www.ibbycongress2016.org](http://www.ibbycongress2016.org)

**2017** 3<sup>rd</sup> Asia Oceania Regional IBBY Congress, Bangkok, Thailand.

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

**2020** 37<sup>th</sup> IBBY World Congress, Moscow Russia with the theme *The Great Big World through Children's Books: National and Foreign*.

## DID YOU FORGET TO JOIN OR RENEW?

Over 120 members remembered and we are pleased to announce that at the Gladstone Regional Library on the 14<sup>th</sup> July Andy Griffiths drew out the lucky winner of the Limited Edition print *Little Digger* kindly donated by Mark Wilson. Bronwyn Bancroft was the lucky winner. See page 7 for more information about Andy's visit to Gladstone.

TAX INVOICE  
ABN 78 890 601 974 [Not registered for GST]

### MAKE AN IMPACT: JOIN IBBY AUSTRALIA OR RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP

IBBY Australia membership for the coming financial year (1 July 2015–30 June 2016) is now available. Please join (or renew) and help us continue as an independent body, introducing Australian authors and illustrators for young people to the world stage.

IBBY Australia:

- Nominates Australian authors and illustrators for the prestigious international Hans Christian Andersen Medal and IBBY Honour List
- Encourages young Australian authors and illustrators through the Ena Noël Award
- Provides books to children in need through the Children in Crisis Fund.

RSVP TO DR ROBIN MORROW AM  
PO Box 329, Beecroft, NSW 2119 or email [Robin.Morrow@wordsandphrases.com.au](mailto:Robin.Morrow@wordsandphrases.com.au)

NAME \_\_\_\_\_  
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### This is our Current Executive Committee – All Volunteers

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