



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

Annual Report 2022

FOR THE YEAR 1 JULY 2021 – 30 JUNE 2022

Prepared by Dr Belle Alderman AM, Director

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



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 National Centre for Australian Children's Literature Inc.

 @NatCentAusChLit

www.ncacl.org.au



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ANNUAL REPORT

1 July 2021 – 30 June 2022

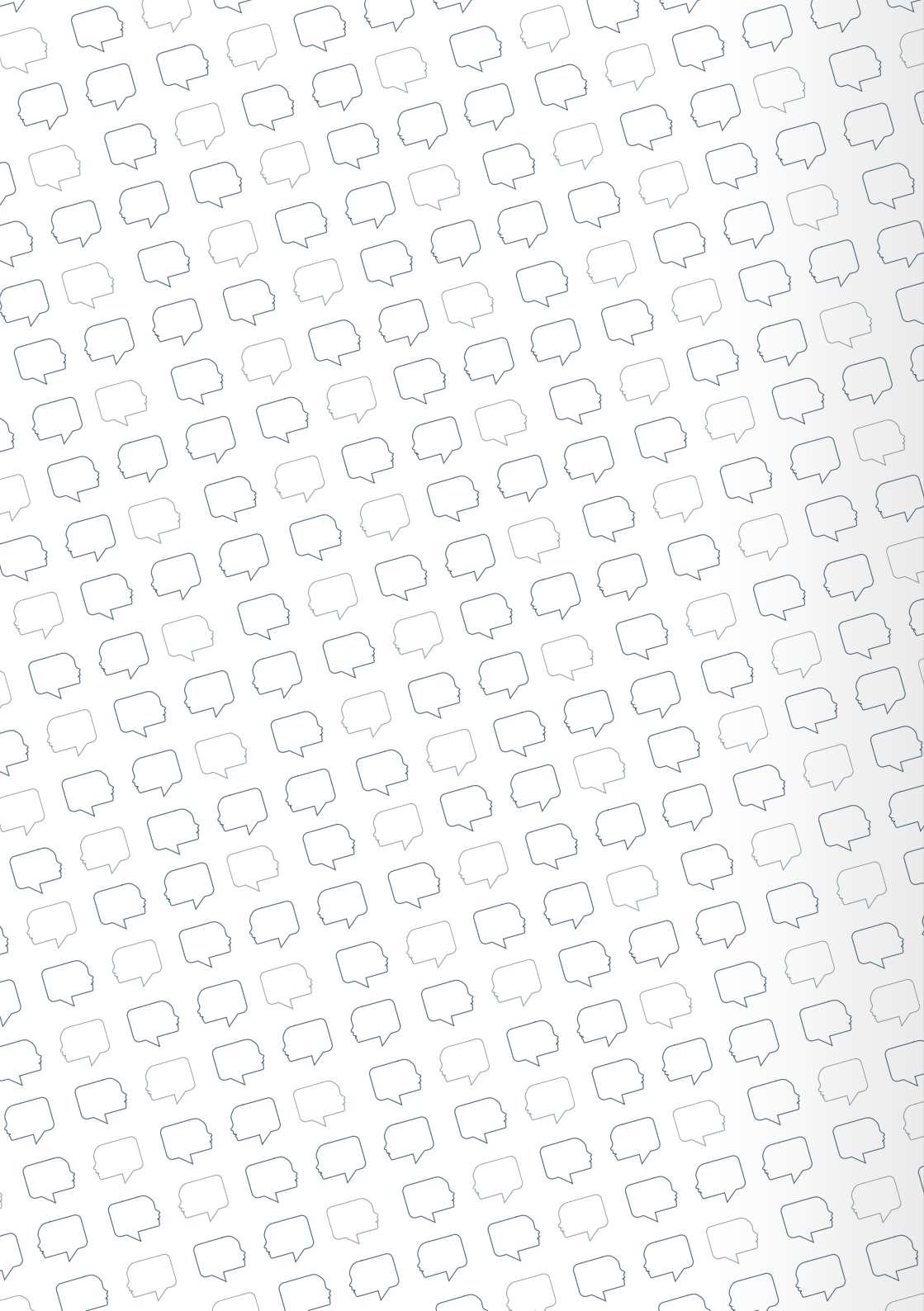


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NATIONAL CENTRE FOR
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Welcome to NCACL

