

Newsletter Number Fifty-seven, DECEMBER 2021
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DECEMBER NEWSLETTER

What a packed year it's been! Even with the challenge of Covid there was so much happening and so much to do. In this newsletter I'm sharing much of what I've been involved with recently. Read on!

NEW ENGLAND ILLUSTRATION PRIZE

I was invited by the New England Writers Centre to join the judging panel for the 2021 Illustration Prize, an innovative competition now in its sixth year. It attracted a strong field of entries from all over Australia. The theme for this year was 'A message in a bottle', so there were many very imaginative interpretations. First prize winner was Shelley Knoll-Miller, with second Louis Decrevel and third Triandhika Anjani. Shelley Knoll-Miller is currently working on a series of four picture books, to be published by Penguin Random House in 2023. Watch out for her books!

WESTWORDS/PINEROLO ILLUSTRATORS IN RESIDENCE

As I reported, there were twelve applications. Nisaluk Chantanakom from Haberfield and Melanie deBoehmier from Bathurst were here in November. Both showed lots of talent in illustration and their weeks were spent on learning the detailed process of producing a picture book.



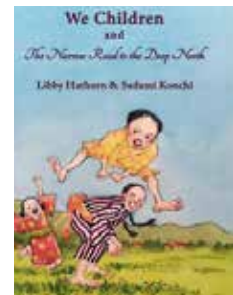
Tohby Riddle with Melanie deBoehmier...



And the next week visiting Nisaluk Chantanakom

Libby Hathorn in the Blue Mountains

I can finally report that Libby Hathorn came to the CBCA Blue Mountains pre-Christmas dinner and it was brilliant, at our favourite place, The Farm at Katoomba.



Here's Max and me with Liz Bowring (CBCA NSW), Sadami Konchi and Libby Hathorn. Their new book *We Children and the Narrow Road to the Deep North* will be available soon.

IN THE PICTURE: CHILDREN'S BOOK ILLUSTRATORS - Norman Lindsay Gallery

I strongly recommend the illustrator exhibition at this fabulous gallery. This enchanting exhibition features artwork from 10 contemporary children's book illustrators, on display alongside classic illustrations by Norman Lindsay, Pixie O'Harris, Ruby Lindsay and Percy Lindsay. Featured artists include: Anna Pignataro, Liz Anelli, Tania McCartney, Dub Leffler, Jules Faber, Aura Parker, Kirrilli Lonergan, Tohby Riddle, Donna Rawlins and Penelope Prately. Norman Lindsay Gallery is open Thursday – Monday, 10am – 4pm. This exhibition is on until 30 January 2022.



It was a stellar lineup at the launch of the exhibition. This photo includes Tania McCartney, Susanne Gervay, Jules Faber, Liz Anelli, Anna Pignataro, Margaret Wild, Donna Rawlins and Nisaluk Chantanakom.

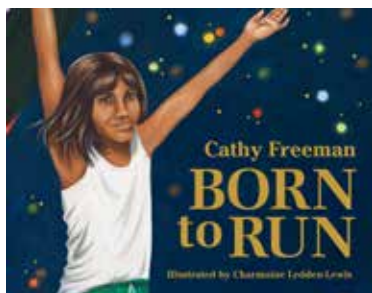
Need a break or a peaceful retreat in the Blue Mountains? Pinerolo is on Airbnb. Book on Airbnb.

FREYA BLACKWOOD'S NEW BOOK



We went to Orange for the launch of Freya's brilliant new picture book *The Boy and the Elephant*. It's wordless but the story it tells in the exquisite pictures is touching and engrossing. It's worth losing yourself in these pages several times over. I strongly recommend it.

FEATURE PICTURE BOOKS

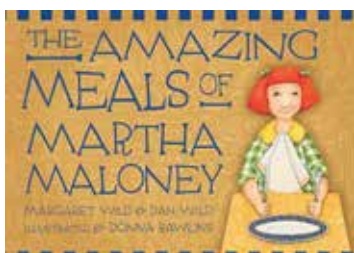


BORN TO RUN by Cathy Freeman. Illustrated by Charmaine Ledden-Lewis (Puffin).

I defy anybody who reads this story to remain aloof. It is inspiring, involving and very moving. It tells the story of a little girl who had a dream. That dream was achieved when she was twenty-seven years old and she became a national hero and an inspiration to people around the world.

It's beautifully illustrated by a local Blackheath illustrator. Charmaine won the Kestin Indigenous Illustrator Award which culminated in her first picture book: *Found*, written by Bruce Pasco and published by Magabala Books. It's wonderful to see her second book and she's already delivered work for her third.

THE AMAZING MEALS OF MARTHA MALONEY by Dan & Margaret Wild. Illustrated by Donna Rawlins (Walker Books).



The publisher's blurb says: 'A tasty treat of a book where a precocious and imaginative child dines with important historical figures.' - and indeed it is!

It's a highly original and engrossing story of a girl who escapes her teacher on a school excursion and enjoys a meal with some of the greatest people in history. I found it fascinating to go through the book and read the menu for each meal and the endnotes about each historical character.

