

[View this email in your browser](#)

Contact Editor Lynn Fletcher
lynnfletcher@ozemail.com.au



The National Centre for Australian Children's Literature

As you can see our name and banner have changed. For the last two years, the Board has been working towards positioning the Lu Rees Archives as the premier collection of Australian Children's Literature. Our tag line is "Sharing our nation's heritage". We have our vision for the future, "Our literary past, present and future are preserved in the Centre, through the stories that touched our hearts and stirred our imaginations as children. It documents and shares the creative process, and inspires the next generation of readers with research collections, exhibitions and outreach activities."

At our Annual General Meeting held on 23 September, our Board and Members unanimously agreed to change our name from the Lu Rees Archives of Australian Children's Literature Inc to the National Centre for Australian Children's Literature Inc. We are doing this because the new name succinctly states what we are, clearly conveys our intent and embodies our vision for the future. We will continue to honour Lu Rees, as our founder, in our history, through a long-established award in her name, and in other ways.

We will soon arrange small group meetings with authors, illustrators and publishers who are immediately concerned with the Centre, to share our vision for the future and to seek their support in spreading the word about our exciting plans.

If you are following us on [Twitter](#) or [Facebook](#) you can see our progress in implementing this very exciting change. Why not join in the conversation today or make an appointment to visit us when you are next in Canberra to celebrate with us.

Below Left Lu Rees, Dr Waterhouse and Victor Crittenden College Librarian, announcing the agreement between the then Canberra College of Advanced Education and the Lu Rees Archives in 1979.

Below Right Jenny Jeffery, niece of Lu Rees with Dr Belle Alderman AM. Jenny marked the occasion of her visit by donating books her Aunty Lu had given her as a child.



"The new name will certainly make an appropriate statement in this great city of many other national institutions. I imagine Aunty Lu would be very pleased. I am thrilled that her crucial role will continue to be recognised." Jenny Jeffery

Vale Nan Hunt (N.L. Ray) 1918 - 2015

We were saddened to hear of the death of our good friend Nan Hunt on 4 October. Nan was a wonderfully good humoured correspondent whose active

writing period spanned the years from 1973 to 2000.

Nan generously donated her entire collection to the Archives in early October 2007. These works include manuscripts, short stories, poetry, picture books and novels written as Nan Hunt or N.L.Ray. [View the Finding Aid to the Centre's Nan Hunt Collection.](#)



On learning of our name change Bob Graham said:

"Thank you Belle, this is a step onward and I wish you well. Most importantly I thank you and all the other people who have given and continue to give their time and expertise on behalf of the National Centre for Australian Children's Literature."

Hospital appeal

The Centre recently provided research support locating Australian children's book artists whose art was suitable for inclusion on the walls of the Canberra Hospital's Neonatal Ward. Our role was to work with the Art Curator for the Canberra Hospital, Dr Jenny McFarlane, to search for suitable artists and children's books. In this case Bruce Whatley's artwork for Jackie French's 'Diary of a Wombat' was chosen.

The Canberra Times reported on the project and you can read the article which was posted on June 20 on our Facebook page. We are now working with Jenny again to select further artwork for the University of Canberra's hospital scheduled to open in two years' time.



Seeking translations of Australian children's books

The Centre holds over 3500 translations of Australian children's books, in more than fifty-three languages, from Afrikaans to Zulu. These books are eagerly sought by researchers and we need help to add to the collection.

Lu Rees started the translations collection in 1979 to celebrate the International Year of the Child. Joan Phipson's books were the first translations held and these were soon followed by Ivan Southall's complete collection. Usually the Centre is one of only two or three libraries in Australia that holds a particular translation and often it is the only one.

Below Left Sample of Ethel Turner's translations.
Below Right Garth Nix's translations.

Seeking translations of Australian children's books

The Centre holds over 3500 translations of Australian children's books, in more than fifty-three languages, from Afrikaans to Zulu. These books are eagerly sought by researchers and we need help to add to the collection.

Lu Rees started the translations collection in 1979 to celebrate the International Year of the Child. Joan Phipson's books were the first translations held and these were soon followed by Ivan Southall's complete collection. Usually the Centre is one of only two or

three libraries in Australia that holds a particular translation and often it is the only one.

Below Left Sample of Ethel Turner's translations.

Below Right Garth Nix's translations.



Thanks Heather

Heather Monro-Allison, our intern from Australian National University, whom we have greatly enjoyed over several months, completed her time with us in mid October.

Heather made a wonderful contribution to our Centre. During her time with us, she accessioned books, researched, identified and labelled over 50 potential and actual rare books, and created a guide to the papers of author, Mary Steele. Heather also observed or was involved with a range of processes including the Cultural Gifts Program and artwork. She also assisted in the preparation for student visits and attended some of our events.

Bottom Left Heather Monro-Allison hard at work contemplating the papers of Mary Steele.

Bottom right Anne-Marie Miller and Max Brown collect Graeme Base's art work, *The Worst Band in the Universe*



On learning of our name change Jackie French said:

"Am absolutely, totally delighted, both at this new stage of the Archives journey, but that Australia will have such a centre, and it will be in Canberra and with the best of all hands to guide it. Will break out the champagne, or at least offer carrots to the wombats. Love and so many congratulations, Jackie"

Visitors who recently joined us...

During September the marvelous people from Kids Book Review joined us for a tour. [To go on the tour and read what they had to say go to their web address.](#)

Bottom Left Sarah Steed, Tania McCartney, Dr Belle Alderman AM, Anouska Jones and

Jo Burnell.

Bottom Right Dr Belle Alderman AM and Sarah Steed with Graeme Bases's newly donated works.



On learning of our name change Ann Haddon and Ann James of Books Illustrated said:

"We believe this change is so essential for taking the intention of the Archives into the future. The creation of a National Centre for Australian Children's Literature will open many opportunities for partnerships that can only advance and enrich the development of Australian Children's Literature on a national level."

Special visitors

Bottom Left Students from the University of Canberra Ginninderra College spent several hours using Centre resources to complete a writing assessment.

Bottom Right Dee Huxley, signing the Visitor's Book, with her daughter Tiffany and Belinda Gamlen. Dee's art work is currently being described by Max Brown.



On learning of our name change Robyn Sheahan- Bright said:

"Thank-you so much for this message regarding the change to the name of the Lu Rees Archives. I congratulate you and all involved on what has been achieved since 1974 and am sure that these achievements will be further consolidated by your careful planning for the future. Thanks again for the extraordinary work you have done to preserve Australia's children's literature and its heritage."

Special invitation:

The National Centre for Australian Children's Literature
(formerly the Lu Rees Archives)

Invites you to attend its End of Year celebrations

Where: Level A, The University of Canberra Library

Date: Tuesday 17 November 2015

Time: 4.30pm - 6.00pm

RSVP: lu.rees@canberra.edu.au by **Thursday 12 November**.

Go to [Past Newsletters](#) for our back issues



Tweet



Forward



Share