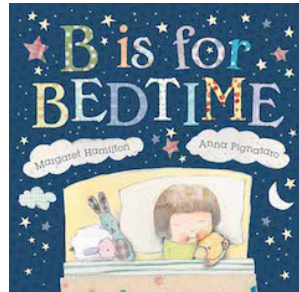


## NEWSLETTER NUMBER THIRTY-SEVEN

Exciting news! There's a new edition of my picture book *B IS FOR BEDTIME*. It's in the format of the bestselling US edition – with rounded corners and thick pages, especially for the younger market. There's also a gorgeous new book called *STORIES FOR 1 YEAR OLDS* – a collection of five picture books, also aimed at that younger audience.

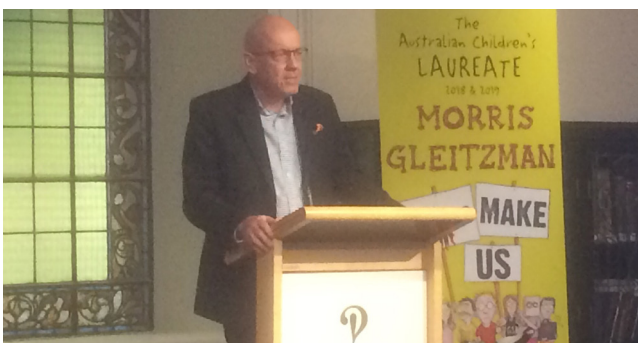


## VISIT BY ROTARY, BLACKHEATH

It was great to have a group of enthusiastic Rotarians here on 8 February. They listened attentively to my talk about children's books and especially reading to children. I welcome group visits. If you belong to a group and would like to talk about children and their books, contact Pinerolo to arrange a visit. Groups of children from schools are also most welcome. I love nothing better than talking about children's books.

## MORRIS GLEITZMAN, Australian Children's Laureate 2018-2019.

Morris accepted this appointment at the NSW State Library on 15 February. His motto during the two years is *STORIES MAKE US*. We are very fortunate to be able to attend his first public appearance at the Carrington Hotel, Katoomba on 10 March. For bookings go to: <http://www.westwords.com.au/projects/announcing-the-new-australian-childrens-laureate-for-201819/>



## • PICTURE BOOKS @ PINEROLO •



### Creating children's picture books

Freya Blackwood, multi award-winning picture book illustrator and Margaret Hamilton, award-winning publisher, proprietor of Pinerolo.

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These incredible one-day courses are now in their twelfth year.

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[www.pinerolo.com.au/PDF/Blackwood.pdf](http://www.pinerolo.com.au/PDF/Blackwood.pdf)

## VALE LILITH NORMAN 1927 – 2017

Lilith Norman was an award-winning Australian author. She worked as a bookshop assistant and librarian and joined the editorial staff of the NSW School Magazine in 1975. She turned to writing full-time in 1978 and has since won many awards. *Climb a Lonely Hill* was commended for the CBCA Book of the Year in 1971 and *A Dream of Seas* was an IBBY Honour Book for 1990. Her first picture book was *The Paddock*, illustrated by Robert Roennfeldt (1992), then her picture book *Grandpa*, illustrated by Noela Young, was the 1999 Honour Book for the CBCA awards. I had the honour and was proud to publish *Grandpa*. Below is beautiful original artwork by Noela Young, a copy of the book and one of the nail figures featured in the book. This was Lilith's and it has come home to me since she died.



## NEW PICTURE BOOKS

I love receiving new picture books. Thanks to publishers who send me review copies. Here are some special recommended books, some not even picture books.

**ALFRED'S WAR** by Rachel Bin Salleh & Samantha Fry (Magabala). A very moving and timely book highlighting the contribution of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander soldiers who fought in the First World War. Atmospheric and affecting illustrations.

**ARMISTICE** by Ruth Starke & David Kennett (Working Title). Chilling, moving, historically important, this book conveys translated first-hand accounts of the day the Great War ended and the world changed forever. Full colour illustrations convey the emotion in the words.

**THE ART GARDEN** by Penny Harrison & Penelope Pratley (EK Books). There are many ways to be an artist. Sadie discovers her own way in this heartwarming story. Simple illustrations to inspire young artists.

**ASH DRESSES HER FRIENDS** by Fu Wenzheng (New Frontier). Traditional Chinese style illustrations beautifully extend and enhance this touching story of friendship and sharing with others.

