

Christmas Term Four, 2004

Contributors to this booklist are – Kerry Aluf, Carol Arden, Helen Beckingsale, Anne Coppell, Noelene Coppell, Lois Huston, Ann Luxton, Wayne Mills, Hanne Nielsen, Frances Plumpton, Rosemary Tisdall.

BOOKLIST

I Loved You Before You Were Born

Anne Bowen

 ill Greg Shed

 HarperTrophy 2004

 Pb ISBN 0064436314

This delightful picture book is a must buy for grandparents to read to their grandchildren/mokopuna. It described how I felt as we waited for one to arrive. The thoughts and love into each stitch knitted, crocheted or sewn. And exactly as I felt when I held each of them and the special feelings as I held my great-grandson and watched my daughter become a grandmother. The pictures are soft and perfectly match the words. A very special book and beautifully done. NC

My Very First Mother Goose Jigsaw Puzzle Book

Ed. Iona Opie

 ill by Rosemary Wells.

 Candlewick Press 2004

 ISBN 0763024136

Seven rhymes have been selected from the wonderful Opie/Wells MyVery First Mother Goose collection to create this board jigsaw puzzle book. It has a bright yellow cover, well placed text and delightful illustrations. Each rhyme faces an illustration that is in fact a sturdy nine piece puzzle. Great fun for a 2 or 3 year old enjoying some one on one time with Mum, Dad or the grandparents. CA

Little Humpty

Margaret Wild and Ann James

 Little Hare 2004

 Pb, ISBN1877003581

Little Humpty's mother loves him more than anything else in the world. The little camel loves his mother's stories, and he loves playing in the desert, but when he can't find a friend to play with, his mother decides that it is time to visit the Great Waterhole. Just what will they find there? Ann James's use of golden hues has captured the emotional intensity of this lovely picture book just perfectly. FP



Santasaurus

Niamh Sharkey

 Walker 2004

 Hb ISBN 074458373X

It's Christmastime in Dinosaur Town. Ollie, Molly and Milo have written letters to Santasaurus. The shopping is finished, the house is decorated and Ollie, Molly and Milo have hung up their stockings and left milk and cookies out for Santasaurus and carrots for the dinodeer. What will Santa bring the dinosaur children? Two year olds onwards will love this gentle Christmas tale. FP



Maisy Goes Camping

Lucy Cousins

Walker 2004

Hb, ISBN 1844286614

Maisy and her friends are going camping, and it's not easy pitching the tent. After supper and a song or two it's time for bed. Uh, Oh! Will everyone fit into the tent? Even Eddie the elephant? Once again Lucy Cousins has produced a picture book with all the familiar characters, drama and a satisfactory resolution perfectly pitched for the youngest audience. FP

Tanka

Tanka

Skunk!

Steve Webb

Red Fox

2004

Pb, ISBN

0099439778



This is Tanka

This is Skunk

They love to play the drums.

Tanka, an elephant, and his friend Skunk are a musical pair. They can find the beat in any of their friends' names –

This is kangaroo.

His name has three beats, like this....Kan-ga-roo

This is a marvellous picture book that just begs to be read aloud and joined in with repeatedly. For young children who like moving to the beat or playing on pots-and-pans, this is a perfect gift.

For anyone involved in the teaching of young children it is linked to the UK National Curriculum Key Stage 1: Exploring Pulse and Rhythm. Believe me, it won't be long before you are grooving around the house to the refrain of 'Skunka Tanka Skunka Tanka Tanka Tanka Skunk!' JH

Chimney-less at Christmas

Anna-Miringa Scott

Ill. Errol McLeany

Scholastic NZ 2004

ISBN 1869436696

The age old concern of children that Santa will not be able to deliver their presents is the subject of this lively picture book. Original rhymes, text and colourful expressive illustrations take us through a range of solutions to the problem of being chimney-less! Children love the rhythm and the repeated refrain "Oh Mummy, Oh Daddy ..." and the accompanying CD with the story, a rap and music, will be played over and over. A great seasonal story for preschoolers to seven years old. CA

Robert Crowther's Pop-Up ABC

Robert Crowther

Oxford University Press 2004

ISBN 0199112029

A special treat for 3 – 5 year olds, this alphabet book has lift the flap and pop up components. Well sized lower case lettering in a clear font names the interesting objects which all have some moveable feature. Learning is made fun in this well designed book. A colourful gift for an attentive and careful preschooler to enjoy. CA

