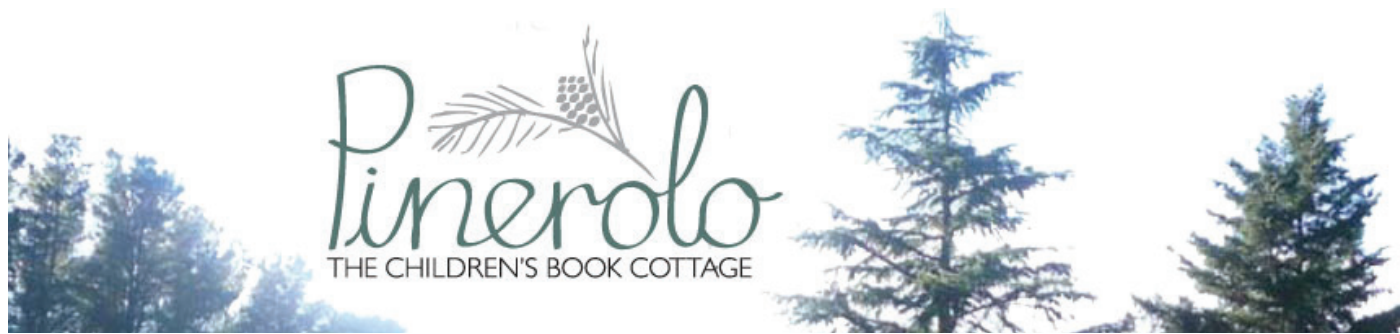




Newsletter Number Forty-one, OCTOBER 2018

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NEWSLETTER NUMBER FORTY ONE!

This is looking like being a bumper issue of my newsletter. Not only is there so much to tell you, but I've got heaps of new books to recommend. It's been an extremely busy year and I'm looking forward to having a bit of a break.

ILLUSTRATOR IN RESIDENCE

It was wonderful to have Martina Heiduczek, winner of the New England Writers Centre illustration prize here for her first prize, a 'creative weekend' at Pinerolo, especially to attend the picture book course with Glenda Millard on 1 September. Martina is a very talented illustrator and I look forward to seeing her work in picture books.



Martina and Glenda at the CBCA dinner.

VISITORS TO PINEROLO

I welcome visitors here. Tristan Bancks was recently visiting Blackheath Public School, so he and his publicist from Penguin/Random House, Zoe Bechara, called in. They enjoyed looking at all the original artwork and the book collection and I even remembered to ask them to sign the visitors book.



A great event coming up at our adopted 'go-to' place for a superb 3 course dinner

CBCA BM SUB-BRANCH PRE-CHRISTMAS DINNER

6 DECEMBER, 6pm — ANNA FIENBERG

The Farm, 75 Mort St, Katoomba

CBCA Members \$65.00, non-members \$70 BYO no corkage fee

RSVP by 30 November to:

Stephen Morris: stephen.morris36@det.nsw.edu.au

or Sheryl Cootes: sheryl.cootes@det.nsw.edu.au

Payment by bank deposit:

CBCA (NSW Branch) Inc - Blue Mountains Sub-branch

BSB: 032828 Account: 291983

If you're not a member go to cbca.org.au and join the NSW branch.

SOCIETY OF WOMEN WRITERS AWARDS

I had the honour to judge the children's book award for the Society of Women Writers. Presentation of these awards was at a lunch at the State Library of New South Wales on 10 October. It was good to catch up with some members I hadn't seen for ages and to meet so many talented new writers. The awards went to:

WINNER

LIZZIE AND MARGARET ROSE by Pamela Rushby. Two girls, one in London, the other in Townsville, live through tumultuous and tragic events during the second world war. Well-researched and authentic, providing compulsive and involving reading.

HIGHLY COMMENDED

BUTTERFLY, WE'RE EXPECTING YOU by Libby Hathorn, illustrated by Lisa Stewart. A gentle book of discovery which will encourage young readers to leave their devices and get out to explore their own surroundings.
WORLD'S WORST PIRATE by Michelle Worthington, illustrated by Katrin Dreiling. Entertaining and amusing story about finding your niche in life.

COMMENDED

PRINCESS PARSLEY by Pamela Rushby. Thoroughly entertaining story about a girl in her first year at high school and coping with her eccentric parents.

Need a break or a writer's retreat in the Blue Mountains?
Don't forget: www.pinerolo.com.au/PDF/Accommodation.pdf



SAVE THE DATE!

AND NOW THEY'RE LAUGHING!

