

# southern

# write

Newsletter of the SA Writers' Centre Inc

March 2009

## Workshop Program Under Way

The SAWC Workshop Program for 2009 is well and truly under way. Enclosed in this edition of *Southern Write* is a brochure with all the details for March to June (if, by chance, you have not received one please let us know). On March 14, we have **Ian Bone** on designing your own free website and blog, **Renata Provenzano** on travel writing, **Katharine England** tackling grammar and **Anne Bartlett** investigating point of view. Responses to these workshops have been strong, so book soon.

In April, there is a small hiatus, due to the Easter and ANZAC Day weekends but we have a number of workshops in early May to make up for it.

On Saturday May 2 we have **Barbara Santich** leading 'The Art of Foodwriting'. Food writing, like any other writing, has to capture the attention of the reader but, whether memoir or restaurant review or reflective essay, it should also appeal to the senses, communicating sensual responses and impressions. This workshop will review the art of describing this experience as a preliminary to discussing the style of restaurant reviews, food journalism and food memoirs, analysing appropriate models of each of these genres. It will also review the variety of information sources available to food writers. Workshop leader Barbara Santich has been writing about food for over 30 years. Among her books are *Looking for Flavour* (new edition due 2009), *The Original Mediterranean Cuisine* (1995) and *In the Land of the Magic Pudding* (2000).



Barbara Santich

At the same time, **Stephen House** will run the workshop 'Writing For Performance'. This workshop is for those who are serious about writing for stage and film and want to further develop their skills. It looks at some fundamentals including story, character, reason and interest; and explores the process of getting down your thoughts, ideas and words. Stephen has had 16 plays and 4 short films produced. His plays have been profiled, published and are available at The Australian Script Centre.



Stephen House

From 2pm to 5pm on the same day **Des Speight** will run 'Writing A Biography'. In this workshop you will: learn how to clarify the author's and subject's expectations and relationship; look at recording and verifying the story; learn how to authenticate the recollections; look at structuring the story (chronological or otherwise); investigate continuity from chapter to chapter; discuss options for action on the first draft and revision on advice; and look at ways of getting the finished book published and publicised. Des Speight is the author of *Australia's Spanish Knight*, the biography of the remarkable Richard Bryant. Des has a love of history and will share this with you.



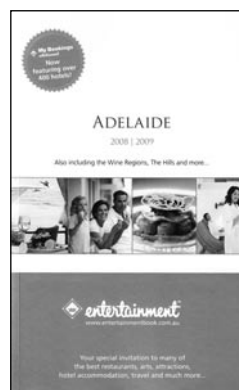
Kirsty Brooks

Finally, **Kirsty Brooks** will run 'Writing Commercial Fiction and Getting it Published: How to be the Author a Publisher or Literary Agent is looking for:'. Kirsty is the author of *The*

*Vodka Dialogue, The Happiness Punch, The Millionaire Float, The Lady Splash, Hitching: Tales from the byways and superhighways, Mad Love and Lady Luck*. She tries to bridge the gap between writers and the publishing industry and help writers create the manuscript they always wanted to write, and everyone else wants to read (and that an agent or editor will be desperate to publish ...) She is currently writing *Bossy Boots* and *The Tequila Bikini*.

We hope you will join us for one, if not more, of these workshops to reinvigorate your writing, meet new writers and/or learn new skills.

## Entertain Yourself...



... and help raise funds for the SAWC. We've been lucky enough to receive copies of the new 2009/2010 Adelaide Entertainment Book and are offering them

to members at the price of \$65 each. The book contains hundreds of 50%, 25% and 2-for-1 offers for Adelaide restaurants, hotels, resorts, cinemas, arts, sports and leisure activities. Plus, for every copy sold to our members, the SAWC gets to keep \$13, which helps to keep us financially healthy.

# Centre Information

## Contributions

Thanks to the following people and organisations who donated books to the Centre:

- **Daniel Taylor** for Kerrie Eyers and Gordon Parker, *Mastering Bipolar Disorder*, Allen & Unwin, 2008.
- **Graham Catt**, *Travelling Backwards: Lost in New Zealand*, 2009 and *Wagtail 84: The Inverted World and Other Poems* by Graham Catt, Picaro Press, 2009.
- **Phil Cummings**, *Little Twitching*, illustrated by R P Cooper, Windy Hollow Books, 2008.
- **Simon Eden**, *Poems That Matter*, 2009.
- **Margaret Fensom**, *Trains*, L&R Hartley, Multimedia EBook, 2008.
- **Rosanne Hawke**, *The Wish Giver* by Rosanne Hawke and Lenore Penner, illustrated by Michelle Mackintosh, Windy Hollow Books, 2008.
- **Allan Higgin**, *Touring SA The Limerick Way*, 2008.
- *Island*, 115, Summer, 2008.
- **Prince Alfred College**, *Red Leaves: A Journal of poetry, prose and illustrations by students and staff of Prince Alfred College*, 2008.
- **Cameron Raynes**, *The Last Protector: The illegal removal of Aboriginal children from their parents in South Australia*, Wakefield Press, 2009.
- **Valerie Volk**, *In Due Season: Poems of Love and Loss*, Pantaenus Press, 2009.
- **Wakefield Press** for Mary Talbot Cross, *Fate Knows No Tears*, Wakefield Press, 2009.

Thanks to SAWC sponsor:

## SA Writers' Centre Life Members

- Max Fatchen
- Gillian Rubinstein/Lian Hearn

## Our Thanks

Thanks to Lyn Brooks, Jo Dey, John and Coie Dikkenberg, Barbara Fraser, Catherine Jones, Gay Sanderson, Peggy Spry and Daniel Taylor for their assistance in mailing the February newsletter to all our members.

## Disclaimer

The information in this publication is presented in good faith as a service to SA Writers' Centre members. While the information is believed to be correct, the Centre takes no responsibility for its accuracy. No liability is accepted for any statements of opinion or any error or omission. Advertising material is accepted for this newsletter but such acceptance does not imply endorsement by the Centre.

## Advertising in *Southern Write*

Advertising is welcome. Please email Rachel at [comms@sawc.org.au](mailto:comms@sawc.org.au) for rates, deadlines and accepted formats.

## Wheelchair/Lift Access to SAWC



Wheelchair access to the SA Writers' Centre is available at the 26 York Street rear entrance. Alternatively, come in from Rundle Street via Caffe Brunelli, proceed towards the toilets, take the door to your left to reach the lift.

