

Finding Aid Campaign June 2018



Sharing the Inside Story

Join our appeal

We here at the NCACL are determined to safeguard the papers and manuscripts of Australian authors for young people. We do this because these collections are of heritage value for posterity. We also know that the creative process is fascinating to people of all ages and interests.

We ensure that these collections survive the enemies of paper, live on safely in archival folders and boxes and ultimately, share their secrets of the creative process for those interested.

Secrets, you ask? There are infinite choices to be made when creating a story for young people. Where did the idea come from? Why choose animals rather than human characters? Faced with three perfectly good endings, how was THE one chosen? Did the author and illustrator collaborate? Why did the book designer choose a landscape format? What role did the editor play? How was the book marketed? What were the negotiations for translations? These essential questions lie quietly hidden until the 'inside story' is revealed.

The NCACL takes enormous pride in revealing that inside story. We do this by arranging, describing and creating a guide to authors' papers and manuscripts.

There is work involved in creating such a guide. We remove staples, rubber bands and other harmful enemies of papers, rehouse material and label folders, put folders in boxes and create a guide to the entire collection. There are costs involved.

What are these costs?

We are grateful that the University of Canberra provides us with our archival supplies. In our experience, the process of arranging, describing and documenting an author's papers takes around five hours per box. An average-sized collection of an author's papers is around 17 boxes. While we do our best to keep up with arranging and describing authors' papers and manuscripts, we need your help. We have successfully used a professional service whose hourly rate is \$60.50. To complete one author's papers and manuscripts, including a guide to these, would cost approximately \$5,143.

We invite you, as our friend, to support our 'inside story' project. Our call for help may seem like a

lot to ask, but a little support from a lot of people will help us achieve our goal to create more guides to authors' papers.

[Here](#) is the link to our donation form available for printing if you wish to contribute in this way. Please indicate your name and 'Finding Aids' on the form. You may also donate using EFT to this project online [here](#). Please include the following details: your surname, first initial, finding aid (i.e. AldermanBFindingAid). As the NCACL is an income tax deductible gift recipient, you will be able to claim your donation to us as a tax deduction for the 2017-2018 financial year. Thank you for considering our appeal.

Best wishes

Dr Belle Alderman AM

Emeritus Professor of Children's Literature

Director, National Centre for Australian Children's Literature Inc

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