



Secretary's Report

It is with a great deal of pleasure that I present the National Centre for Australian Children's Literature Incorporated's Annual General Meeting Secretary's Report for the period 1 July 2024 to 30 June 2025.

Governance of the National Centre for Australian Children's Literature Inc. is carried out by its duly constituted Board. The Board was made up of the following honorary positions and persons:

Chair: Vacant;

Deputy Chair Mr John Faulks; (Acting Chair)

Secretary: Ms Lynn Fletcher OAM;

Treasurer: Mr Max Brown;

Ordinary Board Member: Ms Jantiena Batt;

Ordinary Board Member: Vacant;

Ordinary Board Member: Vacant;

Ex-Officio Board Member: Director, NCACL Dr Belle Alderman AM;

Nominated Board Member: Branch Representative President, The Children's Book Council of Australia ACT Branch Ms Kirrin Sampson;

Nominated Board Member University of Canberra representative; Vacant

All Board Members declared their interest in the National Centre for Australian Children's Literature Inc and in promoting its stated [Vision](#), [Mission](#) and [Objects](#).

A list of Board Members is located on the [NCACL website](#). A profile of Board Members is available on request from the Honorary Secretary.

The Board acknowledges and thanks its Ambassadors, Jackie French AM and Christopher Cheng for their continued advocacy and promotion of the National Centre and their significant contributions of strategic advice.

During 2024 - 2025 meetings were conducted in person and using electronic platforms such as Teams. Five General Board meetings and the Annual General Meeting were held. Dates of meetings and attendances were:

General Board Meeting: Wednesday 12 August 2024, 4.30 – 6pm (7 Board Members attended while there was 1 apology)

Annual General Meeting Monday 14 October 2024, 4.30 – 5.30pm Inspire building UC (6 Board members attended, 2 Board Member were apologies, 4 General Member attended while there was 1 General Member apology)

General Board Meeting: Monday 18 November 2025, 4.30 – 6.00pm National Centre (6 Board Members attended while there was 1 apology)

General Board Meeting: Tuesday 23 March 2025, 4.30 – 6pm National Centre (6 Board Members attended, 1 apology and 1 invited guest)

General Board Meeting: Wednesday 2 April 2025, 4.30 – 5.30pm via Teams (6 Board Members attended while there was 1 apology and 1 invited guest)

General Board Meeting: Monday 12 May 2025, 4.30 – 6pm National Centre (6 Board Members attended while there was 1 apology).

The Board expresses its great appreciation to the University of Canberra which has provided facilities, rooms and a significant space for NCACL collections and a highly visible shopfront location for volunteers.

In 2024, the Board after discussion about a strategic framework for NCACL undertook professional development around Art, Audience, Market and Business Development.

The Board would like to take this opportunity to thank Rosalind Price, Ann James AM, Ann Haddon, Ron Gorman, Margaret Kett Robson, Elizabeth Honey, Kirrin Sampson, John Faulks, Belle Alderman AM and Lynn Fletcher OAM for their single-minded focus to work towards a review of its current strategic direction under the leadership of Penny Miles, Senior Associate, Tony Grybowski & Associates. Ron and Margaret attended via zoom. A report with an action plan was produced for the Board on 18 November 2024. Board renewal and succession planning was highlighted.

In January 2025 a discussion with the University of Canberra opened on National Centre's continued location on the University grounds. Meetings and negotiations are ongoing with an NCACL sub committee formed to work through issues.

In May and June 2025, Mr Peter Gordon, as friend of the National Centre worked with Dr Belle Alderman, Lynn Fletcher and other volunteers to create an End of Financial Year fund raising campaign. Given the short length of the campaign, this was the most successful to date with some \$45,452.73 received. The online platform Stripe garnered some 79 donations with 6 donations received through bank transfer.

In terms of social media penetration, the website, X, Facebook, and the newsletter continue to play an important promotional role for the National Centre. Membership on each platform continues to grow, advancing news about the National Centre and the Board's vision for the National Centre, nationally and internationally.

The NCACL website manager reports the most useful statistics for the site. In general terms, geographical location of those who visit the site, the most visited pages and the interest levels of the various databases and resources.

Unsurprisingly, English language speaking countries access the website. In order of visitors, Australia, United States of America, United Kingdom, Canada and New Zealand. Visitors have also come from Russia, Indonesia, the Philippines, China, France, Italy, India, Vietnam and Thailand. More than half of the monthly visitors of between 25,000 – 40,000 are repeat visitors.

The Board appreciates and acknowledges the continued and significant commitment of its 38 dedicated volunteers, who support the National Centre through their virtual and physical engagement. In particular, the activities of Dr Belle Alderman AM, Dr Sandy Bigna, Dr Margaret Bromley, Angela Brown, Max & Isabel Brown, Jane Carstens, Pat Dickson, Heike Elvers, Belinda Gamlen, Rose Howes, Emma Janssen, Julie Long OAM, Ann Martin, Ashleigh Meikle, Ann-Marie Miller, Ruth Nitschke and Rowan Simpkin, have been outstanding.

The NCACL Board appreciates the contribution made by Charles Sturt University work placement students undertaking part of their course requirements with the Centre. Christina Bowman and Vlotina Souflias, studied for their Master of Teacher Librarianship. Each engaged in a 10-day professional work experience.

The Board acknowledges the contribution of Peter Gordon, former CEO of Hands Across Canberra who stood down from the Board at the 2023 Annual General Meeting. The Board is fortunate that Peter continues to give advice, support and expertise to the National Centre for Australian Children's Literature Inc.