

NEWSLETTER NUMBER TWENTY-EIGHT

Winter has hit here in Blackheath! We've had two falls of snow already and, as I write this newsletter, it's been raining and sleeting steadily for a couple of days. We returned earlier this week from a whistle-stop tour of various places in Victoria. First stop was Dromkeen. It was very special to visit Dromkeen again as I had been involved for many years with book launches there, exhibitions and just seeing our friends Court and Joyce Oldmeadow, who ran it. The new proprietor Bernadette Joiner is so passionate about children's books I'm sure Dromkeen will go from strength to strength.

Then we visited Patricia Mullins and her husband John at their vineyard in Moonambel. They have been living there for a few years and have built a magnificent new house that will also have a display area for her fabulous collection of rocking horses. It's well worth a visit, especially to test their wines (labelled Equus) in their tasting room.

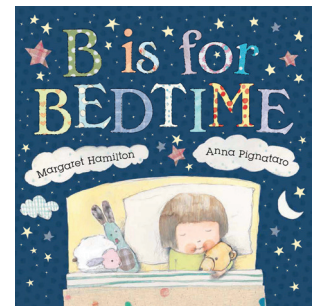
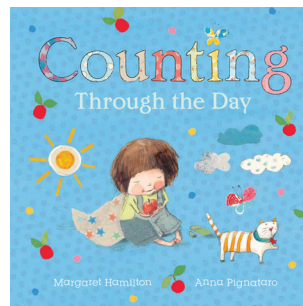
Picture Books @ Pinerolo travelled to Maldon, where Glenda Millard and I presented a one-day course on creating children's picture books. Attendees were enthusiastic and committed to writing and publishing picture books, so good luck to them all.

Canberra was our next stop where we saw the John Barrow collection of original artwork from picture books. This varied collection featured many well-known Australian picture books.

Next is the presentation of the 70th CBCA Book of the Year Awards on 19 August. That's the beginning of Book Week. Have you purchased your CBCA merchandise yet? cbca.org.au

ARTWORK FOR SALE @ PINEROLO

In keeping with our aim to promote Australian picture book creators, we offer for sale original artwork from picture books. We stock very special pieces by such illustrators as Stephen Michael King, Tricia Oktober and now, Anna Pignataro. Anna is the illustrator of both my picture books *B IS FOR BEDTIME* and *COUNTING THROUGH THE DAY* (which was launched at the CBCA Conference by Tohby Riddle (see picture)). Some people have purchased a piece of artwork plus a book as a very special gift for a new baby or a Christening. A lovely idea! A list of artwork for sale is on the website: www.pinerolo.com.au/PDF/PignataroList.pdf



A SPECIAL DATE TO KEEP FREE!

SUNDAY 31 JULY

People in the Blue Mountains are looking forward to a three-day visit by one of Australia's best-known award-winning authors, Jackie French. Jackie will be here for various gigs, which include talking to children at Blackheath Public School, presenting a workshop at The Norman Lindsay Gallery, speaking at the Blackheath History Forum and attending OPEN DAY @ PINEROLO. For more information about events visit these websites:

<http://www.normanlindsay.com.au/events.php>

<http://blackheathhistoryforum.org.au/2016-program/>

Come to meet Jackie at Pinerolo on Sunday 31 from 10am to 3pm.



GROUP VISITS

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 to come to Pinerolo for a group visit.

\$10 per child. \$20 per adult

Bookings: 02 47878492 or hamiltonbooks@iprimus.com.au

NEW PICTURE BOOKS

New picture books continue to roll in from Australian publishers. They certainly never fail to impress. Here are some highlights from the latest batch:

AUSTRALIANS, LET US BARBECUE by Colin Buchanan, Greg Chapman and Glen Singleton (Scholastic). This book, complete with a CD calls itself 'Australia's National BBQ Anthem'. It's lots of fun.

BLOCKS by Irene Dickson (Nosy Crow). An appealing book about building blocks and friendly cooperation, with clever cut-outs on the cover. Highly recommended for pre-readers.

BOB THE RAILWAY DOG by Corinne Fenton & Andrew McLean (Black Dog). This delightful picture book is based on the true story of a dog who travelled on trains when tracks were opening up vast areas of Australia. Highly recommended.

