

# ANNUAL REPORT 2024/2025



THE CHILDREN'S  
BOOK COUNCIL  
OF AUSTRALIA

VIC BRANCH

## **Executive Committee:**

President: Jo Panckridge

Vice Presidents: Karys McEwen & Annette Wright

Treasurer: Geraldine Woolnough

Secretary: Jo Pentony

## **Committee Members:**

Ngaire Brown

Robyn Burke

Micheal Earp

Marissa Kyriakopolous (resigned)

Kate O'Donnell

Anne-Louise O'Donoghue

Julia Petricevic

Leanne Rands

Ruth Thatcher

Erin Wamala (resigned)

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## THE CHILDREN'S BOOK COUNCIL OF AUSTRALIA

### (VICTORIAN BRANCH) INC.

ABN 49 659 828 173; Registered Association A0014226



### **AGENDA for the Annual General Meeting of The Children's Book Council of Australia (Victorian Branch)**

**Inc. held on Wednesday, 14 May, 2025 at Bargoonga Nganjin, North Fitzroy Library at 6.00pm**

#### **Opening and Welcome:**

#### **Attendance:**

#### **Apologies**

1. **To confirm the minutes of the previous Annual General Meeting held on 16th May, 2024.**
2. **To receive from the Management committee reports upon the transactions of the Association during the last preceding financial year.**

3. **To elect officers of the Association and ordinary members of the Committee**

The following members were nominated as Office Bearers and Committee members for **2025/2026**:

As per Rule 16.3, these names have been listed:-

PRESIDENT:	Jo Pentony
TREASURER:	Karys Mc Ewan
SECRETARY:	Ngairé Brown

#### **GENERAL COMMITTEE:**

Annette	Wright
Emma	Bowd
Emma	Wallis
Geraldine	Woolnough
Jackie	Elliott
Jennifer	Kean
Kate	O'Donnell
Leanne	Rands
Robyn	Burke
Ruth	Thatcher

4. **To receive and consider the statement submitted by the Association to members in accordance with Section 100(1) of the Associations Incorporation Reform Act 2012 (Vic.)**
5. **To receive and consider the Auditor's Report and Audited Accounts on the financial affairs of the Association for the last financial year.**

#### **Close:**



## (VICTORIAN BRANCH) INC.

ABN 49 659 828 173; Registered Association A0014226Y

### **Minutes for the Annual General Meeting of The Children's Book Council of Australia (Victorian Branch) Inc. held on Thursday, 16 May, 2024 at Bargoonga Nganjin, North Fitzroy Library at 6.00pm**

**Opening and Welcome:** Jo Panckridge, President took the Chair and declared the meeting open and welcomed everyone to the 2024 Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the CBCA (Vic Branch) Inc.

#### **Attendance:**

Amy Adeney	2719	
Grace Baranowski		
Denise Beanland	2846	
Robyn Burke	1688	
Laura Farrington	2658	
Alida Galati	1742	Ivanhoe Grammar School
Ellie Geddis	2256	Melbourne Grammar School - Grimwade House
Natalie Galati	2972	
Caz Goodwin	2317	
Leonie Johnson		
Bronwyn Joseph	2256	
Loretta Kaval	2885	
Chris Kelly		
Marissa Kyriakopoulos	2992	
Karys McEwen	2884	
Kerrie McKinlay	2925	
Maria Mithen	2527	
Meg Moores	1266	
Rebecca Newton	2938	Hume Anglican Grammar School
Kate O'Donnell	1088	
Christine Oughtred	LM18	

Jo Panckridge	2515	Geelong Grammar
Jo Pentony	2186	
Julia Petricevic	1309	Genazzano F.G.J.
Fran Pusmucans	2256	Melbourne Grammar School - Grimwade House
Leanne Rands	2834	
Margaret Robson Kett		
Sian Smith	1019	
Ruth Thatcher	2670	St Luke's Primary School
Suzanne Thwaites	1405	
Ilona Urquart	2910	
Erin Wamala	2773	The Kids Bookshop
Geraldine Woolnough	LM14	
Ruth Woolven	2761	
Annette Wright	2695	

### Apologies

Micheal Earp, Susan O'Malley, Andrea Rowe, Annette Wright, Anne-Louise O'Donoghue, Ngaire Brown, Karen Fleisher, Ruth Oppenheimer

### 1. To confirm the minutes of the previous Annual General Meeting held on 18th May, 2023.

The minutes of the previous Annual General Meeting held on Thursday, 18th May, 2023 were tabled.

