

Newsletter Number Forty-two, DECEMBER 2018

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CHRISTMAS NEWSLETTER!

With the rush towards Christmas and the end of the year (already!) I've decided to do one last newsletter. 2018 has been extremely busy and has moved from beginning to end with extraordinary pace.

'AND NOW THEY'RE LAUGHING!'

Working as Co-convenor of the CBCA 13th National Conference has been one of the projects that has filled this year. I was Convenor of the 1st National Conference 'At Least They're Reading' in 1992. These national conferences have gone on to be firmly established in the CBCA calendar. 'And Now They're Laughing!' will highlight the significant contribution of humour writers to Australian children's literature, and so much more. The program is now complete and Early Bird Bookings are open. So go to: cbca.org.au to register. You won't regret it, as it's going to be incredible. Dare I suggest that this would make a terrific Christmas gift idea?

ILLUSTRATOR IN RESIDENCE

You wouldn't credit it but the last Illustrator in Residence for the year was Max Hamilton! She's no relation and, as it was very confusing for me (for the few who don't know, my husband is Max Hamilton), I called her Maxine. Maxine's week at Pinerolo was very full and exciting. The most exciting news was that she already has a contract for a picture book, so our week together was spent working on the development of that. We also had a visit from Michelle Rickerby from WestWords and we went out to visit Lisa Stewart, who inspired Maxine with her enthusiasm and friendly advice. It's been an absolute pleasure to welcome Illustrators in Residence here and I am very grateful to WestWords for sponsoring this valuable opportunity for illustrators.

MORE EXCITING NEWS

You may recall from my last newsletter that Martina Heiduczek won the New England Writers Centre Illustration prize and enjoyed a creative weekend here at Pinerolo as first prize. It's very satisfying that, as a direct result of her spending time here, Martina has just signed a publishing contract to illustrate a picture book written by Glenda Millard. Congratulations Martina. I so look forward to seeing this book!



SO LOOKING FORWARD TO THIS!

If you haven't booked for this and you've received this newsletter in time, book now!

**CBCA BM SUB-BRANCH
PRE-CHRISTMAS DINNER**

6 DECEMBER, 6pm — ANNA FIENBERG

The Farm, 75 Mort St, Katoomba

CBCA Members \$65.00, non-members \$70 BYO no corkage fee

RSVP by 30 November to:

Stephen Morris: stephen.morris36@det.nsw.edu.au

or Sheryl Cootes: sheryl.cootes@det.nsw.edu.au

Payment by bank deposit:

CBCA (NSW Branch) Inc - Blue Mountains Sub-branch

BSB: 032828 Account: 291983



Maxine Hamilton visits Lisa Stewart



Michelle Rickerby from WestWords visiting Pinerolo.

**Need a break or a writer's retreat in the Blue Mountains?
Don't forget: www.pinerolo.com.au/PDF/Accommodation.pdf**

31 May — 2 June 2019 QT, Canberra
cbca.org.au



AND NOW THEY'RE
LAUGHING!

The Children's Book Council of Australia
13TH NATIONAL CONFERENCE

MORE BOOKS FOR CHRISTMAS

This is one of the reasons I decided to rush out a pre-Christmas newsletter. The last newsletter featured many fabulous new books for Christmas but they continue to arrive, so there are more here. I just couldn't resist sharing many of them with you.

THE ADVENTURES OF CATVINKLE by Eliot Perlman. Illus by Laura Stitzel (Puffin). Not a picture book but a very beautiful hardback keepsake. It's Perlman's first book for children and will be perfect to read aloud or for a quiet reading interlude during all the festivities.

ANOTHER BOOK ABOUT BEARS by Laura & Philip Bunting (Scholastic). There can never be too many books about bears. This book proves that no other animal can replace bears, but maybe they could have a well earned rest?

THE AUSSIE ABC CHRISTMAS by Nancy Bevington (New Frontier). Celebrate Christmas morning with this special alphabet. It features many cute and appropriate Australian icons and ends at Z with an exhausted mum asleep!

