



Newsletter Number Thirty-eight, APRIL 2018

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## NEWSLETTER NUMBER THIRTY-EIGHT

### Illustrators in Residence

This partnership with WestWords offers a unique opportunity for illustrators. Hurry! Applications close 30 April. [www.westwords.com.au](http://www.westwords.com.au)

### New England Illustration Prize

Another very important opportunity — submit an illustration on the theme 'A Fun Day Out'. First prize includes a picture-book-making weekend at Pinerolo. Entries close 4 June. [www.newc.org.au](http://www.newc.org.au)

### CBCA Short List

This exciting list of children's books was announced on 27 March. The winners will be announced on 17 August. For the full list go to: [cbca.org.au](http://cbca.org.au)

### GRUG at Katoomba Library

As part of the Varuna program for the Sydney Writers' Festival, Grug will be coming to Katoomba on 28 April at 10am. Families and children are welcome to come and hear stories and join in the activities and fun. For information and full program: [varuna.com.au/festival](http://varuna.com.au/festival)



### Radio Blue Mountains

I'm having an exciting time in my new career as a radio presenter. My program 'Children and Books, A Lifetime Friendship' is on Monday nights at 6pm on Radio Blue Mountains, 89.1 FM. I'm loving sharing the wonderful world of children's books and talking to some fabulous authors, illustrators and children's book enthusiasts. Tune in if you're in the area, or listen on line at [rbm.org.au](http://rbm.org.au) The current programs are sponsored by Megalong Books. If you'd like to sponsor, contact me.



## • PICTURE BOOKS @ PINEROLO •



*A rare opportunity to learn from one of Australia's most successful and popular picture book creators.*

*Stephen Michael King, multi award-winning picture book creator will join Margaret Hamilton, award-winning publisher, proprietor of Pinerolo for a course on creating picture books.*

Saturday 19 May 10am - 4pm

116 Shipley Rd, Blackheath

Listen and learn from one of the best! A valuable opportunity for anyone interested in the process of creating a picture book.

All levels of expertise and interest welcome.

These incredible one-day courses are now in their twelfth year.

**Booking and prepayment essential - \$160.00.**

**Full details and booking form:**

[www.pinerolo.com.au/PDF/King.pdf](http://www.pinerolo.com.au/PDF/King.pdf)

## VALE NOELA YOUNG 1930 – 2018

Just three months after the death of Lilith Norman, author of GRANDPA, Noela Young has died. She earned the reputation of being one of our best illustrators and received wide acclaim and many awards for her work. She was probably best known for her illustrations for Ruth Park's *Muddle-Headed Wombat* series. She leaves an impressive legacy for Australian children.

I worked on several books with Noela, but I am enormously proud to have published GRANDPA, a wonderful picture book which was an award-winner. I treasure the exquisite original watercolour artwork that is part of my permanent display at Pinerolo.



## NEW PICTURE BOOKS

With Anzac Day coming up there's the usual supply of new books about war and conflict. I've also received some impressive books by local Blue Mountains creators. For your interest:

### BLUE MOUNTAINS CREATORS

**BUBBLES AND PUDDLES** by Michelle Wanasundera & Thana-one Yazawa (Lilly Pilly). Brave local Michelle has published this herself. Inspired by the Blue Mountains, it's a fun book of rhyming text — so good to read aloud — about enjoying the simple things in life. Very appealing illustrations. [bubblesandpuddlesbook.com](http://bubblesandpuddlesbook.com)

**MESSAGE IN A SOCK** by Kaye Baillie and Narelda Joy (Midnight Sun). A touching story featuring women knitting socks for the men at war and a little girl placing a message to her father. Beautiful collage illustrations by the talented local Narelda Joy. This also for Anzac Day.

**OCEAN LULLABY** by Sally Odgers and Lisa Stewart (Scholastic). Perfect for bedtime. Gentle, rhyming text illustrated with dreamy pictures of ocean creatures. The fourth in a series of lullaby books, with gorgeous mixed media illustrations by local Lisa Stewart.

