

**Children’s Book Council of Australia NSW Branch Inc**

**Annual General Meeting Minutes**

**Date:** Saturday April 17, 2021

**Time**: 3.00pm

**Venue:** Zoom / Stanmore PS Library

**Chair:** Toni Field, Public Officer & Committee member

**Minutes:** Laurel Reynolds

**Present**: Liz Bowring, Toni Field, Gail Erskine, Denise Cramsie, Laurel Reynolds, Jackie Hawkes, Jill Carter-Henson, Kristen Darell, Wendy Fitzgerald, Viv Nicholl-Hatton, Sheryl Cootes

**Zoom Attendees**: Sue Bates, Ernie Tucker, Cathy Drury, Terry Fahey, Peggy Knott, Paul Hallam, Julie Swane, Amanda Lieber, Elizabeth Cummings, Judith Radin, Alex Wharton, Kate O’Mealley

**Apologies** : Felicity Jagavkar, Wendy Rapee, Peter Macinnis, Alison Manno, Sarah Foster

Acknowledgement of country: We acknowledge the Gadigal and Wangal people of the Eora nation on whose Country we are meeting today and pay our respects to their elders past and present. We also acknowledge the culture of storytelling of the Gadigal and Wangal people and honour this tradition through the work of CBCA NSW Branch.

**Welcome:** Toni Field. Thanks to Jan Metz for hosting the AGM at the beautiful library in Stanmore Public School.

**Minutes** of CBCA NSW Branch 2020 AGM (tabled)

Changes to Minutes: Inclusion of CBCA NSW Branch Northern Sydney Sub-branch report to the president’s report. Felicity Jagavkar prepared Financial report but was unable to present due to technically difficulties logging into Zoom.

**Confirmation of Minutes**: Moved: Ernie Tucker Seconded: Gail Erskine

**Business Arising**: outgoing committee member Peter Macinnis – thank you and we wish you well.

**President’s Report**: Liz Bowring Moved: Laurel Reynolds Seconded: Denise Cramsie

**National CBCA Board Director (NSW) Report**: not available

**Treasurer’s report**: Audited financial statement and balance sheet for the financial year ended December 30, 2020: Natalia Bragaru – read by Liz Bowring

Moved: Gail Erskine Seconded: Sheryl Cootes

**Appointment of auditor**

Motion: That James & Johns be appointed as auditor for the financial year ending 2021: Moved: Viv Nicholl-Hatton Seconded: Denise Cramsie

**Vote of thanks** to the outgoing Executive and Committee - especially to Natalia Bragaru as Treasurer, with great work on grant applications.

**Election of Officers and committee members** (all positions are declared vacant): Sheryl Cook

Office bearers: Nominations for all positions apart from the Public Officer were elected unopposed. A vote between two nominees was conducted for the Public Officer. Results were as follows-

President: Liz Bowring

Past president: Gail Erskine

Vice President: Wendy Rapee

Treasurer: Alison Manno

Public Officer: Toni Field and Terry Fahey stood for election. Toni Field was declared elected after a show of hands by all present either bodily or via Zoom.

Minutes Secretary: Sue Bates

Committee: Terry Fahey, Laurel Reynolds, Cathy Drury, Viv Nicholl-Hatton, Judith Radin, Denise Cramsie

**Motion to authorise a signatory** for the Annual Statement to Fair Trading NSW: Toni Field

 Moved: Gail Erskine Seconded: Denise Cramsie

**Motion to Authorise Signatories of all CBCA NSW Branch Inc accounts**: Liz Bowring, Wendy Rapee, Gail Erskine, Sue Bates, Alison Manno, Toni Field

Moved: Gail Erskine Seconded: Denise Cramsie

**General Business:** Sub Branch round-up

**Sheryl Cootes – Blue Mountains** - things mostly ground to a halt in 2020 except for a few dinners with authors – one with Dub Leffler coming up. Teachers are very much over Zooming. Membership is a problem – with difficulty in energising teachers re the CBCA and even for some to see the value of the CBCA (and reading!) and wanting to engage. Time pressure in the classroom is a great problem for classroom reading.

**Kate O’Mealley – Illawarra** – difficulties, but more kids have been able to attend events via Zoom – 42 schools at one event. Good to see teacher librarians on the committee again. There is a fundraiser and 2 author visits coming up.

**Julie Swane – Central Coast** – 2020 has been a great year for supporting our members who are mostly authors & illustrators – difficulty in getting TLs to meetings. Podcast – Nat Amore on How to be interviewed well, How to do a good school visit as an author & as a TL, How-to on social media and marketing. History Week: Kate Forsythe and Belinda Murrell on writing ‘Searching for Charlotte’. We will join with Newcastle writers’ Festival to run the Family fun day – lessens risk to do events together.

**Elizabeth Cummings – Eastern Suburbs** – function at Waverley Library and then Zoom – better attendance. We appreciate connection and support from the Northern Suburbs sub-branch – thanks! Next event at Double Bay Library with Suzanne Gervay and Libby Hathorn et al. The Anthology for Book Week has been huge and exciting – getting there! The launch will be at the State Library on 28 May. Membership is small but growing. Book Week – will pair an established and a new author and organise school visits to lift the profile of CBCA in schools.

**Kristen Darell – Northern Suburbs** – good support for Zoom events including TLs and overseas attendees. We have kept events going to maintain the CBCA presence. AGM was well attended. Focus has been on public libraries – event at Gordon Library with Ursula Dubosarsky (Gail: we should record it to distribute it to school principals,) Christmas in July debate: ‘Words matter more than pictures’ – authors vs illustrators. Event re diversity in books featuring ‘Lost in books’ bookshop looking at literature from many different directions.

**Sophie Masson – New England** - (Unable to login to the Zoom! ☹) looking forward to Booked In! the annual children's book festival held cooperatively with the New England Writers Centre and University of new England

Kids’ Corner: Jackie thanked Paul Hallam for his illustrations.

**Date of AGM 2022**: April 30, 2022

Closed Meeting at 4.08pm