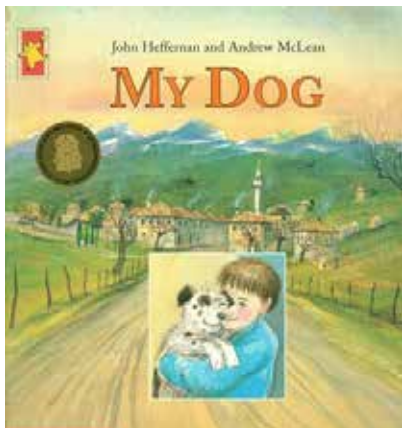


The CBCA Conference in Canberra was brilliant! I'm still trying to come down to earth. It was exciting being with so many people who are passionate about children and their books, seeing old friends and meeting new ones. There was an excited buzz all weekend.

READING TIME

For many decades READING TIME, the highly respected journal of the CBCA has been reviewing children's books. Last year the CBCA Board decided that the printed version would cease publication and that it would move with the times. It is now available on line and accessible to everyone. So if you want to catch up with all that is new in Australian children's books, the URL for Reading Time Online is www.readingtime.com.au



MY DOG by John Heffernan & Andrew McLean. This was one of the most talked-about picture books 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. *My Dog* has been republished by Five Senses Education and is available at: <http://www.fivesenseseducation.com.au/shop-online/picture-books-sale/my-dog> 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 14 June course with John Heffernan. If you're quick you can book in at: <http://www.pinerolo.com.au/PDF/Heffernan.pdf> Bookings essential. Come along and learn everything you ever wanted to know about picture books but were afraid to ask.

ILLUSTRATOR IN RESIDENCE – Jo Oliver

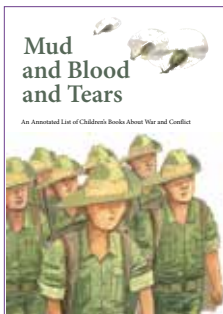


We first met Jo Oliver when we were running Margaret Hamilton Books. We were very interested in her first picture book *Pilgrim*, but for various reasons were unable to publish it. When she applied for an Illustrator Residency we decided we must take this opportunity to catch up with what she's been doing. *Pilgrim* was a CBCA Notable Book in 2009. Jo has since published *Tatiara* and *The Light*. We were so impressed with her new book of poems and the illustrations she was working on during her week with us.

Here is what she said:

I have spent a wonderful week at Pinerolo, the Children's Book Cottage. I was granted this residency through the Copyright Agency Cultural Fund supported Illustrators in Residence Program. I was immediately made to feel at home by Margaret and Max's relaxed and supportive welcome and an environment with all my favourite things: thousands of picture books, outstanding original artwork by Australian illustrators, wood fire, a comfortable bed, a space to work and uninterrupted time. With family and work commitments at a distance I sat down to look again at the solar plate prints I had produced whilst Children's Book Week Artist in Residence at Bundanon last year. The prints illustrate poems I had written earlier that year. Now it was time to bring colour to them. With my watercolours set up and paintbrushes dampened this completely absorbing, delightful process began. As I painted it seemed the black and white prints came to life. Each morning when Margaret came into the office and more coloured prints appeared she commented it seemed like magic. It felt rather like that to me too but it seemed appropriate in this magical place. I leave with the illustrations for my book of poems, *The Dreaming Tree* complete, thanks to a focused yet relaxing week in this quiet and conducive environment and the support of my kind hosts.

NEXT: Lachlan Creagh 15 - 21 June



MUD AND BLOOD AND TEARS

An Annotated List of Children's Books About War and Conflict

Compiled by the
Children's Book Council of Australia

It is important to educate children not only about history but about the futility of war and conflict and the part Australia has played, and is still playing in the efforts of world peace.

This annotated list of children's books about war and conflict commemorates the centenary of the beginning of the First World War. It is not an exhaustive list but it is representative of the many outstanding books available. An invaluable resource for schools, libraries and bookshops.

