

## From the President...

Welcome back everyone to 2010. Although those holidays go far too quickly, 2010 looks to be an interesting year. WASLA has a new Committee with lots of fresh faces. Thank you to everyone on the new Committee who have stepped up to represent teacher librarianship and school libraries here in the West. A special thank you goes to Marie Grech who will still be responsible for the ACCESS articles (let's see if WA can have a presence in every issue this year) and Jenny Dickman, Past President and the coordinator of the WASLA Relief Roster. Both Marie and Jenny have agreed to assist the new committee in the role of Associate Committee members and their expertise is most welcome.

We have also taken another new initiative and split the responsibilities for the role of President. Mary Hookey will continue as the ASLA Councillor for Strategy and Policy, and represent WASLA in the President's position for all national matters and dealings with ASLA, while I will run the WA operations.

### **Professional development**

We have lots of things planned for 2010, the first being a whole day PD on sustainability. This topic originated from a panel discussion held at the end of last year at ECU and there has been strong interest in pursuing this further. As we know, teacher librarianship is one area that is constantly under threat. It is anticipated that the day will consist of a number of panels and open discussions and WASLA would like to have a strong TL/Schools stream. We anticipate that this day will be more than a talkfest and that each stream will take away some items for action. If you would like to be part of the organising group or a participant then please contact me – [b.combes@ecu.edu.au](mailto:b.combes@ecu.edu.au)

### **Conferences and social events**

We also have the SLAQ/IASL Conference in Brisbane (Sept 27 – Oct 1) this year and WASLA has already made a commitment

to assisting Margaret Muthiga, our TL at Kilimo Primary School, Njoro, Kenya to attend. This is a great opportunity to meet TLs from around the world, so start saving now! Conference information can be found on the ASLA web site. As part of our PD program this year WASLA will be raising funds to assist Margaret. However, we would also like to sponsor rural TLs to the conference as well. More about this later, but keep it in mind and put the October holidays in your diary.

The first committee meeting will be held on February 4, where a major agenda item will be WASLA's participation in the AISWA collaborative PD. If you would like to be involved in this planning please email me and/or come to the meeting.

### **Playing your part**

Any organisation is only as strong as the commitment of its members. It always seems to me that we information specialists are actually very poor communicators with each other, probably because we are all so busy! However, we would also like to hear from you!

- What sort of PD and social events would you like to see on the 2010 calendar?
- How can WASLA get to our rural members – either in person or via technology?
- What sort of advocacy programs do you think WASLA should be working towards?

We are fortunately, only ever an email away. Please contact any of the Committee members if you have an idea, a story to tell (funny or serious), an issue you would like to share or facts about your school library. Help us to help you by sending us information.

Here's to an interesting, not too exhausting, but enlightening 2010.

**Barbara Combes**  
President, WA Operations

## Term 1, 2010

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## WASLA AGM President's Report

The WASLA committee can reflect on the past year and be justifiably proud of our achievements. It never ceases to amaze me what this dedicated, hard-working committee is able to achieve, especially when all of its members are heavily involved in their own school communities and many on the committee are also involved in the Executive of ASLA and as National Councillors. Whilst I do acknowledge involvement on a committee of any professional association involves a large time commitment, the rewards in the networking, relationships formed and professional learning are ample compensation.

The ASLA XXI Conference from 29 September to 2 October was the highlight of the year in terms of lifting the profile of teacher librarians in Western Australian schools. This conference allowed us to showcase our beautiful city; provided a challenging and stimulating program for information professionals working in school libraries; expanded our knowledge; and collectively celebrated our achievements.

The high profile of many of our members working in school libraries in Western Australia is apparent in the large number of Western Australians contributing to the *Access* journal and presenting at conferences in other states. We are doing incredible things in school libraries in Western Australia and this has never been more evident than in our conference year. The achievements this year are the best advocacy we can demonstrate as a profession. The Library Office of the Year award went to Wendy Chapman of Wyalkatchem Senior High School, who was an inspirational winner with what she has been able to achieve in a small country high school. Our WA Teacher Librarian of the Year award went to Nareeda Tillman of Mindarie Senior College, a very worthy recipient of the award who then went on to be the first Western Australian teacher librarian to be awarded the Australian Teacher Librarian of the Year. During the conference, the ASLA Citation award was presented to Anette Ainsworth for outstanding leadership in the promotion and development of teacher librarianship. Barbara Combes from Edith Cowan University took out the Outstanding Professional Service Award for WASLA from the Professional Teaching Council of WA.

