Pre-Book Week Extravaganza



Children's Book Week 18–24 August

This year's theme is 'READiscover'. On the Friday immediately before the start of Book Week the winning and honour books of the Children's Book of the Year Awards will be announced. Promotional material for your library is now available from your state branch of the Children's Book Council of Australia. For more information see < http://www.cbc.org.au/bookweek.htm>.

On a cold and wet Friday night, 15 June 2007, ALIA Children's and Youth Services (NSW) held its annual funfest — the Pre-Book Week Extravaganza, at the Marrickville Town Hall. We had to move to a bigger venue as the popularity of this event grows every year.

The idea behind the extravaganza is to examine each entry on the shortlist for displays and presentations ideas. We had a reader's theatre created by Judy Drayton, from Auburn Library, for the Younger Readers, where some of the main characters from the books talked about the shortlist. There was also an entertaining interview by Margaret Redrup-May with a book — yes, that's right, 'with a book', from the Young Adult shortlist. This year, to address the needs of the school librarians who attended, we were fortunate to have Victor Davidson from Birrong Girls High, who presented how teachers use great literature in the classroom.

Mylee Joseph, from the NSW State Library, showed how people dressed in penguin caps can tell old penguin jokes! The nonfiction books were presented using other sources to spark interest in these new books. Alex Mills, from Ashfield Library, presented broad display ideas, facilitating a discussion of how other libraries were intending to interpret the theme, 'READiscover'.

The highlight of the evening was Sutherland Shire Libraries staff presenting the Picture Books for Early Childhood. We were amused with the absolutely delightful nappy as one Susan Payne was dressed as the 'Chatterbox', and then we were shown how to wear wigs with class as Melinda McNaughton played Emma Kazoo, with Sue Sturgess as the narrator.

Please remember that Book Week is in August, and yet these professionals were already presenting great ideas, and with class. Look out for our Pre-Book Week Extravaganza 2008 next June as it is always an entertaining evening. Enjoy Book Week and 'READiscover' the pleasure of reading.

Book Week is 18–24 August 2007. For inspirational ideas for your library's Book Week activities, see the website at <www.alia.org.au/groups/cysnsw/book.week/2007/>.

Margaret Redrup-May, Convenor, ALIA
Children's and Youth Services (NSW)
redrupmay@hotmail.com



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The Children's Book Council of Australia
9th National Conference & Expo

Melbourne Convention Centre Friday 2 – Sunday 4 May 2008

Join us for the 9th CBCA National Conference and Expo

All the Wild Wonders: keeping the magic of books alive

Speakers include:

- Jack Zipes 'Sticks and Stones', Editor Oxford Encyclopedia of Children's Literature
 - Neil Gaiman 'Coraline', 'The Wolves in the Walls'
- Shaun Tan 'The Arrival','The Lost Thing'
- Wendy Cooling Founder of Book Start in the UK
- Jan Ormerod 'Water Witcher," Lizzie Nonsense'
 - Tim Travaglini Putnam/Penguin USA, Publisher of 'Monster Blood Tattoo' in the US
- Sarah Odedina Bloomsbury UK Publisher of 'Harry Potter'

Innovative media presentations, performances and music including Coco's Lunch performing 'All the Wild Wonders'

An expo and many networking opportunities will support the outstanding conference program.



For more information, please visit the conference website www.iceaustralia.com/cbca2008

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