judy horacek

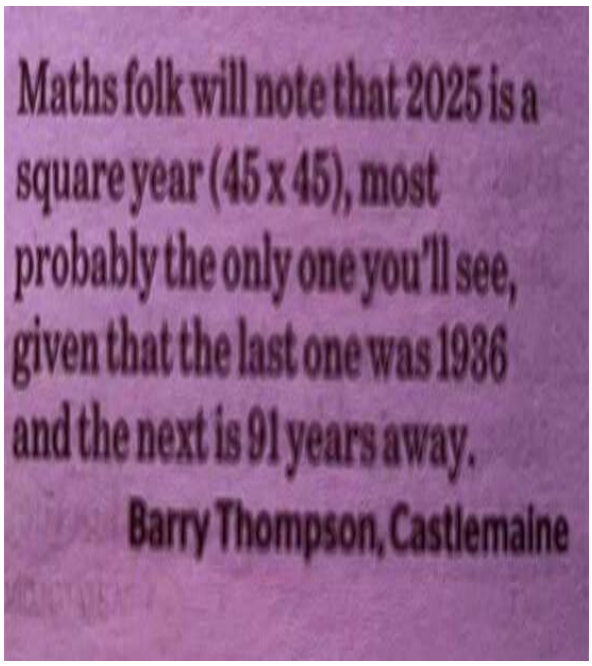
Hello Everyone,

It's probably a bit late to say Happy New Year, but as this is my first newsletter of 2025, I'll say it anyway – Happy New Year! Hope it's been going okay for you all. Difficult times for the world – it's hard to cope with the everything that is going on for many of the planet's peoples, animals and plants. But we soldier on right? On that note, here's a soldier carb walling herself into her sand fortress. On the left image, how it starts; on the right image how it finished up. There are links to the full video in the caption.

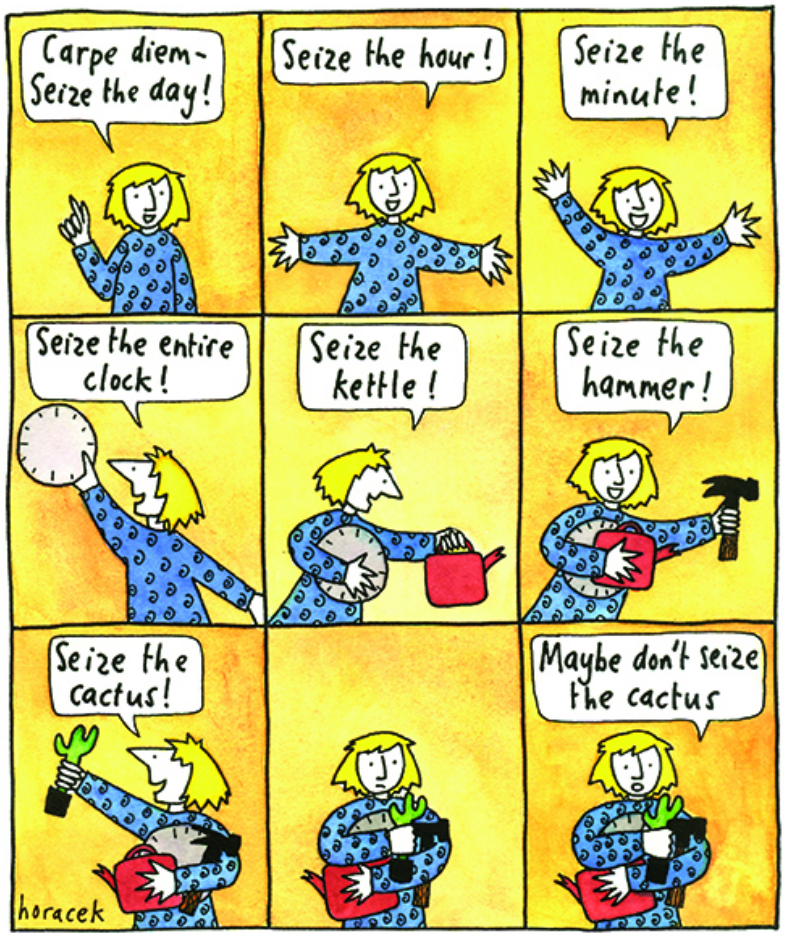


*Beginning and end of a soldier crab walling itself into its sand fortress. The full video I took is up on **Instagram** and **Facebook***

A photo of a Letter to the Editor from Barry Thompson with information about the magic of the number 2025. I'm hoping this isn't the best



thing about 2025, but I'm a little concerned that the way things have been going, it might be in the Top 5. As it happens, it turns out that Barry Thompson taught maths to a friend of mine, another picture book artist. Small world, and one full of co-incidences and mathematical miracles.