The Princess and the White Bear

King

Tanya Batt

Ill. Nicoletta Ceccoli

Barefoot Books 2004

ISBN 1841482420

Gifted storyteller Tanya Batt has combined aspects from three classic tales to create The Princess and the White Bear King. Wonderfully illustrated and told in poetic language, this story has all the elements of a traditional tale. A beautiful picture book that will be enjoyed by the adult reader as well as by the young listeners. Most suited to six to nine year olds. CA

The Wishing of Bidy Malone

Joy Cowley

Ill. Christopher Denise

Puffin Books 2004

ISBN 014351993X

Fiery tempered Bidy Malone loves to sing and dance, but has clumsy feet and her voice is like 'a rusty gate'. One night she stumbles upon a faerie village and is asked by a loveling boy for her three deepest wishes. She wishes to sing

sweetly, dance lightly and have a loving heart. Bidy finds out that these need to be earned by practice and perseverance, with no help at all from the wishing. Joy Cowley has produced a appealing liting text for this enchanting story that captures the essence of an old Gaelic folk tale. Denise's strikingly sombre illustrations add to the story's charm. For children 5+. KA

Peter Pan and Wendy

J.M. Barrie

Ill. Robert Ingpen

Walker Books 2004

Hb 184428039X

To celebrate the centenary of the first public performance of **Peter Pan** in 1904, Walker Books, in collaboration with Great Ormond St Hospital, have produced a magnificent edition of this classic tale. Robert Ingpen's illustrations are truly stunning and complement the text beautifully. J.M. Barrie donated copyright of **Peter Pan** to the Great Ormond St Hospital in 1929 and the hospital continues to benefit from his generous gift. Interesting insight into the life of the author is contained in the foreward by his great-great nephew David Barrie. A wonderful family gift. Suitable ages 6+ CT

Watch Me!

Margaret Mahy

Ill. Peter Bailey

Dolphin Paperbacks 2004

ISBN 1842550934

This compact paperback collection is great for reading aloud or for independent reading by capable 6 – 8 year olds. First published in 1973 as The Third Margaret Mahy Storybook, the stories still delight with humour, magic, ghosts and adventure. Mahy's wonderful way with words will ensure that these well paced stories and poems are read and re-read. CA

Also available: Wonderful Me!
ISBN 1842550918; Wait for Me!
ISBN 1842550926

More Precious than Gold

Gillian Lobel

Ill. Julie Monks

Hodder Children's Books 2003

ISBN 0340854871

This beautiful large softcover picture book is very relevant to the

Christmas season. The Three Kings – “Melchior the wise, Balthazar the good and Caspar the youngest, kind and gentle” are following the star to Bethlehem. Caspar’s kindness to creatures during the journey creates a surprising, wonderful occasion at the stable. The artwork of prize-winning illustrator Julie Monks is simple and powerful. Skilful use of creams and gold for desert sands and stable straw work successfully with the crimson, purple and turquoise robes of the Kings and the blues and mauves of the night sky. The language is rich and flowing and well placed in the illustrations. A lovely book for 6-9 year olds. CA

Silent Night

Sandy Turner

Walker Books 2003

ISBN 1844280063

Silent Night is the tale of a Christmas Eve that is anything but silent.

When Santa arrives in his reindeer chauffeured sleigh on Christmas Eve, a little dog tries to alert its family to Santa’s presence. Wordless apart from the dog’s various barks, yaps and woofs, the story is told through a series of comic book style illustrations. Sandy Turner captures the expressions and essence of the dog perfectly, making the book irresistible to dog lovers and children alike. A delightful Christmas story. HN

Claws & Jaws: 30 New Zealand Animal Stories

Ed. Barbara

Else

Ill. Philip

Webb

Random House

2004

Hb. ISBN 1869416384

The latest in Random’s successful series of anthologies for children, this handsome book offers thirty stories covering a wide range of creatures, both real and fantastical – dogs, cats, hens, koura, horses, weta, tuatara, eels... As always the excellent selection of stories ranges from quirky to humorous to



thoughtful. You can’t go wrong with this one for ages about 7 to 10. LO

Dragonspell

John Parker

Ill. Errol McLeary

Scholastic NZ 2004

ISBN 1869435974

First published in 1994, Parker has added an extra chapter to this new edition. Although Prince Timothy has failed the subject Dragon Slaying miserably in his last year at school, he still feels compelled to journey to the next kingdom of Merrylands to try to rescue Princess Jennifer from the evil dragon, Fire Snorter. For 7+. KA

