

THE WORLD THROUGH PICTURE BOOKS PROJECT

The International Federation of Librarians Association (IFLA) Children's and Young Adult section has been promoting *The World Through Picture Books* project over a number of years, inviting countries to submit a list of 10 picture books for exhibition in Europe and Asia. The project aims to celebrate and promote the language, cultures and quality of children's book publishing from each country, assist countries wishing to purchase books from other countries, and provide Sister Libraries a way of exploring the children's literature of their Sister Library country. Claire Stuckey reports on the Australian contribution.

Our survey was advertised over several months, using library and teacher librarian networks. A link from the Gosford City Council's library website was also established. I invited two colleagues to assist in developing the Australian list suggested by the 50 respondents.

Having to reduce the long list of nominations using the set criteria was difficult. We asked ourselves, what is the definition of a classic picture book? How does this read aloud to one child or a group, and in the set age range of one to 11? We reviewed visual quality and how children reacted to, or engaged with, the story.

Between the members of our team we have worked with various age groups, so our extensive combined experience was valuable. Our goal was to take the survey responses and the set criteria, and to develop a list that reflected Australian children's picture books available in 2013. The Australian team included primary teacher librarian Kerry Gittins, retired high school teacher librarian Sandra McCormac and myself, a children's librarian.

I took the opportunity during the IFLA conference in Lyon to further promote our talented creators. Sheena Knowles produced the classic picture book *Edward the Emu*, which was the focus of my 'fast talk' Australian presentation. The 200 strong audience enjoyed the large slides highlighting the visual quality of Rod Clement's illustrations, and I was thrilled to receive positive feedback in the following days.

During my visit to Lyon Public Library I saw the current exhibition of the project, including the Australian list. These fabulous books cover an amazing variety of subjects. The exhibition has already travelled in Europe and in Asia, and an updated IFLA *World Through Picture Books* publication will be published soon with additional country lists.

Libraries in Australia have the opportunity to be part of this wonderful international initiative. Please let me know if you are interested in the project or the exhibition, and for more information on hosting in Asian/Oceania visit bit.ly/YUivJu.

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AUSTRALIA THROUGH PICTURE BOOKS

IN ORDER OF PUBLICATION:

There's a Hippopotamus on Our Roof Eating Cake, Hazel Edwards, illustrated by Deborah Niland (1980)

Possum Magic, Mem Fox, illustrated by Julie Vivas (1983)

Wombat Stew, Marcia Vaughan, illustrated by Pamela Lofts (1984)

Who Sank the Boat? Pamela Allen (1988)

Edward the Emu, Sheena Knowles, illustrated by Rod Clement (1988)

Big Rain Coming, Katrina Germain, illustrated by Bronwyn Bancroft (2002)

Pete the Sheep, Jackie French (2004)

Magic Beach, Alison Lester (2004)

The Lost Thing, Shaun Tan (2010)

The Little Refugee, Ahn Do and Suzanne Do, illustrated by Bruce Whatley (2011)