



Greetings folks,

Newsletter time again and we hope that this is finding you well and sparkling. News and information below so read on.

SCBWI Australia and New Zealand news:

OUR Website – www.scbwiaustralia.org

Just a quick note to check out the website - that is where notices are posted about upcoming events and of course if you haven't yet had your own website linked to our site then drop us a note with your website details.

And remember that members are welcome at all Australian events at the various chapter meetings so keep checking the website if you are travelling and contact the chapter organiser.

The headquarters of SCBWI Australia is The Hughenden Boutique Hotel, 14 Queen St Woollahra (Sydney) NSW 2025. Please check for details of coming literary events and meetings at The Hughenden.

And a reminder:

SCBWI Australia in conjunction with the ASA is in the process of organising an International Conference for SCBWI members to be held at The Hughenden Sydney and a one day conference to be held in Perth in the second half of February 2008. The conference will include Australian publishers and commissioning editors from USA and UK. Details will be posted as they come to hand.

Member news:

From Edel Wignell

I wish to announce the creation of my website: www.edelwignell.com.au
I asked the ASA to suggest a web host, and they recommended Jason Rhodes (JR Network Solutions - www.jrnetworksolutions.com). He is highly professional, skilful, prompt, courteous and artistic. An Internet specialist who looked at the website commented that it is 'elegant, clear and easy to navigate'. (Members will note that Jason created both the SCBWI website and the SCBWI Australia E-newsletter and many members sites)

Camel Rider by Prue Mason has been contracted by Charlesbridge in the U.S. That was through the SCBWI Conference in Feb 2006. Congrats Prue.

Regional news:

Western Australia

Forthcoming notice - 2007

Our next get together is scheduled for March 1st in Room 2.9 of The State Library 5.00-6.30 before CBC/Westbooks 'Night of Stars'. Sue North will be giving us a brief overview of her new position as Subject Specialist in the Children's area at The State Library. She will also tell us about the Research Collection of Children's Literature (consisting of around 10,000 items, dating back to the 1800s). To be followed by a general catch-up-with-each-other meeting. Cost \$10 for members and \$15 for non-members, includes coffee/tea and finger sandwiches.

May 1st- Members Meeting with optional dinner afterwards. 5.00-6.30 Further details TBA

June 3rd - 11am followed by informal lunch nearby. As you know from last newsletter, this meeting will be part of the heARTlines Festival at the Mundaring Arts Centre. Well-known children's author, Hazel Edwards will address a combined SCBWI and ASA gathering. Hazel's talk is titled: Co-Writing 'Cycling Solo: Ireland to Istanbul': Collaborative Projects that get Published', inspired by Hazel's collaboration with her son Trevelyan. After lunch, Hazel will give a talk for the public, Antarctic Writer on Ice, with visuals from her exciting 2001 trip and lots of anecdotes about writing books. A not to be missed opportunity.

July 18th - Members Meeting with optional dinner afterwards. 5.00-6.30 Further details TBA

August 18th - 12.30-2.30 Bookweek lunch (hopefully with visiting author)

For more info/updates email [Dianne Wolfer](mailto:Dianne.Wolfer).

Victoria

SCBWI VICTORIA AFTERNOON IN BENDIGO

On Saturday, February 17, we held our first Victorian SCBWI gathering to take place in a regional area. The town was beautiful Bendigo, part of the Goldfields region of Victoria and an easy couple of hours drive from Melbourne.

Local Members and non-members were joined at the exotic Bunja Thai Restaurant by a group of Melbourne members and we all enjoyed a sumptuous Devonshire tea after listening to local member, children's author and poet, Lorraine Marwood, talk about some of her experiences as a writer living in Bendigo. We were then joined by guest speaker and children's author, Justin D'Ath who took us on an exciting journey through his successful 'Extreme Adventures' series of books for young readers.

A core group stayed on for 'nibbles' and 'networking' and an even more persistent bunch stayed on for dinner, while several more of us hit the road for a pleasant drive back to Melbourne while we watched the sun go down.
Saturday May 12 from 2 till 5 at La Notte Restaurant in Lygon Street, Carlton Further details TBA.
Contact: Corinne King (03) 9844.2675 or corrine.king@scbwiaustralia.org.

Queensland

The first meeting for the year of the SCBWI Queensland branch was held on Sunday, 21st January 2007 at Rowan House, Maleny. Sixteen members attended and there were a couple of apologies. A special guest was Meredith Murray, a member from America and talented illustrator, who has been staying in Cairns and came down especially to meet some Australian members.

We were also fortunate to have Jenny Stubbs, the organiser of the Ipswich Children's Festival and also CBC ex President of the Queensland branch come to the meeting. Jenny gave a talk about the Children's Book Council and what it does and how important a link it is between writers and readers. Considering all the members of the CBC work tirelessly on a completely volunteer basis it's great to be reminded of the fantastic promotional work they do not only for authors but the children's book industry in general. We have a lot to thank them for. Also Jenny gave us a wonderful opportunity to give her some feedback on her proposed programme for this year's Ipswich Children's Festival which will be held on the weekend of the 8th and 9th September.

