



AGENDA ITEM 7 – NATIONAL BOARD REPORT

FOR NSW BRANCH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING ON SATURDAY, MAY 2ND, 2020

As the Board continues to innovate and adapt to the ongoing changing environment that we all find ourselves in may I take this opportunity to thank the NSW Branch for being an active contributor on Board policy, an important influencer on Board proposals along with initiatives and a key driver of outcomes that celebrate the organisation's vision and mission.

The Board determined a new vision and mission in 2019 to better reflect the direction of the organisation as follows:

Vision: Creating a community that celebrates quality Australian literature for young people.

Mission: We promote and advocate for the sharing of quality literature for young people across Australia. We showcase Australian creators and collaborate widely to foster a love of reading.

Policy review has been a key aspect of the Board's work and may I thank the NSW Branch for your contributions in this area.

The following new policies were developed:

Social Media Policy which saw the launch of CBCA's new Instagram channel;

Risk Management Policy and a Pandemic Management Policy which have provided guidance in the current pandemic;

Board Code of Conduct Policy and Office Bearer Policy which has assisted with the onboarding of new Board members throughout the year and

Copyright Policy which incorporated several recommendations from the NSW Branch.

Merchandise continues to be a major focus for the Board and sincere thanks to the NSW Branch for your tenacity on issues of concern to you including the range and quality of the merchandise which has resulted in a number of changes - chief among them the return of the Short List poster. Thanks too to the Branch for circulating the merchandise survey to sub-branches and members with my deep gratitude to all who made submissions and responded. Your contributions do proactively make a difference in shaping CBCA at a national level.

The Board also discussed changes to the **Notables** as part of a review of the Awards system. NSW Branch was a strong advocate for the retention of the name as well as a champion of having this matter open for consultation which was able to be carried at Board level. May I again thank members for expressing your views to the Board, via the Branch, and for your ongoing commitment to integrity and rigour of and within the CBCA.

Partnerships were evaluated in 2019 with the NSW Branch advocating that these must always have a demonstratable value that addresses the best interests of the CBCA. It was pleasing to be able to work through this in a practical way with both a bookseller and a national organisation. The advocacy of the NSW Branch was an integral contributor to the debate in each of these cases which resulted in positive changes to the partnerships at a national level.

Thank you to the NSW Branch Committee and to all Members for your support, advice and wise counsel in the year past. I again look forward to continuing to work with you and alongside you as your representative in the year ahead.