

NEWSLETTER NUMBER TWENTY-SIX

I've been having trouble realising that it's 2016 and it's nearing the end of February, the second month. How did we get here?

Many of you know that we travelled to England and Italy over Christmas and the New Year. It was quite different to be away at this time of the year. That might be why I've had trouble settling in to the new year, as Christmas happened in a totally different way for us. Here's a very special person I met in London:



CONGRATULATIONS! To Jackie French, Ann James and Ann Haddon for their Order of Australia Awards. This is wonderful and well-earned recognition of people who are passionate about children's books and promote them endlessly.

CONGRATULATIONS! Also to Leigh Hobbs, who was chosen as Australian Children's Laureate for 2016-2017. Leigh and Mr Chicken will do an amazing job of promoting children's reading. Download Leigh's Story calendar: www.childrenslaureate.com.au

DON'T FORGET! The CBCA 12th national conference, Sydney in May. Fascinating and stimulating program including such icons as Libby Gleeson, Jeannie Baker and Graeme Base. Meet many authors and illustrators mingling with delegates, signing books. Browse the fascinating trade display, the bookshop run by Paul McDonald, hear James Valentine at the dinner. **ALSO: the announcement of the 2016 SHORT LIST!!** Two days of Book Heaven. **BOOK NOW!**

<http://www.trybooking.com/Booking/BookingEventSummary.aspx?eid=168745>

PICTURE BOOKS @ PINEROLO

Saturday 9 April – 10am - 4pm

GLENDA MILLARD!

Glenda's course last July was so well received we just had to invite her again. Don't miss it!



GLENDA MILLARD has written picture books, short stories and novels. She says that she 'has loved reading and being read to from an early age.' As a child, her more robust pursuits included billy-cart racing, tree-climbing and attempting to fly off the roof of her Nana's shed. Glenda left school at 15 and it was nearly 30 years later when she discovered that writing was the closest thing she'd ever felt to flying. The seven books in the heartwarming 'Kingdom of Silk' series have a huge following. Glenda's picture book *THE DUCK AND THE DARKLINGS*, illustrated by Stephen Michael King, was an Honour Book in the CBCA Picture Book of the Year 2015. Another picture book *ONCE A SHEPHERD*, illustrated by Phil Lesnie, was a 2015 CBCA Honour Book. Glenda will also talk about her wonderful new novel, *THE STARS AT OKTOBER BEND*, which you can buy and have signed on the day.



BOOKING AND PRE-PAYMENT ESSENTIAL

\$160.00 BYO lunch.

Tea and coffee provided.

Participants are invited to share some recent work with us. We will be honest and constructive!

www.pinerolo.com.au

NEW PICTURE BOOKS

The wonderful picture books I receive from publishers continue to flow in. Note the following new titles and share them with children. Picture books are doing well in Australia. Readers have realised that reading a picture book is a tactile experience that can't be replicated by a tablet. Please continue to support them.

ABC DREAMING by Warren Brim (Magabala). Striking indigenous hand-coloured linoprints and acrylic paintings illustrate this simple alphabet of rainforest creatures. Recommended for pre-readers.

THE BIG FISH by Pamela Allen (Penguin). An entertaining cumulative story involving four characters and an amusing mishap when all they want to do is catch a fish. Wonderful fun to read aloud. Highly recommended.

BOB THE RAILWAY DOG by Corrinne Fenton & Andrew McLEAN (Black Dog). The delightful adventures of an adventurous dog who, in the 1800s travelled on steam trains for vast distances. A gorgeous taste of history, beautifully illustrated. Highly recommended.

CYCLONE by Jackie French & Bruce Whatley (Scholastic). Following the successful award-winning **FIRE** and **FLOOD** comes this moving story with stunning illustrations – for a new generation – of Cyclone Tracy which devastated Darwin in 1974. Highly recommended.

THE DREAMING TREE by Jo Oliver (New Frontier). Very satisfying to see this finished book, as Jo was an illustrator in residence here at Pinerolo. It's turned out beautifully – entertaining, thoughtful free verse and beautiful illustrations. Recommended.

