

## SINCE THE LAST NEWSLETTER

In the last newsletter I wrote about what a challenging summer we had. After torrential rain all our grass and many of our trees are bursting into new life. Now we have to deal with the coronavirus! I feel like I'm experiencing an interminable B-grade disaster movie with one disaster after another. What's next?

So many major events were cancelled. We love the Blue Mountains Music Festival and were all ready to go, but it was cancelled. The CBCA Blue Mountains champagne celebration of the Notables at Pinerolo was cancelled, so was my picture book course with Libby Gleeson, and so was the CBCA AAA Conference, where I was going to present the list of books I would

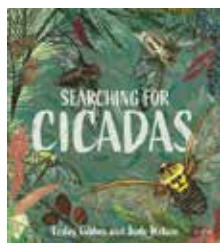
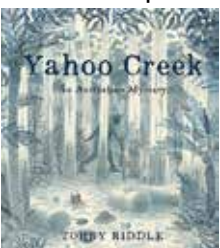


My choice for  
Picture Book of the Year!

like on the Shortlist. I was going to complain in a major way that *'The Tiny Star'* by Mem Fox and Freya Blackwood should have been a Notable, then Shortlisted, THEN Picture Book of the Year. I'm so disappointed and devastated that it missed out entirely and I can't

understand why. I thoroughly recommend it as one of the best books of the year. If you were booked for the AAA conference you can see my video presentation. This conference has been postponed to 2 November. It's well worth attending. See you there!

The CBCA 2020 Shortlist has been announced! I'm particularly pleased that our locals have gone from Notable to Shortlisted: Tohby Riddle for *Yahoo Creek*, Emily Rodda for *The Glimme* and Lesley Gibbes for *Searching For Cicadas*. Congratulations all. Our CBCA Blue Mountains champagne celebration will be later. Watch this space!



It has also been announced that, because of the Coronavirus crisis CBCA Book Week has been postponed to term 4. Keep an eye on the website for further news: [www.cbca.org.au](http://www.cbca.org.au)

## NEW BOOKS

This is a special section for this newsletter. I love highlighting the success of people who have been associated with Pinerolo. Some call themselves 'a graduate of Pinerolo'.

Whether they have been participants in one of our picture book courses or illustrators in residence, it's wonderful to see them realising their dream of a published picture book and I'm very happy to have been, in some way, helpful. It's very satisfying. Congratulations!



### DUCK, APPLE, EGG

by Glenda Millard

illus by Martina Heiduczek (ABC Books).

Everybody knows the multi-award-winner Glenda Millard but this is Martina's first book. She was winner of the New England Writers Centre Illustrator's Prize, which was a 'creative weekend at Pinerolo', which was timed

to co-incide with a picture book course with Glenda and me. They met here, Glenda showed Martina her text, introduced her editor to Martina's work and it all fitted, resulting in this simple, poetic, beautiful book about playing in the garden.



### MY POSSUM PLAYS THE DRUMS

by Catherine Meatheringham

illus by Max Hamilton (Windy Hollow).

Max (no relation!) was Westwords/Pinerolo Illustrator in residence and I enjoyed working with her in the initial stages of this book. It's a very noisy book and lots of fun.

Congratulations Max!



### RIBBIT RABBIT ROBOT

by Victoria MacKinlay

illus by Sofya Karmazina (Omnibus/Scholastic).

Victoria was a participant in a picture book course at Pinerolo. This is her first book. It's a simple play on words that becomes heaps of fun, especially to read aloud. The illustrations take the action to a whole new level.



### SHADOWS OF OLIVE TREES

by Susanne Gervay.

Susanne is a great friend of Pinerolo. Her new novel is a coming of age story set in the 1970s. Well worth reading — to remember those times or to relate to these special relationships. How we've changed!

## FEATURE PUBLISHER

Although I list many beautiful picture books here sent by Australia's publishers I haven't actually featured a publisher. I'd like to draw attention to Dirt Lane Press, a small publisher founded in 2016 and listed as a cultural charity in 2019, dedicated to creating quality books and taking them to people on the margins. Check them out: [www.dirtlanepress.com](http://www.dirtlanepress.com)

Here are their beautiful hardback books, all thought-provoking, beautifully illustrated and produced, and created by award-winners. Highly recommended!



**THE DREAM PEDDLER** by Irena Kobald & Christopher Nielsen. A powerful and beautiful picture book.

**LEAF STONE BEETLE** by Ursula Dubosarsky & Gaye Chapman. Written by current Australian Children's Laureate. This should sell like hot cakes!

**PAPERBOY** by Danny Parker & Bethany Macdonald. Shortlisted for the 2020 CBCA Award for New Illustrator. 'We are made of everything that ever happened to us.'