Executive Summary

In late November 2021, the Centre settled comfortably into its new shopfront in the University of Canberra Hub. Here it has a lively and visible presence with a new facility to showcase artworks with display areas that attract and inform visitors. The new workplace for volunteers is particularly amenable to collaboration with additional spaces for private meetings. In February 2022, the Centre welcomed its new Board Chair, University of Canberra's Professor Tracy Ireland who brings with her a wealth of cultural heritage knowledge and experience to augment the Centre.

The Centre is 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](#).

As an Affiliate of the University of Canberra, the Centre's resources are valued for insurance purposes every three years. The Centre's collection is valued at \$12,824,100 as of the end of June 2022.

Overview of achievements

- Increased recognition as an authority and expert practitioner of Australian children's literature
- Delivered and enhanced three databases which are the Centre's most frequently visited webpages
- Offered events, exhibitions and social engagements onsite and through the Centre's Facebook, Twitter, online newsletter, e-journal, website and collaborative partners
- Provided professional practice for Charles Sturt University Masters students and work-integrated learning for University of Canberra Cultural Heritage program
- 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 and outright donations
- Created and enhanced relationships with related organisations
- Expanded online access to the Centre's book collection, artworks and guides to authors' papers and manuscripts

OBJECTIVE 1: BUILDING THE CENTRE AS A NATIONAL INSTITUTION

EXHIBITING, EDUCATING AND ENGAGING ALL AGES

The Centre loaned its collection of Graeme Base's preliminary and final artwork for his book, *The Worst Band in the Universe* for exhibition at the Belconnen Arts Centre from 26 Nov 2021 – 6 Feb 2022. An opening, activities for young people, video interviews with Graeme Base, Tania McCartney and Belle Alderman, as well as short interviews about responses to the exhibition featured. See ***Promoting the Centre through presentations and publications*** for publicity produced about the exhibition.

PROMOTING AUSTRALIA'S UNIQUE AND WORLD-RECOGNISED VERSE NOVELS

The Centre produced free resources to explore [verse novels](#) for younger and older readers, available from the Centre's website. By year's end, 63 such novels were included using Microsoft Sway as the presentation medium. Each book includes bibliographic details, annotation, age suitability, subjects, awards, Australian curriculum links and free online teaching resources. A [resource flyer](#) provides further details.

ENHANCING THE CULTURAL DIVERSITY DATABASE

The [Cultural Diversity Database](#) explored over 400 titles by year's end. The look and search capacity were upgraded with continued searches 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 and on social media. [Reviews and media coverage](#) offer positive comments.

ENHANCING THE ABORIGINAL AND OR TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER PEOPLES RESOURCE

Funded by the Australian Government's Department of Education, Skills and Employment in 2019, the [NCACL Aboriginal and or Torres Strait Islander Resource](#) features books by and about Aboriginal and or Torres Strait Islander Peoples. By its launch date, 22 July 2020, 327 titles featured for children aged from birth through eight years. The database now offers over 550 books for young people of all ages. [Comments and testimonials](#) demonstrate a very positive response.

BUILDING THE EPHEMERA COLLECTION





OBJECTIVE 2: EXPANDING THE CENTRE'S REACH

BUILDING COLLABORATIVE RELATIONSHIPS WITH LIKE-MINDED ORGANISATIONS

The Centre has a long-standing relationship with The Children's Book Council of Australia. This year, the Centre extended its formal relationships to include the International Board on Books for Young People – IBBY Australia, the Australian Children's Television Foundation, the Australian Children's Laureate Foundation and the May Gibbs Children's Literature Trust. Such relationships offer opportunities to build and extend common interests.