Copy deadline:

**15 March 2009**  
(for April issue)

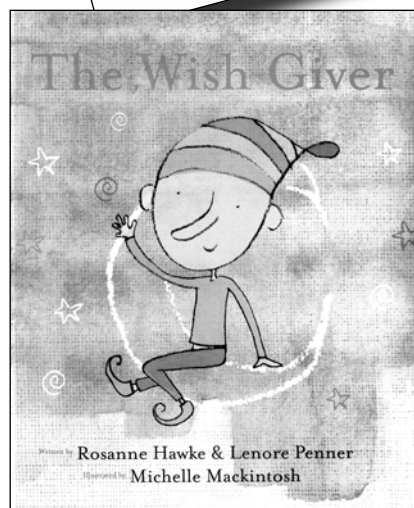
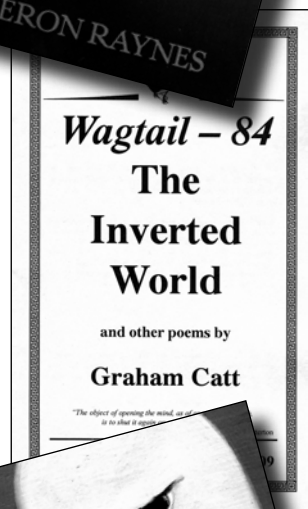
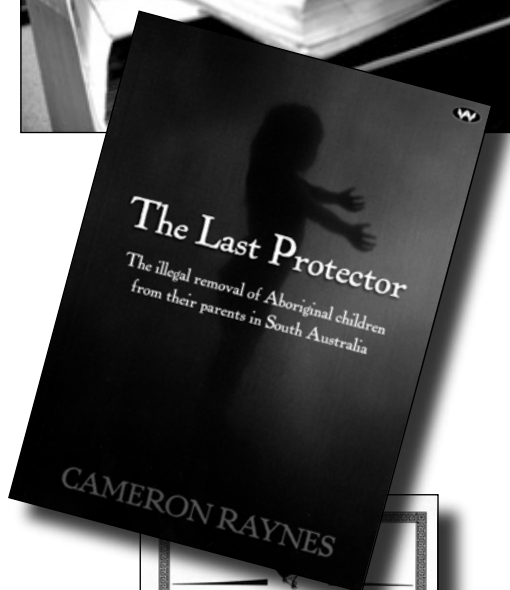
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# Report from the Director

SAWC Director **Barbara Wiesner** reports on the future of the Centre and changes ahead.



**T**he SA Writers' Centre will be 25 years old next year – a significant age for a review of organisations such as ours, according to one of our major funding agencies, the Australia Council. The SA Writers' Centre was the first of its kind in Australia and our efforts led to the establishment of writers' centres in every state and territory.

As you are no doubt aware, the staff and Board, an incredibly committed bunch of writers and volunteers, have endeavoured to bring you a wide range of programs, which satisfy our 1,100+ members. We have set up activities for children, for new and emerging writers, as well as for our full-time professionals. We have a Writer-in-Residence dedicated to those with a disability and, as you can see from this *Southern Write*, in 2009 we'll be heading off to country regions to service members who aren't able to access our city-based program easily.

In recent years we have had to work extremely hard to maintain our diverse program, given the relatively static core funding allocations from government agencies, which themselves have been under pressure in these tough economic times. So far we've been successful thanks to additional sources of money from the Telstra Foundation, the Richard Llewellyn Arts and Disability Trust and the Copyright Agency Limited. Our long-term partners, Langmeil Winery, Internode, Seaview Press, SALMAT and the Cities of Salisbury and Onkaparinga also deserve a hearty 'thank you' for their support in helping us to provide a wide range of literary services.

We are fortunate to have many 'silent' supporters – members who have donated funds or provided their books and services free of charge. We are extremely thankful for their contributions, which have had a major impact on our ability to deliver.

During 2008 the Board and staff scrutinised our accounts to see where we could make savings; we've looked into the possibility of running commercial programs which would generate income for the Centre, and we've stepped up our fundraising activities (as you can also see from this newsletter).

So, where are we now? The Australia Council decided that unless we deliver a program with a national focus or have a national membership we will lose our status as a Key Organisation and therefore be ineligible for its triennial funding. However, we will still be able to apply for program funding, a less secure and more competitive annual funding process. At the same time, all state-based writers' centres have formed an alliance to look into the possibility of setting up national initiatives to add a new dimension to our current programming and so be eligible for Key Organisation funding.

The bottom line is that changes will be taking place in the near future. The first of these will be a revised constitution to be presented for approval at the Annual General Meeting in May. (Details will appear in the next *Southern Write*). The Board has also been preparing itself to make some 'tough decisions', if necessary.

**The bottom line is that changes will be taking place in the near future**

So, in the meantime, while we're waiting for that elusive millionaire to make us a beneficiary in his or her will, we would love to hear from you with:

- your tax deductible donations and/or bequests
- \$150 for your name engraved on one of the SAWC's chairs
- any goods and services that can be raffled or offered as prizes
- ideas to generate income (though, please, no Amway type of programs)
- any businesses you know which may want to sponsor the Centre

Let's all keep our fingers crossed for the future of the SAWC.

## Handbook for SA Writers

Everything you've ever wanted to know about writing - from the synopsis to the role of agent and publisher

**\$25 or \$20 for members of SAWC**

**SA Writers' Centre Inc**

[www.sawriters.on.net](http://www.sawriters.on.net)  
(08) 8223 7662 [sawriters@sawriters.on.net](mailto:sawriters@sawriters.on.net)



# The Silent Classroom

Poet **Jeff Guess** tells of his two-year poetry residence at Pembroke School.

I started in the dark. The first morning train from Gawler to Adelaide and a bus to The Parade. Rain on the glass.

Jim Muir, Facilities Manager, with an expansive handshake handed me a large heavy silver key for a room above the library and, with a smile as broad as his Scottish accent, 'Have a good stay, laddie!' Walking across Kensington Oval to the Senior School, balancing a bag and an umbrella, I weighed the key in my hand. A potent metaphor. An auspicious start. There were going to be many openings, I was sure of that. It was still raining when I turned a key to the room above the library: a writing table, with a bookshelf, telephone, computer and a view of the old Girton Girls' School; orange clinker bricks through the sharp green needles of an ancient cypress. A view to live for! And for a poet – a time to start writing.

I met the Headmaster later that day in his fire and book-warmed study. He wanted to talk with me about his beloved Eliot and generously loaned me a rare edition of Ezra Pound's revision of *The Wasteland*. Claire Woods, Head of English at Pembroke School, had invited me twice to consider a poetry residency and twice I had declined. Claire's vision of a poet-in-residence was not to be diminished and trying for a third time she convinced me of its possibilities. I have known Claire from my very earliest days of teaching. She came to Smithfield Plains High School as a first-year-out teacher in the early 80s. Her leadership now at Pembroke School, her vision, superb teaching practice and love of writing is without peer in all of my experience of schools and English teaching. The residency would be something after the advertisement on television of a man who in buying a new house is consumed with a tree in his newly acquired garden: 'I've never owned a tree before.' My writing had never owned a day and now it did – every Thursday would be my poetry day.

