

southern

write

Newsletter of the SA Writers' Centre Inc

May 2006

At Your Own Risk

Thursday 25 May, 7pm.

Open Forum

Perspectives on writing and publishing dangerously, both personally and politically.

Featuring:

Nicholas Jose

Sonja Dechian

Juan Garrido-Salgado

Stephanie Luke

More information inside.



Sonja Dechian



Nicholas Jose



Stephanie Luke



Juan Garrido-Salgado

Annual General Meeting

Thursday 4 May, 7pm.

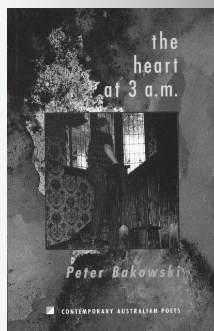
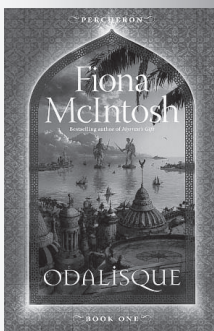
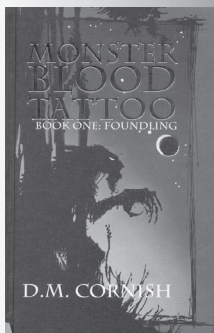
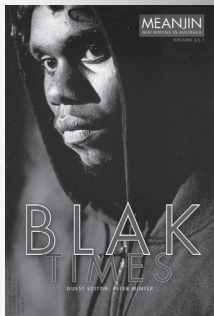
At the AGM, guest speaker, **Annie Fox** will talk about the journey that led her to being celebrated as one of Australia's most highly regarded television writers. A multi-award-winning screenwriter (AWGIES, AFI, ATOM AWARDS, BAFTAS) for children's television programs including *Wicked Science*, *Pirate Islands*, *Thunderstone* and *Ocean Girl*, Annie writes across all genres, including animation, comedy and drama. She has also worked as a consultant and script editor on many other programs including *Blue Heelers*, *Shark Bay*, *Chuck Finn* and *Good Guys, Bad Guys*. A great believer in the healing potential of creative work, Annie has recently been teaching creative writing to women at Catherine House and the Women's Community Centre.

Annie is a graduate and Ambassador in the Community for Flinders University. As part of the Flinders University 40th Anniversary Celebrations this year she is the proud recipient of a "Distinguished Alumni Award".



Annie Fox (photo by Debra Symons).

Centre Information...



So Very Resourceful

Many thanks to writers, groups and publishers who donated books to our Resource Library this month.

Peter Bakowski, *The Heart at 3am*, Hale & Iremonger, 1998.

HarperCollins donated Fiona McIntosh's *Betrayal, Blood and Memory, Destiny* and *Odalisque*.

John Malone donated copies of *Cricket* (US school magazine), *Blast Off, Orbit* and *Touchdown* (The School Magazine, Australia).

Omnibus Books, *Monster Blood Tattoo. Book One: Foundling* by D.M. Cornish, 2006.

The centre also received copies of *The Mozzie* Vol. 13, *Meanjin* Vol. 65.1 and various newsletters and magazines from Writers Centres around the country.

Newsletter Folders

Thanks to Nicola Haywood, Barbara Fraser, Betty Collins, Ann Timoney Jenkin, Margie Hann Syme, Catherine Jones, Jo Dey, Barbara Brockhoff, Jo-Anne Moretti, Tony and Lyn Brooks.

Wheelchair/lift access

is available at the 26 York Street rear entrance. Alternatively, come in from Rundle Street via Caffe Buongiorno's to reach the lift.

Thank you ...

to Don Matulick for help with handyman chores around the Centre last month.

Member Discounts

The following businesses are offering 10% discounts to SA Writers' Centre members. Show your membership card when you purchase from the following stores:

Bookshops: (N.B. conditions may apply during sales.)

Mary Martin • Dymocks Burnside • Borders • Imprints • Dymocks Rundle Mall • Molly's Bookshop • Cosmic Pages • Martin's Secondhand Books • Mindfield • Folio/Foliage • Quantum Books • Book City Rundle Mall • Wakefield Press Bookshop.

