

OCTOBER NEWSLETTER

No, I haven't kept up with newsletters. Nothing seems to be running on time this year. As lockdown continued we wondered if this would ever finish. It's looking a little more relaxed in NSW now and I'm even taking Airbnb bookings. So the future is looking more positive.

CBCA BOOK OF THE YEAR AWARDS

The long-awaited announcement of this year's CBCA Book of the Year Awards on 20 August was an online presentation which was brilliant. If you didn't see it, I recommend you watch it on:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xmpDNYYoHJg>

I'd love to see the awards announced this way every year. It was far more accessible than an elite event. Everyone in Australia could hook in, especially schools. Schools had been reading and discussing the Shortlisted books since they were announced, so watching the awards presentation would have been the perfect climax. Here's the list:

BOOK OF THE YEAR: OLDER READERS

WINNER. *The End of the World is Bigger Than Love* by Davina Bell. (Text Publishing)

HONOUR BOOKS. *Metal Fish, Falling Snow* by Cath Moore (Text) and *Where We Begin* by Christie Nieman (PanMac)

BOOK OF THE YEAR: YOUNGER READERS

WINNER. *Aster's Good, Right Things* by Kate Gordon (Riveted)

HONOUR BOOKS: *The Stolen Prince of Cloudburst* by Jaelyn Moriarty, illus by Kelly Canby (A & U) and *Worse Things* by Sally Murphy, illus by Sarah Davis (Walker)

BOOK OF THE YEAR: EARLY CHILDHOOD

WINNER. *No! Never!* by Libby Hathorn & Lisa Hathorn-Jarman, illus by Mel Pearce (Hachette).

HONOUR BOOKS. *Anemone is not the Enemy* by Anna McGregor (Scribble) and *We Love You, Magoo* by Briony Stewart (Penguin/Random).

PICTURE BOOK OF THE YEAR

WINNER. *How to Make a Bird* by Matt Ottley (text by Meg McKinlay) (Walker)

HONOUR BOOKS. *Not Cute.* by Philip Bunting (Walker) and *Your Birthday Was the Best!* by Felicita Sala (Text by Maggie Hutchings) (Affirm)

EVE POWNALL AWARD

WINNER. *Dry to Dry* by Pamela Freeman, illus by Liz Anelli (Walker).

HONOUR BOOKS. *The Illustrated Encyclopaedia of Dangerous Animals* by Sami Bayly (Hachette) and *Strangers on Country* by David Hartley & Kirsty Murray, illus by Dub Leffler (NLA).
CBCA AWARD FOR NEW ILLUSTRATOR. *This Small Blue Dot* by Zeno Sworder (Thames & Hudson).

Libby Hathorn in the Blue Mountains

Well, of course Libby Hathorn's visit to the Blue Mountains was cancelled!

It was terrific news though that Libby's picture book *NO! NEVER!* illustrated by Mel Pearce, won the 2021 CBCA Book of the Year: Early Childhood category.

However, we in the Blue Mountains are very excited that Libby will be guest at the CBCA Blue Mountains sub branch pre-Christmas dinner on 3 December. This dinner will be at our favourite place, The Farm at Katoomba.



Watch out for announcements about this event: www.pinerolo.com.au and <https://www.cbcanw.org.au/blue-mountains-sub-branch>



WESTWORDS/PINEROLO ILLUSTRATOR IN RESIDENCE

There were twelve applications which the selection panel found very impressive. We were unanimous about two of the entries who would be Illustrators in Residence at Pinerolo. Congratulations to Nisaluk Chantanakom from Haberfield and Melanie deBoehmier from Bathurst. I look forward to meeting and working with them here at Pinerolo. Dates to be arranged. There will also be a mentorship with Tohy Riddle for one other.

A FUTURE FOR PINEROLO - 10 YEARS ON

Well, everything I shared in my last newsletter was on hold because of lockdown. The people at the State Library are very committed to removing the artwork before summer and the threat of bushfires returns. So the date has been set. 27 October will be the date for the artwork to be collected. What a bitter/sweet day that will be for me! Thanks to all those who sent supportive feedback. It's pretty obvious that Open Day will not happen!

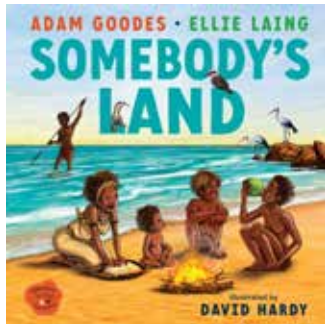
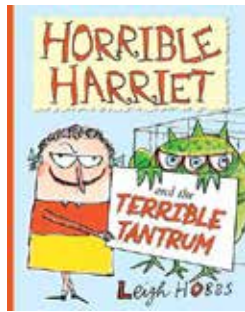
A NEW BOOK!

I'm thrilled that I've signed a publishing contract with Little Hare for a third picture book, following on from 'B is For Bedtime' and 'Counting Through the Day'. This one, entitled 'Rainbow Days' is scheduled to be published in February 2023 and of course, will be illustrated by the fabulous Anna Pignataro. It's already sold to the US, where 'B is For Bedtime' has sold nearly a quarter of a million copies. Extraordinary!

