



This month, we've been talking to ... Deborah Hinde

Deborah Hinde is the illustrator of many popular children's books, including Scholastic's bestselling *A Kiwi Night Before Christmas*, *A Kiwi Jingle Bells*, *10 Kooky Kiwi* and *10 Goofy Geckos*. Deborah lives in Te Awamutu.

We asked Deborah some questions about herself, and here's what she said ...

Where were you born? Where do you live now?

I was born in England. My family moved to Auckland in the 1960s. We lived opposite a cemetery, which was dead boring, until we moved to a house closer to Dad's work. When I left school I lived and worked in different parts of Auckland before moving to Wharepapa South in the Waikato in 2003.

Where did you go to school?

I went to Papatoetoe Central Primary School, Otara Intermediate and then Papatoetoe High School. I don't recall having a nickname – unless four-eyes counts?

What were you like in school? What is the naughtiest thing you did?

I struggled at school – I was always bottom of the class. The only subject I was good at and managed to come top of the class in, was Art. I was too shy to be naughty.

What was your favourite book growing up?

Crikey that was such a long time ago! Let's see, there were so many books that were my favourites. *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe*. I really wanted a wardrobe I could step through into another world.

Who is your favourite children's author?

C.S Lewis.

What is your favourite food/colour/movie?

My favourite food is chocolate, especially Whittaker's Almond. My favourite colour is blue and my favourite movie is *Pirates of the Caribbean*.

Who inspired you to illustrate?

My inspiration to illustrate was 'what' rather than 'who'. Computers were taking over my job as a paste-up artist/graphic designer, so I became an illustrator to avoid working on a computer– which is ironic as I now complete 90% of my illustration work using Photoshop.

How did you get started?

Before I started illustrating picture books, I illustrated all sorts of things for lots of different companies – tea towels, packaging, drink bottles, display stands and all sorts of bits and pieces for publishers and advertising agencies.

How old were you?

32, but I was quite a bit older when I illustrated my first picture book for Scholastic.

Why did you want to be an illustrator?

I've always loved picture books and I always thought being an illustrator would be an awesome job to have.

How do you think up ideas?

When I receive a manuscript I print it out and sit in a comfy chair with a cup of tea and a pencil. I read through the story quickly and then go back over it and make quick little thumbnail sketches in the margin. Ideas for the characters percolate in my head over a few days until they're ready to be extracted and developed on paper.

Do you have a special place where you illustrate?

Yes, the double garage that was converted into

my studio. It is surrounded by garden. Blackbirds, thrushes and pheasants often stroll past the ranch slider and young swallows fly in and around to say hello.

What is the best thing about being an illustrator?

The best thing about being an illustrator is being able to create different worlds and characters for children and adults to enjoy.

Have you had a funny or embarrassing moment as an illustrator?

I had roughed up one of the pages in *10 Kooky Kiwi* with the kiwi playing soccer only to receive an email saying 'what were you thinking – they need to be playing rugby!' I laughed ... and changed the rough.

What do you do when you are not illustrating?

I love being outdoors, especially hanging off a rock face or tramping in the hills or gardening.

What would you have chosen to be if you were not an illustrator?

Easy ... an artist!

Which famous person from the past would you like to talk to?

C.S Lewis

Is there anything else you would like to tell us about yourself?

I have summited Mt Aspiring and it was an amazing climb!

SCHOLASTIC NZ BOOKS BY DEBORAH HINDE

10 Plucky Penguins

Publication	February 2016
ISBN	978-1-77543-324-8
Print RRP	\$21.00
Format	250 x 240 mm
Extent	32 pp
Age	3-7 years