I'm now looking out at the rain-mired quadrangle from my study window. I have arrived at school at 7am and have some breakfast and coffee at my desk until 9am. This is my writing time and it is rare, in the creaking, compelling silence, that a

poem does not emerge and is made. What am I writing about? The school in all of its moods, seasons, architecture, children, staff, grounds, history and spirit.

## Poet in Residence

*This morning – early, long before lessons  
I am sitting at the top of the school  
and like the hawk in Hughes' poem  
the earth's face upward for my inspection*

*And all day I will attend to little things  
taking a special kind of notice  
of what under normal circumstances  
might be missed or simply turned aside.*

*I trace the clockwork of the minutia  
of every moment  
collecting the flotsam of fabric and fancy  
picking up driftwood of discard and  
dream.*

*Unlike the hawk I cannot keep things like  
this –  
but for a moment  
this morning – early, long before lessons  
I hold the whole school in my poem.*

While I was tutoring at UniSA a colleague, David Homer, conducted a very popular summer school entitled 'Writing the City'. I took this idea to the English Department as a theme for the teaching that I would do in all their classrooms. Just as I was writing a collection of poems about the school, I would invite, challenge and enthuse the children to do the same. Together we would write the school!

I've never found it difficult to get children to write. Please don't see in this a vain boast. It's not. Once they are presented with the 'possibilities' and excitement of writing they will write their hearts out – and they did. The hard part, if you like, has more to do with me – my own approach. A bit like making a speech – you have to 'grab' your audience in the first few seconds, minutes – after that they will listen with rapt attention. Those first few moments in the classroom are critical and I use a range of well practised and honed approaches. I was given enormous enthusiastic support from the entire staff who embraced the project from its very commencement. Julianne English, Head of Art asked me one

lunchtime if I had a title for my collection. I said I had several working ideas and shared them with her. 'The Silent Classroom –yes! that's the one. Why? Because in all of my years of teaching I have never taught noise – rather, I teach the interior life!' Just as it had all begun in the dark it ended in a superb, warm and soft violet twilight on the School's lawn for the launch of the two collections with several hundred people present. Chilled wine, laughter, poems and farewells.

I have been asked more times than I can count to give a definition of poetry and in an article I had written for the school's writing magazine *Shout* I had said: 'Poetry is, at its most profound level, a prayer, a cry or an utterance from the very deep and silent places of our hearts and minds.'

## School Cleaner

*You are a final note  
on an intricate chord  
of wires, brooms and bags*

*your vacuum cleaner  
plays out  
an everyday recessional*

*your work has the sanction  
of ordinariness  
and grace*

*your smile  
is a seal of approval  
on the stations of the school*

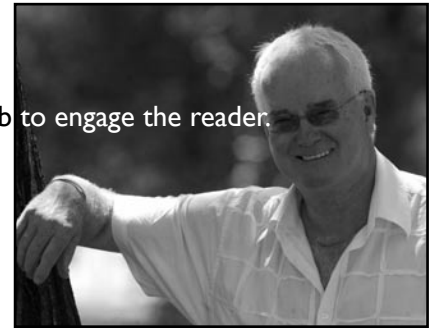
*you are a final blessing  
and benediction  
on the closing of the day.*

Pembroke School has published Jeff Guess's ninth collection of poetry, *The Silent Classroom*. An accompanying anthology of student work, *Two Schools of Thought*, was also published.

Jeff Guess can be contacted on (08) 8523 1441 or at [jeffpoet@cobweb.com.au](mailto:jeffpoet@cobweb.com.au)

# Board's Eye View

SA Writers' Centre Board Member **Ashley Mallett** argues it's the writer's job to engage the reader.



There are extremes of writing. Talk to someone who's been to Sydney or Melbourne and they immediately hit you with, 'How come Adelaide hasn't got a decent daily newspaper?' They are blown away by the excellence of the *The Sydney Morning Herald* and *The Age*, both quality newspapers with a good balance of stories and quality writing, and they choke on the reality that Adelaide is lumbered with a newspaper filled with ordinary literary fare.

There was a time when Adelaide had two newspapers, *The News* and an excellent broadsheet, *The Advertiser*. *The News* was handed to Rupert by his newspaper tycoon dad, Sir Keith Murdoch. Rupert eventually repaid his father by dumping *The News* and buying *The Advertiser*. Before Rupert got his clutches on *The Advertiser*, it was a quality broadsheet. In Keith Butler, Geoff Kingston and Mike Coward the paper delivered good stories in all things cricket and football. *The Tiser* had a stable of splendid writers including Bernard Boucher, Brian Gill, Bill Guy, Ray Polkinghorne and the best of them all, Des Colquhoun, who wrote a fabulous column which appeared daily on the front page. Now the number of good writers has dwindled, although Max Fatchen provides his legend of readers with the odd thought-provoking gem. Gone is the clever Aitchison, whose cartoons always seemed to capture the moment. *The News* had some good'uns too: Doug Easom, whose Odd Spot column informed and delighted and Lawrie Jervis who was a legendary football writer. Jervis later became a sub-editor and it was Lawrie who, after the second edition had hit the newsstands, picked up and scrubbed out my line: 'Cheltenham Cemetery has a skeleton staff of seven'. It was my first feature for the paper, all about vandalism of tombstones at the cemetery. Lawrie decided that was taking my 'word association' a bit far.

Adelaide has a couple of very good publications in *The Adelaide Review* (a monthly) and *The Independent Weekly*. However, we are stuck with an ordinary daily newspaper.

Second best can mean being satisfied with the article, short story or book manuscript we write, neglecting to go over it carefully, editing and re-writing. My latest book,

*Nugget, Man of the Century*, (ABC Books) is quite a departure from the sports books I write. It is essentially a love story, love of the purest kind, love for our fellow human beings. Every time I look back on anything I write, I shudder because I know that it could have been a lot better. There is always room for improvement. It is a comfort to think that anything ever written can be improved, even the immortal words of Shakespeare or the Gettysburg Address. I find a good daily writing exercise is to take the lead paragraph from *The Advertiser* and re-write it.

You'll find that you can say the same thing in much the same words, but arrange the words in such a way that the message is succinct and that your words inform and entertain, so that you are encouraging your reader to read on. I've learnt to be in touch with the reader, for they are unwittingly your bread and butter.

**... if I had taken more care to write and re-write, of course, it could have been a whole lot better**

You are taking your readers on a literary journey. They 'live' the experience with you. It is only when you don't engage the reader that they instinctively know when they are being taken for a ride.

