

My goodness, newsletter number ten already! How time flies when you're having fun. Autumn has arrived in the Blue Mountains. It's probably my favourite season as the autumn colours here are magnificent. The days are mostly sunny and still and the nights are fresh and cool. We've even had a fire on several occasions.

It's good weather for reading. We belong to a book club here in the mountains. Our latest book was MONTEBELLO by Robert Drewe, which I enjoyed. What I like doing though, is going to our meetings armed with a pile of picture books, and I always read a few to the group. I recommend this practice to everyone who belongs to a book club. Picture books are for everyone and should be shared at every available opportunity.

### VISITORS FROM THE UK

Easter brought us a very special treat. Long-time friends Colin and Pamela Webb visited from the UK. They run their publishing company Palazzo Editions from Bath and are responsible for the beautiful series of children's classics illustrated by Australian iconic illustrator Robert Ingpen.

These books, which include WIND IN THE WILLOWS, ALICE'S ADVENTURES IN WONDERLAND, THE SECRET GARDEN, THE OWL AND THE PUSSY CAT, are published in Australia by Walker Books and are approaching twelve in number. They are a magnificent series and I recommend them highly.

Also coming out later in the year from the National Library of Australia is Robert Ingpen's book LOOKING FOR CLANCY. Robert Ingpen has had almost a lifelong interest in Banjo Paterson. This impressive book is written and illustrated by him.

Colin wrote in Pinerolo's visitors book: 'How wonderful to enter Margaret's Wonderland'. Isn't that special?



Me (at left) with Colin and Pamela Webb from the UK

### ARTWORK FOR SALE

At last we've been able to catalogue all the artwork we have here for sale. Our stated aim is to promote the work of Australian illustrators, so offering original artwork for sale is one way of doing this. Rush to our gallery:

<http://www.pinerolo.com.au/gallery.html>

#### STEPHEN MICHAEL KING

We are proud to have been appointed agent for selling the work of award-winning illustrator Stephen Michael King. Work from many of his books is available, including this magnificent piece from A BEAR AND A TREE.



#### PATRICIA MULLINS

Also available are high quality limited edition prints from A CRASH OF RHINOS by Patricia Mullins, shortlisted this year for MIDNIGHT JACK:

<http://www.pinerolo.com.au/PDF/Prints.pdf>

### ILLUSTRATORS IN RESIDENCE

Last year's Illustrators-in-Residence program was very successful. Stephen Axelsen, Jedda Robaard, Shannon Melville and Rosemary Mastnak each spent an inspiring week at Pinerolo working on a picture book project.

Applications are open for this year. Established or emerging illustrators can download the form at:

<http://www.pinerolo.com.au/PDF/Residencies.pdf>

### A unique opportunity for illustrators

Several writers-in-residence programs exist, but no illustrators-in-residence, especially where participants have the opportunity of daily mentorship by a professional with many years experience in the field.

**COPYRIGHTAGENCY**

We are grateful to the Copyright Agency for funding this program

### WELL-DESERVED DROMKEEN MEDAL

Patricia Mullins was presented with the Dromkeen Medal recently for her 'major contribution to Australian children's literature'. I'm very proud to have worked for many years with Tricia on some fabulous picture books, several of them award winners. Snap up one of her spectacular limited edition prints: <http://www.pinerolo.com.au/PDF/Prints.pdf>

## CBCA SHORTLIST

On Tuesday 9 April I attended the Sydney announcement of the shortlist for the CBCA Book of the Year Awards. The official announcement was held in Canberra, where the winners will be announced on Friday 16 August, the beginning of Children's Book Week 2013, with the slogan **READ ACROSS THE UNIVERSE**. Go to [cbca.org.au](http://cbca.org.au) to see the shortlist and also the list of Notable Books.

Every year favourite books miss out and there's discussion about the judges' choices. This year the most anticipated book was UNFORGOTTEN by Tohby Riddle. It missed the shortlist but, thankfully, is a Notable Book. I was devastated that it wasn't shortlisted, and can't recommend it too highly. If you haven't seen it, go and get it. You won't be disappointed.