EGG HUNTING WE WILL GO by Jay Laga'aia & Kim Fleming (Scholastic). I'm a bit late for Easter, but this is a book that can be enjoyed any time. Appealing illustrations and a CD included for singalong.

GO HOME, CHEEKY ANIMALS by Johanna Bell & Dion Beasley (Allen & Unwin). Lots of fun for cheeky children! Animals everywhere in this action-packed picture book, with loads of child appeal. Recommended.

THE GRUMPY LIGHTHOUSE KEEPER by Terrizita Corpus & Maggie Prewett (Magabala). This book asks the question 'Who's sleeping in the lighthouse keeper's bed?'. It's inspired by the historic lighthouse in Broome, WA. Bold and humorous illustrations. Recommended.

INCREDIBILIA by Libby Hathorn & Gaye Chapman (Little Hare). Little Georgie is the youngest and feels left out. But she has ingenious ways to involve her siblings. Recommended for sharing with young children, especially those who are the youngest in the family.

INTRODUCING TEDDY by Jessica Walton & Dougal MacPherson (Bloomsbury). A topical picture book about gender identity and friendship. It has attracted wide media attention.

THE LITTLE BAD WOLF by Sam Bowring and Lachlan Creagh (Lothian). Little wolf tries his hardest to scare people but they don't take him seriously because he's small. With so many varied pictures this is almost a graphic novel. Loads of fun for hours! Highly recommended.

MY DOG DASH by Nicki Greenberg (Allen & Unwin). An entertaining book by an award-winning creator, about a highly unusual pet who gets up to all kinds of mischief. Recommended.

MY MAGNIFICENT JELLY BEAN TREE by Maura Finn & Aura Parker (New Frontier). Rhyming text, fun to read aloud, tells the story of a jelly bean tree and a child's fertile imagination. The illustrator's first book showing promise of many more. Recommended.

ON THE RIVER by Roland Harvey (Allen & Unwin). This bestselling award-winner has produced yet another delightful book. This book about the Murray River will delight readers for many hours. Highly Recommended.

OUT by Angela May George, illus by Owen Swan (Scholastic). This extraordinary picture book is a very moving story of a small girl who is a refugee, beautifully illustrated. It ends with a message of hope, which we all wish for these people. Highly recommended,

PANDAMONIA by Chris Owen & Chris Nixon (Fremantle Press). Striking illustrations and design combine with this amusing story to make an entertaining and original picture book. Highly recommended.

PENELOPE THE MOUNTAIN PYGMY POSSUM by Gordon Winch & Stephen Pym (New Frontier). Australia's only hibernating marsupial features in this appealing story and it includes useful information about the species.

REFLECTION by Rebecka Sharpe Shelberg & Robin Cowcher (Walker Books). A moving tribute to the many who served our country in wars. Simple text and expressive illustrations capture the feeling of an Anzac service. Useful information at the back. Recommended.

THE SNOW WOMBAT by Susannah Chambers & Mark Jackson (Allen & Unwin). This is a gorgeous picture book about a wombat in the snow, featuring simple text and typical Australian scenes, reflecting our winter landscape. Highly recommended.

STEVE GOES TO CARNIVAL by Joshua Button & Robyn Wells (Magabala). A highly unusual and original picture book celebrating a fascination with Rio de Janeiro and gorillas. It's a very entertaining journey for imaginative readers. Highly recommended.

SUPERMUM by Leah Russack & Anil Tortop (Scholastic). We know all us mums are super. This celebrates the superpowers we all have, especially giving super hugs. Share with a small reader. Recommended.

THIS HUNGRY DRAGON by Heath McKenzie (Scholastic Press). A hilarious cautionary tale. Be careful what you eat! Expansive illustrations follow the fun. Recommended.

WHAT COULD IT BE? by Sally Fawcett (EK Books). Imaginative treatment of different shapes, encouraging thinking outside the square and extending imagination. Recommended.

Thank you for your support and your feedback on the newsletter. Come and visit. Bring some children. My mascot here, Grug, is celebrating the sale of TWO MILLION books since he was first published in the 1970s. Yay, Grug! Margaret Hamilton AM

