

## NEWSLETTER NUMBER THIRTY-TWO

I DO try to do newsletters every second month.

The previous one was February, so this one is just scraping in at the end of April! I've been on a bit of a holiday since retiring from the National Board of the CBCA. Mountains weather has been glorious and our daughter joined us. We did lots of 'touristy' things and it was so relaxing. Today (Wednesday) the weather has turned. It's 6.5 degrees and we've had hail.

So much has happened in the last couple of months. The CBCA Night of the Notables was on 28 February. This was followed by the announcement of the 2017 Short List on 28 March. What's also exciting is that the Blue Mountains Sub-Branch of the CBCA will be celebrating our local CBCA Notable authors and illustrators - 3 pm at Pinerolo on Saturday 6 May (\$10 for CBCA members/\$15 for non-members). In attendance will be Freya Blackwood, Catherine Jinks, Tohy Riddle, Owen Swan and Ben Wood. Join us! Email: [bookings@cbcanswbmsb.org.au](mailto:bookings@cbcanswbmsb.org.au)

Freya Blackwood is responsible for the artwork for the fabulous CBCA Book Week Products. You MUST buy posters, badges, stickers, bookmarks and the bunting, plus of course the official CBCA Book Week Handbook. Schools - decorate your library or classrooms. Bookshops - decorate your shop windows. Available in May from the estore: [cbca.org.au](http://cbca.org.au)

Also in April was the Bologna Children's Book Fair. It was pleasing to see that so many Australian creators attended. Australian picture books are world class and they are eagerly sought at this important international market.

Finally, we are very, very fortunate to have so many fabulous creators of children's books in Australia, many of them so willing to share their knowledge and expertise to help others to achieve their goal of a published book. See the column at right for how to book into the course with Libby Gleeson on 20 May.

### GROUP & SCHOOL VISITS TO PINEROLO

**Listen, Look and Learn. Be Inspired!**

Where do Picture Books Come From?  
How are they written? Who draws the pictures?  
One hour talk. Books and artwork for sale.

**Children and adults are welcome.  
Don't delay. Plan a visit soon.**

**\$10 per child. \$20 per adult**

Bookings: 02 47878492 or [hamiltonbooks@iprimus.com.au](mailto:hamiltonbooks@iprimus.com.au)

## PICTURE BOOKS @ PINEROLO

**SATURDAY 20 MAY**

**with LIBBY GLEESON**

Join multi award-winning author Libby Gleeson and children's book publisher Margaret Hamilton for a day of guidance and mentorship on creating children's picture books. This can involve your existing project or a new idea for a picture book. Invaluable opportunity for aspiring authors or those working on a project who need input and guidance.

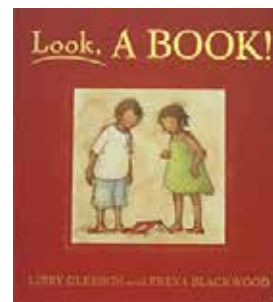
All ages and levels of experience welcome.



LIBBY GLEESON AM has published over 30 books for children and teenagers.

Libby's picture books include *Big Dog, Where's Mum?* and *The Princess and the Perfect Dish*. She has been shortlisted for the CBCA Awards many times; she won the 1997 Book of the Year for Younger Readers Award with *Hannah and the Tomorrow Room*, and Picture Book of the Year in 2002 for

*An Ordinary Day. The Great Bear* (with Armin Greder) won the Bologna Ragazzi Award in 2000. Her picture books illustrated by Freya Blackwood have been especially successful. *Amy & Louis* won the 2007 Early Childhood Category of the CBCA Awards. Then there's *Clancy & Millie and the Very Fine House, Look, a Book! Banjo and Ruby Red, The Cleo Stories* and *Go to Sleep, Jessie* (this won the 2015 Early Childhood CBCA Book of the Year). [www.libbygleeson.com.au](http://www.libbygleeson.com.au)



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## NEW PICTURE BOOKS

A plethora of beautiful picture books continues to come in from Australian publishers. My thanks to those who send review copies. Here are my comments on those recently received:

**AMAZING AUSTRALIANS IN THEIR FLYING MACHINES** by Prue & Kerry Mason and Tom Jellett (Walker). The history of flying in a 32-page picture book. This is an inspiring introduction to the brave people who pioneered Australian aviation. Photos, drawings and amazing facts complete this fascinating book.

**ARCHIE AND THE BEAR** by Zanni Louise & David Mackintosh (Little Hare). An unlikely friendship blossoms, especially when they discover similarities. Striking mixed media illustrations enhance the scene. A good read for boys who like make-believe.

**THE AUSTRALIAN ANIMAL ATLAS** by Leonard Cronin & Marion Westmacott (Allen & Unwin). All Australia's varied habitats are covered in this fascinating and informative book. Animals in each habitat are illustrated and information about each one is provided. A useful reference book for families or schools.