Walking Lightly

Fleur Beale

Ill. Michaela Sangl

Pub. Mallinson Rendel 2004

ISBN 0908783906

Millie is different. She isn’t in to shopping for all the latest gear and technology. She can afford it. Her parents are really rich and she has everything a girl could desire. But Millie would rather go tramping, camping, fishing or mountaineering. Live the basic life. Her peers think she is weird. A school trip to a tropical island turns to disaster but Millie turns this to her advantage – her experiences prove her to be very resourceful and her classmates see a new side to her. I love this book. I love Millie’s attitude and her strength to be different. I love the way she copes with situations and her inner strength, despite her longing to be accepted and have a friend. A clever book that handles peer pressure and being different in a novel way. Unusual layout, fun use of font styles and fabulous illustrations that complement the author’s message. Perfect for readers 7 - 10. RT

The Tale of Despereaux

Kate Di Camillo

Walker Books 2004

ISBN 0744598699

Despereaux is not your ordinary mouse he had large ears and an unappeasable curiosity. He defies mouse conventions and speaks with a human princess thus is exiled to the dungeons where the evil rats reside. But Despereaux has a brave heart and a mission to fulfil. The story is told in a sweet soft encouraging voice. This is a guaranteed intimate read-aloud. My pick of 2004. WM

The Bad Book

Andy Griffiths

Ill. Terry Denton

Pan McMillan 2004

ISBN 0330365002

Andy Griffiths has delivered a very bad bad book to readers. It is full of bad rhymes, bad riddles, bad stories about bad characters doing bad things, bad cartoons, and some not so bad illustrations by Terry Denton. While adults might recoil at some of the bad taste in the book, reluctant boy readers will love it. 8+. KA

Dragon Rider

Cornelia Funke

The Chicken House/Scholastic

ISBN 0439456959

Fire Drake is a young adventurous dragon who sets out to find the lost



home of the dragons, somewhere in the Rim of the World. Together with his friends Sorrel, a brownie, and

Ben, a human, he searches the world, meeting an assortment of mythological creatures and avoiding the evil golden dragon. A good book for younger fantasy readers. 8+. LH

Clarice Bean Spells Trouble

Clarice Bean
Spells Trouble



Lauren Child

Orchard Books 2004

Hb. ISBN 1841219207

Spelling is definitely not one of Clarice’s favourite subjects and when her teacher, Mrs Wilberton, decides to have a Spelling Bee Clarice sets out to improve her vocabulary by devouring the dictionary. Lauren Child has written another delightfully humorous story about this appealing young girl who, no matter how hard she tries, has

trouble staying out of trouble. All the old favourite characters appear and there is the intrinsic presence of Clarice's heroine Ruby Redfort. 'Exceptionordinarily' good. Suitable ages 8-11 years CT

Heartbeat

Sharon Creech

Bloomsbury 2004

Pb. ISBN 0747573131

Creech's first novel in verse, *Love That Dog*, is brilliant – so I was eager to read her next – and I wasn't disappointed. The rhythm of Annie's life can be told in her footsteps as she runs, in the life cycle of birth and death, and in the poetry she writes. It is this poetry that vividly describes Annie's emotions as the world around her changes. A beautifully crafted tale that draws the reader into Annie's emotional life. A book for the thoughtful reader, and one to savour. Recommended for ages 9+. AC

Ruby Rosemount and the Magic Carpet

Jodie Brownlee

Omnibus Books 2004

ISBN 1862915563

Ruby's grandmother suggests she looks in the attic for her birthday present. She has no idea what to look for as her mother has tried to keep the magical "aspect" of her life hidden from her but when she finds herself sitting on a carpet - a flying carpet - she is set for some wonderful adventures! She meets her unknown-till-now extended family whose village has been taken over by an evil and mean ruler. When he finds Ruby's magic carpet, the last one of its kind, he manages to take it and so begins a more threatening time for the town as his evil powers gain more strength. Ruby is determined to retrieve it and save her new friends and family. An exciting fantasy story that I enjoyed very much – a bit different from other fantasies I've read lately. Suitable for ages 9 – 12. RT

