

Successful Self-publishing Seminar

Sunday 15 June 10am – 1pm

with writers **Jill Gloyne, Bruce Lindsay and Jennie Opie;**
& **Stephanie Luke** from Seaview Press

Bruce Lindsay will talk about marketing and publishing your own nonfiction book. 'Use a good quality published book as your model. Note the attractiveness of its font, its layout, its binding, its dust-wrapper. Observe its correct spelling, grammar and syntax. Note that it is written in a style which is easy rather than challenging for the reader.' Bruce has edited and self-published the book *Harmony of the Soul* in 1996 and researched and wrote *Chamberlain Australian Innovator* which he self-published in 2007.



At the age of sixty, **Jennie Opie** retired from her profession as a design-winning Interior Architect and with her husband went to live in their unlined corrugated iron beach shack at Pondalowie Bay at the bottom of Yorke Peninsula. She wanted to write and paint. *Simple Truths*, published by Axiom in 2005, and *Gathering Driftwood*, self-published with Lulu.com in 2007 are the result. Another

book, *Crazy Love*, is in the pipeline. In 2007, the discovery of Lulu.com enabled Jennie to self-publish *Gathering Driftwood*. She became her own publisher as she formatted her manuscript on her computer. At the seminar she will share this free method of getting one's writing into print, explaining the process and her own experience. She will also demonstrate another inexpensive self-publishing effort she used twenty years ago.



Jill Gloyne has successfully self-published books of short stories, poetry and local history, sometimes on her own and sometimes with the Dudley Writers' Group on Kangaroo Island. She has also had a small collection of poetry published by Wakefield Press. She has won numerous awards for her writing and been published in various anthologies. Her book of short stories, *The Nautilus Shell ... and other tales* has sold over 1500 copies. Jill will talk on what to do to self-publish successfully, and also what not to do. She will also speak on her experience of promoting both herself and her work. This does not come easily to writers but it is necessary to do if you want to sell your work. To conclude, she will compare the financial results of being published by a mainstream publisher and by self-publishing.

Stephanie Luke, the graphic designer at Seaview Press, will talk briefly about the self-publishing process at the firm and the kinds of genres and authors that are suited to self-publishing. Seaview Press began 13 years ago to provide attractive low-cost books for self-publishers. It specialises in non-fiction including: biographies; autobiographies; histories and family histories; religious; spiritual; and health books. It also produces some fiction, particularly poetry. Seaview Press has now produced nearly 600 titles for South Australian, interstate and overseas authors.

Cost: \$60 for SAWC members; \$80 non-members.
Bookings on 8223 6772 or through www.sawc.org.au

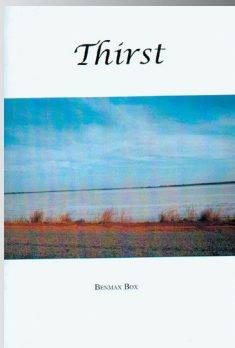
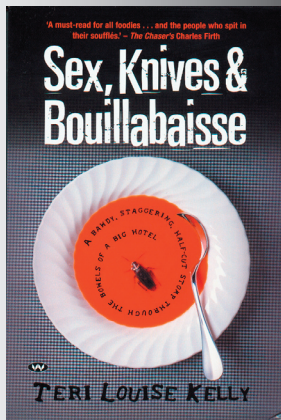
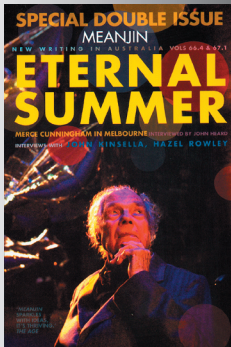
Regina Hona's entry in the 2008 Archibald Prize: 'Read My Mind': award-winning Melbourne children's author Krista Bell



Krista Bell to speak at the SAWC'S 2008 AGM

Krista Bell is the award-winning author of 22 books for young readers and her latest picture book, *Lofty's Mission*, was published in March 2008 by Lothian Books (Hachette Livre). The story is based on the historical fact that home-bred racing pigeons flew for the Australian Army in New Guinea during the Second World War. Krista, who lives in Melbourne, is so passionate about books that she once owned a bookshop in Sydney, was an ABC Radio book reviewer for fifteen years and now travels extensively around Australia giving talks and writing workshops to students and adults. Krista's revolutionary concept 'BookSpeak' is a unique adult book club held in school or public libraries to extend parents' knowledge of children's literature and to help create a reading culture in the local community. Krista will speak after the SAWC AGM reports on Tuesday May 13 at 7 for a 7.30pm start. Join us for \$5 Pizza at 6.30, if you like.

Centre Information



So Very Resourceful

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

Wakefield Press, *Sex, Knives &*

Bouillabaisse by Teri Louise Kelly, 2008

Owen Carmichael, *Thirst*, Vol 2. Issue 2, 2008

Meanjin, *Eternal Summer*, Vols 66.4 & 67.1, 2008

The Poetry and Poetics Centre and the University of South Australia, *Vibrant: Poems and symposium papers presented at the Poetry and Poetics Symposium, Adelaide, April 2008*, edited by Guro Nygard and Nikki Carter.

The Centre also received the latest issues of *Lowdown Magazine*, and all State Writers' Centre newsletters. Thanks also to **Pam McKee** who donated a handbell from Buenos Aires. The SAWC has never had one of these before and meetings may never be the same again. Keep an eye and an ear out for it at the AGM.

Volunteer Position

The SAWC is looking for an 'odd jobs' person who can occasionally help out around the place – hanging pictures, banging nails etc. If you think you're odd enough, please call the Centre on 8223 7662 and tell us what you can do.

Newsletter Folders

Thanks to the following people who helped to fold the April newsletter:

Laurie Anderson, Jo Dey, John and Coie Dikkenberg, Barbara Fraser, Jeanne Mazure, Janos Pogany, Gay Sanderson, Peter Swindon and Joanna Goldsworthy.

Adelaide PEN

Adelaide PEN is part of International PEN, a worldwide organisation that rallies for the release of imprisoned writers, and for the right of free speech. Adelaide PEN hold events to raise the awareness of persecuted writers, the also sends letters to governments and cards to prisoners. As a non-profit organisation, Adelaide PEN is grateful for new members and for donations of money or books. There is a second-hand book box at the SA Writers' Centre, which is an ongoing source of funds for Adelaide PEN. If you have any books to donate, please bring them in and give them to Jude. If you would like more information about Adelaide PEN, please call the Centre.