**BEAUTY AND THE BEAST**, illus by Helene Magisson (New Frontier). With the recent film, this is a timely retelling, beautifully illustrated, of this classic fairy tale. It's part of a series 'Happily Ever After' - introducing fairy tales to today's readers.

**BABY BAND** by D J Hill & Giuseppe Poli (New Frontier). Apartment living has its problems, especially noise. A baby brings these apartment dwellers together in a celebration of music. Amusing and original, with exuberant illustrations that reflect the mayhem.

**THE BROWN DOG** by Gina Inverarity & Greg Holfeld (Working Title Press). A warm, affectionate story about a dog who decides to stay, in spite of encouragement to leave. Soft and expressive pencil and ink illustrations.

**BUSTING!** by Aaron Blabey (Scholastic). Another hilarious book from this bestselling author. What do you do when you're busting for the loo? We all know, but it's such fun to read this rhyming text. Young readers should giggle along readily!

**COLOUR ME** by Ezekiel Kwaymullina & Moira Court (Fremantle Press). This striking book illustrates the colours of the rainbow and relates them to individual diversity. Beautiful screen prints combined with simple text produce a very satisfying experience. Simply told for young readers, but with a universal message.

**THE FIX-IT MAN** by Dimity Powell & Nicky Johnston (EK Books). Dads are really handy and the loving relationship in this book is well described. Together, the girl and her dad fix everything. Appealing, loving illustrations complete the picture.

**THE GREAT ZOO HULLABALOO!** by Mark Cathew & Anil Tortop (New Frontier). Rhyming text tells the entertaining story of animals at the zoo and the mystery of their disappearance. Colourful and engaging illustrations provide lots of fun for read aloud.

**HELLO LITTLE BABIES** by Alison Lester (ABC Books). From its tactile cover to the closing night time scene, this book

by this legendary creator is adorable. It's a celebration of babies, beautifully illustrated and produced. Perfect for families, especially with new babies.

**HOW MANY DINOSAURS DEEP?** by Ben Kitchin & Vicky Fieldhouse (New Frontier). Moving from the baby pool to the big pool is a big step. Boys who are dinosaur mad will love this book as there are dinosaurs everywhere. Useful information about dinosaurs also included.

**I LOVE YOU** by Xiao Mao & Tang Yun (New Frontier). Badger is excited about learning ways to say 'I love you' in many different languages. He surprises his parents with his grasp of languages and they react lovingly. A warm story reflecting a loving family.

**I'M AUSTRALIAN TOO** by Mem Fox & Ronjojoy Ghosh (Omnibus). This perennially favourite author highlights Australia's incredible multiculturalism in a fun and inclusive way. Colourful illustrations reflect all corners of our country and many different inhabitants. Families will enjoy sharing this book.

**THE LEAKY STORY** by Devon Sillett & Anil Tortop (EK Books). Never leave a book on a shelf unread! The book in this entertaining book is so frustrated it leaks a story and involves the whole family. Lots of fun for a family to share.

**MILLIE LOVES ANTS** by Jackie French & Sue deGennaro (A & R). Loved for her wombat books, Jackie has turned her attention to a lovable echnidna. Simple rhyming text and very appealing watercolour and pencil illustrations follow the creature as she fills her tummy.

**MY BROTHER IS A BEAST** by Damon Young & Peter Carnavas (UQP). The fourth in this amusing series, this one about a boisterous brother, complete with exuberant pictures. Fun for families, especially with a mischievous small boy.

**ONE THOUSAND TREES** by Kyle Hughes-Odgers (Fremantle Press). In a world where we chop down trees, this dream of 1000 trees in the heart of a city is timely. A beautiful muted palette gives the illustrations a dreamlike atmosphere.

**OUR DOG BENJI** by Peter Carter & James Henderson (IK Books). We know that dogs eat anything - or do they? This smaller format picture book will suit small hands as the affectionate illustrations take readers through a warm relationship.

**OUR LAST TRIP TO THE MARKET** by Lorin Clarke & Mitch Vane (Allen & Unwin). As expected, chaos reigns in this family excursion to the markets. A fun book to share with the family, complete with free and colourful illustrations with boisterous detail.

**ROCK POOL SECRETS** by Narelle Oliver (Walker). This magnificent and informative book is a wonderful legacy from Narelle Oliver. The linocut and watercolour illustrations are shown at their best with the cut-out fold-out pages. Fascinating details also provided.

**THROUGH THE GATE** by Sally Fawcett (EK Books). If you've ever moved into a house that has to be renovated this book will ring true. A girl struggles to accept the change in her life but finally there's a happy ending. Growing colour reflects her mood to the end.

Happy reading! Best wishes, Margaret Hamilton