

NEWSLETTER NUMBER THIRTY-THREE

Libby Gleeson and I had a terrific day with participants in our last one-day course on 20 May. We do enjoy meeting aspiring writers and illustrators and discussing creating children's picture books. Participants came from near and far: Canberra, the northern beaches and the Blue Mountains. Those from further afield should remember that we have accommodation available here at Pinerolo, so it doesn't have to be a long day trip. We never cease to run out of people who are eager to learn, so the next course will be with the incredible illustrator Freya Blackwood (see the panel at right). Freya is responsible for the artwork for the fabulous CBCA Book Week products which are on sale now at: <http://store.cbca.org.au>

The children's book world is buzzing. There's always something exciting happening. For me there were three highlights recently. One was the WestWords event in Blacktown where I met the incredible Bryan Brown who is ambassador for WestWords. Then, thanks to Walker Books, I met the wonderful US author Kate DiCamillo who was here for the Sydney Writers Festival.

Then I attended the Katoomba sessions of the festival and was pleased to catch up with Libby Gleeson and James Roy. I was able to personally congratulate James for winning the NSW Premier's Award with his powerful and moving book ONE THOUSAND HILLS. Call me a groupie if you like!



Me with Bryan Brown and Kate DiCamillo



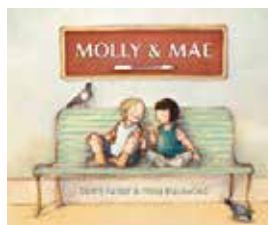
Libby Gleeson and James Roy on stage at the Carrington with Aniko Koro, Children's Librarian at the Blue Mountains City Library.

PICTURE BOOKS @ PINEROLO SATURDAY 1 July • FREYA BLACKWOOD

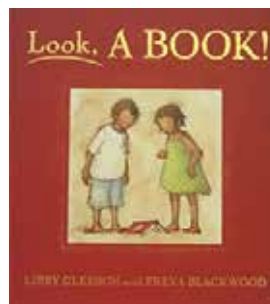
Join multi award-winning illustrator Freya Blackwood and children's book publisher Margaret Hamilton for a day of guidance and mentorship on creating children's picture books. This can involve your existing project or a new idea for a picture book. Invaluable opportunity for aspiring authors or those working on a project who need input and guidance. All ages and levels of experience welcome.



FREYA BLACKWOOD has collaborated with many authors including Libby Gleeson, Margaret Wild and Jan Ormerod. In 2010, Freya won the prestigious Kate Greenaway Medal for HARRY AND HOPPER, and her books have been honoured in the CBCA Book of the Year Awards many times. In



2015 she broke records, appearing in three categories. Freya won the Picture Book of the Year for MY TWO BLANKETS (story by Irena Kobald) the Early Childhood Category with GO TO SLEEP, JESSIE! (story by Libby Gleeson) and the Younger Readers Category with THE CLEO STORIES: THE NECKLACE and THE PRESENT (stories by Libby Gleeson). MOLLY & MAE and HATTIE HELPS OUT were both Notable Books in 2017. www.freyablackwood.com.au



**A valuable opportunity
to learn and be inspired!**

Booking and prepayment essential:

www.pinerolo.com.au/PDF/Blackwood.pdf or 47878492

GROUP & SCHOOL VISITS TO PINEROLO

Listen, Look and Learn. Be Inspired!

Where do Picture Books Come From?
How are they written? Who draws the pictures?
One hour talk. Books and artwork for sale.

**Children and adults are welcome.
Don't delay. Plan a visit soon.**

\$10 per child. \$20 per adult

Bookings: 02 47878492 or hamiltonbooks@iprimus.com.au

NEW PICTURE BOOKS

Do you have grandchildren? Or nieces and nephews? Or young children of your own? Have you read them a picture book lately? There's nothing that will ever replace the joy of reading a book to a child, the tactile pleasure of sharing a picture book. They will be grown up too quickly and they may not remember the mundane, everyday things about you but they will treasure the memory of that special time you shared with a book, especially if it's a regular treat. Create these memories today, with a beautiful picture book.

New picture books continue to come in from Australian publishers. My thanks to those who send review copies. It's fabulous that some publishers are adding to the imprint page a line about the medium used by the illustrator. Anybody studying, reviewing or just reading picture books finds this information useful and fascinating, especially when discerning the difference between hand-done and digital illustrations. Here are my comments on those recently received:

A-Z OF ENDANGERED ANIMALS by Jennifer Cossins (Lothian). Not strictly a picture book but worth looking at as it's Shortlisted for the CBCA Awards, Information Book category. It's a success story, originally self-published but now picked up by Lothian. A spectacular alphabet of endangered animals.