The Children's Book Council of Australia
13TH NATIONAL CONFERENCE

31 May – 2 June 2019. QT, 1 London Circuit, Canberra

The 1st National Conference in 1992 was titled 'At Least They're Reading'. The rich and varied program of 'And Now They're Laughing!' will highlight the outstanding contribution made by writers of humour to Australian children's literature and to children's literacy – and much more. Regular features include: Book Launches, Trade Display, Bookshop, Book Signings.
Keep in touch on Facebook and cbca.org.au
For enquiries contact: Greg Vickers greg@con-sol.com




CBCA 13th NATIONAL CONFERENCE

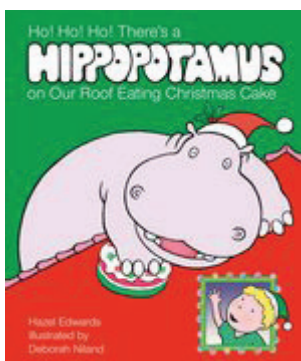
Another job that's been taking up a huge amount of my time is organising the CBCA 13th National Conference. (Didn't I retire last year?). See the announcement above and save the date. The program is rather extraordinary, highlighting many of Australia's most successful creators of children's books, some favourites and some very talented newcomers. Early bird registrations should be available soon.

CHRISTMAS PICTURE BOOKS

Although any of these picture books would be welcome under the Christmas tree, this special section lists picture books that actually feature Christmas. So many entertaining variations on the topic!

A NEW HIPPO BOOK!

I couldn't resist a very special mention!
HO! HO! HO! THERE'S A HIPPOPOTAMUS ON OUR ROOF EATING CHRISTMAS CAKE by Hazel Edwards & Deborah Niland (Puffin). I'm very proud to have published the very first hippo book and it's still in print over thirty years later, being enjoyed by a whole new generation. Now there's a new title, especially for Christmas, even with glitter on the cover. Any fans of Hippo will love this new book and will want to share it at Christmas.



Hippo has a very special place at Pinerolo and in my heart.

DEAR SANTA by Elise Hartley & Shannon Horsfall (Scholastic). There are real letters in this book to open and read. All the animals have very funny wishes for Christmas gifts so this book would be a very popular addition to lists.

EXCUSE ME, SANTA! by Dave Hughes & Holly Ife, illus by Philip Bunting (Scholastic). Glitter everywhere in this very funny story, a Christmas sequel to 'Excuse Me!'

HOPPING AROUND THE CHRISTMAS TREE by John Marks & Benjamin Johnston. (Scholastic). This enjoyable book includes a CD, with new lyrics to the popular song. It will be a winner on Christmas morning.

MACCA'S CHRISTMAS CRACKERS by Matt Cosgrove (Scholastic). Alpacas have taken the world by storm, with this the third in this hugely successful series! Alpacas apparently love Christmas as well, so this book adds to the spirit in a delightful way.

NEW PICTURE BOOKS

So many gorgeous new picture books have been coming in from publishers. I want to share as many as I can with you, so here goes:

AUSTRALIA ILLUSTRATED by Tania McCartney (EK). Wow, there's so much in this book, in text and illustrations. It's a tribute to Australia, its people, its animals, plants and lifestyle. An impressive achievement that will fascinate readers, young and not so young.

BENNY BUNGARRA'S BIG BUSH CLEAN-UP by Sally Morgan & Ambelin Kwaymullina (Magabala). The dangers of rubbish left in the bush by humans as told by native animals. A lesson in environment protection for all, strikingly illustrated

BEWARE THE DARK FOREST by Sue Whiting & Annie White (Walker). Rosie is feisty and brave, especially when her little dog is lost in the forest. Rosie confronts many dangers to save him. Very effective watercolour illustrations thrillingly depict the forest and the dangers.

BIGGER THAN YESTERDAY, SMALLER THAN TOMORROW by Robert Vescio & Kathy Creamer (Little Pink Dog). This warm hearted and appealing family story focuses on children wanting a feeling of independence as they grow but their need also for security and familiarity with loved connections.

BONNIE AND BEN RHYME AGAIN by Mem Fox & Judy Horacek (Scholastic). Another thoroughly enjoyable book of rhyming fun from these two. It's a companion to 'Good Night, Sleep Tight!' and will be a welcome fun book to share with children at bedtime.

THE BRAVE KNIGHT by Sally Gould & Celeste Hulme. (New Frontier). Imaginative outside play, especially pretending to be a knight in armour, is the theme of this appealing book. Good layout and placement of illustrations are perfect for early childhood readers.

CLEVER CROW by Nina Lawrence & Bronwyn Bancroft (Magabala). This fascinating book is an Aboriginal story told in English and Djambarrpuynu, a language of Indigenous people of North West Arnhem Land. It deserves a wide readership, not only for the story but the striking artwork by this award-winning illustrator.

COLLECTING SUNSHINE by Rachel Flynn & Tamsin Ainslie (Puffin). A gorgeous day devoted to collecting, firstly little mementos, then celebrating the natural world and reminders of a magical day out. A perfect book that will appeal to early childhood readers.

DIGBY & CLAUDE by Emma Allen & Hanna Sommerville (NLA). A place to live and a feeling of belonging is innate in us all but change is all around us. These two boys find a way to preserve their own place, surrounded by their changing neighbourhood.

DINOSAUR DAY OUT by Sara Acton (Walker). Sara was an Illustrator in Residence at Pinerolo. I'm pleased to see another great book from her. This is especially for dinosaur lovers. Even when they can't see dinosaurs at the museum the children see them everywhere anyway. An entertaining day out.