SHARING RESOURCES WITH AUSTRALIA'S CULTURAL INSTITUTIONS

A selection of Freya Blackwood's artwork for *My Two Blankets* is on loan to the NSW State Library from 9 July 2022 – 9 July 2023 for an exhibition entitled '[Imagine: the Wonder of Picture Books](#)'

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 AND PROVIDING ACCESS

GROWING THE BOOK COLLECTION

The Centre added 1,800 books including 716 books from 30 publishers and their imprints. There were 104 donations from 24 authors & illustrators and 980 donations from 22 individuals & organisations. Donations included 234 translations in 16 languages, 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

In addition to the Cultural Gifts Program donations, the Centre is grateful for monetary donations which enable the Centre to pursue its goals. A number of significant items were donated to the Centre. These are listed under sections titled 'Authors and Illustrators', 'Publishers' and 'Personal and Organisations' sections of the [Annual Donations](#). Tania McCartney donated a range of May Gibbs ephemera. Authors Claire Saxby, Sally Murphy, Gillian Rubinstein and Sue Whiting added to their collections. Era Publications donated a large number of their educational publications in translation. Several individuals continue to locate books for the collection and others contribute to the Centre's research files. Their efforts are greatly appreciated. The Centre appreciates the continuing donation of journals *The School Magazine*, *Magpies: Talking about Books for Children* and *Good Reading Magazine*.

CATALOGUING AND DOCUMENTING OUR RESOURCES

There were 1,480 items catalogued this year providing freely available and worldwide online access to the Centre's book collection. [Our catalogue](#) provides details of our 55,000 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 Graeme Base Papers](#) was created this year.

ENHANCING TRANSLATIONS COLLECTION

Translations demonstrate that stories have universal appeal around the world. Australian children's literature has a strong record of translations. The Centre began collecting translations to mark the International Year of the Child in 1979 and now holds 4,990 books in 69 languages or country of origin. The Centre added a book in the Pitjantjatjarra language this year. This year 234 translations in 16 different languages were added to the collection. The largest number of translations or country of origin, included, in order of numbers, American, British, German, Chinese, Swedish, French, Japanese, Spanish, Portuguese and Danish.

The Centre's translations are documented in [Translations of Australian Children's Books 1979-2022](#).

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

Cultural Gifts Program (CGP) donations underway include artworks by Bob Graham ([Ellie's Dragon](#); [Maxine](#); and [The Underhills: a Tooth Fairy Story](#)); Alison Lester ([Sing Me the Summer](#)) and Liz Anelli ([Desert Lake](#) by Pamela Freeman). Bob Graham donated artwork for [Jigsaw: a Puzzle in the Post](#) as a future CGP donation. David Kennett donated outright his preliminary sketches for [Armistice](#) (2018) by Ruth Starke.

CURATING RESEARCH MATERIAL ABOUT AUTHORS' AND ILLUSTRATORS' WORKS

The Centre creates new research files, as time permits, where a creator's body of work offers research potential. By year's end, there were 546 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: K Dale; Z Fraillon; K Foxlee; L Kennedy; S Tidy; M Stanton; P Bunting; G Lonesborough; B Stewart. EXISTING FILES UPDATED: L Anelli; D Huxley; D Leffler; S Morgan; S Murphy; L Norrington; M Ottley; C Saxby; C Vass; G Wang; S Whiting.

'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

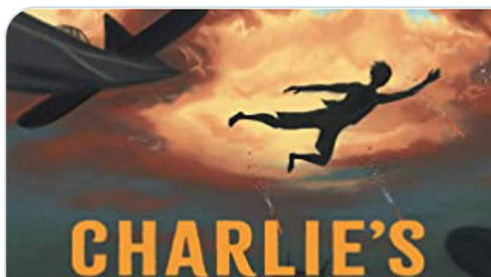
PROMOTING THE CENTRE ON SOCIAL MEDIA

By the end of June 2022, the Centre's Facebook had around 3,500 followers and the Centre's Twitter had around 5,100 followers. 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 website [Newsletter](#), [website](#), [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#) sites. The Centre Board has approved a blog on its website which is under development.

