

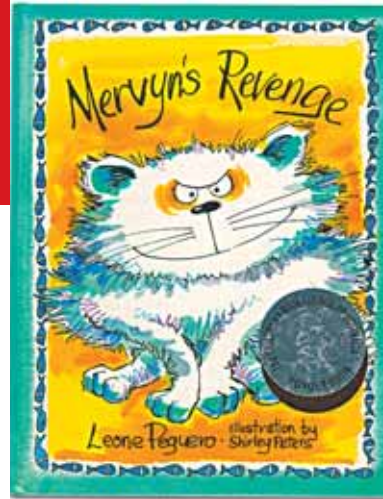
QUEEN STREET



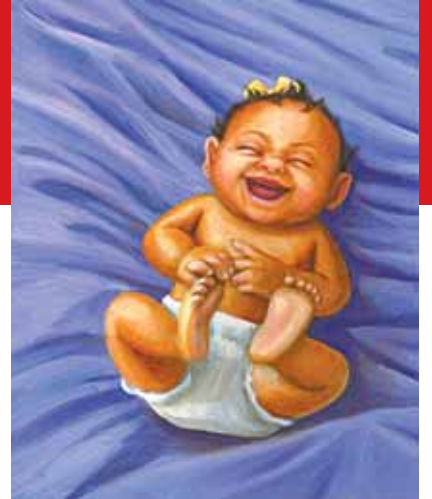
Anne Bell



Ilana Kresner



Shirley Peters



Sarah Davis

Literary salon: children's illustrators at The Hughenden

Children's illustrators and authors came from all over Australia to attend the International Society of Children's Writers & Book Illustrators (SCBWI) conference at The Hughenden, home of the Sydney Writers & Illustrators Network. Publishers, authors, and illustrators gathered for a literary salon event, as illustrators and authors shared canapés and conversation.

Susan Sherman, art director of the respected US publisher, Charlesbridge Boston, was impressed by 'the diversity and energy of Australian illustrators'. Charlesbridge has already licensed *The World That We Want* by New South Wales silk screen artist Kim Michelle Toft and the illustrations in Victorian zoologist Andrew Plant's *A Platypus Probably*.

The Hughenden was a buzz with Australian children's writing and illustrating literati: Hazel

Edwards, Wendy Orr, Deborah Abela, Jeni Mawter, Moya Simons, Vashti Farrer, Susanne Gervay, Jen McVeity, Jan Latta, Christopher Cheng, Mark Greenwood, Felicity Pulman, Prue Mason, Frané Lessac, Mark Greenwood, Patricia Bernard, Dianne Wolfer, Krista Bell, Meredith Costain, Ann Bell, Tina Burke, and many others. Wendy Orr's award-winning book *Nim's Island* was a key topic of conversation. The film is to be released internationally in 2008 by Walden Media, producers of *Holes*. Hazel Edwards' Antarctic adventures were also avidly discussed as she explored translating the experience into the picture book, *Antarctic Dad* (Lothian).

The distinguished essayist, author and arts patron Barbara Blackman, who helped establish the Melbourne Contemporary Arts Society and was a central force in bringing the work of Arthur

Boyd and Sidney Nolan to the public, joined the salon, addressing the illustrators and authors.

The illustrators at the conference reflected the depth and range of talent in Australian artists who work in children's illustrations. Artists ranged from the internationally recognised Frané Lessac to the newly discovered Disney animator Tina Burke. Styles ranged from Peter Taylor's calligraphy to Ilana Kresner's naïve art; from Sarah Davis's complexity to Jan Latta's stunning photography of endangered species.

Works of the illustrators hang in the Reading Room of The Hughenden on a rotating exhibition. The exhibition includes works by the following illustrators.

Frané Lessac is an award-winning author and illustrator of children's books, with over 30 picture books published to date. Travel is a major source of inspiration for her work as she renders her impressions of a country and its way of life in her oil and gouache paintings. Her folk-art paintings have been exhibited in numerous galleries around the world. She lives in Fremantle, Western Australia, with her family.

Her recent book, *The Day of the Elephant*, is set in Thailand and based on reports of amazing incidents involving animals and birds during the tsunami that hit the coastlines of Indonesia, Thailand, Sri Lanka, India, and the Maldives on Boxing Day 2004. The story is centred on one special elephant, Mae Jabu, who senses the approaching tsunami and saves the children of a village by carrying them to safety. One of the illustrations from *The Day of the Elephant* was gifted to The Hughenden and hangs in the Reading Room.

Marjory Gardner studied graphic design before becoming a freelance children's book illustrator. Since 1980, she has illustrated a wide range of educational and trade books and magazines, published both in Australia and internationally. Her work is easily recognised by its humour, rainbow colours, and appealing characters. She has travelled throughout Australia giving workshops and presentations. Marjory's picture books include *Playschool: the Blue Book* (ABC Books), *One Little Bunny* and *Three Little Ducks* (Brolly Books). Marjory Gardner painted a special piece for The Hughenden gallery.