For those of you lucky enough to be able to attend the ASLA XXI Conference, it was a wonderful experience. As I have mentioned before, our sincere thanks go to the extremely hard working committee who took on the organisation of a conference of this magnitude. Please consider becoming involved in either of these committees as they provide a great opportunity to develop your own skills and expertise.

The WASLA committee is a very small group of passionate and dedicated teacher librarians who work throughout the year to:

- Provide professional development (four general public meetings, planning and implementing Library Officers' Day, State Library Conference and National Conference, School Library Day Dinner).
- Manage conference bursaries and awards — Library Officer/Technician of the Year, Teacher Librarian of the Year, ASLA Citation Award (biennial).
- Produces the WASLA Newsletter and maintains the WASLA Website.
- Write rostered articles, commentary, Practically Speaking, FAQ for *Access* four times a year.
- WASLA sponsors a teacher librarian, Margaret Muthiga, from Kilimo Primary School, Njoro, Kenya in Africa for IASL membership and mentoring.
- Representation on ASLA committees, attendance at ASLA Council meetings. Contribute to products, policies and documents (i.e. Guided Inquiry and the Curriculum).
- At the moment ASLA is involved in constitution reorganization which requires input.

- Advocacy (including writing letters and “postcards”, to DET and politicians, principals).
- Maintain a relief register.

Unfortunately, we lose many of our committee this year, some of whom have been involved in WASLA for many years. We farewell Lise Legg who, as well as sharing the ASLA Publications Councillor role with Marie Grech, has implemented and managed the new WASLA Website. Marie Grech is also leaving us after a very busy year writing award submissions, sourcing and writing Access articles and organising professional development. We also farewell Jeanette Sangmeister who stepped into the hot seat and took on the role of Treasurer, working from her school in Busselton. Our sincere thanks to these ladies.

We also farewell our Secretary of many years, Nareeda Tillman who has given so much of her personal time to this association, preparing Minutes and Agendas and organising events such as the School Library Day Dinner and the AGM. Nareeda, you will be sorely missed.

I would also like to acknowledge the hard work of our Vice President, Marie Clarke, who is also ASLA Vice President – Association Relations. Marie has been sidelined last term with a back injury but still manages to continue her work for the Association from home. Our thanks to new committee members Barbara Combes and Sally Morris for all their hard work and to Brenda Clover who left us at the end of Term 3 to have new baby, Escher Darcy. We also welcomed a new newsletter editor, Tehani Wessely, who has been doing a fabulous job. My sincere thanks to our extremely hard working Executive Officer, Rosemary Burton.

I am also stepping down from the WASLA committee this year. I would urge any of you to become involved in the WASLA committee. My time on WASLA has been very rewarding and I value the relationships I have made over the years with all our members. I am in awe of how much can be achieved by such a small group of remarkable women and men who volunteer so much of their personal time and who have very busy careers in their own schools. It has been a pleasure to work with such a dynamic, enthusiastic group of professionals who give so generously of both their time and expertise.

Best wishes to you all.

**Jenny Dickman**  
**Departing President of WASLA**

## SLAQ / IASL 2010 Conference

Brisbane Convention & Exhibition Centre

Brisbane, Qld, Australia

27 September – 1 October 2010



*Diversity Challenge Resilience*

**SCHOOL LIBRARIES IN ACTION**

## Millpoint Caffe Bookshop Celia Cole's Recommended Reading



Following the 2009 AGM, participants were treated to another wonderful Recommended Reading talk from Millpoint Caffe Bookshop's Celia Cole. Self-confessed luddite and literature specialist Celia spoke with humour and passion about a wide range of wonderful titles, inspiring all to possibly different reading directions for the holidays and beyond.

She spoke of books as objects of beauty in and of themselves, and that they can't be superseded by e-books for this reason, although e-books will be part of the reading spectrum. She suggested that people are forgetting how important books are, and says, "Having books, and reading them, and having them in your head ... that's the lovely thing about a book." Her words and enthusiasm for books and reading are an inspiration to us all.