**MOTION:** *That the minutes of the previous Annual General Meeting held on 18th May, 2023 be confirmed as a true and correct record of the meeting.*

Moved: Kate O'Donnell

Seconded: Jo Pentony

**CARRIED**

### 2. To receive from the Management committee reports upon the transactions of the Association during the last preceding financial year.

The report was circulated to members and there were no questions.

**MOTION:** *THAT the 2023/2024 Annual Report, as prepared by the Management Committee be accepted.*

Moved: Karys McEwen

Seconded: Erin Wamala

**CARRIED**

### **3. To elect officers of the Association and ordinary members of the Committee**

The following members were nominated as Office Bearers and Committee members for **2024/2025**:

As per Rule 16.3, these names have been listed on our website:-

PRESIDENT: Jo Panckridge

TREASURER: Geraldine Woolnough

(she is not up for re-election, as Geraldine is serving the second year of a two year term and no other nominations were received for this position)

SECRETARY: No nominations were received for this position. Jo Pentony has expressed interest in this position however she was not eligible to nominate as she joined the committee in September 2023 and the CBCA VIC Branch constitution states you need to be on the Committee for 12 months before you can nominate for an Executive position. Jo Pentony can be appointed to the role of Secretary in September at the committee meeting and this appointment would be ratified at the AGM in 2025. Until Jo Pentony can be appointed, Geraldine Woolnough will be listed on the Consumer Affairs Victoria website as the Public Officer thus ensuring the Branch is fulfilling its legal obligations. Are there any questions?

#### GENERAL COMMITTEE:

- Ngaire Brown
- Robyn Burke
- Micheal Earp
- Marissa Kyriakopolous
- Karys McEwen
- Kate O'Donnell
- Anne-Louise O'Donoghue
- Jo Pentony
- Julia Petricevic
- Leanne Rands
- Ruth Thatcher
- Erin Wamala
- Annette Wright

**MOTION:** *THAT a new Management Committee, as named, be accepted by the members present for 2024/2025 year.*

Moved: Ruth Woolven

Seconded: Leanne Rands

**CARRIED**

Thank you to Angela Crocombe who left the committee in March

We thank Angie Cui for her dedication to the role of Office Manager 2023 and in 2024 we have welcomed Natalie Galati to the role. Thank you to both of them for keeping our office running smoothly.

**4. To receive and consider the statement submitted by the Association to members in accordance with Section 100(1) of the Associations Incorporation Reform Act 2012 (Vic.)**

It is a requirement for the Annual Financial Statements to be approved by the membership and forwarded, together with the completed Annual Statement, to Consumer Affairs Victoria.

The Financial Statements for the twelve month period ended 31<sup>st</sup> January, 2024 were prepared by Accru.

**MOTION:** *THAT the Annual Statement based on the audited Financial Statements be submitted to Consumer Affairs Victoria, as per Section 100(1) of the Associations Incorporation Reform Act 2012 (Vic).*

Moved: Kerrie McKinlay

Seconded: Meg Moores

**CARRIED**

**5. To receive and consider the Auditor's Report and Audited Accounts on the financial affairs of the Association for the last financial year.**

**MOTION:** *THAT the Financial Statements for the twelve months ended 31st January 2024, as audited by Accru be accepted as an accurate representation of the financial position of the CBCA VIC Branch*

Moved: Christine Oughtred

Seconded: Suzanne Thwaites

**CARRIED**

**6. To receive and consider the subscription fees of the Association**

As required by the Constitution, Subscription fees are to be set during each Annual General Meeting. The outgoing committee recommend the Subscription/Membership fees be maintained:

- Institutions \$93.00
- Personal \$65.00
- Concession \$40.00 (incl. Authors & Illustrators)

- Family \$74.00.