Here's an idea: UNFORGOTTEN has been shortlisted for the NSW Premier's Awards — **People's Choice Award** – voting will open Friday 12 April and close on midnight Sunday, 12 May 2013. The 2013 winner will be chosen by the people of NSW amongst the shortlist for the 2013 Christina Stead Prize. Details at the State Library of NSW website: [www.sl.nsw.gov.au/premiersliteraryawards](http://www.sl.nsw.gov.au/premiersliteraryawards)

**VOTE NOW!!**

## THE MAURICE SAXBY LECTURE

Last year's inaugural lecture was a huge success. Don't miss this year's lecture, to be presented by Mark Macleod at the State Library on Tuesday 14 May. It will be a biennial event in recognition of Maurice Saxby's incredible contribution to the development of Australian children's books and to the Children's Book Council of Australia. **BOOK NOW:** [http://nsw.cbca.org.au/data/files/mauricesaxby/SAXBY\\_LECTURE2013.pdf](http://nsw.cbca.org.au/data/files/mauricesaxby/SAXBY_LECTURE2013.pdf)



*Sue Murray, me and Karen Jameyson from School Magazine*

## VISITORS FROM SCHOOL MAGAZINE

Karen Jameyson and Sue Murray from the NSW School Magazine visited last month. This fantastic magazine will be celebrating 100 Years soon. Like many people, I remember it from childhood. It's lost none of its appeal or its quality and still features excellent literary and pictorial contributions.

Published on four levels: Countdown (7 - 9 yrs), Blast Off (9 - 10 yrs), Orbit (10 - 11 yrs), Touchdown (11 +)

A subscription is a must for any school or library. The price of a whole year's subscription of 10 magazines for one child is about the same as buying one paperback book. Buying a whole class set is even better value for money. Go to: [www.theschoolmagazine.com.au](http://www.theschoolmagazine.com.au)

## NEW PICTURE BOOKS

So many beautiful new picture books. So little space!

**BOONDABURRA** by Natalie Lonsdale, illus by Shannon Melville (Wombat Books). It's a pleasure to see a finished copy of the book that Shannon worked on during her week as illustrator in residence here at Pinerolo. Well done, Shannon!

**DON'T LET A SPOONBILL IN THE KITCHEN!** by Narelle Oliver (Omnibus Books). Narelle Oliver is well-known for her detailed linocut illustrations of wildlife. This book is a colourful, chaotic cautionary tale about the antics of various birds, illustrated with collages of linocut, paper and photographs.

**GRUMPY GRANDPA** by Kate Forsyth, illus by Annie White (Scholastic). Grandpas come in all shapes and sizes. This grandpa is not as grumpy as he first appears. A warm story from this award-winning author.

**HOW FROGMOUTH FOUND HER HOME** by Ambelin Kwaymullina (Fremantle Press). I'm a sucker for owls as most people know, but Frogmouths aren't strictly owls. However, this paperback edition of this exceptional book deserves wide reading. The creator comes from the Palyku people of the Pilbara region of WA and highlights the wonderful colours and patterns of their culture.

**LIGHT HORSE BOY** by Dianne Wolfer, illus by Brian Simmonds (Fremantle Press). Not strictly a picture book, but worth mentioning as it is evocative and moving and a very timely release for Anzac Day. A beautiful book.

**LOVE IS IN THE AIR**, written by Harry Vanda & George Young, illus by Shane Devries (Scholastic). John Paul Young's famous song is taken to a new level with this quite spectacular and heartwarming book. It's all about love and there's a bonus CD of the song.

**MR DARCY, THE DANCING DUCK** by Alex Field (New Frontier). This book celebrates the 200th anniversary of 'Pride and Prejudice'. The first book MR DARCY is now available in paperback and this new title continues the story of this appealing character.

**MY SUPER HERO** by Chris Owen, illus by Moira Court (Fremantle Press). What a delightful debut for this author, spectacularly illustrated, with fold-out pages just right for sharing with the child on your lap. All fathers please note!

**POSSUM MAGIC** by Mem Fox, illus by Julie Vivas (Omnibus). You'll know this book of course, as it is now an Australian classic. This splendid new edition is published for its 30th anniversary. A true collector's edition.

**THE PROMISE** by Derek Guille, illus by Kaff-eine (One Day Hill). Just in time for Anzac Day comes this book about the French town that never forgets the Australian soldiers who saved them during the World War I. Interesting that the story is printed in French and English.

That's it for this newsletter. Make a resolution to share some picture books around with as many people as you can. I'd love to hear about the ones that were successful for you. Thanks for your support.

Margaret Hamilton AM