I learned recently, from an erstwhile Latin student, that the translation of 'Carpe' is more literally 'Pluck', so the phrase is actually 'Pluck the day', bringing in a horticultural metaphor, you pluck the day when it is ripe, rather than leave it on the tree. Which if you think about it a lot, could becomes a call to inaction – you can procrastinate about whether the day is actually ripe yet or not. FYI, was written in 23BCE by the Roman Poet, Horace, who is practically a Horacek – perhaps my ancient Roman great uncle.



Exciting News! A Green Sheep Play!

Way way back, the children's theatre company Monkey Baa approached our agent, Jenny Darling and Associates, and asked if

they could create a play of *Where is the Green Sheep?* Mem said yes, and I said 'Only if you let me create it with you'. And that's what's been happening – I have been working with a bunch of wonderful people on the play of Mem Fox and Judy Horacek's *Where is the Green Sheep?,* combining our skills to create the most wondrous, funny, beautiful play possible. I've learned an enormous amount. We're still working madly on it, getting to the pointy end now. And at last we can announce it!

Here's what I know so far about the Premiere Season, which kicks off this June 🎭
Brisbane – Out of the Box at **QPAC** : 17-22 June 2025
Sydney – **Sydney Opera House** : 10-21 December 2025
Melbourne – **Arts Centre Melbourne** : early 2026, dates to be announced
Wyong – **The Art House** : 2026 dates to be announced

Then, thanks to funding from Creative Australia, it's going to tour all over the country, with the support of Monkey Baa's touring partner, **Arts on Tour**.

Pretty sure I'm going to spend a lot of 2026 as a Green Sheep Groupie, following it from town to town.

If you want to hear about venues for this amazing plays they are arranged/announced, sign up to Monkey Baa's purpose-built newsletter:
https://www.monkeybaa.com.au/where-is-the-green-sheep-signup
I'll also be putting the info on my website and in this newsletter.

There's been a huge response to the news so far - the Facebook post by Monkey Baa has received nearly a million news. Feel so proud that Mem and I created this book that has such a special place in the lives of an enormous number of people. And now will be on the stage!