This recommendation was accepted by the Members present

**7. The following item was proposed as special resolution**

*THAT Jo Pentony, appointed to the committee to fill a casual vacancy until this annual general meeting, be ratified.*

Moved: Meg Moores

Seconded: Karys McEwen

**CARRIED**

**Close:** Meeting closed at 6.20pm





## CBCA VIC - AGM 2025 PRESIDENT'S REPORT 2025

2024-25 has been a productive and busy year at the VIC Branch.

The committee have continued to meet online, a more inclusive and flexible option for communicating and collaborating. There have been challenges in generating robust discussions over Zoom but, as a voluntary organization, Zoom meetings have allowed committee members to join regularly, without the challenges of travel.

### Committee movements

We bid farewell to our committee secretary, Ruth Woolven after the 2024 AGM. Ruth was a highly organized, knowledgeable and committed committee member and advocate for children's literature.

Jo Pentony stepped up to take on the role in September, 2024.

We also farewelled Office Manager Natalie Galati who left to take maternity leave and a full-time job as a new mother at the end of 2024 and have welcomed a new Office Manager to our committee, Nicole Brown. Nicole comes with a wealth of knowledge and understanding about administering the branch.

She has already proven invaluable in sorting out our finances, memberships and managing our communications. The committee has increased Nicole's hours since joining us in January until June 2025 to ensure the branch is in a healthy financial and management position post AGM.

We farewelled and thanked long-time committee member Erin Wamala and more recent committee member Marissa Kyriakopoulos and wished them all the best with their individual pursuits.

With my new role as National Board Chair, I resigned my position as Vic Branch President in February. The Executive of Karys McEwen, Annette Wright, Geraldine Woolnough and Jo Pentony have banded together to take on the role as an executive. They are hoping to secure a president at the AGM in May 2025.

The VIC Branch committee saw the resignation of our Ballarat Regional Directors, Loretta Kaval and Ruth Oppenheim in August 2024. These ladies cited time issues, and a sense of feeling removed from the children's book industry as reasons for their resignation.

Geelong's Regional Director, Anne-Louise O'Donoghue is retiring from the committee and the Regional Director role at the AGM.

Bendigo is without a Regional Director.

Gippsland retains their Regional Director in Susan O'Malley.

We have welcomed Jackie Elliott from Warrnambool as a Regional Director for this area and she has become a committee member to support her region more officially.

## Events

The Vic Branch has hosted a wide variety of events for children, creatives, professional development and for those with an interest in the children's book industry from July 24 to May 25.

Our **Children's Book Week at Luna Park** was held on Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> August. For VIC Branch members and their families, Luna Park offered free entry with committee members hosts of wonderful activities and prizes. This was a highly successful event attracting many members and the public, to celebrate Children's Book Week.

The VIC Branch hosted an **In Conversation with Australian Laureate Sally Rippin** in August 2024 at Bargoonga Nganjin, North Fitzroy Library, hosted by Jacinta Parsons. Sally spoke on ways to support children's reading highlighting her personal motivation for research into neurodiverse readers.

**Geelong Judges' Talk**, was held in August at The Geelong College. This is always a great opportunity for Geelong members and creatives to network and hear from the EC, YR and OR judges on the CBCA Shortlist for 2024. Over 50 people attended this in-person event.

**Ballarat Judges' Talk** invited Ballarat and surrounding area members and others to join Ballarat local legend, Jason Sparks from St Alipius School, for a discussion on the CBCA's Book of the Year contenders.