Related Businesses: Petra Starke, Webmistress—web design • Palace/Nova – \$11 for full price tickets • Cope Centre for books and workshops • Discount on editing at Seaview Press.

Book Cover Exhibition

If you have a book cover that you would like block mounted for display in our seminar room, contact the SAWC office for prices and procedures.

AGM Agenda

Thursday May 4, 7pm at the SAWC

1. Present and Apologies
2. Minutes of Meeting held 24 May 2005
3. Business Arising
4. Reports: Chair, Treasurer, Director
5. Appointment of an auditor
6. Determination of Honoraria for Board members (currently \$150 / \$200 for executive members)
7. Determination of membership fees (recommended: an increase of \$2 on both waged and concession)
8. Election of Board members (there are four places to be filled)
9. Guest Speaker: Annie Fox
10. Close



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SA Writers' Centre Special Events



Wednesday 3 May, 7.30pm. Meet the Author - Dominika Dery

Dominika Dery was born in communist Prague in 1975. As a girl she danced and performed in the national ballet and national theatre companies of Czechoslovakia. She now lives in Sydney and works as a journalist for SBS.

The Twelve Little Cakes is the story of Dominika's childhood. It is equal parts testimony to the struggles of a bygone era and a love letter to a joy-filled childhood that no external forces, however powerful or cruel, could dim.

Pay what you can. Bookings essential on 8223 7662 or at sawriters@sawriters.on.net

Thursday 25 May, 7pm. Open Forum - At Your Own Risk

Perspectives on writing and publishing dangerously, both personally and politically. Pay what you can. Bookings essential on 8223 7662 or at sawriters@sawriters.on.net



Juan Garrido-Salgado was born in Chile. He was a political prisoner under the Pinochet regime but now lives in Adelaide. Juan has

published three books and has had many poems published in Chile, Columbia, Spain, Australia and France. His latest *Collected Poems* was published by Five Islands Press in 2005.



Sonja Dechian is a writer and producer for the ABC in Adelaide. Her short stories have been published in a range of local and international magazines and journals, and her manuscripts are regularly

shortlisted for awards. Sonja has co-edited two books about the refugee experience for Wakefield Press and she currently edits and publishes an anthology of anonymous writing called *The Mudd Club*. Featuring specially commissioned writing from local and international writers, *The Mudd Club* is an expensive venture and Sonja will probably try to make you buy a copy. Aside from the financial danger, she overlooks copyright and defamation laws wherever possible.



Nicholas Jose was Cultural Counsellor at the Australian Embassy in Beijing from 1987-1990 and has written widely on contemporary Asian and Australian culture. From 2002 to 2005 he was President of Sydney PEN. He currently holds the Chair of Creative Writing at the University of Adelaide. His most

recent book is a novel, *Original Face* (2005). Other books include the novels *The Red Thread* (2000), *The Custodians* (1997), *The Rose Crossing* (1994), *Avenue of Eternal Peace* (1989), *Paper Nautilus* (1987) and *Rowena's Field* (1984); two collections of short stories, *The Possession of Amber* (1980) and *Feathers or Lead* (1986); and *Chinese Whispers*, Cultural Essays, published in 1995.



Stephanie Luke studied Professional Writing at Adelaide Institute of TAFE and has published articles, short stories and poetry. Her manuscript, *Harm*, was shortlisted for the Australian/Vogel Literary Award and published by Wakefield Press in 2000. She was commended as one of the *Sydney Morning Herald's* 'Best Young Australian Novelists' and has received

grants from Arts SA, Australia Council and Asialink. Her second manuscript is proving both dangerous and difficult.

Workshops & Seminars

Thursday 11 May, 7-10pm.

So You've Got a Website. What's it Doing For You? with Brian Forté.