**BIRD TO BIRD** by Claire Saxby & Wayne Harris (Black Dog). This stunningly illustrated and designed book conveys the passage of time and a vast journey. The text is simple and evocative and the illustrations brilliant.

**A BOAT OF STARS**, Margaret Connolly & Natalie Jane Prior (ABC books). It's not strictly a picture book but I couldn't resist recommending it. This is a gorgeous collection of poetry from Australian writers, illustrated by several wonderful illustrators.

**DINGO** by Claire Saxby & Tannya Harricks (Walker). A combination of picture book and information book, this book takes the reader into the world of dingoes. Simple and informative text and beautiful oil paintings of the Australian landscape.

**EVERYTHING YOU** by Elizabeth McPike & Jay Fleck (UQP). Written like a love poem to a new baby, this loving text is simple and tender.

**GO GO AND THE SILVER SHOES** by Jane Godwin & Anna Walker (Penguin). Go Go wears only hand-me-downs, until she is able to buy a new pair of sparkling silver shoes. She wears them everywhere, until there's a crisis. Gorgeous illustrations by a CBCA award winner.

**THE HOLE STORY** by Kelly Canby (Fremantle Press). Charlie discovers that finding a hole and putting it in your pocket is not a good idea. He sets out to give it to somebody, with a satisfying result. A playful story that will amuse young readers, with funny illustrations.

**I REMEMBER** by Joanne Crawford & Kerry Anne Jordinson (Magabala). Evocative memories of a childhood camping in the WA landscape. The spectacular colours of the landscape are beautifully portrayed.

**IN THE CITY I SEE** by Tori-Jay Mordey (Magabala). This third in the series of board books by young Indigenous artists is simple, very colourful and highlights sights in the city.

**MACCA THE ALPACA** by Matt Cosgrove (Koala). Brave little Macca teaches a bully a lesson. From the inviting cover of a smiling alpaca to the patterned endpapers, a fun book for anyone who feels insecure.

**ME TOO** by Erika Geraerts & Charl Laubscher. Illus by Gatsby (Walker). Sometimes what you wish for when you grow up was right there with you all the time. Simple line drawings with splashes of colour and large, simple text presented in a sturdy, jacketed hardcover book.

**MR MO STARTS TO GROW** by Laura Stitzel (Lothian). Although also published in hardback, I received a big, generous paperback. The only characters are a small girl and her toy monster who unexpectedly grows. An imaginative story with appealing illustrations.

**OVER IS OUT** by Sarah & Lachlan Creagh (Lothian). It's a rule in backyard cricket. If the ball goes over the fence it's out. These players have to battle all kinds of dangers to retrieve their ball. Excellent fun, with boy-friendly dinosaur illustrations.

**THE PINK HAT** by Andrew Joyner (Random House). This entertaining story of the journey of a pink hat is acknowledgement of the Women's March in 2017, attended by 5 million women. It's also a simple and innovative story that would entertain young readers.

**THE POESY RING** by Bob Graham (Walker). Bob never disappoints. Here is another superb, tender and moving picture book, this time about the enduring power of undying love. Recommended as a gift for a loved one.

**ROOM ON OUR ROCK** by Kate & Jol Temple. Illus by Terri Rose Baynton (Scholastic). There are two sides to every story and this story can be read from front to back and back again. A thoughtful picture book, proceeds of which go to the Refugee Action Support Program.

**TISSYWOO AND THE WORRY MONSTERS** by Trish Donald (Little Pink Dog). Breathing mindfully is something we should all do. When we're worried take a deep breath and let it out slowly. A good message, but a picture book with child appeal and a satisfying conclusion.

**VISITING YOU** by Rebecka Shelberg & Andrew Edmonds (EK Books). We all have loved ones we visit. This heartwarming story highlights the similarities in all of us and the power of love. Appealing colourful illustrations.

**YOGA BABIES** by Fearne Cotton & Sheena Dempsey (New Frontier). A cute activity book, with a difference. These little ones are doing yoga, surely a worthwhile exercise. Friendly and appealing illustrations that will inspire similar activities.

## FINALLY

**CBCA Notables will be announced at Dymocks, Sydney on 27 February. See the list on the website - [cbca.org.au](http://cbca.org.au) - the next day.** Don't believe anyone who tells you picture books are under threat. Australian picture books are alive and well – and getting even better. Enjoy the newsletter.

Book early for the course with Freya and share this newsletter. Enjoy!

Margaret Hamilton AM