



THE CHILDREN'S BOOK COUNCIL of AUSTRALIA (SA BRANCH)

Minutes of the ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Held Monday 20th February, 2017

Blackfriars Priory School, Prospect Road, Prospect.

6.30pm for 7pm start

Welcome by Karen Mutton

1. Present: Anna Angelakis, Robyn Cations, Mary Davidson, Karen Mutton, Judy Miller, Jane Moore, Jo Schenkel, Nola Uzzell, Val Van Putten, Julie Wells, Linda Guthrie, Maria Komninos, Sue Wright, Mary Wilson.

2. Apologies: Katharine England, Tracy Glover, Lorna Crisanti, Caroline Wilson

3. Confirmation of the Minutes of the 2016 AGM

2016 AGM: Moved: Anna Angelakis Seconded: Robyn Cations. Carried

4. Reports:

- **President's Report**

Karen thanked the committee of 2016 for their hard work; welcomed our new Board member; revised the events of the past year and thanked the sponsoring bookshops. For the full report see Appendix 1

- **National Board Report Linda Guthrie**

Linda spoke to her report, which is found in Appendix 2. She acknowledged Ray Pincombe's work and praised the SA branch for its contributions to the board. She mentioned partnerships, 2018 conference and branding of our organisation. Linda also mentioned the success of Reading Time Online and the review of the constitution. The Nan Chauncy Award nominations close on 31 March.

- **Treasurer's Report: Anna Angelakis**

Anna tabled an interim report and declared that as soon as the Treasurer's report is audited it will be made available to members. She is still chasing up unpaid invoices. There is a need to investigate accounts that will bear higher interest.

She thanked Karen and Judy for support, plus a general thank you to all committee members.

5. Election of 2017 office bearers and general committee members

President: Karen Mutton

Vice President: Julie Wells, Linda Guthrie

Secretary: Nola Uzzell

Treasurer: Anna Angelakis

Membership Secretary: Judy Miller

Website Manager: Nola Uzzell

Committee members: Val Van Putten, Jane Moore, Lorna Crisanti, Sue Wright

6. Meeting close and date of 2018 AGM

The meeting closed at 7:25pm. The next AGM will be Monday 19th February 2018 with the venue to be decided.

Next committee meeting: Tuesday 7th March 2016, at 7pm at Toop and Toop

APPENDIX 1

President's Report, 20th February 2017

As the current President of "The Children's Book Council of Australia, SA Branch I am really delighted to see you here to support the branch at our AGM. My name is Karen Mutton and this has been my first year as President of the SA Branch. I need to say at this point I that anyone else who wishes to join our committee will be welcomed with open arms.

It is also my pleasure to welcome Mary Wilson, Patron of The May Gibbs Children's Literature Trust as our guest speaker tonight.

Over the past year our SA Branch has faced a few challenges, with a number of committee members retiring, but I would like to thank the current committee for the hard work undertaken that has contributed to our successes this year.

Our Membership secretary has continued to make a concerted effort to ensure that local Libraries, Schools and individuals maintain their membership, spending significant time following up on lapsed memberships and encouraging them to renew and re-engage with our Branch.

With the retirement of Mr Ray Pincombe from the National Board, our committee was challenged to fill the vacancy. The Branch's priority was to ensure that the replacement was a person who was prepared to be an active participant in our local Branch to improve communications and ensure SA was well represented at the Board level. I wish to acknowledge and thank Linda Guthrie for taking on this important role and look forward to her continued involvement for the term of her appointment.

Again our Branch has run a number of successful events during the past year, all of which have been well supported by our members.

1. *And the Winner Is*

This annual event was held at St Mary's College Adelaide with a variety of presenters including: - Older Reader Category: Linda Guthrie - Modbury HS Teacher Librarian, Younger Reader Category: Westminster College Teacher Librarian, Early Childhood Category: Holly Marling. While our 2016 event was not as well attended as it has been in the past those who did join us found it a very useful and valuable way to connect and engage with up to date and current Australian Children's Literature.

2. *Champion Pics*

An Art competition for students in SA Schools, "Champion Pics" was launched at our "And the Winner is" event. This Book Week focused competition for schools encourages students to create an A3 size art work using any medium in response to one of the shortlisted books in either the Early Childhood or Picture Book categories.