RAINBOW BEAR by Stephen Michael King (Scholastic). Great big bear hugs for this delightful book from one of our greatest illustrators. It will be perfect to share on Christmas morning, or any morning.

SANTA'S HIGH-TECH CHRISTMAS by Mike Dumbleton & Angela Perrini (New Frontier). Young readers will not be surprised to read that Santa has gone all modern and is now using devices to help him deliver all the presents. Appealing rhyming text and likeable characters.

THE TALES OF MR WALKER, a hospital dog with a nose for adventure by Jess Black & Sara Acton. (Puffin). Another beautiful hardback, this time four stories illustrated in colour by a former Pinerolo Illustrator in Residence. This is inspired by a real Guide dog in Melbourne.

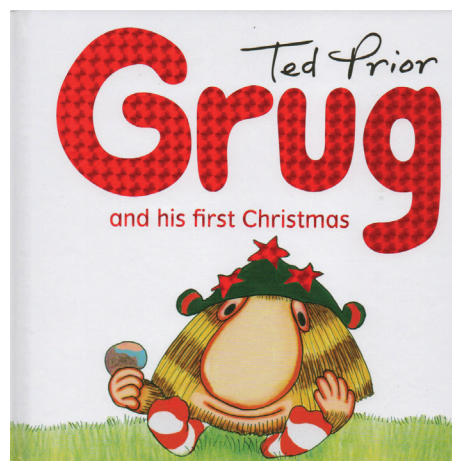
WE ARE ALL EQUAL by P Crumble & Jonathan Bentley (Omnibus). All the animals, whatever their size or shape, celebrate their equality and the joy in their diversity. A fun way of dealing with this serious topic that involves us all.

FINALLY

As this is my last newsletter this year (promise!) it's time for me to wish you and yours a wonderful festive season and a healthy and happy new year. Thank you for your support and feedback this year. I look forward to a great year of children's books next year and to seeing you at the CBCA Conference. Please share this newsletter. Enjoy!

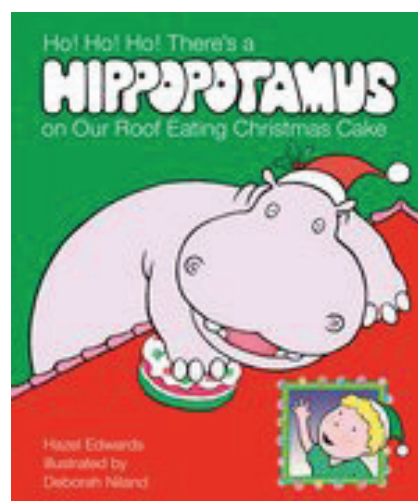
Margaret Hamilton AM

EXTRA SPECIAL MENTION



GRUG AND HIS FIRST CHRISTMAS by Ted Prior (Simon & Schuster). This is the first Grug hardback and what a lovely book to find on Christmas morning. If this book is an introduction to this much-loved character it's a wonderful introduction to the series. For those who already have some or all of the 34 titles in the series, this is a great addition.

Grug is not only celebrating Christmas with this gorgeous hardback book, but next year he'll be celebrating his 40th birthday! His publisher is planning some wonderful celebrations and I'm really looking forward to joining in. For those few people who may not know, I originally published Grug and can't believe it was forty years ago! It's very satisfying that he's now an Australian favourite, especially with a whole new generation. I have three pieces of original artwork from Grug books here at Pinerolo. Come and see them!



I couldn't resist repeating this special mention! **HO! HO! HO! THERE'S A HIPPOPOTAMUS ON OUR ROOF EATING CHRISTMAS CAKE** by Hazel Edwards & Deborah Niland (Puffin). I'm very proud to have published the very first hippo book and it's still in print over thirty years later, being enjoyed by a whole new generation. Now there's a new title, especially for Christmas, even with glitter on the cover. Any fans of Hippo will love this new book and will want to share it at Christmas.