The Lady Grace Mysteries

Grace Cavendish

Doubleday 2004

ISBN 0385606443

Lady Grace, Maid of Honour to Queen Elizabeth 1, is to choose one of the three suitors chosen for her. One is in his 40's, the other is so-very-sure-of-himself and the third barely talks! At the Valentine's ball, she makes her choice – and later that night one of the other suitors is found murdered. Her fiancé is accused and Lady Grace can't believe it. She determines to clear his name and find the true killer. Although a murder story it is not gruesome and the story is more focussed on the young girl's detective measures. It also gives a look at life in Elizabethan Times; historical fiction seems to be a very popular choice for young readers today. Readers aged 9 – 12 would enjoy this story. RT

The Various

Steve Augarde

Corgi 2004

Pb. ISBN 0552548588

The 'Little People' have been part of our imaging since the world began. In this vividly imagined and realised world, the Little People become reality for Midge. Midge has been sent to stay with her uncle on his farm while her mother tours with the philharmonic. Midge hasn't seen Uncle Brian for years, but he's not too bad, and she keeps occupied until she meets Peg – a winged miniature horse. From then on she meets other tribes of the Various, as she begins to discover her destiny. A perfect lazy summer days read, and the first in a trilogy. Recommended for 10+. AC



Who wants to be a Millionaire?

Sandy McKay

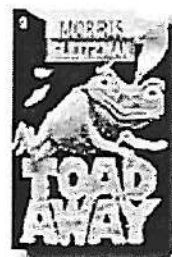
Longacre 2004

ISBN 1877135976

What would you do if you won a million dollars in a lottery? Hannah

soon found out that it was far more complicated than she had ever dreamed. The family made a pact to keep the news to themselves but that was soon broken, and Hannah's best friend Ursula got the huff because she wasn't in on the secret. Hannah's brothers were in seventh heaven, her mother absorbed in answering the begging letters and her Gran discovered that she could buy what she wanted on the internet. And then the phone calls began . . . Readers

from about ten onwards will enjoy the humour and drama in this very readable story. FP



Toad Away

Morris

Gleitzman

Penguin 2003

ISBN

0143300474

Limpy still has

his vision that cane toads and humans can live together in peace, and actually enjoy the company of each other. Occasionally he meets a human who treats him kindly and this reinforces his commitment to making his dream come true. Unfortunately Australia is not a country where cane toads are welcome, so Limpy, Charm and Goliath have to travel around the world to the Amazon to find the ancient secret to happiness. While in the Amazon Limpy comes to understand the reality of life - that different species depend on each other for food, not happiness. Will Limpy finally give up his vision? Gleitzman has not lost his touch with this third story in the *Toad* series, providing a fun read with some interesting natural history. The other titles are *Toad Rage* and *Toad Heaven*.

Ages 10+ AL

The Golem's Eye

Jonathan Stroud

Random House 2004

ISBN 038560808X

The second book in the Bartimaeus trilogy, featuring Bartimaeus the djinni, a magical being who might be forced to obey by his magician master but will make things go wrong if he can. This is a very entertaining tale of magic and adventure and is the sequel to *The Amulet of Samarkand*. Anyone who received the first book last Christmas will be delighted to receive this sequel. 11+. HB

A hat full of sky

Terry Pratchett

Doubleday 2004

ISBN 0385607369

The sequel to *The Wee Free Men* is very funny on the surface but with an

underlying serious philosophical message. Tiffany, an apprentice witch, has attracted an ancient malevolent spirit and the Wee Free Men must abandon their "fightin', drinkin', and stealin' coo beastie" to help save their wee hag from domination and destruction. 11+. HB

Indigo's Star

Hilary McKay
Hodder 2003
ISBN 0340875798

Those who read about the crazy Casson family in *Saffy's Angel* will enjoy hearing more about them but *Indigo's Star* can be enjoyed without having read the first book. The story centres on bullying as Indigo returns to school late after a bout of glandular fever and he is furious when Saffy and her friend Sarah decide to rescue him. Hilary McKay writes of serious matters with a light touch and this is an entertaining family story for 11+. HB



