

Newsletter Volume 3 Issue 4

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### ***At Your National Centre...***

At our end of year function, the National Centre's Board Chair, The Honourable Deputy Chief Justice, Family Court of Australia, John Faulks reflected on influences that help to shape us. He considered the power of story and storytelling.

"Almost everyone here has told a story to someone else - today. It may have been a report about something which happened or even the recollection of a dream. I was sharing an experience with another person.

One of the essential characteristics of humans is that we tell stories. We share experiences. We pass on legends which may be as simple as a family tradition; or as complex as the spirit of ANZAC.

We learn about stories when we are very young because people want to tell stories to children – and children love to hear stories. This is their gateway to humanity. It is their airlock to the spaceship of imagination. It is the quickening of their intellects; and the stimulus of their inventiveness.

That is why I think children's literature is so important. It is the gateway to the world.

We are very fortunate in Australia to have so many amazing authors and illustrators for young people. This is our reason for existence at the National Centre for Australian Children's Literature. We (and I mean all of us) are the guardians of that gate. We ensure that it is open and that it is kept open for young minds to enter.

It is not **just** about fun: but it **is** about fun – and wonder. I despair sometimes that nowadays, children are so busy that they almost forget to have fun. Good

children's books capture young minds and hold them in stasis in a world of wonder. All of us have smiled, or even laughed with children listening to stories (or reading them) with eyes as big as saucers.

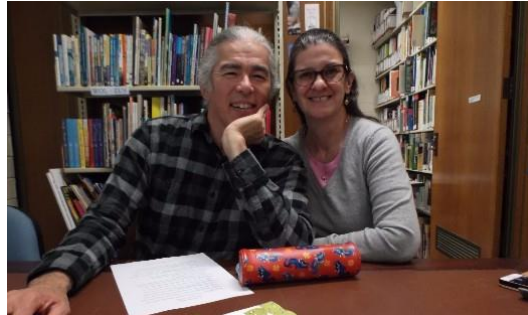
At the Centre, we have for years been the custodians of the tools of literature and the keepers of stories." [For more...](#)

## ***Visiting the National Centre were...***



[Leigh Hobbs Australian Children's Laureate](#) and Celeste Alderson-Fletcher, a great fan of Leigh's Mr Chicken and Old Tom. The National Centre holds the treasure trove of original art work of [Fiona the Pig](#), book titles and a [guide to Leigh's work](#). Mister Chicken rules, okay! So come to the Centre and see these in the new year.

***And...***



**Photograph Left**

Grace Blakely-Carroll, Belle Alderman and Dr Guy Hansen have preliminary discussions about possible storylines, themes, curators, and artwork for the collaborative national exhibition of Australian children's book illustration to be held at the National Library of Australia over the summer of 2019-2020.

**Photograph Right**

[Christopher Cheng](#) and Bini Szacsvey visited the Centre. Chris is an award winning Australian author of print and digital picture books, historical fiction and non-fiction children's books.



**[Seeing Stories recognition of service](#)**

National Centre's Board Chair, The Honourable Deputy Chief Justice, Family Court of Australia, John Faulks presents Jessica Goodvin, University of Canberra Cultural Heritage student with her award for community service. He also presented 12 other certificates, acknowledging UC student achievement. Alex Stalker-Booth, UC Art collection manager and Dr Alison Wain, Cultural Heritage lecturer were also acknowledged for their leadership in the Seeing Stories exhibition. [For more...](#)

***At the end of the year celebration were...***



Photographed were:

Top Left Volunteers Vega Markezic, Isabel Brown and Jane Carstens who managed the National Centre Facebook pages.

Top Right Jenny Jeffrey (L) niece of [Lu Rees](#) with Emeritus Professor Malcolm Beazley.

Bottom Left Max Brown, resident expert on the art of the National Centre, gave a brief talk.

Bottom Right Leanne Barrett, Vice President, CBCA ACT Branch (L) and Jenny Stephens (R), National Library of Australia. [For more](#)

### ***And the donations keep flooding in...***



Jane Brummitt generously donated exquisite May Gibbs' memorabilia including jigsaws, stamps, books and a wonderful gum leaf letter opener.

### ***An unexpected outcome...***

The very successful exhibition and talk by Alan Edwards, editor of The School Magazine has had a wonderful and unexpected outcome. Diana Brown, the great niece of Doris Chadwick, one of the School Magazine's longest serving editors, will be collaborating with her mother to write about Doris for our Journal.

We are still trying to find 1920 and 1966 missing volumes of the Magazine. We hold from 1916–2015! Please contact us if you can help with these missing volumes.

### ***Read all about it ...***

The National Centre's Annual Report, bristling with more information about activities throughout 2016 is available [here](#).



***And the lucky winner of the May Gibbs quilt is...***

Tania McCartney who is proudly holding her new quilt. Thanks to Trish Milne for this fabulous fund raiser and to all enthusiastic supporters who wished to make it theirs.

***Supporting the Centre are...***



Top Left Fritha Jones, UC Library, and Rose Howes get stuck into the cataloguing.  
Top Right Kelda Knipe the Centre's newest volunteer.  
Bottom Left Sarah Steed, Libraries ACT and Gaynor Evans, National Centre Management Subcommittee members.  
Bottom Right Pat Dickson Centre Volunteer and long standing supporter, Dorothy Collins.

### ***Vale, Jackie Talip***

We were saddened to hear of the passing of Jackie Talip, a wonderful volunteer who gave generously of her time and energy to the Centre and to its researchers. Jackie will be greatly missed.

### ***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.

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



