



GALLERY OF ACCLAIMED CHILDREN'S BOOK ILLUSTRATIONS

The Hughenden (c.1870s) was built during the 19th century: a time that saw the emergence of children's books by authors and illustrators such as Banjo Paterson, Ethel Turner, Lewis Carroll, Norman Lindsay, May Gibbs, Pixie O'Harris and Ida Rentoul Outhwaite. While Charles Dickens – arguably the greatest novelist of the Victorian era – never travelled to Australia, he was interested in this country. In fact a statue of Dickens – one of only two statues of the author in the world – stands in Centennial Park on Dickens' Drive, just across the road from the hotel.

Australian children's books are internationally recognised for their innovative and unique style and adaptations across mediums and formats. Two small works by acclaimed illustrator Shaun Tan hang in the gallery. He adapted his illustrated children's book *The Lost Thing* into an animated short film, achieving worldwide recognition after winning an Academy Award® (Tan also won the Astrid Lindgren Memorial Award, the largest prize in children's literature.) Susanne Gervay's anti-school-bullying book *I Am Jack*, illustrated by political cartoonist Cathy Wilcox, has been adapted into a play by Monkey Baa Theatre and is in development as TV series.

Increasing recognition of the vibrancy of Australian children's book authors' and illustrators' work has led to the authentic growth over the past 30 years of galleries, centres and venues specialising in children's book illustrations such as Pinerolo in the Blue Mountains, Lu Rees at Canberra University and The Centre for Children's Literature in Fremantle.

The Hughenden is unique in being the home of the Society of Children's Book Writers and Illustrators (SCBWI) and has become a haunt for children's book authors and illustrators. Donations of artwork over the decades form the basis of the hotel's eclectic collection. Under the crystal chandelier are works by Pixie O'Harris, Sarah Davis, Steven Woolman, Terry Denton, Nina Rycroft, Donna Rawlings, Serena Geddes, Marjorie Crosby-Fairall, Caroline Magerl, Stephen Axelson, Liz Anelli and many others.

The Hughenden holds the full collection of Anna Pignataro's evocative illustrations of the acclaimed *Ships in the Field*. Also on display is multi-award-winning author Libby Gleeson and Penny's Azar's *Mum Goes To Work*, a ground-breaking picture book about mothers in the workforce as well as illustrations by award-winning Frane Lessac for Gervay's book *To East Timor* – part of a unique anthology titled *Peace Story* where 22 children's authors, 22 illustrators from 22 countries engaged in an international cooperative to create stories of peace for young people. Irish author Valerie Cogan and Irish Laureate for children's literature Siobhan Parkinson, co-edited the book.

The Peace Story project was part of the Nami Island International Children's Book Festival in South Korea: a six-week biannual festival of children's books, environment and peace that showcases outstanding work from all over the world. Much-loved Korean illustrator Kang Woo-Hyon, President of the Nambook International Committee, headed the project. It was supported by National YMCA Korea, UNICEF and UNESCO Korea, Korean Ministry of Culture, Sport and Tourism and Nami Island the official sponsor of the IBBY Hans Christian Andersen Awards*.

The gallery continues to grow representing authors and illustrators who are part of the creative community of The Hughenden.

* The Nami Island International Children's Book Festival was first held in 2005 to commemorate the 200th anniversary of the birth of Hans Christian Andersen.



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