The Hunting of the Last Dragon

Sherryl Jordan
Simon & Schuster 2004
ISBN 0689860625

There is one dragon left and he is hungry, searching for food and destroying villages, and the people are very, very afraid. What they need is a brave, strong and resourceful man to rescue them from this terrifying creature, one who is prepared to face death or glory to save them from this destruction. Unfortunately, the dragon has killed all those brave men and all that is left is a scared young man and a brave Chinese girl crippled by her bound feet. How can this rather unusual combination succeed? Again Sherryl Jordan enthrals her reader and it all becomes very possible. Ages 12+. AL

Secret Sacrament
Sherryl Jordan
Simon & Schuster
2004



ISBN 0689860455
Gabriel is the eldest son of a rich and powerful Navaron family, and tradition requires him to follow in the footsteps of his father. As a child Gabriel witnesses the brutal death of a Shinali woman and takes from her a strange bone carving, which links him to the Shinali people, becomes a source of great peace in his life and leads him to his destiny. Unfortunately his destiny is not what is expected by his father and his family, and his decision to become a healer lead to events that eventually sending him into exile and possibly his death. A mystical fantasy about being true to yourself, whatever the cost. Ages 12+. AL



Cross Tides

Lorraine Orman
Longacre 2004
Pb, ISBN

1877135925
Being a history buff, and with an interest in the supernatural I found this book catered to both.

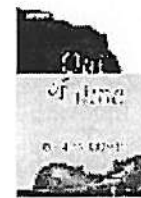
This is a brilliantly told story of how the lives of two 16-year-olds: Bel in the present, and Lizzie in the past, intermingle. Bel, in trying to resolve Lizzie's conflicts, comes to term with her own. I enjoyed the look into the past, knowing that life for some was a very hard grind, Lizzie's certainly seems harder than most. I found the story so enthralling I couldn't put it down. A late night/early morning read. I loved it. Recommended for 12+. NC

A New Song in the Land: The Writings of Atapo, Paihia, c. 1840

Fleur Beale
Scholastic New Zealand
Pb, ISBN 1869436113

The latest title in Scholastic's excellent *My Story* series, this is a brave book that will probably cause quite a stir. It's written from the point of view of a Maori girl who is taken as a slave by an enemy tribe and threatened with death. Atapo runs away to find sanctuary with

the missionaries in the Bay of Islands. She witnesses the historic signing of the Treaty of Waitangi before she returns to her rightful position in her own tribe. Atapo's exciting story provides a unique focus on the events surrounding the Treaty. LO



Out of Tune

Joanna Orwin
Longacre Press 2004
Pb, ISBN 1877135909

Jaz is having problems coping with her parents (father has lost his job) and making friends (do they think she's cool enough?). The only solace she finds is in the pages of a diary written by a 19th century ancestor, Maggie, when she migrated with her Shetland Island family to remote Stewart Island. Jaz finds strength in the way Maggie faces up to the trials and tribulations of life in such a tough, brutal place. A convincing and absorbing read for teenagers. LO

Boys of Blood and Bone

David Metzenthen
Penguin, 2003
ISBN 0143001302

This is a moving account of a group of friends from a small Australian town and their experiences in the trenches in World War I. The story moves between a present day group of friends, meeting to enjoy a few days surfing, and the grim reality of life under fire and is linked by a diary, written by Andy during the war and read by Henry when his car breaks down in Andy's home town. With realistic characters that the reader cares about this is a book for 13+ . HB



On a Good Day

Deborah Burnside

Penguin 2004

ISBN 0143318241

Lee's mum is an alcoholic and Lee has given up expecting

anything good to happen in her life.

However, by the end of this absorbing novel by a first time New Zealand author she has friends, a supportive boyfriend and has found something she can do well.