PROMOTING THE CENTRE THROUGH PRESENTATIONS AND PUBLICATIONS

- 'Step into the lives of others: A database of Australian children's literature reflecting our diverse culture', [CBCA Tasmania blog](#), 25 Feb 2022, by NCACL Director, 25 Feb 2022
- Reading Time: Children's Book News and Reviews from The Children's Book Council of Australia, [Reviews of the Verse Novels Resource](#), Younger Readers and Young Adults, by two reviewers, Madeleine Crofts and Sarah Stivens, 1 Mar 2022
- Reading Oceania: A Celebration of Youth Literature from Pasifika, New Zealand, and Australia (Director presented ppt re NCACL's 2 databases & verse novels resource via Webex to 420 members of International Assoc of School Librarianship, School Library Assoc of VIC, School Library Assoc of NZ and students at Charles Sturt U studying the Children's Librarianship Specialisation, by NCACL Director, 3 Mar 2022
- 'A Picture is Worth a Thousand Words' an online panel discussion featuring Graeme Base, Tania McCartney, Belle Alderman and Sarah Steed, as part of the Graeme Base exhibition at the Belconnen Arts Centre, recorded 27 Oct 2021

It's National NAIDOC Week 3-10 July - let's celebrate! We have selected 36 children's/YA books from our Aboriginal and or Torres Strait Islander People's database - Here's a the link to that bibliography & sample jackets ncacl.org.au/wp-content/upl...



Twitter NAIDOC Week 2022

Authors visit



- [Graeme Base: Other Worlds](#) — Exploring the Universe at Belconnen Arts Centre, review by Stephen R Randall, 29 Nov 2021
- [Exploring the Universe of Graeme Base](#), interview by Adam Shirley with Monika McInerney, Artistic Director and Co-CEO of Belco Arts 13 Dec 2021
- [Australian Verse Novels Resource](#) launched by Jackie French at the Book Cow Bookshop, Kingston on 25 Nov 2021
- ‘A gateway to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children’s literature’ [CBCA Tasmania blog](#), 14 Feb 2022, by NCACL Director, 14 Feb 2022
- ‘Discover engaging stories on the Aboriginal and or Torres Strait Islander Resource database, 19 [CBCA Tasmania blog](#), 19 Feb 2022, by Maureen Mann, 19 Feb 2022
- ‘Cultural diversity celebrated through stories’, [CBCA Tasmania blog](#) by Maureen Mann, 4 Mar 2022
- ‘[NCACL has a new home at UC](#)’ by Suzanne Lazaroo, UC Communications Manager, profiles NCACL’s new premises in her article 7 Apr 2022
- ‘Exploring Verse’ presented as part of the SLAV series on Readers, Stories, Literacy - Ruth Nitschke, NCACL volunteer contributes to the panel with co-panelists teacher librarian Kelsy Peetersen & verse novelists, Sally Murphy, Kathryn Apel and Zana Fraillon, 12 May 2022
- Presentation about NCACL to the CBCA National Conference, by NCACL Director, 12 June 2022
- Interview by Barbie Robinson, Director of ‘[Living Arts Canberra](#)’, with the NCACL Director for their website, social media, Facebook, Twitter and Instagram, 22 June 2022

PROVIDING OPEN HOUSE

The CBCA ACT Branch members and ALIA national conference attendees visited the Centre on 17 May 2022 where displays of the creative process were showcased

PROVIDING SERVICES FOR STUDY, RESEARCH, PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND PROMOTION

Client services were lower this year due to COVID's continuing presence. University student numbers were lower this year due to a large number continuing remote learning rather than face-to-face attendance at the University. The Centre served 234 clients for a total of 306 hours during the year, including University of Canberra students and staff, researchers and academics across Australia, plus visits by professional organisations. The [Client Services](#) report identifies types of clients served and resources used.

