

## NEWSLETTER NUMBER THIRTY-ONE

The year has already begun with a bang. January completely disappeared. In fact, I was so unprepared for it to be February, I refused to change my calendar for several days. January was also unusually hot for Blackheath, so work was a low priority. February began with record temperatures. We are so looking forward to autumn, such a beautiful time in the mountains, with vivid autumn colours and cooler days.

2017 is looking like another very busy year. I am resolved to not only do more regular newsletters but to organise more of our highly successful one-day courses. Picture Books @ Pinerolo are now in their tenth year, with many satisfied customers, some, I'm proud to say, have turned out to be successfully published authors. In fact, Lesley Gibbes, who now has many successful books, calls herself 'a graduate of Pinerolo', which does my heart good.

So, Saturday 25 February will be the first course this year. The program will take a more focussed approach, with quite intense work on how picture books are planned and illustrated. Who better to take participants through the steps from roughs, layouts, to finished art and publication than the incredible Tohy Riddle? Tohy is a multi-award winning picture book creator and it will be a huge benefit to aspiring illustrators to hear him. Not only that, but anyone who has a project in hand and would like mentoring and encouragement from an expert, would also benefit. Every participant will be given a blank printer's dummy book plus an A3 storyboard template. See the panel at right, or go to the website for booking information: [www.pinerolo.com.au/PDF/Riddle.pdf](http://www.pinerolo.com.au/PDF/Riddle.pdf)

**I'm going to the CBCA Night of the Notables at Dymocks on 28 February. Are you? It's free, but book here: <https://www.trybooking.com/ONRC>**

### GROUP & SCHOOL VISITS TO PINEROLO

**Listen, Look and Learn. Be Inspired!**

Where do Picture Books Come From?  
How are they written? Who draws the pictures?  
One hour talk. Books and artwork for sale.

**Children and adults are welcome.  
Don't delay. Plan a visit soon.**

\$10 per child. \$20 per adult

Bookings: 02 47878492 or [hamiltonbooks@iprimus.com.au](mailto:hamiltonbooks@iprimus.com.au)

## PICTURE BOOKS @ PINEROLO

SATURDAY 25 FEBRUARY

with TOHBY RIDDLE

Join award-winning author/illustrator Tohy Riddle and children's book publisher Margaret Hamilton for a day of guidance and mentorship on creating children's picture books. This can involve your existing project or a new idea for a picture book. Invaluable opportunity for aspiring illustrators or those working on a project who need input and guidance.

All ages and levels of experience welcome.



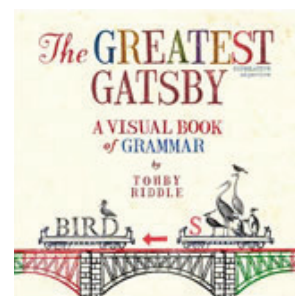
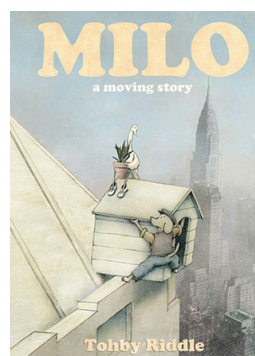
TOHBY RIDDLE is an award-winning artist and writer whose deceptively simple illustrations contain the most fascinating detail. His picture books charm children and all lovers of illustration.

His beautiful books include *Unforgotten*, *Nobody Owns the Moon*, *The Royal Guest*, *The Greatest*

*Gatsby* and his latest *Milo, A Moving Story*. Tohy will draw on his wide and varied experience, as an author, illustrator and editor, to provide fascinating personal, professional insights into the craft of creating picture books. He will also share his progress on a new book in development.

**Not to be missed!**

Booking and prepayment essential:  
<http://www.pinerolo.com.au/PDF/Riddle.pdf>  
47878492



## NEW PICTURE BOOKS

The year has begun well, with Australian publishers announcing some beautiful picture books. My thanks to those who continue to send review copies. Let's hope the sales of children's books continue to break records, a healthy sign for the book industry.

**AT THE ZOO I SEE** by Joshua Button & Robyn Wells (Magabala). This gorgeous board book for young children is by two Indigenous artists. It introduces readers to animals they would find at the zoo. Recommended.

**BANJO AND RUBY RED** by Libby Gleeson & Freya Blackwood (Little Hare). This favourite award-winning book is now available as a gorgeous board book. It's so beautifully produced and a perfect story to share with young children. Highly recommended.

**BLUE SKY YELLOW KITE** by Janet A Holmes & Jonathan Bentley (Little Hare). Two children flying kites together is much more fun than flying one alone. The illustrations soar over the pages as much as the kites above. The reader can almost feel the tug of the kite string on their fingers. A very appealing and original story. Recommended.

