

President's Report February 2013

Welcome back everyone! 2012 is now relegated to the 'recent' history file, and 2013 is well and truly upon us. After the excitement and inspiration of the National Year of Reading, we now need to refocus and maintain the momentum throughout 2013.

A small number of Darwin members met recently to discuss our plans for this year, as did a group in Alice Springs. In Darwin we are in the planning stages of our author visits, with Colin Thompson visiting in May, and Phil Kettle in April. Australian Children's Laureates, Boori Prior and Allison Lester are earmarked for visits to the Territory in the second half of the year. Allison will be in Alice Springs for Book Week, while Boori's program is yet to be arranged. The Darwin branch is once again planning to hold our successful Book Week brunch, and intend to promote ourselves in the community by being a presence at various functions during the year. In 2012 we attended the Essington Book Fair, which we intend to do again, as well as (possibly) the Teddy Bear's Picnic and any other suitable functions which may arise. We would all like to raise our profile within the community - and hopefully attract new members.

A suggestion was made to approach local bookshops with the idea of creating displays in their shop windows, showcasing the short-listed books during Book Week. This will be followed up!!

Our board member, John Chisholm, talked briefly about the progress of the new board. This is obviously a work-in-progress, as the board finds it's feet and identifies it's role. John is part of the sub-committee investigating the role of Reading Time, it's demise and any possible replacement.

Our judge Angela, is still reading and again lamented the number of late boxes. The closing date for entries had been moved from the end of December to the end of November and this was supposed to alleviate this problem - obviously this has not happened, so other solutions need to be found!!

Apart from the above, we also had a "good old gossip" session and intend to do so regularly - we hope to see more of our members there.

Alice members also met briefly during January, but found that many members were still unavailable and so will meet again soon.

The CBCA is in the midst of change - both within the organisation with our new board 'finding its' feet', as well as the the community at large, where the 'reading' dollar needs to be spread further and further. I'm sure our small organisation will continue to fly the CBCA-NT banner proudly and promote quality literature for children.