

## WINTER HAS ARRIVED!

It's lovely when it snows and we had a few inches last week. It was cold but we managed to stay cosy with the fire. There was a young kangaroo under a tree wondering what all this white stuff was. Very cute.

## WESTWORDS/PINEROLO ILLUSTRATORS IN RESIDENCE

We've received nine applications. Decisions will be made soon and the successful applicants notified.

## AND NOW THEY'RE LAUGHING!

Well, after nearly two years work, the CBCA 13th National Conference is now over and I'm finding it hard to believe. Coming down to earth after being so consumed for so long, is not easy. We have had enormously positive feedback about the conference. Many people said it was the best conference ever. My own feeling is that it was indeed brilliant. All speakers were well prepared, entertaining and informative. Because of the theme, some sessions were hilarious!

The conference began with a special 40th birthday party for Grug. I'm proud that I was the original publisher of this now iconic Australian character with over 3 million books sold, so I was thrilled that his present publisher, Simon & Schuster, organised this party. It was great fun.



Highlights were too numerous to name but I must mention Bruce Pascoe. His books *Dark Emu* and the children's edition *Young Dark Emu* are brilliant and were bestsellers at the conference. Here he is (right) with my friend Jan Nicholls from WA getting into the laughing spirit!

## Picture Books @ Pinerolo

### Libby Gleeson — Saturday 20 July



10am - 4pm

\$160 (no GST) inc.

tea/coffee

BYO lunch - picnic,  
weather permitting

Booking & Prepayment  
Essential

Join award-winning author Libby Gleeson and children's book publisher Margaret Hamilton for a day of guidance and mentorship on creating picture books. This can involve your existing project or a new idea for a picture book. An invaluable opportunity for aspiring authors and illustrators or those working on a project who need input and guidance — or just anyone with a passion for picture books.

All ages and levels of experience welcome.

Book early to avoid disappointment! Full booking form:  
[www.pinerolo.com.au/PDF/Gleeson.pdf](http://www.pinerolo.com.au/PDF/Gleeson.pdf)

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Many thanks to all the supporters: speakers, publishers, delegates and the conference bookseller, Dymocks Canberra. Everyone was brilliant!

## NEW PICTURE BOOKS

Australian picture books continue to inspire. Here are some new recommendations, several highlighting touching father-son relationships:

**BABY BUSINESS** by Jasmine Seymour (Magabala). Seymour is a Darug woman who shares here the moving traditional baby smoking ceremony reminding us that Country does not belong to us. We belong to Country.

**THE BOY IN THE BIG BLUE GLASSES** by Susanne Gervay & Marjorie Crosby-Fairall (EK). Being different, like the only boy wearing glasses can be a challenge, until you assume super hero status. Involving and appealing story and illustrations.

**THE BUG COLLECTOR** by Alex G Griffiths (New Frontier). Collecting bugs is lots of fun but George and his Grandpa have other plans. A nice environmental message.

**DIPPY'S BIG DAY OUT** by Jackie French & Bruce Whatley (A & R). The creators of *Diary of a Wombat* tell the very funny story of a diprotodon and his simple needs for a nice life. Another winner from this duo.

**THE GOOD SON** (Candlewick). Not strictly a children's picture book, but well worth a mention. A magnificent book telling the story of the First World War, illustrated with evocative photographs of miniatures.

**GRANDPA'S NOISES** by G. St John Thomas & Colin Rowe (EK). Grandpas are notorious for body noises! This amusing book doesn't hold back as the pictures and large type follow this grandpa through the day.

**GRUG** by Ted Prior (S & S). I can't resist mentioning this 40th anniversary edition. It's a very impressive hardback book, built to last several generations. Congratulations Grug and Ted Prior.

**THE HOLE IDEA** by Beth & Paul MacDonald & Nathaniel Eckstrom (Book Trail Press). Although he lives in a house brimming with books, Finnian realises that you have to dig deep for ideas. So he sets out to do so. Shortlisted illustrator completes the picture. Congratulations to Paul & Beth, the Children's Bookshop, Beecroft for publishing their first book. Here's to many more!