This workshop will cover the following:

1. Website as brand-builder
(marketing yourself as well as your work)
 2. Why you need a blog
(even if you don't blog, or don't want to call it a blog)
 3. Why you need a domain
(why that yahoo personal web-builder page just won't cut it)
 4. Giving away the farm to make money (i)
(ads on your site)
 5. Giving away the farm to make money (ii)
(re-selling copy on your site)
-



Brian Forté is a writer and journalist from Adelaide. He's been a computer columnist, book reviewer, feature writer and editor and his byline has appeared in *The Age*, *The Advertiser*, *The West Australian*, *Australian MacUser*, *MacSense Online* (where he was an Associate Editor) and elsewhere. He's written documentation and courseware for numerous corporations (and never wants to do it again: if you want to see him twitch,

mention Telstra).

Online he's written for various entities including ZDU, SmartPlanet, Ziff-Davis, TechTV and AOL. Brian has had the usual array of non-writerly occupations including guitarist, network administrator, natural gas exploration and storeman and packer. He can be found online at <http://betweenborders.com>.

Saturday 24 June, 10am-4pm.

Seminar: Going it Alone: the ins and outs of self-publishing.

Featuring:

Writers:

Tony Brooks – Biography

Helen Halstead – Fiction

Kate Simpson – Picture Book

Jill Gloyne – History, Poetry, Short Story.

Publishers:

Michael Deves – Lythrum Press

Rick Dowsett – SALMAT

John Scardino – Peacock Publications



Helen Halstead



Jill Gloyne

Cost: \$60 for SA Writers' Centre members

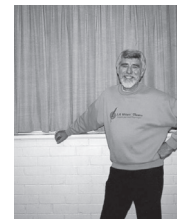
\$80 for non-members

For bookings: ph: 8223 7662 E: sawriters@sawriters.on.net

More information in June *Southern Write*.



Kate Simpson



Tony Brooks

Coming in June ...

Saturday 3 June, 10am-1pm.

Character and Authentic Voices with Fiona McIntosh

or

The Art and Craft of Reviewing with Peter Rose.

Saturday 3 June, 1-4pm.

Your Opening Chapter with Peter McFarlane

or

Styles: stylish and non-stylish with Tom Burton.

Workshop Costs: \$44 for SA Writers' Centre members.
\$66 for non-members.

For bookings: ph: 8223 7662 E: sawriters@sawriters.on.net

All workshops to be held at the SA Writers' Centre, 2nd Floor, 187 Rundle Street, Adelaide, SA.

Opportunities...

Meanjin & Readings Novella Competition 2006

Meanjin, Australia's premier literary magazine, is running a novella competition – its first since it started publication in 1940, providing a rare opportunity for a neglected form.

Entries to the inaugural *Meanjin & Readings Novella Competition* are open until June 30. All writers in Australia and overseas, new and established, are invited to submit. Manuscripts are to be between 12,000 and 20,000 words on any aspect of the theme 'love and desire' and must be a work of unpublished fiction. The winning novella will be considered for publication in *Meanjin*. An entry fee of \$20 will be charged for each submission. For submission details go to www.meanjin.unimelb.edu.au or telephone *Meanjin* on 03 8344 9995.

Sleepers Almanac 2007

Closing date Friday 2 June, 2006.

Sleepers is calling for submissions to our third anthology of short fiction. Emerging and young, established and old, and anywhere in between - all writers are encouraged to submit. The theme for this one is 'The Family Affair'. All submissions must be in writing. Checkout the Publishing page on the *Sleepers* website for full submission guidelines and to download a cover page: www.sleeperspublishing.com

Raising Awareness On Menopause

Menopause is still something of a mystery. Many women reach their menopausal years unprepared for the physical and mental changes that could affect them. This anthology seeks personal accounts from women to help inform and prepare other women during this challenging time. Do you have a story? Can you share your experiences? Will you contribute to this important project? Confidentiality is assured.