DESIGNING AND PROVIDING INTERNSHIPS AND WORK EXPERIENCE

Professional internships are offered to university students from across Australia. Jodie Dawson from Charles Sturt University, studying her Master of Teacher Librarianship, engaged in a 10-day professional work experience at the Center as part of her degree requirements. She continues as a volunteer as her external work requirements permit.

PURSuing A NEW VENTURE WITH THE ACTF AND NITV

Australian Children's Television Foundation (ACTF) with Screen Australia are screening from Nov 2022 on NITV a 10-part children's television series based on The Barrumbi Kids three middle grade books by Leonie Norrington. NCACL is developing a related educational program for its website, as a new venture, to be available in early 2023.

REACHING FOLLOWERS THROUGH THE CENTRE'S E-NEWSLETTER

During the year the Centre published four newsletters including Volume 8 Issues 3 & 4 2021 and Volume 9 Issue 1 & 2 2022 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 should contact ncacl@canberra.edu.au

OBJECTIVE 5: USING OUR WORKFORCE

The Centre has well-qualified, skilled and committed volunteers. During this year, 24 volunteers donated 5,712.75 hours, the equivalent of 816 days or 3.2 full time staff. Volunteers assisted 234 clients and provided 307 hours of service. Since the Centre's establishment in 1974, volunteers have contributed to its growth and development. The Volunteers Contribution 1 July 2021 – 30 June 2022 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.

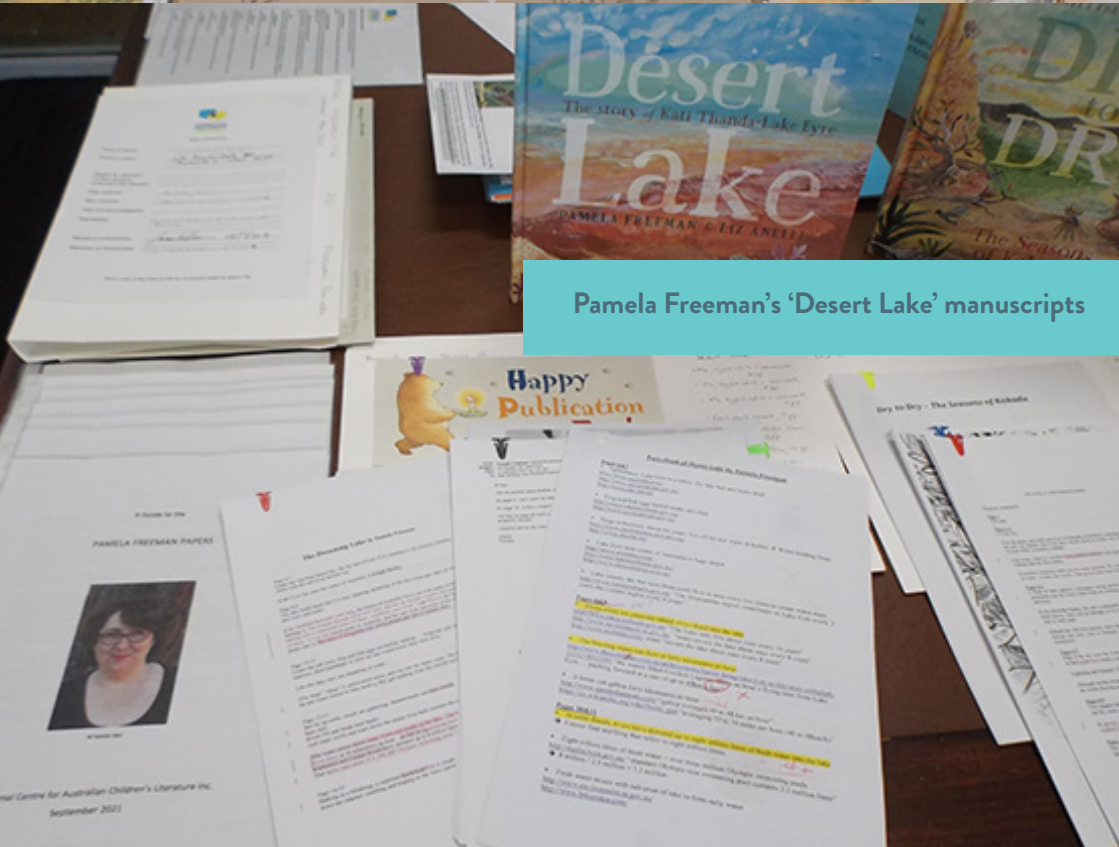
This is a Centre that preserves the past, enriches the present and helps create the future of Australian children's literature

