



Making Tracks

**Year 5
2007**

Leigh Hobbs



FACT FILE

Date of birth: 18 April 1953

Currently lives:

Williamstown, Melbourne

Past jobs: cleaner in a cake factory, worker in a London chicken-pie factory, artist at the ABC, artist at Luna Park Sydney and school teacher

Interests: classical music, old films, art, architecture and English history

Likes: chocolates

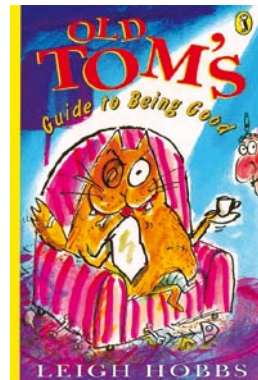
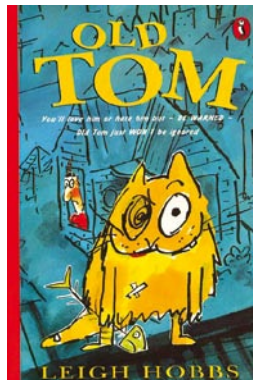
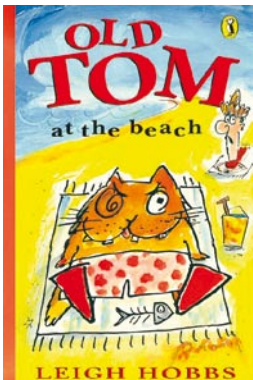
Dislikes: ugly buildings

Leigh Hobbs was born in Melbourne and always wanted to be an artist. After art school, he began work in 1974 at Sydney's Luna Park. Here, Leigh supervised the restoration of a large carousel and created Larry and Lizzy Luna – two huge caricature figure sculptures.

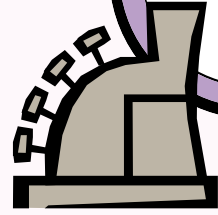
Many of Leigh's cartoon illustrations have appeared in newspapers such as *The Age* in Melbourne. He paints, draws and sculpts as well. His 'Flinders Street Station' teapot is in the National Gallery of Victoria.

Leigh has illustrated many children's books but is now focusing on his own. His 'Old Tom' books, which he wrote and illustrated, form the basis for a 52-episode Australian–French animated TV series.

Leigh has recently created the new colour scheme for the entrance to Melbourne's Luna Park.



Shopping Day



The next day was Saturday. Shopping day. When his alarm went off Darren slid beneath the covers and made himself as flat as he possibly could.

‘Goodness,’ said his mother when she came into the room. ‘Darren seems to have completely disappeared. Oh well, it’ll give me the chance to wash these sheets.’ And with a mighty tug she pulled everything off the bed, Darren included. ‘Up,’ she growled, ‘we’re going shopping.’

In *Whattley’s Wonderful World of Hardware*, Mrs Winterburn was in her element. She didn’t head for the bread bins straight away. Instead, she tortured Darren with a dreadful tour of clothes pegs, dusters, mops, candles, picture frames, plastic plates, can openers ... and egg-timers. The most painful bit of all was when they looked for a birthday card for Darren’s Grandad Potter. Mrs Winterburn examined THOUSANDS of cards and went ‘aah’ at all the stupid rhymes. Darren was SO BORED he nearly fell asleep in a wire basket full of special-offer cushions.

Going ape!

If you were looking for a present for a chimpanzee, what could you get?

Maybe a banana?

Not really, chimps do not eat bananas in the wild. The rainforests of Africa hold everything a hungry chimp will ever need. Chimpanzees are omnivores, meaning that they eat both plants and animals. In the rainforest there is an endless supply of fruit, leaves, seeds, roots, nuts and insects. Occasionally they will eat the meat of small mammals such as monkeys. Chimpanzees are excellent hunters and can easily outwit their target by hunting in groups.

Maybe clothes?

Sorry, no good. The hair on a chimpanzee's body acts as an insulator. This means that it helps to keep the chimp warm by trapping its body heat close to its skin.



Perhaps some gym equipment?

