

NEWSLETTER NUMBER 50!

Where do the years go? I produce these newsletters every second month, so getting to number 50 is quite satisfying. I've also realised that 2020 is the 10th anniversary of Pinerolo. We actually opened on 10 November 2010, with a large open day and lots of visitors. I'm tentatively thinking of how we might be able to celebrate our 10th anniversary. As we go through this extraordinarily challenging time, we must wait and see. Maybe by August, when I do the next newsletter, we will know more about social distancing rules and we might be able to have an open day party!

One thing we did do during isolation was construct a Little Free Library which was erected at the front of Pinerolo. I filled it with lovely children's books for all ages and invited local people to bring their children. Even though I haven't met any of the visitors, it's been lovely to see it used and the books borrowed. It must have been difficult for parents who were homeschooling their children, with the schools, libraries and bookshops closed. This was our gift to our local community and there was even a photo and a piece in the local Blue Mountains Gazette newspaper.

It was a very pleasant surprise to receive two letters. One from Trish Doyle MP, State Member for the Blue Mountains and the other from Marise Payne, Liberal Senator and Minister for Foreign Affairs. Both congratulated me on setting up the library. It was very gratifying to receive this recognition.



CHILDREN'S BOOK COUNCIL NEWS

As I said in the last newsletter, it has also been announced that, because of the Coronavirus crisis CBCA Book Week has been postponed. The date of this most important week in the year is 17 — 23 October, with the CBCA Book of the Year Awards to be announced and presented on Friday 16 October. I'm not fully in favour

of this, as Book Week in August is cemented in as such an important week for schools and libraries. However, we have been forced by this crisis to be flexible and try new ways of doing things. Many have been very successful, like working from home, and many people will be working this way in the future. Sorry for that rant! Go to the CBCA website to keep in touch with news: www.cbca.org.au

I thought the online announcement of the Shortlist was terrific. It involved everyone, all over Australia and it was very well presented. An online production of the actual awards ceremony would be an excellent way of involving the whole of Australia again.



By the way, the 2020 merchandise by Gwyn Perkins is for sale on the estore or from your local CBCA Branch. The NSW branch is offering a members' discount.

Congratulations to The CBCA NSW Branch for their excellent program of lunchtime book readings. It was fabulous to see so many authors reading their books. I hope loads of people hooked in. It was excellent entertainment for children, and indeed anyone interested in children's books. Well done NSW Branch! If you're not a member, visit their website and join!

If you're a local you should support the **Blue Mountains Sub-Branch**. The committee has been in recess while we cope with isolation but will shortly be getting together to plan the rest of the year. We have locked in however, our fabulous Australian Children's Laureate Ursula Dubosarsky for the annual dinner on Friday 20 November. Keep that date free!

WESTWORDS FUNDRAISING AUCTION

I urge you to go to the link on the WestWords website and bid for some of the fabulous artwork donated by Australia's wonderful illustrators. The auction closes 30 June, so don't delay. You won't be sorry: <https://www.westwords.com.au/projects/cov-art-westwords-fundraising-auction/>

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT! 12 September: Picture Books @ Pinerolo, with Shortlisted Tohby Riddle. **Save the date!** Details coming soon.

WESTWORDS/PINEROLO

ILLUSTRATOR IN RESIDENCE — November

It's been so wonderful to spend a week with successful applicants for this fantastic program. I love sharing my experience in a mentorship capacity with emerging illustrators and I am especially proud of those who have gone on to achieve their dream. We'll be going ahead with the program again this year but delayed because of coronavirus. Residents can expect to be hugely inspired by the collection of original artwork from Australian picture books and the large library of picture books. Just researching what established illustrators have done is extremely motivating. It's a fabulous opportunity! Applications close 31 August. A few details for your interest:

- Pinerolo has so far hosted nineteen illustrators in residence, (funded by CAL and now by WestWords).
- Beginning in 2007, we have held here twenty-seven one-day courses on creating picture books.

For an application form email: admin@westwords.com.au OR: hamiltonbooks@iprimus.com.au

FEATURE PICTURE BOOK

BIGISMOB JIGIWAN DOG

by Johanna Belle & Dion Beasley (Allen & Unwin).



'Too Many Cheeky Dogs' is a hugely popular NT picture book, depicting life - and cheeky dogs - in regional/remote Australia. This new edition is a translation into Kriol, a creole language spoken by around 20,000 people across Northern Australia.

