

**A Guide to the  
WALTER MCVITTY RESEARCH COLLECTION  
The Lu Rees Archives**

**The Library  
University of Canberra  
October 2002**

# **Walter McVitty Research Collection**

## **Scope and Content Note**

Walter McVitty donated his Research Collection to the Lu Rees Archives in 2001. The collection is made up of 182 files on Australian children's authors and illustrators, created while he was undertaking research for several works later published. These contain original correspondence, articles, speeches, news clippings, reviews, obituaries and photographs.

The collection was arranged and described by Management of Archives Students Cathie Bartley, Karen Ottoway and Amanda Rebbeck, under the supervision of Professor Belle Alderman. This finding aid was then produced to assist researchers in locating items within the collection. The collection is arranged into series of individuals then placed in alphabetical sequence.

McVitty's papers when received were arranged into series of individuals in alphabetical sequence in three boxes. The collection was kept in these series to preserve the original order of the collection and organised into 10 archive boxes with 193 folders. The box list shows the location of the folders within the boxes.

Related materials held at the Lu Rees Archives includes files created and used by Walter McVitty while he operated as Walter McVitty Books publisher from 1985 to 1997. There is also a large photograph file of 184 Australian children's authors and illustrators.

## Walter McVitty Biographical Note

Teacher, teacher librarian, tertiary lecturer, critic, editor, author and publisher Walter McVitty was born in Melbourne in 1934 and has been involved in the field of children's literature for over four decades.

He taught in schools in Victoria and worked overseas for five years before undertaking a librarianship course at Melbourne Teachers College in 1962. He was a teacher librarian in Victoria for six years, then Senior Lecturer in children's literature at Melbourne Teachers College for fifteen years before establishing his own small publishing company, Walter McVitty Books, with his wife Lois in 1985.

Walter McVitty Books published 57 books and were a testimony to the highest standard of book production and quality reading. It is to Walter McVitty's credit that he 'discovered' both John Marsden and Margaret Early, creators of international stature. At the same time, he ensured that such classics as Ethel Turner's *Seven Little Australians* and Colin Thiele's *Sun on the Stubble* were attractive to new generations of readers.

Walter McVitty wrote numerous reviews and articles for the *Age*, *Nation Review* and the *Australian*, gave keynote addresses at numerous conferences, commented on the radio and served as a judge for the Children's Book Council awards.

Walter McVitty has also produced the two-volume *The Blinky Bill Collection* (1988), including the biography of Dorothy Wall and a compilation of her works. But perhaps his most important publication was *Innocence And Experience: Essays on Contemporary Australian Children's Writers* (1981). Here Walter McVitty displayed his astute ability to analyse the strengths of Australia's major writers for young people. It is a book, which remains a standard work.

Other important publication efforts occurred during the years 1984 and 1985 when he was editor of the Primary English Teachers Association books. Two of particular note were *The PETA Guide to Children's Literature* (1985) PETA and *Word Magic : Poetry As a Shared Adventure* (1985,1989 second ed) PETA. Both provided valuable insights into children's books for a wide audience.

In 1995, Walter McVitty received an AM in the Order of Australia Awards for his service to education and literature for children and won the Nan Chauncy Award in 1998.

Sources:

1. Alderman, B 1998, The Nan Chauncy Award 1998, statement written on behalf of the Children's Book Council of Australia, ACT Branch, as a nomination of Walter McVitty for the prestigious Nan Chauncy Award.
2. Alderman, B and Clayton, P (eds) 1994 *Creative Connections, Writing, Illustrating and Publishing Children's Books in Australia: Papers of the Children's Book Council of Australia, ACT Branch Seminars 1987-1993*, Thorpe, Melbourne, p. 169. PN1008.3.C73 1994.
3. Lees, S and McIntyre, P 1993 *The Oxford Companion to Australian Children's Literature*, Oxford Community Press, Melbourne, p. 281. REF9613.9.L44 1993.

## Folders List

<b><u>Folder</u></b>	<b>Author – Illustrators</b>	<b>No. of Parts (Folders)</b>
1	Aldous, Allan	
2	Aldridge, James	
3	Allen, Pamela	
4	Argent, Kerry	
5	Armitage, David and Rhonda	
6	Axelsen, Stephen	
7	Baillie, Allan	
8	Baker, Jeannie	
9	Balderson, Margaret	
10	Ball, Duncan	
11	Bancks, James C.	
12	Barnard, Peggy	
13	Barton, Charlotte	
14	Base, Graeme	
15	Bates, Dianne	
16	Brinsmead, Hesba	Part 1 and 2
17	Brooks, Ron	
18	Bruce, Mary Grant	
19	Buddee, Paul	
20	Burke, David	
21	Burrows, Denys	
22	Carr, Roger Vaughan	
23	Chadwick, Doris	
24	Chaffey, Ella	
25	Chapmen, Jean	
26	Charlwood, Don	

