Biennial Report 2018 – 2019

AUSTRALIAN CHILDREN'S LAUREATE FOUNDATION

‘The Australian Children’s Laureate Foundation is the beating heart of a special community. Its board and workers and supporters, and its past and future laureates, are custodians of a vision shared by many other organisations, but free of the sometimes partisan responsibilities and adult-needs agendas many of these other organisations are tasked with.’

Morris Gleitzman, Australian Children’s Laureate, 2018 –19

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Introduction

This report heralds the official end of the term of our fifth Laureate, Morris Gleitzman, but as we say, 'once a Laureate, always a Laureate'; and what a superb Laureate he has been. For the past two years Morris has criss-crossed the country and the globe, reaching a huge number of children at schools, events, festivals and through the media, ensuring that the message about the power of reading and storytelling gets to as many ears as possible. Morris's project, Stories Make Us, encouraged young people to explore the ways in which stories shape our lives and it provided a wonderful springboard for each month of Morris's term. While we are sad to see Morris go we know he will continue to fly the Laureate flag into the future.

This year saw our inaugural Laureate Summit take place in Sydney over two days. The event was a wonderful success, bringing together all five past and present Laureates and a large contingent of industry representatives to discuss many aspects of children's literature. The second day was an event for primary school children at Sydney Opera House and I was blown away by the amazing insight such young minds brought to the room.

This year we farewelled inaugural Board member, and a driving force behind the Foundation, Ann James. Ann had been a Board member since the Foundation (originally the Australia Children's Literature Alliance) was formed in 2008. Ann's service and achievements are too many to catalogue here, suffice to say her knowledge, dedication and insight will be missed by all and it gives me great pleasure to acknowledge Ann's tremendous work over the years.

I'd also like to acknowledge Ron Gorman who stepped down as Chair in February 2019. Ron had been Chair of the Foundation since November 2015 and he remains on the Board bringing his vital skills from the education sector.

In February 2020 our new Laureate will be announced and I'm excited to see what they will bring to the role and how they will take reading into the next decade. What I have seen so far gives me great confidence that they will bring a new and exciting approach that will renew the role once again ... stay tuned.

As we move into the next decade and into the Foundation's thirteenth year the focus will be on building on the wonderful work that has been done so far, supporting and promoting the new Laureate's program and securing our financial future. We are seeking partnerships with Australian and global organisations that not only add to our financial security but also provide an opportunity for us to enhance each other's brand. We look forward to developing and bringing those relationships to life to help cement the Foundation's place in the literature landscape.

Bruce Ellis, ACLF Chair

'We needed a public advocate to make sure children's books and reading stay on the national agenda.'

Noni Hazlehurst AM,
ACLF Patron

Background to the ACLF

Reading Changes Lives! The Australian Children's Laureate Foundation (ACLF) is a not-for-profit organisation founded in 2008 as the Australian Children's Literature Alliance (ACLA). The ACLF's vision is **'enriching the lives of young Australians through the power of story'.**

In 2014 the ACLA secured DGR status. In 2018 the ACLF changed its name from the ACLA to clarify the focus of its work. The ACLF is a collegial and inclusive organisation with representation from across the field of children's and young adult literature.

The Australian Children's Laureate Foundation's objectives are:

- *to promote the value and importance of reading*
- *to raise the profile of books in the lives of children and young adults*
- *to respond to identified needs and issues in the Children's & Youth Literature national landscape*
- *to champion the cause of Young Australians' reading in a consultative, collegial and inclusive way*
- *to undertake selected national projects that will promote these objects nationally*

In addition, a further strategic object underpins these five objectives:

- *To secure longevity in strategic management and funding for the ACLF.*

About the Laureate

The Laureate is the national ambassador for reading and Australian children's literature, speaking on behalf of all creators and of the entire industry representing reading advocates, educators, librarians, booksellers and publishers. The Laureate also forms strong international links with Laureate counterparts and this has led to further participation in, and promotion of, Australian creators at international literary forums. The establishment of an Australian Children's Laureate to promote the importance of reading is based on the successful implementation of this idea in the UK. There are now also Children's Laureate programs in: Finland, The Netherlands, Ireland, Mexico, Sweden and Wales, and a National Ambassador for Young People's Literature in the USA.

The Children's Laureate must be an Australian author and/or illustrator of children's and/or youth literature, who is making a significant contribution to the children's literature canon of this country. The Laureate is appointed on a biennial basis and promotes the transformational power of reading, creativity and story in the lives of young Australians. The ACLF aims to take the Laureate to marginalised and disadvantaged communities and to share the joy of reading with as many young people as possible.