HERE COMES STINKBUG! by Tohby Riddle (A & U). Tohby is a local Blue Mountains award-winner so I welcome new books from him. This amusing and quirky, simply illustrated picture book focuses on smelling bad and it will raise laughs with young readers.

INCY WINCY SPIDER by Matt Shanks (Scholastic). An Australian version of this classic rhyme. Incy meets lots of Australian animals in a recognisable setting. Children who know this rhyme will enjoy relating with this new one.

INVISIBLE JERRY by Adam Wallace & Giuseppe Poli (EK). I relate to this as I've reached the age where I'm invisible! It's a delightful, heartwarming story about being found by a special friend. The illustrations are touching and very appealing.

IT'S NOT SCRIBBLE TO ME by Kate Ritchie & Jedda Robaard (Puffin). Jedda Robaard was an illustrator in residence at Pinerolo so I follow her impressive work. This delightful book is about letting your imagination run free and getting your family to join in. Great for early childhood.

JOHNNY'S BEARD by Michelle Worthington & Katrin Dreiling (Little Pink Dog). When cold little animals need warmth they shelter in Johnny's magnificent beard. He's so generous that he makes a huge sacrifice to please them. An original and entertaining story.

LEAF STONE BEETLE by Ursula Dubosarsky & Gaye Chapman (Dirt Lane Press). This gorgeous, beautifully designed little book is just right for quiet and gentle contemplation about the mysteries of nature, the cycle of life and new beginnings.

MADDIE'S FIRST DAY by Penny Matthews & Liz Anelli (Walker). Just in time for those beginning school next year comes this touching book about first day at school, feeling small and insecure and needing a little bit of comfort. Then finding a friend saves the day.

MIDNIGHT AT THE LIBRARY by Ursula Dubosarsky & Ron Brooks (NLA). I gave this a five-star review in the Bookseller. Two multi-award winners have created a magnificent book. Dubosarsky's text, combined with Brooks' illustrations, refers to the fascinating story of books, their creation, preservation and the culture surrounding them, highlighted by the story of one particular very special book which was found and preserved. The writing is evocative, descriptive and very engaging and the superb illustrations extend the text with pictorial references to many pivotal moments in the history of books and printing. A masterpiece.

MONSTER PARTY (Magabala). An exuberant and colourful book by the children from Rawa Community School on the edge of the Great Sandy Desert, WA, with the help of Alison Lester and Jane Godwin. Young readers will love the humour and the monster illustrations.

PIG THE GRUB by Aaron Blabey (Scholastic). This creator and his books enjoy phenomenal success. This new Pig book will be welcomed by fans and enjoyed by all.

RUDOLPH THE RED-NOSED REINDEER by Johnny Marks & Louis Shea (Scholastic). This evergreen Christmas song is given new life in this entertaining picture book, complete with a CD so readers can sing along.

SHOO GRUMPERS SHOO! by Josh Lawson & Shelley Knoll-Miller (Omnibus). Everybody has grumpy days and it's catching. Here's advice on how to cheer up a grumper. Rhyming text adds to the fun, with exuberant pictures.

TEN POUND POM by Carole Wilkinson & Liz Anelli (Black Dog). I had 'ten pound Poms' in my family so I relate to this book. It's very personal anyway as it is the author's story. I found it fascinating, well-written and involving, supported by the mixed media illustrations which extend the story.

UNDER THE SOUTHERN CROSS by Frané Lessac (Walker). This fascinating book is a tour of Australia after dark. It highlights major events in all the capital cities and many other significant places, with added information on every page. Trademark Lessac brightly coloured gouache illustrations complete this striking book.

THE UNSCARY BOOK by Nick Bland (Scholastic). From the creator of 'The Very Cranky Bear' comes this book full of unscary, happy things, like ice-cream, an apple tree and a rainbow. Fun to share.

WAITING FOR CHICKEN SMITH by David Mackintosh (Little Hare). Making a friend on a summer holiday and anticipating them being there again the next year is the theme of this appealing book. Will Chicken Smith come again? The suspense is maintained throughout and the illustrations reflect the beach holiday.

A WALK IN THE BUSH by Gwyn Perkins (Affirm). The unexpected pleasures of going places together and enjoying a walk in the bush are highlighted in this CBCA Picture Book of the Year. This book is followed by **A DAY AT THE SHOW**, which follows the same pattern, of spending a day out together. These enjoyable books might encourage children to leave their devices at home and get out!

WHAT WOULD A HORSE SAY? by Fleur McDonald & Annie White (New Frontier). Replicating animal noises is always lots of fun so this book is too. Lovely farmyard illustrations support the simple text, guessing, and finally revealing what a horse is supposed to say.

WHEN YOU'RE GOING TO THE MOON by Sasha Beekman & Vivienne To (Affirm). Reaching for the moon and being home in time for dinner comes to life in this appealing book. The lively, colourful illustrations taking readers through the whole day complete the picture.

FINALLY

Our next Westwords/Pinerolo Illustrator arrives for a week on 11 November. I'm really looking forward to meeting Maxine Hamilton (no relation!) and spending a creative week with her.

Share this newsletter. Enjoy!

Margaret Hamilton AM