



NATIONAL CENTRE for
AUSTRALIAN
CHILDREN'S
LITERATURE^{Inc}

Annual Report 2021

FOR THE YEAR 1 JULY 2020 – 30 JUNE 2021

Prepared by Dr Belle Alderman AM, Director

For members, friends and supporters
and the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission



National Centre for Australian Children's Literature Inc

Annual Report 2021

for the year 1 July 2020 – 30 June 2021

Prepared by Dr Belle Alderman AM, Director

For members, friends and supporters
and the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission

 National Centre for Australian Children's Literature Inc.

 @NatCentAusChLit

www.ncacl.org.au



NATIONAL CENTRE for
AUSTRALIAN
CHILDREN'S
LITERATURE^{Inc}

ANNUAL REPORT

1 July 2020 – 30 June 2021

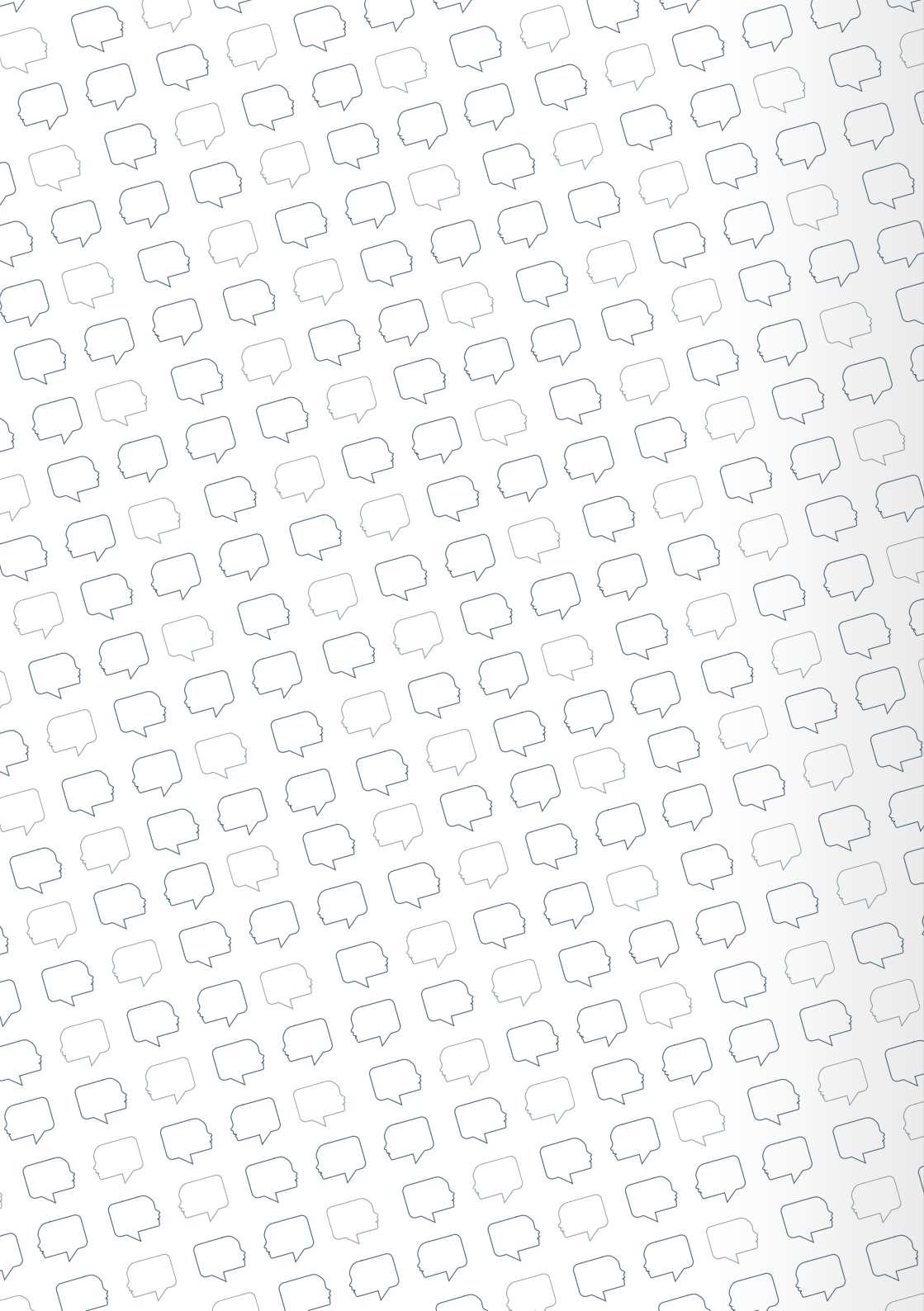


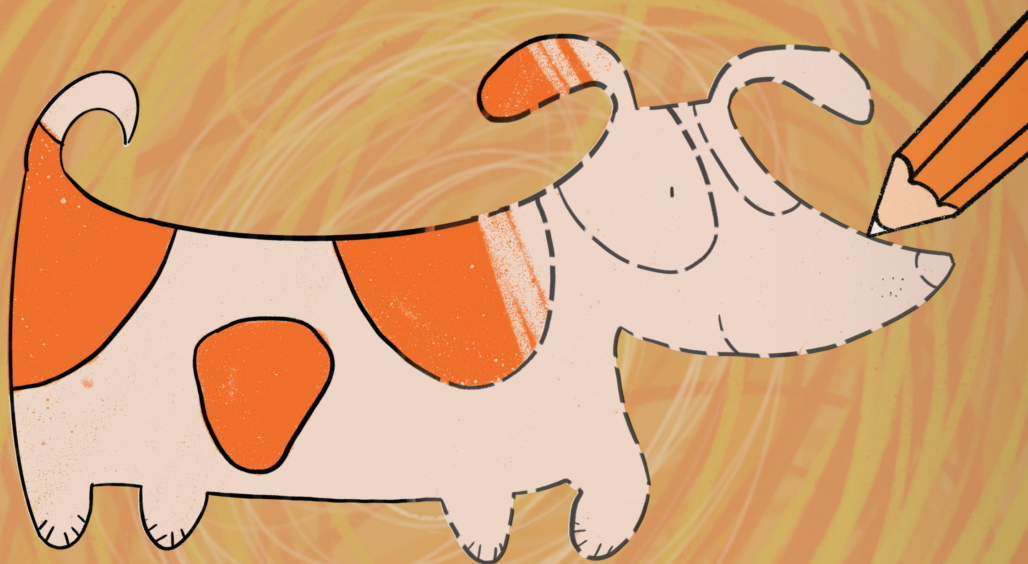
Table of Contents

| | |
|--|-----------|
| Executive Summary | 1 |
| <i>OVERVIEW OF ACHIEVEMENTS</i> | <i>1</i> |
| Objective 1: Building The centre as a national institution | 2 |
| Objective 2: Expanding the centre's reach | 3 |
| Objective 3: Enhancing our collection & providing access | 6 |
| Objective 4: Promoting engagement and attracting wider audiences | 8 |
| Objective 5: Building our workforce | 14 |
| Conclusion | 14 |
| Graphs | 18 |
| <i>GRAPH 1 BOOK DONATIONS</i> | <i>18</i> |
| <i>GRAPH 2 TRANSLATIONS</i> | <i>18</i> |
| <i>GRAPH 3 NEW RESEARCH FILES</i> | <i>19</i> |
| <i>GRAPH 4 HOURS SPENT WITH CLIENTS</i> | <i>19</i> |
| <i>GRAPH 5 NUMBER OF CLIENTS SERVED</i> | <i>20</i> |
| <i>GRAPH 6 VOLUNTEER HOURS</i> | <i>20</i> |



DOG TALES

Dogs in Australian Children's Literature



Featuring Creations by:

Bob Graham

Alison Lester

Ann James

**Location: Mura Gadi
Gallery. Library Level B**

**Opening times:
May 10th - June 23rd**

**Monday - Friday
10:30 am - 4:30 pm**

Dog Tales Exhibition Poster



**UNIVERSITY OF
CANBERRA**



**NATIONAL CENTRE for
AUSTRALIAN
CHILDREN'S
LITERATURE^{Inc}**