Morris Gleitzman, Australian Children's Laureate, 2018 –19 reflected on accepting the role:

'Your mission, Morris,' said Ron Gorman, then chair of the Australian Children's Laureate Foundation, 'if you choose to accept it, is to don the mantle of Australian Children's Laureate for the next two years and go into bat for stories.'

I stared at him, intrigued, excited, but completely ignorant when it came to sporting metaphors.

'By go into bat,' I said, 'do you mean roam the land engaging young readers in a celebration of stories and all the precious things they get from them while at the same time encouraging adults to think more deeply and perceptively about the transformative qualities of good stories for young people and if possible read a few of them aloud?'

'Yes,' said Ron.

'I was in.'

'The Copyright Agency's Cultural Fund is pleased to provide on-going support to the Australian Children's Laureate as we believe the Laureate plays a crucial role in encouraging young people to read and helping students and teachers to discover great stories by Australian writers.'

Nicola Evans,
Head, Cultural Fund
and Reading Australia
Copyright Agency

The Laureate is now widely regarded as a key spokesperson and influential ambassador for reading and has reached countless people in person and via the media.

Executive Summary — Key Achievements of the ACLF

Morris Gleitzman was the most recent Australian Children's Laureate. Each Laureate has pursued a project based on a powerful message: 'Stories Make Us' (Morris Gleitzman, 2018–19); 'It's Your Story' (Leigh Hobbs, 2016–17); 'Share a Story' (Jackie French AM, 2014–15); 'This is My Place' (Alison Lester AM, 2012–13); 'Storykeepers' (Boori Monty Pryor, 2012–13). Since 2014, a biennial calendar initiated by Jackie French, has promoted each 'Laureate Message' encouraging national engagement with the program throughout the year. Each Laureate has had a distinctive voice and approach which is reflected in their different projects, and this enriches and refreshes ACLF's messages and widens our audiences during each term. On 11 February, 2020, the sixth Australian Children's Laureate will be announced.

The ACLF has:

- Implemented four consecutive Laureate terms with five Laureates, and planning for the Laureate's (2020–21) program is well advanced.
- Played a founding role in initiating International Children's Laureate Summits, the fourth of which was held at Bologna Children's Book Fair in 2019.
- Initiated an Australian Children's Laureate Summit in February 2019 at the University of Sydney which brought together all five Laureates and many major stakeholder organisations to form 'One Loud Voice', a network of reading advocates.
- Consolidated innovative and exciting partnerships with a host of organisations, including national, state and public libraries throughout the country, and with state-based Commissioners for Children (after NSW hosted a children's day at the Sydney Opera House following the Laureate Summit). Story Box Library has filmed Laureates and the ACLF Patron, Noni Hazlehurst AM, reading some Laureates' works to add to a newly created Australian Children's Laureate Series.
- Performed an active public advocacy role in campaigning for libraries, and teacher librarians in schools.
- Received repeat invitations from the organisers of major Australian and international children's literary conferences, festivals, annual lectures and other events, to include Laureates in their programs, indicating the respect with which the role is held. The current Laureate, Morris Gleitzman, has spoken to over 55,000 children and to many adult audiences as a way of 'influencing the influencers'; he has been ardent about the importance of reaching this adult audience.
- Reached remote Indigenous audiences and culturally diverse groups working with AISWA, WestWords, and other organisations.
- Raised the profile of children's literature via increased media coverage with major interviews and many articles published in mainstream press as well as educational and literary media.
- Expanded the ACLF's social media presence with plans to re-develop our website in the very near future.

'The role of the Children's Laureate contributes directly to the goals of the Melbourne Declaration on Education for Young Australians – that all young Australians become successful learners, confident and creative individuals and active and informed citizens.'

Ron Gorman, Deputy-Director, AISWA, and Member, ACLF Board

Messages from Laureates

'Stories Make Us' (Morris Gleitzman, 2018–19):
'Young people need stories more than ever. Stories to delight, stories to beguile, stories to inspire, stories to move deeply. And through these experiences, stories that equip young readers to embrace an often dark and uncertain world with optimism.'

'It's Your Story' (Leigh Hobbs, 2016–17):
'Libraries have played an enormous role in my life. Reading and exploring history and art is something I have been able to do because of libraries. I'm passionately interested in histories and cultures and I hope that through my work I can encourage children to explore and experience these things too.'