### CELIA'S RECOMMENDED READING LIST, 2009

*An Education* by Nick Hornby

*Bad Behaviour* by Liz Byrski

*The Bendable Learnings* by Don Watson

*Best Australian Political Cartoons 2009*

*Bottersnikes and Gumbles* by S A Wakefield

*Cello Suites Back Pablo* by Eric Soblin

*Change in altitude* by Anita Shreve

*Conspiracy 365 January* by Gabrielle Lord

*Crocodile Tears* by Anthony Horowitz

*Girl who kicked the hornets nest* by Stieg Larsson

*Good to a Fault* by Marina Endicott

*Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society* by Mary Ann Shafter

*Her Fearful Symmetry* by Audrey Niffenegger

*Julie and Julia: my year of cooking dangerously* by Julie Powell

*Lovely Bones* (film tie in)

*Magician's Elephant* by Kate Di Camillo

*Ordinary Thunderstorms* by William Boyd

*Peaceful Heroes* by Jonah Winter

*Remarkable Creatures* by Tracy Chevalier

*The Road* (film tie in)

*Stones into Schools* by Greg Mortenson

*Through the Lens* — National Geographic



## Retirement of long-serving WASLA President: Jenny Dickman

After many years of involvement with the Western Australian School Library Association, Jenny Dickman decided not to stand for re-election for the WASLA Committee in 2010. As a long serving committee member, she has worked tirelessly advocating the role of the Teacher Librarian and promoting professional development for those involved in school libraries.

Jenny joined WASLA in 1994 when she started the Teacher Librarian course at ECU, Mt Lawley. She was invited to a committee meeting in 1996 and took on the role of Executive Officer, which she continued until 2001. From 2002 until 2006 she held various positions including Vice-President. In 2006 she became President of WASLA.

There have been many highlights during her time on the committee. Perhaps one of the most outstanding achievements for Jenny in her role as President of WASLA was to be the convenor of the ASLA XXI Conference held in Perth in 2009. This national conference was an outstanding success and this was in part due to Jenny's organisational abilities and her personnel skills – overseeing the various committees involved in organising the conference and liaising with members of the peak body, Australian School Library Association (ASLA).

Jenny has been tireless in her role as President. As well as chairing the WASLA meetings that are held on a regular basis, she has represented WASLA at many meetings with other professional bodies, such as PTCWA, TAFE, Teaching Australia and National Curriculum Board forums.

She also attended ASLA Council meetings in Sydney for several years. Jenny was instrumental in setting up the WASLA Relief Register for Teacher Librarians, Library Officers and Technicians. She also initiated the sponsorship of Margaret Muthiga, a Teacher Librarian in Kenya.

Jenny said that one of the reasons for getting involved in the WASLA committee and staying so long was the great relationships that were formed with other members of the profession.

Jenny's knowledge and expertise will be missed but I am sure everyone wishes her well for the future (especially with all the free time that she now has).

**Nareeda Tillman**



## Engage, Explore, Celebrate: ASLA XXI Conference, Perth

**T**hank you WASLA for giving me the wonderful opportunity to attend the ASLA Biennial Conference on a one day bursary, a day that will not be forgotten. I work in the school library of a senior high school in the wheat belt with approximately 300 students, a job that I have held for over 20 years. Halfway through last year our teacher librarian left and was not replaced (a sign of the times) and now I run the library on a 0.8 allocation spread over five days.

I left the conference feeling inspired and saddened. Libby Gleeson spoke about the diminishing respect for teacher librarians and the library being the HUB and HEART of the school; how can this be if teacher librarians are not replaced in high schools and libraries are staffed by library officers who are so busy performing their own duties as well as trying to promote our wonderful resources to the staff and students? There just isn't enough time in the staffing allocation provided.



I believe the quote Libby used, from Lonsdale, ACER 2003 says it all: "A strong library program that is adequately staffed, resourced and funded can lead to higher student achievement regardless of the socio-economic or educational levels of the adults in the community."

We have recently heard that our school is becoming a K-12 school in 2011, merging two primary schools and our high school on our site. I wonder if then maybe a teacher librarian will be employed to benefit students and staff and that the library will be better utilised.