We gave this competition extra promotion by ensuring that all the participants in our "Picture This - Art Ideas" received entry forms for their students.

3. *Picture This - Art Ideas for Book Week*

Unley Libraries kindly hosted this event for us in 2016, opening up their Community Hall for our benefit. With our presenter Evelyn Richardson running a very hands-on workshop the event was well appreciated by all those who attended. The timing of the workshop, on a Friday evening meant we had a number of near country SA participants. As usual there was overwhelming positive feedback from the participants.

During 2016 our Branch was involved in two new events:-

4. *Read Aloud Day at the Zoo*

CBCSA was invited to participate in United Way Annual Zoo Day, which was held on Sunday 3rd April. Both Linda and I went to the Zoo, with our favourite picture books, to represent our Branch and it proved to be a wonderful opportunity to engage with others who value Children's Literature and reading.

5. *Book Week Morning Tea to celebrate 70 year of BOYA in Australia*

Our Book Week morning tea, hosted by the Lord Mayor of Adelaide, in the City Library was a resounding success. Invited guests included many SA authors and illustrators. It was held on Friday to hear the announcement of the BOYA winners of various categories. During this event our beautiful new SA Branch Banner, designed by Ali Durham, was seen in public for the first time, it is a wonderful design that causes much comment.

Our branch has plans for continuing growth and improvement for the future.

This year SA will host the National Event for the Short List announcement and we are still in the process of fine-tuning these plans.

We are working to make connections with publishers who bring authors to SA with a view to organising combined events. We want to try and make our Branch the go to organisation when authors and illustrators are visiting SA.

We have also begun to make use of digital systems to stream line and improve communications. An example of this is the use of TryBooking for events. While we have had a few glitches and there are things we still need to iron out generally it has been successful and allows us to track engagement of our members.

I cannot thank our Branch Committee enough for the work done in 2016 to ensure that we are "Engaging the Community with Literature for Young Australians". We are always looking to maintain the work we are doing while developing new ways to stay connected.

I would like to end by thanking and acknowledging the ongoing support of our sponsor Book Shops, Pegi Williams Book Shop, Walkerville, Booked at North Adelaide & St George's Books Magill and encourage our members to support where possible these wonderful shops.

Karen Mutton

President

APPENDIX 2

AGM Board Report 2017

I joined the board because I care about the availability of quality Literature for all young Australians.

The Question

I have a question for you to ponder as I discuss the Board Report this year: What can I do to be more involved?

Firstly as the South Australian Representative on the National Board of the Children's Book Council of Australia I'd like to acknowledge the work done by my immediate predecessor, Ray Pincombe. Ray ably assisted the Board in developing a strategic Plan that is already moving the organisation in a positive direction.

Secondly I would like to acknowledge and show appreciation for the mighty efforts of the South Australian Branch of the Children's Book Council of Australia.

This small, but highly motivated committee has provided many positive contributions to the national Board and continues to show enthusiasm and creativity in its enterprises. Highlight the work done throughout the year will be touched on by Karen.

This teamwork between the board and the Branches sees South Australia hosting the Official Announcement of the Shortlist for the CBCA Book of the year Awards in March.

Some exciting new partnerships are being developed by the CBCA Board and one of particular note is that with the National Centre for Australian Children's Literature. This partnership formalises a long-standing cooperative working relationship with the Centre

that provides storage and curation for the artwork from the CBCA Children's Book of the year Awards.

The Board has approved the CBCA calendar for 2017. It is available on the national website.

The National Board is currently considering options for the venue of the CBCA 13th National Conference to be held in 2018 and invites suggestions from all states and territories.

CBCA BRANDING

The National Board has a focus on the CBCA being more widely recognised as the premier voice for children's literature in Australia. There is more emphasis being placed on branding and protecting the copyright of designs and logos. This rebranding was evident in last year's with the CBCA Lifetime Achievement Award and will be followed through with the CBCA NAN CHAUNCY AWARD and the CBCA BOOK WEEK

The CBCA Book Week theme ESCAPE TO EVERYWHERE has Library Staff across Australia letting their imaginations run wild. The same can be said for multi-award-winning illustrator Freya Blackwood. Her work on the range of merchandise for 2017 is truly beautiful and will be available in May.