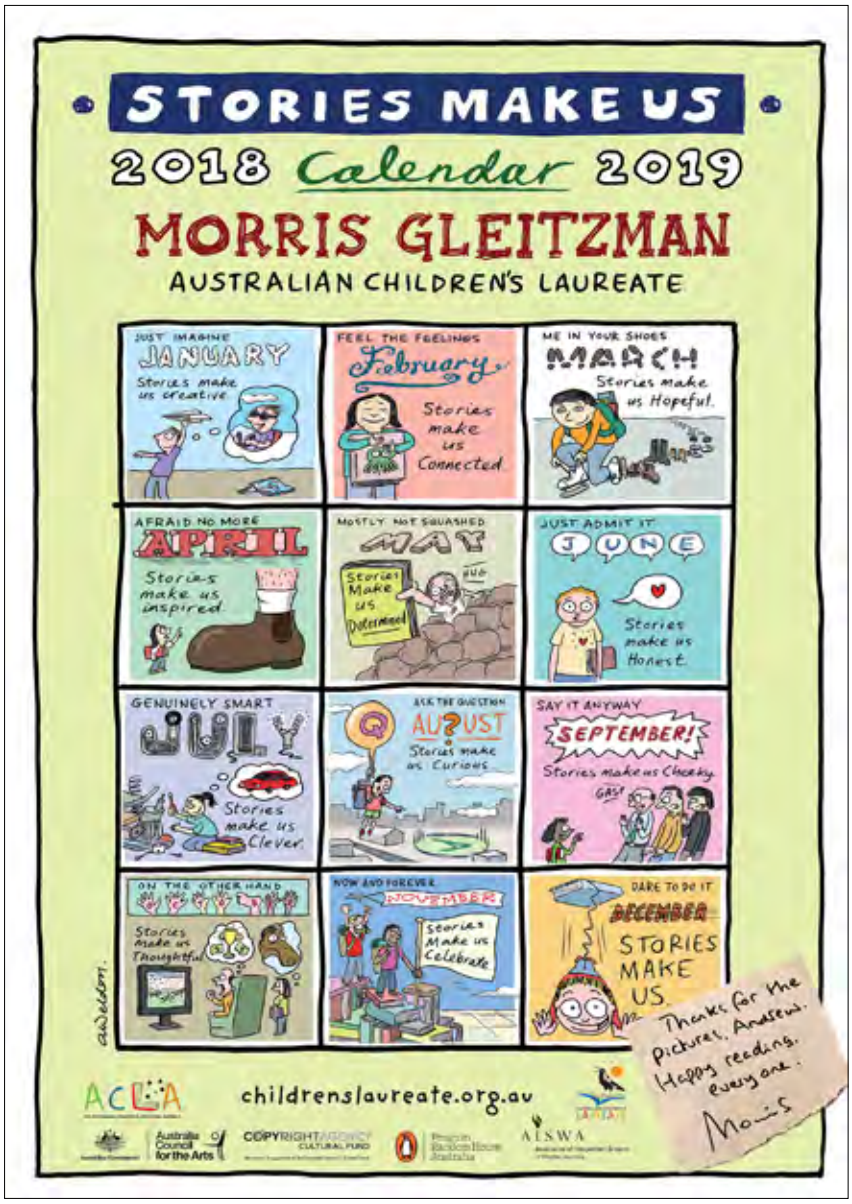
'Share a Story' (Jackie French AM, 2014–15):
'There are a million ways to share a story. To read to a child on your lap; to have a child read to you while you cook dinner; to read to the dog when it has to go to the vet to calm it (or you!) down; to join a storytelling session at your library. You can also tell your grandchildren what life was like when you were young over the phone or Skype or read to thousands of people via video conferencing. Stories tell us who we are. They teach us empathy so we understand who others are. They give us the power to imagine and create the future.'

'This is My Place' (Alison Lester AM, 2012–13):
'Young readers are our future thinkers – creative, critical, broadminded thinkers. Reading is essential and the Laureate program is a proven way to inspire kids, their peers and their families to keep reading, to keep exploring, and to remain, above all, curious ... We all need to see our own lives reflected in books.'

'Storykeepers' (Boori Monty Pryor, 2012–13):
'The future of Australia lies in the imagination. To have a creative economy we need curious children and to have curious children we need children who are not only able to read but children who WANT to read. To build a culture of reading, we need a nation of storytellers ... We need to all become storykeepers if we are to belong in this country.'

