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ANNUAL REPORT 2023

The CBCA NSW Branch Inc has continued its strong representation in advancing quality children's literature throughout the state during 2023. Our membership remained strong at over 600 which is one of the largest branches in Australia. The Hello Club software program streamlined the membership process and allowed us to have accurate membership records which is necessary for our charity status.

At the 2023 AGM a new President, Kayte Eyre and a new secretary Amy Rake were elected. Later in the year, Wendy Rapee stood down as Vice President and Kristin Darrell filled the casual vacancy. Kayte has been active in CBCA in the form of a Book of the Year judge and Shadow Judge facilitator and Kristin has been the president of the Northern Suburbs Sub Branch (now known as region.) We thank Wendy for her leadership as National Chair and understand that time constraints which led to her decision to stand down from the committee. She continued to be the NSW Board Director.

Our first event, *Night of Notables*, was held at St Andrew's Cathedral School Library and was well attended and a great success. There were three guest speakers. Walker Books also took part as they were celebrating forty years and provided goodie bags for all our attendees.

It was most pleasing to note that Shadow Judging groups doubled in number in this its second year of operating. CBCA supported three groups with money from a Copyright Agency grant and NSW Branch supported another ten groups with creator visits and book purchases. We thank all the facilitators for running shadow groups and enriching young lives.

Children's Book Week[®] was successfully celebrated with our annual *Kid's Book of the Year* event which was held at the Sydney Mechanics School of Arts. Over one hundred and forty students, teachers and creators were in attendance. We thank James Foley, celebrated WA author, who enthralled the young audience with his hilarious drawings and anecdotes. When the Book of the Year winners were announced, the audience cheered for those in attendance - Max Hamilton winner of the Early Childhood category, Pip Harry shortlisted in Younger Readers and Hayley Laurence, Honour Book in Older Readers. The *Collide! with the Notables Book Trailer* winners were announced and everyone enjoyed viewing the winning trailers. The Rotary Club of North Sydney provided book vouchers (\$250) for all the winners and Tristan Bancks donated a subscription to his Young Writers' Story School. We thank Woollahra Bookshop, a pop-up shop on the day and publishers for providing each attendee with a book.

Our final event was *Aspire and Celebrate* luncheon which was held at the Hilton, Sydney. This event had eighty four attendees and included the guest speakers, Chemutai Glasheen and Craig Silvey. Also announced on the day were the Aspiring Writers Mentorships. CBCA NSW Branch sincerely thanks Cathie Tasker for her sponsorship, especially as there were two winners this year.

As a result of the cancellation of our AAA event, a new online event, *The First Wednesday Book Club*, was launched.

Speakers were: Carmel Grimmett; Rachel Spratt, Isobel Bevis, Pip Harry, Max Hamilton, Lian Tanner; These speakers were well received and had healthy registrations.

A special meeting was held with the NSW President and representatives of the sub-branches to inform them about updated governance issues that arose from the expert advice given to the governance sub-committee. This was successful and allowed for the message to be conveyed regarding constitutional changes and the impact upon the regions. The branch continued to discuss constitutional updates.

Communication via our website and social media was well delivered by Liz Bowring. Kid's Corner has continued to be successfully distributed. IRead has also continued to be our main source of contact with the members.

As part of her Curtin University degree, Simone Hall, assisted the committee as an intern from August to November.

The hardworking committee is to be congratulated for their achievements in 2023 and they are ably supported in all their endeavours, by the book-keeper, Sue Tayler.