The Vic Branch held a **Celebration of Creators** event at the North Fitzroy Library in November 2024 to celebrate our Victorian authors and illustrators and those in the book industry. It was also a time to award the biannual Albert Ullin Award. We were thrilled to present this award to author/illustrator Judith Rossell for the depth and quality of her contribution to children's literature.

Thank you to the Albert Ullin Award Panel for 2024- Karys McEwen, Annette Wright, Geraldine Woolnough and Jo Pentony.

In 2025, we held several very successful in-person events including our Night of Notables Event at our preferred location of the Yarra Libraries North Fitzroy Library venue. Andrea Rowe and Karen Wasson from Hardie Grant Books Australia share their perspectives on the children's literature industry and how they worked in this space to over 90 VIC Branch members and others.

The Kid's Bookshop and owner Erin Walama provided book sales on the night.

### **Hannah Summerville Print Offer**

Celebrated and award-winning illustrator Hannah Summerville kindly donated to the Vic Branch a beautiful print she created especially for our Night of Notables celebration in February this year.

We were given permission to release the print for sale to members and interested people, again coordinated by Geraldine Woolnough with the invaluable support of Ann James and Ann Haddon. This follows the highly successful 2023 sales of Bob Graham's print and the 2024 print donated by Prue Pittock to raise funds for the branch.

The focus for the VIC Branch leading up to the AGM will be to finalise plans for the CBCA 80<sup>th</sup> Birthday celebrations to be held in Federation Square in Melbourne on Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> August at the end of Children's Book Week.

It is anticipated that smaller-scale events on this day will be celebrated around the regions.

The **Foundation for Literacy and Learning Online Symposium**, again requested members from the Vic Branch to supply a video for the symposium. CBCA presented a conversation with authors Sue Lawson and Auntie Fay Muir speaking to Rachel Bin Salleh from Magabala Books. They spoke about the place and value of Indigenous books in our Awards. This conversation can still be found at <https://foundationforlearningandliteracy.info/symp-home/> Thanks to member Christine Oughtred for coordinating this through the VIC Branch.

### **CBCA Book of the Year Judges**

We had 5 judges from Victoria judging in various categories in the 2024-2025 cycle, with others taking up the offer in 2026-28. Having a number of judges from Victoria allows Judges' Talks to be rich and informative.

### **Social Media**

Our social media following has grown, as has our newsletter reach, thanks to the leadership of committee member Kate O'Donnell and others. This greater presence, along with the Face Book page established by Jo Pentony and Ngaire Brown, is providing us with more community visibility.

### Membership

CBCA VIC Branch membership is currently at 387. This figure represents paid up memberships as of 14 April 2025. We do expect member numbers to increase as invoices continue to be paid over the next few months.

Membership Type	Number	%
Institutions	248	64.0%
Schools 206		
Kinder/ECC 3		
Publishers 6		
Booksellers 8		
Public Libraries 19		
Other 6		
Personal	42	10.9%
Professional Concession	60	15.5%
Concessional	18	4.7%
Family	3	0.8%
Life Members	9	2.3%
Free	7	1.8%
<b>Total</b>	<b>387</b>	<b>100%</b>

**JO PANCKRIDGE**  
Outgoing President

## Executive Report - extending from President's Report Leadership Transition

We begin by acknowledging Jo Panckridge, who has officially stepped down as President to take on the role of Chair for the CBCA National Board. We are deeply grateful for Jo's dedicated service and leadership. Her passion for shadow judging and promoting children's literature will now benefit the national community. In accordance with our constitution, the executive team will share leadership responsibilities during this transition period.

### Key Events and Engagement

- **Night of Notables** saw record attendance this year, supported by excellent technical help and the generous hospitality of North Fitzroy Library. Special thanks to Geraldine for her organisation, and to Hardie Grant for sponsoring Andrea Rowe and Karen Wasson's 'in conversation'.
- Committee members contributed to the evening's success through ushering, merchandise, raffle ticket sales, and pack-up.

