



Newsletter Number Thirty, NOVEMBER 2016

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## NEWSLETTER NUMBER THIRTY

I did, I really did, try to do a newsletter for October but it didn't eventuate. So this is the November newsletter and probably the final one for the year.

Spring has finally sprung! There are blossoms everywhere, our daffodils, jonquils and snow-drops stand up proudly in the sun and the birds are busy. The rhodendrons and azaleas look a picture.

It doesn't seem that long since the presentation of the CBCA Book of the Year Awards, but it WAS over a month ago. What a splendid occasion, attended by the CBCA National Patron the Governor-General Sir Peter Cosgrove. In spite of protocol leading up to the event, he was so friendly he put us all at ease.

This was the celebration of the 70th Children's Book of the Year awards – an amazing achievement for a voluntary organisation. In the early years winners were given a camellia if they were female and a handshake if they were male. We've come a long way since then, as they now received a cheque funded by the CBCA Awards Foundation. To mark the occasion, every winner this year received a camellia as well, which proved to be a nice touch.

One of the highlights for me was the presentation of the CBCA Lifetime Achievement Award, given especially to celebrate the 70th anniversary to Robert Ingpen. It was fitting to recognise his wonderful contribution to Australian children's literature. I've actually also been to Canberra for the launch of his fabulous new book *WONDERLANDS* on 23 October. Those lucky enough to live near Geelong or to go there will be able to see the retrospective exhibition of his work there. He's definitely a much-loved national treasure and I'm proud to call him a friend.



The Q and A with Robert Ingpen in Canberra was fascinating

## KOALA AWARDS in BLACKHEATH

It was such fun and very exciting last Thursday to attend the 30th anniversary KOALA AWARDS presentation. This special event was held right here at Blackheath Public School. The school hall was packed with excited children, who cheered authors and illustrators as they were called to the stage to accept awards. Meanwhile, award-winning illustrator David Legge created a gorgeous pastel illustration and the audience watched it develop from rough white sketches to a magnificent picture. This was proudly taken back to one of the visiting schools.

Following the awards presentation winning authors and illustrators sat at tables to sign books – for long queues of patient children. I saw long lines for Aaron Blabey, Morris Gleitzman and Emily Rodda.

It was good to see so many old friends who turned up in Blackheath to join in the celebrations. Well done, KOALA! More photos and information on the KOALA Facebook page.



Aaron Blabey



Morris Gleitzman



He very patiently signed hundreds of books.

## GROUP VISITS

### 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 to come to Pinerolo for a group visit.**

\$10 per child. \$20 per adult

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

## OPEN DAY @ PINEROLO

**SUNDAY 4 December 10 - 4**

A day of fun for all the family

- Learn how to make a puppet with Narelda Joy •
- Talk about writing with award-winning author Dawn Meredith •



**Children, come dressed up!**

- Listen to stories, colouring in and other activities •
  - Come with friends or family •
  - Bring a picnic lunch and enjoy the day •

## CHRISTMAS SHOPPING BOOKS FOR SALE

Apart from the usual books for sale, we've finally sorted through the publishing archives of Margaret Hamilton Books. We have rare and wonderful copies of books for sale, many of them award winners. Ridiculous prices! A great opportunity for libraries to stock up.

## ORIGINAL ARTWORK FOR SALE

Original artwork makes a gorgeous Christmas gift, especially if it's combined with a copy of the book. For instance the wonderful illustrations by Anna Pignataro for *B IS FOR BEDTIME* and *COUNTING THROUGH THE DAY* and copies of these books are available at Pinerolo.

All welcome. See you here!  
[www.pinerolo.com.au](http://www.pinerolo.com.au)

## NEW PICTURE BOOKS

If you're a grandparent, do you read to your grandchildren? It's been proved that reading to children from a very young age helps develop their literacy skills. Not only that, sharing a picture book with a child is one of life's greatest pleasures – a tactile experience – holding the book, turning the pages, exploring the pictures, smelling the book. Your grandchild will remember you for these times you spent with them. Also, books make excellent Christmas gifts. There's a wealth of wonderful picture books. Here are some new ones:

*ALL I WANT FOR CHRISTMAS IS RAIN* by Cori Brooke & Megan Forward (New Frontier). A Christmas story highlighting a very Australian problem – a wish for rain to end the drought. Will Santa grant this wish? Evocative and authentic outback illustrations. Recommended.

*CAPTAIN SNEER THE BUCCANEER* by Penny Morrison & Gabriel Evans (Walker). Rough, tough, brave and bold, Captain Sneer will entertain readers with his exploits. The illustrations suit beautifully. Recommended.

*BILLY B BROWN'S ANIMAL HOSPITAL ADVENTURE* by Sally Rippin & Alisa Coburn (HGE). It's always such fun playing doctors and nurses. This fun book takes the game to a whole new level. Recommended.

*DINGO IN THE DARK* by Sally Morgan & Tania Erzinger (Omnibus/Scholastic). Especially for those who have trouble getting to sleep. Australian animals in an Aussie landscape have the solution. Inviting and colourful acrylic illustrations. Recommended.

*DUCKS AWAY* by Mem Fox & Judy Horacek (Scholastic). Who needs an introduction to Fox & Horacek? *Where is the Green Sheep?* is a bestseller, so is Mem Fox's *Possum Magic*. This delightful book will please anyone who hears it read aloud. The simplest things are often the best. Highly recommended.

*THE FABULOUS FRIEND MACHINE* by Nick Bland (Scholastic). When Popcorn the chook discovers a special machine she accumulates many new friends. Not all of them are friendly! A fun book by the creator of the *VERY CRANKY BEAR*. Highly recommended.