Conferences such as this one are so important enabling us to pick up new ideas, mix and network with like minded people and I left feeling energised and enthused. I look forward to the next one and wish all library staff a wonderful and safe Christmas.

**Karen Wahlsten**

## 2010 WASLA Committee

**President:** Mary Hookey (ASLA Strategic Councillor)  
Barbara Combes (WA Operations)

**Vice-President:** Marie Clarke

**Treasurer:** Val Baird

**Secretary:** Diana Kirkland

**Executive Officer:** Rosemary Burton

**Newsletter Editor:** Tehani Wessely (ASLA Publications Councillor)

**ASLA Councillors:** Marie Clarke

### Committee Members:

Kelsey Thompson	Mary Hookey	Rebecca Murray	Greg Lindorff
Jo Critch (ASLA Projects Councillor)		Kate Flowers (Website Manager)	

## Farewell Alison Lawrence

Alison lived her life with an energy and enthusiasm many of us would find hard to match. Her avid interest in people, history, politics and justice issues is well known and she dedicated 28 years to education in the Broome community.

Alison arrived in Broome from Geraldton in 1981 to take up a teaching post at the District High School which was located on Weld Street at that time. She immediately immersed herself in the job which included teaching Social Studies as it was then, and working with children from Year 1 up in the Library. I am told that Alison came up with lots of creative ways to involve these littlies in reading, and there was one memorable day when kids who were reading *The Magic Pudding* were mixing up and making puddings on the school's courtyard. We were to see much more of this hands-on approach continue with the high school.

Alison's long engagement with education in Broome is a litany of flux and change as the town's population grew. That Alison could constantly adapt to new work sites, many of them very temporary in nature, and continually change the way she did things is a wonderful testament to her character. For example, she operated out of a demountable at the back of the Frederick Street school when it was a junior primary school, going backwards and forwards between two work sites. It couldn't have been easy! Broome High School was finally established at Frederick Street in 1990 and Alison was our teacher librarian. I think that you would agree that Alison's ability to respond to her changing work contexts and "go with the flow" was surely evident at this time. Even here, her libraries were created in temporary spaces. The current library was finally opened in 1996, two years after the school became a Senior High School, and most of what we see in this terrific library was established by Alison. For a short time, Alison was employed across both the Catholic and the Government systems, another example of her broad outlook on life, acceptance of circumstance and ability to see opportunities and make them work. In anyone's estimation, 28 years is a long time to be attached to one school, but as Alison used to say – the job was never dull!

Alison's professional work included establishing the Broome Library network between Broome Senior High School, St Mary's, Jawa, and the Public Library. Through this group she was instrumental in organising and running:

- Book Week events with students, which were often elaborate affairs with students coming from every school into a central location such as the Civic Centre to do workshops and meet with writers. I recall a wonderful "circus" themed Book Week where the kids learnt juggling alongside the reading focus.
- arranging the visits of numerous authors and illustrators, not only scheduling their visits for every school but also entertaining them, showing them around town, taking them out for dinner and so on. No visitor got away with a lazy afternoon on the beach. Alison was extremely proud of her community and loved to share her knowledge and love for Broome with all visitors and newcomers.

All students in Broome who have enjoyed those author and illustrator visits over the years, taken part in writing workshops and had the opportunity to engage with literature in an innovative way can be thankful for Alison's work.

- Alison was also at the forefront of introducing the automated library system – something that we take for granted today but which was a significant advance in its day. She was responsible for the establishment of the school library when it was finally built and made constant improvements to encompass the significant technological changes that shape library use.

An additional role that Alison took on was that of the Kimberley District Library Support Officer. She liaised with remote schools assisting in building up library systems and organising professional development. As well as all this Alison used her position at the school to promote cultural and community events of all sorts, again she was always the one encouraging others to participate in the life of the town that she loved so much.

She was a wonderful addition to the profession, and will be sorely missed.



**Kirsty Maley**  
**Broome Senior High School**

## 2009 Aurealis Award Winners

The Aurealis Awards were established in 1995 by Chimaera Publications, the publishers of Aurealis magazine, to recognise the achievements of Australian science fiction, fantasy and horror writers.

... The awards originally comprised four categories: science fiction, fantasy, horror, and young adult. A fifth category for children's fiction (ages 8-12 years) was added in 2001.