A few books ago I stuffed up the whole book. My commissioned manuscript was basically rejected and I was told that the publisher would need to employ someone to re-write the book so that it was 'suitable for publication'. I was appalled. I rang the publisher and said I would fix it in two weeks. True to my word, the book was fixed in a fortnight and *Chappelli Speaks Out* became a bestseller: in late 2005, 4500 hardback copies sold in one week. But if I had taken more care to write and re-write, of course, it could have been a whole lot better.

Some months ago a fellow author approached me and questioned why I would devote a whole book to Barry 'Nugget' Rees. 'An article, perhaps, but a book ... ?' The bloke obviously doesn't know a good story. Had he not heard of David Helfgott, the brilliant concert pianist

whose uplifting story so impressed filmmaker Scott Hicks that he created an award-winning film, *Shine*? The Nugget story is similarly uplifting to *Shine*, *Tuesdays with Morrie* and Albert Facey's *A Fortunate Life*. To this unbiased author, the Nugget life story would make a good film. We launched *Nugget, Man of the Century*, last month. Trying to get a copy of the book to a filmmaker is akin to breaking into Fort Knox with a toothpick, so I didn't invite Scott Hicks to the launch; but I will, with the much-needed assistance of Spider Man and Wonder Woman, try to get the book into Scott's hands. You never know.

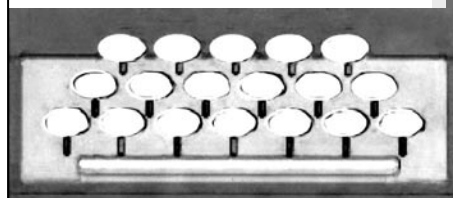
Meantime my aim is to engage the reader and to make every effort to ensure that my latest piece of writing is the best yet.

Ashley Mallett is a journalist and writer of 27 books. Among his next projects he will be interviewing and writing about Rolf Harris, Michael Parkinson, Mick Jagger, Tim Rice and Hugh Jackman. Ashley lectures on biography writing at TAFE Centre for the Arts in Adelaide.

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# Varuna Consultations Now Open

**V**aruna: The Writers' House is, for the last time, offering opportunities for regional writers through the Macquarie Group Foundation LongLines Program. Deadline is April 30 (with the exception of the Australian Poetry Centre LongLines Workshop, which is June 30). Application fee is \$30, and residential fees of \$275 include all food and accommodation. Some of the opportunities available include:

- Residential workshops: all held at Varuna in the Blue Mountains of NSW.
- LongLines New Australian Film Stories Workshop, in partnership with Blackheath firm Ink-to-Screen: consider the special requirements of the screen story. An exciting opportunity for those who know there's a great film in their book!

- The Playlab LongLines Drama Workshop: three playwrights, two dramaturgs and a lot of productive excitement.
- Australian Poetry Centre LongLines Workshop: four poets selected for the workshop will also be the four poets published in the 2009 New Poets Program.
- Different Voices Workshop with Creative Director Peter Bishop: Peter is looking for those voices that are telling stories which may not always find a place in the world of commercial publishing.
- Longlines Community Writing Week: five writers, all genres, selected for a week-long residency at Varuna, with a mixture of time designated for their own writing and time for engaging with writers who are working in the Blue Mountains.
- Macquarie Group Foundation LongLines Non-Residential Writer Conversation

Program: ten writers selected to join The Writer Conversation, a new Varuna program. One reader reads your manuscript and discusses it with another before having an hour-long conversation with you (cost is \$100).

A major feature of the Macquarie Group Foundation LongLines program is the consultation program that takes Creative Director of Varuna, Peter Bishop, around Australia each year. This allows potential applicants to discuss their project with Peter prior to their submission. In South Australia, these consultations will take place on **Tuesday 31 March, Wednesday 1 April and Thursday 2 April** at the SA Writers' Centre. Call 08 8223 7662 to make an appointment. More details at [www.varuna.com.au](http://www.varuna.com.au)

## Poets & Platters at Langmeil Winery

**O**n Wednesday 15 April enjoy an evening of Langmeil wine and gourmet platters while listening to an array of entertaining poetry and storytelling. The flavour of verse is humorous and witty, with a dash of satire. As part of the Barossa Vintage Festival of Wine, 'Poets and Platters' is supported by the SA Writers' Centre. Featured poets are:

**Bill 'Swampy' Marsh**, an award-winning writer and performer of stories, songs and plays. Known for his very popular series of books: *Great Flying Doctor Stories* and *More Great Australian Flying Doctor Stories*.

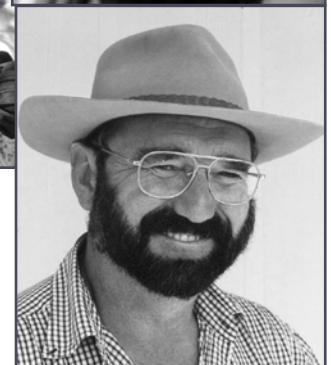
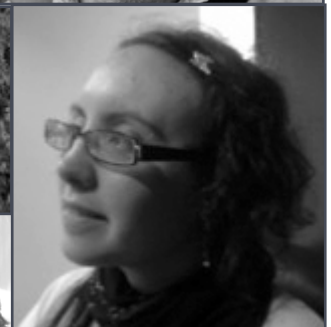
**Steve Evans**, who has published eleven books, including six of poetry. Reading Steve's poetry, you're likely to encounter a piano in a horse float, hushed sex in a library, sleepwalking dogs and a sense of awe about this strange thing called life.

**Jill Wherry**, who won the 2005 SA Performance Bush Poetry Championships.

In 2006 and 2007 she also won the Original Humorous section of the championships. Her book, *Definitely Not Shakespeare*, was launched in April last year.

**Amy Bodossian** whose readings at smoky poetry nights in the late 90s to now have intrigued onlookers with a unique blend of comedy, spoken word and song. Amy recently unleashed her more outrageous spoken word upon audiences at Adelaide's Big Day Out Festival.

And **Bob Magor**, the master of mayhem, who returns for his fifth appearance at Poets and Platters. He remains at the forefront of bush poetry in Australia and since his last appearance has won, once again, the Bush Laureate Award in Tamworth for Book Of The Year.



The night runs from 7pm to 10.30pm and cost is \$35 including supper and a glass of wine (sorry, no BYO). Limited bookings, phone 08 8563 2595, fax 08 8563 3622 or email [info@langmeilwinery.com.au](mailto:info@langmeilwinery.com.au)

# Penola Festival Announced

The Penola Coonawarra Arts Festival Committee, in conjunction with the SA Writers' Centre, has put together an exciting and varied writing weekend for the 2009 festival. Held over the weekend of **Saturday 16 May** and **Sunday 17 May**, the program includes:

**LUNCH WITH PETER GOLDSWORTHY**  
Spend two hours with Peter Goldsworthy and hear him speak on a variety of topics from his childhood in Penola to the way writing is portrayed in the modern technologically savvy world.

