

## SINCE THE LAST NEWSLETTER

What a challenging summer it's been. The devastating bushfires were so widespread they seemed to affect every community in the Blue Mountains and indeed all over Australia. Here on Shipley Plateau we were surrounded by huge fires, hoping they didn't join up at our place. Thankfully they didn't and our area was not directly impacted. However, it was a very tense and scary time. Many houses in Blackheath were evacuated, with a friend and her two cats spending a day and a night at our place. Also, being members of our local CFU group, we helped 'man' our local fire station so that all the fires could be out on the job. They, and indeed all fires, did a magnificent job and we are all very grateful to them. This week it's been torrential rain!

## ILLUSTRATED BEAR AUCTION



I'm happy to report that Lionel, Dub Leffler's gorgeous illustrated bear is now the mascot of the CBCA Blue Mountains sub-branch. Funds were raised at the Christmas dinner to pay a little above the reserve price. He now sits proudly at the home of the Blue Mountains president and will attend all our events.

## WESTWORDS MONTHLY EVENT

We attended the latest Kitten Club event recently. It's a monthly spoken word event, with audience encouraged to share their work. It's held in the cutely kitch Avalon Cocktail Bar in Katoomba. This was very entertaining, with several people reading work, then James Roy in conversation with Peter Fenton, who then entertained us with several songs. Next month will be Laura Greaves, followed by Linda Jaivin in April. Subscribe to the WestWords newsletter or visit their website: [westwords.com.au](http://westwords.com.au)



*Peter Valentine Fenton in conversation with James Roy.*

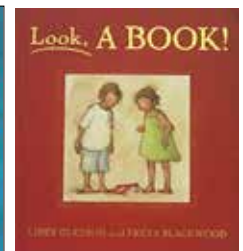
## Picture Books @ Pinerolo

Saturday 21 March 2020

## Libby Gleeson



One of our favourite presenters, an award-winning author, Libby has a wealth of experience and knowledge — and two new picture books coming up! It's not often we get the opportunity to hear the story behind the development of a new book. I urge anyone interested in picture books to attend. Authors and illustrators (published or aspiring), teachers, librarians, booksellers.



It's an invaluable opportunity for aspiring authors and illustrators or those working on a project to get input and guidance — or just anyone with a passion for picture books. All ages and levels of experience welcome. The last session is called 'Show and Tell' when participants are encouraged to bring something they've written or drawn for feedback.

Booking and prepayment essential:  
[www.pinerolo.com.au/PDF/Gleeson.pdf](http://www.pinerolo.com.au/PDF/Gleeson.pdf)

P: 47878492 / 0402428911 E: [hamiltonbooks@iprimus.com.au](mailto:hamiltonbooks@iprimus.com.au)

## CHILDREN'S BOOK COUNCIL 2020 EVENTS

Another exciting year of promoting children's books has begun.

CBCA NSW events will begin on 25 February with **NIGHT OF THE NOTABLES** at Dymocks, Sydney. Then the **CBCA SHORT LIST** will be announced on 31 March at the **AAA PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT CONFERENCE**, Rydges World Square.

The **CBCA BOOK OF THE YEAR AWARDS** will be announced on Friday 21 August, with **2020 BOOK WEEK 22 — 29 August**.

I recommend you attend any of these events and get involved in the CBCA. More details and booking information can be found on the website:

[www.cbcanw.org.au](http://www.cbcanw.org.au)

## NEW PICTURE BOOKS

2019 statistics indicated that children's books were very successful in the Australian book market, performing even better than adult books. This is very promising and already there are great new books available. Here are new picture books received:

**ARE THESE HEN'S EGGS?** by Christina Booth (A & U). Hen is counting the days until her eggs hatch, but a wind blows them away and they become mixed up. Animal friends join in the egg hunt and there's a surprise ending. An endearing story with engaging illustrations.

**BACKYARD BIRDS** by Helen Milroy (Fremantle Press). A bold, beautiful, colourful book with very simple language and striking illustrations. Illustrated in the style of the creator's ancestors and designed to be used by families spotting birds in their backyard.

**THE BEACH WOMBAT** by Susannah Chambers & Mark Jackson (A & U). A beautiful book in simple rhyming words and hand drawn pencil illustrations about a wombat family living near the beach on Wilsons Promontory.

**BEETLE AND BOO** by Caitlin Murray (Puffin). Overcoming childhood fears is simple when two friends like these confront them together. Very simple text for learning readers with bold illustrations.

