

Although the wattle is beautiful, the bulbs are in bloom, and blossoms are appearing, the August weather in Blackheath is still cold and quite windy. The wind-chill factor makes it seem much colder, so we are still rugged up!

### CHILDREN'S BOOK WEEK

The CBCA Children's Book of the Year Awards were presented in Canberra on Friday 16 August and Children's Book Week runs from 19 - 24 August. It was such a pleasure to be present at the presentation and to hear the cheers from children in the audience when their favourites were announced. The air of anticipation and excitement was inspiring and it was good to see so many authors and illustrators there. The slogan is **Read Across the Universe**, with wonderful artwork by Bob Graham. Happy Reading!

### UPCOMING EVENTS @ PINEROLO

#### Saturday 31 August, 1 to 4pm.

**DIARY OF A WILDLIFE PHOTOGRAPHER** by Jan Latta will be the focus of this exciting afternoon with a spectacular visual presentation. Jan is the author, photographer, designer and publisher of 'True to Life' Books. With fifteen books to her name, she has a wealth of knowledge and up-close and personal experience with wild animals. She frequently risks her life in her quest to produce books on endangered animals. Cost: \$30 adults, \$15 for 16yo and under. Bookings: 47878492 or <http://www.pinerolo.com.au/PDF/Latta.pdf>

#### Saturday 5 October, 10am to 4pm.

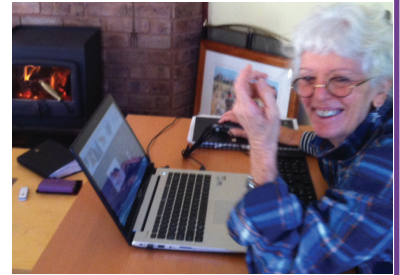
**PICTURE BOOKS @ PINEROLO** with Margaret Hamilton and Margaret Wild. Margaret Wild is Australia's most successful writer of picture books with over 70 books published. Few writers have tackled such a wide range of themes. Her picture books have both high literary quality and child appeal and understanding the collaborative art of words and pictures is one of her great strengths. Learn everything you ever wanted to know about writing and producing a picture book. Booking form: <http://www.pinerolo.com.au/PDF/Wild.pdf>

### VINTAGE PICTURE BOOKS

If you live in Melbourne or are visiting Melbourne you should take time to call in on Books Illustrated. They've got a very busy month in August, with Children's Book Week, Melbourne Writers Festival and their own Vintage Original Illustration Collection. They are launching a unique array of original vintage illustrations from overseas. This collection, which is for sale, includes illustrations from books that many people recall from their own children. A rare opportunity to purchase a complete set or individual prints. Well worth a visit: <http://www.booksillustrated.com.au>

## ILLUSTRATORS IN RESIDENCE 2013

**Nette Hilton** was the first Illustrator in Residence for this year. Nette is a very well known author of children's books, but she's now venturing into illustration. The new story is dramatic, suspenseful and entertaining. We had two visitors during the week: Victoria Jefferys, who helped with advice about production and printing, and Helen Trapp, a watercolour artist, who gave Nette many handy hints.



**Sara Acton** was here from 4 to 11 August. Sara has illustrated several terrific picture books. One of my favourites is 'The Unexpected Crocodile' but Sara was working on writing her own, which proved to be original and fun, with immense child appeal. It was such a pleasure to work with these two hugely talented people. What an inspiration they are.



**Next up:** Jill Carter-Hansen from Sunday 25 August.

We are grateful to the Copyright Agency for funding this program

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## NEW PICTURE BOOKS

Babies are never too young to listen to stories. Many people recommend reading to them even before birth. But someone recently said to me 'but they can't see the pictures!' When Melissa was born, the only book I had in hospital was about breastfeeding. She loved it, but then I thought, that was then her favourite pastime anyway!

It's not that they can understand the story at that early age, it's the sound of your voice and that valuable early bonding that a quiet time of reading brings to your relationship. Research has shown that children who are read to early learn to read themselves quicker later on.

So I am passionate about promoting picture books and forever grateful to publishers who send me review copies. Here are as many as I can fit into this newsletter:

BELLA'S BAD HAIR DAY by Stephen Michael King (Allen & Unwin). Stephen Michael King has obviously had first-hand experience with a girl and her hair. This entertaining story follows Bella on her quest for a decent hairdo. Incomparable illustrations from this award-winning picture book creator.

THE BIG BEET by Lynn Ward, illus by Adam Carruthers (Omnibus). Aussie burgers with beetroot are the best! Perfect for reading aloud, this funny progressive story proves that pulling together can get anything done. Lots of Aussie flavour in this colourful book.

BIG RED KANGAROO by Claire Saxby, illus by Graham Byrne (Walker Books). A picture/information book, with beautiful, atmospheric pictures of kangaroos in the wild. Lyrical language tells the story of Red and his mob, with factual information. Highly recommended.