From the Front Desk

The front desk has been buzzing with activity lately. It's great to see so many new members joining and also some new groups, such as the Tarot Writers and a new crime writing group. There have been plenty of exciting book launches and workshops too. If you haven't got your SA Writers' Centre t-shirt please place your order. These smart black and red shirts are available in a range of sizes for \$25. We also have copies of *The Australian Writers' Marketplace* for sale at \$44 and the invaluable *Handbook for SA Writers* at \$20. Please phone or email Jude if you have any questions.

Welcome David Conyers to the Team

David Conyers is the SAWC's new Communications Officer. He has had extensive experience in marketing for organisations such as the Australian Submarine Corporation, BHP Billiton and TAFE. He is also a writer of science fiction whose publications are found in numerous anthologies in Australia, the US & UK. He ran a 'Dark Speculative Fiction' workshop for the SAWC in 2007.

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. Although advertising material is accepted for this newsletter, such acceptance does not imply endorsement by the Centre.



Wheelchair/
lift access
is available at
the 26 York
Street rear
entrance.



Alternatively, come in from Rundle Street via Buongiorno's Caffe to reach the lift.

May Workshops

Writing Short Biographies

Tom Mann

This workshop will explore the nature and value of writing a short biography. Through interactive sessions the participants will learn how to select material, interview people and access other sources of information. It will also help develop writing skills, covering elements of theme, structure, style, the use of dialogue and the inclusion of anecdotes and photos. The aim is to distil the essence of a life story and make it a treasured item of remembrance. Participants will be encouraged to share in the prospect of writing a short biography.



After twenty years as a lecturer in agricultural science, **Tom Mann** has continued writing with more time on his hands and with a special interest in biographies. He is currently working on a number of short biographies as well as a full-length one. His publications include *Desert Sorrow*, *Launching Out in Faith*, *Grandmother's Little Book* and short biographies.

Saturday 31 May, 2 – 5pm

Poetry: Plot and Presence

Jan Owen

Situation, plot and tone in poetry will be discussed and various strategies provided to move the poem forward from perception or first spark. Incident and story, an exploration of memory and the working through of a thought plot are some of the pathways to be tried. The momentum of interest and writer-reader rapport rely on the 'vertical axis' of the poem, the mind field or presence of the writer, so voice and tone control will also be considered. Examples will be presented from a wide range of poets and time will be allowed for exercises and feedback.



Jan Owen is an Adelaide poet whose sixth book of verse, *Poems 1980 – 2008*, was recently published by John Leonard Press. She has worked as a librarian, editor and teacher, and has been a writer-in-residence in Venice, Rome, Paris and Malaysia. Awards for her poetry include the Wesley Michel Wright Poetry Prize, the Gwen Harwood Poetry Prize and the Max Harris Award.

Saturday 31 May, 10am – 1pm

June Workshops

Researching a Life Story

Kristin Weidenbach

This workshop will examine the 'behind the scenes' toil that makes an absorbing biography, autobiography or memoir. Oral histories versus archival research; following leads; making the best use of your interview time; adding 'colour' to your story; and fact checking will be discussed, along with how much of 'you' to put in the story. Participants will have the opportunity to practise and evaluate some of these techniques by constructing a short bio of a contemporary figure.



Kristin Weidenbach is the author of *Mailman of the Birdsville Track: the Story of Tom Kruse* which has had sales of over 90,000 and is currently in its 20th printing since publication in 2003. She has just completed her second book, *Rock Star: the Story of Reg Sprigg*, to be published in 2008. She is a PhD immunologist who switched to a writing career after completing postdoctoral research at Stanford University in

California. After seven years living in America, Kristin currently lives and writes in Adelaide.

Sun 15 June 2 – 5pm

Cost: \$55 for SA Writers' Centre members. \$77 for non-members.
Bookings on 8223 7662, sawriters@sawc.org.au or through www.sawc.org.au

An insider's view on the picture book!

Sascha Hutchinson

The aim of this session is to expand knowledge of the picture book genre and to inspire, and assist students with some structure as to how they are able to take an initial concept further. In the first part of the workshop Sascha will share her work as a children's book author/illustrator and discuss elements she has found to be successful in her own picture books. She will then describe the diversity in the picture book of today, and ways in which creatively this offers much greater scope and possibilities for authors and illustrators. In the final part of the session, Sascha will focus on the needs and questions of participants who are considering taking their own picture book ideas further.



Sascha Hutchinson has been working as a children's book author/illustrator since 1994. Her first picture book, *Snap!* by Marcia Vaughan, was published by Omnibus Books, shortlisted for the Crichton Award for Illustration, and later published in the US by Scholastic. Other well-known titles include *Pig Out!*, *Little Duck* and *Counting Clues*. Sascha's most recent book, *See Me Move!*, was selected

by *The Advertiser* Little Big Book Club to be published as the winning entry for 2008 and will be distributed in a free reading pack to all new parents in South Australia in 2008. For more information about Sascha's work please visit: www.saschahutchinson.com.au

Sun 15 June 2 – 5pm

What's On



PoeticA

Presented by Mike Ladd, Saturday at 3.05pm, repeated 3.05pm on Thursdays.

Program details for May:

Poetica continues its season on the poetry, prose and music of the Seven Deadly Sins.

- 3rd Greed – arranged and produced by Libby Douglas.
- 10th Pride – arranged and produced by Jane Ulman.
- 17th Lust – arranged and produced by Anna Messariti.
- 24th Best of the Adelaide Festival Writers' Week – highlights from the poetry read at this year's Writers' Week, including Paul Durcan, Bill Manhire and David Malouf.
- 31st T.A.G Hungerford – a selection of Hungerford's poems read by Jack Thompson.

Book Launch

Jodi Picoult will be launching her latest bestseller *Change of Heart* on Tuesday, 13 May, 2008, 7pm to 8.30pm at Greater Union Cinema No. 30. (Marion Megaplex). Book signing follows. Tickets \$9 per person. Payment required at the time of booking. Tickets are available from Angus and Robertson Bookstore at Marion, phone 8298 3032. Proudly hosted by the Marion Library Service, and Angus and Robertson Bookstore, Marion.