The Australian Children's Laureate (2018—19)

The announcement of Morris Gleitzman as the fifth Australian Children's Laureate took place at the State Library of New South Wales on the 15th of February 2018. Morris is the popular Australian author of many acclaimed and award-winning books for young people. He has been writing for more than thirty years and explores serious and sometimes confronting subjects in funny and unexpected ways. His aim as Laureate was to be an ambassador for young readers and the community of people who write for them. He was welcomed to the role by the then ACLF Chair Ron Gorman, the NSW State Librarian Dr John Vallance, the patron of the ACLF Noni Hazelhurst AM, and journalist Jenny Brockie. Morris then spoke passionately about the fact that young people need inspirational stories more than ever to face the challenges of their world with optimism, resolve and creativity. He reminded adults that they also need to encourage and enable young people to have as many reading experiences as possible.



The Calendar

Morris Gleitzman chose '**Stories Make Us**' as his special project and promoted this message on his two-year calendar, illustrated by Andrew Weldon. The calendar contains inspirational ideas and insights to help explore the world through books, reading, writing and art.

4,000 copies of this Laureate calendar were produced in association with Penguin Random House, Morris's publisher, to promote his project. Some were distributed through Magpies magazine to over 2,700 schools, libraries and subscribers. They were also used as promotional materials at various Laureate events and available for free downloading on the ACLF website.

The Newsletter

Morris wrote a message for the website newsletter (delivered to the current 2.5K subscribers) that had a different theme each month to inspire children's adventures in story, for example:

From Morris Gleitzman, Newsletter, February 2019: 'Stories are full of feelings. Characters have them about their problems, their friends, their enemies and themselves. And we share these emotions as we read. It's called empathy. In our own lives, empathy is one of the things our friends really like about us. It's also the best hope we have of our species' survival.

I jotted down those thoughts a year ago when we launched the laureate calendar. Since then, as I've travelled the land haranguing people about the power of stories to change the world, particularly in the hands and minds of young people, emotion and empathy have been my Exhibits A.

And now Feel The Feelings February has come around again. Which seems a good time to dig into those thoughts a bit more and give a grateful nod to some of the ways stories make us connected.'

'Not only is Morris Gleitzman a much loved and much applauded Australian author, he visits thousands of students in schools each year as a reading and writing ambassador. The Australian Children's Laureate, 2018–19, Morris Gleitzman, has had a huge impact in shaping our reading landscape and continues to do so.'

Paul Macdonald, The Children's Bookshop

'As the person who's been the foundation's public face for the past two years, I've seen eyes light up at the mention of stories in hundreds of schools, at dozens of conferences and festivals, in the course of countless interviews and conversations.'

Morris Gleitzman,
Australian Children's Laureate, 2018–19

Achieving Our Objectives — Highlights of the 2018 and 2019 Program

Morris has calculated the number of people he has reached: 'I visited over 200 schools across the two years and spoke to more than 50,000 students. I also did a number of big multi-school sessions – at least another 5,000 kids. Plus school sessions at festivals. You can safely say more than 55,000 young people over the two years'.

He participated in over 40 conferences, festivals and award ceremonies. He visited schools in all Australian states and territories, and overseas. He also visited many State, public and school libraries.

He was constantly in demand as a guest speaker for keynote and closing addresses, plenary sessions, lectures, interviews and conversations across a broad range of venues. He was even the prize for an independent bookshop promotion competition!

Morris was:

- Nominated for the Astrid Lindgren Award 2019
- Recipient of the Speech Pathology Australia Hall of Fame Award 2019, YABBA and KOALA Awards
- Recognised by Reading Australia in initiating the Morris Gleitzman Competition
- Appointed Judge for The NSW Children's Week 2019 Creative Story Competition with The NSW Advocate for Children and Young People and in partnership with the NSW Department of Education.
- Chosen, with previous Laureates, Alison Lester and Leigh Hobbs, as part of the Australia Post Australian Legends of Children's Literature stamp series released in January 2019
- Engaged to take part in the Student Summit hosted by the WA Commissioner for Children and Young People with students from 14 Perth and regional schools
- Invited to speak to Curtin University research project students and University of Sydney trainee teachers on the Power of Story

He also visited diverse audiences and communities involving more than 1,200 students as part of the Association of Independent Schools of Western Australia [AISWA] tour.

‘Pre-service teachers and their mentors were privileged to hear Australian Children’s Laureate Morris Gleitzman speak on the critical importance of story at a seminar at the University of Sydney. Morris asserted that no other single component of schooling has greater potential than story to show the entire spectrum of human behaviour.’

