



CBCA NSW Branch

Presidents Report 2024

The NSW branch of CBCA has continued its strong representation throughout the state over the last twelve months. Our membership remains strong at 607 which is the largest branch in Australia.

The year began with a new President, Kayte Eyre, and a new Vice President, Kris Darrell, being elected, both roles were filled by new members of the committee. Kayte has been active in CBCA in the form of a CBCA Book of the Year judge and Shadow Judge facilitator and Kris had been the President of the Northern Suburbs Sub Branch (now known as Region.)

Book Week© was successfully launched, and our annual *Kid's Book of the Year Event* occurred and was held at the Sydney Mechanics School of Arts. Over 140 kids, teachers and creators were in attendance. The *Collide Book Trailer* competition winners and the *Shadow Judging* Winners were all announced at this time. These events benefit our school members, our creator members and also our publisher and bookseller members.

Our next event was *Aspire and Celebrate* which was held at the Hilton, Sydney. This event had 84 attendees and included the guest speakers of Chemutai Glasheen and Craig Silvey. Also announced on the day were the *Aspiring Writers Mentorship*. Again, this major event in the calendar supported all of our membership base.

Occurring throughout the year and designed as a last-minute inclusion to provide a member benefit as a result of the cancellation of our *AAA* event were our *First Wednesday Book Clubs*. These were well received and had healthy registrations. In reality, they were plagued by tech issues and few people attended despite their registration.

Our final main event was the *Night of Notables 2024*. This was held at Writing NSW and was well attended and a great success. The guest speaker was Aura Parker.

Two Days of Planning were held. One with the NSW President and the representatives of the 'sub-branches' (now termed Regions). This was successful and allowed for the message to be conveyed regarding constitutional changes and the impact upon the Regions. In January the NSW committee held a Day of Planning as well. A timeline of events, convenors' names and a budget were all allocated.

The biggest challenge currently is the lack of office/admin support for the NSW branch. This makes many things difficult and places an unreal amount of workload onto the volunteers. It is not a sustainable model and makes renewal and succession in terms of the current committee difficult.

The President and Vice President have both indicated they are not seeking to renominate, and both have stepped down from the committee as well. Citing time constraints.



CBCA NSW Branch

Presidents Report 2024

As president Kayte Eyre also raised concerns about the NSW committee, and its ability to continue to operate as it does.

Kayte Eyre
President
CBCA NSW Branch
19/4/24