Executive Summary

Like the previous year, the Centre experienced ongoing challenges. COVID-19 caused closure of the Centre. On reopening, the Centre then moved its workspace and collections. The book collection of over 48,000 books is now consolidated into one large expandable space, with the Centre's research files nearby. The collections of artworks, authors' and publishers' papers remain in their present adjacent space. The Centre now has a 'shop front' outlook with greater opportunities to attract and work with students, researchers, practitioners, the community.

The Centre remains committed to collecting, preserving, documenting and sharing the stories that touch our hearts and stir our imaginations both as children and as adults. We continue to be guided by our [objectives](#).

Overview of achievements

- Increased recognition as an authority and expert practitioner of Australian children's literature.
 - Launched the Centre's database of children's books by and about Aboriginal and or Torres Strait Islander Peoples now featuring over 500 books
 - Enhanced the Centre's Cultural Diversity database of children's books now featuring over 400 books
 - Created the bibliography of 61 Australian Verse Novels using Microsoft Sway as the delivery platform
- Offered events, exhibitions and social engagement onsite and through the Centre's Facebook, Twitter, online newsletter, e-journal and website
- Provided professional practice and work-integrated learning for University of Canberra students
- Enhanced the book collection through donations from publishers, individuals, organisations and Centre purchases
- Continued building collections of artworks, papers and manuscripts donated under the Australian Government's Cultural Gifts Program
- Expanded online access to the Centre's book collection, artworks and guides to authors' papers and manuscripts
- Finalised cataloguing of 576 translations in 26 languages