### Operational Updates

- Our new Office Manager, Nicole, has made a strong start, streamlining memberships and financial records. It was a pleasure to see her engaging with members at the Night of Notables.
- Planning for the **80th anniversary celebrations**, led by Kate O'Donnell and a dedicated sub-committee, is well underway and generating enthusiasm across social media platforms.

### Community Presence

CBCA Vic members have been active in supporting book launches across Melbourne, including titles by Karys McEwen, Aaron Fa'Aoso & Michelle Scott Tucker, and Angie Cui. These events are a testament to our vibrant literary community and ongoing commitment to Australian children's literature.

### Looking Ahead

We are proud to report a continued spirit of collaboration and celebration, and we thank our members, volunteers, and partners for their ongoing support. We are looking towards building our membership in the coming year, and hoping to continue to extend the diverse ways CBCA Vic Branch can provide to our members in an authentic way.

**Executive 2024-2025 - Karys McEwan, Annette Wright, Geraldine Woolnough, Jo Pentony**

## 2025 Treasurer's Report

CBCA VIC Branch reported an operating surplus of \$8,767 for the financial year ended 31st January 2025. This compares to a \$25,603 surplus in 2024.

CBCA Vic Branch revenue was lower compared to the prior year. The Branch no longer sells merchandise and does not receive a percentage of merchandise sales from the National Branch (\$3,764, being 10% of e-store sales was received in 2023/24, NIL in 2024/25). We no longer charge an attendance fee for the majority of our events, however this is more than offset by the free venue frequently provided by Bargoonga Nganjin, North Fitzroy Library. Membership income was down due to issues with invoicing (2025: \$26,171, 2024 \$37,152). The issue of paid-up membership numbers is currently being addressed by our office administrator. Print sales of the 2024 limited edition print were lower than expected, however we are optimistic about selling the remaining prints this year. A more competitive printer has been sourced for the 2025 limited edition print run of 50 Hannah Sommerville prints and we are confident of making a profit this year. Higher interest rates resulted in higher interest revenue of \$9,683.

The cash position of the organisation remained strong with a combined bank account & term deposit balance of \$275,200 as at 31st Jan 2025, compared to \$264,400 in 2024. \$110,850 is held in trust for the biennial Albert Ullin Award. The \$8,767 surplus reported in 2025 is after payment of \$10,000 for the 2024 Albert Ullin Biennial Award.

Events and programs held by CBCA VIC Branch, such as the "Night of the Notables", "Judges' Talks", and "Book Week" events are budgeted to operate at break even. Committee members work hard to ensure expenses are mostly covered by corporate & government sponsorship as well as donations, and raffles along with any other fundraising options held at the events.

Your committee considers these events and programs as part of our "core business" and they also uphold some of the purposes in our Constitution.

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

Member subscription fees cover the cost of office staff and other operating costs. A key goal for 2025 is to grow our membership both in the metropolitan and regional areas of Victoria by offering greater value to our members through our supportive community.

In closing, CBCA VIC Branch can once again look forward to a bright future, upholding CBCA's mission "to achieve a positive social impact by engaging the community with literature for young Australians".

**GERALDINE WOOLNOUGH**

Treasurer

## REGIONAL DIRECTORS' REPORTS

### Geelong Regional Report 2024/25

The Geelong Region hosted a Judges talk in the lead up to Book Week, 2024. It was held at The Geelong College Middle School library and was well attended. Many of the attendees return to the event each year and we also welcomed some attendees for the first time.

Jo Panckridge, Christine Oughtred and I are currently exploring ideas for the 80<sup>th</sup> birthday celebrations in Geelong and I have made some preliminary contact with the Geelong Regional Libraries to discuss a venue for the day. Chris has spoken to some performance groups re a performance on the day and Michelle Conn (local author/illustrator) is keen to participate in the festivities and perhaps run a workshop and do some story reading from her picture books.

I will remain as the Geelong Regional Director up to and including the 80<sup>th</sup> Celebrations but will then be stepping down from the position.