The online version of Reading Time has been another highly successful venture. The reviews and easy searching make this a go to site for library staff, teachers and parents. If you haven't signed up to receive the weekly newsletter, do so.

The Constitution Review Committee has completed the draft of the new constitution and here we must acknowledge the expertise of the committee, especially our own Robyn Cations. It is hoped that the new Constitution will provide greatly facility to the Board and Branches.

Nominations for the 2017 CBCA Nan Chauncy Award close on 31 March. Named after Nan Chauncy, a noted Tasmanian author of children's books, this unique CBCA award was created to honour those who have made an outstanding contribution to the field of Australian children's literature. Nomination criteria and an entry form are on the CBCA website: <http://cbca.org.au>

Please take the opportunity to contribute your ideas.

Finally I would like to take this opportunity to thank the South Australian Branch for their kind support of the National Board and the willingness to respond to all requests no matter how tight the timeline. This generosity of spirit is greatly appreciated.

So back to that question...

What can I do to be more involved?

The National Board and the branches all need the creativity of motivated people to inspire the engagement of young Australians with quality literature.

What might you do?

Linda Guthrie

Special Guest speaker, Mary Wilson - May Gibbs Children's Literature Trust

CBC AGM 22/2/2107

Mary Wilson (Patron MGCLT)

“ May Gibbs Children's Literature Trust”

The president Karen Mutton and members of the Children's book Council of SA. Thank you so much for inviting me to speak about the May Gibbs Children's Literature Trust tonight. The Trust has been going for nearly 18 years and has awarded over 150 Fellowships or Mentorships around Australia so it has quite a story!

I acknowledge that we meet on aboriginal land and pay respect to the original custodians whose spiritual connection with it was and is forged through storytelling and cultural practices.

I am in awe of the collective and individual knowledge you all have about Children's Literature and I cannot hope to match it! Tonight I am going to give you a broad sweep of my story of the Trust, how it began, the inspiration behind it, what it has done, what it is doing now and how relevant it can be in the future?

Now, how it began:

Many of you will remember the Australia-wide Campaign "Nutcote for the Nation" in the 1990's to save "Nutcote" for 44 years the studio/home of the earliest professionally trained Australian children's author/illustrator May Gibbs, located on Sydney harbor at Neutral Bay.

Many of us became involved as teachers, Librarians, writers and illustrators and lovers of Children's literature. The aim was to save her studio/home (designed in 1924 by architect BJ Waterhouse) as a national treasure, to honour the contribution May had made to Australian Children's literature over her long life (1877-1969, she died at 92,) and for it to be focus for Australian Children's Literature and the environment. At this stage it was in the hands of developers who planned to demolish it.

My involvement began in 1989 when I was rung by Author Christobel Mattingley to help save the Nutcote from the developers. Christobel told me that May had been advised to leave the little house in her will to UNICEF "for the Children of the world" and the copyright of her work to the Crippled Children and Spastic Centre of NSW. Sadly, that adviser did not realize UNICEF sold it to developers in 1970 and planned to use the money to help children in other ways. Christobel was contacting everyone she could think of, teachers, authors, artists, librarians etc around Australia to alert them of the imminent loss of this significant studio/home. At time I was past president of Delta Foundation, Educational and Cultural Foundation, and we were about to hold our annual Seminar at "Tanderra" "Yankalilla", the subject that November was to be "Children's Literature and the Environment". We invited Christobel to attend and speak, and hearing the story, immediately pledged our help.

A Support group "Nutcote for the Nation" was formed in SA and I became the SA Chairman with a wonderful enthusiastic group. We immediately planned a picnic in Botanic Park and "Read Ins" for Nutcote and an Exhibition of May Gibbs work at the State library curated by Juliana Bayfield. A little later I convened SA Friends of Nutcote and we had over 300 members! Similar groups were formed interstate, notably in Victoria by Liz Honey and Ann James. The May Gibbs Foundation was active in NSW. This campaign touched the hearts and minds of all ages around Australia.

