

NEWSLETTER NUMBER THIRTY-FIVE

August was our trip to Canada. We had a fantastic time on the Rocky Mountaineer train and saw lots of spectacular scenery. We visited Kidsbooks in Vancouver, voted Canada's best children's bookshop. What a treat! Then a couple of days after we returned home we welcomed Libby Gleeson for another very successful Picture Books @ Pinerolo. I'm sorry if I was jetlagged, but we managed to get through the day. I love the generous and enthusiastic feedback from participants in these courses and keeping in touch about their writing and illustrating endeavours.



Max and me outside Kidsbooks, Vancouver www.kidsbooks.ca

The exciting news from here is that our first Illustrator in Residence has spent a week here. Two illustrators were chosen by the selection panel: Michael Campbell (WestWords), Linsay Knight (Walker Books) and me. Delene White travelled from Canberra. It's been fantastic to work with her and see her resolve to be a children's book illustrator taking shape. Our next Illustrator in Residence will be Sadami Konchi, from 23 October. Anyone is welcome to visit, to meet her and see her work. Watch this space for future exciting developments.



Delene White, Illustrator in Residence.

PICTURE BOOKS @ PINEROLO

SATURDAY 21 October - LISA STEWART

Lisa is an acclaimed violinist (Acacia Quartet), but also an established illustrator whose work has featured in some of the most popular children's books published. Her first book *Can I Cuddle The Moon?* was shortlisted for the CBCA Crichton Award for New Illustrators. Other works include *Jam For Nana* (Deborah Kelly), and *Once Upon a Christmas Annual*. Her latest picture books include *Little Bear's First Sleep* (Lesley Gibbes), *Outback Lullaby* (Sally Odgers), and *Butterfly, We're Expecting You* (Libby Hathorn). She has just finished *Ocean Lullaby* (Sally Odgers) and is currently working on *Three Little Mermaids* (Lesley Gibbes).



Lisa is very generous at sharing her journey to success. Join us for a valuable opportunity to learn and to be inspired about creating a picture book - writing and illustrating. Book now!

Booking and prepayment essential:

www.pinerolo.com.au/PDF/Stewart.pdf

contact: hamiltonbooks@iprimus.com.au

SCHOOL VISITS - THE LAST TERM OF 2017

Listen, Look and Learn. Be Inspired!

Where do Picture Books Come From?

How are they written? Who draws the pictures?

One hour talk. Books and artwork for sale.

Groups of children and adults are welcome. Don't delay. Plan a visit before the end of the year.

\$10 per child. \$20 per adult

Bookings: 02 47878492 or hamiltonbooks@iprimus.com.au

NEW PICTURE BOOKS

It's a constant joy to work with picture books. I was honoured to be a guest author at a CBCA Blue Mountains event at Springwood Library. Sharing the magical journey of a picture book with children and their parents is always a pleasure. Here are some of the wonderful new picture books I've received from publishers of Australian picture books recently:

THE AMAZING MONSTER DETECTOSCOPE by Graeme Base (Penguin). Another masterpiece from this incredible picture book creator. The detailed illustrations and intricate paper engineering will amaze and delight readers and keep them enthralled for hours.

AT THE BEACH I SEE by Kamsani Bin Salleh (Magabala). The second book in the 'Young Art' board book series, highlighting the work of young Indigenous artists. This is a simple, beautiful introduction to wildlife found at the beach.

A BAG AND A BIRD by Pamela Allen (Penguin). A timely lesson about the dangers of plastic bags told and illustrated by one of our most celebrated, award-winning picture book creators. Her simple, evocative pictures are an excursion around Sydney Harbour.

BIG FELLA RAIN by Beryl Webber & Fern Martins (Magabala). Set in monsoon country, this celebration of rain, by Indigenous creators, could apply anywhere in Australia. The simple text is complemented by superb, striking illustrations as animals greet the precious rain.

FINN AND PUSS by Robert Vescio & Melissa Mackie (EK Books). The touching simply-told story of a lonely boy finding a friend, only to have to part again. Illustrations in gentle colours complete this appealing book.

