

Newsletter Volume 6 Issue 1

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2019 Brings ...



...Joy and enthusiasm that NCACL's new Board Chair, Craig Sloan (Centre) caught up with NCACL Ambassadors Christopher Cheng and Jackie French AM at the recent launch of *This is home* poetry anthology with poems selected by Jackie French and illustrated by Tania McCartney.

[Advocacy for a permanent home for the National Centre for Australian](#)

[Children's Literature](#) was discussed. To make this vision a reality, your energy and commitment are needed. Raise the concept with your local and Federal members of Parliament and with persons of influence. The NCACL would also be pleased to receive supportive comments you wish to make via the NCACL [Facebook](#) page. Longer comments can be emailed to [Belle Alderman](#).

And we are off and running in 2019...

[Dear Friends and Advocators for Australian Children's Literature.](#)

The National Centre (NCACL) has been involved in a wonderful number of activities. How did we fit it all in? In a phrase, we've been busy, really busy! To enjoy these many activities go to the NCACL journal, [Behind the Imagined](#). Remember to share these wonderful articles through your Twitter and Facebook pages. Spread the word about our wonderful speakers, Angela Namoi, Libby Gleeson and Matthew Callaghan. Enjoy Geoffrey Burkhardt's journey through the collection via book plates and Jane Brummitt's research around the provenance of her donated May Gibb's artwork. And let's not forget Bob Graham with his article on Imagination. A special thank you to Jane Carstens, Editor and Sarah Carstens for the journal's layout.

Each year on our social media we list what has happened recently in our NCACL world. We include articles in newspapers, items on websites, interviews on radio, profiles on blogs. To this we add radio interviews on ABC Radio by [Belle Alderman and Rowan Simpkin](#), and [Opinion Pieces](#). So plenty for you to read, enjoy and share.

Stop Press : Below you will read about Centre visitors and activities. However, [Jackie Hosking](#), the Victorian [May Gibbs fellow for 2019](#) visited and Stewart Reed who came to view the 2013 Hebrew edition of May Gibbs' *Snugglepot and Cuddlepie* towards the end of April are too good not to acknowledge!

Cultural Gift Program...