FRIENDLY ST. POETS INC.

Meeting Tuesday May 6th. Friendly Street Poets meet at the SAWC from 6.30pm for a 7pm start. Please remember each poet has only 4 minutes reading time, which includes any introductions. The Guest Reader for May is Janine Baker, one of our three poets published in the New Poet Series: *New Poets 13*. This book was highly praised by acclaimed poet John Kinsella at its Writers' Week launch. Cost: \$4 entry with free wine, juices and ice cold water.

Speculative Fiction Group

Ad Astra Speculative Fiction Writing Group is now accepting new members. To be considered, please send a sample of your writing to Katherine Phelps: muse@glasswings.com.au Please keep a copy of your work, as submissions will not be returned.

Beatnik's Art Cafe

Musicians Club and Art Lovers '1st Friday of the Month' (Open Mike) Come, tell a joke, poetry, sing, dance? Make new friend, be entertained? Gold coin entry. Open 8.30 till late. 17 Bagster Road Salisbury North. Contact Tina on 0422 328 209.

Henley Scribblers

New members are welcome to join us at the Henley Community Centre, 196A Military Rd., Henley Beach, on alternate Monday mornings (9.30 - 11.30). The next fortnightly meeting will be on May 12. Enquiries to Lettie (am only) 8356 7812 or Clare 8347 4593.

Sunday With SAWT

A script-in-hand performance of a new play, *Final Round*, by Ross Barrett. When: Sunday 4 May starting at 1pm Where: Holden Street Theatre, Hindmarsh (next to Hindmarsh Stadium). Admission: \$10 (pay at door). Includes soup, buttered roll, guest speaker and the performance. Ample free car parking at theatre.

Sunday Workshop

Workshop of a new play, *Draw the Line*, by Meg Roberts When: Sunday 18 May from 2pm - 5pm Where: SA Writers' Centre, 2nd Floor, 187 Rundle Street, Adelaide Admission: Free. All welcome

General Meeting

The meeting will commence with ten-minute readings of new work by playwrights followed by the reading of two new plays; *Boiled Cabbage*, by Tony Moore and *Sounds of Silence* by Peter Burke.

When: Wednesday 21 May from 7pm Where: SA Writers' Centre. All welcome For more information please go to www.sawt.org.au

North-Eastern Writers

The next meeting will be held on Thursday the 15th of May from 7.30pm-9.30pm at the Tea Tree Gully Memorial Hall. Our guest speaker this month will be Helen Lindstrom. All welcome. Enquiries to Ken 8380 5348 or Sharon 0403 831170.

Campbelltown Friends of the Library Literary Lunch

To be held on May 29 at the Volunteers Centre, Anderson Court, Newton (directly behind the Campbelltown Library on Montacute Road). The guest speaker is Sandra Lindemann on the subject 'Relationships that develop between biographer and subject, plus the ethics of writing biographies'. Lunch will commence at 1pm with hot soup and crusty bread. Donation \$5. RSVP on 8336 1220.

Grant Seekers Theatre Meetings

These meetings are specifically for individuals and groups who have developed a project idea and who intend to apply to the Theatre Board's grants programs. Meet with staff from the Theatre Board in Adelaide on Wednesday 14 May. Meetings will be held at Arts SA, West's Coffee Palace, 110 Hindley Street, Adelaide. For more information about these meetings and our grants program, please visit <http://www.australiacouncil.gov.au/grants/theatre> Alternatively, contact the Theatre Board on 1800 226 912 (toll free) or email theatre@australiacouncil.gov.au to make an appointment.

Evil Play Reading

A staged reading of a new play, *Evil*, adapted by Leslie Jacobson from the novel of the same name written by Diane Bell, will take place on Friday, May 16th, at 4:30 p.m. in the Third Floor Music Studio at the Adelaide Centre for the Arts, 39 Light Square, Adelaide. A discussion with the actors, the playwright and the author of the novel will immediately follow the reading. There is no admission charge for the performance. However, to reserve a seat and for further information, contact: lesliej@gwu.edu or mobile number: 0431-952-218.

The Society of Editors

The Society of Editors (SA) is devoting its next meeting on Tuesday 20 May at the SA Writers' Centre to a question-and-answer session about the first Australian editing exam, to be run by the national body for editors, the Institute of Professional Editors (IPEd). Candidates will be able to sit for the exam in Adelaide. The session will be run by Karen Disney, the current chair of the national IPEd Accreditation Board. The other South Australian assessors, Kathie Stove, Celia Jellett and Susan Rintoul, will be there to provide the latest information and answer questions. This is a free session, of interest to all editors and those thinking of entering the profession.

Open House

Stephen House's latest play *Borrowed Time* begins rehearsal in June and opens at the Bakehouse Theatre at the end of July. To follow on from the SA Writers' Centre's successful open rehearsals, playwright House and the highly experienced team of actors are making this offer again. Beginning Tuesday June 10th until Tuesday July 15th (every Tuesday), the team invite you to observe a professional theatre group at work. The 'In-House' rehearsal session runs from 3.00 pm - 4.00 pm. It is not an interactive session – more

a chance for you to sit back and watch the process of making theatre unfold. No bookings are required and it is free!

Emerging Writers' Festival

The fifth Emerging Writers' Festival is to be held from Friday 9 May to Sunday 11 May, 2008 at the Melbourne Town Hall and in Federation Square.

Download the 2008 program at <http://www.emergingwritersfestival.org/>

As in previous years, the Festival will present a weekend of panels, performances, readings and workshops featuring the best Australian writers you haven't heard of... yet.

