

Not a Hoarder, but a Collector

I am not a hoarder, but I may be a collector for I still have my first copy of Reading Time and every issue published since then. Some of my early copies are bound in years, others are in file boxes, and even though they take up a lot of space on the bookshelves they still remain. Why? Because I had an amazing lecturer** at college who inspired me to teach and inculcate a love of reading in my students (which wasn't hard because I already escaped with words) and for me, then, Reading Time was the way to find out the latest books that were on the bookshelves and to glean a few snippets about the mysterious and magical creators of those books.

Some time last century (and straight out of Teachers' College) I joined the CBC and soon after received my first copy of Reading Time, a quarterly. It was no. 81 issued in October 1981. Then the magazine cost \$1.50 or an annual subscription to Reading Time of \$8.00 (the new price, yielding to the pressures of inflation, was starting in 1982). There were a number of articles including Sex Role Stereotyping In Australia Children's Book Of The Year Awards 1950-1980 and Can We Have More Imagination And Style In Our Non-fiction. It was half the dimensions of the current magazine, and of course contained stacks of reviews under the categories of Picture Books, Young Readers Stepping Out, Off and Away, Older Readers, Collections and Non-Fiction. But there were no book cover images and alas many of the creators are no longer publishing although two names popped out - Libby Hathorn and David Cox.

Fast forward to January 1987 and the new year heralds magazine number 102 that begins the volumising of the magazine - Volume 31. A few more creators appear who are still publishing today including, Pamela Allen, Graeme Base, Rod Clement, Hazel Edwards, Bob Graham, Robert Ingpen, Tricia Oktober, Margaret Wild, Craig Smith and Doug Macleod (all under the Picture Book pages).

Come 1989 and Volume 33 changed format and became an A4 publication. There were still articles, Hazel Edwards wrote about a multicultural project at Coburg Community Library (and still writes grand articles today), just a few pictures ... and many books reviewed with some of those creators still published today. Glossy book jackets adorned the cover of the magazine, and soon there were articles and profiles of creators of children's books, some who are still creating fantastic children's books, and many others who have disappeared. But never did I envisage in 1981 that I would be one of the creators with their books within the pages of Reading Time.

Why have I kept the magazines? Sometimes I use them as a reference tool when talking around the world about Aussie kids' books. Sometimes I use them to track down bits and pieces of information about the creators, information that is not available in the reference tool of the 21st century - the internet. Sometimes I use them to see how much we *haven't* changed. And sometimes similarly themed articles to those listed above crop up in other publications. Some things change ... and some things don't.

And now it's 2013 - the last year of Reading Time as a magazine. Today we have many more nearly instant and current resources at our finger tips for finding out about the latest children's books so it is terrific that Reading Time is evolving and becoming a new and more relevant tool for today. Hopefully there will still be teachers who are inspired by a lecturer at university to join the Children's Book Council - now through the website - because there they will find a tool, in whatever form that may be, that they can use to discover more about children's books, to read engaging and thoroughly researched and thought out articles, to discover the faces of the the creators of those books.

*** and of course this person was the godfather of aussie kids lit, my friend, Dr Maurice Saxby.*

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