The acrylic illustrations are magnificent. They are very colourful and detailed and perfectly depict each historical scene. Highly recommended.

I saw some originals of Donna's extraordinary artwork at the Norman Lindsay gallery. It's well worth going to see it (see page 1).

NEW PICTURE BOOKS

I repeat what I said before, that in these trying times there's nothing better to do than read good books — and give them as Christmas gifts. Not many new picture books were received in time for this newsletter. They are all out there, already in the bookshops. Here are my recommendations, beautiful picture books.

THE CAMPING TRIP by Jane Martino. Illus by Annie White (Puffin). This fifth book in the Smiling Mind series, takes young readers on a camping trip with Henry, who learns new things in new ways. Gentle illustrations follow the story.

CHRISTMAS ALWAYS COMES by Jackie French. Illus by Bruce Whatley (A & R). Best known for their now classic *DIARY OF A WOMBAT*, these well-loved creators have produced another classic, a warm and heartfelt story about Christmas in outback Australia long ago. Whatley's illustrations never disappoint.

COOKIE by Isabelle Dubb. Illus by Susannah Crispe. (EK). A warm and tender story about the love between a girl and her dog, written from the dog's perspective. They are inseparable and the engaging illustrations depict their loving life.

CRICKET I JUST LOVE IT! by Alister Nicholson. Illus by Tom Jellett (A & U). There are so many avid Australian cricket fans but this book will inspire even more young readers to take up the game. It's a simple and very enjoyable introduction to the game, with lively, action-packed illustrations.

LOVING THE PLANET by Jaclyn Crupi. Illus by Cheryl Orsini. (ABC books). From planting trees to keeping a worm farm and growing a garden, this is a comprehensive guide to adopting a lifestyle that will protect our precious planet. A special guide for young readers with colourful and involving illustrations.

TOY MOUNTAIN by Stef Gemmill. Illus by Katharine Hall (EK). From the very colourful and inviting cover to the striking pages, this book tells about a small boy who gets a dream job, that of a toy tester.

FINALLY

I hope you've enjoyed this newsletter. Feel free to pass it on to others, especially for anyone looking for last minute Christmas gifts. Thanks to publishers who send review copies of their lovely books.

I've added a third page to this newsletter. It's a donation form for the CBCA Awards Foundation, which I'm very involved with. It's a special invitation to donate in December for a chance to win a fabulous poster of the winner of the Younger Readers Category of the CBCA Book of the Year Awards. This was donated by the publisher, Riveted Press, to help raise funds for the Awards Foundation.

Feedback, as ever, is welcome! Best wishes to all for a happy festive season. Stay safe. Thank you for your interest and support.

Regards Margaret Hamilton AM

STOP PRESS! Leigh Hobbs is coming to the Blue Mountains next March. Watch this space for news!

DONATE TO WIN THIS UNIQUE PRIZE!

The annual CBCA Book of the Year Awards affirm the capability of some of Australia's most creative people and provide a boost to their capacity to devote time to their craft, contributing to the very successful Australian children's book industry.

The CBCA Awards Foundation was established in 1996 and now funds prizes for the six categories of the CBCA Book of the Year Awards.



Benefactors

Scholastic Australia, Allen & Unwin, Laurie Copping OAM (in memoriam), Maurice Saxby, AM, Thyne Reid Trust No. 1.

Major Donors

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Major Donors in Memoriam

Jean Chapman, Max Fatchen, Beryl Moncrieff Matthews, Jill Midolo, Narelle Oliver, Jan Ormerod, Eve Pownall, Marion E Robertson Gregory Rogers, Cassandra Weddell, Maisie Williams, Garah, NSW



Donate in December

to go in the draw to win this unique poster, donated by Riveted Press and signed by Kate Gordon, winner of the 2021 Younger Readers Category of the CBCA Book of the Year awards. The poster tells the complete story of the book. A true collector's item.

Donations \$2 and over are tax deductible. Benefactors (\$20,000 and over and Major Donors (\$5000 and over) are permanently acknowledged.

DONATION FORM

Mail to: The CBCA Awards Foundation, PO Box 1163, Fyshwick ACT 2609.

Please find enclosed my donation of:

\$20, \$50, \$100, \$200, \$500

Other \$ for the CBCA Awards Foundation

Full Name (please print):

.....

Address:

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Phone:..... Mobile:

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PAYMENT DETAILS

Enclosed is my cheque for \$ (made out to the CBCA Awards Foundation)

Please charge \$ to my Mcard/Visa (please tick)

Card number:

Name of Cardholder:

Expiry date: Signature:

Direct deposit: Commonwealth Bank BSB no: 062182

Acc name: CBCA Awards Foundation. Acc No: 10024141

Ref: FOUNDATION_ YOUR SURNAME. ** (please email name, address and amount to: justine@awardsfoundation.org.au)

The Children's Book Council of Australia Awards Foundation is a tax deductible fund listed on the Register of Cultural Organisations under subdivision 30-B of the Income Tax Assessment Act 1997. Donations of \$2 or more are tax deductible.