

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

It's probably too late to wish everyone a happy new year, as the year is already flying by. It began here in Blackheath with heatwaves, hail storms and rain. High temperatures are simply against the rules in Blackheath, so I found Blackheath pool a good place to visit. Pinerolo, the cottage, is air-conditioned, so we spent some time there.

'AND NOW THEY'RE LAUGHING!'

I'm in partnership with Dyan Blacklock as co-convenor of this CBCA 13th National Conference. Delegates have begun to book in and attendance is building. The program is amazing. It not only acknowledges the contribution made by writers of humour it also highlights Indigenous writing and LGBTQI writing, as well as lots of illustrators. Not to be missed! I'd love to see you there. Here's a reminder:



BOOK NOW!
<https://consol.eventsair.com/13th-national-conference-2019/cbcarego>
AND NOW THEY'RE LAUGHING!
The Children's Book Council of Australia
13TH NATIONAL CONFERENCE
31 May – 2 June 2019. QT, 1 London Circuit, Canberra

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ORDER OF AUSTRALIA

It's always fantastic when authors and illustrators of children's books are recognised in the Honours List. This year lists Sophie Masson AM and Alison Lester AM, but most exciting is local Blue Mountains author Emily Rodda (Jennifer Rowe) who is a Companion of the Order of Australia, AC. This is wonderful. Emily will be a key speaker at the CBCA conference.

NIGHT OF THE NOTABLES

As the CBCA calendar kicks in for the year I'm looking forward to the first event which will be the NIGHT OF THE NOTABLES: The announcement of the 2019 Notable Australian children's books. This will be a free event at 5pm on 26 February at Dymocks 424 George St, Sydney. Guest speakers will be Matt Cosgrove (creator of the hugely successful Macca the Alpaca books) and Joy Lawn. Bookings at trybooking or cbcansw.

Saturday 30 March PICTURE BOOKS @ PINEROLO



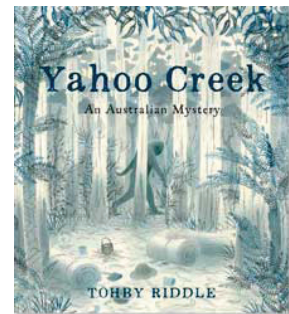
10am - 4pm

\$160 (no GST) inc. tea/coffee

BYO lunch - picnic, weather permitting

Booking & Prepayment Essential

Join award-winning author/illustrator Toby Riddle and children's book publisher Margaret Hamilton for a day of guidance and mentorship on creating picture books. This can involve your existing project or a new idea for a picture book. An invaluable opportunity for aspiring authors and illustrators or those working on a project who need input and guidance. All ages and levels of experience welcome. Toby has these two new picture books to show us, so it will be fascinating:



Eleven years of inspiration from these courses: 'some great tips and very motivating', 'thank you for an unforgettable day', 'Thank you for opening my eyes to the possibilities within picture books.'

Pinerolo, The Children's Book Cottage
116 Shipley Road, Blackheath

Book now at: www.pinerolo.com.au/PDF/Riddle.pdf

AUSTRALIA POST

Also exciting is that Australia Post has released a series of stamps honouring our Australian children's book 'Legends'. Those with their faces on stamps are: Leigh Hobbs, Alison Lester, Mem Fox, Morris Gleitzman and Shaun Tan. Legends, all of them! Leigh Hobbs and Morris Gleitzman will be at the conference as well.

AND AGAIN . . . SO YOU DON'T FORGET!



NEW PICTURE BOOKS

As we begin a new publishing year the picture books continue to come in from publishers. It's refreshing to see so many new creators and new ideas, but some old favourites as well. Recommended from the latest batch which include first day at school books:

THE ADVENTURES OF DANNY DA VINCI by Rosie Smith & Bruce Whatley (ABC). A surprising and innovative, beautifully illustrated introduction to the life and work of Leonardo da Vinci. Three adventures inspired by a love for Italy and this genius artist, with fascinating facts at the end.

THE BOX CARS by Robert Vescio & Cara King (EK). This story is about having fun with friends with simple things like old cardboard boxes. When there's just the two of you, finding space for a third friend makes more fun. Colourful and lively illustrations.

BUMBLEBUNNIES by Graeme Base (A & R). From the creator of *ANIMALIA* and many other books, comes this adventure series aimed at young readers. Simple language and unmistakable Base illustrations will appeal to beginning readers.