**THE PATHWAY TO SUCCESS**  
Join novelist Rachel Hennessy, poet Jude Aquilina and nonfiction writer Bruce Lindsay along with Michael Bollen,

publisher from Wakefield Press, in an informative and lively discussion on their pathways to success. Political satirist Bryan Dawe will preside over the panel.

**WRITING WORKSHOPS**  
*Inspiration versus dedication: rewriting fiction towards publication*, a workshop with Rachel Hennessy, *Poetry from Inspiration to Publication* with Jude Aquilina and *Successful Self-publishing – A Viable Option For All Writers* with Bruce Lindsay. Publisher Michael Bollen from Wakefield Press will visit each workshop and answer any publishing questions.

**BOOK LAUNCH**  
In late 2008 Peter Goldsworthy released a novel based on life in Penola in the 1960s.



To celebrate the success of this book local identity Marg Muller will relaunch *Everything I Knew*. Peter will be available to sign copies and answer any questions about the true characters in the novel.

All details are available at [www.artsfestival.com.au](http://www.artsfestival.com.au)

## Parallel Parleying

The ASA's South Australian state representative, **Elizabeth Hutchins**, is keeping her eye on an issue that will affect us all in some way.

Just a few months ago, most of us were asking, 'Parallel what?' Let's face it, some of us had trouble even spelling the word. Now, thanks to strenuous lobbying, concern has grown among thousands involved in the writing industry about the Federal Government's review of the laws governing the parallel importation of books. An impressive 268 submissions\* were received by the Productivity Commission from organisations and individuals, the overwhelming message being, in colloquial terms, 'If it ain't broke, don't fix it'. As I pointed out in my own letter, for every person who has the interest, commitment, time and (especially) confidence to get political and write about an issue, there will be hundreds who share their concerns.

All 268 submissions are reproduced on the Productivity Commission's website, most easily reached from the homepage of the ASA, [www.asauthors.org](http://www.asauthors.org). Arts Editor Deborah Bogle (*The Advertiser*, 14/2/09) was impressed to find 'at least half a dozen are from our relatively small state'. My quick search has identified thirteen local authors/illustrators, another five with strong links to the state, plus

the SA Government, two publishers, a reviewer and a printer. Nationally and even internationally there are also representations from many organisations, academics, other educators, librarians, agents and independent booksellers. Children's authors are to the fore, since reports from New Zealand show that its children's book market has been flooded with cheap remaindered books, with disastrous results for its writers, since that country lifted its import restrictions ten years ago. Yet the Coalition for Cheaper Books states that the open books market there 'has had little or no detrimental effect on local authors and publishers'.

While we await the first report from this commission you will find dipping into these submissions an interesting experience. For quality and variety start with numbers 67, 18 and 234. Your favourite author and some of your writing colleagues have probably had something to say about our livelihoods and our cultural identity, while the degree of commitment to the book industry and its creators is stunning. Surely no review board has ever encountered a more articulate band of lobbyists!

[\*In last month's *Southern Write* this was reported as 72, which was the number at the time of printing.]

## News for Children's Authors

The SA Writers' Centre would like to hear from any children's authors who have not been involved in the Young Writers' Nights previously and who would be interested in being included in the program. You must have had a book published for upper primary school students and/or Young Adults. Please contact the Director of the SAWC, Barbara Wiesner, at [director@sawc.org.au](mailto:director@sawc.org.au) or 8223 7662.

It may be of further interest to children's authors to note the formation of a new industry group: The Australian Children's Literature Alliance (ACLA). This body will focus on creating a national children's laureate and a website to profile writing for young people. Australia Council funding will support the appointment of a staff member operating out of the State Library of Victoria. The ACLA chair is Bronwen Bennett and Australia Council director of literature Susan Hayes will also serve on the ACLA board.

# What's On

## Tuesday 3 Mar: Friendly St Poets

Friendly St Poetry reading at the SA Writers' Centre from 7pm until late. Open mic, with the only limit being 4 minutes of time (which includes introductions). Guest Reader is Ros Schulz. Cost of entry is \$5/\$4 concession with free wine and juices.

## 4 Mar and 11 Mar: Writers' Wednesdays

Poets with disabilities read their work, followed by discussion amongst the poets. From 4pm at the Arts Access SA Galleries and Creative Space, 106 Currie Street, Adelaide.

## Thursday 5 Mar: Poetry Collection Launch

Local writer Julian Zytник will launch his debut poetry collection *Captain Fury* from 6pm at the SA Writers' Centre as part of the Adelaide Fringe Festival. The manuscript won the highly coveted Single Collection of Poetry Prize in the 2008 Poetry Unhinged Festival. The launch is an open event (no RSVP required), and will offer free food and drinks.

## Thursday 5 Mar: Books and Coffee at Mostly Books

Meet Debra Vinecombe, author of *Menopause*, a collection of stories from South Australian women. From 7.30pm at Mostly Books, Mitcham Square, 119 Belair Road, Torrens Park. Phone 08 8373 5190 for more information.

## Sunday 8 Mar: Hills Poets

The next meeting of the Hills Poets will be on Sunday 8 March at 3.30 pm at the Bridgewater Inn, Mt Barker Road, Bridgewater. The meeting will be in the dining room in the cellar of the hotel. The car park on the bottom side of the hotel is easiest access. For information please ring Jill Gower on 8339 5119.

## Monday 9 Mar: Fringe Wordfire: 'Other Voices, Other Rooms'

What other rooms do we explore through the texts we read and write, translate and perform? For one night only emerging and established writers and performers will be holding an Open House, conducting tours of the dark corners, airy spaces and

secret places that words have led them into. Venue is the Red Room, Crown & Sceptre, 308 King William Street, Adelaide, from 7pm, \$2 donation at the door. See website: [www.word-fire.com](http://www.word-fire.com)

## Friday 13 March: Book Launch

You are invited to attend a Beat Generation inspired book launch of Charles Crompton's debut self-publication of *Readings from the Little Yellow Book* (edited by Graham Rowlands) at Imprints Booksellers, 107 Hindley Street, from 7 to 9pm. The night will feature a jazz trio, 'the Jazzcateers' and some performance poetry from Shaggy Doo Beats.

## Thursday 19 Mar: North Eastern Writers

The next meeting will be held on Thursday the 19th of March from 7.30-9.30pm at the Tea Tree Gully RSL Hall. Guest speaker will be Steve Evans. Enquiries to Ken 8380 5348 or Sharon 0403 831170.

## Tuesday 24 Mar: Burnside Library Meet The Author

Meet the author John Newland at Burnside Library. From 10.30am John will provide fabulous tips for self-driving around Europe which inspired him to write his book *Driving the Heart of Europe*. Morning tea is provided and the cost is \$2.50. John's book will be available for purchase at the special price of \$40 (normally \$49.95).