2008 Romance Roadshow is Ready to Roll!

Romance Writers Australia is taking romance on the road! If you live in SA then make sure you take advantage of the inaugural one-day Romance Roadshow events in Adelaide on Saturday May 17th. Anne Gracie, Marion Lennox and Trish Morey will be headlining a programme that also makes the most of our local author talent. The Adelaide event will be held at the SA Writers' Centre. The bargain price of \$100 per head includes lunch, morning and afternoon teas. Partners are welcome and it should be a great way to wind down after a hard day's conferencing. For

enquiries, please contact Trish Morey at trish@trishmorey.com

Mile Franklin short-listed authors set to tour South Australia

The short-listed authors up for Australia's most prestigious literary prize, the Miles Franklin, will tour South Australia in May. David Brooks (*The Fern Tattoo*, University of Queensland Press), Steven Carroll (*The Time We Have Taken*, Fourth Estate), Rodney Hall (*Love without Hope*, Picador), Gail Jones (*Sorry*, Vintage) and Alex Miller (*Landscape of Farewell*, Allen & Unwin), can be seen and heard at:

- City of Burnside Library, Burnside on Monday 26 May, 6:45pm for 7:00pm
- Riverview Room, Berri Resort Hotel, Berri, Tuesday on 27 May, 6:45pm for 7:00pm
- The Clare Sports Club at The Valleys Lifestyle Centre, Clare on Thursday 29 May, 6:30pm for 7:00pm
- Old Redemption Cellar, Peter Lehmann Wines. Barossa on Friday 30 May, 6:30pm for 7:00pm.

The three-year touring program launched in 2007 is made possible through the financial support of the Australian copyright management company, Copyright Agency Limited (CAL).

ASA Comics/Graphic Novel Portfolio

The Australian Society of Authors (ASA) recently formed a Comics/Graphic Novels Portfolio – an advocacy group that aims to provide industry support to Australian artists and writers currently working in the comics medium and, in particular, the graphic novel format.

The major objectives of the Portfolio are to:

- (1) Protect and promote the professional interests of comics creators (both writers and artists);
- (2) Form a professional community of active members who operate in this specialist discipline; and
- (3) Liaise and cross-pollinate ideas with like-minded Australian and overseas organisations whose focus is on the promotion of the comics art form.

Dr Jeremy Fisher, ASA Executive Director, says, 'The ASA wants to actively support a neglected (and often vulnerable) group of literary creators in the Australian comics/graphic novels community who have never had the opportunity to be part of a professional association or been exposed to prior formal or consistent intellectual property rights education before'.

Dual portfolio holders Jozef Szekeres (artist) and Julie Ditrich (writer) of Black Mermaid Productions (www.blackmermaid.com) who contended with their own legal challenges by a US comics publisher several years ago, proposed the idea for the portfolio because they wanted to prevent Australian comics creators from signing away their intellectual property rights. Julie Ditrich says, 'Several years ago the ASA contract advisor saved 22 of our original characters from extermination and being absorbed into an intellectual property owned by our then publisher, by insisting our contract contain a reversion of rights clause. We now want to return the favour to Australian comics creators and hopefully prevent them from going through a five year legal battle like we did'.

Opportunities

Book Proposals Welcome

Brand new niche publisher Nuhouse Press is calling for proposals from would-be authors. The publisher opened for business in April with two brand new titles already rolling off the presses and will also distribute and sell books published elsewhere. Nonfiction book proposals can be sent to Nuhouse Press via email@nuhousepress.com or visit the website for further information www.nuhousepress.com

The Melted Rubber Humans ...

are looking for mp3 files of spoken word/poetry readings (either live or studio) to be incorporated in a series of albums of ambient/ experimental music. They are looking for poetry which deals with the following topics:

1. God/ the Goddess/ spirituality
2. sex/ gender/ sexuality
3. power/ politics/ corruption
4. love/ want/ need
5. fear/ despair/ greed.

Poetry with a rich, interesting and/or experimental approach to the use of language and especially those read with voices that reflect the feeling of the poem are wanted. The plan is to select lines or verses from poems and to blend them into a sound-collage – a musical equivalent to the art of the Dadaists. The finished albums will be posted at http://www.virb.com/melted_rubber_humans and will be available for free download. Poems can either be submitted by email or snail mail.

Email submissions are limited to one mp3 file with a 2Mb maximum file size and should be sent to shooglemail@googlemail.com with "FAO: Captain Melted" in the subject line. There are no file size limitations for snail mail submissions. These should be sent on CD to Dee Sunshine, 35 Falkland Street (0/1), Glasgow, G12 9QZ, United Kingdom. There is no deadline as this will be an ongoing project. Further information about The Melted Rubber Humans can be found at www.myspace.com/captainmelted

The 2008 The Australian/Vogel Literary Award

This year the winner of the award will win \$50,000 – a once-off increase from last year's \$20,000 in honour of sponsor

Vogels 50th anniversary operating in Australia. The website has a wealth of information including a list of past winners, review quotes for previous books which have won and also quotes from authors who have won the award in the past about what this award has meant to them and their career. <http://www.allenandunwin.com/vogelawards>

\$25,000 Kit Denton Fellowship 2008: Call for Applications

Applications are now open for the annual \$25,000 Kit Denton Fellowship, presented by the Australian Writers' Foundation (AWF) with the generous support of Zapruders' Other Films. The Kit Denton Fellowship, named in honour of the late father of media personality Andrew Denton, is to reward courage and excellence in performance writing and allows a writer to develop a project to be ready to present to the market.

Kit Denton, a life member of the Australian Writers' Guild, was a scriptwriter, author, poet and lyricist. He is best known for *The Breaker*, his international best selling novel about the trial and execution of Breaker Morant. The criterion of the Fellowship was suggested by Andrew to reflect the courage and creativity of Kit's own work. The Kit Denton Fellowship demonstrates the continued commitment of the AWF to increasing opportunities for satisfying and rewarding work for Australian performance writers and to encouraging and promoting the excellence of Australian performance writers.

Applications for the Fellowship close 9 May 2008 with the Fellow to be announced at the 41st Annual AWGIE Awards in Melbourne on 15 August 2008. For details on how to apply go to www.awg.com.au

Call for short stories - GettingHitched.com.au

Online publishing company, Online Encounters Pty Ltd, is seeking short fiction submissions for the website GettingHitched.com.au. Stories must be about relationships – marriage, de facto relationships, gay and lesbian relationships, divorce, dating, being single – but they can be written in any genre. Word count: Stories must be between 200 and 2,000 words. Payment:

\$45 for stories accepted for publication. For more information visit: <http://www.gettinghitched.com.au/fiction>

Verandah 23

Closing date 1st June
Verandah is a literary annual produced by Deakin University. Past contributors have included Seamus Heaney, Les Murray and Dorothy Porter, but Verandah also prides itself on providing an avenue for emerging writers and artists. They accept short stories, poetry, scripts, creative non-fiction, art and photography. Please refer to our submission guidelines at: www.deakin.edu.au/arts-ed/verandah-res/

All submissions are entered into their sponsor awards, which include the Matthew Rocca Poetry Prize (\$250) and several other awards to the value of \$200 each. Submissions by current Deakin students are free; otherwise, a \$5 fee (or three submissions for \$10) applies. Verandah 23 will be launched at the Melbourne Writers' Festival in August.

