

Newsletter Number Fifty-four, APRIL 2021

Contact: Margaret Hamilton 0402 428911, margaret@pinerolo.com.au

www.pinerolo.com.au

116-120 Shipley Rd, Blackheath NSW 2785.

APRIL NEWSLETTER

I know, it's late, it's almost the end of April. But this month has been very busy and I wanted to wait until some events had occurred so that I could tell you about them.

Reminder: please note that my new email address is: margaret@pinerolo.com.au The old one doesn't work any more.

WESTWORDS/PINEROLO ILLUSTRATOR IN RESIDENCE

It was good to spend the week working with Elizabeth Stewart, our latest WestWords/Pinerolo Illustrator in Residence. She's a talented and promising illustrator and was working on her picture book *The Goose is Out!* It's an amusing story which develops into chaos. It's very engaging and Elizabeth's illustrations are lively, colourful and echo the chaos. It's lots of fun to read aloud.



Application forms for our next Illustrator in Residence will be released soon, so keep an eye on WestWords and Pinerolo for details.

CREATIVE KIDS TALES 2021 WRITERS' FESTIVAL: 5 - 6 JUNE

It's exciting to be involved in this festival. Because of the pandemic it will be presented online via Zoom. The theme is 'Know Your Audience'. Do you know your audience? Learn how to capture your readers. Presenters include Andy Griffiths, Ursula Dubosarsky, Susanne Gervay, Deborah Abela, Margrete Lamond and, among others, ME!

I'm looking forward to it and urge you to register for the festival and for the workshops and manuscript assessments via Zoom on 30 May. Bookings are open so go to: <https://www.trybooking.com/events/landing?eid=642592&>

MARCH OF THE ANTS

This fabulous new picture book, written by Ursula Dubosarsky and illustrated by Tohby Riddle (Book Trail Press) had its Blue Mountains launch at Pinerolo. It was a fine and beautiful afternoon and I was honoured to officially launch it. It's great fun to read aloud. Since

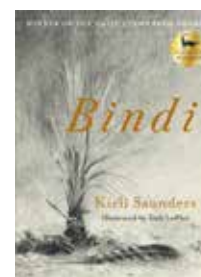
Dub Leffler in the Blue Mountains

On Friday 23 April the Blue Mountains sub-branch of CBCA NSW hosted a dinner where Dub was the guest speaker and he showed some of his brilliant artwork. He was staying with us here at Pinerolo and it was hard to drag him away from his fans!



On Saturday 24 April Dub was co-presenter at Picture Books @ Pinerolo. Participants were treated to seeing a lot of his original artwork and to hear his story of the development of his impressive collection of books especially *Strangers on Country* and *Bindi*, both shortlisted for the CBCA Book of the Year Awards. Fingers crossed when the awards are announced on 20 August!

Lionel, Dub's illustrated bear (see below), who is the mascot of the CBCA BM sub-branch, was present at both events!



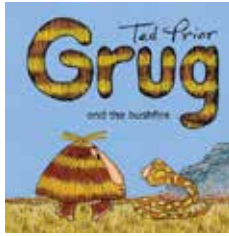
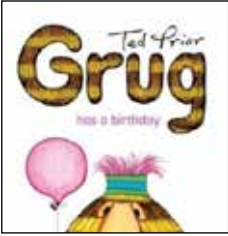
then Tohby has painted ants marching across the window at Gleebooks, Blackheath. I recommend you go and check it out and grab a copy of the book while you're there.

Don't you just love it that picture books are so much fun to publish and that our fantastic authors and illustrators are so creative and generous in their promotion of them?



Need a break or a peaceful retreat in the Blue Mountains? Pinerolo is on Airbnb. Book on Airbnb.

SPECIAL MENTION



GRUG HAS A BIRTHDAY & GRUG AND THE BUSHFIRE by Ted Prior (Simon & Schuster). As you probably know, I was the original publisher of Grug and I'm very proud that he's still doing so well. The birthday book, complete with a birthday card and wrapping paper is a winner. Grug had his 40th birthday two years ago! The bushfire book is very topical.

NEW PICTURE BOOKS

ANIMAL DOCTOR by Trevor Todd. Illus by Steve Page (IP Kidz). We published a few books by Trevor Todd years ago and they were lots of fun. This new picture book is very lively and full of fun, written in verse and illustrated with colourful, humorous pictures. An added bonus is that you can listen to the song, download the music and learn the guitar chords on the website.

