



Newsletter Number Three, November 2011

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It's been a cold winter here in Blackheath. Many of the old-time locals are saying that it's one of the coldest winters they remember. It's snowed twice, not enough to stay on the ground, but it was exciting. Spring sprang briefly in September and we relished the warmer weather and the clear sunshine. However, just lately winter is back with a vengeance and we are promised a wet summer.

VISITORS

Visitors to Pinerolo have come from far and wide. Jeannette Rowe, creator of Yoyo and the 'My Series' came from Melbourne, award-winning author Colin Thompson came for afternoon tea and author Martin Chatterton came with his family from Lennox Head.

It's always a delight to have groups of children here. Showing them the magical journey from manuscript to finished picture book is very satisfying and watching them enthusiastically completing their activity sheet is fun. Several groups from the home-schooling network have come, some travelling very long distances and it's also a joy to see them enjoying a picnic lunch outside (weather permitting!). Teachers or anyone interested in bringing a group of children should check the programs page on the website: 'School visits'.

Our last one-day course for the year was doubly booked, but Dee Huxley and I had great day with thirteen people who ranged from aspiring authors and illustrators, plus teachers and librarians.

NOW OPEN!

WRITER'S RETREAT or A QUIET BREAK

Self-contained, self-catering, peaceful accommodation
Perfect for:

Writers and illustrators to complete a project
Publishers, teachers and researchers

Brand-new kitchen, two bedrooms (1 queen, 1 twin)
Electric blankets, wood-burning stove and reverse-cycle
air-conditioning make it ideal in all weathers
Just two kilometres from Blackheath village.

A perfect escape.

Enquire about weekly or weekend rates.

OPEN DAY

I can't quite believe that it's a year since the first Open Day. Our 1st Anniversary Open Day on 12 November went off with a bang. I was very grateful to the 'local' authors and illustrators who came: Tohby Riddle, Stephen Measday, Steven Herrick, James Roy and Anne Bowman. All were warmly greeted by visitors and Anne worked on a beautiful paper sculpture, which was fascinating to watch. Special guests on the day were Libby Gleeson and Freya Blackwood, highlighting their beautiful new picture book LOOK, A BOOK! with Freya showing her working drawings for the book. It was again, luckily, a beautiful sunny day and people picnicked here.



Freya Blackwood shows her working drawings to Meaghan from Gleebooks

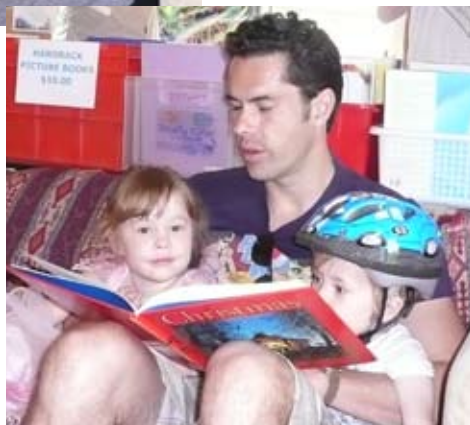


Tohby Riddle signing books



This is what it's all about ...

parents and children loving books! (At Pinerolo of course)



All quiet while we work on our activity sheets!

CHRISTMAS SHOPPING: SENSATIONAL VARIETY

Christmas is rushing in so fast it's hard to cope with all that has to be done. For easy Christmas shopping, don't forget I have a lovely selection of new hardback picture books at throw-away prices, plus, for that special gift, original artwork and prints from some of Australia's best illustrators. A pre-Christmas visit is well worthwhile! Just phone first to check that we are here.

Otherwise, visit your favourite bookshop and look out for these new picture books from Australian publishers:

Fremantle Press:

MY COUNTRY by Ezekiel Kwaymullina. Illus by Sally Morgan
Vibrant illustrations and simple text evoke a deep love of country which should ring true for all Australians.

THE LAST VIKING by Norman Jorgensen, Illus by James Foley
A book about facing your fears and standing up for yourself. A welcome book for boys.

SAM, GRACE AND THE SHIPWRECK by Michelle Gillespie. Illus by Sonia Martinez
A fascinating retelling, with dramatic illustrations, of a shipwreck off the coast of WA in 1876.

HarperCollins (ABC):

THE BICYCLE Colin Thompson for Save the Children
Fourteen internationally acclaimed artists join Colin Thompson in this collection. Royalties donated to Save the Children. www.savethechildren.org.au

Scholastic:

FAIRYTALE PARADE by Anna Pignataro
Another Princess and Fairy Book with cute illustrations and added bonuses

FLOOD by Jackie French & Bruce Whatley
This best-selling duo have produced a book about the 2011 Queensland floods. Proceeds to the Premier's Disaster Relief Appeal.

Hachette:

THE NAUGHTY CORNER by Colin Thompson
A delightful family story about being sent to the naughty corner (often called the naughty step in some families). Colin Thompson's sense of humour always surprises.

Little Hare:

LOOK, A BOOK! by Libby Gleeson & Freya Blackwood
A beautiful celebration of the book and the wonderful journey it can take you. Simple text and evocative illustrations.

Simon & Schuster Australia:

GRUG 1 2 3 by Ted Prior
GRUG ABC by Ted Prior
GRUG'S BIG BOOK OF FUN! by Ted Prior
As the original publisher of GRUG in the 1970s, it does my heart good to see these books re-published and doing so well for a whole new generation. Don't miss them!

Walker Books:

A BUS CALLED HEAVEN by Bob Graham
Another classic from Bob Graham, who never disappoints. A heartwarming story of a whole neighbourhood coming together.
VAMPYRE by Margaret Wild & Andrew Yeo
Margaret Wild always challenges with her choice of subject matter. This is a touching book about following your heart, magnificently illustrated by a talented newcomer.

Random House

SOUNDS SPOOKY by Christopher Cheng & Sarah Davis
A fun book about a haunted house with exciting illustrations.
TIN TOYS by Bruce Whatley & Ben Smith Whatley
A Christmas story showing that even old toys can be magical.

THANKS TO PUBLISHERS

My thanks to publishers who have put Pinerolo on their list and send advance copies of new picture books. I promote these at courses and whenever I talk to visitors at Pinerolo or at local schools. I intend to include in this and future newsletters reviews of as many as I can. This will reinforce my stated aim to promote Australian picture books.

NEXT YEAR

What will next year bring? I am planning a whole program of one-day courses and workshops, author talks, informal gatherings and a host of other things. I'll be working on all of this over the next couple of months and it will be listed on the website. Some exciting visitors are planned.

Until then, watch this space - and have a safe, healthy and very happy Christmas. Margaret Hamilton AM