Positive Words Magazine ...

is seeking submissions of poetry and prose for upcoming issues of the monthly magazine, especially work on the theme - Houses. Send submissions and SSAE for response to the Editor, Sandra Lynn James, 466 Old Melbourne Road, Traralgon 3844 Victoria. Sample copies of the magazine, which aims to encourage new and experienced writers, can be obtained from the editor by sending \$2.00 in unused stamps.

holland1945 ...

seeks non-mainstream, electronic submissions of text and images. Issue one closes midnight May 30th. For much more info please e-mail editors@holland1945.net.au or visit our website www.holland1945.net.au

Adelaide PEN Creative nonfiction Competition

The winner will receive a cash prize of \$100 and publication in *Wet Ink* in the December 2008 issue. Entries of creative nonfiction on the theme of 'Caging the Pen': censorship in Australia'. 3000 words maximum, no minimum length. Closing date 30 July 2008. More info from the SAWC.

News and Views

Dear Ed,

Given that the lifeblood of cinema is the storyline before all else, that the powers that be are actively pursuing the rebuilding of the SA Film Corp, and that wonderful local scriptwriters like Andrew Bovell should have huge successes, I would have thought our Writers' Week would be an ideal and important showcase for local talent to a wider market. Could I be wrong, or should those running Writers' Week have a re-think?

Russell Starke

Dear Editor,

I heartily agree with Stephen Orr's letter, (*Southern Write*, April 2008), especially his remarks about Colin Thiele and the official absence of the SA Writers' Centre at Writers' Week.

Colin Thiele must surely be one of SA's most influential writers, not only because he reached so many children, but also because of his influence on those training at Wattle Park Teachers' College. As if it wasn't bad enough to have his death overshadowed by those of Steve Irwin and Peter Brock, to miss such an ideal opportunity to honour him for the great and gentle man he was is unforgivable. Much could have been made of it. In the literary world there are few writers as prolific and accessible as this man.

As for the SA Writers' Centre, I remember many years ago when they did man a table outside the Book Tent at Writers' Week. It created a great deal of interest, especially amongst the young. Anyone who has anything to do with writing (in any form) knows how invaluable this Centre is and how it has expanded over the years because it is doing exactly what it was established to do: helping writers and publicising writing. Perhaps if people like Rose Wight (Executive Producer Writers' Week) or Rick Hosking (Advisory Committee) were approached soon, the Centre could once more put in an official appearance in 2010.

Jill Gloyne

Dear Editor

Stephen Orr's letter in *Southern Write*, April, 2008 explained much to me. Over the years, I've been confused by the lack of local names on the guest list (indeed, sorry to say, I often don't recognise the names—who are they? A quick search of the internet at least reveals their publishing credits and origins). I believe Writers' Week for Adelaide is important. But what exactly IS the purpose of Writers' Week? Is it to promote local talent (and there is SO much talent here in SA and Australia! – talent and success that is often ignored). Is it to raise the profile of writing as a whole – regardless of genre? Is it to allow readers and authors access to 'big names' in modern literature? I have never been to Writers' Week, due mainly to the distance I have to travel to Adelaide to attend. I'm also a commercial fiction genre author – my work has reached best-seller lists in a local bookshop – but in some literary circles all this means 'nothing' because of the genres in which I write and I've grown tired of 'justifying' my work. We're possibly not going to be Booker Prize Winners, but we take our writing and our craft seriously and would expect that all writing events and organisations respect our work. The idea that the SA Writers' Centre is excluded from the event is alarming. The SAWC has always been supportive of all writers whatever the genre, whatever their method of publication. As Stephen states: 'Let's not have an 'us and them' battle ...' I agree! Divided, no one benefits. But if I'm going to have to choose, then SAWC wins my support – because it works tirelessly without discrimination for all authors ... Thankyou SAWC!

'Ms Genre'
name and address supplied.

Dear Editor,

I'd like to say a few things in response to Mr Orr's letter on Writer's Week published in the April 2008 newsletter. As a young, budding author, I feel there is a good mix of opportunities in Adelaide for emerging writers to share their work, though, of

course, there can always be more. Even in this mix, however, we are constantly vying for a position in the spotlight and I don't particularly wish for yet another event, especially a major one like Writer's Week, to be one of these as well. I like it as it is – full of my literary heroes, of people who have made it in the authorial world and who can share their tips and advice with people like myself, or be an enjoyable hour or so for the readers in the crowd. Does it really matter who the people in the audience are? Isn't it just a great thing to see so many people turn up to listen to writers and share the love of books? If we didn't have a good dose of international and 'big name' authors attend WW, when would we get a chance to hear them? And I don't think we were completely doused with international acts, thirty-nine of the sixty authors who attended this year were Australian.

As for the organisers themselves, I don't know all of the names on the list but I know a few and I know that they are writers themselves, encouraging of young talent, and avid readers. I doubt trying to cater to the 'elitist ... well-educated, well-off minority'. I am unaware of how many people in the writing community share Mr Orr's view of WW, and so I don't wish to appear as though I don't respect what he is saying; I just wanted to share my view of the event because I look forward to it tremendously and it is a goal of mine to be invited to attend one day as a successful author. I do not mind in the least that it is full of well-known names because it gives me a chance to go along without feeling pressured to compete in the market, gives me something to aspire to and is enjoyable and inspiring to attend. I can only suggest that Mr Orr start his own version of WW to include the unknown and emerging names he wishes to see there.

Yours sincerely,
Claire Clements

Congratulations...

Congratulations to **Professor Nicholas Jose** who has been appointed as next year's Chair of Australian Studies at Harvard University.

Stephen House's play *The Yum Yum Room*, commissioned by City Of Mount Gambier in 2006, recently received full funding for a premiere community production in Mount Gambier. House has been engaged to direct the youth play and also is performing a role in the new work.