**THE SORRY TALE OF FOX & BEAR** by Margrete Lamond & Heather Vallance. Bear writes a letter to Fox about their friendship.

**WINTER OF THE WHITE BEAR** by Martin Ed Chatterton. Gorgeous illustrations of snowy situations.

## WESTWORDS/PINEROLO

### ILLUSTRATOR IN RESIDENCE

It's been so wonderful over the last few years to spend a week with successful applicants for this fantastic program. I love sharing my experience in a mentorship capacity with emerging illustrators and I am especially proud of those who have gone on to achieve their dream.

We'll be going ahead with the program again this year but have delayed news about it until after the coronavirus crisis is over. Then watch this space and our websites for application forms for a week's residency at Pinerolo. Residents can expect to be hugely inspired by the collection of original artwork from Australian picture books and the large library of picture books. Just researching what established illustrators have done is extremely motivating. It's a fabulous opportunity for emerging illustrators! Just a few details for your interest:

- Pinerolo has so far hosted nineteen illustrators in residence, (funded by CAL and now by WestWords).
- Beginning in 2007, we have held here twenty-seven one-day courses on creating picture books.

Thinking back, I feel a great sense of satisfaction in being able to guide many of these people towards publication.

## FABULOUS AWARD FOR MARGARET WILD



It's been so special to have worked with Margaret and to have published five of her books.

Congratulations!

## NEW PICTURE BOOKS

There was a record number of entries for the 2020 CBCA Book of the Year Awards, indicating children's publishing in Australia is alive and well. Here are a few new books that could be entered for the 2021 awards:

**ANISA'S ALPHABET** by Mike Dumbleton & Hannah Sommerville (Midnight Sun). This unique alphabet highlights the plight of refugees in a very special and moving way, beautifully illustrated in watercolour, pen and pencil drawings. An alphabet for all ages.

**AUSTRALIANS ALL LOVE EASTER EGGS** by Colin Buchanan & Sarah Hardy (Scholastic). All the animals band together to get Easter eggs to a remote town. A clever story, dedicated to the town of Bourke. Get it to go with your eggs!

**AZARIA: a true history** by Maree Coote (MelbourneStyle). Confronting, inspiring and heartrenching, the story of this epic injustice is told like a fairy tale, magnificently illustrated. A lesson for all ages.

**THE BAD BASSINIS** by Clair Hume & Tom Jellett (Scholastic). Dealing with bullies is hard but if you're a cute little dog, there are ways. Amusing and reassuring.

**BEAR WAS THERE** by Sally Anne Garland (New Frontier). A sensitive and cosy story about finding love in unexpected places. Atmospheric and very appealing illustrations.

**BIG HUG, LITTLE MOUSE** by Lisa Kerr (Walker). Hugs are contagious and extremely worthwhile, but when you lose your hugs how do you get them back. Cute story and illustrations in this book for early childhood.

**EXTRAORDINARY** by Penny Harrison & Katie Wilson (New Frontier). Highlighting that the simple things in life are also extraordinary. Important every day, but especially in these challenging times. Colourful and expressive illustrations.

**HEART AND SOUL** by Carol Ann Martin & Tull Suwannakit (Scholastic). A tender, heartwarming story about the power of music played with heart and soul. Beautiful and delicate watercolour, pencil and ink illustrations.

**ISLA'S FAMILY TREE** by Katrina McKelvey & Prue Pittock (EK). Mum is pregnant with twins and Isla says the family is too full. She learns a lot about family trees and how they grow. Simple line and colour illustrations.

**JELLY BOY** by Nicole Goodwin & Christopher Nielsen (Walker). A cautionary tale about conserving our oceans and the danger of plastic bags. Colourful and suitable watery illustrations.

**MONKEY'S TAIL** by Alex Rance & Shane McG (A & U). Between the jungle endpapers front and back is a touching story of self-belief and staying positive, with striking illustrations.

**MY WONDERFUL GRANDMOTHER** by Kate Knapp (A & R). The latest in the Ruby Red Shoes series, where she highlights what's wonderful about her grandmother. A perfect book to share with grandchildren, especially during the crisis!

**NEVER FORGET** by Clare Hallifax & Simon O'Carrigan (Omnibus). A moving commemoration of those who fought in World War One with fascinating illustrations referring to original Anzac artists.

**THE NIGHT OF THE HIDING MOON** by Emma Allen & Sher Rill Ng (NLA). An empowering story using shadow puppets with fascinating information about this ancient Asian custom and making your own puppets.

Need a break or a peaceful retreat in the Blue Mountains? Pinerolo is on Airbnb. Book on Airbnb.