Emeritus Professor Robin Ewing AM, University of Sydney

‘The people at Book Links have been really enjoying Morris’ calendar and the write up and thoughts that go with it. We have made it a feature of our monthly newsletter to draw members’ attention to it. We appreciate how Morris has gone in batting for Teacher-Librarians in schools. It is so important to have key people like the Australian Children’s Laureate advocating nationally with a powerful voice.’

Jenny Stubbs, President, Book Links (Qld) Inc

The Inaugural Australian Children’s Laureate Summit

This inspiring event was held in partnership with the University of Sydney on the 7th of February 2019 and all five Laureates were brought together for the first time. Representatives from over 80 organisations involved with children’s literature in Australia participated in discussions that have resulted in the ‘One Loud Voice’ network being formulated for future collaborations. On Day Two of the Summit 120 students from disadvantaged schools joined in writing and reading activities with all five Laureates at the Sydney Opera House jointly hosted by Andrew Johnson, the NSW Advocate for Children and Young People. A second ACLF Summit will be held in conjunction with Somerset Storyfest at the Gold Coast on Tuesday 17 March 2020.

Overseas Touring & Events

- Morris attended the Children’s Book Fair in Bologna, Italy in April 2019 and spoke on a panel with Laureates from five other countries. He and the ACLF Program Manager, and two ACLF Board members, attended the fourth International Children’s Laureate Summit.
- Morris visited schools in Beijing, Hong Kong, Singapore, India and New Zealand and was guest of the Australian Embassy in Beijing.

Advocacy Achieved

Morris was a dedicated and enthusiastic spokesperson during his term as Laureate fulfilling his mission to speak to adult audiences and spread a strategic message about the ways young people benefit from stories and the importance of giving them time, space and permission to read as widely as possible. He represented the ACLF with distinction in many important advocacy roles such as:

- Australian Reading Hour Ambassador in 2018
- Guest speaker at the Parliamentary Friends of Australian Books and Writers event at Parliament House in Canberra
- Supporter of the Students Need School Libraries campaign
- Spokesperson for the Summer Reading Club, combining with 74% of Australian libraries and an estimated audience reach of 4.5 million
- Voice for the Children’s Book Week 2019 promotion with Amazon distributing $20,000 of books to 40 disadvantaged schools around Australia. The Laureate messaging and promotion reached 9 million people
- Advocate for National Centre for Australian Children’s Literature’s vision for its future

‘Even if your library has only a limited number of books,
most kids will find one that will do it for them.
And once that connection is made, their thirst for more magic books
will only increase as they explore their school and public libraries.’

Author and Children’s Laureate Morris Gleitzman on the contributions of school libraries and how parents can work to ensure students have access to strong school library services.
Quote of the Week Books + Publishing 1 May 2019

Media & Statistics

PR & Media

The launch of Morris Gleitzman's term as Laureate in February 2018 was promoted by Deb McInnes, DMCPRmedia, and resulted in widespread media coverage as he continued to garner media attention, for example:

FEBRUARY 2018

Morris, Linda 'Australia's new children's laureate Morris Gleitzman hopes to inspire children in dark, uncertain world' Sydney Morning Herald 11 February 2018

'Morris Gleitzman on why kids need books in a 'dark and uncertain world'' ABC News Breakfast 11 February 2018

'Stories are vital for kids in a daunting world,' says author Morris Gleitzman' ABC News 12 February 2018

'Meet Morris Gleitzman' [Film] Story Box Library

'Meet the Laureates' [Film] Story Box Library

MARCH 2018

Sheahan-Bright, Robyn 'Australian Children's Laureate A project ten years in the making' Magpies, Vol. 33, No.1, March 2018, pp 4–5.

Gleitzman, Morris 'Australian Children's Laureate Morris Gleitzman Goes in to Bat for Stories' Magpies, Vol. 33, No.1, March 2018, pp 6–7.

