

## NEWSLETTER NUMBER TWENTY-THREE

July and August couldn't have been busier. You'll see in the column on the right what happened to our Picture Books @ Pinerolo in July. We've never had so much snow in fifteen years living here. So it was very exciting.

I went to Melbourne for the Announcement of the CBCA Book of the Year Awards. It was a splendid event and there was an atmosphere of excitement in the room at Melbourne Town Hall. It was good to hear the cheers of children in the audience when their favourites were announced. I was especially honoured to be able to announce and present the Picture Book of the Year Awards, won by MY TWO BLANKETS, written by Irena Kobald and illustrated by Freya Blackwood. Freya had an enormous day, with an unprecedented win in three categories. What a star!

This was followed that night by a cocktail party at the University of Melbourne, where Libby Gleeson was presented with the CBCA Nan Chauncy Award. Libby had already won two categories in the awards, so she had a huge day as well. Richly deserved.

Following the festivities in Melbourne, Max and I went on to stay with Glenda Millard and her family and we were thrilled to meet baby Layla (named after Glenda's lovely character). Glenda is besotted! Then we stayed with Tricia Mullins and John for a couple of days. They've built a spectacular new house on their vineyard, with a cellar door and space for Tricia's rocking horse museum. It's all magnificent and well worth a visit for a wine tasting on the weekend - Black Mare Lane, Moonambel - and watch out for Tricia's opening next year!

After an 11-hour drive home, the book week excitement continued. I was a guest at Blackheath Public School, judging their writing competition. Illustrator Ben Wood joined me and he judged the drawings and book covers. Then today (Friday) I've been there again for the CBCA Blue Mountains Kids Lit Quiz. It was fantastic and lots of fun. Congratulations to Nicole Deans who runs the quiz and to Sheryl Cootes, CBCA BM President, for hosting this fabulous event. I hope it's annual.

Now I'm gearing up for the **CBCA NSW Big Book Day Out** on Sunday 13 September at the NSW Writers Centre, Callan Park, Rozelle. My boy Grug is going to be there! Plus lots of authors and illustrators. Have a look at the program on <http://nsw.cbca.org.au/news.php/110/big-book-day-out>

See you there!

## PICTURE BOOKS @ PINEROLO

Who would have thought that in Australia we could be snowed in? That's what happened on 18 July. People were trying to get here for our course with Glenda Millard but they couldn't get through. The only person who succeeded arrived in a Rural Fire Service 4-wheel-drive. So I've persuaded Glenda to come again and the course has been rescheduled for 10 October. There are very few places left so if you want to come book early! [www.pinerolo.com.au/PDF/Millard.pdf](http://www.pinerolo.com.au/PDF/Millard.pdf)



The happy group of CBCA Nth Sydney Sub Branch people who did get through on their bus!



Don't forget: Saturday 10 October. Fingers crossed it won't snow!

## NEW PICTURE BOOKS

It's not strictly a picture book, but I would like to mention ALICE THROUGH THE LOOKING-GLASS illustrated magnificently by Robert Ingpen. It's the latest addition to the beautiful series of classics produced by Palazzo and published in Australia by Walker Books. A set of these books would be lifelong friends.

With the lead-up to Fathers Day there have been several picture books featuring fathers of all shapes and sizes. So it's a good idea to buy a new picture book to share with Dad on Fathers Day.

ARE WE THERE YET? by Alison Lester (Penguin). This often-heard question was the topic of a very successful picture book by this award winner. It is now a lift-the-flap and I-spy book. A must for families embarking on long road trips. Highly recommended.

BILLIE'S WILD JUNGLE ADVENTURE by Sally Rippin & Alisa Coburn (Hardie Grant Egmont). A perfect size for small hands, this book even has a hole in the front cover, inviting the reader in. Two children have an exciting imaginary adventure and are home just in time for a snack.

DADDY CUDDLE by Kate Mayes & Sara Acton (ABC Books). Daddies like to sleep in, but it's difficult when energetic offspring are wide awake and ready to play. This little rabbit tries everything until Dad finally wakes up and gives him a cuddle. A winner for Fathers Day!

