



Newsletter Number Thirty-six, DECEMBER 2017

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## NEWSLETTER NUMBER THIRTY-SIX

For the most recent Picture Books @ Pinerolo I was joined by the fabulous Lisa Stewart, successful picture book illustrator. She was so generous at giving encouragement to the participants and talking freely about her own journey to publication. She is also a professional violinist with the Acacia Quartet. She treated us to a fabulous piece on her violin, which was sublime.

Joining us on the day was Sadami Konchi, who was here for a week as Illustrator in Residence. Sadami was working on a series of illustrations for WestWords, plus some other projects, so she was very busy and achieved a huge amount of work.



Max and me with Sadami Konchi.



Sadami Konchi with MY DOG SOCKS - in bookshops now.

The Illustrators in Residence program is in partnership with WestWords and I look forward to announcing our plans for 2018. It's very satisfying to work with illustrators, being a live-in mentor for a week. I love watching their work develop and being on hand to help where I could.

So concludes another busy year. Much has been achieved this year. I look forward to more during 2018. Now turn over to see fabulous new books.

*Pinerolo – the only centre for children's books in NSW. See the treasures: original artwork plus the picture book library.*

## • OPEN DAY & CHRISTMAS SALE •

### Sunday 3 December - 10 to 4

**Books make perfect gifts for any age.**

Something for everyone -  
new children's picture books \$10, paperbacks \$3,  
adult books various prices. Original artwork also for sale.

**ALSO: Watch Lisa Stewart at work on illustrations  
AND: talk to Dawn Meredith about her new books.**

**Come and say hello - or arrange:**

## • HOLIDAY VISITS •

**Listen, Look & Learn. Be Inspired! One hour talk**

Where do Picture Books Come From?

How are they written? Who draws the pictures?

**Groups of children & adults are welcome.  
Don't delay. Plan a visit during the holidays.**

\$10 per child. \$20 per adult

Bookings: 02 47878492 or hamiltonbooks@iprimus.com.au  
116 Shipley Road, Blackheath.

## GRUG FOR CHRISTMAS



Anybody who has been here to Pinerolo and seen the Grug bunting and the books on display would know that I'm a huge fan. As the first publisher of Grug back in the 1970s I was excited to see the complete series republished by Simon & Schuster Australia. The series has even expanded, with the addition of new titles. Grug continues to be a favourite with a whole new generation of readers, which does my heart good. He's now sold over two million books in Australia. The picture is the fabulous new boxed set of the complete series, plus two 'favourites' sets and four new titles.

**Perfect for Christmas! Available at all good bookshops.**

## NEW PICTURE BOOKS

The pre-Christmas picture books I've received from publishers are outstanding, with appeal to all ages. Here is a selection:

**BERTHA AND BEAR** by Christine Sharp (UQP). The courage of one little bee saves the whole hive, with the help of an unlikely friend. A very appealing, colourful insight into the life of bees and their place in the world.

**BOUNCING BOUNCING LITTLE JOEYS** by Lesley Gibbes & Doris Chang (Hachette). Especially for Christmas, an Aussie picture book for the family to share. All the bush animals work together to decorate the tree and wait for Christmas morning.

**THE BUM BOOK** by Kate Mayes & Andrew Joyner (ABC). Everybody's got one, so this book about bums is for them. Cheeky (excuse the pun) and lots of fun with exuberant illustrations highlighting all kinds of bums.

**CAN YOU FIND ME?** by Gordon Winch & Patrick Shirvington (New Frontier). Highlighting Australian animals, this hide and seek book evoking the beauty of our bush, will encourage young readers to look into the pictures and find them.

**CLOVER'S BIG IDEAS** by Georgie Donaghey & Emma Middleton (Little Pink Dog). Being small doesn't mean you can't have big ideas. This story of a very cute little lamb saving the day, with its very appealing illustrations will delight small people.

**DANNY BLUE'S REALLY EXCELLENT DREAM** by Max Landrax (Hachette). This intriguing and unusual book is an exploration of colour and a small boy with big ideas. Simple but very effective illustrations.

**EXCUSE ME!** by David Hughes & Holly Ife, illus by Philip Bunting (Scholastic). A funny book about manners and farts by this popular comedian. Appealing illustrations extend the fun.