## Saturday 28 Mar: National Archives Extra Opening

The Angas Street reading room of the National Archives will be open from 9am to 1pm (normally only open Wednesdays to Fridays). An extra opportunity to research. More information on 8409 8400.

## Tuesday 31 Mar, Wednesday 2 April and Thursday 3 April: Varuna Longlines Consultations

Talk to Peter Bishop, Creative Director of Varuna, The Writers' House. More information on page 6.

## Thursday 2 April: Books and Coffee at Mostly Books

Meet Don Loffler, a resident automobile expert who has published several books

on Holden cars. From 7.30pm at Mostly Books, Mitcham Square, 119 Belair Road, Torrens Park. Phone 08 8373 5190 for more information.

## Monday 6 April: Briefing Session by the Literature Board of the Australia Council

From 6pm-8pm staff from the Literature Board of the Australia Council will provide information on the Board's grant programs and initiatives and will be available to answer questions.

## Tuesday 7 April: Australia Council staff one-on-one client meetings

Australia Council staff will be available for one-on-one client meetings. Appointments can be made by contacting the SA Writers' Centre on 8223 7662.

## Poetica in March

*Poetica* on ABC Radio National is presented by Mike Ladd on Saturday at 3.05pm and repeated at the same time on Thursday.

- 7 Mar Landing Light: a meeting with Scottish poet, Don Paterson.
- 14 Mar The Blue Hour of the Day: the poetry of Canada's Lorna Crozier.
- 21 Mar Wendy Cope: the humorous and serious verse of English poet, Wendy Cope.
- 28 Mar Break on Through to the Other Side: the poetry of Jim Morrison and the Doors.

## Saturday 18 April: Friendly St Poets Seminar

'Performance Skills' with Kerryn Tredrea and Mark C Martin. At the SA Writers' Centre from 2pm-4.30pm. Enquiries to Friendly St on [friendlystreetpoets@gmail.com](mailto:friendlystreetpoets@gmail.com).

## Adelaide Festival of Ideas

The list of overseas and Australian speakers has been announced for the 6th Adelaide Festival of Ideas (FOI 09) to be held from 9 to 12 July 2009 at venues along North Terrace in Adelaide. The theme for 2009 is 'Pushing the Limits'. Information at [www.adelaidefestivalofideas.com.au/](http://www.adelaidefestivalofideas.com.au/)



# Opportunities

## New Electronic Journal

*Transnational Literature* is published by the Flinders University Humanities Research Centre. Volume 1, number 1 is freely available at: <http://fhrc.flinders.edu.au/transnational/current.html>. The second issue will be available in April-May 2009. For more information, contact the editor at [gillian.dooley@flinders.edu.au](mailto:gillian.dooley@flinders.edu.au)

## A Pod of Poets

A Pod of Poets is a unique partnership between ABC Radio National's Poetica program and the Australia Council for the Arts. It brought eleven Australian poets to the microphone to read and talk about their writing. Go to [www.abc.net.au/rn/poetica](http://www.abc.net.au/rn/poetica)

## Prime Minister's Literary Awards

Entries from Australian writers are invited for the 2009 Prime Minister's Literary Awards for fiction and nonfiction books. The awards offer the nation's richest literary prize: \$100,000 tax free for fiction and \$100,000 tax free for nonfiction. Authors, publishers and literary agents are eligible to enter books. Entries are due by 5pm, Friday 20 March, 2009. More information, including the guidelines and entry form, at [www.arts.gov.au/books/pmliteraryawards](http://www.arts.gov.au/books/pmliteraryawards)

## Enter StageWRite

A group of local artists, performers, entertainers, writers and musicians have got together in the Aldinga Bay region to start a group called StageWRite. Their website address is <http://www.stagewrite.biz>. In March they will be presenting two songwriting workshops at the Aldinga Community Centre. Book your place on 08 8557 8749.

## Children's Writer Required

Writer required to edit children's picture book. Please call and discuss with author Adam on 8266 7056.

## Writer Wanted for SF

Writer required to edit speculative fiction manuscript. Knowledge of metaphysical science /philosophy preferred. Payment offered. Phone Nick 0422 878 897.

## Writer Wanted for African stories

A writer is required to help an African migrant translate traditional African fables and stories into English stories for children. If you can help, please contact the SAWC on 08 8223 7662.

## Writer Wanted for doco maker

Lara Damiani, a filmmaker from Adelaide, wants to tell the story of making her documentary *Tibet's Cry for Freedom*. See <http://www.thetibetproject.com> and <http://www.tibetscryforfreedom.com> for more information. Contact [lara@thetibetproject.com](mailto:lara@thetibetproject.com)

## Greek Writers/Poets/Artists needed

The Association of Greek-Australian Writers and Artists needs writers, poets and artists to continue its existence, or else it faces deregistration. Interested people please ring 8337 8778 and leave a message by the end of March 2009.

## Story for a Film Script

Looking for a great story for a film script? Graham Riley would like to hear from you. He has researched the story of an Irish boy who joined the navy at 12 years old and in 1912 sailed a submarine to Australia, which was one of only two Australian-owned submarines. He sailed the submarine to Turkey in World War One and later became a POW. If you'd like to find out more about this story, email [grahamriley@adam.com.au](mailto:grahamriley@adam.com.au)

## Paragraph Planet

This new website invites submissions of 75-word paragraphs on any topic as long as they fit the criteria of being exactly 75 words: <http://www.paragraphplanet.com>

## Write In Your Face

Write in Your Face invites proposals from people who are using language in innovative ways. This may involve writing for zines, e-zines, comics, multimedia, multi-artforms or cross-media works, websites, live performances and spoken word. Visit [www.expressmedia.org.au](http://www.expressmedia.org.au) for an application form. Applications close 24 April, 2009.

## 2009 NYWF Submissions

Submissions are now open for the 2009 National Young Writers' Festival (NYWF). They are seeking proposals from fiction writers, poets, journalists, zinesters, magazinesters, bloggers, playwrights and sundry Friends of the Word ... Submissions close 31 March, 2009. Applications can be sent to [submissions@nywf.org.au](mailto:submissions@nywf.org.au). More details at [www.nywf.org.au](http://www.nywf.org.au)

## Writer Mama: Raising a Writing Career While Raising Your Kids

If you are a mother and a professional writer or interested in being a professional, this group may be for you. Contact Kyla Casey, email [kmcasey@three.com.au](mailto:kmcasey@three.com.au) if you are interested in being part of this group.