OBJECTIVE 1: BUILDING THE CENTRE AS A NATIONAL INSTITUTION

EXHIBITING, EDUCATING AND ENGAGING ALL AGES

The Centre offered Dog Tales, a public exhibition, featuring 35 artworks by Bob Graham, Alison Lester, Ann James and Andrew McLean. University of Canberra Vice-Chancellor and President, Paddy Nixon, opened the exhibition held at the University of Canberra's Mura Gadi Gallery running from 10 May–23 June. The Centre offered educational sessions for the Home Schooling ACT Group and Wiradjuri Childcare Centre. Publicity included:

- Martin, Amy 'Dog Tales at the University of Canberra focuses on pooches in children's books' [The Canberra Times](#), 16 May 2021
- Lazaroo, Suzanne 'Dog Tales: UC exhibition celebrates canine companions in children's literature' [University of Canberra](#), 17 May 2021
- Cross, Erin 'Exhibition celebrates canine companionship in children's literature', [Canberra Weekly](#) 30 May 2021

PROMOTING AUSTRALIA'S UNIQUE AND WORLD-RECOGNISED VERSE NOVELS

The Centre produced free bibliographies on [Australian verse novels](#) for younger and older readers, available from the Centre's website. This project involved the verse novelists, Sally Murphy and Kathryn Apel, as well as three Centre volunteers. Research revealed 61 such novels, with others scheduled for publication. The Centre chose Microsoft Sway to present these in an attractive way. Each book includes bibliographic details, annotation, age suitability, subjects, awards, Australian curriculum links and online free teaching resources. A [resource flyer](#) provides further details.

ENHANCING THE CULTURAL DIVERSITY DATABASE

The [Cultural Diversity Database](#) added 50 new titles with searches available by author, title, publisher, publication date, audience, key concepts, annotations, Australian Curriculum and Early Years Learning Frameworks with a capacity to share 'favourites' with others. [Reviews and media coverage](#) offer positive comments.

ENHANCING THE ABORIGINAL AND OR TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER PEOPLES RESOURCE

The Australian Government's Department of Education, Skills and Employment funded the Centre \$100,000 to create the [NCACL Aboriginal and or Torres Strait Islander Resource](#). By its launch date, 22 July 2020, 327 titles featured for children aged from birth through 12 years. By 24 June 2021, a further 200 titles featured, including books suitable for lower secondary aged young people. [Comments and testimonials](#) demonstrate a very positive response

REVISITING AND REVISING THE CENTRE'S COLLECTION POLICY

The Centre's [Collection Policy](#) is a valuable guiding policy. It outlines the Centre's scope of material collected; how materials are acquired, managed and used; collection care and preservation; relationships with other collecting institutions and its policy for discard and retention of material. The Collection Policy informs potential donors and is a requirement for the Centre to accept gifts under the Australian Government's Cultural Gifts Program.

OBJECTIVE 2: EXPANDING THE CENTRE'S REACH

SHARING RESOURCES WITH AUSTRALIA'S CULTURAL INSTITUTIONS

The Centre shares its artwork collection for exhibitions Australia-wide: Alison Lester's artwork for the 30th anniversary of her book *Magic Beach* was exhibited at the Gippsland Art Gallery in Sale, Victoria from 24 Oct 2020 - 7 Feb 2021.

Freya Blackwood's artwork for *My Two Blankets* will be exhibited at the NSW State Library from 9 July 2022 - 30 April 2023 in an exhibition entitled 'Imagination Unlimited'.

Old Tom reads Old Tom
artwork created by Leigh
Hobbs and donated by
Nicholls Primary School



Old Tom

By LEIGH HOBBS

Medium: Watercolour, ink

Gain of Sand p.9
By BOB GRAMHAM
Medium: Watercolour
Made:
p.116.24

MARKETING AND PUBLICISING RESOURCES NATIONALLY AND INTERNATIONALLY

An extensive campaign marketed the Centre's databases providing professional flyers describing their features, targeting individuals and organisations world-wide with interests in resources for young people and seeking testimonials and reviews to feature on the Centre's website. Examples of these appear on the website for the [Aboriginal and or Torres Strait Islander Resource](#) and the [Cultural Diversity Database](#).

PROMOTING THE CENTRE THROUGH ITS AMBASSADORS

[Jackie French AM](#) and [Christopher Cheng](#) continue their Ambassadorship roles and advocacy in various ways through their public voice of strong support, valuable networks, participation in events, publicising the Centre and assisting with marketing initiatives.