DER GLUMPH WENT THE LITTLE GREEN FROG by Matt Shanks (Scholastic). This very entertaining play on an old rhyme will enthrall young readers and keep them involved throughout the book with all the Australian animals. Lots of fun to join in.

DIPPY'S BIG DAY OUT by Jackie French & Bruce Whatley (A & R). Dippy is a very friendly diprotodon. All he wants is to eat and sleep but his day is chaotic. An amusing prehistoric story with recognisable, fantastic illustrations.

EMILY GREEN'S GARDEN by Penny Harrison & Megan Forward (New Frontier). This book about a lovely house in a lovely street is well, lovely. It's about the importance of a garden in a neighbourhood. Very appealing illustrations.

GRANDMA'S TREASURED SHOES by Coral Vass & Christina Huynh (NLA). A heartfelt story about Grandma coming to Australia as a refugee and saving the beloved shoes that brought her here. Sensitive illustrations and factual information support the story.

HODGE PODGE LODGE by Priscilla Lamont (New Frontier). With the subtitle 'a rubbish story', this amusing story highlights the importance of recycling and caring for the environment. Detailed pictures will keep young readers busy for ages.

LITTLE BIRD'S DAY by Sally Morgan & Johnny Warrkatja Malibirr (Magabala). Sharing Indigenous stories is so important. This striking book tells a simple story of a day in the life of a bird and the illustrations are outstanding. They won the Kestin Indigenous Illustrator award and are in striking and earthy colours. A beautiful picture book.

MALLEE SKY by Jodi Toering & Tannya Harricks (Black Dog). Our land of droughts and flooding rain is reflected dramatically in this evocative book. Simple text accompanied by oil paintings depict the Australian condition.

MAMIE by Tania McCartney (A & R). Celebrating the life and work of May Gibbs, this delightful book introduces her to young readers as a fun-loving girl with a big imagination. The lively illustrations invite page-turning enjoyment of Mamie, the animals and plants depicted.

ON THE FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL by P Crumble & Dean Rankine (Scholastic). This entertaining singalong book takes small readers through the first week of school. Rollicking, cumulative text introduces what happens at school, with chaotic illustrations and an added CD.

OZZIE GOES TO SCHOOL by Jocelyn Crabb & Danny Snell (Working Title Press). He lives in a rather unusual place but like most children, Ozzie is afraid of school, until he settles in. A very appealing story for the start of the school year.

QUEEN CELINE by Matt Shanks (Walker). Like many rulers Queen Celine builds walls but eventually finds that welcoming visitors is a far better policy. Environmentally friendly and politically relevant, but entertaining, with colourful, beachy illustrations.

A STACK OF ALPACAS by Matt Cosgrove (Scholastic). This is the third alpaca book and they're proving enormously popular and successful. This new one follows the theme of family, playing and helping out. Lots of fun.

A STORMY NIGHT by Mark Carthew & Simon Prescott (New Frontier). It's a dark and stormy night and everyone is scared. Will Marvin and Marigold make it through the night? Suitably spooky illustrations but a comforting resolution at the end.

THROUGH THE SMOKE by Phil Cummings & Andrew McLean (Scholastic). Even the adventure of three children during a bushfire can be an imaginative and moving story. Beautiful illustrations of a perilous situation pay homage to brave firefighters.

WILD BIG WORLD by Maxine Beneba Clarke & Isobel Knowles (Hachette). Everything in the world is different, unique in its own way. Striking and colourful collage illustrations and simple text highlight diversity.

THE WORLD OF RUBY RED SHOES by Kate Knapp. Two little books, *RUBY'S FEELINGS* and *RUBY'S DAY* take young readers gently into Ruby's world. Lovely small format books to share or for small hands to hold.

WRESTLE! by C Mars, M Newell, G Skattebol-James and Tom Jellett (A & U). A fun book about a family and their preparations to take part in Mardi Gras where they dress up and join the parade. Gus loves wrestling but also loves Mardi Gras. Jellett's illustrations extend the fun.

YAHOO CREEK by Tohy Riddle (A & U). This is an intriguing and fascinating exploration of the various sightings of these strange creatures through Australian history and their connection with Indigenous culture. Haunting, detailed illustrations depict glimpses of the creature and the endpapers feature many newspaper reports.

FINALLY I hope you enjoyed this newsletter and share it with others. Thank you for your support. Keep in touch.

Margaret Hamilton AM