BEAR AND RAT by Christopher Cheng. Illus by Stephen Michael King (Puffin). Bear and Rat are unlikely friends who vow to always be there for each other. A very personal, moving and uplifting story with beautiful illustrations which so evocatively recreate the characters and the tenderness between them.

BEFORE YOU WERE BORN by Katrina Germein. Illus by Helene Magisson (Working Title). This rhyming text is a celebration of an unborn baby, capturing the excitement and anticipation of family and friends. Watercolour and pastel illustrations echo the happiness.

DON'T FORGET by Jane Godwin. Illus by Anna Walker. (Puffin). Remembering that life's journey is important and that we all belong, is beautifully told and illustrated by this award-winning author and illustrator.

FLORENCE & FOX by Zanni Louise. Illus by Anna Pignataro (Walker). Fox is confused about the Sharing Day rules but his friendship with Florence endures. Expressive and endearing illustrations portray the setting and the characters and their feelings.

HELLO BABY! by Shelly Unwin. Illus by Jedda Robaard (A & U). There's always wonder and joy at the birth of a new baby. This very appealing book with simple, rhyming text and gentle illustrations celebrates that, complete with space for baby's first photo.

THE KATHA CHEST by Radhiah Chowdhury. Illus by Lavanya Naidu. (A & U). The author's heritage is Bangladeshi Muslim and the illustrator's West Bengali Hindu. Each has imbued this beautiful book with their culture. It's the first Australian picture book to celebrate Bangladeshi culture and it's well worth reading and sharing.

MY BIRD BERTIE by Amelia McInerney. Illus by Shane McGowan (Omnibus). A very entertaining ride in a car that's perfect for reading aloud as it moves at a fast and rhythmic pace through the book. Pencil and watercolour illustrations carry the story perfectly.

NOISY TOM by Jane Martino. Illus by Annie White (Puffin). Tom is exuberant and noisy but some people are quiet. This is part of a series of books about mindfulness celebrating various ways of communicating. The illustrations are suitably energetic.

SEA COUNTRY by Aunty Patsy Cameron. Illus by Lisa Kennedy (Magabala). Another beautiful picture book from this publisher. highlighting Indigenous culture. The delicate mixed-media illustrations depict growing up in the bush and on the beach.

TOO MANY DUCKS by Heidi Cooper Smith. (Little Pink Dog). How to cope with an invasion of ducks is the theme of this amusing story with a totally unexpected ending. Clever, expressive and colourful illustrations, well designed to show all the action.

UPSIDE DOWN FRIDAY by Lana Spasevski. Illus by Nicky Johnston (EK). We all need a plan to deal with a bad day. Hugo hates upside-down Fridays but with friends, he finds a way to cope. Very appealing illustrations with a gentle palette.

WHEN THE WATERHOLE DRIES UP by Kaye Baillie. Illus by Max Hamilton (Windy Hollow). Max Hamilton was Illustrator in Residence at Pinerolo. This is her second picture book. It's an amusing, simple and lighthearted story about bath time in the outback, when all the animals join in. Her illustrations are perfect for the story.

WOMBAT by Christopher Cheng. Illus by Liz Duthie (Walker). A multi-faceted picture book. On one level it is a touching story of a wombat and her life. On another it gives fascinating information about wombats, their habitats and family life. Richly illustrated with pictures of the animals and the Australian bush.

YES! NO. by Kellie Byrnes. Illus by Gabriella Petruso (Little Pink Dog). Follow the action in detail in the entertaining and engaging illustrations with only two words of text to guide the reader. Rollicking fun.

WHAT I'M READING

Heroes of the Secret Underground by Susanne Gervay (A & R). It's not a picture book but I love promoting Susanne as she's a special friend of Pinerolo. I seriously recommend this book. It's an unputdownable timeslip story based on her own family's experiences during the Second World War.



FINALLY

Spreading the word about children's books, especially picture books is what this is all about. I hope you've enjoyed this newsletter and are able to share some of these books with a child. If you haven't visited Pinerolo, try to come soon. It's the only centre for picture books in NSW and you'll be inspired.

Also, feel free to share this newsletter with others who might be interested. Best wishes to all. Stay safe. Thank you for your interest and support.

Regards

Margaret Hamilton AM