Graham Rowlands' poem 'The Future' was published in *Famous Reporter* and his poems 'The Face' and 'Getting to Sleep' were published in *The Mozzie*.

Valerie May's poem 'Fanciful Fleece' was published in *Positive Words*.

M.L. Emmett's poems 'Slaughter Circle' and 'Turkish Smyrna' were both published in the 30th Anniversary edition of *Social Alternatives* and 'The Blue Tit' was published in *The Mozzie*.

Jennifer Benkhauser's short story 'Trail Blazing Days' and her poem 'The Prey' were both published in *Positive Words*.

Janeen Brian's *Columbia Sneezes!* A picture book, illustrated by Gabe Cunnett was recently published by Omnibus/Scholastic. *Stuck!* A picture book, illustrated by Sadami Konchi was published by Paddlepop Press for Rigby/Pearson Australia Group. Her poems 'All it takes' and 'Shadow On the Wall' were published in *Comet Magazine*, and her story 'An

Extra Passenger', was published by *Explore Magazine*.

Owen Carmichael's short story 'The Inner Man' was published in *34th Parallel Online* in April.

Jill McDougall's novel *Jinxed!* has just been released by Walker Books Australia. Her poem 'Aunt Sally Says' appeared in the March edition of *Countdown School Magazine*.

Jill Gloyne's poem 'Springtime in Melbourne' has been published in *Five Bells*, Summer 2007-2008.

John Griffin had two poems 'Derelict Bridge-Willochra Plain' and 'The Worst of Drought' broadcast on the ABC in the PoeticA program on drought.

Dane Nielsen had a two-page spread of poems called 'Lost Years' published in *The Write Angle*.

Gwenda Jeffrey's story 'Once long ago' was published in *I Remember When*, Volume 2 (A collection of memories) published by Legacy Books in 2007.

Adrian Flavell had the following poems published: 'her love', 'by the Torrens' and 'a veteran' in *Polestar*; 'she is a driftnet' and 'the domestic' in *Thirst*. 'road kill' was published in *LiNQ*.

Lidija Šimkute's poetry in English and Lithuanian from her cycle 'Ocean Hum' will be used by Australian composer Margery Smith in her composition for voice, flute and piano. It will be premiered at the Sydney Conservatorium by the Grenvillea ensemble. Poetry publications in Lithuanian: 5 poems in *Naujoji Romuva*. Her poem 'My father' was published in an anthology *Father Poems* (Lithuania).

David Mortimer's poem 'Reasoning' was published in *Rewired: Friendly Street Poets 32* (Wakefield 2008) and his poem 'Early train to town' was published in *Best of Friends: the first thirty years of the Friendly Street Poets* (Wakefield 2008).

Three of **Erica Jolly's** poems were included in *Vibrant: Poems and Symposium papers presented at the Poetry and Poetics Symposium, Adelaide, April 2007*. They are 'Conversation at Lucia's', 'Poem in response to a televised statement' and 'After Seeing Shostakovich's Leningrad Symphony played by the Adelaide Symphony Orchestra to celebrate the close of the Festival'. The volume was launched at the SA Writers' Centre in April.

Henry Ashley-Brown's short story, 'This and That' has been published by Ilura Press in *Etchings 4, The art of conversation*.

SA Writers' Centre Literary Quiz Night

Last month, fifteen tables of keen quizzers settled into the Nexus Multicultural Arts Centre for an evening of fun, games and fabulous prizes. From the stage, quiz-masters Sean Williams and Heather Taylor Johnson kept the questions coming, while on the floor, Anna Solding and Barbara Wiesner worked the tables. What is funambulist? What was Charles Dickens' nickname? Heckling and hilarity were frequent, as were the chances of winning prizes. Every player left with a bag, some full of books, wine, dinner and film vouchers. A silent auction and plenty of puzzle sheets kept players busy, and special autographed books raised big money. Thank you to all the members and their friends who came and made the night a success, to the business sponsors, the quiz organisers and the generous members who donated copies of their books and other prizes. The Centre raised over \$1,300. And the answers? A tightrope walker and 'Boz'.

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Literary Competitions...

☞ **May 6, 2008**

Friendly Street Japanese Poetry Competition. Categories: A) Haibun: a haiku journey max 600 words. B) Haiku: page of three = 1 entry. C) Haiku Sequence: 8-11 haiku by one or more poets. \$5 entry. Prizes to \$150.

☞ **May 9 2008**

Slippery When Wet Short Story Competition. A maximum of 2000 words per story applies. Entry is \$7.50 per story. Slippery When Wet has an open theme, however it encourages stories with a road theme and awards the best story with a road theme a \$100.00 bonus prize. Some examples: Truck driving, life on the highway, hitchhiking, travelling rural areas. Prizes 1st Place- \$550 2nd Place- \$250 3rd Place- \$150 Plus 10 runners up each awarded \$50.00. www.slipperywhenwetstories.com.au

May 20, 2008

2008 ACT Poetry Prize
The ACT Government offers four prizes (three open nationally) that recognise excellence in poetry: For a Collection of Poetry - The Judith Wright Prize for a published collection by an Australian poet (valued at \$10,000) - The Alec Bolton Prize for an unpublished manuscript by an Australian poet (valued at \$5,000). For an Unpublished Poem - The Rosemary Dobson Prize for an unpublished poem by an Australian poet (valued at \$3,000) - The David Campbell Prize for an unpublished poem by an ACT poet (valued at \$2,000). For more information and an application form contact artsACT on (02) 6207 2384 or visit the website at www.arts.act.gov.au

☞ **24 May, 2008**

The Adam Lindsay Gordon Poetry Competitions. The poem content must relate to the life of the Australian poet. First prize for the Open Section is a cold cast bronze statue of an Arabian horse donated by Susan Pender.

- ☺ indicates a competition listed for the first time
- ★ indicates a competition with sections for young writers
- ☞ indicates the SA Writers' Centre holds the entry forms

As a service to members, the SAWC holds entry forms and guidelines. 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.