ECHIDNA JIM WENT FOR A SWIM by Phil Cummings & Laura Wood (Scholastic). All the animals have a great time at the beach – until prickly Echidna Jim joins them, then it's mayhem. Recommended.

EMO THE EMU by Tony Wilson & Lucia Masciullo (Scholastic). A journey around Australia would cheer anyone up! But will it work for Emo, the moody and depressed Emu? Rhyming text and watercolour illustrations combine in this fun book. Recommended.

FINDING MONKEY MOON by Elizabeth Pulford & Kate Wilkinson (Walker). Bedtime looms and Monkey Moon can't be found. A determined search brings him and Michael back together. Charmingly written and illustrated. Recommended.

HELLO illustrated by Tony Flowers (NLA). Reflecting our multicultural society, twelve friends who speak different languages take readers through simple words and phrases. Complete with pronunciation guides and friendly, action-packed illustrations. Recommended.

HOW THE SUN GOT TO COCO'S HOUSE by Bob Graham (Walker). Yet another masterpiece from Bob! From its sunny endpapers we follow the journey of the sun as it wakes up the world, finally reaching Coco's house. Strongly recommended.

I LOVE ME by Sally Morgan & A Kwaymullina (Fremantle Press). Bright and happy colours fill this book by two acclaimed indigenous creators. It's a celebration of individuality and being unique. Recommended.

I NEED A HUG by Aaron Blabey (Scholastic). Well doesn't everyone need a hug? There's a real problem here though. Another fun book by this prolific, popular and award-winning picture book creator. Recommended.

ME, TEDDY by Chris McKimmie. (A & U). This popular picture book creator has done it again – a book that is great fun and engaging. Teddy is a gorgeous black labrador. This is his scrapbook. Highly recommended.

MY DEAD BUNNY by Sigi Cohen & James Foley (Walker). Zombies and ghosts are popular with young readers. This book will not disappoint. It has some hilarious aspects and quirky illustrations! Recommended.

MY SISTER IS A SUPERHERO by Damon Young & Peter Carnavas (UQP). Continuing the fun of two previous books, this highlights what makes sisters special and different, especially this one. Lively ink and watercolour illustrations. Recommended.

NEW YEAR SURPRISE! by Christopher Cheng & Di Wu (NLA). The beautiful Chinese-style illustrations in this book were done on rice paper. Together with the exciting and engaging story, they capture the excitement of the Chinese Spring Festival. Recommended.

NO PLACE LIKE HOME by Ronojoy Gosh (Random House). George doesn't feel happy, so he goes searching for his real home. An original and appealing story, simply illustrated. Recommended for young readers.

PLATYPUS by Sue Whiting & Mark Jackson (Walker). A new title in the very well written and illustrated series 'Nature Storybooks'. A fascinating close-up of the life of the amazing platypus. Recommended.

POCKET DOGS AND THE LOST KITTEN, THE by Margaret Wild & Stephen Michael King (Omnibus). From one of our most enduring partnerships comes a new story about two dogs who share the pockets in Mr Pocket's coat. They learn about sharing when an unexpected new tenant moves in. Recommended.

SAD, THE DOG by Sandy Fussell & Tull Suwannakit (Walker). A touching story of a neglected dog whose life changes dramatically one day – for the better. Expressive watercolour pictures capture the mood of the story. Recommended.

SOCKS, SANDBAGS & LEECHES by Pauline Deeves (NLA). Life during WW1, for both soldiers and those at home, is movingly portrayed in Ivy's letters to her father. Not strictly a picture book, but beautifully illustrated and designed. Recommended.

SOMETHING WONDERFUL by Raewyn Caisley & Karen Blair (Viking). Some little boys love tinkering. Sam is always preoccupied but one day he builds something wonderful. Painterly illustrations depict Australian farm life. Recommended.

Last but not least – a new Grug book, just in time for Easter! Collect them all. Highly recommended.

Thank you so much for your support and for your feedback on the newsletter. Come and visit this year. Bring some children!
Margaret Hamilton AM

