

NEWSLETTER NUMBER 51!

I do hope that everyone is safe and well. What a challenging time we are living through. A friend of mine, who lives in Athens has suggested that this period we are living through, wherever we are, is a wake-up call from Mother Earth. She is not happy. For too many years we have taken our planet for granted by burning, dumping and trampling all over it. Look how this applies to Australia and what we have done to our beautiful country.

Modern technology allows large numbers of people to travel quickly to distant countries. My friend used to work on the beautiful island of Santorini. There could be up to 6 cruise ships arriving, each with around 3000 passengers — 18,000 people visiting this tiny island with a population of 15,500. It was like that when we were there — and in Venice as well. We were swamped by tourists arriving on ships. Last year Greece had almost 39 million tourists, which is not sustainable. Now must be the time to slow down, take a deep breath and look at how we can better manage the way we treat our planet. After all, there's no Planet B!

GOOD NEWS. You may know my two picture books: 'B is For Bedtime' and 'Counting Through the Day', both illustrated by Anna Pignataro and published by Little Hare. The exciting news is that the counting book will be read on Playschool on 15 August. I hope I remember to watch, or catch it on iView!



I'd dearly love to get another book published but, as many of you know, this is extremely difficult, especially in the current climate. Maybe I could be so bold as to suggest that if there's a publisher out there looking for picture books, I'd be delighted to let them see my ideas. There, how bold is that?

NEW PICTURE BOOK

Here's Charmaine Ledden-Lewis who has illustrated FOUND, written by the incredible Bruce Pascoe ('Dark Emu' and 'Young Dark Emu') (Magabala Books). Charmaine won the Kestin Indigenous Illustration Award. It's a very impressive first picture book — full of love and strong colours — and I thoroughly recommend it. Charmaine lives in Blackheath and we're very proud of her.



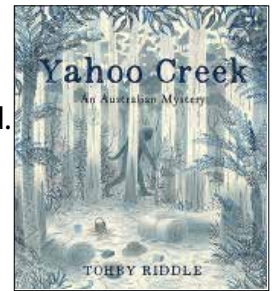
Picture Books @ Pinerolo Tohby Riddle

Saturday 12 September



Tohby Riddle is an award-winning author and illustrator, with a wealth of experience and knowledge. His fabulous book 'Yahoo Creek' is Shortlisted for the CBCA awards and he will also be talking about his new picture book 'The Astronaut's Cat' (see below).

Treat yourself!
I urge anyone interested in picture books to attend. Authors and illustrators (published or aspiring), teachers, librarians, booksellers.



Everything you need to know about creating a children's picture book. 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.

If Covid restrictions still apply we will be taking required precautions.



Pinerolo, the Children's Book Cottage, 116 Shipley Road, Blackheath • 10am - 4pm. \$160.00. BYO lunch.

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

P: 47878492 / 0402428911

E: hamiltonbooks@iprimus.com.au

WESTWORDS/PINEROLO

ILLUSTRATOR IN RESIDENCE — Closing soon!

It's been so wonderful to spend a week with successful applicants for this fantastic program. I love sharing my experience in a mentorship capacity with emerging illustrators and I am especially proud of those who have gone on to achieve their dream. We'll be going ahead with the program again this year but delayed because of coronavirus. Residents can expect to be hugely inspired by the collection of original artwork from Australian picture books and the large library of picture books. Just researching what established illustrators have done is extremely motivating. It's a fabulous opportunity!

Applications close 31 August.

A few details for your interest:

- Pinerolo has so far hosted nineteen Illustrators in residence, (funded by CAL and now by WestWords).
- Beginning in 2007, we have held here twenty-seven one-day courses on creating picture books.

For an application form email: admin@westwords.com.au OR: hamiltonbooks@iprimus.com.au

NEW PICTURE BOOKS

BEAR IN SPACE by Deborah Abela & Marjorie Crosby-Fairall (Walker). In spite of his friends laughing Bear plans to go on a space adventure. How he achieves this and finds a new friend is moving and fun. Excellent illustrations.

BEDTIME, DADDY! by Sharon Giltrow & Katrin Dreiling (EK). The tables are turned in this entertaining book about putting Dad to bed, complete with very funny and engaging illustrations.

