

We've just returned from a fabulous trip to Italy. Previously our trips to Italy were for work, when we attended the Bologna Children's Book Fair. This one was pure holiday, culminating in a fantastic celebration for Max's seventieth birthday.

Although we spent most of our time in Sarteano, a small hilltown in southern Tuscany, we did manage to spend a few days in Venice - and visited the Venice Film Festival - and then in the 'real' Pinerolo in Piedmont, northern Italy, where we had terrific fun with our Italian 'family' - many dinners and huge family lunches. We ate some fabulous food while we were in Italy but fortunately did a huge amount of walking, mostly up and down steep cobblestoned streets in hill towns, which seemed to compensate for all those delicious calories.

Max's birthday lunch was held at Santa Chiara, formerly a fifteenth century convent, which has been converted into a hotel and restaurant. It has spectacular views over the Tuscan landscape. Heavenly! There were fourteen of us - close friends and family from Italy and Australia. A multi cultural gathering and a most memorable day.



*Max and Melissa at Santa Chiara, Sarteano, Tuscany*

## VISITORS

We were home from our trip for three days when Jenny Stubbs and her sister Shirley from Queensland came to stay for three days. As our brains were still in Italy, I hope they didn't feel we were too distracted! They looked after themselves very well and enjoyed the sightseeing and visiting all the beautiful open mountains gardens, resplendent in their spring blossoms.

## COMING UP AT PINEROLO

There is so much coming up in the next couple of months I think we'll fall in an exhausted heap by the end of the year. But wait, there's Christmas before that! So this newsletter is mainly to remind you about some important upcoming events. There's something here for everyone.

## PICTURE BOOKS @ PINEROLO

I'm very excited about having Wayne Harris here to inspire us all about picture books. There are still some places available so please be quick with your booking.

### PICTURE BOOKS @ PINEROLO

Everything you always wanted to know about writing, illustrating

and publishing children's picture books:  
from the idea to the finished book and  
beyond. A one-day course with

award-winning illustrator

WAYNE HARRIS

and former children's publisher

MARGARET HAMILTON

Continuing our very successful, now 6 year-old series of courses

Saturday 27 October, 10am - 4pm

More information and booking form: [www.pinerolo.com.au/PDF/Wayne2012.pdf](http://www.pinerolo.com.au/PDF/Wayne2012.pdf)

## BOOKS BUILD BRAINS - 10 NOVEMBER

This is a new venture and we hope you will support it. Megalong Books will stage a fabulous afternoon here at Pinerolo for librarians and teachers. If you care about what children are reading and aspire to provide them with the best that is available, you can't afford not to come.

There will be two sessions at a cost of \$20 each:

Pre-school and Primary: 12.30 - 2.30

Upper Primary to High School from 3.30 - 5.30

Not only will we have special guests Stephen Measday, Toby Riddle and Emily Rodda but everyone will receive a fabulous 'goody bag' containing heaps of useful information and resources. AND there will be a lucky door prize.

This is your opportunity to: Review and discuss new books; Meet local book creators; Network with other educators; View the amazing collection of original artwork and books at Pinerolo; And . . .

Enjoy the conversation, the bubbly and refreshments

Contact Megalong Books at 47841302 to book.

## OPEN DAY - SUNDAY 2 DECEMBER

I am so excited about Open Day this year. Two of my favourite children's book creators will be here with us for the weekend.



Glenda Millard, whose first book *UNPLUGGED!* we published at Margaret Hamilton Books in the nineties, has become a multi-award winner whose books are sought after by publishers worldwide. Her *Kingdom of Silk* series, which began with *THE NAMING OF TISHKIN SILK* now has six titles, with a seventh delivered to the publisher.

Stephen Michael King came to see me and show me his work when he was very young, asking for advice about his potential as an illustrator. Can you imagine what I would say to someone so talented? Now, so many successful books later, he is one of Australia's most loved illustrators and he is the illustrator of Glenda's series.

Pinerolo will be transformed for the day into the Kingdom of Silk. We will be encouraging people to come dressed as a character from the series and to bring a picnic lunch. Books will be available for sale and signing and there will be other surprises to delight you on the day.

More details later, but mark this date in your diary. It promises to be a very special day.

## ILLUSTRATORS IN RESIDENCE

As well as these important events, we have two more illustrators in residence, completing our 2012 program funded by CAL.

Stephen Axelsen will be here for a week from 14 October and Jemma Robaard arrives on 18 November.

I'm really looking forward to working with both of them and to seeing their current projects.

## NEW PICTURE BOOKS

With thanks to the publishers who continue to send new Australian picture books for review, here are some I have room for here, many with a Christmas theme.

Why not visit me at Pinerolo and peruse my special 'review collection' which has pride of place? I love showing people new picture books! This is a great opportunity to catch up with new books, especially to find ideas for Christmas gifts. A book on Christmas morning is always the best present!

*BUBBAY: A CHRISTMAS ADVENTURE* by Josie Wowolla Boyle & Fern Martins (Magabala)

A magical, inspiring and totally original Christmas story set in the Australian outback, richly illustrated in spectacular colour.

*DEADLY READERS* (Magabala Books)

This is a delightful new series of early readers written and illustrated by indigenous creators. Unique Australian books, encouraging new readers and introducing them to our unique environment.

*DINOSAURITIS* by Jeannette Rowe (Allen & Unwin)

From one of our top creators of early childhood books comes a fabulous flip-the-flap book for all those bitten by the dinosaur bug from birth. The perfect gift book for under the Christmas tree.

*FIGARO AND RUMBA AND THE CROCODILE CAFE* by Anna Fienberg & Stephen Michael King (Allen & Unwin)

Not strictly a picture book but a wonderful new format for an early reader to enjoy - two new characters from the creator of the much loved *Tashi*. 84 pages, six chapters, illustrated in colour on every page. A sure-fire hit for emerging readers.

*THE GIFT* by Penny Matthews & Martin McKenna (Omnibus)

A heartwarming Christmas story featuring a bear - a winning combination. A rather plain bear experiences the magic of Christmas and a special gift.

*GOOD NIGHT, SLEEP TIGHT* by Mem Fox & Judy Horacek (Scholastic).

From the creators of the bestselling *WHERE IS THE GREEN SHEEP?*, a bedtime book to please all lovers of nursery rhymes.

*LOOKING FOR REX* by Jan Ormerod & Carol Thompson (Little Hare).

Everybody is convinced that Gramps is lonely since Granny Rose died and that he needs a pet. So the whole family joins in the search for the perfect pet. A very appealing family story.

*MONSIEUR ALBERT RIDES TO GLORY* by Peter Smith & Bob Graham (Allen & Unwin).

Bob Graham always delights. This book, written by Bob's brother-in-law is a funny and entertaining, rollicking, rhyming read, illustrated of course, with Bob Graham's charming pictures.

*THE MOON SHINES OUT OF THE DARK* by Stephanie Dowrick & Anne Spudvilas (Allen & Unwin).

A beautifully illustrated picture book, warmly highlighting family relationships. An impressive collaboration by two bestselling, award-winning creators.

*101 THINGS TO DO WITH BABY* by Jan Ormerod (Little Hare)

This award-winning creator knows babies, as they have featured in so many of her successful books. This one will be a winner for all families with a new baby.

Thank you to everyone for your continued interest and support. If you haven't visited Pinerolo yet, please come soon. It's all about picture books - and don't we all love them?

Margaret Hamilton AM