

Newsletter Number Thirty-four, AUGUST 2017

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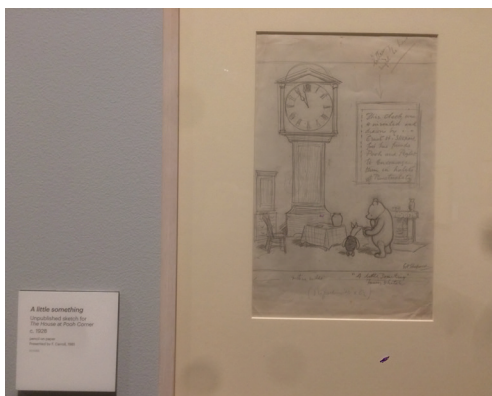
NEWSLETTER NUMBER THIRTY-FOUR

Our last course with Libby Gleeson was so successful we've invited her back. She's so wonderful and generous at sharing her knowledge and experiences in creating picture books. Please book in as early as possible because space is limited and we fill up fast!

August is the biggest month in children's books in Australia. If you're not celebrating, you should be! Bookshops, libraries and schools everywhere should be displaying the gorgeous CBCA products. The slogan is ESCAPE TO EVERYWHERE and artwork on Book Week products has been done by Freya Blackwood. If you haven't got any buy them here: <http://store.cbca.org.au>

We're really excited about our partnership with WestWords. I hope you've seen our flyer about WESTWORDS ILLUSTRATORS IN RESIDENCE AT PINEROLO. This is a fabulous opportunity for illustrators to spend a week in residence at Pinerolo working on a project, with daily professional consultations and mentorship. It's always good to watch illustrators at work and to guide their journey to publication. Applications closed on 31 July, so the two lucky illustrators who will fill the two available weeks this year will be notified soon. Watch this space for next year's opportunities!

We recently had a flying trip to Hobart. Not only did we spend a whole day at MONA, which was mind-blowing but we saw a lovely exhibition of original artwork by E H Shepard for 'Winnie the Pooh' and 'Wind in the Willows'. It was a small collection but well worth seeing these iconic illustrations. It's on until the end of August at the Tasmanian Museum and Art Gallery. Here's one of them. Isn't it gorgeous?

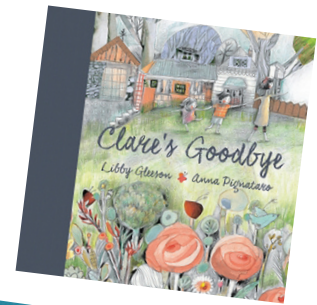


'A little something'. Unpublished sketch for 'The House at Pooh Corner' c.1928.

PICTURE BOOKS @ PINEROLO

SATURDAY 26 August • LIBBY GLEESON

Multi-award-winner Libby Gleeson is one of Australia's most successful authors. She will return to Pinerolo for another day of expert guidance and mentorship. This can involve your existing project or a new idea for a picture book. Invaluable opportunity for aspiring authors or those working on a project who need input and guidance. Libby will join Margaret Hamilton, children's publisher for many years to discuss the magical journey of making a picture book. All ages and levels of experience are welcome.



**A valuable opportunity to learn
and to be inspired!**

Booking and prepayment essential:

www.pinerolo.com.au/PDF/Gleeson.pdf

contact: hamiltonbooks@iprimus.com.au

GROUP & SCHOOL VISITS TO PINEROLO

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.

**Groups of children and adults are welcome.
Don't delay. Plan a visit soon.**

\$10 per child. \$20 per adult

Bookings: 02 47878492 or hamiltonbooks@iprimus.com.au

NEW PICTURE BOOKS

In the last newsletter I mentioned the joy of reading to children, the tactile pleasure of sharing a picture book. Those lucky people with new grandchildren (like Glenda Millard - congratulations!) should begin reading as soon as possible. Whilst you shouldn't overlook the wealth of wonderful Australian picture books already out there, there are some new ones here to consider.

With Father's Day coming up in September, there's a selection of new, cute and loveable books.