**THE BOOK OF STONE** by Mark Greenwood & Coral Tulloch (Walker). After a lifetime of collecting stones in all shapes and sizes, this is a fascinating but simple story of stones, how and where they begin and how to recognise them. Evocative mixed media illustrations.

**BROTHER MOON** by Maree McCarthy Yoelu & Samantha Fry (Magabala). Respect for elders and their stories shines in this touching book, keeping these stories alive in lovely picture books for all Australian children. Hand drawn coloured pencil illustrations for the story as it is told to a boy by his great-grandfather.

**BUBBAY'S DESERT ADVENTURE** by J W Boyle & Fern Martins (Magabala). Another excellent book from Magabala, bringing Indigenous stories and illustrations alive for all Australian children. This new edition for a new generation of readers.

**CELESTE THE GIRAFFE LOVES TO LAUGH** by Celeste Barber & Matt Cosgrove (Scholastic). Celeste has an identity crisis and tries to be other animals until she finds herself. A fun book with illustrations by the illustrator of the successful Macca books.

**COUNTING OUR COUNTRY** by Jill Daniels (Magabala). Counting one to ten of animals found in Arnhem Land. The text is bilingual and the bold illustrations are in the style of the creator's people in the Northern Territory. A board book for very young readers.

**DON'T BUTT IN** by Heath McKenzie (Scholastic). Baboon's wearing new pants and he wants to tell everyone. But it's rude to butt in. A little bit naughty but very funny text and illustrations from this popular creator.

**THE EASTER BUNNY ROO** by Susannah Chambers & Laura Wood (A & U). A uniquely Australian Easter story, this time with a native animals delivering eggs. Simply written and colourfully illustrated with digital artwork, just in time for Easter.

**GIRLS CAN FLY** by Sally Morgan & Ambelin Kwaymullina (Magabala). An inspiring book by these celebrated Indigenous creators, empowering teenage girls and giving them confidence. A book for every teenage girl.

**GOODNIGHT GLOW WORMS** by Aura Parker (Puffin). Bedtime reading for reluctant sleepers in this cute and appealing book. Gentle rhyming text and playful illustrations will gently rock young readers to sleep, inspired by a group of colourful glow worms.

**I'M READY FOR THE NEW BABY and I'M READY FOR EASTER** illustrated by Jedda Robaard (Penguin). Two titles that are the first in a new series of very cute board books for very young readers.

**MISS FRANKLIN** by Libby Hathorn & Phil Lesnie (Lothian). Two award-winners combine to tell the inspiring and fascinating story of Miles Franklin and her life before she became one of our most successful authors, resulting in a beautiful picture book.

**MUM'S ELEPHANT** by M J N O'Keefe & Christina Booth (Magabala). A tender memory of a childhood far away and a mother's treasured possession. An Indigenous story with heart and evocative illustrations of desert landscapes and bush life.

**ROLY POLY** by Mem Fox & Jane Dyer (Puffin). Accepting a new little brother can be a challenge as they can be demanding. Roly Poly finally forms a bond with his little brother. Stunningly beautiful and unusual illustrations using needle felting.

**THREE** by Stephen Michael King (Scholastic). Three is a freewheeler and explores the city and its inhabitants. When he finds the country he finds a friend and is thankful. Very touching story of finding your place, with typically beautiful illustrations by this multi award-winner.

**THE VERY SUPER BEAR** by Nick Bland (Scholastic). Popular and bestselling Cranky Bear has found a cape and becomes Super Bear, who saves the jungle. A satisfying story, great to read aloud.

**WHAT COLOUR IS THE SEA?** by Katie Stewart (Fremantle Press). When Koala asks her friends the colour of the sea they all give a different answer. So she goes to see for herself and finds that they are all right. Engaging story and digital illustrations set the scene.

**WILL THE WONDERKID** by Stephanie Owen Reeder (NLA). The fifth title in an excellent series by this author, bringing Australian history to life. Not a picture book but heavily illustrated, retelling the story of the discovery in 1915 of the Coober Pedy opal fields by a 15 year-old boy.

### FINALLY

I was so thrilled to receive a copy of the 40th anniversary edition of *There's a Hippopotamus on Our Roof Eating Cake* by Hazel Edwards & Deborah Niland. How proud I feel to have been the original publisher of this all those years ago. So happy to see it now being enjoyed by a whole new generation and that it has expanded to a seven-title series. Get this beautiful tactile collector's edition in March.

Congratulations Hazel Edwards and Deborah Niland!

Keep in touch and pass this newsletter on. Thanks.

Margaret Hamilton AM