DHARMA THE LLAMA by Matt Cosgrove (Scholastic). A new fun story to add to this very successful series. Dharma lives life her way and one of her favourite things is reading. Energetic and entertaining illustrations.

DRY TO DRY by Pamela Freeman & Liz Anelli (Walker). A new title in the impressive Nature Storybooks series, this focussing on the seasons and wildlife in Kakadu National Park. Mixed media illustrations and extra information complete this fascinating book.

ELLIE'S DRAGON by Bob Graham (Walker). Bob Graham never disappoints and this is again an original and appealing story that reflects childhood and imaginary friends perfectly.

ESMERALDA'S NEST by Robert Moore & Mandy Foot (Midnight Sun). This pig is getting broody, as she collects things from the farm every day of the week. Then she's got five new piglets. A touching story with appealing illustrations.

A HOUSE OF MUD by Sophie Masson & Katrina Fisher (Little Pink Dog). An inspiring story about a family building their own mud brick house and of course one for the pet dog as well. Based on true events. Very appealing illustrations taking readers through the process.

HUBERTA'S BIG SURPRISE by K & M Lamprell & Marjorie Crosby-Fairall (Scholastic). A counting book with a surprise difference, a hippopotamus who rides all sorts of transport to get herself around. Delightful illustrations capturing the character of all the animals.

HUMPTY DUMPTY SAT ON A SLIDE by Tony Wilson & Laura Wood (Scholastic). An entertaining new version of the old nursery rhyme. Playful and energetic illustrations take readers along with the fun.

I SAW PETE AND PETE SAW ME by Maggie Hutchings & Evie Barrow (Affirm). A touching story of kindness and friendship and a boy's concern for a homeless man. Appealing illustrations.

KOOKABURRA by Claire Saxby & Tannya Harricks (Walker). A new title in this very successful Nature Storybooks series, focussing on a family of kookaburras, with useful information at the back. Realistic and atmospheric oil paintings involve readers in their lives.

LING LI'S LANTERN by Steve Heron & Benjamin Johnston (Midnight Sun). This beautiful story begins with the saying 'Wisdom without compassion is like a lantern without a flame'. Ling Li is given a challenge to test her wisdom and she proves herself. The illustrations are as evocative and moving as the story.

THE LOST LIBRARY by Jess McGeachin (Puffin). I'm a sucker for any book that promotes reading. This story of friendship and shared love of reading has very appealing illustrations and a surprise on every page.

MAMA OCEAN by Jane Jolly & Sally Heinrich (Midnight Sun). Mama Ocean is troubled and the sea creatures set out to help. A strong environmental message in this troubling story comes through in swirling, watery illustrations.

MY DAD IS . . . by Ed Allen & James Hart (Scholastic). Complete with a dial to set for what Dad does best, this is a fun book to share on Father's Day.

NOT CUTE by Philip Bunting (Scholastic). Top marks for another from this creator. Quokka hates being cute and sets out to prove he can be not cute. Distinctive illustrations complete an entertaining book.

PATRICK WHITE by Toni Brisland & Anastasia Popp (Little Steps). This fascinating and fact-filled short biography introduces an iconic Australian author to children. Colourful illustrations on every page extend its appeal to young readers.

PINK! by Margaret Wild & Judith Rossell (Working Title). Two award-winners together in this unusual and affirming story about accepting your differences and finding your strength. Gorgeous illustrations.

TEN SLEEPY SHEEP by Renee Treml (Puffin). A very cute little bedtime board book, especially for very young readers. A lovely, gentle read-aloud with simple, sleepy illustrations.

THIS SMALL BLUE DOT by Zeno Sworder (Thames & Hudson). A moving, gentle and beautiful welcome to a new baby, who will share this small blue dot we live on. Written and illustrated with love, hope and tenderness.

WHAT DO YOU CALL YOUR GRANDPA? by Ashleigh Barton & Martina Heiduczek (ABC). A delightful homage to grandpas around the world, beautifully illustrated to depict each one, with a useful list in the back.

FINALLY

Please feel free to pass this newsletter on to others.

Reminders of two special dates:

- **12 September, Picture Books @ Pinerolo**
- **31 August, closing date for applications for WestWords/Pinerolo residency.**

Many thanks. Stay safe and well.

Margaret Hamilton A

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