

RON BROOKS

AUTHOR

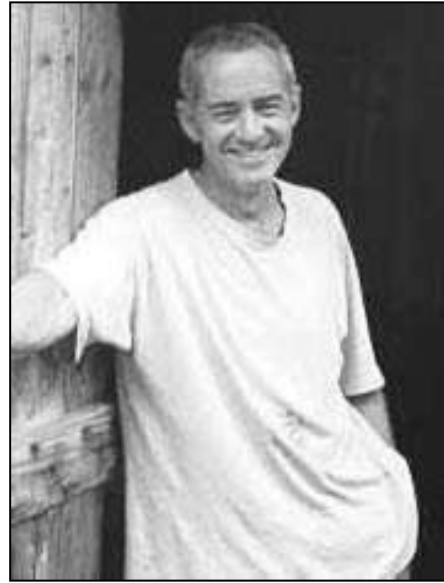
Ron Brooks spent his childhood in Mallacoota, Victoria, mostly just messing about...in billycarts, cubbyhouses and boats, out on the beaches, in the bush, on the islands...hardly able to believe how beautiful the world was. Then four years in and around Paynesville and Bairnsdale, before heading off to Melbourne and the art schools, Swinburne and RMIT, to try and really learn how to draw.

Now he writes, designs and illustrates picture books for kids (and for anybody else who is interested). He has made many books over the thirty or so years he has been working, has won many awards, including the Children's Book Council of Australia Picture Book of the Year Award..three times, and is published in many languages around the world. Two of his earlier books, *The Bunyip of Berkeley's Creek* and *John Brown, Rose and the Midnight Cat*, both written by Jenny Wagner, are widely recognized as the books which introduced Australian picture books onto the world scene. Two of his more recent books, and perhaps his own personal favourites, are *Old Pig* and *Fox*, both written by Margaret Wild.

He has also been a teacher, and he paints, sculpts, does a bit of printmaking and is planning to do a whole lot more of the same...and maybe even make a film or two.

WHY I MAKE BOOKS

'I mostly illustrate other people's stories, and I just love it when an author has written something so beautifully, so powerfully, that it stills my heart somehow...I feel so lucky, so privileged really, then to have the opportunity of taking that text and trying to make a book, trying to find and make the pictures which in some way will then add to that stillness...or maybe give it a small, but useful little nudge...give it more room. The whole process is tantalisingly difficult, but it does feel good to get close.'



HOW DO I DO IT

'With great difficulty, mostly! I take ages, and drive everyone crazy. My family, my publishers, the authors, and myself more than anyone! It can sometimes be sheer agony. I have a genuine talent when it comes to finding distractions...anything to avoid that confrontation with the desk and the blank paper.

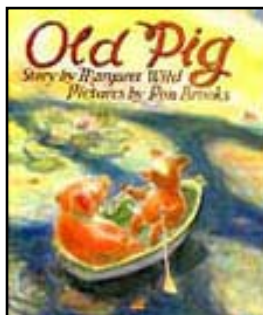
I can spend too much time in the garden, which I love, or fiddling about in the cottage (an old picker's hut halfway down the hill) which I always wanted, but which the kids have taken over, or in Henry's Hut (next to the cottage), setting it up as a cubby/workshed with him...and probably far too much time reading and listening to music in the studio (halfway up the hill).

But the words are always kind of moving about in my head...until some piece of music, or something I read, hear, remember, or see in the landscape will just, rather mysteriously, trigger it off. And then, almost before I know it I'm beavering away at my desk. And, like a kid in a sandpit, hauling all sorts of stuff around, I'm absolutely loving it!'

School visits by Ron within NSW can be organized through Lateral Learning. E-mail bookings@laterallearning.com. School visits by Ron within Victoria can be organized through Booked Out. E-mail bookings@bookedout.com.au.

WITH MARGARET WILD

OLD PIG



Old Pig and Granddaughter have lived together for a long, long time. They share everything, including the chores, until the day when Old Pig does not get up as usual for breakfast. Calmly she puts her affairs in order, then she takes

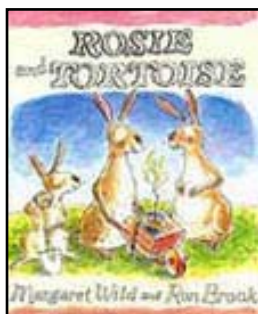
Granddaughter on a last long walk - looking and listening, smelling and tasting. Old Pig and Granddaughter say goodbye in the best way they know.

A beautifully illustrated and tender story of living and loving, giving and receiving; a glorious celebration of the world.

- ✂ Shortlisted: Picture Book of the Year, Children's Book Council Awards 1996
- ✂ Shortlisted: Picture Book Division, ACT Canberra's Own Outstanding List (COOL) Awards 1998
- ✂ Shortlisted: Picture Storybook, Young Australians' Best Book Awards (YABBA) 1997
- ✂ Commended: Ashton Scholastic Award for Best Designed Children's Book 1996

ISBN: 1863736794 \$14.95 pb

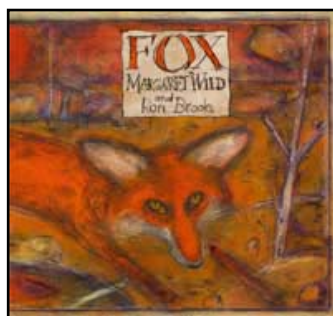
ROSIE AND TORTOISE



When Rosie's baby brother is born he's so tiny he only weighs as much as an onion. Rosie is scared even to hold him, until Dad finds a way to reassure her. A wise and tender book about saying hello.

Margaret Wild's apparently simple stories explore the deepest emotions and Ron's pictures are full of warmth and understanding.

ISBN: 186448294X \$14.95 pb



FOX

'When I first read this text, I felt as though I'd been punched in the chest, hard.' Says Ron. *This story was Biblical, almost, in its grandeur, archetypal in its universality, and*

scorchingly, beautifully human. Here was the stuff of a juicy great novel, honed back to three transcendent pages - I was stunned by it. I loved it. I had to do it.'

Fox is a magnificent and arresting picture book that goes to the heart of human relationships.

- ✂ Winner: Children's Book Council of Australia Picture Book of the Year, 2001
- ✂ Winner: Best Children's Book category in the 2001 Queensland Premier's Literary Awards
- ✂ Winner: Patricia Wrightson Prize for Children's Literature in the 2001 NSW Premier's Literary Awards

ISBN: 1864484659 \$27.95 hc

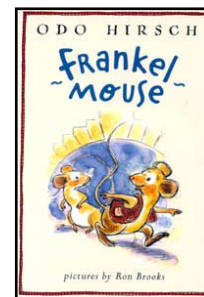
FRANKEL MOUSE - WITH ODO HIRSCH

FRANKEL MOUSE

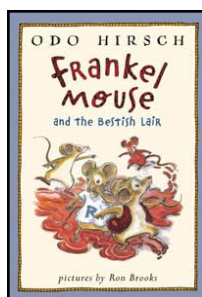
A beautiful, funny and immensely satisfying story for young children by a master storyteller, introducing memorable new characters.

- ✂ Shortlisted: The Paperlinx Best Designed Children's Fiction Book category of the 2000 APA design awards.

ISBN: 186508249X \$13.95 pb



FRANKEL MOUSE AND THE BESTISH LAIR



Frankel and friends return in this funny, captivating story about five mice, one Bestish, and a whole cupboardful of adventure. Perfect for reading aloud.

ISBN: 186508574X \$13.95 pb