NEW PICTURE BOOKS

THE ASTRONAUT'S CAT by Tohby Riddle (Allen & Unwin). Tohby Riddle's 'Yahoo Creek' is shortlisted this year. This book is completely different. The cat is an inside cat, but on the moon and he's happy with that. An entertaining book which could relate to our self isolation times.

THE BATTLE by Ashling Kwok & Cara King (EK). A novel and entertaining story about the first day at school, which can be a bit scary. Lively and colourful illustrations.

THE BIG OLD RAMBUTAN TREE by Kathy Creamer (Little Pink Dog). A heartwarming story of a special bond between two unlikely friends and a kindness repayed years later. Beautiful illustrations highlight endangered orangutans and rainforest.

BIN CHICKEN by Kate & Jol Temple, illus by Ronjojoy Ghosh (Scholastic). By the authors of the brilliant 'Room on Our Rock' comes a hilarious story for anyone who has ever had their lunch stolen. Clever text and appealing illustrations.

COCO BIG CITY KITTY by Laura Buntin & Nicky Johnston (Omnibus/Scholastic). Presented as a quality hardback, a delightful book for early readers, the first in a new series. Whimsical illustrations on every page.

THE COLOUR CATCHERS by Johanna Belle & Laura Stitzel (Omnibus/Scholastic). A heartwarming story of a special relationship between Violet and her grandmother. Very appealing illustrations.

THE COLOURING COMPETITION by Heath McKenzie (Scholastic). A clever story about entering a competition and finding a friend. Specially clever are the illustrations that will inevitably invite readers to colour in.

FAMILY by Aunty Fay Muir & Sue Lawson, illus by Jasmine Seymour (Magabala). Another wonderful book from Magabala sharing Indigenous culture with readers. Simple, evocative text and rich illustrations.

FINDING FRANCOIS by Gus Gordon (Puffin). From this popular award-winner, comes a surprising, intriguing and heartwarming story set in Paris. It's about Alice, her grandmother and finding a new friend. A visual treat.

THE FRIENDLY GAMES by Kaye Baillie & Fiona Burrows (Midnight Sun). A boy suggests a 'parade of athletes' for the closing ceremony of the 1956 Olympics in Melbourne and changes the Olympics forever. A fascinating story in picture book form, with notes on the research at the end.

GIRL FROM THE SEA by Margaret Wild & Jane Tanner (Allen & Unwin). It's fabulous to see these two incredible award winners back together. This stunning book is for all ages — the lyrical story and superb charcoal and coloured pencil illustrations will haunt readers.

GOOD QUESTION, A Tale Told Backwards by Sue Whiting & Annie White (Walker). Young readers who love humour and adventure will enjoy this clever story that refers to many different fairy stories. The drama is enhanced by the bold illustrations and large font.

GRANDMAS ARE LOVELY by Meredith Costain & Nicolette Hegyes (Scholastic). A warm and cuddly book celebrating grandmas and their special relationship with their grandchildren. Beautiful watercolour illustrations

LITTLELIGHT by Kelly Canby (Fremantle Press). This impressive book is timely in today's Trump world, as it highlights building bridges, not barriers. Striking illustrations complete this quality picture book.

LOLO AND GRANDPA by Ashling Kwok and Yvonne Low (Little Pink Dog Books). A special story full of the love between Lola and her Grandpa. Warm and expressive illustrations complete the mood.

ROCKY AND LOUIE by Phil Walleystack, Raewyn Caisley & Dub Leffler (Puffin). Two close brothers have a special connection not only to each other but to country. A special book highlighting Indigenous customs, with stunning illustrations.

TO THE BRIDGE by Corinne Fenton & Andrew McLean (Walker). The inspiring story of an epic 600 mile journey by a 10 year-old boy and his horse to see the Sydney Harbour Bridge. Classic illustrations perfectly capture the times.

WHERE'S SPOT? by Eric Hill (Penguin RH). It's not Australian but I couldn't ignore the special 40th birthday edition of this classic book. Every home should have this.

WHO AM I? by Philip Bunting (Scholastic). What makes us individual and unique is amply explained in simple language, complete with Bunting's trademark, striking illustrations. A book for everyone.

FINALLY

Another newsletter done! Keep reading, especially to the children in your life. Pass this newsletter on.

Reminders of two special dates: 12 September, Picture Books @ Pinerolo and 31 August, closing date for applications for WestWords/Pinerolo residency.

Many thanks.

Margaret Hamilton AM

Need a break or a peaceful retreat in the Blue Mountains? Pinerolo is on Airbnb. Book on Airbnb.