

NEWSLETTER NUMBER THIRTY-NINE

STEPHEN MICHAEL KING. What a treat it was to have Stephen at Pinerolo for three whole days. He visited Blackheath Public School, then joined me for Picture Books @ Pinerolo course, then we had Open Day. He was so generous showing children how to draw and they each went away with an original drawing. Then he joined me on my radio program and we had what we thought was an interesting conversation. If you'd like to listen a podcast of our conversation go to: www.pinerolo.com.au and click on the link.



ILLUSTRATOR IN RESIDENCE. It was great to work with Eddie Abd, Illustrator in Residence. The project for the week was developing a portfolio to highlight her talent and her potential as a children's book illustrator.



PICTURE BOOKS @ PINEROLO. Fabulous news that the incredible **Glenda Millard** will be spending time at Pinerolo, especially that she will join me to present a one-day course on creating children's books on 1 September. There will also be a CBCA dinner. Keep in touch for details. **SAVE THE DATE!**

RADIO BLUE MOUNTAINS

Presenting 'Children and Books, A Lifetime Friendship' on Blue Mountains radio has been an extraordinary experience. I did an hour every week for three months and found it stimulating and fun but a huge amount of work. So I announced at the end of the program with amazingly talented Lisa Stewart and her husband Stefan Duwe that it would be my last — for the time being. Watch this space!



A VERY SPECIAL LAUNCH. **MONSTERS** by Anna Fienberg, Kim Gamble and Stephen Axelsen was launched at The Children's Bookshop on 16 June. Stephen completed the illustrations after Kim died. A labour of love.



ADVANCE NOTICE!

• PICTURE BOOKS @ PINEROLO •

1 SEPTEMBER : GLENDA MILLARD

A valuable opportunity to learn from one of Australia's most successful and popular writers of children's books. Glenda Millard, multi award-winning author will join Margaret Hamilton, award-winning publisher, proprietor of Pinerolo for a course on creating picture books.

All levels of expertise and interest welcome.

Booking and prepayment essential - \$160.00.

Keep in touch for details on Facebook and on:

www.pinerolo.com.au Ph: 02 47878492

NEW PICTURE BOOKS Some new ones, with thanks to the publishers who sent them:

BLUE MOUNTAINS CREATORS

HAPPILY EVER AFTER by Owen Swan. (New Frontier). This is a new twist on the classic fairy tale 'The Little Mermaid', with ethereal illustrations by this shortlisted illustrator. Check out some of his other books: 'My Friend Tertius', 'Out', 'Anzac Biscuits'.

LOVABLE LOTTIE AND THE LOST TOY by Asia Upward (New Holland). A lovable Maremma puppy loses her favourite toy. Young readers are invited to find it in the beautiful photographs. Written, with photography at Logan Brae Apple Orchard at Blackheath. A neighbour!

GENERAL

THE ALL NEW MUST HAVE ORANGE 430 by Michael Speechley (Penguin). Anyone who's ever had a useless object or collected 'stuff' will relate to this quirky and unusual book. The illustrations are the perfect complement to the story and invite involvement.

BACKYARD by Amanda Braxton-Smith & Lizzy Newcomb. (Black Dog). A small child and her dog sit on their back step and enjoy the wonders of the animals and birds who appear at dusk in their backyard. Rich and colourful acrylic illustrations enhance the scene.

DUCK! by Meg McKinlay & Nathaniel Eckstrom (Walker). It's a quiet afternoon but pandemonium breaks out in the farmyard when Duck arrives and shouts at the animals. Fortunately he seems to learn his lesson. Fun for a quiet afternoon.

ERROL! by Philip Bunting (Scholastic). I'm a fan of this illustrator's simple, graphic style and recommend his picture books. This penguin mother counts to three and threatens to leave if Errol doesn't come. But the tables are turned!

FINDING GRANNY by Kate Simpson & Gwynneth Jones (EK). Granny is perfect, but coping with one of life's challenges changes everything — except her warmth and love. Colourful illustrations extend the story.

GIRL ON WIRE by Lucy Estela & Elise Hurst (Puffin). An inspiring story of courage, confidence and persevering with the support of loved ones. A young girl persists bravely and reaches her goal. Beautiful, atmospheric illustrations. For older readers.