For full details please refer your enquiry to Debra Vinecombe, Coordinator
Email: touchwood52@hotmail.com
Phone (08) 8398-0678 or (08) 8361-7257
Fax (08) 8398-0678

PixelPapers Quarterly

PP35 is out already with poems from Jean Frances, Coral Carter, Maureen Sexton, Anne Morgan, Rob Gregory and Barbara M. Lipple; a short story from Rob Gregory; and an article from Paul W Newbury. Contributions, which should be in the body of an e-mail, are welcome for *PP36* We publish verse, short stories, first chapters, articles, reviews, news and views, and especially welcome letters and articles on stage and screen. <http://members.iinet.com.au/~pixpress/index.html>

Page Seventeen

Page Seventeen is seeking submissions of short story, poetry and haiku from new and established writers as well as images (B&W for content and colour for cover) for Issue 4. For guidelines go to www.pageeventeen.com.au, email enquire@pageeventeen.com.au or send SSAE to PO Box 566, Cockatoo, 3781. Deadline 30 June 2006.

Wet Ink Magazine ...

is looking for prose, poetry and creative nonfiction from emerging and established authors. With four issues a year, the magazine wants to find the best new writing from around Australia. Extra short (up to 500 words) and longer (3000+words) fiction are welcome. For submission guidelines, check out www.wetink.com.au and click on 'submissions' or post up to three submissions (double spaced in Times New Roman 12 pt) to *Wet Ink Magazine* Inc, PO Box 3162, Rundle Mall SA 5000. Please include a cover sheet for each submission with the title of the piece, your name and all contact details.

The 2006 Australian /Vogel Literary Award

The competition for the 2006 Vogel Award is now open. The Vogel Award offers publication by Allen & Unwin and a prize of \$20,000 in addition to normal royalties from sales. Entrants must be under 35 years of age and normally residents of Australia. Entries close 31 May 2006. For further entry details, and an entry form, go to www.allenandunwin.com/vogel/Entry.asp

PLR & ELR

The Lending Right (PLR & ELR) schemes Public Lending Right (PLR) makes payments to eligible Australian creators and publishers whose books are held in public lending libraries.

If you are a book publisher or creator - author, compiler, editor, illustrator, translator - you may be eligible for a payment under PLR and/or ELR. Web: www.dcita.gov.au/lendingrights or TOLL FREE 1800 672842 for more information.
DEADLINE FOR CLAIMS: 30 JUNE 2006

Positive Words

Positive Words is seeking submissions of poetry, short stories and articles for upcoming issues. Work on all themes is welcome with special themes each month. Upcoming themes are 'Old News' and 'Sugar and Spice'. Contributors will receive a complimentary copy of the magazine. Back copies for interested contributors and subscribers are available by sending \$2.00 in unused stamps to The Editor, Sandra Lynn Evans, 466 Old Melbourne Road, Traralgon, 3844, Victoria.

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Obituary

Kurt von Trojan 1937 - 2006

Kurt von Trojan has left us. On the 22nd of March 2006 he succumbed to cancer. Kurt was my friend, my first literary agency client, the author of the first book I published and the driving force and inspiration behind my first published novel. With an influence over my life like that he will not be forgotten.

As a writer he was stunning, confronting, challenging and truly gifted. Kurt could take the seemingly mundane and cause it to reflect our very souls. Sean Williams says in Kurt's last book, *When I Close My Eyes* the thing he will remember is Kurt's voice. I too will always hear him when I read one of his stories or one of his many novels – you cannot read a book by Kurt von Trojan and not feel his presence in the words. Soon before his death he told me that he wanted no flowers, no wakes, no funeral but he simply wanted people to gather in a nice place and read a story or a few pages from one of his works. Kurt was born in Austria and was heavily influenced as a child by the

propaganda machine of Adolf Hitler and remembered quite clearly the day the world changed and when the once hero of the state became a monster. Kurt worked most of his life as a career journalist, a professional writer to the core. Of course he did work odd jobs, a theatre projectionist, a career in a psychiatric hospital (orderly) and writing advertising copy, but he felt the most comfortable writing novels and short stories. To Kurt the creative mind was far more interesting than the world of our limited reality. To him the world of writing was about being read. Of course he won many accolades and awards: The Colin Thiele Award, The Pater and Ian Reed Awards and the Tom Howard Award and received great literary acclaim for his novels, *The Transing Syndrome* (Where he was compared to Orwell), *Tenocha, Coup* and the beautifully written yet confronting *Mars in Scorpio*, but Kurt wasn't about acclaim; his early years in war-torn Austria showed him clearly what propaganda and

