

Newsletter Number Six, August 2012

www.pinerolo.com.au

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What an exciting and busy month July was! Two illustrators-in-residence for a week each, as part of our program funded by CAL, plus a fabulous workshop with Tohby Riddle. Then on 4 August our course with Dee Huxley and a very enjoyable overnight visit with Dyan Blacklock from Omnibus.

SHANNON MELVILLE

It was cold and snowing lightly on Blackheath station when Shannon arrived on 1 July for her week's residency. Fortunately she came equipped with lots of winter woollies so she was able to keep warm.

Shannon is from Perth, so a quick sightseeing tour of the mountains was essential. Then she got stuck into work for the rest of the week - on a book entitled



Shannon Melville at work on her storyboard

BOONDABURRA by Natalie Lonsdale for Wombat Books and had done some preliminary drawings. It's a story about a platypus and I was impressed with how much research she had done. One break was a lunch with author Susanne Gervay and agent Jill Corcoran. It was good to show them Pinerolo and for them to see Shannon at work.

By the end of the week we had done some editing on the story and Shannon had a clearer vision for the book. She had completed an impressive storyboard with text in place. It was very exciting and satisfying for me to see her so inspired and making use of all the resources here. She wrote: 'Being surrounded by the stunning artwork, thousands of books, roughs and mock up books was so inspiring. It felt like a flame was sparked inside me again ...'

Shannon also impressed us with her energy. She jogged to Hargraves Lookout, a total distance of over ten kilometres. Well, done Shannon, on all levels!



Jill Corcoran, Margaret and Susanne Gervay at the lookout. We drove!

ROSEMARY MASTNAK

This name rang a bell when we received an application for residency from Rosemary. It turned out that I had reviewed (favourably!) Rosemary's first book DANCING WITH GRANDMA. She has since had two more books published and was here to work on her third, GARDENING WITH GRANDMA. They are delightful books and they reflect Rosemary's own loving relationship with her grandchildren.



Rosemary Mastnak

Rosemary is from Launceston in Tasmania and she hadn't been to the Blue Mountains before. She was so eager to begin work though that her sightseeing tour wasn't very extensive. She arrived in Blackheath on 21 July and quickly settled into the cottage, with gourmet supplies to keep her nourished during the week.

Rosemary also impressed us with her energy. She would be out, rugged up in woolly cap, scarf and gloves, walking before we had even had breakfast. The weather was cold but perfect all week and we were so lucky to enjoy lunch together every day in the warm sunshine.

Rosemary's work involved doing a storyboard for her new book, which shaped up very well. I was also particularly impressed to watch a beautiful watercolour illustration taking shape. Rosemary is an experienced landscape artist who has had many successful exhibitions, so she is accomplished at using watercolours. Her blog about her stay here is at: <http://cbcatas.blogspot.com.au/2012/08/a-residency-at-pinerolo-book-cottage-by.html>

TOHBY RIDDLE

With three drop-outs because of winter sicknesses, thirteen turned up for Make Your Own Picture book with Tohby Riddle. Each participant was given a template for a 32-page storyboard plus a 32-page blank book. They were led through the steps in sketching the pictures for their story firstly onto the storyboard and then into their book. Participants worked extremely hard, most having arrived with an idea for a story already in their mind. Progress over the time allotted was impressive and several completed their storyboards and began on their finished books.

We were extremely fortunate to have Tohby Riddle here for this workshop. Everyone learnt a lot from him and they were so impressed to see his new picture book UNFORGOTTEN. My thanks to Allen & Unwin for rushing me an advance copy. Look out for it in bookshops. It's truly beautiful, thought-provoking and destined for greatness.



Workshopping with Tohby Riddle

PRIME MINISTER'S AWARD

GOODNIGHT MICE! by Frances Watts, with illustrations by Judy Watson (ABC Books) was described by the judges as the 'perfect bedtime book'. It's certainly a very appealing book about a family of mice and their chaotic bedtime preparations, which end, thankfully, with everyone asleep. Congratulations!

NEW PICTURE BOOKS

It's such a delight to receive new picture books. And it's very encouraging that publishers are continuing to produce them. Many are very beautiful, tactile and a pleasure to hold.

Just in time for Fathers Day come two fun picture books. DADS, A FIELD GUIDE by Justin Ractliffe & Cathie Glassby (Random House) is an identification guide to and a celebration of the many different kinds of dads. MY DAD'S THE COOLEST by Rosie Smith & Bruce Whatley (Scholastic) is another salute to dads and the wonderful things they do.

PICTURE BOOKS @ PINEROLO

Everything you always wanted to know about writing, illustrating and publishing children's picture books: from the idea to the finished book and beyond. A one-day course with award-winning illustrator



WAYNE HARRIS

and former children's publisher

MARGARET HAMILTON



Continuing our very successful, now 6 year-old series of courses

Saturday 27 October, 10am - 4pm

More information and booking form:

www.pinerolo.com.au/PDF/Wayne2012.pdf

SPINES IN THE SAND by Diane Lucas & Colwyn Campbell (Waterlily Publications) is a gentle story set on a tropical beach, the colours of the watercolours reflecting the strong tropical light.

THE SUGARBAG by Nola Turner-Jensen & Dub Leffler (Magabala Books) follows two Aboriginal children hunting for honey produced by the Australian native stingless bee.

HEATHER FELL IN THE WATER by Doug Macleod & Craig Smith (Allen & Unwin) is hilarious in story and illustrations, about a girl who is afraid of water but finally makes friends with it and learns to swim.

TREE is a beautiful picture book by Danny Parker, illustrated by Matt Ottley (Little Hare). The story is poignant and thought-provoking and the illustrations are stunning. A special treat is that the jacket folds out to reveal a large painting by Matt Ottley.

THE OWL AND THE PUSSYCAT by Edward Lear, illustrated by Robert Ingpen (Walker). I love this series of classics beautifully illustrated by Robert Ingpen and because I collect owls I love this one even more.

CHAMPIONS READ

Everybody is no doubt very busy with programs for Children's Book Week next week. The CBCA Book of the Year Awards will be announced in Adelaide on Friday and will be celebrated for the whole of next week. I'll be talking to children at the Blue Mountains City Library. Happy Children's Book Week - Champions Read!

COMING UP!

OPEN DAY at Pinerolo on Sunday 2 December with guests Glenda Millard and Stephen Michael King. We'll be celebrating the Kingdom of Silk Series of award-winning books - a Day of Cake and Thankfulness - and there will be some surprises. Don't miss it! Mark it in your diary **now!**

I'm so looking forward to this day. Having these two very special people here staying at Pinerolo will be a great treat for me and for anyone who comes to meet them.

Thanks for your support. Feedback welcome!

Margaret Hamilton AM