



**NSW CBCA DIRECTOR'S REPORT**  
**January-December 2022**  
**By Wendy Rapee**

It has been an absolute honour to represent the NSW Branch on the national Board of the CBCA during another challenging year. I am personally proud to be the Chair of the Board. We should be confident that the Board are being guided by the Branches' context and needs, because they are represented on the Board as the drivers of the organisation's goals.

I want to thank the NSW Branch for maintaining such a strong force of support for our work, through the membership. Without the support of members at a time of immense financial challenges the CBCA would not be making any impact on the advocacy of reading quality Australian stories as a transformational power for young people. The Committees of the Branch and our Subbranches deserve huge credit for your volunteer service—you are at the community coalface, and we are grateful for your agility and dedication during 2022. Gail Erskine, as our leader, has worked tirelessly, once again, to drag us into administrative efficiency, we thank her for keeping her eye on the not-for-profit landscape and making sure we do not fall behind.

There is no doubt that two major changes nationally have been successful because we have worked together to deliver them. The change to national distribution of the merchandise has been a huge undertaking by the national office, it required a national team of representatives working so collaboratively with Jane Moore our national Merchandise Convenor, and I am proud of what NSW achieved. The second national team effort involved the inaugural national rollout of the Shadow Judging program, a first in the national suite of programs under the Sun Project banner. Under the leadership of both Gail Erskine and Viv Nicholl-Hatton in NSW this program has cemented our reputation and gives us a tangible project we can point to as delivering our purpose.

In 2022 we did not deliver a profitable Conference and that has made an impact on the bottom line. This challenge must be faced by the Board over the next year.

The two national projects are at the nexus of the model we have been trying to work towards for years. A federation of organisations working together for a common purpose. That is why we needed to cement our purpose at a meeting of minds in Melbourne in November, the Branch Presidents and the Board had a constructive meeting— we must now, as a Board, set this new sense of purpose into a clear strategic plan and 'case for support' in documents that will guide all supporters along the same road.

A more detailed set of reports from the Board will be available through the Committee post the national AGM on May 15.

Thank you once again for supporting me as your representative.