

WOOLSHED PRESS NEWSLETTER 2

Welcome to Woolshed Press 2009. After a fantastic imprint launch which celebrated Random House's great new publishing initiative, we created six fantastic books to great critical acclaim. What a terrific team of authors and illustrators we have assembled, along with all the RHA staff who devote themselves to providing the very best books for children and young adults.



2008 IN REVIEW



James Roy – *Hunting Elephants*: *Harry is one of the most perfect characters I've come across in Young Adult fiction for a long time. Harry is curious and witty, but not annoyingly witty. He loves and hates his family, he is relieved and devastated about his brother's passing, he is intrigued and turned off by the newly discovered rellies. A normal person, thank God, thank James Roy.* media-culture.org.au



Catherine Bateson – *The Wish Pony*: *Bateson's writing is always impeccable, finding the right series of words to describe what is happening and the characters feelings.* **ReadPlus**



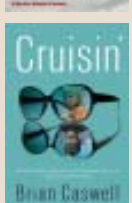
Bill Condon – *Give Me Truth*: *Condon is an excellent storyteller . . . Condon's ability to balance the highs and lows, while using dialogue, descriptions and images that are concise and believable, makes his story memorable.* **The Sydney Morning Herald**



Victoria Bowen – *War's End*: *While the novel would make an excellent educational resource, Bowen's sensitive characterisations and her dramatic, emotional climax makes War's End more than a simple cataloguing of events and facts. It will also ensure Nell's story stays with the reader long after the last page is turned.* **Buzz Words**



Anthony Eaton – *Into White Silence*: *It moves majestically and it convinces as it does so. It's a page turner; but never silly. The tale remains in the imagination, as good stories always do. For many Australians, Antarctica is part of our story and it has haunted generations. Eaton succeeds in explaining why it haunts us. I have never felt so cold reading a book.* **Viewpoint**



Brian Caswell – *Cruisin'*: *In this entertaining novel Caswell cleverly explores friendships and families through Jules's and Suzi's alternating point of view, and a smart use of asides.* **4 STAR REVIEW, Good Reading**

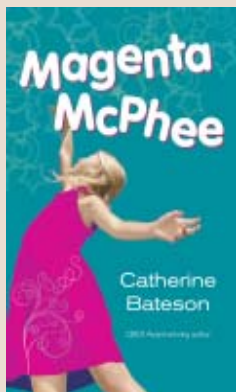
2009 IS ALREADY EXCEPTIONAL

We start the year in March with a sure-fire winner. The dynamic combination of Celeste Walters and Anne Spudvilas in *A Certain Music* has already received wonderful feedback:



I started A Certain Music, and had to read very fast indeed to finish it – but I did! It is beautiful. There are certain books that are imbued with a sense of magic, a kind of sparkle – and this one has it in plenty. I shall certainly be bringing it in, and also advising teachers to use it for class sets (possibly a CBC winner?). **Bev, Woolridges**

This tale for young readers concentrates on the themes of love, loss, faith and redemption. It is written in delicate and carefully considered prose, and demonstrates a perfect union between illustration and text. **4 STAR REVIEW, Bookseller + Publisher**



A Certain Music is the perfect book to kick-start the Woolshed year. It is the ideal celebration of art and story. Set in 1823, this book tells of a man who cannot hear and of a child people consider strange, and how their friendship develops through a love of music.

In **April** we have another gem by Catherine Bateson, the flawless *Magenta McPhee*. This is a heart-warming story where the best of intentions sometimes bring unexpected results.



Catherine Bateson has once again created a cast of delightfully real characters who will stay in the reader's memory long after the last page is turned.