### FOR ANZAC DAY

**1918** by Libby Gleeson (Scholastic). Not a picture book but so appropriate for now. Libby went to France to research this book. It's a graphic, thrilling, moving and deeply heartfelt account of Australians at war in a series that highlighted every year of our involvement.

**ALFRED'S WAR** by Rachel Bin Salleh & Samantha Fry (Magabala). A very moving and timely book highlighting the contribution of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander soldiers who fought in the First World War. Atmospheric and affecting illustrations.

**ARMISTICE** by Ruth Starke & David Kennett (Working Title). Chilling, moving, historically important, this book conveys translated first-hand accounts of the day the Great War ended and the world changed forever. Full colour illustrations convey the emotion in the words.

**THE LITTLE STOWAWAY** by Vicki Bennett & Tull Suwannakit (Scholastic). Based on a true story from 1918, this is a moving account of a small, brave French boy who stows away with an Australian airman. Wonderful, evocative illustrations.

### GENERAL

**A — Z OF AUSTRALIAN ANIMALS** by Jennifer Cossins (Lothian). Detailed and informative, this introduction to unique Australian animals is a welcome addition to any home or school library. Very clear, colourful layout and design, with a bonus poster.

**DAD BY MY SIDE** by Soosh (Lothian). Father-daughter relationships are so important. This one is very tender and special. The pictures were an Instagram sensation, with over 2 million views in a week. Now there's a book to keep and share.

**DOGASAURUS** by Lucinda Gifford (Scholastic). Adopting stray pets can be complicated, as Molly discovers when she finds an unhatched egg. She has a new pet, but it looks like it will outgrow its home. An original idea, playfully illustrated.

**THE INCREDIBLE FREEDOM MACHINES** by Kirli Saunders & Matt Ottley (Scholastic). An adventurous girl finds her own freedom machine which takes her to wondrous places. A simple yet powerful story with stunning illustrations.

**KOOKABURRAS LOVE TO LAUGH** by Laura & Philip Bunting (Omnibus). Philip Bunting is Shortlisted for 2018 Picture Book of the Year Award for MOPOKE, so this is a welcome companion. All kookaburras laugh, except this one . . . Simple text and unique, striking illustrations.

**THE LAST PEACH** by Gus Gordon (Penguin). Two bugs who discover a perfect peach have a very unlikely conversation. Will they eat it, or not? Who will go first? It's fun to find out what they decide. A very 'peachy' book, with appealing collage illustrations.

**THE LITTLE MERMAID** illustrated by Owen Swan. (New Frontier). A new addition to the 'Happily Ever After' Series — a fresh twist on the classic fairy tale. Atmospheric illustrations by the versatile Owen Swan.

**MY AUSTRALIA** by Julie Murphy & Garry Fleming (NLA). This book is a visual delight, picturing the vast and varied Australian landscape and wildlife. Simple but evocative verse, with the addition of extra information pages. A new classic for visitors and locals alike.

**MY MUM IS A MAGICIAN** by Damon Young & Peter Carnavas (UQP). A new title in the successful series, this one's for Mothers' Day. A very entertaining celebration of mums, this one a magician. Humorous illustrations take readers through a gallery of quirky mums.

**MY SISTER** by Joanna Young (New Frontier). There's no sibling rivalry here. There's love in this book, from the hearts on the endpapers through the tender illustrations and the very simple text. A lovely book for small sisters.

**PUGS DON'T WEAR PYJAMAS** by Michelle Worthington & Cecilia Johansson (New Frontier). Ellie is no ordinary pug. She's special and rather unusual. An appealing book about friendship and caring with delightful illustrations.

**RED HOUSE, BLUE HOUSE, GREEN HOUSE, TREE HOUSE** by Jane Godwin & Jane Reiseger (Affirm Press). Fun, rhyming text introduces colour, numbers and more. A question at the end sends the reader back through the book. Lively, colourful illustrations.

**SEE HEAR** by Tania McCartney & Jess Racklyeft (EK Books). A simple, sweet and innovative introduction to the senses in flip-the-book format. Two books in one, to share with the very young. Lovely illustrations invite participation.