Ilana M Kresner is an author and illustrator of children's picture books. Ilana has worked with the Museum of Modern Art in New York, the Australian Museum in Sydney, and the Art Gallery of New South Wales. Her first picture book, *Alphabet Wings*, was published by Lothian/Hachette in 2005. *Alphabet Wings* takes the reader on a world journey flying through 26 cities, beginning with 'A'msterdam and ending with 'Z'urich. Each visit introduces the reader to a unique aspect of that city by exploring festivals, foods, legends, sounds, smells and architecture.

The reader travels with magical alphabet wings across all continents. They visit the ancient pyramids of Cairo, the honking cabs of New York, and the Samba dancers of Rio de Janeiro. An illustration from *Alphabet Wings* is on loan to The Hughenden.

Peter Taylor, an ecologist, printmaker, papermaker and book-binder studied art, calligraphy and illumination with the world's finest practitioners, including Donald Jackson, the Queen's 'scribe', through the Society of Scribes and Illuminators in London. Having taught Queensland's first calligraphy class in 1979, Peter has exhibited widely, completed many prestigious commissions, and in 1987 wrote *The Australian Manual of Calligraphy* (Allen and Unwin).

Peter illustrates and writes stories for children. His latest, *Kangaroo's Visitor gets a Surprise*, illustrated by Gail Breese, was published by Trafford in 2005. His illustrations use a modernised version of 8th century Celtic script. In addition, he works with linocuts, scraperboard and etching. His gift of a mythical piece that combines Celtic script and illustration hangs in The Hughenden gallery.

Sarah Davis is a new illustrator with an honours degree in literature. She has taught literature, creative writing, art, and art history. Sarah wanted to explore the artistic interpretation of stories and imagination. Her illustrations focus on communicating strong personalities, relationships, and emotional complexity. She works mainly in oils and alkyds. Sarah continues to expand her range and is exploring different media and techniques. Sarah embarked on a full-time career in illustration in late 2005. Her first book is due out in the US in July 2006. Sarah Davis's work was gifted to The Hughenden.

Shirley Peters is a Sydney-based illustrator and graphic designer. The former president of the Society of Book Illustrators, Shirley managed production at Hodder and Stoughton where she was inspired under Margaret Hamilton to start illustrating children's books. Shirley Peters illustrated *Mervyn's Revenge* by Leone Peguero (Hamilton Books) which was awarded 'Honour Book' in the prestigious CBCA Children's Book of the Year. Among other books, three sequels to *Mervyn* followed. Oil painting has

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Marjory Gardner



The Hughenden ★★★★★









The Hughenden, an authentic Victorian Manor (c1870), is situated in the lively & fashionable café life of Paddington.
A stroll to The Entertainment Quarter, Sydney's Sports Grounds, Centennial Park and 3km to CBD, Bondi Beach & Sydney Opera House.

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Frané Lessac, *The day of the elephant*

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figured strongly in Shirley's artistic development. She combines oil paint techniques with her personal montage style. Currently Shirley Peters is moving into the complex illustrations and themes of the graphic novel.

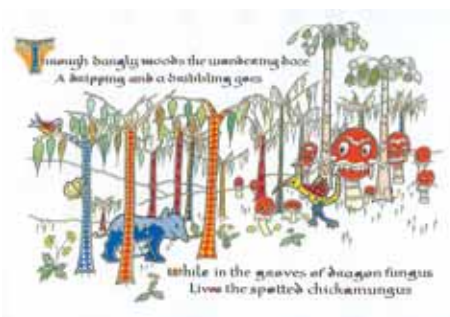
Anne Bell lived most of her life on a sheep property in western New South Wales where she raised her boys, worked and pursued poetry, writing, and art. Published extensively in newspapers and journals, Anne Bell is an award-winning poet. A selection of poetry, illustrated by linocuts, *Muster me a song* was awarded a 'Notable Book' by the CBCA and short listed for the NSW Premier's Award in 2003.

Anne also works as a printmaker and she creates in other mediums. She has won many art awards, exhibited extensively and her work is held in private collections in Australia, Indonesia, the UK, and the US. Anne Bell's donation of the delightful

Bewitched, Bothered & Bewildered is a print of children at play in the landscape.

Works on display also include illustrations by Shaun Tan, Kim Gamble, Penny Azar, Carolyn Magerl, Cathy Wilcox, Ritva Voula, Tricia Oktober, Wayne Harris, and others. Visitors are welcome to wander through The Hughenden to enjoy the exhibition ■

Susanne Gervay is a writer and an award-winning children's and young adult author.
www.sgervay.com



Peter Taylor