## Dust Poems

The Red Room Company is currently running a public project with Sydney Olympic Park called Dust Poems. Focused on poems about the road, trucking and driving, they invite driver-poets to submit a poem or poems to be used in an anthology. To explore Dust Poems, visit <http://dustpoems.com>

## Project NEXT

Project NEXT is the working title of a new topical 10 x 30min program which will be on screens later this year - on ABC1, ABC2, the web, mobile phones and on-line. Project NEXT is seeking applications from creative people between the ages of 18 and 30 to work as reporters, producers, camera/directors, editors, graphic artists, researchers and web content producers. To find out more go to: <http://www.projectnext.net.au>. Applications close Monday 16 March 2009.

## Cricket photos

A member of the Tasmanian Writers' Centre, Tim Slade, is currently working on a manuscript of cricket limericks. He is looking for photos of cricket played within natural settings. Published photos will attract a small cash royalty. Please ask for an entry form at: [cricketgalah@gmail.com](mailto:cricketgalah@gmail.com)

## Website with more opportunities

A website for Australian writers and poets: [www.austwriters.com](http://www.austwriters.com)

**Janeen Brian's** story, 'Dollars and Sense', was commissioned and published in Issue 1 of *Challenge Magazine* (Pearson Education), based on the theme of Reconciliation.

**Ester Champion's** poem 'Chocolate Break-up' was Commended in the Eyre Writers Awards in the Tom Black Memorial Poetry Section.

**Helen Croser's** short story 'The Visitors' (Theme: Tale From The Past) received second place in the Erichsen Heritage Award on Yorke Peninsula.

**Mike Dumbleton's** latest educational book *Can Cards Writing: Text Types*, co-authored with Linda Dumbleton, has been published by Era Publications.

**Elaine Edwards's** story 'The Envelope', won second prize in the *Australian Women's Weekly* competition 2008 and will be published in the magazine in April.

**Fiona McIntosh's** *Royal Exile* (Book One of *Valisar*) will be released in a special edition with illustrations by Greg Bridges in the next few months. The trade paperback is already out in UK and the small paperback will be released around mid-year. Fiona's fantasy titles are now published in French, Dutch, German, Polish, Czech, Russian and Danish. Her crime novel *Bye Bye Baby* (released under the name Lauren Crow) was 'Highly Commended' on a shortlist of five for the 2008 Davitt Awards. It has also been bought by Pygmalion for translation into French in 2009.

**Phillipa Fioretti** has been offered a two book contract with Hachette Livre. The contract is for *The Book of Love* (WTO) and another as yet untitled.

**Peter Goldsworthy's** novel *Maestro* has been adapted for the stage with the assistance of his daughter, Anna Goldsworthy, and will play at Her Majesty's Theatre from 27 February to 11 March.

**Margaret Griffin-Ward's** poem 'Meditating by the River' was published in the December edition of *Positive Words*.

**Christine Harris's** book *Audrey of the Outback* has been short-listed for WAYRBA (Western Australian Young Readers Book Award) 2009.

**Don Henderson** has received an AsiaLink Literature Residency to Malaysia. During his residency he will work on a speculative fiction novel (partially set in Asia) that explores the importance of cultural diversity and the dangers of environmental exploitation.

**Stephanie McCarthy's** story 'Cryptic Jack' was Commended in the Eyre Writers Awards in the Black Swan Publishing Short Story Section.

**Jacqui Merckenschlager's** poem 'Mining Town Pianist' received First Prize in the Eyre Writers Awards in the Tom Black Memorial Poetry Section.

**Max Merckenschlager's** poem 'Ben' was Commended in the Eyre Writers Awards in the EWI Rhyming Poetry Section.

**Kathleen Moulding's** story 'The "Seashell"' was Highly Commended in the Eyre Writers Awards in the 'Pep' Manthorpe Memorial Maritime Theme Award Section.

**Robert Moore's** picture book story *About Face* has been accepted by IP Kidz (an imprint of Interactive Press). Negotiations are continuing with animators Monkeystack to produce an animation of the story as part of an interactive package.

**David Mortimer's** poem 'Adjustment' was published in *Five Bells*, vol. 15, no. 3, Winter 2008.

**Gwendoline Quinn's** short story 'Charlie's Revenge' (Theme: Tale From The Past) was awarded First Prize in the Erichsen Heritage Award on Yorke Peninsula. She also won first prize in the open poetry section of the Erichsen Award with her poem, 'Memories'.

**Cameron Rayne's** book *The Last Protector* was published and released by Wakefield Press in February, 2009.

## Congratulations

The SA Writers' Centre would like to congratulate **Rose Wight**, Executive Director of Adelaide Writers' Week, for receiving an OAM for 'service to the arts, particularly through executive roles with the Adelaide Festival of Ideas.'

Artist **Richard Maurovic** has also been named one of Salisbury's 2008 Living Legends. Richard is the author of *The Meat Game*, published by Wakefield Press.

**Graham Rowlands's** poems 'One Jacaranda' and 'Dirty Talk' were published in the *Eastern Courier*.

**Janeen Samuel's** story 'Intertidal', (with a South Australian setting), has won first prize in this year's Eyre Writers Awards in the 'Pep' Manthorpe Memorial Maritime Theme Section.

**Kate Simpson** had two picture books translated and published in Vietnam by Thuong Huyen Books: *Where's Dummy?* and *Little Wombat goes to Childcare*.

**Miles Trench** won Second Prize in the open short story section of the Erichsen Heritage Award on Yorke Peninsula with his story 'Martin's Secret'.

**Roger Wagstaff's** story 'Lost, Stolen or Strayed' was Commended in the Eyre Writers Awards in the 'Pep' Manthorpe Memorial Maritime Theme Award Section.

**Daniel Watson's** short story 'Killing Animals is Easy' was published in the anthology *Death Mook* from Vignette Press.

**Valerie Williams's** poems 'Secondhand Books' and 'Still Life' were published in *The Independent Weekly* in the Oct 24-30, 2008 and the Jan 30-Feb 5, 2009 issues.

**Scott Zarcinas's** nonfiction book, *Your Natural State of Being*, will be published by Ink Stone Press and available in the bookstores around Australia, New Zealand, South East Asia and China in June 2009.

