

## FEBRUARY NEWSLETTER

Now that 2020 is behind us we were hoping that 2021 would be a much better year. However, it doesn't look like the pandemic will be over for some time yet. We are very fortunate to be living in Australia, where we seem to have some control, and indeed in the Blue Mountains where we enjoy the fresh air and space.

It was a pity we had to cancel some events last year, but I feel more optimistic about this year. In fact, I'm thrilled that Dub Leffler will be joining me for Picture Books @ Pinerolo on Saturday 24 April. Dub was an Illustrator in Residence at Pinerolo in 2014. It was wonderful to spend a week with him and it's very exciting that he's done so well with subsequent books.

## CBCA PROGRAM - DATES

2021 is already looking like a busy year for the Children's Book Council. The Blue Mountains sub-branch held their AGM on 20 February and are planning events for the rest of the year. The official CBCA program in the lead-up to the announcement of this year's awards is:

Night of the Notables: 23 February  
Announcement of the Short List: 30 March  
2021 CBCA Book of the Year Awards: 20 August.

Also, the CBCA NSW Branch is taking bookings for its major conference - **2021 International AAA Professional Development Conference Poetry: exploring inner worlds**. Information, program and bookings at: <https://www.cbcanw.org.au/post/2021-aaa-professional-development-conference>.

## WESTWORDS/PINEROLO ILLUSTRATOR IN RESIDENCE

It will be very special to welcome Elizabeth Stewart, our Illustrator in Residence for the week 18 to 24 April. I will be spending time with her every day, in a mentorship capacity and I very much look forward to being involved. She will be working on developing her project and the week will culminate with the course with Dub Leffler on Saturday 24 April. Lucky Elizabeth!

Promoting illustrators and inspiring their work is what we do here at Pinerolo. There are several Author in Residence Programs, but this is the only Illustrator in Residence opportunity. I'm very proud to be able to make this available to aspiring illustrators and my grateful thanks go to WestWords.

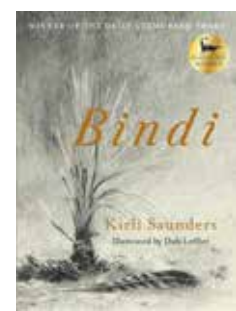
## Dub Leffler Picture Books @ Pinerolo

Saturday 24 April 10am - 4pm



It will be fabulous to be joined by Dub Leffler for this one-day course on creating picture books. He was Illustrator in Residence here in 2014 and he has gone on to win several awards, including being listed as Notable in two categories for the 2021 CBCA Awards.

This is an invaluable opportunity for participants to learn from a major achiever in the field. All ages and levels of expertise are welcome.



Just announced - both these books listed as CBCA Notables!

Pinerolo, the Children's Book Cottage, 116 Shipley Road, Blackheath • 10am - 4pm. \$160.00. BYO lunch.

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

## DUB LEFFLER

I can't tell you how thrilled I am that, on Saturday 24 April, I will be joined by Dub Leffler for the one-day course on creating picture books! Dub was Illustrator in Residence at Pinerolo for a week in 2014 and has gone on to do the illustrations for many fabulous books and has won several awards, including two Notables this year, which is very exciting. He's also linked to the Blue Mountains as, Lionel, his Illustrated Bear was purchased by the CBCA Blue Mountains sub-branch and is their mascot! So Lionel will be at Pinerolo for the day.

If you haven't received the booking form it's on our website at [www.pinerolo.com.au/PDF/Leffler.pdf](http://www.pinerolo.com.au/PDF/Leffler.pdf) To confirm your attendance, book early!

## SPECIAL MENTION

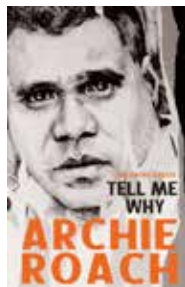
**THE MARCH OF THE ANTS** by Ursula Dubosarsky. Illus by Toby Riddle (Book Trail Press). This special new picture book will be especially welcomed by Blue Mountains



readers. Toby is a local picture book creator and Ursula is the current Australian Children's Laureate. Both these award winners attended the CBCA Blue Mountains dinner and gave fascinating insight into the creation of this book. The story was read by the author when she was announced as Australia's Children's Laureate. Toby Riddle has taken it to a new level

with the addition of his ants, marching from the cover, through the endpapers, right through to the back cover. An inspiring story about the power of a book.

**TELL ME WHY** by Archie Roach (Simon & Schuster). Last November's newsletter featured the picture book version of 'Took the Children Away'. This time it's a special abridged presentation of his memoirs for young adults. It's a moving and inspiring story, whatever the age of the reader.