Anne-Louise O'Donoghue

### Gippsland Regional Report 2024/25

#### **Author and Illustrator Engagements:**

In 2024, the Gippsland sub-branch delivered two highly successful regional tours promoting quality Australian literature and engaging young readers through dynamic sessions with author Scot Gardner and illustrator James Hart.

#### **James Hart Illustrator Tour - July & August 2024**

- **15 workshops** held across **5 schools, 4 public libraries, and 1 bookshop**
- Reached **over 400 young people** (ages 3-14), plus numerous teachers, parents, and librarians
- Locations spanned from **Orbost to Traralgon** (200+ km coverage)
- Sessions were interactive and imaginative, with attendees co-creating characters and worlds with James
- Feedback was overwhelmingly positive, with many expressing gratitude for the inspiring and affirming experience
- CBCA's mission and membership opportunities were promoted at every venue
- **Outcome:** Deepened community engagement and creative confidence among young people in regional areas

#### **Scot Gardner Author Tour - May 13-17, 2024**

- Visits to **6 schools** across all sectors (primary & secondary)
- Audiences ranged from **20 to over 100 students per session**
- Included author talks and creative writing workshops using real-life experiences to inspire authentic storytelling
- Strong student engagement, laughter, and empowered creative expression reported across all sessions
- Scot also connected with educators and participated in informal gatherings, enhancing professional goodwill

- CBCA promotional materials and resources were distributed widely, thanks to Geraldine Woolnough
- **Media Coverage:** Acknowledged in newsletters from Bairnsdale SC, Bairnsdale West, Sale College, and St Paul's

#### **Final Note:**

These tours exemplify CBCA's mission to connect young readers with Australian creatives, especially in regional communities. As James Hart shared:

*"It's really boosted my confidence to get back into doing more... I'll probably open a contact section on my website just for school & library visits."*

We thank the committee for their support and look forward to continuing this vital work in 2025.

Susan O'Malley

## **MERCHANDISE REPORT**

### **Sales of Merchandise**

Merchandise sales for this year have shown a strong performance, with a total of 1,014 customers to date. This includes:

505 new customers

509 returning customers

This represents a 41% increase compared to the same period last year, demonstrating the growing popularity and continued relevance of CBCA merchandise.

### **2025 Merchandise Catalogue.**

Key developments include:

- **Print-ready artwork:** All catalogue artwork will be made available to branches in a high-resolution, print-ready format for promotional use.
- **Postcards:** Branches will have access to catalogue advertising postcards, which include images and a link to the CBCA eStore. The reverse side of the postcards will have space for branches to add their own contact details and examples of free digital resources available to members. These postcards can be printed and distributed locally as needed.
- **PDF Catalogue:** Our branch will receive a full, print-ready PDF version of the 2025 catalogue.
- **Online Access:** A digital version of the catalogue will also be available on the CBCA eStore website.

### **Free Merchandise for Members**

The Merchandise Team has developed a "Members Only" section on the CBCA eStore. This area showcases free merchandise exclusively for our members. If you have not yet received information about how to access this members-only site, please contact our office via email and we will provide the necessary details.

Leanne Rands



## VICTORIAN JUDGES TALKS REPORT - 2024

Our 2023-24 Victorian Judges were:

Older Reader category	Julia Petricevic
Younger Reader category	Ilona Urquhart
Early Childhood category	Bronwyn Joseph
Picture Book &	
New Illustrator category	N/A
Eve Pownall category	N/A

We received fewer requests for Judges' Talks than in 2023. The availability of access to online Judges' Talks through both the CBCA and other organisations was a probable reason for this, as was the availability for members of the Judges' videoed critiques, through the CBCA website.

SLAV hosted a Judges' Talk online with both Victorian and interstate judges.  
Our Metro Judge's Talk saw our three Victorian judges present in-person.

The committee wishes to thank our Judges for helping to achieve the aims of this outreach program. We will host our first Judges' Talk for 2025, our **Metro Judges' Talk** after our AGM in May.