'Interview with Morris Gleitzman' Matter of Fact with Stan Grant, ABC Television Episode [date and link not online]

'Be Afraid, Be Very Afraid' Glynn Greensmith It's Just Not Cricket, ABC Radio 10 March 2018

'For the love of reading' The Big Issue 9–22 March 2018

APRIL 2018

'Between the lines: Observations on the trade by Gladys Bembo' Books + Publishing 19 April 2018

MAY 2018

Richardson, Nicole 'Stories make us: in conversation with Morris Gleitzman' Schools Catalogue Information Service (SCIS) Issue 105 (Term 2)

JUNE 2018

'Narelle Oliver Lecture' Book Links (Qld) 18 June 2018

JULY 2018

[Report] BtN Newsbreak, ABC Me, Enhance TV

Hadfield, Shelley 'Morris Gleitzman urging adults to embrace reading with kids in new role as Australian Children's Laureate' Kids News July 22, 2018

'What's the Story? Literature goes missing in teaching degrees says Laureate' InDaily July 9, 2018

AUGUST 2018

'Morris Gleitzman, Australian Children's Laureate' [Interview] 7.30 Report, ABC Television 30 August 2018

ABC RN Jonathan Green. August 6, 2018.

ABC Sydney live 10am. August 18, 2018.

Nine Network Today Show. August 25, 2018.

SEPTEMBER 2018

'On Pat Barker's The Silence of the Girls, Patrick de Witt's French Exit and the Australian Reading Hour'The Bookshelf, ABC Radio National 14 September 2018

Hardy, Karen 'Australian Reading Hour not just for children says Morris Gleitzman' Sydney Morning Herald September 20, 2018

'Aussie book industry supported at Parliament House' APA News 26 September 2018 [Morris Gleitzman's Speech at Parliament House Canberra for Australian Reading Hour available to APA Members]

OCTOBER 2018

Cook, Henrietta 'Extending the Shelf Life of the School Library' Sydney Morning Herald October 16, 2018

'Morris Gleitzman' Interview with Nik Brasch The Garret: Writers on Writing October 2018

Media & Statistics

continued

'Aussie book industry supported at Parliament House' Copyright Agency October 2, 2018

NOVEMBER 2018

'Interview with Jane Hutcheon' One Plus One, Episode 40, 9 November 2018, ABC Television

Flux, Elizabeth 'Morris Gleitzman, beloved children's author, meets his new editors – children' The Guardian 19 November, 2018

State Library of Queensland Summer Reading Club recordings

DECEMBER 2018

Hutcheon, Jane 'Envy can be motivating: Five life lessons I've learnt from Australia's top writers this year' ABC News, 22 December 2018

JANUARY 2019

'Australian Legends of Children's Literature' Australia Post Thursday 24 January 2019

'What Morris Gleitzman read on the factory floor, being amanuensis to Will Self, talking to Sofie Laguna, and a bit of Finnish Weird' The Bookshelf, ABC Radio National 18 January 2019

Gleitzman, Morris 'Kids' reading is about so much more than literacy' The Daily Telegraph January 23, 2019

FEBRUARY 2019

'Inaugural summit of Australian Children's Laureates announced for 2019' Books and Publishing 4 February 2019

MARCH 2019

'Authors announced for 2019 Australian Writers Week' Australian Embassy, China

APRIL 2019

Australian Children's Laureate Summit' ALIA CYSS Scoop April 2019

MAY 2019

Knox, Johanna 'Across the Ditch 'The' Morris Gleitzman' The Sapling May 29, 2019

JUNE 2019

Powell, Meg 'Morris Gleitzman drops into Devonport to teach students the secret to good writing' The Advocate June 27, 2019

JULY 2019

'Morris Gleitzman Writing Competition 2019' Libraries Tasmania

AUGUST 2019

'Reading a book can make a big change' Centralian Advocate August 20th, 2019

'Better Reading Podcast Morris Gleitzman Stories behind the Story' Omny Studio August 15, 2019

NSW Department of Education Reading Hour promotional video

ABC Sydney interview on reading and literacy:

Gleitzman, Morris 'The books your kids need to read' Herald-Sun 23 August 2019

Australian Children's Laureate Foundation, Amazon partner to donate books to school libraries Books + Publishing August 21st, 2019

'Australian Children's Laureate Foundation, Amazon partner to donate books to school libraries' Books + Publishing 29 August 2019

'Berrima Public School receives book donation' Southern Highlands News August 21st , 2019

'Book Week in Five Dock' Ciao Magazine! August 23rd, 2019

'The books your kids should be reading' Herald Sun August 23rd, 2019

SEPTEMBER 2019

'Which subjects are taboo in children's books?'Big Ideas with Paul Barclay, ABC Radio National 11 September 2019

Kelsey-Sugg, Anna 'Children's books are tackling dark and taboo topics. Morris Gleitzman says that's nothing to be afraid of' ABC News 21 September 2019

OCTOBER 2019

'Commissioner's Update' Commissioner for Children and Young People, Western Australia, October 2019

NOVEMBER 2019

ABC Television also invited Morris to record an episode of their Playschool program which will be shown early in 2020.