FEATURE PICTURE BOOKS

HORRIBLE HARRIET AND THE TERRIBLE TANTRUM by Leigh Hobbs (A & U). This new picture book celebrates Horrible Harriet's 20th birthday. Congratulations to Harriet and to Leigh Hobbs! It's good to see this popular character back again.

This time she decides to be a good girl, but she's overtaken by events, when a terrible tantrum breaks loose. All readers will love this, with its laugh-out-loud situations and its crazy illustrations. Another winner from a former Australian Children's Laureate. Highly recommended.



SOMEBODY'S LAND by Adam Goodes & Ellie Laing. Illus by David Hardy (A & U). The first in a series introducing First Nations culture. This book states that the first white people called this land Terra Nullius. The simple and evocative text, together with the vibrant and colourful illustrations should

appeal to all ages, highlighting the importance of acknowledging Country and the original custodians of the land we share. Highly recommended.

NEW PICTURE BOOKS

I repeat what I said before, that in these trying times there's nothing better to do than read good books — and give them as Christmas gifts. Here are my recommendations, beautiful picture books.

A BOY HIS BEAR AND A BULLY by Katie Flannigan & P. J. Reece (EK). An imaginative and sensitive treatment of how to deal with bullying. The lively illustrations reflect the story well, making this a very approachable book.

THE CURSE OF THE VAMPIRE ROBOT by Graeme Base (A & R). This seems to be a bit of a departure for this award-winner, whose books are usually magnificent colour works. This is all black and white digital artwork accompanied by rhyming text based on classic vampire mythology, nonetheless a stunning production.

DINOSAUR DADS by Lesley Gibbes & Marjorie Crosby-Fairall (Scholastic). The rhyming text is full of action and excitement. This would be a lot of fun to read aloud. The bright illustrations fill the pages with chaos.

THE GLINT OF GOLD by Kate McGann & Patricia Ward (Little Pink Dog). Even during lockdown there are golden moments in every day. This family sees them in everything they do. Engaging and colourful illustrations.

GRANDUDE'S GREEN SUBMARINE by Paul McCartney & Kathryn Durst (Puffin). Obviously not Australian but this is lots of fun. Their first book 'Hey Grandude!' was a worldwide bestseller, no need to ask why!

HELLO WORLD by Lisa Shanahan & Leila Rudge (ABC). A toddler welcomes everything in her day. The simple

rhyming text makes this ideal to read at bedtime and the simple mixed media illustrations complete the picture perfectly.

THE MAGIC BALL OF STRING by Chelsea Hardi & Olya Badulina (Richmond). Remarkably, this charming fairy tale was written by a 7-year-old Australian girl. The illustrations, in traditional fairy tale style were done by an illustrator who lives in Finland. A fascinating collaboration.

MY FAVOURITE TEACHERS by Beck & Robin Feiner (ABC). Celebrating not only the school teachers but everyone whose experience means they have something to teach us. Bright and involving.

NONI THE PONY COUNTS TO A MILLION by Alison Lester (A & U). Bestseller, award-winner and former Children's Laureate has created a fourth book about this loved pony. Simple rhyming text, recommended for beginning readers.

READ, RUN, READ by Barbie Bates & Hugh Todd. A clever little book about an extraordinary journey across Australia, promoting reading and Paint the Town Read. Well worth checking out their website: www.paintthetownread.info

ROSIE THE RHINOCEROS by Jimmy Barnes & Matt Shanks (A & R). Rosie spreads sunshine wherever she goes, telling all the other animals she's a unicorn. A warmhearted story by this rock legend. The appealing illustrations reflect Rosie's sunny character.

SEASONS IN THE CITY by Megan McKean (Lothian). This fascinating and colourful book describes the four seasons in many cities around the world as well as introducing readers to the cities, their people and customs.

STAR by Artelle Lenthall & Margaret Dewar (Little Pink Dog). An endearing retelling of the Christmas story from the Bethlehem star's perspective. Simply told and beautifully illustrated.

THE STORY OF US by Michael Wagner & Beck Feiner (ABC). This is really an album to be filled in with life's milestones, making it a family history to keep forever.

WHAT DO YOU DO TO CELEBRATE? by Ashleigh Barton & Martina Heiduszek (ABC). Another stunning book from this partnership. It tells readers about festivals around the world and the illustrations bring them alive.

WHAT IF . . . ? by Lynn Jenkins, illus by Kirrili Lonergan (EK). Looking on the positive side of life is much more fun. Appealing illustrations in a calming bedtime book.

FINALLY

I hope you've enjoyed this newsletter. Feel free to pass it on to others, especially for anyone looking for recommendations for Christmas gifts. Thanks to the publishers who send review copies of their lovely books.

Feedback, as ever, is welcome! Best wishes to all. Stay safe. Thank you for your interest and support.

Regards

Margaret Hamilton AM