This festival has got an excellent reputation for being a lot of fun for writers and illustrators and those who come along to learn from them. Also, being heavily subsidised it's relatively inexpensive to attend. Tina Clark, the organiser of CYA, the event for writers of children and young adults which is held in conjunction with the Brisbane Writer's festival was also here. She gave a brief outline of what this one day festival offers. Primarily it is for all writers, published and aspiring, to further their own development in the craft. CYA will be held on Saturday 15th September and the writers attending and workshops available are still being negotiated. Both CYA and the Ipswich Children's Festival also hold a writing competition with a number of categories including one for illustrators and writers of stories for middle grade readers.

It was great chance for all members to find out about two important events on the children's writing calendar from the organisers themselves. Then, to give us all an extra incentive to work productively this year we exchanged our new year's writing resolutions. These have been recorded so we'll be reading them out at the first meeting next year to see how many of us were able to do what we've set out to do in 2007.

New South Wales

SCBWI Network Meeting at The Hughenden
Tuesday 6th February.

SCBWI Network was a sharing of information session about Australian publishers and trends.

Younger picture books which engage and delight children are making a come back with successful books such as Jackie French's Josephine Wants to Dance (HarperCollins), Sue Whiting's Elephant Dance (Koala Books), Meredith Costain and Pamela Allen's Doodle Dum Dancing (Penguin).

Fantasy still has a huge audience for middle age and YA readers. Authors such as Kate Forsyth and Garth Nix are taking the world by storm.

Series for the middle range readership is still growing and include Duncan Ball's series on Selby and Emily Eye Finger (HarperCollins); Kathy Helidoniotis' Horse Mad series (HarperCollins) and the ever popular Andy Griffiths' series (Penguin), Jeni Mawter FREEWHEELERS series (HarperCollins) and Deborah Abela's MAX REMY SUPER SPY (Random House).

Animals and the environment are becoming popular. Jan Latta's real life endangered animals series is growing in popularity. Steve Parish Kids Fact File series include Australian mammal, birds, frogs, snakes, sharks and rays among other animals. Chris Cheng is writing on animals for Random House. Expect books to be coming out about animals, environment, climate change for the 7 to 14 year age groups.

A recognition of Asian immigration to Australia is being recognised in children's books such as in Chris Cheng's New Gold Mountain and The Melting Pot, for ages 10-13 (Scholastic).

Antarctica is a major theme in The international POLAR year with books by Hazel Edwards ranging from picture book Antarctic Dad to YA book Antarctica's Frozen Chosen (Lothian).

Powerful realistic YA literature is a small and difficult market. However where the book is powerful and innovative it is finding a place. Susanne Gervay's That's Why I Wrote This Song (HarperCollins) is part of this trend to be released 1st August 2007.

Forthcoming notice - 2007

In order to cater for intra and inter state SCBWI members our meetings are being coordinated with The Sydney Writers & Illustrators Network at The Hughenden.

The next 2007 SCBWI Meetings are at The Hughenden Hotel, 14 Queen Street Woollahra:-
1. Tuesday 5th June 5-7 p.m. with optional dinner

Wednesday 6th June 10 -12.30 am Industry meeting with optional lunch 12.30 to 2 p.m.
Special bed and breakfast rates are available at [The Hughenden](#) for the meeting.

***** Remember too that if you happen to be travelling interstate around any of these dates in any of the states don't forget to drop in to the SCBWI meetings that are being held if you can. It would be great to see you. ALSO don't forget to check our scbwi website www.scbwiaustralia.org/events.htm for the latest info on your next state meetings. Put them in your diaries now.

New Books by members and Websites and member news:

Books:

- Sue Whiting:
Elephant Dance illustrated by Nina Rycroft published by Koala Books.
- Bren MacDibble :
"Become a Children's Writer" - A Top Job Guide by available from www.australiancollege.edu.au/bookshop
- Hazel and Trevelyan Edwards:
"[Cycling Solo: Ireland to Istanbul](#)" ISBN 1920785922 \$19.95, Brojga Publishers

Websites:

Check out Hazel Edwards NEW website: www.hazeledwards.com

Member News:

The paperback series of Max Remy Superspy (aka Spy Force) has just been released in the US, and as the author, Deborah Abela, can't be there, they've come up with the next best thing: A video introducing Max on Youtube. It was made by Deb's partner Todd Decker. If you want to have a peek, it's at: www.youtube.com/watch?v=jSCHhUNUvCw

and more from Deb:

Max Remy, called Spy Force in the US, has been selected for the International Reading Association and CBC Children's Choices list of 2006. This award list gets sent to bookstores, conventions, expos and symposiums on children's literature and is used by teachers, librarians, booksellers and parents and caregivers. Max received some of the highest Children's Choices Team votes (up there with Brian Jacques, no less).