First prize for the Students' Section this year is a model of Phar Lap. The second prize in each section is a hard cover edition of the book "Gordon of Dingley Dell" compiled and edited by Lorraine Day

30 May 2008.

Vignette Press Short Story Competition. Open theme to 3,000 words, entry fee \$5.50. First prize \$500 plus publication in Mini Shots magazine. Second prize \$200. Judged by Paddy O'Reilly. Entry forms from www.vignettepress.com.au

☞ **May 30, 2008**

2008 Shoalhaven Literary Award for Poetry. Theme – OPEN, any form. Maximum 60 lines. The award: The 2008 Literary Award (Poetry) consists of 1st: \$1000 together with a 2-week artist residential at the Arthur Boyd Centre at Bundanon on the Shoalhaven River; 2nd: Four Second Prizes of \$200 each; 3rd: Commendation awards to other selected entries. \$10 entry.

☞ ☺ **May 30, 2008**

Marian Eldridge Award. The award is open to women resident in any state or territory of Australia. There is no age limit. For the winner: \$1500 plus the opportunity for discounts on writers' programs offered by Varuna. For the winner and those highly commended and commended: the opportunity to have work published in an American journal, *The Broadkill Review*.

☞ ★ **30 May 2008**

Woorilla Annual Poetry Prize 2008. Judged by Judith Rodriguez
Open Section: Prize \$1000
Youth Section: Prize \$100
Poem by Yarra Ranges / Cardinia Shire residents: \$5.00 (\$3.00 youth) per poem (\$20 / \$10 for 5 poems).

☞ ★ **June 2, 2008**

2008 Dorothea Mackellar Poetry Awards. Theme: Forests, Feathers, Fins and Fur, or a topic of your own choice. Less than 80 lines. Prizes to \$500. All students receive a participation certificate. \$15 entry per school.

June 27, 2008

The Blake Poetry Prize. The NSW Writers' Centre joins the Blake Society, Leichhardt Municipal Council and Wet Ink to present a new national poetry prize. First prize is \$5000 and publication in *Wet Ink*. Entry fee \$15. Entry forms and guidelines from www.nswwriterscentre.org.au or from the SAWC.

June 20, 2008

National Jazz Writing Competition. In its fourth year, the competition this year focuses on the short story (up to 2,000 words). Must be about, inspired by or responding to jazz or improvised music. Where the link to jazz or improvised music is not obvious in the story, the entry should be accompanied by a short (max 200 word) explanation. \$750 first prize. First, second and third prize winners will be published in extempore in November 2008. 2nd and 3rd prize winners will receive prizes of CD packs and book vouchers. For more details and submission

guidelines, see www.jazz-planet.com/njwc

☺☞ **June 30, 2008**

Zoopoetry - The Zoos South Australia and Flinders University 2008 Poetry Prize. This new annual prize is sponsored by Zoos SA and Flinders University. Two categories: Tiger and Monarto Zoo Waterhole. First prize: the poem's display on a sign at either the animal's enclosure at the Adelaide or Monarto zoo, plus \$200 and a zoo pass.

☺ **June 30, 2008**

2008 ABR Reviewing Competition. First prize: \$1000 and publication of the review in ABR and at least two future commissions. Second prize: \$250 Third prize: a set of Black Inc. books, valued at \$200. All reviewers are eligible – including past and present ABR contributors. This competition is a particularly good opportunity for younger and emerging writers and students who wish to establish a career in reviewing. All categories of books are eligible, including fiction, non-fiction, poetry, children's and young adult books. Reviews should be 800 words. The book being reviewed must have been published since January 2006. For further information: e-mail: abradmin@vicnet.net.au; telephone (03) 9429 6700 or visit the ABR website: www.australianbookreview.com.au

☞ **July 15, 2008**

Max Harris Poetry Award 2008. Entries are now invited for the Max Harris Poetry Award 2008. Offering a prize of \$3,000 for the winning entry, the Max Harris Poetry Award aims to recognise the work and talent of Australian poets. The entry fee is \$10 for one poem and an extra \$5 per poem for up to two additional poems. The closing date for entries is 15 July 2008. Please visit www.poetryandpoeticscentre.com for entry forms and the conditions of entry.

A Whole Page with Steve Evans

Steve Evans is a widely published writer passionately involved with his craft and particularly keen on working with developing writers in prose and poetry. He teaches writing at Flinders University, conducts writing workshops in the community and is a freelance editor. This year, he was the recipient of the Barbara Hanrahan Fellowship, awarded to complete his seventh collection of poems.

Which books should be made into a movie and who would play the lead role?

At first, I can only think instead of some film adaptations of novels that should be unadapted. At the moment then, I would plump for Rick Stein's *Seafood Lover's Guide*, with me as Rick Stein pausing between sumptuous dishes to read delectable poems. Not much plot, I fear, but lots of pleasure for me.

I would need plenty of walking around exotic foreign places to get into the mood and several takes of trying each dish.

Do you write with a computer or by hand?

I like to start with handwritten notes and then I try to alternate between editing on the printed page and on the screen as I work through successive drafts. The computer can suck you in to thinking you are doing work on a poem when you are really just cutting and pasting, so it's good to get out of that mode and do some old-fashioned scribe work now and then – get the body more involved as a unique maker of marks. Scribble, cross out, insert, arrow, amend, asterisk (is that a verb?).

Any tips for aspiring writers?

Foremost would be to read a lot. I get in the mood to write through reading, too, and though this often arises by accident it sometimes works by design as well. If I have a block, I pick up an anthology. And you really do need to know what other people have been up to in their writing. Support your local writer by buying their new book!

Do you listen to anything while you write?

I love music. Great lyrics usually stop

me dead, though, so if I want music while writing, it normally has to be instrumental. Lately it's been Daniel Lanois' Belladonna (dark and ambient), selected Derek Trucks (sweet and tough blues guitar), and some classics, but next week it will be someone else – or just the silence of the house.

What's your opinion of the SA literary scene?

I love the sense of bustle: there seems to be so much more happening these days. And in the midst of this, I love discovering new poets for myself; it's like unwrapping a surprise present. Sadly, that enthusiasm and quality of output are not really recognised by our daily press to the extent that they should be.

What are you currently reading?

