

NEWSLETTER NUMBER TWENTY-FIVE

At this time of year television is full of yearly 'wrap ups' and predictions or teasers about what will be happening next year.

2015 has been an extremely busy year here at Pinerolo. The year began quietly but built up to a crescendo. My thanks to Libby Gleeson, Toby Riddle and Glenda Millard, who all presented brilliant courses on how to create children's picture books.

These courses attract not only aspiring authors and illustrators, but some already published, as well as teachers, librarians, booksellers and people just interested. We take them through the entire process of producing a picture book – from idea, manuscript, dealing with publishers, illustrations, editing, producing and selling. Keep an eye out for courses in 2016. They are well worth attending.

Comments in our visitors' book include:

'What an inspiring place. It has been a fabulous experience and I learnt so much.' 'This has been a great insight into the world of picture story books . . . I will be telling the children I teach all about what I learnt today.' 'I'm amazed and dazzled how much I've learnt.' 'I've loved the day. Thank you. I'm feeling challenged!'

So next year will be busy as well. Not only will Pinerolo be busy, but the Children's Book Council will be very busy! Don't forget the exciting CBCA 12th National Conference in Sydney in May. The program has been released and early bird bookings are open. Don't miss it! BOOK NOW! cbcaconference.org.au



2016 is also the 70th anniversary of the CBCA Book of the Year Awards. The 70th awards will be presented in Sydney in August. A big year. A big celebration. I do love a party!

CONGRATULATIONS TO SEVEN STORIES!

Seven Stories, The National Centre for Children's Books in Newcastle, UK is joint Gold Winner of the Large Visitor Attraction of the Year Award, North East Tourism Awards 2015. We visited there last year. It's a wonderful place and well worth a visit when you're in the UK. Children's book paradise on 7 storeys!

OPEN DAY @ PINEROLO



Dawn Meredith, Narelda Joy, me and Lesley Gibbes

It was our Fifth Anniversary Open Day on Sunday 29 November. Unlike last year, when it rained heavily all day, this open day was sunny and fine. Thank goodness! It enabled children to play outside, to collect pine cones and generally enjoy the day.

I am really grateful to Dawn Meredith, Narelda Joy and Lesley Gibbes, who came and shared their beautiful children's books with us.

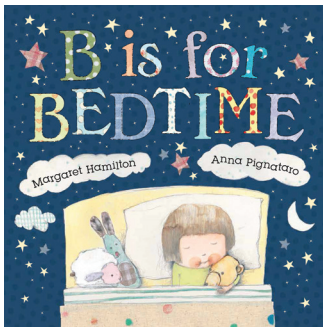


Lesley Gibbes reading her award-winning book SCARY NIGHT

Keep an eye on the newsletter and our website for future activities here at Pinerolo. I AM intending to plan a program for the year, so will begin spreading the word as soon as I can.

In the meantime, my grateful thanks to everyone who came to present at our picture book courses and to all who attended and participated.

BOAST POST



B IS FOR BEDTIME
Margaret Hamilton &
Anna Pignataro
Published by Little Hare
\$24.95

I can't resist this opportunity to share with you my absolute delight about the success of my first picture book. Just having it accepted for publication was exciting enough, but it being chosen as a 2015 CBCA Notable Book was icing on the cake. THEN the news came in that the US Edition is selling hugely, with the print run now up to 60,000 copies! I have to keep pinching myself! One of the reviews from the US said: 'If you want to win first prize for the best present at a baby shower, buy this book!' Have a look at this: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0FD8MKov-7M> I might add that it would be a welcome find under the Christmas tree on Christmas morning. The second book **COUNTING THROUGH THE DAY** will be launched at the CBCA conference next May.

NEW PICTURE BOOKS

If you've been reading my newsletter this year you will have seen the wealth of wonderful picture books that have been published. Australian children are the luckiest in the world. Our picture book creators never disappoint and always inspire. Please continue to share these books with the children in your life and continue to read them for yourself. In fact, it's our book group meeting this Saturday. I always take a couple of picture books to read to my friends. They've come to expect this and always ask me eagerly what I've got in my bag!

A YOU'RE ADORABLE illus by Nathaniel Eckstrom (Scholastic). This classic alphabet song is a perfect way to let someone know how special they are. Large hardback format plus a CD sung by Justine Clarke.

ADELAIDE'S SECRET WORLD by Elise Hurst (A & U). I can't recommend this book enough as I gave it 5 stars in a review for Bookseller magazine. The tender, lyrical language is combined with beautiful, atmospheric paintings. It's a story of courage, change and finding your soulmates. Highly recommended.

BRING A DUCK by Lesley Gibbes & Sue deGennaro (Scholastic). Following the author's success with *Scary Night* comes a lighter story about going to a party. As it says: fantastic, fabulous, feather-tickling fun! Highly recommended.

CLEMENTINE'S BATH by Annie White (New Frontier). She's a smelly dog and Clementine hates baths! When the family try to give her one she runs away. This amusing and endearing family story, with its expressive illustrations, is just right for a family with a similar problem. Recommended.

NO MORE CUDDLES by Jane Chapman (Koala). Barry the friendly monster is overwhelmed. He's smothered in cuddles and needs a rest. How he achieves this is very entertaining. Colourful, lively illustrations match the exuberant text. Recommended.

THE NUTCRACKER retold by Margrete Lamond, illus by Ritva Voutila (Little Hare). A beautiful retelling of Hoffman's classic tale, lavishly illustrated in splendid detail and glorious colour. The result is a book for all ages to treasure, and perfect for Christmas. Highly recommended.

PERFECT by Danny Parker & Freya Blackwood (Little Hare). This wonderful book is an evocative picture of a perfect day, full of the delights of childhood. The simple and expressive verse is brilliantly illustrated by multi-award winner Freya Blackwood. A perfect book! Highly recommended.

SANTA CLAUS IS COMING TO TOWN by Haven Gillespie & J Fred Coots & Nathaniel Eckstrom (Scholastic). This classic song has been turned into a fun Christmas book, just right for under the tree on Christmas morning. There's a bonus CD of the song, sung by Human Nature. Recommended.

THIS & THAT by Mem Fox & Judy Horacek (Scholastic). The award-winning team responsible for *Where is the Green Sheep?* have done it again. This entertaining and whimsical bedtime story is perfect to share before the light goes out. Recommended.

THREE DRAGONS FOR CHRISTMAS (Christmas Press). Three authors tell timeless stories about dragons, sumptuously illustrated by three different illustrators. Perfect for Christmas morning and to treasure forever, as is *Two Tengu Tales from Japan* by Duncan Ball and illustrated by David Allan. Recommended.

WE'RE GOING ON A SANTA HUNT by Laine Mitchell & Louis Shea (Scholastic). Animals charging through this book are in search of Santa, even on the North Pole express. Thank goodness they all get to bed on time! Music on the bonus CD. Recommended.

WHERE'S JESSIE? by Janeen Brian & Anne Spudvilas (NLA). Janeen Brian's books range from novels to poetry, fiction and non-fiction. Anne Spudvilas is an award-winning illustrator. Together they have produced a beautiful picture book based on the true story of Bertie the Bear. Highly recommended.

SIGNING OFF FOR THE YEAR

Thank you so much for your support this year and for your feedback on the newsletter.

Max and I join with Grug to send warmest wishes to everyone and their families for a wonderful festive season and hopefully for all of us a happy, healthy and peaceful new year.

Happy reading to all! I hope you receive lots of books for Christmas!

Margaret Hamilton AM