**Natalie Galati**

## Report on the NIGHT OF NOTABLES 2025

Night of Notables 2025 was held again at Bargoonga Nganjin North Fitzroy Library on a beautiful warm evening.

Guests started coming at 5.30 pm and the noise and energy of teachers, librarians, authors and illustrators and other interested people, demonstrating friendship, sharing and the engagement of conversation.

The number of attendees was 120, fantastic, demonstrating the evening is valued by all who are passionate about books.

After some refreshments it was time to be seated to listen to CBCA Awards-winning author **Andrea Rowe** and **Karen Wasson** speaking on the ebb and flow of writing for children: The two Hardie Grant authors' plunged into conversation around exploring ideas, creative flow, evolving graphic novels and picture book series writing, collaborative processes and staying afloat though it all)

Andrea and Karen unpacked their mutual journey's to become both writers of fiction and nonfiction books for children, with the ocean as their muse for several of their books. They were generous with sharing their pathways from ideas and progressing manuscripts, detailing how scraps of notes, overheard conversations, and a desire to know answers, or help children articulate issues, driving them both to create characters and narratives that resonate. Andrea's love of manila folder files for narrative ideas that can't leave her, and Karen's phone notes of dialogue topics were both shared, as was how their dual careers as copywriters and media writers have helped

shape their discipline and approach to editing and collaborating with their publishing teams. With her new book *Inked* on it's way, Karen represented how the graphic novel is such a powerful medium for young readers, and Andrea referenced how writing a picture book series respects the young readers experiences, while placing characters in action driven plots that reflect relatable experiences and growth. Both authors were enthusiastic in their love of the story. And, as Andrea stated a 'Picture book or a graphic novel can't exist without our illustrators, and we are always aware of keeping space for their skilled storytelling, as our stories move visually across the page.'

Their conversation touched upon many topics that resonated with attendees, and Andrea and Karen were generous with their insights and experiences.

Then what we all were waiting for THE LIST OF NOTABLES FOR 2025.

Congratulations to the long listees for their gorgeous creations and all the hard work they have put in. Commiserations to those who missed out this year. We value and acknowledge all those who submitted books for their hard work and passion.

Our raffle the print, so generously donated by Hannah Sommerville, was won by Suzanne Thwaites.

Hannah has donated this as a fund raiser for the CBCA VIC BRANCH.

If you wish to have your own print email "Nicole Brown" <nicole.brown@cbca.org.au>

Cost \$80.00 Plus Postage .

We also had a prize of books as a member prize for attendees. This was won by Prue Pittock.

Special thanks to:

**Hardie Grant Children's Publishing** (Steve Spargo) for being our event sponsor :  
along with the support of...

**Yarra Libraries**

**DET Victoria State Government**

**The Kids Bookshop**

Sincere thanks go to our hard working CBCA VIC BRANCH COMMITTEE who all contributed to making the evening such a success.

Special thanks to Robyn & Gary Burke, Leanne & Ian Rands, Jo Panckridge, Jo Pentony, Ruth Thatcher, Nicole Brown, Bruce Woolnough, Kate O' Donnell, Annette Wright.

It was great that we presented as a team and mingled with our guests making all feel welcome and included in the evening.

**Next year's event will be on February 24th 2026**

Geraldine Woolnough (Convenor)

## Children's Book Week Celebration at Luna Park - REPORT

**Sunday, 18th August 2024**

Our 2024 Children's Book Week celebration at Luna Park was a vibrant, joyful event, bringing families, books, and creativity together in an iconic Melbourne setting. Thanks to careful planning, community support, and dedicated volunteers, the day was a great success—both in spirit and in outcome.