**BROTHERS FROM A DIFFERENT MOTHER** by Phillip Gwynne & Marjorie Crosby-Fairall (Penguin). Against the wishes of their fathers two very different animals become firm friends. A universal and appealing story of friendship, richly illustrated. Recommended.

**THE CATAWAMPUS CAT** by Jason Carter Eaton & Gus Gordon (Penguin). When the catawampus cat comes to town people are intrigued. Inspired by the cat they change everything. Then the cat surprises them all. A unique and amusing story. Highly recommended.

**CLARE'S GOODBYE** by Libby Gleeson & Anna Pignataro (Little Hare). Libby Gleeson knows how to tug at the heartstrings. This touching story about moving out of a much-loved home is evocatively illustrated with mixed media. Highly recommended.

**EDDIE FROGBERT** by Sue de Gennaro (Scholastic). Being brave and trusting your instincts is what Eddie learns. He finally takes a giant leap in a diving competition and proves himself. Quirky and appealing illustrations make this a fun book. Recommended.

**FLORETTE** by Anna Walker (Penguin). Mae struggles to accept her family's move from a house surrounded by a garden to a city apartment. She explores the city and discovers a path to a wonderful place where a leafy forest grows. A poignant story beautifully illustrated. Highly recommended.

**GUS DOG GOES TO WORK** by Rachel Flynn & Craig Smith (Working Title). A very amusing Australian story – a day in the life of a sheep dog, a rather unusual day. Evocative, rustic illustrations in pencil and Corel Painter depict the outback and life there. Highly recommended.

**HELLO TO YOU, MOON** by Sally Morgan, Sonny & Bidy (Little Hare). Animals respond to the rising moon in this delightful counting book with atmospheric pencil illustrations. Highly recommended.

**ME AND YOU** by Deborah Kelly & Karen Blair (Penguin). This warm and cosy book, in perfect read-aloud verse, reflects a busy and loving family and ends with them snuggled up reading a book. Gentle, expressive illustrations full of movement. Highly recommended.

**MOPOKE** by Philip Bunting (Omnibus/Scholastic). Mopoke loves peace and quiet. The clever text is an amusing play on the word mopoke and the dark, nighttime illustrations reflect the life of our smallest owl and his annoyance at the lack of peace and quiet. Recommended.

**MY FRIEND TERTIUS** by Corinne Fenton & Owen Swan (Allen & Unwin). Enthralling and heartwarming, this is based on a touching true wartime story. Muted and delicate illustrations set the mood of history, friendship and love. Highly recommended.

**OLD PIG** by Margaret Wild & Ron Brooks (Allen & Unwin). First published in 1995, this anniversary edition celebrates one of our best loved books by two of our most esteemed picture book creators. A touching story about living, loving and letting go. Highly recommended.

**ONCE UPON AN ABC** by Sophie Masson & Christopher Nielsen (Little Hare). This unusual alphabet refers to folk tales and the striking illustrations reflect the characters and creatures found in folk tales. An interesting concept, beautifully produced. Recommended.

**ONE KEEN KOALA** by Margaret Wild & Bruce Whatley (Scholastic). Two multi-award winners combine in this delightful and amusing Australian animal counting book. Whatley's watercolour and pencil illustrations are perfectly suited and will encourage young readers to count the animals. Highly recommended.

**ONE LITTLE GOAT** by Ursula Dubosarsky & Andrew Joyner (Little Hare). In entertaining verse this cumulative story about a little pet goat is lots of fun. The illustrations add to the chaos and fun. Recommended.

**ROAD TRIP** by Danny Parker & Nathaniel Eckstrom (Little Hare). A classic and amusing 'are we there yet?' story. Even Dad's explanations about how long an hour is seem to take forever. Simple rhyming text and appealing illustrations complete the journey. Recommended.

**THIS IS BANJO PATERSON** by Tania McCartney & Christina Booth (NLA). An engaging introduction to Banjo Paterson, Australia's iconic poet. Expressive illustrations and fascinating factual text complete this useful and informative book. Highly recommended.

**TWINKLE, TWINKLE, LITTLE STAR**, illus by Matt Shanks (Scholastic). The classic nursery rhyme is beautifully given the Australian treatment. Watercolour illustrations of an owl family ending with a bedtime reading. A lovely book to share at bedtime. Recommended.

That's about all I've got room for in this newsletter. There are some treasures here though. As I've resolved to do more regular newsletters, watch out for the next one. In the meantime, I enjoy feedback!

Best wishes - and happy reading.  
Margaret Hamilton AM