

SINCE THE LAST NEWSLETTER

We took off for a quick holiday in New Zealand and saw a lot of both islands. It was a fantastic trip and we enjoyed it very much. One stop we managed was in Rotorua, to visit old friend Myra Lee. She's 91 and seems no different from when we last met. We shared many adventures together, so it was great to catch up.



ILLUSTRATOR IN RESIDENCE. 3 - 9 Nov.

I look forward to meeting Christina Huynh, who will be here for her WestWords/Pinerolo residency. Her week will culminate with the picture book course and meeting Julie Vivas. Lucky Christina! If you'd like to join us, book in, as it is filling up fast!

ILLUSTRATED BEAR AUCTION



Raising funds for the CBCA Awards Foundation. Dub Leffler, wonderful illustrator of *Sorry Day*, winner of the 2019 Eve Pownall Award, has illustrated 'Lionel' for auction, in the style of his Bigambul ancestors. It will be a collector's item. Reserve price: \$350.

Bids to: admin@cbca.org.au with subject AUCTION. Delivery will be charged to the successful bidder. Closing date 22 November.

2019 CREATIVE ARTS LEADERS AWARD

I was very inspired to attend this Blue Mountains awards presentation and totally gobsmacked that I won the category covering writers and mentoring. It's fabulous recognition, not only for me, but for Pinerolo, for children's books, their readers and creators. What a wonderful creative community. The award is given by the Blue Mountains Creative Arts Network.

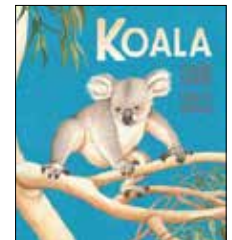
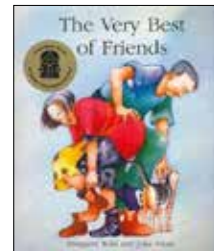
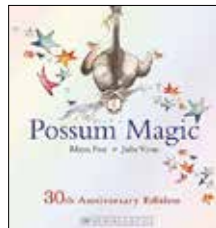
Picture Books @ Pinerolo

Saturday 9 November, 10am to 4pm

Julie Vivas



I'm super excited that Julie will be joining me for this course. She probably needs no introduction as she's one of Australia's most well-known illustrators. I urge anyone interested in picture books to attend. Authors and illustrators (published or aspiring), teachers, librarians, booksellers.



It's an invaluable opportunity for aspiring authors and illustrators or those working on a project to get input and guidance — or just anyone with a passion for picture books. All ages and levels of experience welcome. The last session is called 'Show and Tell' when participants are encouraged to bring something they've written or drawn for feedback.

Booking and prepayment essential:
www.pinerolo.com.au/PDF/Vivas.pdf

P: 47878492 / 0402428911 E: hamiltonbooks@iprimus.com.au

CBCA BLUE MOUNTAINS CHRISTMAS DINNER

22 November — 6 for 6.30pm

Pre-Christmas Dinner with Blue Mountains star author Steven Herrick. Not only will Steven entertain us with his stories, we will also celebrate that his book *By the River* has won the 2019 German Youth Literature Prize.

The wonderful Farm in Mort Street, Katoomba will once again be the venue for a fabulous 3-course dinner. CBCA members \$65, \$70 non-members. BYO no corkage.

There will also be Secret Santa, so bring a gift-wrapped book to swap.
Book early: Phone Sheryl Cootes: 0416305135.

NEW PICTURE BOOKS

Christmas is not far off, so there are some wonderful new picture books in time for gift buying. Here are some new recommendations. This time I have added a star for my choices of very special books that would be excellent gifts:

A BANANA IS A BANANA by Justine Clarke & Josh Pyke, illus by Heath McKenzie (Puffin). Entertaining rhyming text, a play on words and fun to read. Bright and cheerful.

BEAUTY by Sandra Kendall (Windy Hollow). Family can extend beyond immediate members to neighbours, pets and even beloved trees. A gentle story of connections and relationships with engaging illustrations.

BOO! by Margaret Wild & Andrew Joyner (Puffin). An entertaining game of 'Boo!' that will delight babies and young readers. Special format for small hands.

COOEE MITTIGAR by Jasmine Seymour & Leanne Mulgo Watson (Magabala). The title means 'Come here, friend'. This stunning book is an introduction to Darug Country language and culture. It should interest all ages.

THE CORNER OF MY EYE by Colin Thompson (Walker). Thompson's very detailed and superbly drawn illustrations accompany an intriguing story. Hours of involvement both in the text and the illustrations.

CUNNING CROW by Gregg Dreise (Magabala). The fourth beautiful book in a series of morality tales from this award-winner, it's a story from the Dreaming about how native birds got their brilliant colours.

THE GIFT by Michael Speechley (Puffin). A very heartwarming story about lonely people finding friendship. Sensitive illustration. A book for the whole family.

DUMAZI AND THE BIG YELLOW LION by Valanga Khoza & Matt Ottley (Scholastic). Authentic African story, with spectacular illustrations and the added bonus of a CD with narration and music.