'Oral History interview,' Caroline Baum. National Library of Australia, 15 Nov 19, 2019.

'It's Just Not Cricket' Glynn Greensmith. ABC Radio, 22 November 2019.

Media & Statistics continued

Website & Social Media Strategy and Outcomes

The ACLF has implemented a social media strategy which has resulted in the following:

Facebook:
JULY 2018 (Likes 2,959)
JULY 2018 (Followers 2,950)
SEPTEMBER 2019 (3,547 likes)
SEPTEMBER 2019 (3,888 follows)

20% increase in likes
32% increase in followers

Twitter:
JULY 2018 (followers, 2,681)
SEPTEMBER 2019
(followers, 3,118)

16% increase

Instagram:
JULY 2018: (478, followers)
SEPTEMBER 2019: (802, followers)

68% increase

Newsletter:
We have 2.5K subscribers to our newsletter which increases steadily.

Average open rate is around 30%; industry average is 21.04%, so ACLF's rate is well above that of other organisations.

Sales Data

Allen and Unwin, Laureate Publisher (2016–17):

Sales of Leigh Hobbs's backlist titles rose 20% during his two years as Laureate. Allen & Unwin also successfully published several new titles in Leigh's first year as Laureate including a new picture book: *Mr Chicken Arriva a Roma*; a paperback edition of *Mr Chicken Lands on London*; and a *Mr Chicken Goes to Paris* book and toy gift set. Leigh's latest title, *Mr Chicken Around Australia* was released in October 2019. It appears that his time as Laureate has also had a lasting effect on Leigh's profile given the number of requests for him to appear at festivals, conferences and schools, which increased exponentially during his Laureateship, and to his heightened status as a leading Australian creator.

Penguin Random House Australia, Laureate Publisher (2018–19):

Statistics not yet available.

'The Children's Publishing Committee is pleased to support the ACLF again as we believe in the vital work the foundation and the Laureate does in raising literacy levels of young Australians and promoting the Australian children's literature landscape.'

Steve Spargo, Chair, Children's Publishing Committee of the Australian Publishers Association

'One special value of the Laureate program is the varied, yet consistent concentration on both the written word and the worth of illustrations. These the Laureates have amplified. Through their own books and particular strengths, they have drawn young people into enhancing their literacy skills while becoming true fans of Australian children's literature.

The Laureate programs, I would maintain, are immensely valuable to the entire children's book industry.'

Dr Belle Alderman AM, Emeritus Professor, University of Canberra, and Director, National Centre for Australian Children's Literature

Finances

Treasurer's Report

The Australian Children's Laureate Foundation presents the Financial Report for the year ended 30 June 2019.

During the 2019 financial year, ACLF reported a surplus of $2,664 (2018 a shortfall $16,842) and net cash balances of $74,221 (2018 $84,045)

The Balance Sheet reports Total Assets of $76,837 (2018 $87,389) and Total Liabilities of $33,133 (2018 $46,350) with Total Net Assets equalling to $43,704 (2018 $41,039).

The Income Statement reports Total Revenue of $113,306 (2018 $73,220). Revenue was made up of Earned Income of $43,572 (2018 $24,663), Grants of $36,000 (2018 $45,000) which includes Copyright Agency Cultural Fund & Australia Council for the Arts and Sponsorship and Fundraising of $33,734 (2018 $3,557).

Total Expenses of $110,641 (2018 $90,062) represented an increase of $20,579 or 18.6% on the total for the previous year.

'The Australian Children's Laureate program aims to stimulate a new generation of book lovers, many of whom do not have access to the kinds of opportunities readily available in the cities. Its focus on disadvantaged students and regional schools assists families and teachers ignite the lifelong love of reading so essential to individual success, and helps support more cohesive communities.'

