

## AUTUMN IS HERE!

With the beginning of April, we had our first fire. So begins my favourite season in the Blue Mountains, with cool mornings and nights, sunny days and glorious Autumn colours. Lovely!

## WESTWORDS/PINEROLO ILLUSTRATORS IN RESIDENCE

It's exciting to announce that we will again be hosting this program, which is a fabulous opportunity for aspiring illustrators to spend a week at Pinerolo, with mentorship and encouragement. Only one place is available this year, so I urge you to get your application in quickly! Several previous Illustrators in Residence have gone on to have picture books published. Information and application form here: [www.pinerolo.com.au/PDF/WestWords.pdf](http://www.pinerolo.com.au/PDF/WestWords.pdf)

## CBCA SHORT LIST

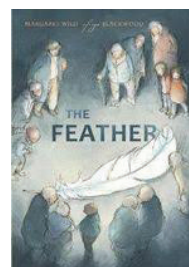
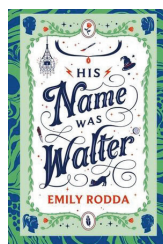
It's always exciting when the CBCA Short List for Book of the Year is announced. This year it's a very strong list which includes some amazing books, including those by local Blue Mountains authors (see panel at right). The full list can be found at: [www.cbca.org.au](http://www.cbca.org.au) Roll on CBCA Book Week, so we can find out the winners!

## THIS IS HOME, essential Australian poems for Children.

This wonderful collection of poetry for children was selected by Jackie French and illustrated by Tania McCartney. I had the honour of launching the book at the National Library on Sunday 7 April. It's an essential collection for homes and libraries as it's a very comprehensive collection. It was also good to



## 2pm — Saturday 4 May Champagne Celebration @ Pinerolo with our local stars



**EMILY RODDA AC:** *His Name was Walter* Shortlisted, Younger Readers CBCA Book of the Year. Also honoured on Australia Day 2019: Companion of the Order of Australia.

**FREYA BLACKWOOD:** *Feather* Shortlisted Picture Book, CBCA Book of the Year

**TOHBY RIDDLE:** *Here Comes Stinkbug!* Shortlisted, Early Childhood, CBCA Book of the Year.



**CHARMAINE LEDDEN-LEWIS:** Winner, Kestin Indigenous Illustrator Award (Magabala Books)

Book now at: \$10 CBCA Members/\$15 others.

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Pinerolo, The Children's Book Cottage  
116 Shipley Road, Blackheath

see there on the day Libby Hathorn, Janeen Brian, Chris Cheng, Jacki Hosking and others whose poems are included in the book. Congratulations to Jackie, Tania and the publishing team at the National Library. It's an outstanding achievement and I can't recommend it too highly.





## NEW PICTURE BOOKS

New picture books received include some specially for Anzac Day and others for Mothers Day. Here are my recommendations:

**THE ANZAC BILLY** by Claire Saxby, Mark Jackson & Heather Potter (Black Dog). This is a very touching story about sending billies to soldiers at war. Watercolour and pencil illustrations in muted colours reflect the mood.

**ARTHUR AND THE TIGER** by Sophie Beer (Puffin). Out of all the circus performers, Arthur, who isn't brave at all, is chosen to be the tamer of the tiger. There's a surprising and satisfying outcome that, combined with the lively illustrations will please young readers.

**THE BOOK CHOOK** by Amelia McNerney & Connah Brecon (Scholastic). This is the local Blue Mountains author's first book. It is original, entertaining and lots of fun to share with small readers. Watch this author. There will be more!

**THE BOOK THAT NEVER ENDS** by Beck & Matt Stanton (ABC). This book is a very entertaining game. Guessing and following clues will keep readers enthralled and they'll be eager to begin again. Original and fun.

**COCOON** by Aura Parker (Scholastic). The story centres on the development of a caterpillar turning into a moth. Readers will identify with the story and follow her progress, then they can go back and find items listed. Very clever.

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY WOMBAT** by Jackie French & Bruce Whatley (A & R). A birthday is a day to celebrate but for Mothball the wombat it's as full of mischief as any other. A very welcome addition to this wombat series.

**IN THE BUSH I SEE** by Kiara Honeychurch (Magabala). The fourth book in the 'Young Art' board book series showcasing young Indigenous artists. Simple artwork and text to introduce the very young to bush animals.