— Jackie French, author and Centre Ambassador

Liz Anelli's 'Desert Lake' artwork



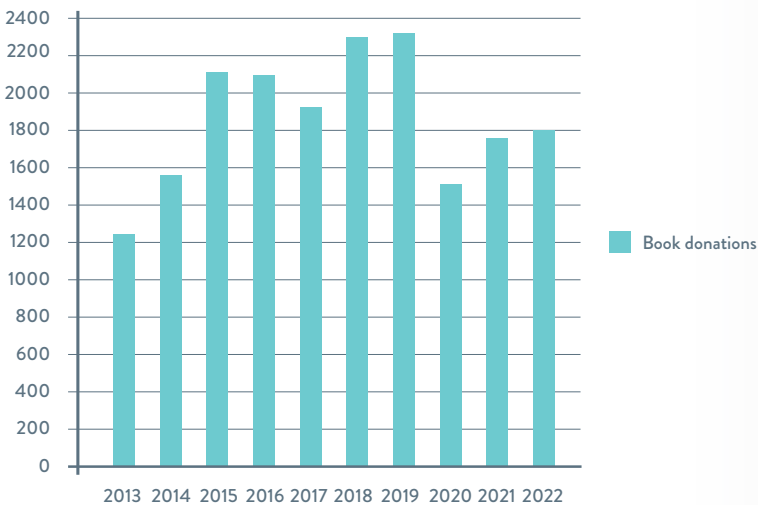
Pamela Freeman's 'Desert Lake' manuscripts



