

Newsletter Number Twenty-nine, AUGUST 2016

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## NEWSLETTER NUMBER TWENTY-NINE

Everybody is holding their breath in the lead-up to the announcement of the CBCA Book of the Year Awards - on 19 August. This will be a very special event as the Governor General will be there and we'll be celebrating the 70th Book of the Year Awards. This is a magnificent achievement for a voluntary organisation. I hope those of you who receive this newsletter are members of the Children's Book Council. Join a state branch and support them. We need to swell the membership! [www.cbca.org.au](http://www.cbca.org.au)

The highlight of the last month at Pinerolo was Jackie French. Jackie was in the Blue Mountains for three days. She firstly attended a dinner with the Blue Mountains sub-branch of the CBCA NSW. Then she spoke to hundreds of excited children at Blackheath Public School. She then spent a night and a day at the Norman Lindsay Gallery where she ran a writing workshop. Saturday, her talk at the Blackheath History Forum was a triumph. Sunday was more relaxed, with OPEN DAY @ PINEROLO.

Although she worked very hard during her time here, Jackie was always so patient and responsive to people who wanted to talk to her. People loved talking to her about her books, from very young readers who love her picture books, to older children who love her novels, to adults who are fascinated by her insight into history. Watch out for her new book THE DIARY OF WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE, GENTLEMAN.

Thank you Jackie. It was brilliant having you here!



## PICTURE BOOKS @ PINEROLO

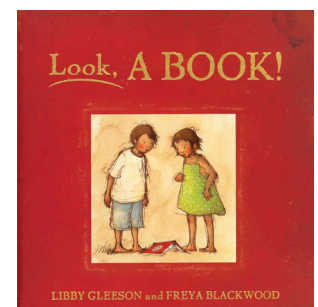
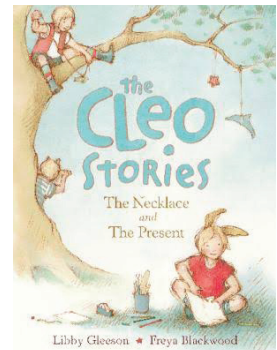
Our one-day courses on creating children's picture books are now in their tenth year. With many satisfied participants, several of whom are now published authors, these courses are an invaluable introduction to the long and detailed, magical journey of a picture book - from idea to finished book and beyond. The next one:

**SATURDAY 10 SEPTEMBER with FREYA BLACKWOOD**

Freya has broken all records for winning CBCA awards. What she has to say about creating picture books will be fascinating and enlightening. Not to be missed!

Booking and prepayment essential:

<http://www.pinerolo.com.au/PDF/Freya.pdf>



Full house at Blackheath Public School



Hamming it up together!



Sharing wombat stories with readers.

## GROUP VISITS

### 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 to come to Pinerolo for a group visit.**

\$10 per child. \$20 per adult

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

## NEW PICTURE BOOKS

Did you know that sales of children's books have increased over the past five years from 25% to more than 32% of total book sales? This is very good news. I wonder though, if children's books account for 32% of sales, why they don't account for 32% of review space in the media? I try to do my bit! Here are some new books:

**BLUE THE BUILDER'S DOG** by Jen Storer & Andrew Joyner (Penguin). Blue is an exuberant dog who longs to be part of the team. He finally finds his place. Appealing illustrations by an award winner. Recommended.

**BROBOT** by James Foley (Fremantle Press). Shortlisted by the CBCA for **MY DEAD BUNNY**, this creator has produced this hilarious graphic novel for younger readers. Good fun as a girl sets out to create a better brother! Recommended.

**THE CAT WANTS CUSTARD** by P Crumble & Lucinda Gifford (Scholastic). A very demanding cat craves custard and goes to great lengths, and extraordinary antics, to get it. Will he succeed? Recommended.