FOX AND MOONBEAM by Aleesah Darlison & Narelda Joy (Wombat). Gerard Fox's life changes when he becomes friends with Mademoiselle Moonbeam. A beautifully illustrated book about friendship and self-belief.

FREE DIVING by Lorrae Coffin & Bronwyn Houston (Magabala). This moving book highlights the early days of the pearl industry in WA and the perilous work of Indigenous divers. Lyrics of the song are included.

GRANDMA FORGETS by Paul Russell & Nicky Johnston (EK Books). A touching picture book that evokes memories of my mother with Alzheimers. A family treasures memories of a loved grandma. Watercolour illustrations in gentle colours support the theme.

THE GREAT RABBIT CHASE by Freya Blackwood (Scholastic). I'm a huge fan!. Freya has written and illustrated this book. It's a very involving, chaotic chase after an escaped rabbit, which ends with a lovely surprise.

I WISH I COULD BE A SUPERHERO by Susan Hall & Cheryl Westenberg (NLA). Wesley Wombat desperately wants to be a superhero but every attempt fails. Then success comes unexpectedly. An entertaining lift-the flap book with useful factual information.

IMAGINE by John Lennon & Jean Jullien (A & U). Not an Australian picture book but worth a mention. It's a picture book of this iconic song by the great Beatle. There's even a foreword by Yoko Ono. A worthy cause too, as royalties are donated to Amnesty International.

KOALA BARE by Jackie French & Matt Shanks (A & R). From its gorgeous tactile cover, this hilarious book confirms that koalas are not bears. The illustrations extend the story with a sub-text all their own. A really fun book from the loved author of *Diary of a Wombat*.

LULLABY AND GOODNIGHT by P Crumble & Kim Dale (Scholastic). A lovely bedtime book complete with a CD. As baby Australian animals snuggle down for sleep, young children will delight in the illustrations and will be lulled by Miranda Tapsell's song.

MY DOG SOCKS by Robyn Osborne & Sadami Konchi (Ford St). Special dogs are best friends and can do anything their young owner imagines. This is such a dog in a book full of love and outdoor fun. The energetic watercolour illustrations are by our next Illustrator in Residence at Pinerolo. Looking forward to it, Sadami!

ONCE UPON A SMALL RHINOCEROS by Meg McKinlay & Leila Rudge (Walker). Everybody imagines seeing new places and having new adventures. This rhinoceros is no exception, but like most of us, returning home is a relief. Appealing illustrations and story from these award-winning creators.

PIG THE STAR by Aaron Blabey (Scholastic). With over 1 million Pig books sold, every one is a winner, including this new one. Pig is a show-off, loves attention, but events conspire against him. Another very funny book by this best-selling creator.

RODNEY LOSES IT! by Michael Gerard Bauer & Chrissie Krebs (Omnibus). Rodney is a rabbit. Disaster strikes when he loses his favourite pen. This very funny book is a departure for this multi-award-winning novel writer. A new illustrator has created the chaotic pictures.

THE SCARED BOOK by Debra Tidball & Kim Siew (Lothian). The reader is invited to participate in this interactive book. It's a fun experience from beginning to end. Bright, clear type and illustrations will involve early readers.

THE SECOND SKY by Patrick Guest & Jonathan Bentley (Little Hare). Gilbert is an adorable baby penguin who dreams of flying. He tries several times with no luck. Then he finds a unique way of realising his dream. A gorgeous book.

TWO ENCHANTED TALES FROM OLD CHINA, Gabrielle Wang & David Allen (Christmas Press). The eighth and latest, in the series of traditional tales retold by well-known writers and highlighting emerging illustrators. It's good to see these stories available for young readers, evocatively illustrated and produced.

WHAT'S UP TOP? by Marc Martin (Penguin). Readers are left guessing in this simple, playful and imaginative book. It would be fun to read aloud as listeners would join in the fun and guess for themselves. Striking illustrations are accompanied by large, simple text.

FINALLY

Thanks for your interest in children's picture books. I welcome visitors to Pinerolo, so please come if you can. Enjoy the newsletter.

Best wishes and thank you for your support.

Margaret Hamilton AM