



IBBY AUSTRALIA EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE BIOGRAPHIES (2021–2)

President:



Dr Robyn Sheahan-Bright AM has operated justified text writing and publishing consultancy services since 1997, and is widely published. She has judged literary awards, mentored writers and illustrators, lectured in writing and publishing, and writes teachers' notes and reading group notes for publishers. She was inaugural Director of and is a Life Member of the Queensland Writers' Centre, and was co-founder of Jam Roll Press. Her publications include *Paper Empires: A History of the Book in Australia (1946–2005)* (2006), co-edited with Craig Munro. She prepares IBBY Australia's Hans Christian Andersen Award nominations and has

delivered papers at five of six recent IBBY Congresses. She is Deputy-Chair of the Australian Children's Laureate Foundation, and was recipient of the CBCA (Qld) Dame Annabelle Rankin Award in 2011, the CBCA Nan Chauncy Award in 2012, and the QWC's Johnno Award in 2014. She was appointed a member of the Order of Australia in 2021.

Vice-President:

Joanna Andrew is Coordinator Library Services at the beautiful City of Perth Library, and has worked in the field of children's literature for many years – in a children's bookshop, public libraries and more recently at the State Library of Western Australia. Actively involved in the WA branch of the CBCA, Jo was President during the 2002 National Conference and has coordinated A Night With Our Stars in recent years. Since 2009 Jo has been involved in contributing to the organisation of various IBBY events in WA, including the now popular annual Quiz Night to celebrate ICBD. She is an enthusiastic reader, and books influence many aspects of her life, from recipes to try, to places to visit when travelling.



Treasurer and Membership Officer:



Bernice Cusack holds a BA Dip Ed from Macquarie University. One of the subjects she studied for her primary teaching degree was Children's Literature. Fittingly, one of the tutors she studied under was Dr Robin Morrow. She is now pleased to follow Robin in undertaking the role as Treasurer of IBBY. Bernice has worked for NSW Department of Education since 1988. She has worked in Finance areas and was the Global Budget Officer for the Met North Region. Bernice has worked at *The School Magazine* in business administration since 1996. She has also done volunteer work as Treasurer for her children's primary school P & F and playgroup as well as being on the executive committee of her local football (soccer) club, taking on the roles simultaneously of Registrar and Secretary for several years. She has a strong commitment to volunteer work.

Secretary:

Margot Lindgren has been a teacher-librarian in NSW primary schools for 33 years, working in a variety of settings from small rural schools to her final role, prior to retirement, in a large metropolitan campus. Her library motto is 'Read only on the days you eat'. She has a passion for children's literature that she shares through her blog, which commenced in 2008. The blog is named 'momotimetoread' because Michael Ende's novel Momo is an allegory about time. Children in the school library often say they or their parents don't have time for reading. 'You cannot buy time or find time but you can make the time to read.' In 2012 Margot attended the London Congress, and this inspirational event led her to the 2016 Auckland Congress, the 2017 Seattle USBBY conference and the 2019 Austin USBBY conference. Margot has an MEd in Teacher-Librarianship and post graduate qualifications in Children's Literature.



Ordinary Members:

Karen Jameyson has been involved with children's literature in a variety of capacities, including reviewing, editing, writing, criticism and advocacy for nearly forty years. She spent ten years working for the Boston based *Horn Book Magazine*, an internationally acclaimed critical journal about children's literature. An interest in Australian children's literature in the 1980s compelled her to organise a children's book exchange between sister cities Boston and Melbourne. Once in Australia she wrote a column for *The Horn Book* on Australian children's literature for about ten years. She has served on various award committees, contributed to a variety of journals and has been involved in the CBCA in an assortment of ways. In 2018 she was recipient of the CBCA (NSW) Lady Cutler Award. She has worked on the editorial staff of the NSW *School Magazine* since 1990.



Sara Khamkoed is a writer, illustrator, and an English and visual arts high school teacher. She has specialised knowledge of Asia and Australia's engagement with Asia, having studied Southeast Asian art and literature at Mahidol University in Thailand. Sara has worked as a children's book editor at a major Thai publishing company, Nanmeebooks. She has also been an educator at Thai community libraries, including Sikkha Asia Foundation Library, and Bookworm Thailand. Sara has represented Australia as a Delegate at the University Scholars Leadership Symposium at The United Nations, and is passionate about connecting young people through stories.



Nella Pickup is a reader and grandparent of readers. She was a public librarian for 33 years and worked as a bookseller for 6 years. Nella was an Ena Noel jury panellist (2016–2020). She is a Life Member of the Children's Book Council of Australia (Tasmanian Branch) and was a CBCA Eve Pownall judge in 2003–2004. Nella is a long-standing member of the National Book Council Tasmania, Friends of the Library Launceston and Friends of the Launceston Mechanics Institute. She was a member of the Tamar Valley Writers Festival/Festival of Golden Words committee and was the schools' day coordinator (2014, 2016 & 2018). When not buying books to support her grandsons' reading habits or listening to audiobooks on her way to and from screenings at the Launceston Film Society, she indulges in browsing cookery books and occasionally cooks one of the recipes.



Dr Alyson Simpson is a Professor in the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences at the University of Sydney, Australia who was once a teacher librarian. She has established a reputation as a highly respected scholar in Australia and internationally in the field of literacy studies and teacher education serving as a consultant to state and national education bodies across all sectors. She has worked for the KOALA committee for over 20 years and advocates for improvements in children's literacy through creative teaching of reading with children's literature in publications with peak professional associations such as PETAA, UKLA, and ALEA. She helped develop the worldwide campaign around Children's Rights to Read. literacyworldwide.org/rightstoread. In 2019 she was awarded the NSW SLA Maurice Saxby Award for service to children's and/or young adult literature. Alyson acts as the Public Officer for IBBY Australia, and as *Bookbird* Correspondent.

Claire Stuckey was a specialist children's librarian in the public library system for over 15 years, and shares her passion for supporting quality Australian children's literature through active membership of children's and young adult organisations, especially IBBY Australia Inc. Claire has been an active member of the Central Coast Branch of the CBCA since 1998. She co-ordinated and presented the Australian *World Through Picture Books* List for The International Federation of Library Associations (IFLA). The popular travelling *Jeans Genies* project developed by the Gosford team was adopted by many International libraries as a *Sister Library* project. A passion for supporting early literacy development saw Claire research, develop and present two successful library programs, *Sing, Read and Rhyme* and *2-3 What about Me?* The *Books in Homes* organisation plays an important role in supporting literacy development, and Claire sits on the selection committee and visits schools as a role model. She is a Member of Standing Committee Libraries for Children's & Young Adult Section- International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions / IFLA. Claire acts as Editor of IBBY Australia's newsletter.