On the strength of the Youtube my partner Todd made for me for the release of Max into the States, I have been asked to create small video pieces to be played at the International Reading Association Annual Convention in Toronto and at the National Council of Teachers of English in the US. Todd has done a brilliant job.

'[I AM JACK](#)' by Susanne Gervay is being adapted into a play by MONKEY BAA THEATRE COMPANY and will start touring Australia in 2008

Watch out too for Susie's new title "[That's Why I Wrote This Song](#)" (HarperCollins) an innovative YA novel where music and text combine, with music and lyrics by Tory Gervay, to be released 1st August 2007.

Jeni Mawter presented a paper titled Critical Thinking, Creativity and Humorous Texts at the Creative Engagements: Thinking with Children, 3rd Global Conference in Sydney. The conference aim was to explore inter-disciplinary perspectives on creatively engaging students.

From Sue Whiting - An exciting start to the year with the release of two new books: Elephant Dance a picture book about friendship illustrated by Nina Rycroft and published by Koala Books and The Hairy Legs Heist (A Britt Brady Mystery) a mystery novel for 9+ set in and around Port Botany in Sydney and the dark and dangerous world of organised crime (New Frontier). Also pleased to announce that the amazing Donna Rawlins is illustrating my picture book text The Firefighters, which will be published by Walker Books Australia in early 2008.

Leanne Davidson advises that her self-published children's book, Quizzical, which was released in September and announced in the last newsletter has just won the 2006 Best Self-Published Book Award which was an Australia-wide competition run by the NSW Writers' Centre.

Edel Wignell says that when she joined SCBWI in 1991, there were only four other Australian members: Hazel Edwards, Allan Baillie, and two whose names she can't remember. By the way, SCBWI was called SCBW then - 'Illustrators' was not part of the title!

Edel says that membership has been well worthwhile, for she likes to know what's happening in children's publishing overseas. Also, as she has a journalism strand, she is pleased that nine articles have been published in the SCBWI Bulletin, and is hoping that another, under consideration now, will be accepted. (For those who don't know, payment is a fee of US\$50 plus a year's membership.)

And a note from Hazel:

Value of preparing Q and A

As a PR technique it's useful for children's authors to have a short (under 700 words) generic Q and A article available on file about the process of writing that particular book and pointing out possible educational links. This is an example from our co-authored 'Cycling Solo; Ireland to Istanbul' which crosses markets using blogging as the new electronic autobiography and I thought SCBWI readers might find it helpful as a strategy. Attracting both the trade and educational markets is important in terms of sales in the life of a book.

Other News:

2007 Mar 15 Thu - Deadline for applications for the SCBWI Work-In-Progress Grants, which assist children's book writers in the completion of a specific project. Grants available include a general Work-In-Progress Grant, a Grant for a Contemporary Novel for Young People, a Non-fiction Research Grant, and a Grant for a Work Whose Author Has Never Had a Book Published. Open to full and associate members of the SCBWI. One grant of \$1,500 in each category, with a runner up of \$500, will be awarded annually. Entries must be postmarked no earlier than February 15th and must be RECEIVED BY March 15th. They should be sent to SCBWI Publications, W-I-P Grant Application, 8271 Beverly Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90048 USA. Please note: Members may apply for only one SCBWI grant per calendar year. For more information, go to << http://www.scbwi.org/awards/wip_grant.htm>>

2007 Mar 15 Thu - Deadline for submissions for the Barbara Karlin Grant, which recognizes and encourages the work of aspiring picture book writers. Open to full and associate writer members of the SCBWI who have never had a picture book published. Not available for a picture book text already under contract. The text may be an original story, work of nonfiction, or a re-telling or adaptation of a fairytale, folktale or legend. Only one manuscript per applicant may be submitted. One grant of \$1,500 will be awarded annually, along with a runner-up grant of \$500. Entries must be postmarked no earlier than February 15th and must be received no later than March 15th. They should be sent to SCBWI Publications, Barbara Karlin Grant Application, 8271 Beverly Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90048 USA. Please note: Members may apply for only one SCBWI grant per calendar year. For more information, go to http://www.scbwi.org/awards/bk_grant.htm.

THE LA CONFERENCE:

[Click here](#) to jump and have a look at reports about the last conference and then click on annual summer conference.

Through the members only link (from the front page) there is further information available.

Expressions online: don't forget to join expressions online - from SCBWI members

Expression OnLine, the SCBWI international on-line newsletter, is a free added service for current members of the Society of Children's Book Writers & Illustrators. We appreciate readers encouraging interested parties to join the organization and register for Expression OnLine for ALL the international news. If you aren't already registered then drop a note to Editor, Beulah Pedregosa Taguiwalo bpteditor@yahoo.com

So, that is all for this newsletter Don't forget to send any news, new books, your new website information to info@scbwiaustralia.org.

We hope that this finds you wonderfully well and buzzing creatively. Have a great few months.

Ciao for now,

Chris and Susie.