Every Australian literary creation for young people requires
a place to call home. The Centre is that HOME

—*Christopher Cheng, author & Centre Ambassador*

OBJECTIVE 3: ENHANCING OUR COLLECTION & PROVIDING ACCESS

GROWING THE BOOK COLLECTION

The Centre added 1,761 books including 591 books donated by 29 publishers and their imprints. For details, see the [List of Donations](#). There were 85 donations from 19 authors and illustrators and 1,085 donations from 25 individuals and organisations. Donations included 132 translations in 33 languages, ephemera, early and rare books as well as new works and different editions thus strengthening and/or completing the Centre's holdings for particular creators. The Centre's expert volunteer at the Canberra Lifeline Bookfair identified unique books for our Centre. Graphs showing the growth of book donations are presented at the conclusion of this report.

ATTRACTING SPECIALIST DONATIONS

A number of significant collections were donated to the Centre. These are listed under sections titled 'Personal and Organisations' and 'Authors and Illustrators' sections in the [List of Donations](#). Of special interest is a donation by the former Director of Kids' Own Publishing (Melbourne). [Kids' Own Publishing](#) aims to support children writing and illustrating their own books to strengthen culture, language and literacy in all communities. Their mission is to harness the power of books and the publishing process to connect children, families and their communities. This donation included 27 books written and illustrated by children from culturally diverse backgrounds, often recent arrivals to Australia. This collection will be enhanced in the coming year to include the full backlist wherever these are available.

CATALOGUING TRANSLATIONS

Repeating a successful campaign run some years ago, the Centre again raised funds to create cataloguing records for the Centre's translations. Donors included five Embassies, a language institute, KPMG, and 24 private donors over 2020-2021. Funds raised enabled 572 books in 26 languages to be catalogued. The full [story is recorded](#) on the Centre's website. The Centre often holds the only publicly available translation in Australia.

CATALOGUING AND DOCUMENTING OUR RESOURCES

There were 2,714 items catalogued this year providing freely available and worldwide online access to the Centre's book collection. [Our catalogue](#) provides details of our 48,000 strong book collection as well other Centre resources. Details of the Centre's [artworks](#) and [authors' papers and manuscripts](#) (finding aids) are also available from the website. [A Guide to the Pamela Freeman Papers](#) was created this year.

ENHANCING TRANSLATIONS COLLECTION

Translations highlight the universal appeal that Australian children's stories have worldwide. The Centre began collecting translations to mark the International Year of the Child in 1979. The translations collection now holds 4,757 books in 68 languages or country of origin. This year 132 translations in 33 different languages were added to the collection. The largest number of translations or country of origin, in order of highest numbers, include Chinese, Korean, Spanish and American. This collection is documented in [Translations of Australian Children's Books 1979-2021](#)

BUILDING COLLECTIONS OF ILLUSTRATORS' ARTWORK AND AUTHORS' PAPERS AND MANUSCRIPTS

Collections of artworks and authors' papers and manuscripts continue to be donated to the Centre. These are professionally documented and available from the Centre's website. Most are donated under the Australian Government's Cultural Gifts Program. Those collections, where the documentation has been recently accepted by the Cultural Gifts Program, include the following: the papers and manuscripts of [Pamela Freeman](#), artwork for [Where's Jessie?](#) by [Anne Spudvilas](#); [Tricky's Bad Day](#) by Alison Lester; and [My Two Blankets](#) and [Waltzing Matilda](#) by Freya Blackwood. Details of these are available from the Centre website. Others are in process by the Cultural Gifts Program.

Artwork received this year included material from Alison Lester, Elizabeth Honey, Christobel Mattingley's family and Canberra's [Nicholls Primary Schools donation](#) of 15 items.

CURATING RESEARCH MATERIAL ABOUT AUTHORS' AND ILLUSTRATORS' WORKS

The Centre focused on creating new research files on Aboriginal and or Torres Strait Islander Peoples and others featured in this database. The aim is to enhance these creators' research potential by collecting material about their work. There are now 537 research files listed on the website under [Author and Illustrator Research Files](#). An independent assessor of the Centre's significance describes these as 'unique' and 'invaluable' material for research. New files created this year include Gregg Dreise, Brenton McKenna, Dub Leffler, Helen Milroy, Ros Moriarty, May L O'Brien, Bruce Pascoe, Kirli Saunders, Jasmine Seymour and Leanne Mulgo Watson.

'A book can change a child's life. A children's book can change the world'

– Jackie French, author-winning children's author and Centre Ambassador

OBJECTIVE 4: PROMOTING ENGAGEMENT AND ATTRACTING WIDER AUDIENCES

PROMOTING THE CENTRE ON SOCIAL MEDIA

By the end of June 2021, the Centre recorded 3,500 followers on Facebook and 5,100 followers on Twitter. The Centre's website, launched in October 2018, continues to expand the Centre's reach and communicates with followers worldwide. The Centre is widely promoted through its [eNewsletter](#), [website](#), [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#) sites.