IS IT THE WAY YOU GIGGLE? by Nicola Connelly & Annie White (New Frontier). This book explores our differences and the way we all do things our own way. It celebrates our differences and what makes each of us special and unique. Happy children fill the energetic illustrations.

IT'S HARD TO LOVE A TIGER by Anna Pignataro (Scholastic). I'm a big fan of Anna's work. She's the illustrator of my books. This delightful book is about a little girl who wishes she had a tiger and the ensuing problems. Gorgeous illustrations.

MARVELLOUS MUMMY by Katie Poli & Giuseppe Poli (New Frontier). Mothers' work is never done, especially when there's a toddler in the house. This mum is sweet and loving, full of energy and fun to be with. Warmly illustrated.

MAYA & CAT by Caroline Magerl (Walker). A lovely book for cat lovers. Maya journeys through town, looking for Cat's home, to some very unlikely places. Finally they find home and there's a delightful surprise for Maya. Simple, poetic text, accompanied by atmospheric watercolour illustrations.

MONSTERS by Anna Fienberg, Kim Gamble & Stephen Axelsen. (A & U). A very special picture book dedicated to Kim Gamble, who died in 2016. Stephen Axelsen completed the illustrations. It's a lyrical story of friendship and empowerment, beautifully produced.

MY GRANDFATHER'S WAR by Glyn Harper & Jenny Cooper (EK). Published for the 50th anniversary of the Vietnam war's longest battle, this touching book highlights a special relationship between Sarah and her grandfather and the involvement of Australians in that war. Warm, realistic illustrations.

NOT SO SCARY BEAR by Ruth Waters (Windy Hollow). Bear is not so scary and prefers to sit at home and knit. He finds an unlikely friend who realises he's not scary and Bear is okay with that. Appealing collage illustrations show Bear and his friends.

OUR BIRDS by Siena Stubbs (Magabala). Beautiful photographs, taken when Stubbs was 12 years old, introduce the exotic birdlife of Arnhem Land. The text is in English and Yolnu, the Indigenous culture of the area.

PIG IN A WIG by Crissie Krebs (Scholastic). A wigged pig — hilarious! With lots of play on words and rhyming text and high-energy illustrations, this story of mistaken identity will entertain young readers. Even the endpapers are a delight.

SCAREDY BOOK by Devon Sillett & Cara King (EK). Book loves his nook in the library and stays there, unloved. One day he's taken out and discovers a friend and a whole new world. A fresh, entertaining idea.

SCAREDY CAT by Heather Gallagher & Anil Tortop (New Frontier). A bit of repetition, alliteration and rhyming makes a simple story fun and readers will be involved until the surprise ending. Appealing and colourful illustrations complete the picture.

SEE MONKEY by Sophie Masson & Kathy Creamer (Little Pink Dog Books). A toddler and his favourite friend, his monkey toy, are together all day and they do everything together. An endearing book for the very young, with warm and appealing illustrations.

SPIRIT by Cherri Ryan & Christina Booth (Black Dog). Building your own little boat can lead to adventures, especially if it sails. Perseverance and hope pays off in this uplifting story. Watery and weathery illustrations.

THERE'S A DRAGON IN YOUR BOOK by Tom Fletcher & Greg Abbott (Puffin). A fun, interactive book that will be shared again and again. Very cute, and not all all scary, illustrations invite activities.

THIMBLE by Rebecca Young & Tull Suwannakit (Scholastic). A tender, poignant story about a little girl coming to terms with her Grandma's death. The gentle watercolour and pencil illustrations reflect the mood.

WAVES by Donna Rawlins, Heather Potter & Mark Jackson (Black Dog). Very moving stories of children who travelled to Australia on a perilous journey. Expressive and sometimes heartwrenching illustrations.

ZIGGY'S ZOO by Pat Simmons & Vicky Pratt (Little Pink Dog Books). Ziggy is busy making a zoo and collects all kinds of exhibits, but her last exhibits are a surprise. There's an invitation to go back and find the number and the green beetle on every page. A fun book.

ZOO HOUSE by Heath McKenzie (Scholastic). Chaos develops when Oscar wakes up and discovers his house has turned into a zoo. What can they do? Rhyming text and chaotic animal illustrations add to the fun.

Finally, **book early for the course with Glenda Millard** and share this newsletter. Enjoy! Feedback welcome. Also visitors welcome, especially during the school holidays.

Margaret Hamilton AM