Involvement in a local tragedy helps her mother to face her own past and the story has an upbeat ending. 13+. HB

On the Seas to Troy

Caroline B. Cooney

Macmillan 2004

Pb, ISBN 0330415190

[Originally published as **Goddess of Yesterday**; Random, 2002; Pb ISBN 0400229308]

With the help of Brad Pitt in a skirt, Troy is a hot topic. Cooney has used her childhood love of the mythology of Troy to bring this period in history to life. Anaxandra begins life on a rocky unnamed island but is taken hostage by King Nicander. After pirates pillage Nicander's island, she is rescued by King Menelaus. In order to have a reasonably good life Anaxandra takes on the identity of Nicander's dead daughter Callisto. But one person doesn't believe her story - Helen, Menelaus' wife. Anaxandra is an observer, and sometime participant, as events unfold leading to the Trojan War. Recommended for ages 14+. AC

Trickster's Choice and Trickster's Queen

Tamora Pierce

Scholastic Australia 2003 & 2004

Pb, ISBN 1865045926 &

1865047406

This duet tells the story of Alianne (Aly) daughter of Alanna and George. Aly has been trained as a spy since birth and wants to use her talents, but is thwarted by both parents. Aly leaves home after yet another argument with her mother, and is captured by pirates and sold as a slave in the Copper Isles. There Kyprioth, the Trickster god, finds a

use for Aly and her talents - keeping the Balitang family alive. In *Trickster's Queen*, Aly trains her Pack as spies in order to help bring about the Raka rebellion, and the overthrow of the Luarin invaders, all the while her relationship with Nawat grows and changes. Recommended for ages 14+. AC

Ultimate Deltora Quiz Book

Text by Tamelas

Ill. Marc McBride

Scholastic 2004

ISBN 1865047937

Quizmaster Tamelas has put together over 1000 questions for avid Deltora Quest fans. Divided into sections of about 70 questions for each book in the three series (only books 1 & 2 in Deltora Quest 3 are included), as well as The Deltora Book of Monsters, and ending with a set of 'Who' questions. Questions are progressively ranked from easy through to hardest. 10+. KA

A Bird in the Hand: keeping New Zealand wildlife safe

Janet Hunt

Random House 2003

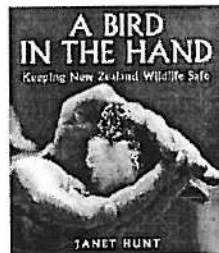
ISBN 1869415639

Winner of the Non-fiction section of the New Zealand Post Book Awards for Children & Young Adults. Book of the Year in the New Zealand Post Book Awards for Children & Young Adults, 2004. Winner of the Elsie Locke

Award, 2004.

In *A Bird in the Hand*, Janet

Hunt has provided a fascinating and very readable book to suit a wide range of



ages. She introduces us to some of the people who work so hard to save the endangered wildlife of New Zealand, tells us about the wildlife itself and the different threats to their existence. Read here about Ngakeoke the worm-insect, the tiny Hamilton's frog, the short-tailed bat and the rare wood rose it feeds on, our Kokako and our giant weta - and learn why diversity is so important to the survival of our world as we know it.

Don't know what to get your pre-teen or your father-in-law? If they are interested in New Zealand wildlife, this is a must for your Christmas list. AL

From Weta to Kauri: a guide to the New Zealand forest

Janet Hunt and Rob Lucas

Random House, 2004

ISBN 1869416554

Heading into the bush these holidays with your family? Pop a copy of *From Weta to Kauri* into your backpack to help identify the plants and wildlife that live on, in and above the forest floor of New Zealand. If you don't yet know your gecko from your skink, you will after



reading page 26. Don't know the different types of fungi? Colourful photos and easy-to-understand text make this

a fascinating search-and-find project on a long hot afternoon. Learn about insects, lizards, birds, epiphytes, ferns and much more. There are colour-coded groupings (Insects and other invertebrates; Lizards, tuatara, frogs and bats; Birds; Plants of the Forest Floor; Vines; Flowering Trees and Shrubs; Tree Ferns) with a clearly arranged photograph and description of each individual specimen. This sturdy paperback with its glossy pages and ruler on the back cover, will be an invaluable purchase for home libraries or for your car! FP + AL

The Life-Size Guide to the New Zealand Beach

Andrew Crowe

Penguin 2004

Pb, ISBN 0143019341

This time Andrew Crowe has photographed the flotsam and jetsam to be found on New Zealand beaches. You'll find pebbles, types of sand, bones and feathers as well as jellyfish, seaweeds, sponges and much more. This is a book to be used in accompaniment with more comprehensive guides on shells and covers the gap of all those interesting 'treasures' gleaned along our coasts. Another invaluable addition to the beach library. FP