The YA and children's categories cover works in all three speculative fiction genres.

<http://aurealisawards.com/AboutUs.htm>

The 2009 Aurealis Awards winners were announced in Brisbane on January 23, 2009. Judges included readers from all walks of life, including a number of teacher librarians.

### best illustrated book/graphic novel

Nathan Jurevicius, *Scarygirl*, Allen & Unwin — **WINNER**

Bruce Mutard, *The Silence*, Allen & Unwin

Emily Rodda & Marc McBride, *Secrets of Deltora*, Scholastic Australia

Madeleine Rosca, *Hollow Fields*, Seven Seas Entertainment

### best young adult novel

Kate Forsyth, *The Puzzle Ring*, Pan Macmillan

Cassandra Golds, *The Museum of Mary Child*, Puffin Books

Glenda Millard, *A Small Free Kiss in the Dark*, Allen & Unwin

Scott Westerfeld, *Leviathan Trilogy: Book One*, Penguin — **WINNER**

Sean Williams, *Scarecrow*, HarperCollins Publishers Australia

### best young adult short story

Joanne Anderton, 'Dragon Bones', *Andromeda Spaceways Inflight Magazine #39*, Andromeda Spaceways Publishing Co-operative Ltd

Sue Isle, 'Paper Dragons', *Shiny #5*, Twelfth Planet Press

Ian McHugh, 'Once a Month, on a Sunday', *Andromeda Spaceways Inflight Magazine #40*, Andromeda Spaceways Publishing Co-operative Ltd

Tansy Rayner Roberts, 'Like Us', *Shiny #5*, Twelfth Planet Press

Cat Sparks, 'Seventeen', *Masques*, CSFG — **WINNER**

### best children's novel

Deborah Abela, *The Remarkable Secret of Aurelie Bonhoffen*, Random House Australia

Kate Constable, *Cicada Summer*, Allen & Unwin

Jen Storer, *Tensy Farlow and the Home for Mislaid Children*, Penguin/Viking

Gabrielle Wang, *A Ghost in My Suitcase*, Puffin Books — **WINNER**

### best children's illustrated work/picture book

Graeme Base, *Enigma*, Penguin/Viking

Anna Fienberg (author), Kim Gamble (illustrator), *Tashi and the Golem*, Allen & Unwin

Pamela Freeman (author), Kim Gamble (illustrator), *Victor's Challenge*, Walker Books Australia — **WINNER**

Dan McGuinness, *Pilot and Huxley*, Omnibus Books

Gregory Rogers, *The Hero of Little Street*, Allen & Unwin

### peter mcnamara convenors' award

Justin Ackroyd, Proprietor, Slow Glass Books



### **best science fiction novel**

Andrew McGahan, *Wonders of a Godless World*, Allen & Unwin

### **best science fiction short story**

Peter M. Ball, 'Clockwork, Patchwork and Ravens', *Apex Magazine* May 2009

### **best fantasy novel**

Trudi Canavan, *Magician's Apprentice*, Orbit

### **best fantasy short story — Joint winners**

Christopher Green, 'Father's Kill', *Beneath Ceaseless Skies* #24

Ian McHugh, 'Once a Month, On a Sunday', *Andromeda Spaceways Inflight Magazine* #40, Andromeda Spaceways Publishing Co-operative Ltd

### **best horror novel**

Honey Brown, *Red Queen*, Penguin Australia

### **best horror short story — Joint winners**

Paul Haines, 'Wives', *X6*, Coeur de Lion Publishing

Paul Haines, 'Slice of Life - A Spot of Liver', *Slice of Life*, The Mayne Press

### **best anthology**

Jonathan Strahan (editor), *Eclipse 3*, Night Shade Books

### **best collection**

Greg Egan, *Oceanic*, Gollancz

**For a complete list of shortlisted works in all categories, as well as detail on the shortlists in the form of the judges' reports, visit the website at <http://aurealisawards.com>**

In Australia we are celebrating  
**International Children's Book Day**  
on Wednesday March 31.

Traditionally this is celebrated on the anniversary of the birthday of Hans Christian Andersen, who was born on April 2, which is Good Friday this year.