AVA'S SPECTACULAR SPECTACLES by Alice Rex & Angela Perrini (New Frontier). Getting used to new glasses is a trial, but when Ava is reminded how useful they would have been to characters in fairy tales she sees the light. A simple story and very engaging illustrations.

BOY by Phil Cummings & Shane DeVries (Scholastic). A simple but powerful anti-war message unfolds in this gentle story of a deaf boy and how he resolves a dispute even though he can't hear what's happening around him. Beautifully illustrated and designed with subdued colours and spacious page layouts.

BUTTERFLY, WE'RE EXPECTING YOU! by Libby Hathorn & Lisa Stewart (Lothian). Gentle verse and lovely illustrations by these award-winning creators have combined in this special story of children exploring the outdoors and engaging with creatures they meet.

A CANADIAN YEAR and **A KIWI YEAR** by Tania McCartney & Tina Snerling (EK Books). Two new books in this popular series which takes children through a year in the life of children in different countries. Lots of fascinating and informative facts and colourful, detailed illustrations. Great books to read before travelling or just to know how other children live.

THE CAT WANTS CUDDLES by P Crumble & Lucinda Gifford (Scholastic). This standoffish and aloof cat goes to great lengths to avoid patting and cuddling, but eventually realises it can be quite enjoyable. Hilarious illustrations with lots to find that supplements the text.

THE CHALK RAINBOW by Deborah Kelly & Gwynneth Jones (EK Books). Being different is hard. Zane is autistic and can't stand the colour black. His sister devises a perfect way to deal with this and the family joins in. Touching and thought-provoking with colourful illustrations.

GLITCH by Michelle Worthington & Andrew Plant (Ford St). It's not so important who wins a race as long as your best friend is with you. This unusual, imaginative story set in a rubbish dump is illustrated with equally unusual pictures. There's a positive message too!

GREAT GOAL! by Katrina Germein & Janine Dawson (Ford St). Footy followers will love this entertaining and original book. It's full of action, mud and mayhem. It's great fun and will appeal to any children interested in football. The alliterative text is very clever and the illustrations reflect the chaos.

IS BEAR HERE? by Jonathan Bentley (Little Hare). It's good to see more from this award-winning creator, whose books are always original and appealing. A search for a lost bear reveals an unexpected delight in this companion book to **WHERE IS BEAR?**

MY MEERKAT MUM by Ruth Paul (Scholastic). Meerkats are fascinating creatures. This picture book about a day in the life of a family of meerkats gives fascinating insight into their habits and their gestures. Appealing illustrations echo their movements and their day.

NANNA'S BUTTON TIN by Dianne Wolfer & Heather Potter (Walker). A special book that evokes memories of my daughter and her grandmother's button collection. A warm and moving story that will resonate with many families. Tender gouache illustrations in a gentle palette complete this very appealing book.

OLLIE'S TREASURE by Lynn Jenkins & Kirrili Lonergan (EK Books). Happiness is easy to find and we are all treasures in our own way. A touching and heartwarming story that ends in a big hug. Lovely for grandparents to share with their grandchildren – all treasures.

ROSE'S RED BOOTS by Maura Finn & Karen Erasmus (New Frontier). There's lots of action in the rhyming text and lively illustrations with their autumn palette. Rose and her dog Banjo enjoy flying her kite. An appealing book, great to read aloud or to share with young readers.

SHAPES OF AUSTRALIA by Bronwyn Bancroft (Little Hare). Bancroft is Australia's foremost indigenous illustrator and her brilliant artwork never fails to impress me. This magnificent book, with spectacular artwork in acrylics, is inspired by her deep love of country.

STORM WHALE by Sarah Brennan & Jane Tanner (A & U). Illustrations by award-winner Tanner are always a delight and this book adds to her wonderful body of work. The story of three sisters dealing with a stranded whale is beautifully told and enhanced by gorgeous, atmospheric illustrations.

TWO RAINBOWS by Sophie Masson & Michael McMahon (Little Hare). A comparison between life on a farm and in the city is the basis of this exploration of rainbow colours. Simple text and digital illustrations in a well-designed book for early readers.

Continuing what I said at the beginning about sharing a picture book with child. There are picture books out there to suit every child. Check your local bookshop or library regularly. Take a child with you. They'll love it.

Happy reading! Best wishes, Margaret Hamilton AM