

Children's Book Council of Australia NSW Branch Inc Annual General Meeting Minutes

Date: Saturday April 30, 2022
Time: 2 – 4.00pm
Venue: Castlereagh Boutique Hotel, 169 Castlereagh St, Sydney and Zoom
Chair: Liz Bowring, President
Minutes: Viv Nicoll-Hatton

Meeting opened: 2.07 pm

Present: Sue Bates, Liz Bowring, Denise Cramsie, Gail Erskine, Christine Fernandez, Toni Field, Jackie Hawkes, Isolde Martin, Viv Nicoll-Hatton, Wendy Rapee, Laurel Reynolds, Marion Silk.

Zoom Attendees: Katie Bowie, Sheryl Cootes, Elizabeth Cummings, Terry Fahy, Wendy Fitzgerald, Li Gin, Paul Hallam, Josh Reid, Jemima Shafer Ongu, Julie Swane

Apologies: Cathy Drury, Sarah Foster, Carmel Grimmet, Margaret Hamilton, Mary McNally, Sue Mirow, Leonie Palmer, Ernie Tucker.

Welcome and Acknowledgement of country: Liz Bowring

We acknowledge the Gadigal and Wangal people of the Eora nation on whose Country we are meeting today and pay our respects to Elders past, present and emerging. We also acknowledge the culture of storytelling of the Gadigal and Wangal people and honour this through the work of CBCA NSW Branch.

Minutes of CBCA NSW Branch 2021 AGM (tabled via website)

Amendments to Minutes: Correct spelling of names: Viv Nicoll-Hatton and Sheryll Cootes

Confirmation of Minutes: **Moved:** Toni Field **Seconded:** Jackie Hawkes Carried.

Business Arising: None

President's Annual Report for 2020 — 2021: Liz Bowring (tabled on website)

Speaking to her report, Liz Bowring summarised the highlights, challenges and positive outcomes of the year and thanked all who were involved, including the Sub-Branches: their Presidents' reports are included in her report.

National CBCA Board Director (NSW) Report: Wendy Rapee (tabled on website)

Wendy Rapee noted that 2021, the 75th anniversary of presenting the CBCA Book of the Year Awards, was a year of consolidation and change. She spoke of changes in Board and staff membership responsibilities and change, the resolution of historic governance issues and a significant increase in surplus income. She thanked the NSW Branch for its support.

Treasurer's report: Sue Bates (explanatory report tabled on website)

Sue Bates, currently acting in the role of Treasurer since March 2022, thanked Gail Erskine for her assistance in preparing for this meeting. She reported that the audited financial statement and balance sheet for the financial year ended December 30, 2021 was not available in time for this meeting and would have to be reported to members at a special general meeting at a later date. Liz thanked Sue for stepping up into the Treasurer's position.

Alterations to the Constitution

Liz Bowring indicated that the changes were on the website and that the rationale for them was included on the agenda for this meeting. She explained the changes and invited questions and/or comments. There were none.

Motion: That the recommended alterations to the Constitution be accepted.

Moved: The NSW Branch Committee **Seconded:** Julie Swane. Carried
unanimously.

Appointment of auditor

Liz Bowring presented and spoke to the motion that follows. There were two points to consider, first, that it is quite a healthy move for organisations to change auditors from time to time, and secondly, under the rule of Fair Trading, organisations with an income of under \$250,000 per annum are not required to submit an audit. It may be more cost effective to have an accountant or authorised person to look at our books. This would also flow on to the Sub-branches.

Motion: That approval be given to seek alternative auditors or financial oversight.

Moved: Gail Erskine **Seconded:** Laurel Reynolds Carried.

Gail requested that anyone attending the meeting who could recommend suitable authorised people to contact the Branch.

Nomination of new Life Members

Toni Field spoke warmly of the individual contributions of three current NSW Branch committee members whose volunteering to the CBCA NSW spanned many decades. Life Membership was awarded to Denise Cramsie, Gail Erskine and Wendy Rapee, each of whom was presented with a flowering orchid. Attendees congratulated them with much applause.

Vote of thanks from outgoing President Liz Bowring to the outgoing Executive and Committee, especially to outgoing committee member Cathy Drury and former Treasurer Alison Manno. Liz summarised the highlights of her term and thanked each Committee member individually. A flowering orchid was presented to Liz for her Presidency, and especially for seeing the Committee through the difficult times of the Covid outbreak.

Election of Officers and committee members (all positions declared vacant): Marion Silk took the chair for the election.

Office bearers: Nominations for all positions were elected unopposed. Results were as follows:

President: Gail Erskine

Past president: Liz Bowring

Vice President: Wendy Rapee

Treasurer: Sue Bates

Public Officer: Toni Field

Secretary: Vivienne Nicoll-Hatton

Committee: Denise Cramsie, Terry Fahy, Carmel Grimmett, Jackie Hawkes, Mary McNally, Leonie Palmer and Laurel Reynolds.

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

Moved: Gail Erskine

Seconded: Denise Cramsie

Notice of Authorisation of Signatories of all CBCA NSW Branch Inc accounts: Gail Erskine, Wendy Rapee, Liz Bowring, Sue Bates and Toni Field.

Remove from accounts: Felicity Jagavkar, Julie Johnston, Denise Cramsie.

General Business:

Sub Branch coordinator Wendy Fitzgerald gave a vote of thanks on behalf of the Sub Branches to the outgoing committee, especially Liz Bowring, Gail Erskine and Wendy Rapee for their work and support. In addition to the 2021 sub-branch annual reports, included in the President's Report, each Sub Branch President or their appointed spokesperson spoke to their aims for 2022.

Gail Erskine thanked the Sub-branches for their continuing support and their agility and positivity during the Covid difficulties of 2021.

Wendy Rapee reminded attendees of the upcoming 14th CBCA National Conference in Canberra, June 10–12.

Date of AGM 2022: April 26 (weekday evening) or April 29 (Saturday), 2023

Meeting closed at 3.25 pm