**THE INCURABLE IMAGINATION** by Paul Russell & Aska (EK). Imagination is contagious. It spreads rapidly through this school, chaos prevails and all attempts to cure it fail. Action packed illustrations follow this entertaining story.

**LOTTIE AND WALTER** by Anna Walker (Puffin). When you're afraid of something it's always a comfort to have an imaginary friend, even if it's a rather unusual one. Wonderful illustrations from this award-winner.

**LET ME SLEEP, SHEEP!** by Meg McKinlay & Leila Rudge (Walker). From this award-winning partnership comes an amusing twist on counting sheep. Instead of going to sleep, Amos has to cope with argumentative sheep in his bedroom.

**MOONWALKERS** by Mark Greenwood & Terry Denton (Puffin). The cover says 'the greatest bedtime story ever told' and it's an enthralling book which explains the first landing on the moon in 1969 (before most readers were born!). The information is fascinating and Denton's illustrations are full of imagination and chaos. Hours of fun.

**MUM FOR SALE** by Zanni Louise & Philip Bunting (Scholastic). A lesson for all mothers who spend too much

time on the phone — you might be sold! Simple text and distinctive illustrations from these award-winners.

**MUMMY CUDDLE** by Kate Mayes & Sara Acton (ABC). In good time for Mothers Day, this delightful early childhood book will be understood by families with small children who are very active at bedtime.

**MY SUNBEAM BABY** by Emma Quay (ABC). Simple rhyming text tells how much a mother loves her baby, so it's a special book for Mothers Day. Multi-media, colourful and quirky illustrations add to the appeal.

**ONE TREE** by Christopher Cheng & Bruce Whatley (Puffin). Memories of his own life inform Cheng's story, a touching acknowledgement of elders in our lives and how important the natural environment is to us all. The outstanding illustrations look like linocuts but are actually digital.

**SAYING GOODBYE TO BARKLEY** by Devon Sillett & Nicky Johnston (EK). Losing her beloved sidekick is almost too much for Olivia but then she discovers a solution that he would have approved of. Ultimately a happy story.

**THANKS MUM!** by Matt Cosgrove (Scholastic). From the creator of the bestselling Alpaca books comes a special and playful thank you to Mum. Very colourful and energetic illustrations add to the fun.

**THERE'S ONLY ONE MUM LIKE YOU** by Jess Racklyeft (Affirm). I agree, mothers are amazing. This appealing book celebrates all kinds of mothers in a loving tribute with varied and delightful illustrations.

**THE THREE BILLY GOATS GRUFF** by Nick Bland (Scholastic). An entertaining retelling of the classic story illustrated with engaging acrylic paintings.

**TRICKY'S BAD DAY** by Alison Lester (Affirm). This multi award-winner has two picture books listed on the CBCA Short List, Early Childhood Category. This fun book turns a bad day into a good one.

**THE ULTIMATE ANIMAL COUNTING BOOK** by Jennifer Cousins (Lothian). This very impressive book by a CBCA award winner counts animals one to a hundred, in order of size, from the largest to the smallest. Every page is also filled with fascinating detail about each animal.

**WE'RE STUCK!** by Sue deGennaro (Scholastic). What happens when the lift, full of quirky characters going about urgent business, gets stuck, makes an original and amusing story. Appealing illustrations from this award-winner.

**WHAT THE FLUFFY BUNNY SAID TO THE HUNGRY HIPPO** by P Crumble & Chris Saunders (Koala). Just in time for Easter, this cumulative story is lots of fun with lots of animals joining the search. Very appealing colour illustrations.

**WHEN THE WAR IS OVER** by Jackie French & Anne Spudvilas (A & R). The poignant and moving poems remind readers that war seems never ending, that peace is fragile and we must all try to preserve it. Beautiful, atmospheric illustrations complete this powerful message.

**WILAM** by J Murphy & A Kelly, illus by Lisa Kennedy. (Black Dog). With a useful glossary, this book uses Indigenous language for animals that live along the Yarra river. The illustrations carry the theme with striking colours. A timely book for International Year of Indigenous Languages.

**FINALLY** I hope you enjoyed this newsletter. Feel free to share it with others. Thank you for your support. Keep in touch. Best wishes.

Margaret Hamilton AM