Graphs

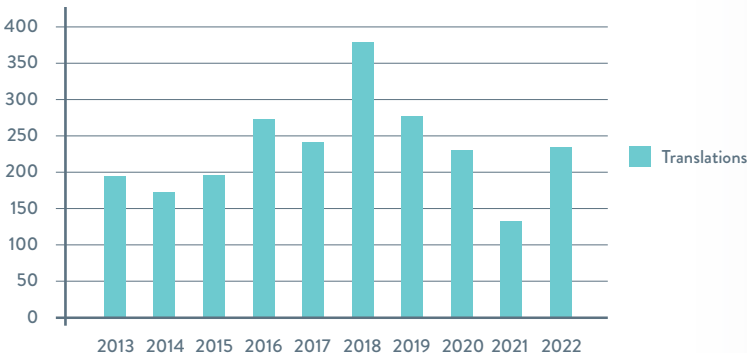
Graph 1 Book donations

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



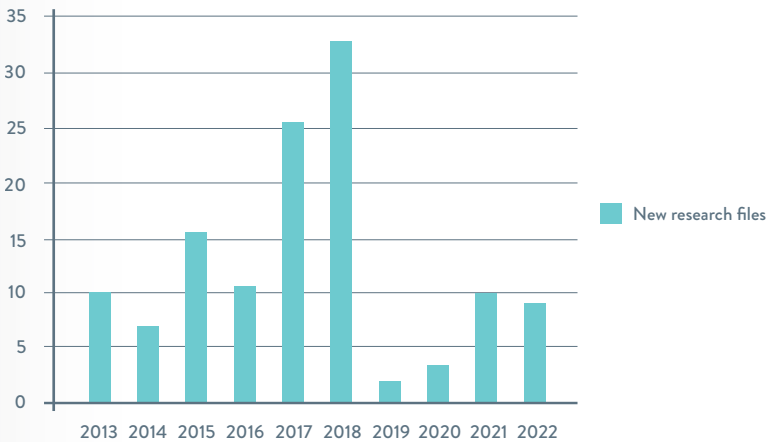
Graph 2 Translations

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



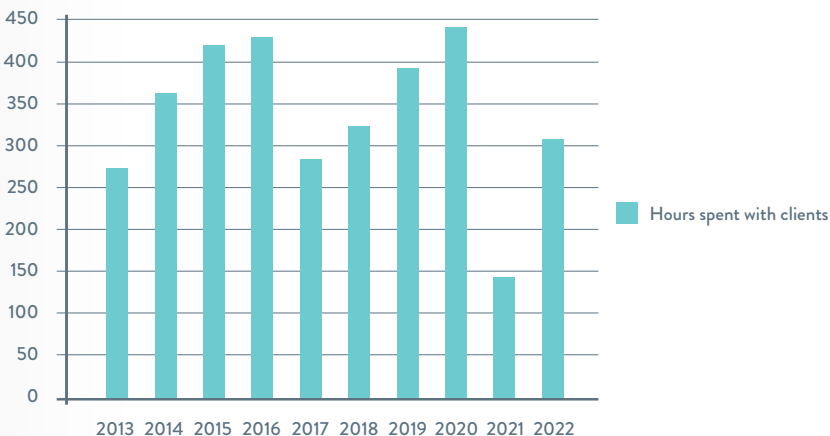
Graph 3 New research files

File growth reflects priorities set by the Centre.