COLOUR FOR CURLEWS by Renee Trembl (Random House). A simple introduction to colours and mixing is turned into a really enjoyable adventure involving Australian animals, all led by two curious curlews. A really clever way of introducing colours to young readers. Recommended.

FLIGHT OF THE HONEY BEE by Raymond Huber, illus by Brian Lovelock (Walker Books). Honey bees are vital and in danger of dying out. Raymond Huber is passionate about them and has written novels about them. This picture book has very useful information and bright honey-coloured illustrations.

THE FROG WHO LOST HIS UNDERPANTS by Juliette Maciver, illus by Cat Chapman (Walker Books). A search through the jungle for Frog's lost underpants results in a pair of undies for every frog! A delightful romp in rhyming verse and fun to read.

HELPING LITTLE STAR by Sally Morgan & Blaze Kwaymullina (Walker Books). This mother and son team have created a colourful visual interpretation of a story which works on many levels. Sally is a descendant of the Palyku people of the Pilbara region.

LET THE CELEBRATIONS BEGIN! by Margarer Wild, illus by Julie Vivas (Walker Books). This wonderful book was first published in 1991. This new paperback edition, as part of Walker Classics, will reach a whole new generation, with the added bonus of pages by the author, illustrator and publisher. Highly recommended.

MEGUMI AND THE BEAR by Irma Gold, illus by Craig Phillips (Walker Books). This is a delightful, warm story about friendship and longing. Simple text and evocative watercolour illustrations.

MY DAD AND ME by Tania Cox, illus by Lorette Broekstra (Allen & Unwin). Just in time for Fathers' Day, a book to be enjoyed by all small children and their father. Simple pleasures enjoyed by father and child are highlighted in easy to read text and joyful illustrations.

MY DAD STILL THINKS HE'S FUNNY by Katrina Germein, illus by Tom Jellett (Black Dog Books). Another one for Fathers' Day – a book full of dad jokes, told by a boy who's obviously going to grow up to be a funny dad himself. Great illustrations by an expert in this genre.

THE NELLY GANG by Stephen Axelsen (Walker Books). Stephen worked on this book as Illustrator in Residence at Pinerolo. It was fabulous to watch it develop - so full of adventure, danger and humour - a graphic novel of epic proportions. Well done, Steve! Highly recommended.

OMAR THE STRONGMAN by Gregory Rogers (Scholastic). Very talented and versatile award-winner Greg Rogers died earlier this year. He has left an incredible legacy for Australian children. This delightful book is one of them. Highly recommended for any readers who follow a dream.

PAPA AND THE OLDEN DAYS by Ian Edwards, illus by Rachel Tonkin (Walker Books). First published in 1989, another welcome addition to Walker Classics, brings history to life for a new generation. Highly recommended.

PARACHUTE by Danny Parker, illus by Matt Ottley (Little Hare). The pair that produced the magnificent TREE has done it again! You never know when you'll need a parachute, so Toby has his with him at all times, to give him courage. Gradually he depends on it less. A beautiful book with a fold out jacket that converts into a Matt Ottley poster.

RILEY AND THE JUMPY KANGAROO by Tania McCartney, illus by Kieron Pratt (Ford Street). Riley gets around! This time he's in Canberra, to celebrate our capital's centenary. A colourful mix of text, photographs and drawings gives young readers a very accessible and dynamic introduction to the city.

SILVER BUTTONS by Bob Graham (Walker Books) I am a huge fan of Bob Graham. This wonderful book highlights a baby's first steps, but it's set against the background of the world around him - the city and all that happens in the everyday world out there, brought back to earth by his mother's proud hug. Hugely satisfying and recommended.

THE VERY BRAVE BEAR, by Nick Bland (Scholastic). This popular bear must be a bestseller. He's been read all around Australia. This new one is just as much fun with colourful, jungly illustrations.

WELCOME HOME by Christina Booth (Ford Street). An important message about the plight of whales is sensitively written and beautifully illustrated, with very helpful factual text added on the last two pages. A great book for classrooms, libraries and homes. Highly recommended.

WHAT WAS THE WAR LIKE, GRANDMA? by Rachel Tonkin (Walker Books). Originally published in 1995, this is another fabulous addition to the Walker Classics, bringing history alive for another generation.

WHERE ARE YOU, BANANA? by Sofie Laguna, illus by Craig Smith (Allen & Unwin). Banana is Roddy's best friend and they do everything together. This is a feel-good story with a dramatic twist and of course, a happy ending. Two popular creators have produced a very satisfying book.

Thanks to everyone for your support and your interest. Pinerolo is a unique place. If you're interested in picture books it's well worth a visit. Come some time soon! I love nothing better than talking about my artwork and book collection – **and of course selling artwork! Have a look at our gallery: <http://www.pinerolo.com.au/gallery.html>**

Margaret Hamilton AM

