

# Canberra Times

## Saturday 28/2/2009

### *The Pocket Dogs Go on Holiday*

(Scholastic Australia. 32pp. \$24.99) combines the talents of two of Australia's best picture-book practitioners, author Margaret Wild and illustrator Stephen Michael King. Those who loved their award-winning book *The Pocket Dogs* will be equally entranced with this follow-up adventure, in which Mr Pockets and his tiny companions, Biff and Buff, head off to the seaside. Wild's delightfully chatty style and clever structure provide a text which entertains and engages, while King's loose-lined, colourful illustrations are full of joie de vivre, humour and visual delights. There is everything here that a good story should have – three charming main characters, an exotic setting, lots of action, a terrible setback (the loss of Mr Pockets' indispensable coat), a frantic search and a happy ending! This is picture-book storytelling at its very best.