## NEW PICTURE BOOKS

**BILLIE AND THE BLUE BIKE** by Ambelin Kwaymullina (Magabala). Desperately wanting something you can't afford is the catalyst to earn some money. Inspiration for readers from the text and colourful illustrations.

**BLUE FLOWER** by Sonya Hartnett. Illus by Gabriel Evans (Puffin). Fitting in at school is the theme of this story by one of our most acclaimed authors, here teamed with very engaging illustrations.

**CAN YOU DO THIS?** by Michael Wagner. Illus by Heath McKenzie (ABC). Sibling rivalry can be challenging when you're the smallest in the family. Bright, action-packed illustrations challenge readers. Very entertaining.

**COURAGEOUS LUCY** by Paul Russell. Illus by Cara King (EK). We all know that worrying all the time is not good and Lucy learns this. The illustrations echo her feelings.

**DOG** by Shaun Tan (A & U). Heartbreaking and evocative, another Tan masterpiece, with magnificent illustrations and simple, deeply moving text. The story first appeared in 'Tales From the Inner City'. Highly recommended.

**THE EMU WHO RAN THROUGH THE SKY** by Helen Milroy (Magabala). A determined emu sets out to learn how to fly. This second in the Tales from the Bush Mob series is as striking and original as the first, 'Willy-Willy Wagtail'. Highly recommended.

**ICEBERG** by Claire Saxby. Illus by Jess Racklyeft (A & U). This award-winning partnership has portrayed the life cycle of an iceberg. With evocative text and stunning illustrations, it's a warning about global warming and the urgent need to protect the Antarctic and its unique animals.

**I'M READY FOR MY BIRTHDAY** and **I'M READY FOR SWIMMING** by Jedda Robaard (Puffin). Continuing the successful series for early childhood about important milestones. Gentle illustrations in board books to share.

**LET'S GO, LITTLE ROO** by Renee Trembl (Puffin). Outside his mother's pouch is scary and it takes a lot of courage for Little Roo to venture out. An appealing story about building confidence, with simple, effective illustrations.

**LILAH THE LYREBIRD** by Jodie McLeod. Illus by Eloise Short. From the team responsible for the very successful 'Leonard the Lyrebird' (now available in paperback) comes this follow-up, another evocative story set in the Blue Mountains and highlighting the bushfires.

**THE LITTLE GREEN FROG** by Jack Beaumont. Illus by Harry Beaumont (Little Green Olive). Written and illustrated by children for children, this simple, innovative and approachable picture book introduces counting and days of the week.

**MO AND CROW** by Jo Kasch. Illus by Jonathan Bentley (A & U). Written by a TV writer, with an entertaining play on words that would be perfect to read aloud and illustrated appealingly by an award winner.

**MY SPAGHETTI ABC** by Deborah Niland (Puffin). I felt like saying 'don't play with your food!' as that's what this character does. It's an amusing way to learn the alphabet, with a fold-out panorama to help. Delightful and entertaining illustrations.

**NORTH AND SOUTH** by Sandra Morris (Walker). One of the new breed of non-fiction books, this one has a fascinating approach to introducing animals of the northern and southern hemispheres. Complete with a glossary and an index, this is highly recommended.

**THE PLASTIC THRONE** by Amami Uduman. Illus by Kera Bruton (Midnight Sun). Everything put down the toilet ends up in the ocean. This amusing story refers to this threat to the environment and offers alternatives. Striking, lively illustrations.

**POO! AND OTHER WORDS THAT MAKE ME LAUGH** by Felice Arena. Illus by Tom Jellett (ABC). Readers are challenged to read this book aloud but are warned about saying 'Poo'. Bold illustrations and there's even a glossary.

**TOMORROW GIRL** by Vikki Conley. Illus by Penelope Pratley (EK). Taking time to live in the moment is the theme of this touching story with colourful and appealing illustrations.

**TURNING CARTWHEELS** by Amy Adeney. Illus by Amu Calautti (EK). This appealing story highlights children being active, exercising outside — not a mobile phone in sight! Fun and inspiring with lively illustrations.

**WELCOME, CHILD!** by Sally Morgan (Magabala). Written and illustrated by this award-winner, this is a joyful and heartwarming welcome to her new grandchild, produced as a sturdy board book to share.

**WHAT DO YOU CALL YOUR GRANDMA?** by Ashleigh Barton. Illus by Martina Heiduczek (ABC). With their previous book a CBCA Notable, this is a follow up on that. As that was a celebration of grandpas, this features grandmas around the world.

## FINALLY

I enjoy writing the newsletter and spreading the word about children's books, especially picture books. Don't forget, read to a child in your life, whenever you can. Also, feel free to share this newsletter with others who might be interested. Best wishes to all. Stay safe.

Margaret Hamilton AM