**SOMEWHERE IN THE REEF** by Marcello Pennacchio & Danny Snell (Scholastic). With entertaining rhyming text, a counting theme, and beautiful, colourful illustrations, this book raises awareness of the diverse animals and plants of the Great Barrier Reef.

**SORRY DAY** by Coral Vass & Dub Leffler (NAL). This very impressive book acknowledges the Aboriginal story and the importance of the apology by Kevin Rudd in 2008. Dub, former Illustrator in Residence at Pinerolo has created a masterpiece. He just keeps on getting better.

TIME FOR SCHOOL, DADDY by Dave Hackett (UQP). Getting Daddy out of bed and ready to catch the bus to school can be difficult. This will bring a smile to the face of all readers, with its playful, energetic illustrations.

WHAT THE FLUFFY BUNNY SAID TO THE GROWLY BEAR by P Crumble & Chris Saunders (Koala Books). In a hilarious version of Chinese whispers, messages about Zebra's party get confused. Hilarious situations accompanied by stunning illustrations.

WHAT'S AT THE END OF THIS PIECE OF ROPE? by Tania Cox & Jedda Robaard (Lothian). Everybody joins in to help pull the rope. There's a surprise at the end. Jedda, former Pinerolo Illustrator in Residence has provided very appealing illustrations.

## A SPECIAL GUEST

It was such a pleasure to spend time with Anne Spudvilas this week. She's been staying at Varuna, the Writers House and working on a new project. I've been a fan of her picture books for many years, so it was special to talk to her about her body of work.



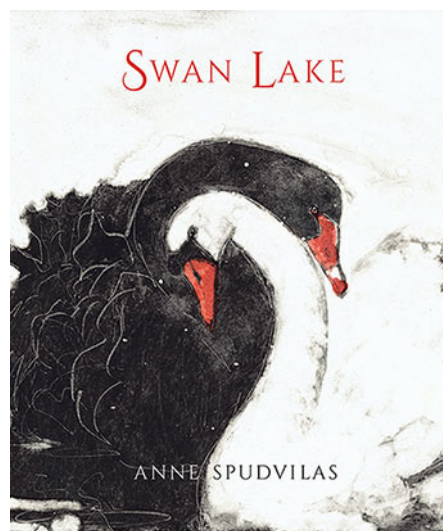
Not only is Anne an award-winning illustrator of children's picture books, she's also an established portrait painter. Her portrait of former Australian Children's Laureate Leigh Hobbs was a finalist in the Archibald Prize.

Anne's first commission was a book cover for a novel called THE GATHERING by Isobelle Carmody. Her first picture book was THE RACE by Christobel Mattingley. This won the CBCA Crichton Award for Illustration and was an Honour Book. Her work is varied and her style changes to suit the subject matter of the story written by the author. I especially love THE PEASANT PRINCE, published by Penguin. It's written by Li Cunxin and based on his best-selling memoir MAO'S LAST DANCER. Anne's illustrations are in Chinese style with traditional

Chinese ink and watercolours on rice paper. It's a beautiful book.

Then my current favourite of Anne's many picture books is of course SWAN LAKE, published by Allen & Unwin. This is Shortlisted for the Children's Book Council of Australia Picture Book of the Year Award. It's breathtakingly beautiful, tender and very moving. Fingers crossed for the announcement of winners in August!

I actually had Anne on my radio program on Radio Blue Mountains 89.1 FM. We had a terrific conversation.



## A MOUNTAINS RETREAT

Please get in touch if you'd like to visit Pinerolo, book a stay here for you and your family — for a special, restful retreat — for a weekend or longer break in the gorgeous autumn in the Blue Mountains (see: [www.pinerolo.com.au/PDF/Accommodation.pdf](http://www.pinerolo.com.au/PDF/Accommodation.pdf)).

Thanks for reading this longer newsletter.

Finally, **book early for the course with Stephen Michael King** and share this newsletter. Enjoy!

Margaret Hamilton AM