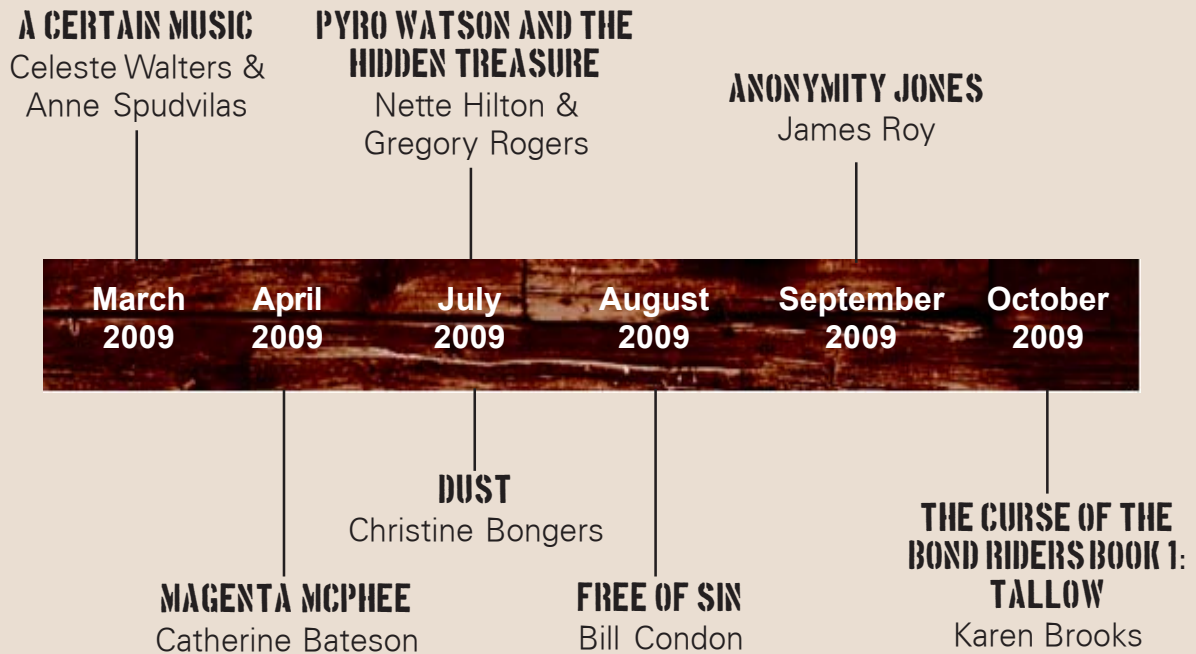
July brings an amazing collaboration between two of Australia's most loved storytellers and illustrators, Nette Hilton and Gregory Rogers. *Pyro Watson and the Hidden Treasure* is a rollicking tale of treasure maps, high adventure, dastardly deeds, sea battles, and a dog called Becks.

Not only a fantastic narrative, *Pyro Watson* incorporates different aspects of reading and writing such as map reading and constructing, word meanings, recipes, pirate notes and secret codes.

MUCH MORE TO COME

We have exciting new releases from Bill Condon, James Roy and Karen Brooks in the second half of 2009. You will hear more about them in the next Woolshed Newsletter.

2009 PUBLISHING TIMELINE



AN AUTHOR TO WATCH IN 2009



Also in July is the stunning teen fiction debut by Christine Bongers. In *Dust*, twelve-year-old Cecilia Maria grows up in the heat of 1970s Queensland, where she battles six brothers on her side of the fence and the despised Kapernicky girls, lurking on the other side of the barbed wire. Decades later she must face old ghosts when she returns home with her own reluctant teenagers.



Warm but tough-minded, *Dust* glitters with a rare and subtle wit, illuminating the shadows that hang over from childhood and finding beauty in unexpected places.

The motivation to write *Dust* came from something Christine's father said to her as he lay dying in hospital. 'Then, amidst the grim tangle of tubes and drips, bandages and blood, he gave me a final piece of advice:

Don't die without doing what you were meant to do, without being what you were meant to be.

'After a couple of false starts I discovered I wasn't writing my Dad's story; I wasn't even writing my own. The bolshy little character, who became Cecilia Maria or Sis for short, had her own story to tell: a story born of ignorance, trailing a lingering regret.'

AUTHORS OUT AND ABOUT

The Woolshed authors are out and about the country in great demand as speakers and presenters.

Anne Spudvilas	March July August	Alice Springs schools, NT Voices on the Coast, QLD Bookweek in Broome, WA
James Roy	February March May August	Halogen Foundation Young Leaders Day, NSW Somerset Celebration of Literature, QLD South Island's Librarians Conference, NZ Norman Lindsay Festival of Childrens Literature, NSW Sydney Writers Festival, NSW Reading Matters, VIC Scotch College Festival, VIC Book Week in Griffith, NSW
Anthony Eaton	May August	Reading Matters, VIC Melbourne Writers Festival, VIC
Catherine Bateson	May	Sydney Writers Festival, NSW
Celeste Walters	September	Write Around the Murray, NSW



If you would like to hold an event with any Woolshed Press author, please don't hesitate to contact Yae Morton on ymorton@randomhouse.com.au.

SIGNING OFF

Our 2010 program is now beginning to take shape and there are some magnificent books. So watch here for more of what's going on in the Woolshed.

Remember, Woolshed Press is quality and originality in Australian children's publishing. I would love to hear any feedback that you may have. Don't hesitate to contact me on ltyle@randomhouse.com.au.

Leonie Tyle