media could do in a moment and then quickly undo when there is a change in the tide. Acclaim could be bought if you were willing to sacrifice what you believed in and Kurt was strong in his beliefs. Kurt was skeptical of politics, suffered war trauma, witnessed great crimes against the human spirit both in far flung places and within his adopted home of Adelaide. I have never and may never meet such a complex, yet strangely simple man again. My friend has died, a great Australian writer has stepped from the literary scene but I hope not from our minds and hearts. Kurt's unpublished works will continue to be released but they will not be the same without his smile, his sparkling eyes and of course his voice. Like many others I will miss him. He is survived by his daughter, Alice, and we all are proud to have known her father.

Robert N Stephenson

LOOKING FOR A PUBLISHER?

SID HARTA PUBLISHERS not only offers a full manuscript assessment service but publishes titles in the traditional sense, and also offers Partnership Publishing and Print on Demand for works that have merit.



Unlike Self Publishing, Partnership Publishing provides the distribution network, manages the project from line editing, typesetting, proofing, printing, book design, often co-funds production, provides promotional support including a personalized Internet

page for the author's work and biographical details.

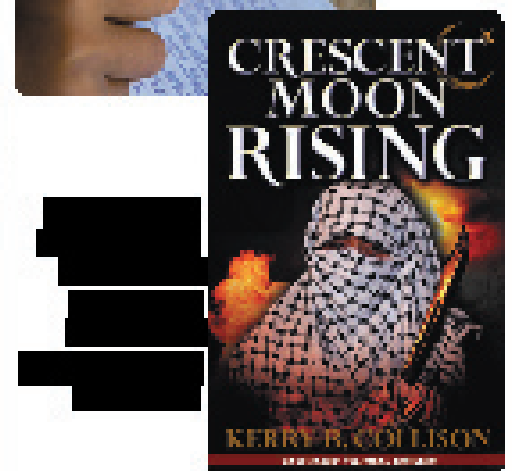
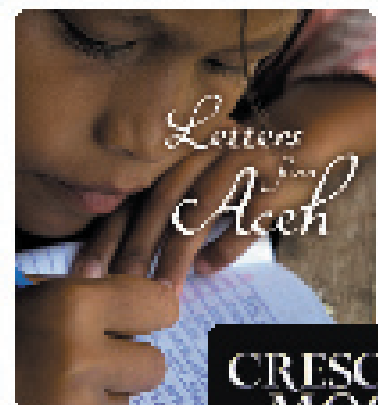
There are many problems with the alternative, Self Publishing, which places the onus entirely on the author and, in consequence, most fail.

Contact SHP at: author@sidharta.com.au or visit our website for submission details at:

www.publisher-guidelines.com

www.sidharta.com.au

Postal: SHP, PO Box 1102,
Hartwell, Victoria 3124
Australia



What's On...

May PoeticA

ABC's Radio National PoeticA. Presented by Mike Ladd, Saturday at 3.05pm, repeated 9.05pm Thursday.

CARDINAL POINTS

Throughout May PoeticA explores the four points of the compass, both physically and metaphorically, with a series of radiophonic programs.

- 6th Stella Polaris: Finding the Star to my Wandering Bark – production by Justine Sloane-Lees
- 13th South of the Border – production by Libby Douglas.
- 20th By Sea and Star, The Accidental West – production by Ron Sims.
- 27th Eastern Approaches – production by Robyn Ravlich.

Port Pirie Writers Club

The Writers Club is now meeting at the Public Library in Ellen Street Port Pirie on the first Thursday of each month at 6pm. People interested in writing welcome. For further information contact Joy Nunan on 8632 2590.

