

Newsletter Number Twenty-two, JUNE 2015

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## NEWSLETTER NUMBER TWENTY-TWO

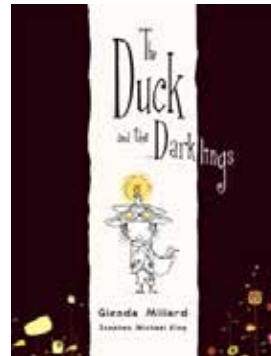
The Blue Mountains CBCA NSW Sub Branch is up and running. It's wonderful to see a meeting of such enthusiastic people, all eager to promote children's books. All positions were filled: President: Sheryl Cootes, Vice President: Narelda Joy, Treasurer: Cathy Lamond, Secretary: Simone Ford, Minutes Secretary: Dawn Meredith, Liaison Officer: Tamara Rodgers, Communications Officer: John Bell. Plus a wonderful committee: Jenny Foster, Ben Wood, Maureen Bromage, Jody Lee, Cathy MacNamara, Marion Silk, Nicole Deans, Janelle Van Capelle, Kerry McCaffery.

## BOOK A WINTER RETREAT

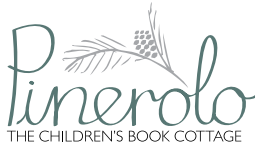
Looking for a place to spend a week, or even a weekend, working on a project, in quiet, peaceful surroundings or just having a break from the pressures of life? You could do worse than stay at Pinerolo, the Children's Book Cottage. It is a cosy, comfortable two-bedroom cottage, just two kilometres from Blackheath where there are several terrific cafes. Enjoying a coffee with the locals is a regular pastime in Blackheath. There's a wood burning fire plus reverse-cycle air conditioning. Be warned though, there are lots of children's books to read! [www.pinerolo.com.au/PDF/Accommodation.pdf](http://www.pinerolo.com.au/PDF/Accommodation.pdf)

## PICTURE BOOKS @ PINEROLO

Learning about how to create picture books is always a very special experience, especially when those imparting their knowledge are so experienced and successful. Our program of one-day courses on creating children's picture books are in their ninth year. They are always fully booked and participants go away inspired about how to realise their dream of a published book. Next will be the amazingly successful Glenda Millard. Glenda didn't begin writing until her children had grown up, but since her first book was published in 1999 she has blossomed into one of Australia's most-awarded writers. Her course on creating children's picture books will be on Saturday 18 July. Book early! [www.pinerolo.com.au/PDF/Millard.pdf](http://www.pinerolo.com.au/PDF/Millard.pdf)



Glenda's book THE DUCK AND THE DARKLINGS, illustrated by Stephen Michael King, is shortlisted for the 2015 CBCA Picture Book of the Year. Hardly a year goes by without one of her books being chosen by the judges. She will find it hard to leave her new granddaughter to visit Blackheath. Here is a photo of beautiful Layla, momentarily taking her eyes off the book she's reading with her father. And look at the book she's reading!



## Writer's Retreat and Holiday Getaway



Self-contained, self-catering, quiet and peaceful accommodation in beautiful Blackheath. A simple mountains cottage set on two and a half acres of parklike surroundings visited by kangaroos, wallabies and a multitude of birds. Two kilometres from the village, with shops and cafes galore.

Facilities include a new kitchen, a brand-new bathroom, two bedrooms (1 queen, 1 twin) with electric blankets. Comfortable living room with wood-burning heater and reverse-cycle air conditioning. A cosy and comfortable environment, whatever the weather.

Perfect for writers and illustrators of children's books who need peace and quiet to complete a project, for researchers, or anyone who enjoys browsing through books. Includes access to: extensive collection of original artwork plus picture books and reference books for research. Free WiFi.

One night only \$165.00. Weekly: \$650  
Weekend (Friday/Saturday nights): \$250



## VISITORS

July is going to be busy! I'm looking forward to a 'soiree' with the CBCA Blue Mountains Sub Branch people, then Glenda Millard is coming to stay. Lucky people who book in early will be able to attend the **Picture Books @ Pinerolo** on 18 July. But also members of the CBCA North Sydney Sub Branch is coming by bus on 19 July. Glenda will be here to meet them and talk about her wonderful books. Then we're going to Cairns for a few days break in the sunshine. Looking forward to that!

## NEW PICTURE BOOKS

Thanks to the publishers who continue to send new picture books. I often say that very few authors can draw and very few illustrators can write – like Bob Graham, Pamela Allen or Alison Lester. But this batch includes a majority of books written and illustrated by the same person, and very well done too. I urge you to find them in your bookshop or library and share them with a child.