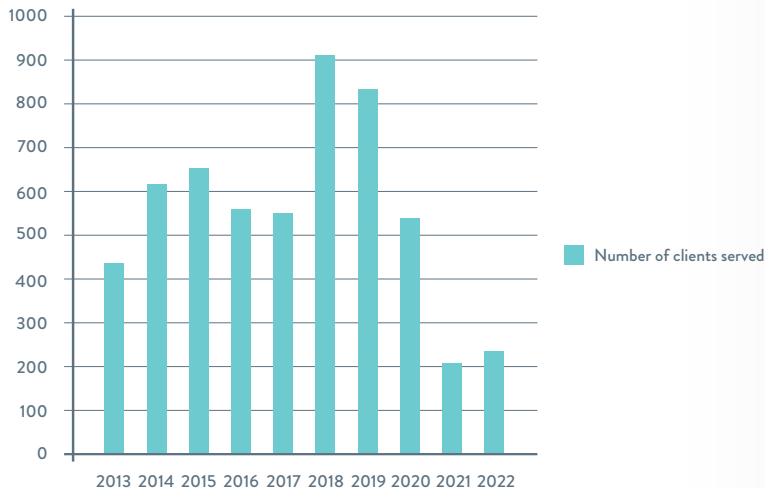
Graph 4 Hours spent with clients

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



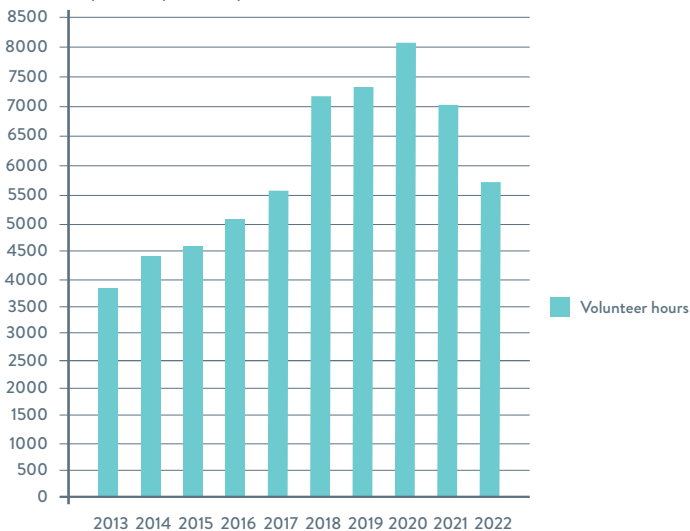
Graph 5 Number of clients served

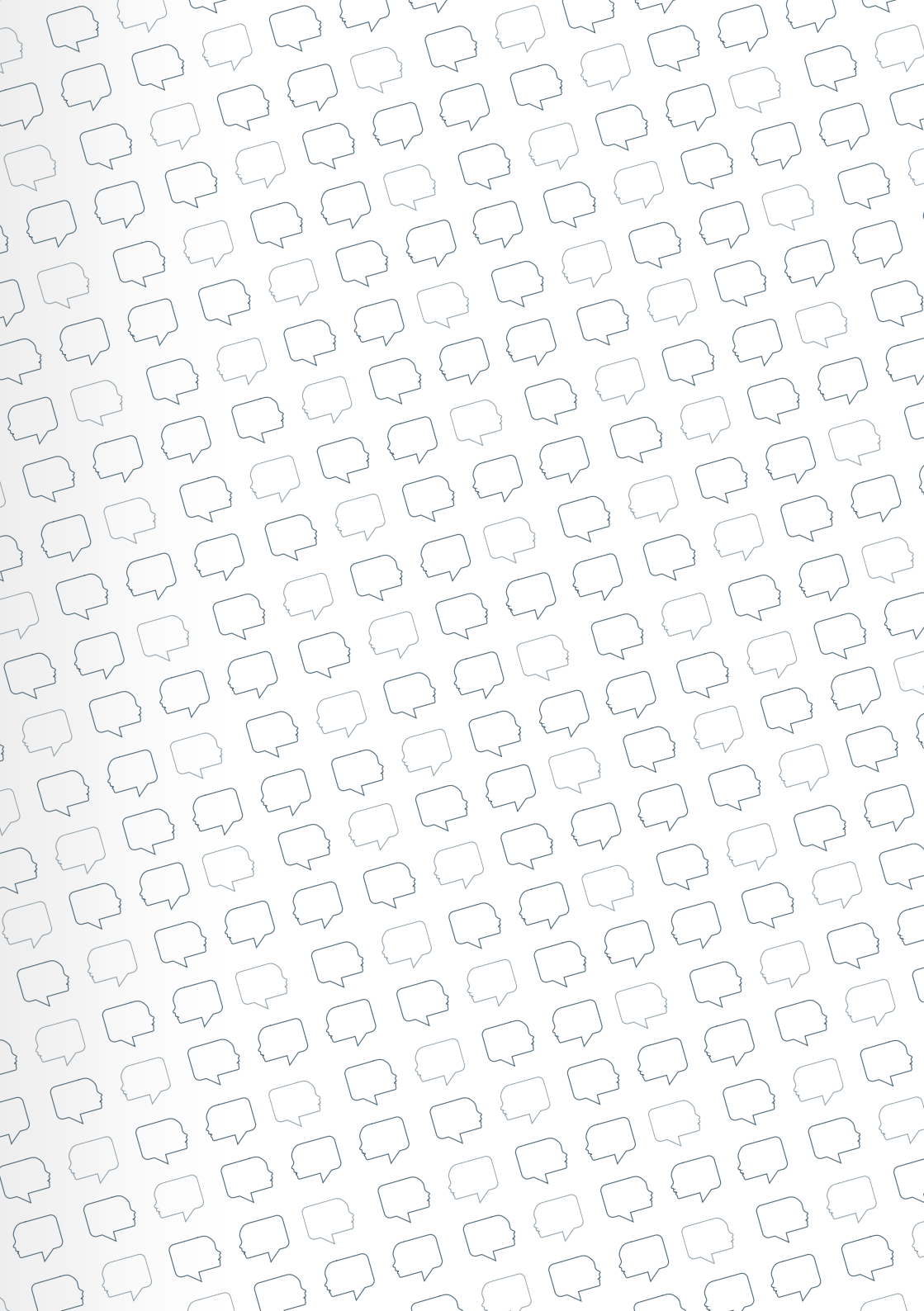
Numbers of clients served reflect academic programs and external engagement. Access is provided through face-to-face and electronic means.



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