May's works were prolific and covered a wide range of material, from:

=Illustrations for book covers

=Posters for Mothers and Babies Health Association,

=Enlistment Posters and postcards sent to soldiers during the first world War War

=Small illustrated books for children

=Over 15 Longer illustrated such as Snugglepote and Cuddlepote (pub 1918) (and never out of print)

=For nearly over 40 years from 1924 until she died, in 1969 she created 1968 Bib and Bub Weekly Cartoon Strips and 331 Tiggy Touchwood strips, which appeared in the Sunday Mail, around Australia, and

=346 Weekly Short Stories “Gumnut Gossip- Extracts from the Daily Bark” from which children learned to read and often made their own scrapbooks.

=Educational Publications and Correspondence courses for children in country areas.

May had a tough time as a woman from her publishers, She was paid half the amount her male counterparts received , and also as paper was scarce, and the reproduction of her beautiful art work was not perfect which broke her heart. Those amongst you here would understand this agony!

The hallmarks of her work were enduring, her botanical accuracy, her humour often satirical, her care for children as she raised issues affecting their welfare, her concern to protect the environment, where through imagination she made the bush come alive, and her concern for literacy. Her social commentary meant she informed readers of contemporary issues affecting their lives, with great humour and compassion. She was a significant figure in the lives of man !

I have drawn the broad canvas of her work just to show you how prolific and powerful an influence she was in her lifetime , for which she was awarded an OBE.

I can recommend two beautiful books” Mother of the Gumnuts “ by Maureen Walsh (pub1985) and”May Gibbs,More than a Fairytale” an artistic ,life by Robert Holden and Jane Brummitt(pub 2011) which contain a great deal of information.

There was a dramatic moment when it looked as though Nutcote would be lost.

A fire mysteriously broke out in the underground laundry overnight. Fortunately the next door neighbour, a Mrs Devine noticed smoke and by Divine intervention literally ,Nutcote was saved! The North Sydney Council then decided to back the campaign , and paid the residue of the \$2.86m owing to the owners.

But fundraising had to continue to restore“Nutcote”, to maintain it and run programs to make it viable. So the Mayor Ros Crichton set up The Nutcote Trust with members drawn from NSW and interstate , SA, Vic ,Queensland ,ACT . This was when Hon Ian Wilson, Jeff Prentice, Ann James and others were appointed to reflect the Council’s and supporters’ national approach and to raise the money from Governments and private donors. But there was still had a long way to go before it could be opened to the public.

As the restoration was carried out and we furnished Nutcote with May’s desk, folio cabinet , wardrobe(sold at auction after her death), and collected other furnishings like an old telephone ,wireless ,blue and white china and kitchen and laundry equipment , the garden around the existing banksia tree was replanted, we could see how much inspiration May drew from Nutcote and daily life around her, as she worked in the garden ,walked her Scotty dogs and rather dangerously drove her open Dodge car”Dodgem” out into the bush. She also drew on memories of childhood in the bush in South Australia and Perth, the sea voyage out from England, and current events such as wartime rationing, collecting pots and pans to help the war effort, the radio broadcasts of cricket and current affairs, and observing people’s attitudes , and foibles!

Facilities for visitors had to be planned. Then a 3 storey apartment block came up for sale over the road from Nutcote, overlooking it to the Harbour Bridge . There was great excitement. It was fraction of the cost of a new building and the integrity of” Nutcote” and the fragile gardens could be preserved. This building could provide an off -site Education Centre and wet area for workshops for children on the ground floor, the middle floor would be a changing Exhibition area for May’s works and that of contemporary writers and illustrators , and the top floor would be a writers -in- residence apartment for creators of children’s literature, and administration office . May’s garage could now be converted to a shop, tearooms and toilets . It was an ideal set up.

In 1994 restoration was completed and Nutcote was opened to the public.The

Committee of the Nutcote Trust knew that no Museum could exist on entrance money alone, and that an Endowment Fund would have to be created. So in 1998 the May Gibbs Children's Literature Trust was formed through the Nutcote Trust to work with it to attract visitors and inspire ongoing funding, to make Nutcote a viable educational, artistic and environmental Centre, and for exhibitions and activities to honour May Gibbs. Ann James on the Board gave the advice to Ian as Chairman and Jeff Prentice as Deputy that the greatest gift to support the creativity of contemporary writers and illustrators, was Time. Children's literature was at the bottom of the pile in attracting Government funding. Picture books in particular fell between being literature and art quite ignoring its impact as visual literacy! It was decided to raise money for Fellowships and Mentorships and to create partnerships to support Nutcote.