I'm always partway through reading lots of magazines, typically about music or motorecycling, but I like to pick up art and science journals too – there's a great stack beside my bed that competes with the volumes of poetry. Specific book titles right now include *The Book of Luminous Things* edited by Czeslaw Milosz (which I always seem to find an excuse to read again), the illustrated *Beowulf* as translated by Seamus Heaney, Billy Collins' edited anthology, *180 More Extraordinary Poems* (perhaps not as good as its predecessor), and Ed Hirsch's *How To Read a Poem*. I usually have a few anthologies and a pile of individual collections open at one time.

What books have influenced you?

I think it's more about the writers, and they are nearly all poets. After an initial encounter with Dylan Thomas, the beats and the Mersey poets, I found James Dickey, Sylvia Plath, and Denise Levertov, among others. Later came poets like Czeslaw Milosz, whom I have mentioned. Miroslav Holub, Eavan Boland, Billy Collins, Charles Simic, Wislawa Szymborska, Sharon Olds, Seamus Heaney ... it goes on and on. What they often have in common, I think, is a sense of playfulness combined with a breadth of vision and a feeling of compassion. Their ideas are never subordinate to language, but the love of language shines through.



Steve (right), at Adelaide Writers' Week with Kate Deller-Evans and Rick Stein.

Do you have a non-writing job?

For the last decade I have been a full time English lecturer. Most of that has been at Flinders University, where I plunge students into communication skills, poetry, creative nonfiction, short stories and narrative theory. I also do some reviewing and freelance editing.

What started it all off?

My parents read to me a lot when I was young, and I made up stories. I recall thinking that writing poems was a serious buzz when I was about ten. Never underestimate the power of having encouraging teachers in primary school; they always kept me interested in producing original material. The biggest kick after that was the boom in pop culture in the '60s. Suddenly everyone was learning guitar or writing songs or poetry, and there was much more material about that dealt with contemporary life. It all seemed very egalitarian.

If you could win any prize, which one would it be?

A free lifetime supply of my choice of poetry books, musical recordings, wine, tickets to music performances, motorcycles ... er, this is sounding a wee bit greedy. Maybe I should just wish for the one that gives a reasonably comfortable life for me and my family, and lots of time to write. What's the name of that again?

What's your favorite writing fuel?

Can I say chocolate and wine? I don't mean that, of course. That would be so indulgent. Perhaps I meant something very healthy. I'll consider the correct answer ... while I pop into the kitchen for a glass of red.

Notes from Malaysia by Christine Harris

The pool sign at our hotel in Malaysia said: 'No spitting or excreting bodily fluids'. That made my husband David and I think twice about a swim. But we did squeeze in a little shopping at 'Bong & Bong Co.' But the real action happened at the conference, 'Innovating Minds, Communicating Ideas: Reinventing Teaching and Learning', thanks to a CAL professional development grant. The conference was hosted by Multimedia University, the first private university in Malaysia, with 20,000 students on two campuses.

Liam Brown, from the British Council, said, 'You can observe a lot by just looking around.' And there was a lot to look at. Delegates from 21 countries attended, including Iran, Uzbekistan, Australia, USA, Canada, Japan, Indonesia, Russia, Malaysia, Thailand, Taiwan and UK. The program was 78 pages long and we read names such as Seyyed Ayatollah Razmjoo, Ornuma Tisapramotkul, Zoimiow Vakili and Madhubala Bava Harji.

A line of guests in various national costume greeted delegates in their native language and then read a poem they had chosen about the beauty of language. One young man, Parvizsho Aminov, from Samarkhand, was at the conference to learn ways of teaching young people about AIDS in his country. From Iran there was a married couple who co-presented. Zoimiow works with primary school children and Ali, in the University. Zoimiow is Kurdish and Ali is from Tadjikistan.

Carole Woods, from the organising committee, told us about herself, 'I used to be a ballet dancer and I danced with Margot Fontaine, Helpmann and Nureyev. I was in the film version of Beatrix Potter. You wouldn't recognise me because I was the squirrel and flopsy bunny. I caused a furore on the set when I lost my nuts.' (Said with a deadly serious expression.) Then she added, 'I was also in the ballet version of Cinderella, but they only filmed my back. What's wrong with my face?'

More accustomed to informal gatherings and talks, rather than paper presenting (which formed a large part, but not all, of the proceedings), we were startled when the audience was called on to stand and silently respect the Chancellor. She was quite old and didn't speak, and we felt as though we were in the presence of the Queen.

Professor Emeritus Abdullah Hassan, from Sultan Idris University, KL, said in his speech, that teachers must include 'spiritual outcomes' in their plans for the year's work. Although there may be different interpretations of that, it is quite an uplifting concept. That of looking for development, not just in knowledge, but in the human spirit.

At the conference dinner, several delegates, including a Professor from Japan, got up to perform – impromptu. The singing from four Indonesian teachers raised the roof. It felt more like a family gathering than a conference dinner. And then there were the lucky prizes. We won a letter opener. One puzzled man from Iran won a trip to Langkawi. He wondered around, looking quite worried, and asking, 'Where is Langkawi?'

David and I (now I'm starting to feel like the Queen – 'My husband and I ...' We were both (I mean David and I – I haven't



David and Christine Harris on jungle hike before the conference.

actually met the Queen of England) happy to sense the winds of change starting to blow through the traditional, rote learning type of classroom in some countries. This opens up opportunities for writers like us, and we learned techniques for more sensitivity in multi-cultural workshops.

'At the conference dinner, several delegates, including a Professor from Japan, got up to perform – impromptu. The singing from four Indonesian teachers raised the roof. It felt more like a family gathering than a conference dinner.'

Naturally there was an emphasis on multi-media, and using new technologies. Associate Professor Dr Malachi Edwin Vethamani said, in his speech, 'educators should not be dinosaurs. Dinosaurs are dead.'

There was such a warm, friendly atmosphere and people from various countries, ourselves included, rejoiced in the chance to meet and talk with colleagues from other cultures. There was a sensed and spoken desire to connect and learn from each other. And there was a big hint that we might like to speak at a conference in Brunei next year. You bet. Especially if we can read the pool signs.

Christine Harris has written 45 books, plus plays, articles, short stories and poetry. Her work includes historical novels, short stories, picture books, plays, poetry, speculative fiction and horror and she was the 2006 Carclew Fellow.

Her latest books include Cool Bananas and the popular Spy Girl series, for which she received an Australia Council Literature Board grant