**GRACE & KATIE** by Susanne Merritt & Liz Anelli (EK). Everybody loves to draw, but collaboration is often difficult. These girls combine their work and will encourage readers to draw and refer to these appealing illustrations.

**KOALAS EAT GUM LEAVES** by Laura & Philip Bunting (Omnibus). We all know koalas eat gum leaves. But this one has other ideas. Simple text tells the story and striking, stylised illustrations expand on it.

**MARVIN AND MARIGOLD A CHRISTMAS SURPRISE** by Mark Carthew & Simon Prescott (New Frontier). The spirit of the festive season and the magic of Christmas come through in this charming picture book.

**MOLLY THE PIRATE** by Lorraine Teece & Paul Seden (Magabala). Wonderful work from these Indigenous creators, recipients of the Magabala Indigenous Creator Scholarship. A colourful swashbuckling story about a girl, who lives far from the sea, wanting to be a pirate.

**PARMESAN THE RELUCTANT RACEHORSE** by Jacqui Halpen & John Phillips (Little Pink Dog). This horse thinks he's a dog and does everything dogs do. Finally he surprises everyone at the Spring Carnival. Energetic illustrations complete the appeal.

**SANTA'S GONE SURFING** by P Crumble & Thomas Fitzpatrick (Koala). In the southern hemisphere it's too hot for Santa to deliver presents, so he goes surfing. Trev in his ute and some emus take over. Very entertaining.

**STANLEY'S PLAYING THE TRUMPET!** by John Field & Tull Suwannakit (Scholastic). A very noisy book, complete with a CD to play along. Stanley wants to be in a band. Practise makes perfect. Will he succeed?

**SWAN LAKE** by Anne Spudvilas (Allen & Unwin). This retelling of the iconic ballet with exquisite illustrations by this award-winning illustrator would make the perfect gift for any age. It's a classic love story that I'm sure would appeal to teenage girls.

**THERE'S A BIG GREEN FROG IN THE TOILET** by Anh Do & Heath McKenzie (Scholastic). What a predicament! You're busting and there's a big green frog in the toilet. A very funny story, especially to read aloud.

**TILLY'S REEF ADVENTURE** by Rhonda Garward (NLA). This fascinating book draws attention to the Great Barrier Reef and the creatures who live there. The full-colour illustrations include lift the flap pages and there is a section of information at the back.

**TINTINNABULA** by Margo Lanagan & Rovina Cai (Little Hare). This is a very special, beautiful book that will provoke thoughtful reading and discussion. Moving and atmospheric illustrations.

**THE VERY NOISY BABY** by Alison Lester (Affirm). One of our best-loved picture book creators has done it again! Rollicking fun to share with Lester's classic, very appealing and involving illustrations.

**A VERY QUACKY CHRISTMAS** by Frances Watts & Ann James (ABC). Ducks enjoy Christmas too! Samantha Duck sets out to prove that Christmas is for everyone. An excellent book for the Christmas stocking as it's all about giving and sharing.

**WHEN I GROW UP** by Tim Minchin & Steve Antony (Scholastic). Incredibly talented Tim Minchin's first picture book. A joyful look at adult life from a child's perspective with action packed illustrations.

**WHY CAN'T I BE A DINOSAUR?** by Kylie Westaway & Tom Jellet (A & U). Nellie doesn't want to be a flower girl. She's determined to be a dinosaur. Chaos reigns in this amusing family story about a wedding with a difference.

**THE WORLD'S WORST PIRATE** by Michelle Worthington & Katrin Dreiling (Little Pink Dog). Will can't stand being a pirate. He gets seasick. It's only when he deals with a terrible sea monster that he comes to terms with life on board ship. Swashbuckling fun.

## FINALLY

Dare I also remind you that my books **B IS FOR BEDTIME** and **COUNTING THROUGH THE DAY** are available at Pinerolo, plus original artwork? I welcome visitors to Pinerolo, so please come on 3 December if you can. Enjoy the newsletter.

Best wishes for Christmas and 2018 to you and your family. Thanks for your support.

Margaret Hamilton AM