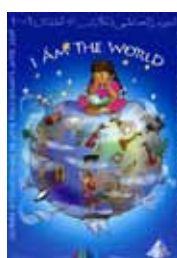
A2 posters with the theme

**"A Book is Waiting for You, Find It!"**

have now been printed and are available from Robin Morrow at PO Box 329, Beecroft, NSW 2119

**Email:** [Robin.Morrow@wordsandphrases.com.au](mailto:Robin.Morrow@wordsandphrases.com.au)

The cost is \$5.00 each or six for \$25.00 + Postage \$4.35



We are also organising a Dinner in Fremantle on Wednesday March 31 to celebrate this event, venue and cost TBA (keep an eye on WATLnet for further information).

Participants are invited to bring along and speak briefly about a children's book that has influenced them.

**WASLA congratulates committee member Tehani Wessely and her family on their new arrival...**



NAME: Max Oscar Wessely

VITALS STATS: Born Friday January 22, 2010 at 1.45pm. 4kg, 51cm.

Mum and bub both doing great. Max's big brother and sister think he's pretty awesome, and Mum and Dad are a bit smitten too. Looking forward to a busy year ahead!

**Tehani Wessely**  
**Teacher Librarian**  
**Kolbe Catholic College**  
**WASLA Newsletter Editor**

## Call for Newsletter Items

The WASLA Newsletter relies on input from WASLA members to look great and be informative and interesting to readers.

If you have any library-related news and events, articles, tips and suggestions that you would like to share with WASLA members, please email Tehani at:

[editormum75@gmail.com](mailto:editormum75@gmail.com)

We really love to see photos accompanying your articles. Please send these as separate

files, rather than embedded in your document.

I look forward to seeing your innovations, ideas and thoughts!

Many thanks.

**Tehani**

[www.wasla.asn.au](http://www.wasla.asn.au)

The newsletter is now available to members via email.

If you would like to receive the email version of this newsletter, please forward your email address to our Executive Officer at [ceo@wasla.asn.au](mailto:ceo@wasla.asn.au)

## WASLA Membership

### WA School Library Association Electronic Payment Details

**Account Name:** WASLA

**BSB:** 306107

**Account Number:** 4198265

**Bank/Branch:** BankWest

**Contact Person:**

Rosemary Burton, Executive Officer

**Remittance Advice:**

**Email address (preferred):** [Rosemary.Burton@det.wa.edu.au](mailto:Rosemary.Burton@det.wa.edu.au)

**Remittance Advice**

**Post:** WASLA, PO Box 1272, West Perth WA, 6872

Please annotate the deposit clearly with the name of the depositor, and if possible, what it is for. On the remittance advice, please give the amount deposited, receipt number and date of the deposit as well as details of depositor and reason for deposit.

With thanks

**Rosemary Burton**  
Executive Officer  
WASLA

## Western Australian School Library Association Professional Development Calendar

Dates, venues etc to be confirmed — for Term 1 events, watch for information on WATLnet

<b>DATE</b>	<b>EVENT</b>
<b>Term 1</b> TBA Mon Mar 22, 4.15pm	Level 3 Applications Workshop, Cathy Scott WASLA Committee Meeting, ECU, Building 13, Room 13.102
<b>Term 2</b> May 1 or 8 (TBC) Tues June 1, 4.15pm June 15	Sustainability PD Day WASLA Committee Meeting, ECU, Building 13, Room 13.102 Lecture/Social Function — TBC
<b>Term 3</b> Wed Aug 4, 4.15pm Sep 27– Oct 1	WASLA Committee Meeting, ECU, Building 13, Room 13.102 SLAQ/IASL Conference, Brisbane
<b>Term 4</b> Oct (TBC)  Thurs Oct 14 Mon Nov 15 Wed Nov 24  Mon Dec 13	International School Library Day Dinner. Presentation of Teacher Librarian & Library Officer/Library Technician of the Year Awards. <b>Venue:</b> TBC  WASLA Committee Meeting, ECU, Building 13, Room 13.102 WASLA Committee Meeting, ECU, Building 13, Room 13.102 WASLA AGM <b>Venue:</b> Millpoint Bookcaffe including talk by Celia Cole. WASLA Committee Meeting, ECU, Building 13, Room 13.102

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