Worth a mention first though, is that Magabala Books in Broome are celebrating their 30th birthday. Congratulations to them, bringing the work of Indigenous authors and illustrators to us all. I've listed their three latest picture books first:

AT THE ZOO I SEE by Joshua Button & Robyn Wells. (Magabala). This is the third book in this series highlighting the work of young Indigenous Australian artists. A board book for the very young, it describes animals one might see at the zoo - with imaginative adjectives and simple, uncluttered pictures.

MRS WHITE AND THE RED DESERT by Josie Boyle & Maggie Prewett (Magabala). Life in the desert can be challenging. Even keeping homework clean is a problem. When the teacher visits the children she understands why. A realistic story of life in the outback, with magnificent endpapers and illustrations reflecting the spectacular colours, especially the characteristic reds.

ON THE WAY TO NANA'S by F & L Hahi-Ali, illus by D Hardy (Magabala). This entertaining story of a thousand kilometre journey across the top of Australia is told as a counting-backwards story - a great game to play on a long trip. The illustrations reflect the landscape and colours of the rugged Australian scenery.

A IS FOR AUSTRALIAN ANIMALS by Frané Lessac (Walker). Described as a 'factastic tour' this is a fascinating alphabet of Australia's amazing animals. It includes lots of short grabs of information and is illustrated in bright Australian colours with a really useful page of distribution maps.

THE CHALK RAINBOW by Deborah Kelly & Gwynneth Jones (EK). Being different is sometimes hard, but Zane and his sister deal with his issues in imaginative ways and the whole family joins in. A heartwarming story with bright and friendly illustrations.

DRAWN ONWARD by Meg McKinlay & Andrew Frazer (Fremantle Press). Quite a powerful, thoughtful message of having self-belief through a different perspective is conveyed by this graphically clever book for older readers. The story is told in dramatic hand lettering.

ENOUGH APPLES by Kim Kane & Lucia Masciullo (Little Hare). How one man deals with the urban sprawl so he can grow apples for perfect apple pies, is inspiring. Gentle illustrations follow the text - and there's even a recipe for the perfect apple pie!

ERIC THE POSTIE by Matt Shanks (Scholastic). Eric the Echidna dreams of being a postman. How he achieves this is an innovative and heartwarming account of following dreams and overcoming challenges. Humorous illustrations complete this appealing book.

FEATHERS by Phil Cummings & Phil Lesnie (Scholastic). A sandpiper flies around the world. As it drops the occasional feather, children delight in their find and it gives them a moment of joy. A beautifully illustrated tale of human resilience and ultimately hope.

FUNNIEST DAD IN THE WORLD by Ed Allen & Louis Shea (Scholastic). Dad jokes, juggling, burping. All the funny things dads do, are in this fun book. Hilarious illustrations extend the fun, and there's a cut-out, stand-up trophy to make for Dad as a bonus.

GUFF by Aaron Blabey (Penguin/Viking). This award-winning bestselling author never disappoints. This latest, about a fabric friend loved almost too much is very funny, but as always, original and entertaining.

I WANT TO BE IN A BOOK by Narelle Oliver (Omnibus). Doesn't everybody? Sadly, Narelle Oliver's last book. Cecil the crocodile finally gets his wish. Very amusing insight into the development of a character in a picture book. The graphic illustrations, mixture of sketches and collage are brilliant.

KOALA by Claire Saxby & Julie Vivas (Walker). A simple introduction to Australia's much-loved koala - by award-winning writer and the legendary illustrator. The uncomplicated text is complemented by very appealing watercolour illustrations.

PEA POD LULLABY by Glenda Millard & Stephen Michael King (A & U). This is a sublimely beautiful book for all ages. The text is a loving poem for us all - families, refugees, endangered animals, the planet. The illustrations are superb and complete this message of love, caring and hope for us all.

THE PERFECT THING by Sally Morgan & Ambelin Kwaymullina (Omnibus). Imagination runs wild in this delightful and entertaining book about a girl and her imaginative grandfather. The very colourful illustrations are so striking and appealing, from this bestselling Indigenous creative team.

PONK! by Edwina Wyatt & Christopher Nielsen (Little Hare). Aiming for the top, for the exciting view, and staying there is the theme of this amusing story - advice for life, really. Simple text and illustrations will appeal to young readers, especially those with aspirations!