Dog Tales exhibition featuring artwork
by Ann James and Bob Graham



Ann James
Dog Tales
2019
A3
Pencil and watercolour
£1200



Bob Graham
Dog Tales
2019
A3
Pencil and watercolour
£1200



Bob Graham
Dog Tales
2019
A3
Pencil and watercolour
£1200

Ann James
Dog Tales
2019
A3
Pencil and watercolour
£1200



Bob Graham
Dog Tales
2019
A3
Pencil and watercolour
£1200

PROMOTING THE CENTRE'S ABORIGINAL AND OR TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER PEOPLES DATABASE

The Centre's database received positive [testimonials](#) and reviews in various media. Below is a sample:

- Australian Government Department of Education, '[NCACL Aboriginal and or Torres Strait Islander Resource](#)' video clip, 2020
- Lorina 'Resource of Books for Children by and about Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples', [Aussie Childcare Network](#), 2 September 2020
- Derouet, Liz 'NCACL ATSI Database', [Reading Time](#), 20 September 2020
- Nitschke, Ruth 'NCACL: National Centre for Australian Literature', [Reading Time](#), 27 September 2020
- 'News: National Centre for Australian Children's Literature New Free Resource Announcement', [Kids' Book Review](#), 25 July 2020
- 'Explore Children's Books with This New Database', [Australian Children's Television Foundation](#), 12 August 2020
- Lucas, Freya 'NCACL makes free database for educators to help find First Nations children's books', [The Sector: Early Education News, Views and Reviews](#), 25 Aug 2020
- 'Belle Alderman on the NCACL Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Resource', [Kids' Book Review](#), 28 August 2020
- Alderman, Belle 'Interweaving Stories and History', [ACCESS](#), November 2020, pp 4-9
- Alderman, Belle 'Changing with the Times', [INCITE](#), November/December 2020, vol 41, issue 11/12, p16 (available through subscription services)

SHARING THE WORLD'S THIRD CULTURAL DIVERSITY DATABASE

The Centre launched its first database [NCACL Cultural Diversity Database in March 2019](#), the world's third on this topic. Throughout the year, this database continued to be updated, publicised and accessed. A [flyer](#) provides details about its creation and features. By year's end over 400 books for young people from birth through secondary years featured with annotations, Australian curriculum links and key concepts.

PROVIDING PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

The Centre provided professional learning to the Association of Teachers of English to Speakers of Other Languages (ATESOL) on 18 February and to the Australian Literacy Educators Association (ALEA) on 25 February. The Centre's databases, the Aboriginal and or Torres Strait Islander Peoples Resource and the Cultural Diversity Database were demonstrated.

PROVIDING SERVICES FOR STUDY, RESEARCH, PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND PROMOTION

Client services were severely disrupted this year due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the University's closure and the Centre's relocation on the University campus. The Centre served 209 clients (usually 600-800) during the year, including University of Canberra students and staff, researchers and academics across Australia, and hosted visits by professional organisations. The [Client Services](#) report identifies types of clients served and resources used.

DESIGNING AND PROVIDING WORK-INTEGRATED LEARNING (WIL): PROJECT 1

Professional internships are offered to university students across Australia. The Centre supported the University of Canberra WIL Dog Tales project accomplished by four third-year students in the Faculty of Arts and Design. They selected picture book creators featuring dogs, devised an inventory, created artist panels and artwork labels, installed the exhibition of 35 artworks, wrote a media release and spoke at the opening. The Centre offered programs for the Wiradjuri Childcare Centre and Home Schooling ACT and created publicity for Dog Tales.

DESIGNING AND PROVIDING WORK-INTEGRATED LEARNING (WIL): PROJECT 2

The Centre supported 15 third year students studying Interior Architecture in the Faculty of Arts and Design. Each student created an exhibition model to showcase authors' and illustrators' creative process, planned and laid out the exhibition and considered audience interaction within the installation. These exhibitions were designed to be packaged, transported and reinstalled at various venues.

DESIGNING AND PROVIDING WORK-INTEGRATED LEARNING (WIL): PROJECT 3

A team of two students studied the Centre's Facebook and Twitter platforms with the aim of increasing their audience and reach. The Centre is awaiting a report.

REACHING FOLLOWERS THROUGH THE CENTRE'S E-NEWSLETTER

During the year the Centre published four newsletters including Vol 7, issue 1 in September and issue 2 in November 2020 plus Vol 8 issue 1 in March and issue 2 in June 2021. The [Centre newsletters](#) are for friends and supporters and aim to publicise events, provide news about the Centre's activities and promote funding campaigns. Those wishing to receive the Centre's free e-newsletter can contact info@ncacl.org.au

Portuguese translations requiring expert cataloguing



Dog Tales opening L to R: UC Vice-Chancellor Paddy Nixon with WIL students Steve Pang, Anna Xia and Dempsey Ward

OBJECTIVE 5: BUILDING OUR WORKFORCE

The Centre has well-qualified, skilled and committed volunteers. During this year, 24 volunteers donated 7,030 hours, the equivalent of four full time staff. Since the Centre's establishment in 1974, volunteers have contributed to its growth and development. The [Volunteer Hours](#) report outlines the roles, responsibilities and tasks performed.