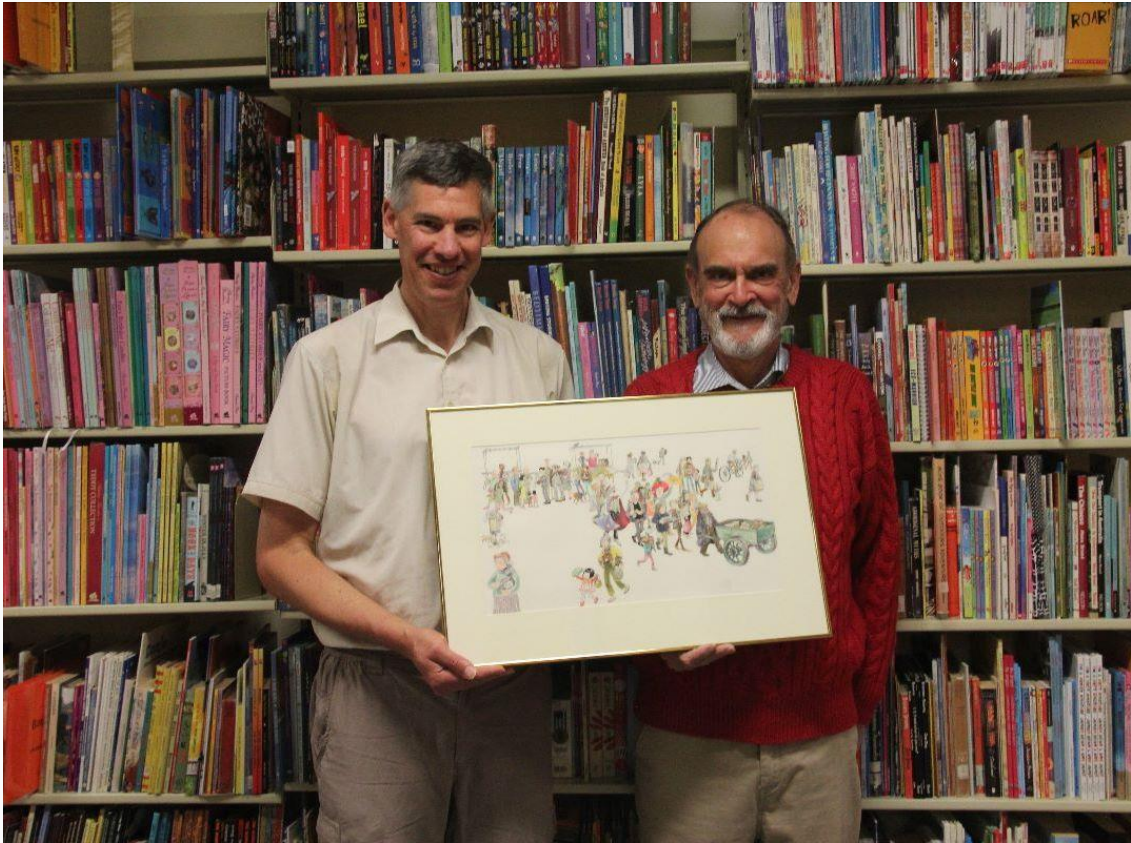


Valuers, Helen Maxwell and Philippa Kelly visited the National Centre recently to consider the donations of Alison Lester, Deborah Niland and Narelle Oliver.

NCACL Cultural Diversity Database: An Australian first

America has one. Canada has one. And now Australia makes three! NCACL is pleased to virtually launch our Cultural Diversity Database. This was an 18-month long project involving many people at NCACL reading and discussing Australian children's books. It is aimed at the very youngest through to those of secondary age. All 340 books feature cultural diversity from a broad perspective. You can search on author, illustrator, title, series, publisher, date, key concepts, Australian Curriculum, the Early Years Learning Framework plus a combination of these. There are annotations for each book.

To read about the background to this project, [Click here](#). To access this free resource, [Click here](#). To support the creation of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Database, [Click here](#).



A very generous donation...

It was wonderful to have a visit recently from Stephen Mattingley and to be able to show him his mother, Christobel Mattingley's holdings. The NCACL has an extensive collection of Christobel's titles, including translations, comprehensive research files and some of her papers. Belinda Gamlen created a bibliography of Christobel's work in honour of the visit.

Imagine our joy when Stephen presented Max Brown (Curator) with framed original artworks from 4 of Christobel's books. Images below are from *The Magic Saddle* illustrations by Patricia Mullins (Top). The extraordinary cross stitch depiction of the village in Sarajevo by Melita, mother of the family who inspired the [Asmir trilogy](#) Previously donated. (Middle Left). *Brave with Ben* illustrated by Elizabeth Honey (Middle Left) *Rummage* with illustrations by Patricia Mullins (Bottom Right) and *No Gun for Asmir* illustrated by Elizabeth Honey. [Click here](#) to see the artwork described.



Australia Day honours

Congratulations to children's author Jennifer Rowe (aka Emily Rodda) who was made a Companion (AC) in the General Division of the Order of Australia for

'eminent service to literature as an author, particularly in the children's fiction and adult mystery genres'. (Top Left)

Children's author and illustrator Alison Lester was made a Member (AM) in the General Division of the Order of Australia for *'significant service to literature as a children's author and illustrator, and to Indigenous literacy'. (Top Right)*

While Sophie Masson, received an AM for *'significant service to literature as an author and publisher, and through roles with industry organisations'. (Bottom Left)*



To access your very own copy of the IBBY Honours Book Bibliography [click here](#). This beautiful publication has a front cover designed by Shaun Tan with a Forward by Robin Morrow. Many thanks to Justine Power who designed the publication, sourced jackets and worked tirelessly on the project.

Visitors who came were.....



Thirty five teacher librarians from around Australia visited the National Centre on Monday 15 April while they were in Canberra for the Australian School Library Association Conference. Centre volunteers selected the incredible original artwork by Narelle Oliver featuring '*Fox and Fine Feathers*' including actual feathers and photos of Narelle sketching in a museum to ensure authenticity. Other artwork exhibited was Alison Lester's *One Small Island* and *My Dog Bigsy* (see below) and Freya Blackwood's *My Two Blankets*. Volunteers, Rowan Simpkin, Max Brown and Sharon van Baalen discussed the artwork and creative process and how to link it to the Australian Curriculum while Belle Alderman and Ruth Nitschke introduced the incredible resource that is the National Centre for Australian Children's Literature.





Research begins....

345 University of Canberra students from the first year Literacy unit in Education commenced their semester's study in the National Centre in March. One student was so excited about Bronwyn Bancroft's holdings that she brought her mother in the following week.

The National Centre for Australian Children's Literature Inc is a not-for-profit organisation incorporated in the ACT, Association Number A05328. It has been endorsed as a deductible gift recipient (DGR) by the Australian Taxation Office under Subdivision 20-BA of the Income Tax Assessment Act 1997. To donate, [click here.](#)

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