*THE GOBBLEDYGOOK AND THE SCRIBBLEDYNOODLE* by J Clarke, A Baysting & Tom Jellett. (Penguin). Chaos reigns in this second adventure of the Gobbledygook. Simple rhyming text and illustrations scribbled across the pages add up to lots of fun. Recommended.

*HOME IN THE RAIN* by Bob Graham (Walker). An expectant mother and her young daughter driving through the rain. Who'd think this could be the basis for a very touching and loving family story, with a lovely surprise at the end? Bob Graham never disappoints. Highly recommended.

*I WANT A HIPPOPOTAMUS FOR CHRISTMAS* by John Rox & Simon Williams (Scholastic). This well-known song is revamped and even recorded on the accompanying CD so the whole family can sing along on Christmas morning. Fun illustrations. Recommended.

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## DON'T FORGET OPEN DAY @ PINEROLO!

IDA, ALWAYS by Caron Levis & Charles Santoso (Koala Books). This poignant story is inspired by real polar bears who live in New York City Zoo. They were visited by millions of people. A beautifully illustrated story of loss and enduring memories. Recommended.

LITTLE BEAR'S FIRST SLEEP by Lesley Gibbes & Lisa Stewart (Scholastic). Like many toddlers, Little Bear can't get to sleep. He finally sleeps cosily with his parents until spring. Gorgeous text and cuddly illustrations. Recommended.

ME AND MOO & ROAR TOO by P Crumble & Nathaniel Eckstrom (Scholastic). This appealing family story about a small boy and the most unlikely pets will amuse young readers. An invitation to live in the zoo is irresistible. Recommended.

MEET THE FLYING DOCTORS by George Ivanoff & Ben Wood (Random House). Another excellent title in the MEET series. The well-told story of how the Flying Doctor Service was created supported by detailed and suitably 'Aussie' illustrations. Recommended.

MOLLY & MAE by Danny Parker & Freya Blackwood (Little Hare). Friendship is like a train ride. This gorgeous book by this award-winning team will be a firm favourite at bedtime and any time. Highly recommended.

THE NAUGHTIEST REINDEER GOES SOUTH by Nicki Greenberg (Allen & Unwin). A third, very amusing Christmas story from this award winner. Hilarious, lively illustrations that will delight on Christmas morning. Highly recommended.

THE NIGHT BEFORE CHRISTMAS by Clement Moore & H Magisson (New Frontier). Magical new illustrations for this Christmas classic. A perfect book for Santa to leave under the Christmas tree. Recommended.

OUTBACK LULLABY by Sally Odgers & Lisa Stewart (Scholastic). The gentle mixed media illustrations beautifully follow this bedtime book. It's bound to quieten the most energetic bed goer and end in pleasant dreams. Recommended.

PIG THE ELF by Aaron Blabey (Scholastic). New books by Aaron Blabey are always a delight. This Christmas story is very funny and will be welcomed by readers on Christmas morning. Recommended.

QUICK AS A WINK, FAIRY PINK by Leslie Gibbes & Sara Acton (Working Title). Simple rhyming text featuring five playful fairies, with appealing and lively illustrations. Bound to become a bedtime favourite. Highly recommended.

RADIO RESCUE! by Jane Jolly & Robert Ingpen (NLA). As I've said, I'm a huge fan of Robert Ingpen. This gorgeous book, with several beautiful fold-out pages, tells the story of John Flynn and the invention of the world's first pedal radio. Highly recommended.

SMALL THINGS by Mel Tregonning (Allen & Unwin). This stunning graphic picture book will touch the hearts of

readers, young and old. It deals with sadness, anxiety, depression, heartache and finding a place in the world. A special book, but choose carefully. Recommended.

SOMEWHERE ELSE by Gus Gordon (Penguin). Birds fly places, but not George. He's got too many things to cook. This intriguing book takes readers on a journey. Varied and engaging illustrations. Highly recommended.

TWO TROLL TALES FROM NORWAY by Margrete Lamond & Ingrid Kallick (Christmas Press). Expertly and authentically retold Norwegian stories are lavishly illustrated in this special book for Christmas. Recommended.

TWIG by Aura Parker (Scholastic). A delightful surprise book about bugs and insects, blending in and making friends. Meticulous and very appealing illustrations extend the fun by finding various insects with details hidden throughout. Recommended.

WHAT DO THEY DO WITH ALL THE POO FROM ALL THE ANIMALS AT THE ZOO? BY Anh Do and Laura Wood. (Scholastic). The answer to this hilarious question will enthral young readers and they can sing along with the CD! Recommended.

WHY IS THAT EMU WEARING ONE RED SHOE? by John Field & David Legge. (Scholastic). A CD accompanies this book. Its writer is credited with over 300 songs for the Wiggles. The award-winning illustrator has created bright, lively, energetic pictures. Lots of fun. Recommended.

### AND A COUPLE OF STUNNERS!

AMAZING ANIMALS OF AUSTRALIA'S NATIONAL PARKS by Gina Newton (NLA). For those who like something a bit more meaty, this amazing book about Australia's amazing animals will be a treasure. Beautifully illustrated and produced. Highly recommended.

AUSTRALIA ILLUSTRATED by Tania McCartney (EK Books). A small slice of Australia but a very detailed and fascinating look at this unique country. Simple but so informative and such fun to dip into often, with quirky, delightful illustrations. Highly recommended.

This will most likely be the last newsletter this year.

So, many thanks to all who read it and recommend it to others. Thanks also to the many authors and illustrators who visit when they can, and those who have presented such excellent courses here, and to publishers who send review copies of their books. Keep in touch.

I've finished off with a picture of me with my two books. This to remind you that they make wonderful Christmas presents, especially when accompanied by a piece of artwork. Have a happy and safe festive season.

Margaret Hamilton AM