I wouldn't recommend it.

Chimpanzees are very fit and strong. Males have the same strength as three Olympic weight lifters, and they are not afraid to use it!

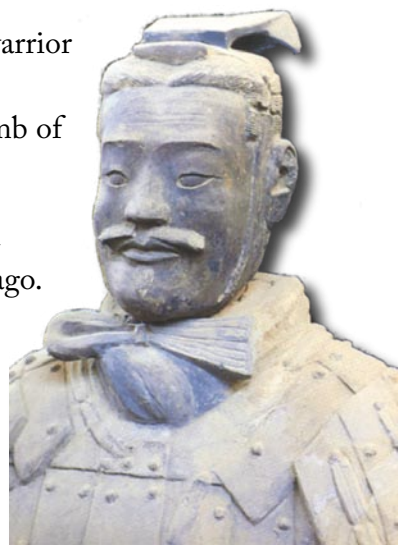
A good present would be a rock or a stick.

Chimpanzees are fantastic at using tools and they always make their own. A chimp can make a type of fishing rod from a thin stick. They use it to 'fish' for termites by gently poking it into termite mounds. They also use specially shaped rocks for crushing nuts, and if the chimp needs a weapon it will use sticks and stones.

China's Clay Warriors

In 1974 near the city of Xi'an, China, archaeologists uncovered not just one warrior but part of a terracotta army – an army of nearly 8000 soldiers, built to guard the tomb of China's First Emperor, Qin Shi Huangdi.

The clay army looks just as Qin's army did when the tomb was built over 2000 years ago. There are bowmen, crossbowmen, foot soldiers, archers and six horse-drawn charioteers in wood and bronze chariots. Each group wears a different style of armour and clothing. The charioteers carry shields and heavy armour made of 324 separate plates. The bowmen and crossbowmen wear no armour and only the officers wear helmets. The face and hairstyle on each warrior is different.



Qin Shi Huangdi became ruler at the age of 13. He was a harsh man but he was also a practical ruler who achieved great things. His workers built the 3000-kilometre-long Great Wall of China and a vast network of roads. As the First Emperor, he united China, created one language, one money system and standard units of measurement.



Emperor Qin wanted his tomb to be spectacular so he spent a lifetime planning and building it. From 221 BCE until the emperor's death in 210 BCE, some 700 000 workers created nearly 8000 life-size clay warriors.

The can opener



Canned food was invented for the British Navy in 1813. Made of solid iron, the cans usually weighed more than the food they held!

The inventor, Peter Durand, was guilty of an incredible oversight. Though he figured out how to seal food *into* cans, he gave little thought to how to get it out again. Instructions read: "Cut round the top near the outer edge with a chisel and hammer."

Only when thinner steel cans came into use in the 1860s could the can opener be invented. The first, devised by E. Warner of Connecticut, looked like a bent bayonet. Its large curved blade was driven into a can's rim, then forcibly worked around its edge. Stranger yet, this first type of can opener never left the grocery store. A shop assistant had to open each can before it was taken away!

The modern can opener – with a cutting wheel that rolls around the rim – was invented by William Lyman of the United States in 1870. Sixty-one years later, in 1931, the electric can opener made its debut.



THE BUSH TRACK

Gillian knew this bush track really well. The burnt tree trunks stood out tall and black against the blue sky. Underneath, hundreds of seedlings made a bright green sea of new growth. This year they were almost waist high, and she wondered how long it would take for them to grow as tall as the old ones.

She felt quite sad when she got down to the creek. You could hardly see the water before the fire. Now, on the bend near the bridge, all that was left was a ragged, tangled mess of dead ti-tree. It was good to be able to see the creek as she walked along, but she really missed all the shrubs and trees. In spring the whole area was usually painted red and yellow with egg-and-bacon flowers. She had often heard lyrebirds scratching among the leaf litter; where were they now?

There were lots of new grasses and wildflowers, especially near the track. So much new life, all taking advantage of the rich soils that were one of the best things to come out of the fierce bushfires of three years ago.

Gillian sat down on a flat rock and took her camera out of her bag.