Wenona Byrne,
Director of Literature,
Australia Council
for the Arts

Thanks & Acknowledgments to Board, Staff and Team

NAME	EXPERTISE/QUALIFICATIONS	ROLE
Noni Hazlehurst AM	Actress, writer, presenter	Patron
Bruce Ellis	Accountant	Chair, finance
Dr Robyn Sheahan-Bright	Writing and publishing consultant	Deputy Chair, Secretary
Bill Hanlon	Accountant	Treasurer, finance
Ron Gorman	Deputy Director of AISWA	Immediate Past Chair, Education, literature consultant
Mandy van den Elshout	Lawyer	Legal matters, media
Laurine Croasdale	Writer, strategic arts management	Events, publishing
Emily Banyard	Digital communications specialist	Media, marketing
Kim Kane	Lawyer, writer	Events, publishing
Ann James AM	Illustrator, Books Illustrated	Founding member of ACLF Board, retired May 2019
Lindy Batchelor	Teacher, librarian, bookseller	Staff, Program Manager
Lee Burgemeestre	Graphic designer, illustrator	Staff, Office Administrator

Our network of volunteers and supporters across Australia continues to enthusiastically assist the ACLF in a variety of ways. Follow-up activity for the One Loud Voice professional network from the Laureate Summit is currently being coordinated by the ACLF Board, with the support of Somerset Storyfest.

There is a strategic team approach being developed for each state that includes representatives from:

- The ACLF Board
- Each State Library
- A university in every Australian capital city and in select regional areas
- Commissioners for Children and Young People in each state
- State Departments of Education
- Children's literature organisations, including booksellers and publishers
- Volunteers

'The Foundation's planning has been immense and their execution has been a triumph... the two-year program is inclusive and varied and supports the ethos of the Laureate...the team we worked with are collaborative, passionate and hard-working.'

Laura Harris, Publishing Director, Penguin Random House Australia, Young Readers

Partners & Sponsors

Major Creative Partners 2018–2019

Copyright Agency Cultural Fund, Australia Council for the Arts, AISWA, Penguin Random House, Gourlay Charitable Trust, Amazon, Children's Publishing Committee (CPC) of the APA, University of Sydney, private donations and benefactors.

Arts Organisations and Partners in Activities

National Bookshop Day, Story Box Library, WestWords, ABC TV and Radio, Sydney Jewish Museum, Children's Book Council of Australia, Australian Booksellers Association, Book Links (Qld) Inc, Book Face Gungahlin, YABBA Awards, Australian Reading Hour, Summer Reading Program, Magpies magazine, Puffin, KOALA Awards, National Simultaneous Storytime, Jewish Holocaust Centre, Melbourne Australian Library and Information Association, Queensland Performing Arts Centre.

Conferences

Happiness & Its Causes 2019, Dymocks, PETAA, ASLA, Australian Association for the Teaching of English [AATE], Australian Literacy Educators' Association [ALEA], Meet the Writers Day, South Australian English Teachers' Association (SAETA), ALEA South Australia, Association of Teacher Educators [ATE], MANTLE, Manly Catholic Librarians.

Festivals

Sydney Writers Festival, Adelaide Festival of Ideas, Wordstorm, Woodend Children's Festival, DreamBIG, Disrupted, Byron Bay Writers Festival, Melbourne Jewish Book Week, Bendigo Writers Festival, Canberra Writers Festival, Brisbane Writers Festival, Adelaide Writers Festival, NT Writers Festival, Bellingen Writers Festival, Queensland Performing Arts Centre, 100 Story Building.

Libraries

State Library of NSW, LINC Tasmania, Libraries Tasmania, Ray Mathew Lecture at National Library of Australia, Northern Territory Library, Students Need School Libraries campaign, State Library of Queensland, State Library of Victoria, Geelong Regional Library.

Education and Government

Western Australia Commissioner for Children and Young People, Association of Independent Schools of Western Australia (AISWA), Parliamentary Friends of Australian Books and Writers, Australia Post, Australia Day Council, New South Wales Advocate for Children and Young People, La Trobe University Bold Thinking Series.

International Events

Beijing Australian Writers' Week, Bologna Children's Book Fair, Dunedin Writers Festival, school visits in Chennai, Beijing and Hong Kong.

'The Australian Children's Laureate program plays an essential role in highlighting the importance of children's books, reading, stories, and literacy in general. The program has grown in strength and profile since the first Children's Laureates. We have seen the genuine results of the Laureate program in the increased profile and book sales for these authors, the respect with which they are held within the broader community, and the increased requests and opportunities for them to speak about the importance of children's books and literacy. One particularly valuable element of the program is enabling a wide range of children to meet the Laureate in person, which can only happen if there is funding. Allen & Unwin wholeheartedly supports the ongoing funding of the ACLF in all its program areas. The appointment of an Australian Children's Laureate every two years is a small but incredibly important investment in the future reading lives of young Australians.'

Eva Mills, Publishing Director, Books for Children and Young Adults, Allen & Unwin