

Newsletter Volume 3 Issue 3

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At Your National Centre...

We have enjoyed partnering with major Canberra institutions and galleries to bring you an extraordinary year of Centre exhibitions. In October enjoy [*The School Magazine*](#), the world's longest continuously published children's literary magazine at an exhibition curated by the National Centre for Australian Children's Literature. Centre volunteers have installed a sample of its unique resources for [*The School Magazine*](#) display at Libraries ACT Civic Branch. The Exhibition opened on 23 September and runs until 21 October 2016 and is open during the Library's hours of business.

The Centre holds the full run of copies from 1916 and wanted to celebrate the achievements of the many authors and illustrators who were inspired to become creators as a result of the magazine.

Perhaps you or a family member was one such author or illustrator? Research of the magazine shows a policy of bringing quality writing and illustrating into children's lives. Established and new creators work is represented. You can see a young May Gibbs work in the earliest 1916 issues of [*The School Magazine*](#).

In February 2016 [*The School Magazine*](#) celebrated its centenary and to celebrate this important milestone the Centre invited its readers, past and present, to share their memories of the Magazine. These memories were collated and reveal the huge impact and influence [*The School Magazine*](#) has had on generations of primary age children. [*The School Magazine: Readers' Memories Celebrate Its Centenary*](#) tell their stories and is a wonderful tribute to a 'literary treasure'.

We welcome Alan Edwards, *The School Magazine's* current Editor, to talk at this exhibition, and invite you to join us in this very special celebration.

Your special invitation to hear Alan Edwards...



You are invited to join us at the Exhibition of *The School Magazine*, to hear its current Editor, [Alan Edwards](#) talk about this wondrous magazine.

When: Friday 14 October 4.00 pm - 5.00 pm

Where: [Libraries ACT, Civic Branch](#)

Grand finale for the [Seeing Stories Exhibition...](#)



The Centre would like to extend its grateful thanks to all who contributed to the success of the [Seeing Stories Exhibition](#). We enjoyed Australian children's book creators [Tania McCartney](#), Emma Allen, Hannah Sommerville, Pauline Deeves and Kerry Malone very much. They regaled us with live drawing, showed us toys made by children in the 1900s, offered dress ups, gift packs, games and more. Children created art and stories, inspired by our guest speakers.

We featured book buying, courtesy of Harry Hartog Booksellers, book signings, plus very creative face painting, such as May Gibbs' gumnut babies and Leigh Hobbs' Old Tom, hot and cold drinks from the Shot Clock Espresso mobile van, and importantly, we sold raffle tickets for our amazing May Gibbs baby quilt, to benefit the National Centre.

A special thank you to Rowan Simpkins and the many volunteers who attended and made the day run smoothly, including National Centre volunteers, University staff and security, who made sure all safety precautions were in place.

See photographs above

Top Left Tania McCartney with her rapt audience read ***Smile Cry*** and ***Tottie and Dot***.

Top Right Children enjoying face painting.

Bottom Left Belle Alderman AM and Kerry Malone share a story with attending children.

Bottom Right Hannah Sommerville together with her husband and children visited the Centre.

Visitors and researchers...

The Centre has enjoyed hosting an enormous number of visitors and researchers in the last 3 months. We were delighted to welcome Dianna Budd, a writer - illustrator from the Canberra community who wanted to see how picture books developed. She was invited to the Centre and given Jackie French's and Nina Rycroft's *Dinosaurs Love Cheese* to view. *She was further invited* to join University students studying Publication Design as the Centre volunteers Belle Alderman AM and Belinda Gamlen were talking about this book in depth with lecturer, [Tony Flowers](#), Tony is himself an experienced illustrator who cheerfully encouraged students to view the ***Seeing Stories Exhibition***.

See photographs below

Top Left Dianna Budd with the Jackie French's and Nina Rycroft's *Dinosaurs Love Cheese* file.

Top Right and Bottom Left Students from Publication Design study original artwork, storyboards and manuscripts from *Dinosaurs Love Cheese*

Bottom Right Tony Flowers, a great supporter of the National Centre, in his studio.



Researching Ethel Turner was....

Visiting the Centre in September were Philippa Poole, granddaughter of Ethel Turner and her daughter, Belinda Sharpe. They were looking at research files on Ethel. During the research process Philippa and Belle Alderman AM discovered that they had been corresponding together for 29 years. The late Victor Crittenden

started the correspondence 2 years earlier while Lu Rees had started the process by writing to Ethel's publisher in the late 1970s. A very long association!

Philippa and Belinda read the story of 'Little Miss Anzac' by Mrs W.A. Holman illustrated by Nelle Rodd. They enjoyed hearing about the work of Shellee Young, our intern, who found an e-copy of this book and more information and wrote it all up for [Reading Time](#), using our article in the journal from some years back by the donor of this book.

Philippa and Belinda then wanted to know whether the Centre had Peter Gouldthorpe's artwork for 'A Walk to School' a picture book by Ethel which was very unusual for her. We certainly did, holding 2 beautiful pieces, a preliminary and the stunning final. Both have been beautifully mounted, as the National Gallery of Australia had exhibited 17 Centre artworks in 1993 when they also held an exhibition of Jeannie Baker's artwork.

Philippa loved looking at our collection of Ethel's rare books including the Dutch edition of *Seven Little Australians* (1898?), the Icelandic edition (donated by the late Dr Anne Clyde), and our new rare book donated by Max Brown with Ethel Turner's signature as a school prize. Philippa loved how clear the handwriting was. If you plan to visit the Centre, ask to see these treasures.



Philippa Poole (Left), granddaughter of Ethel Turner, and her daughter, Belinda Sharpe visited the National Centre.

May Gibbs Exhibition...

The Centre *recently* partnered with the Canberra Museum & Gallery to mount an exhibition entitled ***May Gibbs by gum!*** [The Exhibition](#), which opened in July to coincide with the stage play [Snugglepot & Cuddlepie](#), at the Canberra Theatre showcased many editions held by the Centre and run until early September. Many thanks to volunteers Belinda Gamlen and Max Brown for mounting the May Gibbs exhibition at the Canberra Museum & Gallery.

It was wonderful to catch up with Jane Brummitt, noted authority on May Gibbs and co-author of the book ***More than a Fairy Tale: An Artistic Life*** who spoke on May Gibbs' art, appeal and lasting contribution to Australia's national heritage. We thank Jane for her continued support and encouragement of the National Centre.



Jane Brummitt generously donated two exquisite rare books to the National Centre including *Gum Blossom Babies* and *Gumnut Babies*, which are May Gibbs' first two published books in Australia.



To Support the work of the Centre...

And to enter the draw for our amazing May Gibbs quilt, contact Dr Trish Milne at ncacraffle@gmail.com for further information.

Tickets cost \$2 each or three for \$5.

The raffle will be drawn on the 23rd October at 10.30am in the National Botanic Gardens, Canberra.

Stop Press:

There is to be a very special reading of May Gibbs' stories by Mollie Bialkowski in the garden "by gum."

How can you support your National Centre?

We have an increasing number of special friends coming to see the Centre and its magnificent resources. We are proud to welcome authors, illustrators,

international academics, interstate educators, national organisation representatives and Directors, and professionals in the field of children's literature. Many have taken the time to like us on Facebook and to follow us on Twitter.

You can support us by following us on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#) and placing a link to our website on **your** website. Sending our newsletter contact details to those who would enjoy and encourage the sharing of Australian Children's Literature would be another fine way to assist us.

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