THE RABBIT-HOLE GOLF COURSE by Ella Mulvey & Karen Briggs (A & U). Life in Australia is unique and this story, with a background of red earth, reflects with humour life in an Aboriginal community. Rich and vibrant illustrations of lively children will appeal to young readers.

REENA'S RAINBOW by Dee White & Tracie Grimwood (EK). 'We are like the colours of the rainbow . . . all different. But when we stand together we are one'. So says Reena's mother when Reena feels she doesn't belong. She finds a constant and faithful friend and together they become part of the rainbow. A heartwarming story illustrated with a rainbow palette.

This newsletter is usually two pages but this time it goes over to page three.

Don't miss the last page:

RUBEN by Bruce Whatley (Scholastic). Somewhere between graphic novel and picture book, this is magnificent. The story is touching, heartfelt and thought provoking. The graphite illustrations are a masterpiece, a magnificent achievement for this popular and well-loved creator.

SARAH AND THE STEEP SLOPE by Danny Parker & Matt Ottley (Little Hare). Dealing with uphill battles can be difficult. But Sarah experiences the healing power of friendship. An award-winning writer and illustrator combine in this thought-provoking book.

THE SLOTH WHO CAME TO STAY by Margaret Wild & Vivienne To (A & U). Always a delight to see a new book from this respected author, this time teamed with a new illustrator who gives this story a refreshing interpretation. It's all about slowing down and savouring the little things in life - smell the roses! A moral for us all.

THE SORRY TALE OF FOX & BEAR by Margrete Lamond & Heather Vallance (Dirt Lane Press). This new publisher's first book is a quality production. The story is written in the form of a heartfelt letter to a friend. The beautiful charcoal illustrations are involving and expressive.

STITCHES AND STUFFING by Carrie Gallasch & Sara Acton (Little Hare). A little girl and her beloved toy have been together forever. One day the unthinkable happens, but Nanna has a solution. Written and illustrated with lots of love and gentle colours.

STUBBORN STANLEY by Nathaniel Eckstrom (Scholastic). Stanley enjoys inventing things – all by himself. It's not until he finds a surprising way to have more fun that his stubbornness is relaxed. Colourful and fun.

A THOUSAND HUGS FROM DADDY by Anna Pignataro (Scholastic). This gorgeous book features two polar bears sharing lots of hugs and cuddles. Perfect, especially for new fathers to share with their babies at bedtime – giving hugs with every page of course.

THE 12 DAYS OF CHRISTMAS by Pilgrim Lee (Little Hare). Most of us know the song, but this board book is for young readers, even invited to count it forwards or sing it backwards. Colourful, very festive illustrations.

THE VERY SLEEPY BEAR by Nick Bland (Scholastic). All Bear wants to do is go to sleep for the winter, but Fox has other plans. This is the sixth book in this successful series. The rhyming text is perfect for reading aloud and the illustrations complement it perfectly.

FINALLY

Continuing what I said at the beginning about sharing a picture book with child. There are picture books out there to suit every child. Check your local bookshop or library regularly. Take a child with you. They'll love it.

Happy reading!

Best wishes and thank you for your support,

Margaret Hamilton AM

LATE NEWS

THE IAN WILSON MEMORIAL FELLOWSHIP
offered by the May Gibbs Children's Literature Trust.

This will give an emerging author or illustrator creative time away from home in the Trust's Adelaide studio for 21 nights in March 2018. This aims to be a gift of time and support, enabling you to concentrate intensively on the development of new work, as well as offering networking opportunities and professional development.

Applications open Tuesday 1st August 2017
Visit maygibbs.org.au and find more information via: Creative Time Fellowships, The Ian Wilson Memorial Fellowship.

If you have any questions, please contact Polly Hamer, Fellowships Coordinator, for details of what to do next:
contact@maygibbs.org.au
Deadline for applications:
midnight, Saturday 30 September 2017.

Now go back to page one and consider coming to Picture Books @ Pinerolo on 26 August. If you've always hankered to create a picture book but have been too afraid to ask, this is your opportunity. Libby Gleeson is brilliant!

Also, if you're a teacher or librarian, consider bringing a group of children here (details page one). My talk on how a picture book is made can be tailored to any age. I love seeing their faces as I reveal the magical journey of making a picture book.