Delta Foundation in South Australia raised money for a "May Gibbs Nutcote Fellowship" and Elizabeth Hutchins was selected to take up the first residency. She relished the chance to work with children in this setting and to experience some of the magic of May Gibbs and her studio home, and to attract visitors.

Sadly some outside the Committee of the Nutcote Trust thought the programs should focus only on May Gibbs and the house as a Museum. They persuaded the new Mayor to appoint councillors to take over the Board, and not to continue its Education Centre and Writer-in-Residence programs.

This was a hard time for the interstate trustees, who had worked so hard to set Nutcote up to be viable, and to honour its objectives to the many supporters around Australia, who had raised money for it to be a National Treasure.

However there have been some great advantages in what happened next!

Ian Wilson (Chairman) and Jeff Prentice (Deputy) and interstate supporters decided to continue with the May Gibbs Children's Literature Trust to continue to offer Creative Time Fellowships and Mentorships to Australian Children's Authors / Illustrators nationally and to keep May Gibbs' name before the public throughout Australia. The aim was to fundraise to purchase studio apartments in each state if possible, and for support groups to be created in States around these apartments.

The inaugural fellowship was shared by Ann James from Victoria and Tania Cox

from Ayr, Far North Queensland in 1998. They took up residence at Kathleen Lumley Post Graduate College in North Adelaide. On 16th March during the Adelaide Festival of Arts, the Trust was officially launched in the Adelaide Arcade with over 140 people in attendance. The Children's book "Baby" written by Queensland author Tania Cox illustrated by Ann James published by Working Title Press was also launched that evening.

The second May Gibbs Fellowship was accepted by Shaun Tan from Perth. Shaun illustrated John Marsden's book "The Rabbits" published by Lothian Books which won the CBCA Picture Book of the Year Award in 1999. Shaun took up his residential Fellowship in May at the University of Melbourne working with students in the Department of Language, Literature and Education.

The Third May Gibbs fellowship was accepted by Bronwyn Bancroft the Aboriginal artist, book illustrator and textile designer from Sydney who stayed at Dromkeen Riddell's Creek in Victoria.

There was great excitement as by this time enough money had been raised to purchase the first studio Apartment in South Australia at 2/232 Osmond Tce Norwood, a suburb of Adelaide! May Gibbs arrived in Australia in 1881 in the Hesperus at the age of 4 with her mother and brothers. They eventually settled in Queen Street Norwood where there was a well, fruit trees and bushland. Later May settled in both Perth and Sydney. It seemed so appropriate to have a studio close to May's early childhood home!

The Fellowships and financial support became very successful and gradually over the years the Trust was able to purchase an apartment in Melbourne , Canberra and Brisbane, and award regular Fellowships nationally. The support groups were wonderful.

A special feature of the Trust is the establishment of Program Committees consisting of professional volunteers in Adelaide , Melbourne Canberra Brisbane and Sydney. Initially each State program committee had a chair which liaised with, our first National Program Chair , Elizabeth Hutchins in Adelaide.

Now the National program Chair is your talented Julie Wells and we are thrilled Julie will be able to bring you up to date with how that Committee operates.

The first Program coordinator was Nan Halliday and much loved. She set the tone of professional and warm organizing of fellows. Sally Chance has been in that role for 6 years and has built on Nan's expertise in her own engaging way . She will be leaving us this year to further her studies and we will miss her very much.

The Trust has 40 Volunteers across Australia and I am sure that those who have taken responsibility will affirm that their involvement with the Trust has added to their own personal and professional development.

As I said, Ian Wilson was the First and Founding National Chair with Jeff Prentice Deputy. Dianne Gray followed him. A lawyer and grandmother, her professional and steady hand and delightful personality as Chair, kept the Trust true to its values.

Now the Chair is Elizabeth Clare, former President of Adelaide Rotary, who has a very able Board consisting of Dianne Gray , Fij Miller, and Sally Chance

The support groups are amazing and generous.