* **THE GLIMME** by Emily Rodda & Marc McBride (Omnibus). Not a picture book but full of fantastic illustrations. A magnificent production! A new exciting adventure from the award-winning duo responsible for *Deltora Quest*. It's a perfect gift for fantasy lovers.

A HOME FOR LUNA by Stef Gemmill & Mel Armstrong (New Frontier). An unusual and touching story about a cat who makes unexpected friends in a new and very different place and feels at home. Impressive illustrations.

I SEE, I SEE by Robert Henderson (A & U). This fun book is designed to be read right side up and upside down at the same time. The simple text and illustrations are perfect for beginning readers.

LIARBIRD by Laura & Philip Bunting (Omnibus). Lyrebirds are fabulous at lying, famous for mimicking the sounds of the bush. The lyrebird in this amusing book learns that honesty is the best policy, mostly.

LITTLE PUGGLE'S SONG by Vikki Conley & Helene Magisson (New Frontier). We all know the sounds of our unique bush creatures but we may not know that echidnas make no sound. Puggle tries and finally finds a way. A cute story with appealing illustrations.

MACCA'S MAKEOVER by Matt Cosgrove (Scholastic). Macca keeps powering on! The latest in this hugely popular series would be welcome in a Christmas stocking.

* **MOONFISH** by Graeme Base (Puffin). One of the world's leading picture book creators, with the classic *Animalia* selling over 3 million, has created this stunning book. It's a beautiful fable about family and finding home. The illustrations are amazing.

* **MR CHICKEN ALL OVER AUSTRALIA** by Leigh Hobbs (A & U). For the many Mr Chicken fans, this latest adventure brings him to Australia. Another hilarious book in this series, dedicated to all the children, teachers and librarians Leigh Hobbs met when he was Australian Children's Laureate.

MY FOLKS GREW UP IN THE 80s by Beck & Robin Feiner (ABC). Very amusing, especially for anyone who can remember the eighties. Parents can relive it with their children and laugh with them at the illustrations.

ONCE, I WAS LOVED by Belinda Landsberry (EK). Love is a journey, this one through all the great events of the 20th century. A beloved toy relives his experiences. A heartwarming story with gentle illustrations.

* **THE PAINTED PONIES** by Alison Lester (A & U). Another delightful picture book from this favourite award-winner. Her books are always appealing and satisfying, perfectly written and illustrated. This is another one.

THE RETURN OF THELMA THE UNICORN by Aaron Blabey (Scholastic). Blabey is hugely successful, with millions of books sold worldwide. Fans will love this new book about Thelma, with lots of added sparkle.

* **THE TINY STAR** by Mem Fox & Freya Blackwood (Puffin). This exquisite book is a treasure for the whole family. It's a simple, tender and moving story of the cycle of life, with superb illustrations.

* **TOP KOALA** by Jackie French & Matt Shanks (A & R). A very entertaining sequel to *Koala Bare*. Koala is determined to be top of everything and indeed achieves it.

TILLY by Jane Godwin & Anna Walker (Scholastic). A thoughtful and touching story about a little girl and her treasured collection, hidden from the family. Gentle and sensitive illustrations.

TROUBLE IN THE SURF by Stephanie Owen Reeder & Briony Stewart (NLA). What reads like a cautionary tale about safety in the surf turns out to be based on a true story of two important heroes in Australian history. The colourful illustrations complete the period feel.

TWELVE DAYS OF KINDNESS by Cori Brooke & Fiona Burrows (New Frontier). Fitting in when you're different can be a challenge, but these girls find a way. Colourful and involving illustrations.

UNDER THE SAME SKY by Robert Vescio & Nicky Johnston (New Frontier). A simple heartwarming story of two friends on opposite sides of the world and how they crave to be together. Beautiful illustrations extend the simple text.

* **THE UNDERHILLS, A TOOTH FAIRY STORY** by Bob Graham (Walker). Master picture book creator has done it again! An urgent tooth collecting job is underway, with lots of touching and sensitive moments. A job well done.

THE VOYAGE by Robert Vescio & Andrea Edmonds (EK). A few powerful words and dramatic illustrations tell the story of a family of refugees who find a new life. Recommended reading.

WHITNEY AND BRITNEY: CHICKEN DIVAS by Lucinda Gifford (Scholastic). These chickens sleep all day because they have very active nights as entertainers. Unlikely but appealing and amusing.

WHO'S AFRAID OF THE QUITE NICE WOLF? by Kitty Black & Lara Wood (New Frontier). The classic tale is reimagined with the sheep getting revenge. A humorous and unlikely story extended by wacky illustrations.

FINALLY

I hope you enjoyed this newsletter and will find a book here to give a child in your life. Feel free to share it with others. If I don't get a chance to do another newsletter before Christmas, very best wishes to you, your family and friends. Best wishes and keep in touch.

Margaret Hamilton AM