Find this and other fantastic merchandise from the CBCA at cbca.org.au

NEW PICTURE BOOKS

The Canberra conference was full of enthusiasm, especially for the wonderful picture books that are being produced at the moment. Sharing a picture book with a child is a tactile experience and Australian picture books are beautiful. Thanks to publishers for sending review copies of their books. Please support them by buying these books:

ADORABLE ALICE by Cassandra Webb & Michaela Blassnig (New Frontier). Alice goes through the days of the week discovering new things about her house. I especially like the teddy on every page, following the action. Fresh new illustrator in an appealing book.

ALL MY KISSES by Kerry Brown & Jedda Robaard (ABC Books). Abby collects kisses and keeps them to herself. But eventually she learns that sharing them around is much more fulfilling. Gorgeous and heart-melting!

THE BUSH BOOK CLUB by Margaret Wild & Ben Wood (Omnibus Books). Book clubs are all the rage, even in the bush. Bilby is the only one who doesn't belong because he can't keep still. Then he finds the best book in the world and joins the club!

THE CUCKOO by Gary Crew & Naomi Turvey (Ford St). A truly beautiful production, superbly designed, with a dust jacket, this must have been a dream job for a new illustrator. It's a thought-provoking book about loving friends and the search for personal fulfilment.

A FEAST FOR WOMBAT by Sally Morgan & Tania Erzinger (Omnibus). Poor old wombat! He finally ventures out of his burrow but he lacks confidence to do all the things his friends do. Appealing acrylic illustrations enhance this story about the value of friendship.

A HOUSE FOR DONFINKLE by Choechoe Brereton & Wayne Harris (Walker). Choechoe has created a total fantasy world and the creatures who inhabit it, expertly interpreted by Wayne Harris. The rhyming text is great fun to read aloud and follow the progress of the building. Someone described this as 'Kevin McCloud for children'. Not a bad description! Highly recommended.

HOW I LOVE YOU by Anna Pignataro (Scholastic). Anna is the illustrator of MY book (B IS FOR BEDTIME), and I'm a huge fan. This delightful, cuddly book includes animals in the bush and the tender ways they love each other.

I AM COW HEAR ME MOO! by Jill Esbaum & Gus Gordon (Penguin). This is great fun – Nadine the cow is afraid of nothing, almost. The rhyming story is fun to read aloud and the illustrations are hilarious. Highly recommended.

I HAVE A DOG by Charlotte Lance (A & U). A play on the word 'inconvenient', this is a charming picture book about a boy and his best friend, a very inconvenient dog. A book that all dog-lovers will relate to.

KICK WITH MY LEFT FOOT by Paul Seden & Karen Briggs (A & U). Now I know how to play AFL! An energetic book about a boy learning to play. Produced as part of the Emerging Indigenous Picture Book Mentorship Project.

THE LOST GIRL by Ambelin Kwaymullina & Leanne Tobin (Walker Books). A girl has lost her way in the vast Australian landscape. She is protected and guided back to her family by Mother Nature. A gentle story highlighting Aboriginals people's connection with the land.

SNAIL AND TURTLE ARE FRIENDS by Stephen Michael King (Scholastic). I'm a huge fan of Stephen's. He's now one of the most successful illustrators in the world. This charming and gentle book about friendship will delight.

THAT CAR! by Cate Kennedy & Carla Zapel (A & U). What a refreshing and enjoyable book! Three children discover an old car on the farm the family have just moved to. It takes them on wonderful trips, everywhere their imagination goes. Recommended.

TOM AND TILLY FLY AWAY by Jedda Robaard (Black Dog). This second book about Tom and Tilly takes us on a flight around the backyard, to be home in time for lunch. The book even has instructions on how to make a paper plane. Recommended for under fives.

TOO HOT FOR SPOTS by Mini Goss (A & U). Barry and Stella have a lot of fun playing at being doctor and patient. It's what we all played when we were little. The difference is that these delightful characters are knitted and the rest of the pictures were made with recycled materials.

WHAT HAPPENS NEXT? by Tull Suwannakit (Walker Books). It's always good to see new creators of picture books supported by publishers. This story is original and fun and the watercolour illustrations are appealing and refreshing. Recommended.

Grug is still here because he's celebrating being on a list of the 30 best books published in the last 30 years! He and Hippo (on the roof) made the list. I'm quite proud of them! I appreciate your support – and I love feedback on the newsletter. Thank you.

Margaret Hamilton AM