Conclusion

The National Centre for Australian Children's Literature is committed to serving the needs of adults working in this field and also to future generations of young people who are the ultimate beneficiaries of the collection and its endeavours.

We reaffirm our vision—

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.

This is a Centre that preserves the past, enriches the present and helps create the future of Australian children's literature

— Jackie French, author & NCACL Ambassador



Centre loans Alison Lester's preliminary artwork for 'Magic Beach' exhibited at Gippsland Art Gallery, Sale, Victoria 24 Oct 2020 - 7 Feb 2021

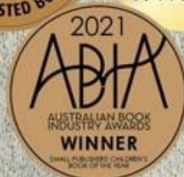
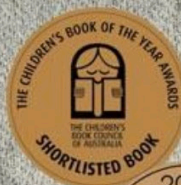


ALISON LESTER

Celebrating the 30th Anniversary of Magic Beach



WINNER OF THE DAISY UTEMORRAH AWARD



Bindi

Verse Novels Resource promotion on
the Centre's Facebook page

Kirli Saunders

Illustrated by Dub Leffler

6,394

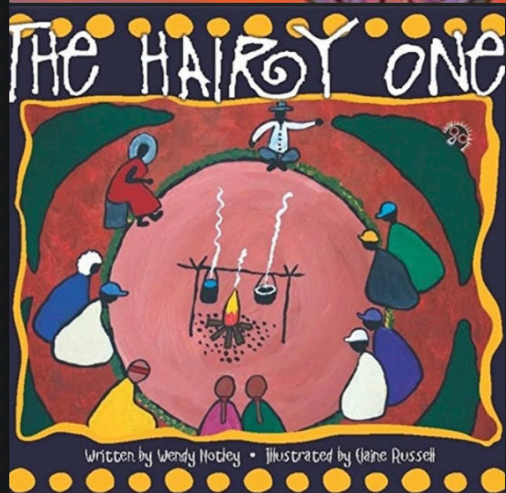
People reached

705

Engagements

Kunyi

Aboriginal and or Torres Strait Islander
Peoples database promotion on the
Centre's Facebook page



GHOST BIRD

24,504

People reached

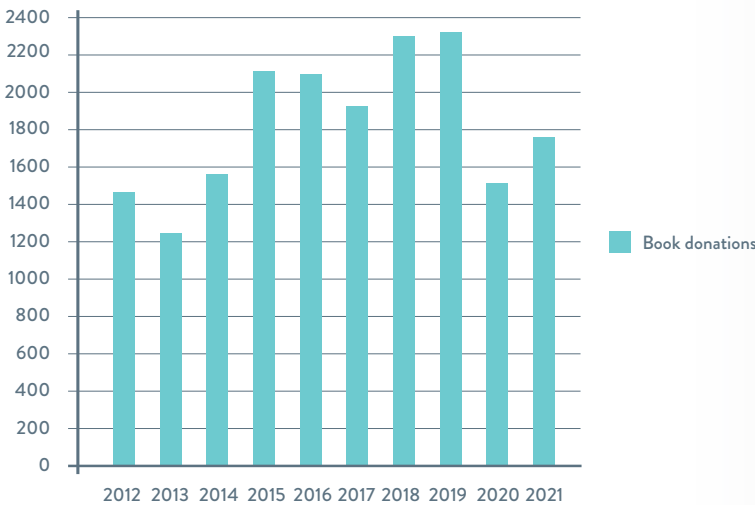
2,119

Engagements

Graphs

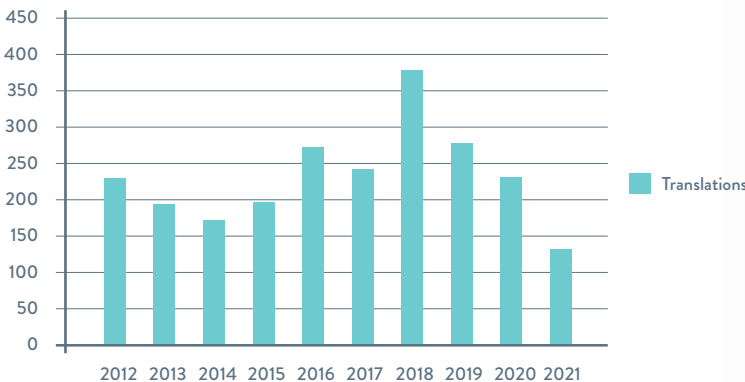
Graph 1 Book donations

Book donations reflect Cultural Gifts, Australian publishing output, efforts to fill collection gaps, and solicited and unsolicited material.