27	Chauncy, Nan	Part 1,2 and 3
28	Cheyne, Irene	
29	Clark, Mavis Thorpe	Part 1 and 2
30	Clarke, Marjorie	
31	Cole, E.W.	
32	Collins, Dale	
33	Cox, David	
34	Crabtree, Judith	
35	Cunningham, Walter	
36	Dalglish, Joan	
37	Davidson, Frank Dalby	
38	Dennis, C. J.	
39	Denton, Terry	
40	Digby, Desmond	
41	Donkin, Nance	
42	Dugan, Michael	
43	Durack, Mary and Elizabeth	
44	Edwards, Hazel	
45	Evers, Len H.	
46	Farrell, Anne & Sally (Odgers)	
47	Fatchen, Max	
48	Favenc, Ernest	
49	Finkel, George	
50	Fowler, Thorley	
51	Fox, Mem	
52	French, Simon	
53	Generowicz, Witold	
54	Gibbs, May	
55	Gleeson, Libby	
56	Graham, Bob	
57	Green, Cliff	
58	Greenwood, Ted	

- 59 Gunn, (Aeneas) Jeannie  
60 Harding, Lee  
61 Harris, Ray  
62 Hartnett, Sonya  
63 Harvey, Roland  
64 Hatfield, William  
65 Hawthorn, Libby  
66 Heddle, Enid Moodie
- 67 Hole, Quentin  
68 Honey, Elizabeth  
69 Hook, Jeff  
70 Horder, Margaret  
71 Ingamells, Rex  
72 Ingpen, Robert  
73 James, Ann  
74 Jennings, Paul  
75 Kelleher, Victor  
76 Ker Wilson, Barbara  
77 King, John Anthony  
78 Klein, Robin  
79 Knight, Frank  
80 Lacis, Astra  
81 Lamond, Henry George  
82 Laroche, Sandra  
83 Lester, Alison  
84 Lindsay, Norman  
85 Lister, Gladys  
86 Lurie, Morris  
87 Lyne, Nairda  
88 McFadyen, Ella  
89 MacIntyre, Elizabeth
- 90 McLean, Andrew & Janet

91	MacLeod, Doug	
92	McRae, Rodney	
93	Mack, Louise	
94	Maltby, Peg	
95	Manley, Ruth	
96	Marks, Stan	
97	Marshall, Alan	
98	Martin, David	Part 1 and 2
99	Mattingley, Christobel	Part 1 and 2
100	Meredith, Louisa Anne	
101	Mitchell, Elyne	
102	Morimoto, Junko	
103	Mullins, Patricia	
104	Nicholls, Bron	
105	Nicholson, Joyce	
106	Niland, Deborah & Kilmeny	
107	Noonan, Michael	
108	Norman, Lilith	
109	Odell, Carol	
110	O'Harris, Pixie	Part 1 and 2
111	Oldfield, Andrey	
112	Oliver, Tony	
113	Ormerod, Jan	
114	Ottley, Reginald	
115	Outhwaite, Ida Rentoul	
116	Paice, Margaret	Part 1 and 2
117	Park, Ruth	Part 1 and 2
118	Parker, Richard	
119	Parr, Letitia	
120	Parker, K. Langloh	
121	Patchett, Mary Elwyn	
122	Paterson, Esther & Betty	
123	Pavey, Peter	



124	Pedley, Ethel	
125	Pender, Lydia	
126	Phipson, Joan	
127	Poignant, Axel	
128	Porter, James G.	
129	Power, Margaret	
130	Pownall, Eve	
131	Preston, James	
132	Pritchard, Katherine Susannah	
133	Rawlins, Donna	
134	Ray, N.L (Nan Hunt)	
135	Rees, Leslie	
136	Roberts, Beth	
137	Roland, Betty	
138	Roughsey, Dick	
139	Rowe, Richard	
140	Roy, Thomas	
141	Rubinstein, Gillian	
142	Ryan, Launie	
143	Samuel, Helen J.	
144	Scholes, Katherine	
145	Scott, Bill	
146	Senior, Margaret	
147	Shelley, Noreen	
148	Small, Mary	
149	Smith, Craig	
150	Southall, Iran	Part 1 and 2
151	Spence, Eleanor	
152	Stackpool, Walter	
153	Stodart, Eleanor	
154	Stow, Randolph	
155	Syred, Celia	

156	Tanner, Jane	
157	Tennant, Kylie	
158	Thodey, Charlotte	
159	Thompson, Valerie	
160	Travers, Pamela	
161	Treloar, Bruce	
162	Turner, Ethel	
163	Vaughan, Marcia	
164	Villiers, Allan	
165	Vivas, Julie	
166	Wagner, Jenny	
167	Wakefield, S. A.	
168	Walker, Kath (Oodgeroo Noonuccal)	
169	Wallington, Vivienne	
170	Wheatley, Nadia	
171	White, Mary	
172	Whitfeld, Jessie M.	
173	Wignell, Edel	
174	Wild, Margaret	
175	Williams, Ruth C.	
176	Willmott, Frank	
177	Winch, Madeline	
178	Woodberry, Joan	
179	Worthy, Judith	
180	Wright, Judith	
181	Wrightson, Patricia	Part 1 and 2
182	Young, Noela	

## Box List

<b>Folders</b>	<b>Authors – Illustrators</b>	<b>Box</b>
1-18	Aldous – Bruce	RC01
19-30	Buddee – Clarke	RC02
31-46	Cole – Farrell	RC03
47-66	Fatchen – Heddle	RC04
67-89	Hole – MacIntyre	RC05
90-104	McLean – Nicholls	RC06
105-124	Nicholson – Pedley	RC07
125-145	Pender – Scott	RC08
146-162	Senior – Turner	RC09
163-182	Vaughan – Young	RC10