**NO! NEVER!** by Libby Hathorn, Lisa Hathorn-Jarman & Mel Pearce (Lothian). Dealing with tantrums is ably portrayed in this entertaining book from this award-winning author and debut illustrator.

**OLD MacDONALD HAD A FARM**, illus by Matt Shanks (Scholastic). A very entertaining Australian version of the classic rhyme, with appropriately hilarious illustrations.

**THE OTHER BROTHER** by Penny Jaye & Heidi Cooper Smith (Wombat). I love promoting local authors! Penny is involved in the CBCA Blue Mountains. A touching story of accepting a new family member.

**RESPECT** by Aunty Fay Muir, Sue Lawon & Lisa Kennedy (Magabala). An Indigenous introduction to respect that could well be applied to us all. Vivid illustrations, in this first of a four books series.

**ROO KNOWS BLUE** by Renee Treml (Puffin). Perfectly pitched to early readers, this playful and catchy text simply highlights colours with large bold type and illustrations. Great to share with a child on your lap.

**SAY CHEESE!** by Frances Watts & Marjorie Crosby-Fairall (Scholastic). It's chaos trying to get all the children together for a class photo. If they'd only be still and say 'cheese!' Very relatable with very funny illustrations.

**TABITHA AND THE RAINCLOUD** by Devon Sillett & Melissa Johns (EK). Most of us have bad days when nothing goes right. This appealing story is about coping in spite of a raincloud hanging overhead. Engaging illustrations that will appeal to young readers.

**TOGETHER THINGS** by Michelle Vasiliu & Gwynneth Jones (EK). A little girl remembers the adventures she used to have with her father, but now they'll do different things because he is ill. Sensitive illustrated.

**WHAT DO YOU CALL A BABY . . . ?** by Kamsani Bin Salleh (Magabala). Especially for the very young, a simple board book introducing them to baby animals of all kinds.

**WHAT THE FLUFFY BUNNY SAID TO THE LAZY LLAMA** by P Crumble & Chris Saunders (Koala). Fluffy Bunny has to gather all the animals together for the sports carnival, but the llama poses problems! Simple, appealing illustrations.

**WILLY-WILLY WAGTAIL** by Helen Milroy (Magabala). Another wonderful book from this publisher, introducing all Australians to the work of Indigenous writers and illustrators, the first in the 'Tales from the Bush Mob' series. A high quality production with striking illustrations.

**THE WONDERFUL WISDOM OF ANTS** by Philip Bunting (Scholastic). This creator's books are always striking, with fascinating topics laced with humour. Another welcome addition to his work.

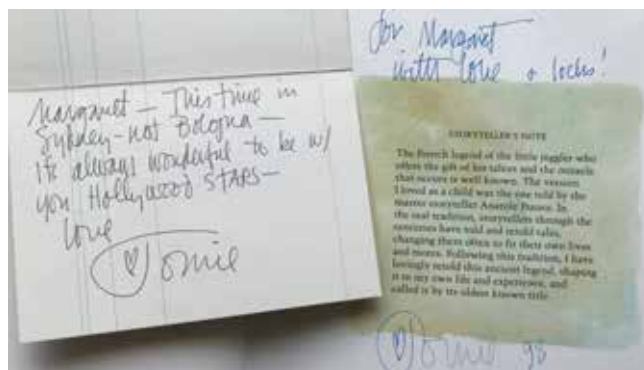


Me with Susanne Gervay at the Berkelouw's launch of 'My Possum Plays the Drums'. Susanne launched the book and it was heaps of fun!

## VALE TOMIE DE PAOLO 1934 – 2020

It was very sad to read recently that acclaimed American illustrator Tomie de Paolo has died. His wonderful contribution to children's books will be remembered for a long time by many of us. He had written and/or illustrated over 270 books, giving joy to millions of children.

I had the pleasure to meet him, not only at the Bologna Children's Book Fair, but in Sydney when he visited. He celebrated his 60th birthday here! During a dinner he remarked that Margaret Hamilton was the name of the actress who played the Wicked Witch of the West in 'The Wizard of Oz' movie, so he signed a card to me:



And here's my collection of Tomie de Paolo books:



## FINALLY

I do hope you've enjoyed reading this newsletter. There was enough news and plenty of new picture books to extend it to three pages.

As we go through a time that none of us has ever experienced before it's important to keep busy, have regular exercise, keep close to our family and stay well. Oh, and also eat chocolate! It's a perfect opportunity to read lots of books and especially to share beautiful picture books with children.

Keep in touch and pass this newsletter on.

Many thanks.

Margaret Hamilton AM