FEARLESS WITH DAD by Cori Brooke & Giuseppe Poli (New Frontier). More for Fathers Day! This one celebrates the endless possibilities of having adventures with Dad. As we all know Dads can do anything! Action-packed illustrations. Recommended.

FLY-IN, FLY-OUT DAD BY Sally Murphy & Janine Dawson (Five Mile Press). Yet another one for Fathers Day, this highlighting a dad who travels vast distances for work and the delight when the family can spend time together. The illustrations celebrate loving family activities. Recommended.

HAROLD AND GRACE by Sean E Avery (Fremantle Press). Friendship between these two different creatures endures through life's changes, 'the metamorphosis of friendship'. A beautifully illustrated, designed and produced picture book. Recommended.

HUSH LITTLE POSSUM by P Crumble & Wendy Binks (Scholastic). There's a CD with this book, the song performed by Deborah Mailman, based on the classic lullaby. A very appealing bedtime book.

THE HUSH TREASURE BOOK (A & U). Many collections of this type are a bit of a hotchpotch. This book however, is beautiful and it works really well. It's a wonderful collection of stories, poems and illustrations by thirty of our foremost authors and illustrators. Commissioned by the HUSH Music Foundation, includes a CD. Highly recommended.

IN THE EVENING by Edwina Wyatt & Gaye Chapman (Little Hare). Oscar and Charlie are different – one shy, the other bold. Through this delightful book over the course of a week, their friendship develops and an all-night party cements their relationship. Recommended.

THE LITTLE BOOK OF AUSTRALIA'S BIG THINGS by Samone Bos & Alice Oehr (ChirpyBird HGE). Packed with information and activities about Australia's Big Things, this fascinating and entertaining book will keep readers busy for hours, then asking for more. Recommended.

MY AMAZING DAD by Ezekiel Kwaymullina & Tom Jellett (Little Hare). All dads are unique. This one is not very good at everyday jobs, but he's brilliant at the things that count. Great fun for Fathers Day. Recommended.

NEWSPAPER HATS by Phil Cummings & Owen Swan (Scholastic). This poignant book begins with a nostalgia trip through newspaper headlines on the endpapers. It continues with a child wanting her grandpa to remember her. They explore many memories and the one Grandpa remembers most is making newspaper hats. Highly recommended.

THE POSSUM MAGIC COOKBOOK illustrated by Julie Vivas (Omnibus). *Possum Magic* is Australia's bestselling picture book. This, with gorgeous illustrations, takes the book even further. It includes recipes of many Australian favourites. It might be a good Fathers Day book for Dads that cook! Recommended.

THE RED FEATHER by Ben Kitchin & Owen Swan (New Frontier). A beautiful red feather found on a beach is exchanged by friends until they all realise that the most fun can be had together, sharing the feather's beauty. Simple, clear illustrations. Recommended.

SURI'S WALL by Lucy Estela & Matt Ottley (Penguin). This moving story of life behind a high wall highlights the power of the human spirit to transcend isolation. A beautifully illustrated and produced book that will touch the hearts of all readers. Highly recommended.

TEACUP by Rebecca Young & Matt Ottley (Scholastic). This tender and beautiful book gently tells the story of a refugee boy and his journey of discovery. The illustrations are atmospheric, evocative and memorable. Highly recommended.

TEDDY TOOK THE TRAIN by Nicki Greenberg (A & U). My daughter never went anywhere without Teddy. This energetic girl is optimistic about Teddy coming home again after a big adventure. What a relief when he does! A delightful story. Highly recommended.

TOO BUSY SLEEPING by Zanni Louise & Anna Pignataro (Little Hare). Meeting a new baby brother can be interesting, exciting and frustrating. This heartwarming story by a first-time author, is gorgeously illustrated with watercolour and collage by an award-winner. Recommended, especially for families with new babies.

THE VERY NOISY BEAR by Nick Bland (Scholastic). The Very Cranky Bear is now noisy! He joins the Jungle Band and tries different instruments, making more and more noise. The acrylic illustrations bring the fun and the bear's character to life. Highly recommended.

By the way, the CBCA is celebrating its 70th anniversary! See you - and Grug - at the Big Book Day Out! Happy reading.  
Margaret Hamilton AM

