

AGM Notice

President's Report: Paul Macdonald

Paul Macdonald made great inroads with and for CBCA NSW – getting the Margaret Hamilton Creative Residency up and running with appropriate mentors and a very successful experience for the participants.

The past twelve months have seen some high -profile events for CBCA NSW, with the 80th Anniversary celebrations hosted at the SLNSW, another very successful Night of the Notables. The speed launches are proving very popular as is the unveiling of the Notables and having authors on hand to do book signings. Events generally are booking out which makes them even more desirable for others to be prompt in booking for future events. Achieving a workable balance of numbers at events, whilst striving to be cost-neutral can be challenging, working within budgets with appropriate planning can only help improve even further. Having member-only events and member pricing is another way of giving back to the membership base.

Paul's continued networking and advocacy on behalf of CBCA, authors, illustrators etc is second to none. His tenure as president has raised the profile and reputation of CBCA NSW to new heights – a challenge we must all endeavour to continue.

CBCA NSW committee members have become even more proactive in attending Regional events which is also helping to engender a more positive attitude to the branch.

The promotion of regional events on the website and through HelloClub has become more noticeable for all members and Marion has done an amazing job responding to the never-ending and often bewildering questions from members.

Marion also came to the rescue with the Camellia project and personally delivered the orders, many of which had been in the works for a few years. Hopefully this endeavour will be able to be rejigged and promoted amongst our members and the wider public once again, albeit with a more user friendly and cost-effective manner of delivery.

The Regions continue to be amazing, reaching the wider CBCA membership with events far and wide, supporting Shadow Judging and running their Nights with the Stars where students get to share tables with authors and enjoy up close interactions of the literary kind.

With the addition of bookcases for the Peter Williams collection CBCA NSW has committed to continue building and maintaining the collection of BOYA Winner & Honour books and also include the Shadow Judging Winners. There is now room

to adjust and maintain this valuable reference collection. We must maintain active collection of the books by purchasing as there are some gaps.

Membership has increased to 620 which is promising, although the effort to attract and keep new members is an ongoing challenge for future planning or activities and events. So get those thinking caps on before we get to the planning meeting later in the year.

Paul Macdonald
CBCA NSW President

Terry Fahy
CBCA NSW Acting President