**HOLLY THE HONEYBEE DANCING STAR** by Gordon Winch & Stephen Pym (New Frontier). When times are tough, Holly the worker bee and her dance shows other bees where to find food and saves the hive. Clever story and illustrations.

**HOW TO BUILD A PERFECT CUBBY HOUSE** by Heath McKenzie (Scholastic). Everybody has something to add to the cubby house, but it's important to know when to stop. Hilarious illustrations highlight family involvement.

**IN THE SHADOW OF AN ELEPHANT** by Georgie Donaghey & Sandra Severgnini (Little Pink Dog). The moving and heartfelt story of a lifelong friendship between a boy and an elephant. The expressive illustrations are enhanced by an African border. A beautiful production.

**THE JACKET** by Sue-Ellen Pashley & Thea Baker (Black Dog). The life of a beloved hand-me-down jacket ends happily. Warm and beautiful drawings and collage illustrations.

**LIGHTS OUT, LEONARD** by Josh Pyke & Chris Nixon (Puffin). Dealing with monsters so he can turn the light off is a challenge, but Leonard finally works it out. A good bedtime lesson for everyone.

**MAPLE THE BRAVE** by Chloe Jasmine Harris (Walker). Maple is an unlikely character who lives in a treehouse. She faces her fears and learns from the animals in the surrounding forest. Charming ink and watercolour illustrations.

**MY CULTURE AND ME** by Gregg Dreise (Puffin). This Indigenous author and illustrator shares his culture and his deep connection to Country. Words and pictures will inspire all readers to learn more about our beautiful country.

**ONE CARELESS NIGHT** by Christina Booth (Black Dog). Evocative, ghostly images and simple text tell the story of the last thylacine. Additional text explains the tragedy.

**PLAYING WITH COLLAGE** by Jeannie Baker (Walker). Anyone who knows Jeannie Baker's fabulous books will love this, as she shares her collage technique. This was a winner at the CBCA conference.

**WHY I LOVE AUSTRALIA** and **SHAPES OF AUSTRALIA** and **KANGAROO AND CROCODILE** by Bronwyn Bancroft (Little Hare). It's wonderful to see new paperback editions of these classic books by Indigenous creators, especially super talented Bancroft.

**RON THE ROYAL GUARD** by Deano Yipadee & Paul Beavis (New Frontier). What to do when you're caught short? From its clever cut out cover to the very entertaining story and illustrations, this book will delight all readers.

**THINGS MY PA TOLD ME** by Anthony Bertini & Jonathan Bentley (Little Hare). Fatherly love is tenderly highlighted in this touching book that spans generations. Evocative pencil and watercolour illustrations.

**UP TO SOMETHING** by Katrina McKelvey & Kirrili Lonergan (EK). It's fun being Dad's assistant but imagine what can be achieved if Billy and Dad work together? Bonding and satisfaction are themes in this entertaining book.

**WANDERING STAR** by Natalie Jane Prior & Stephen Michael King (Scholastic). The rhyming text gallops with the lively illustrations from page to page until a cosy conclusion after an enchanting adventure. SMK never disappoints.

**WE'RE STUCK!** by Sue deGennaro (Scholastic). When the lift which is full of the most unlikely characters gets stuck, all the passengers join in some unexpected fun. Likeable ink, pencil and collage illustrations.

**WHERE'S LUCKY?** by Jacqui Halpin & Sandra Severgnini (Little Pink Dog). An appealing and touching story of an orphaned Joey cared for by Our Haven Wildlife Shelter to whom a percentage of income will be donated.

**WINDOW OF HOPE** by Robert Vescio & Demelsa Haughton (Little Pink Dog). This touching story about hope and friendship, with its gentle and ethereal digital illustrations, will inspire readers.

**YOUNG DARK EMU** by Bruce Pascoe (Magabala). This is not strictly a picture book but it's an extremely important book and I highly recommend that everybody reads it. It's the junior edition of Pascoe's bestseller *Dark Emu*. A must for young and older readers.

**FINALLY**

I hope you enjoyed this newsletter. Feel free to share it with others. Best wishes and keep in touch.

Margaret Hamilton AM