**CARAVAN FRAN** by Cheryl Orsini (Lothian). I had the pleasure of a visit from Cheryl when she was in the Blue Mountains visiting schools. This book, in rhyming text, tells the story of three friends on holiday and the unexpected adventure they have on their way to the sea. The illustrations have just enough detail to extend the story and continue the fun. Recommended.

**THE COW TRIPPED OVER THE MOON** by Tony Wilson & Laura Wood (Scholastic). This very amusing slant on 'The Cow Jumps Over the Moon' puts a whole new perspective on the cow's trip to the moon. After several unsuccessful attempts she finally makes it – 'Moon Attempt 8'. An imaginative extension of the original, written in easy to read, hilarious verse. Supported by colourful full-page illustrations, this book will be requested over and over and would even be fun for emerging readers, who will relate to the humour. Highly recommended.

**FLIGHT** by Nadia Wheatley & Armin Greder (Windy Hollow). The cover describes this as 'an ancient story becomes a fable for our times'. It begins with a man, his wife and baby, fleeing their home, following a star in search of safe haven. They face deadly dangers but press on until they are safe, but among many other homeless refugees. The look of hope in the mother's and child's eyes on the last page leave the reader hoping as well. An extraordinary book by an award-winning author and illustrator. Highly recommended.

**I WANNA BE A GREAT BIG DINOSAUR!** by Heath McKenzie (Scholastic). Every boy is born loving dinosaurs. This playful and entertaining book has this boy wanting to **be** one. So he's shown the ropes by a big dinosaur who in the end reveals what he wants to be most of all. Fun to read and to share, with bold illustrations roaring across the pages. Recommended.

**LARA OF NEWTOWN** by Chris McKimmie (Allen & Unwin). It's a simple story of a stray cat looking for a place to call home, but in the hands of Chris McKimmie, it is witty and hilarious. The pages look chaotic but there's a definite pattern that requires close examination and several readings. The use of multiple

fonts and a mixture of hand-drawn, paint and collage completes the picture. Highly recommended.

**THE MAN WITH THE MESSY HAIR** by Pamela Allen (Penguin). Pamela Allen is a legend. This is her fiftieth picture book and it's just as good as previous books, many of which have won awards. It's very entertaining and perfect for reading aloud and even acting out. Highly recommended.

**MY NAME IS LIZZIE FLYNN** by Claire Saxby & Lizzy Newcomb (Walker). A well-written, poignant story recreating Lizzie Flynn's voyage to the penal colony in Australia. Lizzie can't sew, but she and other women learn and they make a quilt which has become known as 'The Rajah Quilt', now housed in the National Gallery in Canberra. The colourful acrylic illustrations graphically depict conditions on board the ship and a photograph of the actual quilt make this a useful book for schools and classroom discussion. Highly recommended.

**PIG THE FIBBER** by Aaron Blabey (Scholastic). Pig, the world's greediest pug is back, but this time he's telling whoppers. He blames all his misdeeds on poor Trevor. Finally he gets his comeuppance, and deservedly so. The colourful acrylic and pen and pencil illustrations and the eye-catching cover depict the mischievous pug perfectly. Highly recommended.

**POSSUM MAGIC ACTIONS** by Mem Fox & Julie Vivas (Omnibus). A board book for the very young based on the timeless classic *Possum Magic*. It's part of a series which includes *Numbers*, *Animals* and *Opposites*. A very good gift idea for a new baby. Recommended.

**SHINE** by Trace Balla (Allen & Unwin). This very touching story is about saying goodbye. Written from personal experience, it is a comforting reminder that loved ones never quite leave us. Balla's first book *RIVERTIME* is shortlisted in the 2015 CBCA awards. This second book is quite different but extremely special and beautifully illustrated. Highly recommended.

**SHOULD YOU BE A RIVER** by Ed Young (Little, Brown & Co). Not an Australian book but this is one of my favourite illustrators of all time. Ed Young is the illustrator of the beautiful *SADAKO* picture book I published years ago. This beautiful book is a personal poem celebrating the trials and triumphs of unconditional love. The brilliant illustrations use a mix of cut paper, photographs and calligraphy. Can you tell I'm a huge fan? Highly recommended.

**TIME FOR BED, DADDY** by Dave Hackett (UQP). There's always a new twist on bedtime and the trials of getting children into bed. This one of role reversal is warm, playful and appealing, published in time for Father's Day. Colourful cartoony illustrations (by Cartoon Dave) focus on the father and daughter and their pre-bedtime ritual. Recommended.

I look forward to hearing from you and seeing you in the coming months. In the meantime, happy reading!

Margaret Hamilton AM