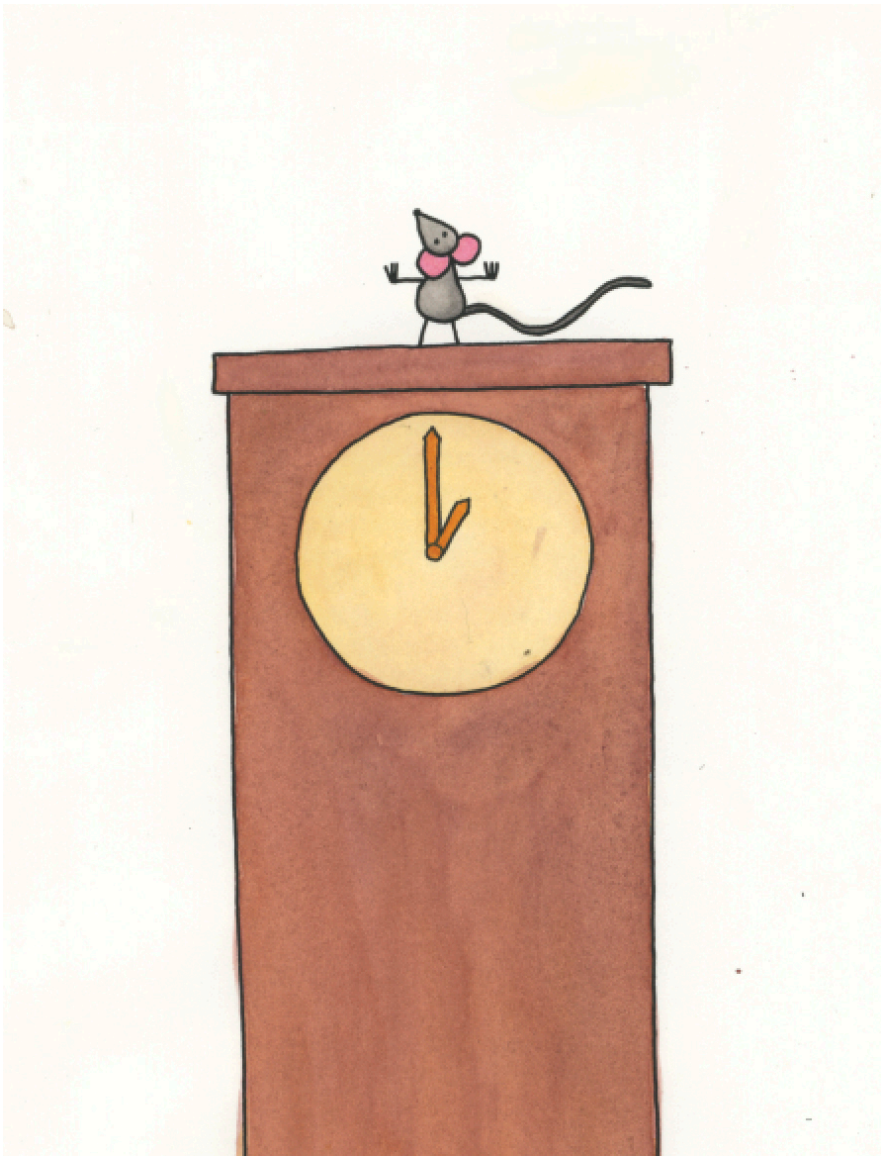


Summer holidays always means at least one jigsaw for me. This one was a particularly beautiful one about the seasons. And here are the white sheep, with green.



And this year, summer also included camping, which of course included rain - that's part of the fun, right? Here's a fairy wren on a tarp. Thanks to Bob Graham for also point out that at the bottom there is a tiny man carrying a very long pole, which kind of changes the mood a bit. I'm still considering it a nice picture of a bird, but it's hard to unsee that tiny man...

Hickory Dickory Dock!



In January I finished the artwork for Hickory Dickory Dock, the second in my series of re-imagined rhymes being published by Walker Books. Yay me! It's now off at the printers - I love this part.

The first one in the series was *Hey Diddle Diddle* published in October last year (confusingly the same initials, which has caused a few mixups). A delightful book if I do say so myself.

I can't show you the cover of the new one yet, but here's a picture from the inside - the mouse who has run up the clock (I don't think it's giving anything away to reveal that somewhere in the book there's a mouse and a clock)



Print Stock Room

The screenprint above is one of a series based on old book covers I did in 2019 (six in the series I think), with all their marks and signs of long life. The actual title of the original book was Third Book of Hundreds of Things a Boy Can Make, but I wanted girls to make things too. I did the boys' one pink and the girls' blue, just because. You can find information above **here**.

There are lots of limited edition prints in the **Horacek Print Shop**, all kinds of me playing with ideas and mediums. And more classic Horacek images such as the **Cartoon Screenprints**. The Print Shop is predominantly arranged according to the exhibitions the works were originally made for. Take a stroll through the online galleries **here**.

Free Postage and Handling of Horacek Prints to Anywhere in the world!

Notable!

Very proud that Mem Fox and my most recent book, Meerkat Mayhem, published by PRHA, has been named a Notable Book for 2025 by the Children's Book Council of Australia Awards in the Early Childhood category.

Meerkat himself looks pretty pleased about it (or more likely that's the worms he's about to scoff, meerkats caring little for such accolades) Notable You can

read more about Meerkat Mayhem on my **website** or the **Penguin Random House website**.