They meet and greet the fellows and keep an eye on them sometimes run them around, and arrange the fundraising at which Fellows give their time to and meet donors, and speak about their work. Alle Goldsworthy is the current SA Chair,

Judy Russell the Brisbane Chair, and she and her committee meet and greet and take fellows to Rothbury on Ann Studio in Brisbane, and arrange the fundraising speaking events. Virginia West is like Mother Earth to Fellows in Canberra , now helped by Harriet Gray , who settle Fellows in The Liversidge Apartments in the gardens of the ANU. Dr Belle Alderman who runs the Lou Rees Collection is generous with her time with fellows in Canberra .

Successes: Over the years, through the provision of physical space, the Trust has given authors and illustrators active and practical assistance in their

creative work, and partnerships have been made with Universities, Libraries , schools to maintain the human interface . Apartments have been purchased in Adelaide , Melbourne , Canberra and Brisbane, and in SA partnerships with Seymour college through the Von Crompton fellowship , Scotch College through the Iva Bridgland Fellowship. and Victor Harbor school. Over the years it has had partnerships with Universities of Melbourne , Flinders , and Brisbane and Melbourne and Brisbane Libraries, and the Canberra Museum. The Trust has no government support . It is registered as a charitable organization so donations are Tax deductible. It is not backed by any one publisher, nor has it vested interests. It has the welfare of the creators of children's literature and children it serves at heart.

- Quotes from Diary Entries from Studios :(See website www.maygibbs.org.au)

Liz Honey(Vic)Adelaide

John Nicholson “

Deb ABELA -ACT

Pam Rushby-ACT

Lorraine Marwood- Brisbane. "Starjumps"(Verse Novel, won PM Literary Award)

Many Fellows have won awards or been short listed and two, Boori Pryor and Leigh Hobbs have been appointed Australian Children's Laureates to inspire children and families to read and be literate. I often think of early fellow Sofie Laguna at the studio, who wrote "My Yellow Blanky" (now a Miles Franklin Award Winner, for "Eye of the Sheep").

On going .

There are always changes and opportunities presenting themselves to the Trust. Whether it is a change of residential accommodation or partnerships or personnel bringing their skills ,or changes in technology , and we welcome this . The bottom line is the welfare of Fellows, and the children and families with whom their work brings them into contact.

The last latest development for the Trust is the Ian Wilson Memorial Fellowship for an emerging writer or illustrator. We are thrilled that Georgina Chadderton is the first recipient . She is from Adelaide but will take up residency at The Burrow in Norwood in March and work on her Graphic novel "Oh Brother" about growing up with a brother with autism. I have invitations here if any members of the CBC would like to hear her speak at our next function at the Burnside Library in Thursday 16 March 6.30 to 8pm in conversation with Greg Holdfield.

How relevant is the Trust and how will it be in the future? . For this I go back to May Gibbs. For me she is the touchstone of inspiration for the Trust.

How effective her creative output was, her experiences coming from UK to make her home in Australia. She saw the patterns and beauty of nature and was a keen observer of life around her.I invite you to revisit her life and work!

Hallmarks of her work:

Her environmental awareness and botanical accuracy

Her social commentary

Her concern for literacy

Her humour

Imagination and empathy

Care for children

She faced fears

Lifted spirits

Informed and delighted adults and children at the same time.

Children hear it in your voice and see it in your eyes and gestures as you read to them.These are all powerful attributes of storytelling and poetry and art ,which are evident in the work of our Fellows and will be always relevant.

I hope this has given you my bird's eye view of the aims and work of the Trust.

I will finish now by quoting Dr Belle Alderman in Canberra in her CBC of Australia Oration in 2003, who said,"The May Gibbs Children's Literature Trust is the latest example of innovative and creative ventures to support Australian authors and illustrators and so to bring them into contact with their Community".

Her testimony and that of the Fellows and the schools and libraries, Universities teachers, children, and parents and everyone who meets our Fellows keeps the Trust alive and going!

Thank you so much for listening . We would welcome anyone to join our activities so do contact us if you would like to.

[www.maygibbs.org .au](http://www.maygibbs.org.au)(Website)

Refs: MGCLT Website ,and Diaries.

“ Australian Children’s Literature-Finding a voice”,JeffreyPrentice (pub2016 Braidwood press)

Delivered at Black Friars School Library Prospect SA.