**A CHILD OF BOOKS** by Oliver Jeffers & Sam Winton (Walker). It's not Australian but I couldn't resist recommending this gorgeous book. It celebrates the value of a life with books. From the endpapers listing classics to the typographical illustrations and simple, evocative text, it's a masterpiece. Highly recommended.

**DON'T CALL ME BEAR!** by Aaron Blabey (Scholastic). This award-winning illustrator depicts, with humour and insight, a koala who is very angry about being called a bear. Recommended.

**FABISH** by Neridah McMullin & Andrew McLean (A & U). This brave horse saved a group of young horses during the Black Saturday bushfires. An inspiring story, beautifully illustrated by an award winner. Recommended.

**GRANDPA IS GREAT** by Laine Mitchell & Alison Edgson (Scholastic). Baby animals applaud their grandpas and the great things they do. Perfect for grandparents to share with small children. Recommended.

**GRANDPA'S BIG ADVENTURE** by Paul Newman & Tom Jellett (Penguin). Lovable grandpas tell tall stories. This grandpa teaching his grandson how to swim is no exception. Action-packed illustrations. Recommended.

**LITTLE KOALA LOST** by Blaze Kwaymullina & Jess Racklyeft (Omnibus). Dedicated to all Australia's koalas, with the wish that they will always have a home, this lovely book celebrates finding your own place to belong in the world. Recommended.

**LITTLE WING** by Katherine Battersby (UQP). A delightful book celebrating the wonders of reading and the joy of finding yourself, by the creator of Squish Rabbit. Colourful multi-media illustrations. Recommended.

**MECHANICA** by Lance Balchin (Five Mile Press). An extraordinary, spectacular book, a dystopian tale set in the future. Species have been lost and the environment has collapsed. Magnificently illustrated. Highly recommended.

**MY BROTHER** by D, O & T Huxley (Working Title). A deeply moving tribute to a lost, and sorely missed brother and an ethereal journey to find him. The illustrations are exquisite, graphite and watercolour. Highly recommended.

**NOISY NIGHTS** by Fleur McDonald & Annie White (New Frontier). A farmer is hugely frustrated by how noisy his farm animals are. He never gets a good night's sleep. A surprise development sees him sleeping soundly at the end. Recommended.

**OH, ALBERT!** by Davina Bell & Sara Acton. (Penguin). Some dogs eat everything, but not all they eat is good for them. Albert lands in trouble but the family is forgiving. Expressive, appealing illustrations. Recommended.

**ONE PHOTO** by Ross Watkins & Liz Anelli (Penguin). A poignant, lovingly told family story about the importance of memories. Sensitively written and illustrated. Recommended.

**ROW, ROW, ROW YOUR BOAT** by Matt Shanks (Scholastic). An Australian version of this favourite nursery rhyme, suitably including many Australian animals and locations. Clear, simple text and pictures for young readers.

**SNAIL AND TURTLE RAINY DAYS** by Stephen Michael King (Scholastic). I'm a huge fan of Stephen Michael King. This book is another delight – a warm story about enduring friendship, gorgeously illustrated. Highly recommended.

**SPARK** by Andrew Plant (Ford St). Bushfire told from the fire's point of view. A highly original and fascinating insight into the relationship between a spark and the wind. Evocative illustrations. Recommended.

**WELCOME TO COUNTRY** by Aunty Joy Murphy & Lisa Kennedy. (Black Dog). Gorgeous, brightly coloured acrylic illustrations bring to life this traditional greeting and welcome to traditional land of the Wurundjeri People. A beautiful tribute to elders. Highly recommended.

**WHERE'S DAD HIDING?** by Ed Allen & Anil Tortop (Scholastic). A playful book that will be fun for young children – the search, through every page, for a missing dad. Recommended, especially for Fathers' Day!

Thank you for your support and your feedback on the newsletter. Today I'm celebrating seeing 'Hippo, the Musical' based on the book by Hazel Edwards and Deborah Niland I published over 30 years ago. Here I am with my Hippo phone cover and cushion. Love it!  
Margaret Hamilton AM