**March 27: Grenfell Henry Lawson Festival of Arts Competition ☺●**

Verse and short story competition. Total prize money of \$3725. Six classes of verse and four classes of short story. Details at <http://grenfell.org.au/henrylawsonfestival/>

**March 30: 2009 Fish Poetry Prize ☺●**

Judge is Peter Fallon, poet and poetry publisher at Gallery Press. The best five poems will be published in the 2009 Fish Anthology. First Prize is £500 and £100 each for the four runners-up. Entry online is £12. Entry by post is £15 to Fish Poetry Prize, Durrus, Bantry, Co Cork, Ireland. For all details, and on-line entry, go to [www.fishpublishing.com](http://www.fishpublishing.com)

**March 31: The Best of Times Short Story Competition #7**

For humorous short stories (any theme) up to 2500 words. Cash prizes for first, second and third place. No entry form is required. Include a cover sheet with your name and address, story title and word count. Entry fee is \$5 per story. Send a cheque or money order made out to Chris Broadribb or if you have a PayPal account, you can pay [cabbook-7@yahoo.com.au](mailto:cabbook-7@yahoo.com.au). Post your entry to Chris Broadribb, PO Box 55, Blaxcell NSW 2142 or email it to [cabbook-7@yahoo.com.au](mailto:cabbook-7@yahoo.com.au). work. Competition webpage: [www.geocities.com/spiky\\_one/comp7.html](http://www.geocities.com/spiky_one/comp7.html)

**March 31: Kernewek Lowender Writers' Competition ★☞**

Theme is 'A Voice from the Grave'. Entry fee is \$5 for first entry, \$2.50 each for

subsequent entries. Adult short story up to 2500 words and adult poetry up to 50 lines. Prize money \$100 each. Young writers: 12-18 yrs, max 2500 words. (\$50 prize) Under 12, 1000 words (\$25). Young poets: 12-18 yrs, to 50 lines (\$50). Under 12, to 30 lines (\$25).

**March 31: Bristol Short Story Prize ●**

For short stories on any theme or subject. Entries must be previously unpublished with a maximum length of 3000 words. Entry fee: £7 per story. 1st Prize: £500 plus £150 Waterstone's gift card. 2nd Prize: £350 plus £100 Waterstone's gift card. 3rd Prize: £200 plus £100 Waterstone's gift card. Winner also published in Bristol's *Review of Books* magazine. To enter visit [www.bristolprize.co.uk](http://www.bristolprize.co.uk)

**March 31: Jane Austen Short Story Award ☺●**

Short stories up to 2500 words inspired by the work of Jane Austen. First prize of £1000; two runner-up awards of £200. All three finalists will also win a week's writing retreat at Chawton House in Hampshire, UK. There will also be an anthology of the best work published. Full details and entry forms at <http://www.chawton.org/news/competition.html>

**April 10: Woorilla Annual Poetry Prize ★**

Judged by Judith Rodriguez. Open Section: Prize \$1000; Youth Section: Prize \$100. Poem by Yarra Ranges/ Cardinia Shire residents: Prize: stay in Melbourne. Entry fee: \$5 (\$3 youth) per poem or (\$20/\$10 for 5 poems). Conditions of entry: poems must be typed and on A4 paper,

one poem to a sheet; poems 50 lines or fewer -- neither published nor won a prize; coversheet attached with name, address, tel. no. and section entered; do not put name on poems; include a SSAE for notification. Send entries and fee to: Woorilla Magazine, 255 Macclesfield Rd, Macclesfield, Vic 3782.

**April 10: Alpha 2 Omega Short Story and Poetry competition 2009 ☺**

All entries should adhere to the theme: Contrasts. Short stories up to 2000 words. Cost is \$5 per entry (or 3 entries for \$12). 1st Prize is \$150 plus book package, Runners-up receive \$25. Poetry up to 40-line limit. Cost is \$3 per entry (or 4 for \$10). 1st Prize is \$100 plus book package, Runners-up receive \$15. A short biography of the writer would be appreciated with your entry. No entry form required but see [www.writerlynks-grow.com](http://www.writerlynks-grow.com) or [www.alpha2omega.com.au](http://www.alpha2omega.com.au) for all details or contact [lynhurry@bigpond.com](mailto:lynhurry@bigpond.com) or [heartsease@powerup.com.au](mailto:heartsease@powerup.com.au).

**April 20: Australian Prison Foundation Writing Competition ☺●**

For work of fiction either short story, poem or play. All prize-winning stories will be used to create promotional material for the 2009 Campaign for Prisoner Library Services. Writing and poetry entries may be posted to PO Box 490, Chadstone, VIC 3148 or e-mailed to [prisonfoundation@email.com](mailto:prisonfoundation@email.com). Go to [www.freewebs.com/australianprisonfoundation](http://www.freewebs.com/australianprisonfoundation) for more details.

**April 23: Positive Words Short Story and Poetry Competition 2009 ☺☞**

Open Short Story, up to 2000 words. Open Poetry, up to 48 lines. Entry fee is \$3.30 per entry (or 4 entries for \$11.00). Cheques, money orders or the equivalent in unused stamps (55cent or \$1.10 preferred) will be accepted as payment. Please make cheques payable to S. L. James or Rainbow Press. First Prize is \$100, Second Prize is twelve months subscription to *Positive Words*. All entries should be accompanied by an entry form.

Please note: competitions are listed in order of closing date  
★ For more youth competitions go to [www.wordbox.bravehost.com](http://www.wordbox.bravehost.com)

**Key**

- ☺ competition listed for the first time
- ★ competition with sections for young writers
- ☞ SA Writers' Centre holds the entry forms
- the entry form is available on the Internet

**Entry Forms**

The SAWC holds some entry forms and guidelines for members. Call in and collect copies for 20c each or send one business-sized stamped self-addressed envelope, plus one loose 50c stamp for every TWO competitions requested.

# Membership Application Form

SA Writers' Centre Inc PO Box 43 Rundle Mall 5000 ABN 40 783 458 265 Ph (08) 8223 7662 Fax (08) 8232 3994 Email: sawriters@sawc.org.au

Name/Organisation .....   
Address .....   
Suburb/Town .....  Postcode .....

Telephone..... Fax ..... Email .....

\$125/\$88 organisation (inc GST)  Renew  
 \$65 waged (inc GST)  New  
 \$38 student/healthcare cardholder (inc GST)  Concession number .....

Method of payment:  Cheque/money order attached  Bankcard  Mastercard  Visa  
Credit card number | \_ \_ \_ \_ | \_ \_ \_ \_ | \_ \_ \_ \_ | \_ \_ \_ \_ | Expiry date ....  
Cardholder's name ..... Cardholder's signature ..... Date of application.....  
(Please enclose a SSAE for return of receipt and membership card. If a tax invoice is required, please tick )

[FOR OFFICE USE ONLY: Rec No: ..... Rec Date: ..... On database: .....

If undelivered please return to:  
SA Writers' Centre Inc  
PO Box 43  
Rundle Mall SA 5000



**Southern Write**  
**March 2009**

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## SA Writers' Centre Inc

To foster South Australian writing, by raising the profile of authors and offering opportunities for writers through a program of professional development, support and community association

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*Southern Write*: Rachel Hennessy  
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### Opening Hours

10am-5pm Monday to Friday  
2nd Floor, 187 Rundle Street, Adelaide  
Wheelchair/lift access available at  
26 York Street (rear entrance) or  
through Caffe Brunelli

### Volunteers/Consultants/Support

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Government of South Australia  
Arts SA



The SA Writers' Centre is assisted by the Australian Government through the Australia Council, its arts funding and advisory body.