### Event Highlights

- **Creative Activities** included twirley ribbons made from donated bamboo sticks and recycled materials, colourful wand making, badge creation, bookmark laminating, and face painting—all hugely popular with children.
- **Volunteers** were key to the day's success. From badge-making to welcoming visitors, our team ensured a smooth, engaging experience. Special thanks to Anne-Louise, Ruth, Geraldine, Bruce, Ngaire, Robyn, and Gary, as well as our hard-working junior volunteers.
- **Author Appearance:** Corrine Fenton captivated young audiences, sparking rich conversations about stories and reading.
- **Community Connection:** The event attracted both long-time CBCA supporters and families new to Children's Book Week, helping us spread our message more widely.
- **Luna Park's Support** was generous, providing free entry for members, ride passes for volunteers, and a fantastic event space.

Thanks to the generosity of **Corrine Fenton, Luna Park, and Bunnings**, and the use of donated and repurposed materials, the event ran **at no cost** and made a **\$250 profit**.

This celebration was a powerful example of community, creativity, and connection. It highlighted the value of books and storytelling—and the impact CBCA can have in fun, accessible ways.

**Jo Pentony -Event Convenor**

## Report on the "In Conversation" Event: Sally Rippin and Jacinta Parsons

Date: Monday, 26th August

Location: Bargoonga Nganjin North Fitzroy Library

Audience: Approximately 60 attendees

The "In Conversation" event between Sally Rippin, our esteemed Children's Laureate, and Jacinta Parsons was a remarkable success. The audience, composed of approximately 60 individuals, included many new faces who had not attended previous CBCA VIC BRANCH events. The atmosphere was warm and engaging, with Sally Rippin and Jacinta Parsons leading a thought-provoking conversation that resonated deeply with those present.

### Discussion Highlights

Sally Rippin shared a personal and moving story about her son's challenges with dyslexia and ADHD. She spoke candidly about how these issues went unrecognized and unsupported for years, leading to his being unfairly labeled as "difficult" by an education system ill-equipped to accommodate neurodivergent children. Sally emphasized the importance of advocacy, sharing how she championed her son's needs and the impact this had on his self-esteem and academic progress.

Sally also discussed the various ways that books can be made accessible, such as online formats, audiobooks, and graphic novels. This point particularly resonated with the audience, many of whom had personal experiences with similar issues. Sally also emphasized that we do need to be reading, sharing and supporting children with high quality books as well as the other supports. The questions raised during the Q&A session reflected a sense of safety and openness, with attendees feeling comfortable expressing their own struggles and insights.

The event received overwhelmingly positive feedback. Attendees expressed their appreciation for the topics discussed and the safe space created for open dialogue. Here are some of the comments received after the event:

### Audience Feedback:

- “Thanks for the very successful Sally Rippin event about phonics and literacy. It is absolutely vital that we give all kids the chance to learn to read, and I am so thrilled that she is the Children's Laureate for the next few years. She is going to make a huge impact.”
- “An interesting and thought-provoking conversation.”
- “An insightful evening.”

**Acknowledgments:**

The event would not have been possible without the support of the CBCA VIC BRANCH.

Special thanks to Ruth Thatcher, Jo Pentony, Robyn and Gary Burke, Leanne and Ian Rands, and Bruce Woolnough for their invaluable assistance. Jo Pentony's welcoming introduction and thoughtful words on literacy and books set the tone for a meaningful discussion.

**Financial Summary:**

- Budget: \$1,000 provided by CBCA VIC BRANCH
- Sponsorship: \$500 from Hardie Grant
- Raffle Income: \$180 raised, with \$95 deducted for printing costs, resulting in a profit of \$85

**Outgoing Costs:**

- Speakers: \$1,000
- Food: \$25
- Gifts: \$20

Incoming Funds: \$500

Total Payment Required from CBCA VIC BRANCH: \$545

Unfortunately, there was a technical issue with our EFTPOS machine, which was unable to connect to the network—a situation beyond our control.

**Conclusion:**

The event was a resounding success, both in terms of community engagement and the insightful conversation that took place. We look forward to continuing to provide advocacy and information to help all children find joy in reading.

Thank you once again to everyone involved in making this event possible.

**Geraldine Woolnough - Event Convenor**