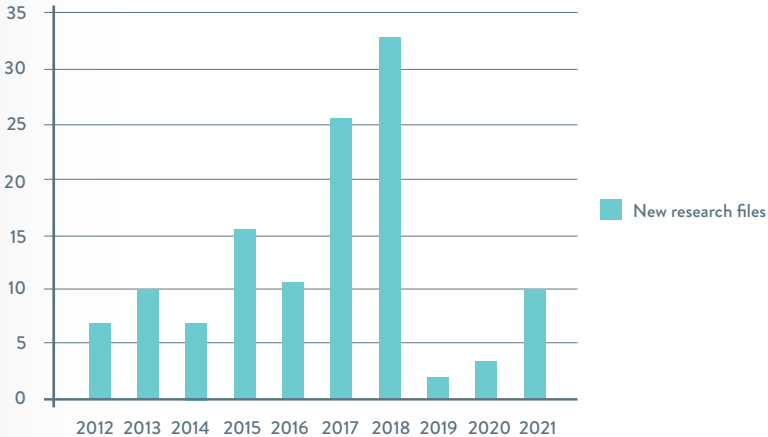
Graph 2 Translations

Translations reflect donations by publishers, authors and illustrators with Cultural Gifts in particular years producing large numbers of translations.



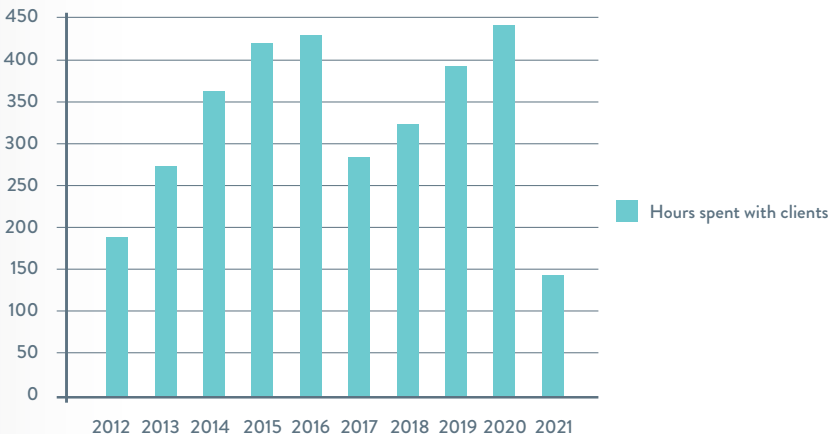
Graph 3 New research files

File growth reflects priorities set by the Centre.



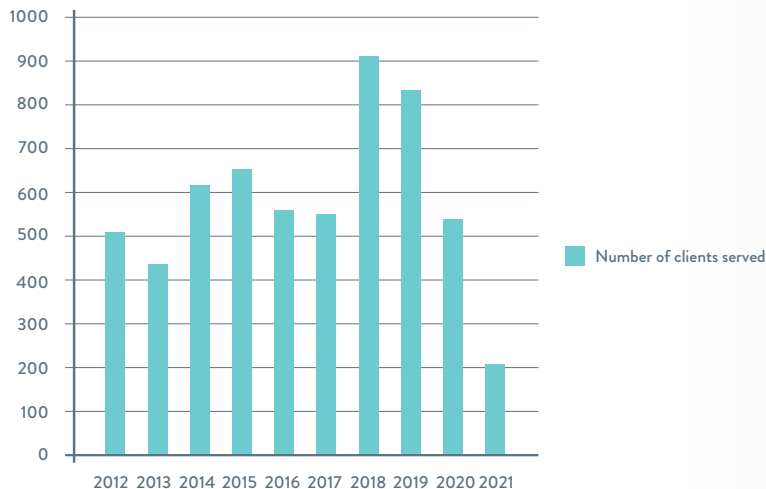
Graph 4 Hours spent with clients

Hours spent with clients reflect enhanced access to Centre’s resources, greater diversity of resources and more sophisticated queries. COVID-19 severely restricted clients.



