

Welcome to the March newsletter. Firstly a reminder about the CBCA National Conference. Have you booked in yet? It's going to be too good to miss. Register at: cbcaconference.org.au

VISITORS

It was such a pleasure to see Liliana Stafford and her family here for a visit on Valentine's Day, 14 February. I hadn't seen Liliana since I was in Perth for the CBCA conference. Max and I had the good fortune to publish two books by her: SNOW BEAR with beautiful illustrations by Lambert



Davis and AMELIA ELLICOTT'S GARDEN illustrated by Stephen Michael King. My collection here includes original artwork from each of them. Here's a picture of us together holding both books.

MY DOG by John Heffernan & Andrew McLean

This was (and still is) one of the most talked-about picture book we ever published at Margaret Hamilton Books. It won several awards and has inspired teachers and librarians to share it with children and to talk about the experience of war and particularly refugees (which is very relevant today as we face the issues of refugees coming to Australia). So it was a huge disappointment that Scholastic decided to allow this important book to go out of print. All is not lost though. John is producing a reprint himself. It will be available from him, or through Pinerolo. We have the original artwork from the moving last page of the book. By the way, I've just read John Heffernan's new book NAVEED and can highly recommend it (Allen & Unwin).

PICTURE BOOKS @ PINEROLO

There are a few places left at our 12 April course with Libby Gleeson. If you're quick you can book in at: www.pinerolo.com.au/PDF/Gleeson.pdf **Bookings essential.** Come along and learn everything you ever wanted to know about picture books but were afraid to ask.

B IS FOR BEDTIME

by Margaret Hamilton & Anna Pignataro

If I can't blow my own trumpet in my own newsletter; where else can I do it? The launch of my first picture book was held at the Blue Mountains Cultural Centre on Saturday 1 March.

I had an amazing time as after decades of publishing other peoples' books, it was a whole new experience for me. Nearly 70 people turned up. My thanks to everyone who came and especially to Margrete Lamond (Little Hare) who published it and Tohby Riddle who launched it. Also my heartfelt thanks to Anna Pignataro for her wonderful illustrations.

The book is available at all good bookshops (especially Gleebooks, Blackheath, who did a fabulous window)



This sleepy A-to-Z meander towards bedtime is Margaret Hamilton's first picture book.

Beautifully narrated in soothing rhythmic verse, and with adorable illustrations by Anna Pignataro.

LITTLE HARE

Pub Date: March 2014
Imprint: Little Hare
Author: Margaret Hamilton
Illustrator: Anna Pignataro

B is for Bedtime

ISBN13: 9781921894091
Binding: Hardback
RRP: A\$24.95 / NZ\$26.99
Extent: 32 pages
Format: 246x244 mm
Illustrations: Full Colour
Age: 0+



anticipate! appreciate! applaud!

The national announcement of the
CBCA 2014 Shortlist

A panel of experts nominate their choices

Guest Speaker: Steven Herrick

Tuesday 8th April, 9.00am—3.30pm

The Menzies Hotel Sydney

CBCA members \$115 Non-members: \$150

More details at:

Phone: 02 9818 3858. E-mail: cbcansw@bigpond.com

<http://nsw.cbca.org.au>

2014 slogan: Connect to Reading

NEW PICTURE BOOKS

This is the month before Anzac Day so the books about Gallipoli and the war continue to come. Thanks to the publishers who continue to send their wonderful picture books - and congratulations! As we await the announcement of the 2014 Shortlist we look forward to celebrating the wealth of talent in Australian children's books, especially picture books.

A NEW FRIEND FOR MARMALADE by Alison Reynolds & Heath McKenzie (Five Mile Press). Following the highly successful **A YEAR WITH MARMALADE**, this book introduces the concept of acceptance of new friends, even if they are a little different.

ALONG THE ROAD TO GUNDAGAI by Jack O'Hagan & Andrew McLean (Omnibus). Andrew McLean has produced a moving tribute to the young men who went to war immortalised in the well-known song. Recommended.

CHOOKY-DOODLE-DOO by Jan Whiten & Sinead Hanley (Walker). What a fun idea! Cumulative counting rhyming text lead to a surprise at the end. Colourful collage illustrations in this eye-catching book for under-fives.

THE CUDDLIEST HUG by Meredith Costain & Cee Biscoe (Koala). A warm, cuddly story about a joey missing his mother's hugs. So he sets out to find her. Rhyming text and colourful illustrations make an appealing book which is fun to read aloud — ending with the best hug.

FIRE by Jackie French & Bruce Whatley (Scholastic). What a partnership these two are! Their award-winning picture books are hugely successful. This one follows **FLOOD** and it dramatically highlights the dangers of fires and the strength of the Australian spirit. Highly recommended.

GALLIPOLI by Kerry Greenwood & Annie White (Scholastic). Award-winning author tells the story of a remarkable friendship and the battleground that shaped a nation. Soft, moving watercolour illustrations.

HERE IN THE GARDEN by Briony Stewart (UQP). The loss of a loved one can be eased by fond memories of times together. This gentle book is about loss, love and friendship, the expressive illustrations highlighting the passing of the seasons.

HEY MUM, I LOVE YOU by Corinne Fenton (Black Dog). Following the successful **OH BABY!** and **HEY BABY!** this new photographic picture book is well timed for Mothers' Day. Beautiful pictures, almost tactile in their detail and very simple, loving text.

JONATHAN! by Peter Carnavas & Amanda Francey (New Frontier). 'Not scary Jonathan' say his family when he tries to scare them. He is in for a surprise himself that does scare the family. Appealing, colourful and uncluttered illustrations.

MY MUM SAYS THE STRANGEST THINGS by Katrina Germein & Tom Jellett (Black Dog). Following a couple of books about dads, this highlights those puzzling sayings that mums come out with. I've been accused of them myself and I'm glad this book will keep them alive for a new generation. A good Mothers' Day gift!

MY NANNA IS A NINJA by Damon Young & Peter Carnavas (UQP). A smorgasbord of nannas, each one different, but this active and eccentric nanna takes the cake. She's a Ninja and somersaults through the day. Great fun!

MY TWO BLANKETS by Irena Kobald & Freya Blackwood (Little Hare). Cartwheel leaves her wartorn country to live in a new place. She shelters under a 'blanket' made of memories of home. How she gradually accepts her new life is a timely and very tender and moving story. So lovingly illustrated. Highly recommended.

RABBIT'S HIDE-AND-SEEK by Ruth Paul (Walker Books). The animals are playing hide-and-seek. Rabbit easily finds most of them, except one. But when the last one shows himself all his friends have disappeared. Charming illustrations in pencil and digital medium.

TO THE GOLDFIELDS! by Rachel Tonkin (Walker). Congratulations to Walker for reprinting important picture books. This one, first published in 1999, brings to life conditions on Victorian goldfields in the mid nineteenth century. Beautiful paintings and lots of historical details complete a fascinating and informative picture book.

I'm looking forward to a visit with a group of Children's Book Council people from Canberra. I'll give them a talk about how picture books are made and will provide afternoon tea. Why not get a group together to come for a visit? Or even hold a meeting here? Just phone or email to make a booking.

I appreciate your support. — and I love feedback on the newsletter.

Thank you.

Margaret Hamilton AM



Register now!: www.cbcaconference.org.au