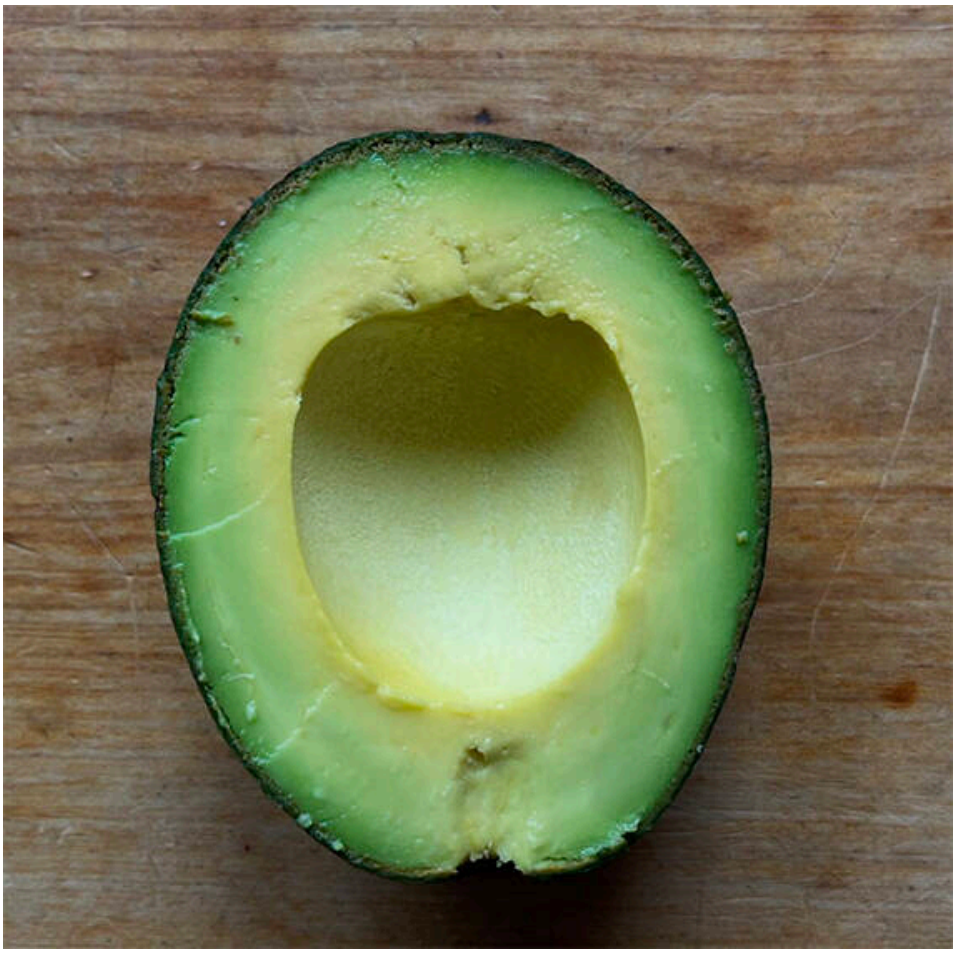


This piece of chewing gum on the footpath looked to me very like a ray swimming in the ocean, crossing a deep water canyon between reefs.

In the midst of a lot of gloom, it's wonderful to have some nice things to think about – that our beloved Where is the Green sheep will soon be a play, (tickets are already selling) that Meerkat Mayhem is Notable (a great honour), and that I've finished the artwork for Hickory Dickory Dock (extremely cute!)

Hope you all have a wonderful March. Happy International Women's Day for March 8th!

Love from
Judy x



Finishing this newsletter with a picture of a near perfect avocado I put on Insta and Facebook. From the response I can see that I'm definitely not the only one who gets joy from a perfect avocado. So here it is in the newsletter, with the hope that the world will try and be more avocado-like.

This newsletter is aspirationally sent out at every month apart from January and this year February too (sometimes it's a couple of months). I love new subscribers so please feel free to forward this to anyone you think might be interested so they can sign up too. If you've had this email forwarded to you and you would like to subscribe, please go to the Horacek website to the Sign Up chicken on the right. Or send an email to newsletter@horacek.com.au and I'll do it for you. To unsubscribe, use the unsubscribe link below. p.s. The newsletter is totally free and I promise I will NEVER share my mailing list with anyone.

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Judy Horacek acknowledges and pays respect to the Traditional Custodians of Melbourne/Naarm, the Wurundjeri and Boon Wurrung peoples of the Kulin nation, on whose lands she lives and works.