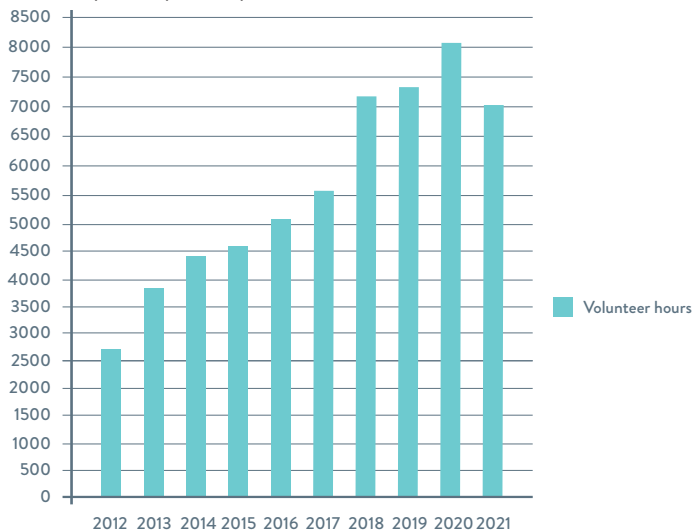
Graph 5 Number of clients served

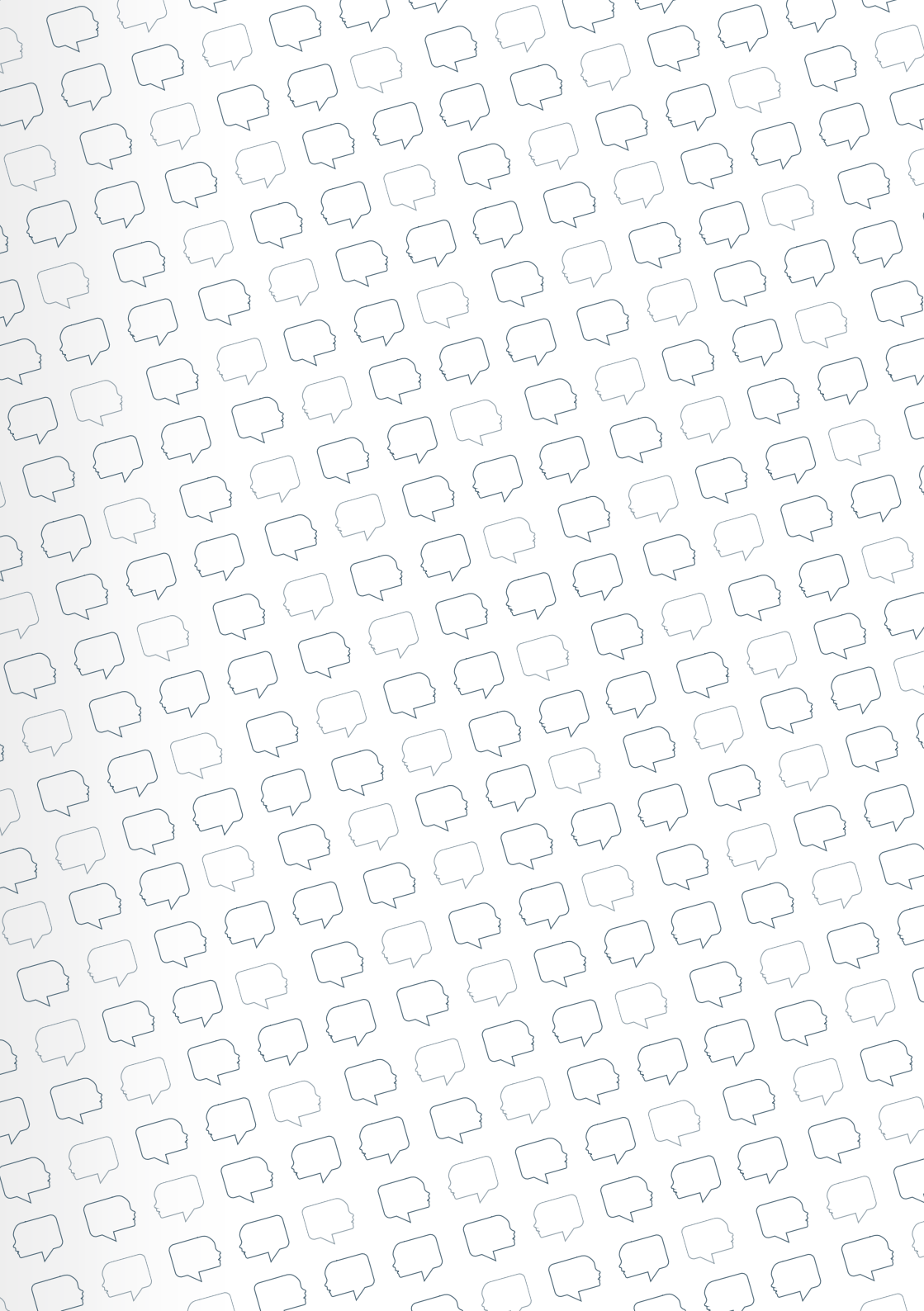
Numbers of clients served reflect academic programs and external engagement. Access is provided through face-to-face and electronic means.



Graph 6 Volunteer hours

Volunteer hours reflect recurring activities as well as specific projects and tasks which vary from year to year.







Sharing Our Nation's Heritage