Independent Scholars

You are welcome to the Independent Scholars Meeting on Tuesday 6th June 10.30am to 12pm in the Seminar Room at the SA Writers' Centre for a short presentation on one research project followed by a general discussion. Nonfiction & documentary writers may be especially interested.

JUNE Speaker: Diana Chessell, Hawke Research Institute, University of South Australia on 'Early Adelaide Education'. Enquiries: virginia@virginiakenny.com
Phone: 0415 052 174/ 8344 7810
www.independentscholars.asn.au

May Gibbs Children's Literature

The SA Support Committee of the May Gibbs Children's Literature Trust invites you and your friends to an evening with our 2006 Iva Bridgland Fellow, author, Mark Greenwood from Western Australia. Mark is particularly interested in the unique way illustrated books can assist children to

develop an understanding of other cultures and other perspectives. His stories are full of colour and adventure. Two of his tales are *The Legend of Moondyne Joe* (2002) and *The Legend of Lasseter's Reef* (2003). During his fellowship Mark will complete the edit of his young adult novel, Yagan, due for release later this year.

When: Friday 12th May 2006

Where: The Feathers Hotel
516 Glynburn Road, Burnside
Time: 5.30 – 7.00 pm Drinks (buy your own)
6.00 pm Mark will give an address
7.00 pm Dinner with Mark. Cost will be \$22.50 to be paid to The Feathers on the night.

RSVP

May Gibbs Children's Literature Trust
Email: contact@maygibbs.org.au
Phone: 8332 5577

Spring Poetry Festival

The website for the 2006 WA Spring Poetry Festival has been updated. While the website is still under construction, the details there at present are current, with further information coming soon. www.thewordisout.net. If you would like anything included, please contact the festival committee: wapoetryfestival@hotmail.com.

The Hills Poets

The Hills Poets meet on the 2nd Sunday of the month at Crafers Inn, Crafers. The next meeting will be on Sunday 14 May at 3.30 pm. Please come and join us. New readers are welcome. Enquiries to Jill Gower on 8339 5119.

Friendly Street Poets

The next Friendly Street Poets meeting will be held on Tuesday May 2. 7.30. SAWC.

Poetry Unhinged

The official program and competitions launch will be held at the Arts Centre, Port Noarlunga, Sunday 7 May from 2-3.30pm. All welcome. RSVP by Wednesday 3 May to Jane Vergou on 8326 5577 or janever@onkaparinga.sa.gov.au

Poetry Unhinged Single Collection of Poetry Competition

The SA Writers' Centre, City of Onkaparinga, Seaview Press and SALMAT have been fostering South Australian writers for many years. They are now delighted to embark on the Poetry Unhinged Single Collection of Poetry Competition, a joint initiative designed to offer emerging writers a chance to produce a high-quality collection of work.

The prize totalling \$995 consists of Seaview Press and SALMAT's self-publishing package deal.

Entrants must be current residents of South Australia and must not have previously published a book of their own poetry.

Closing Date: Friday 2 June 2006.
Entry fee \$10. More information and entry forms are available from the SA Writers' Centre. Also available from the Centre are Open, Bush and Multicultural written word competition forms and spoken word forms.

Screen Stories

Australian Writers' Guild Screen Stories program is pleased to present a screening of: *Look Both Ways* (M) 2005 AFI Best Film, plus Q and A with writer and director Sarah Watt.

Date: Wednesday, 17th May 2006
Time: 7 pm for Screening (100 minutes) followed by Q and A with Sarah Watt in conversation with Shane McNeil
Place: Mercury Cinema, 13 Morphett Street, Adelaide.

Cost: \$7 AWG and MRC Members or \$11 Non Members.
Tix available in advance from the Mercury.
Enquiries : sa@awg.com.au or 8232 6852
Tuesday and Thursdays.

Advanced Writing for Games

AWG Production Workshop with Jacqueline Turnure and Christine Sweeney May 26 – 28 at the SA Writers' Centre.
Cost: \$125 for AWG Members \$150 others
This course will help you develop a game concept into a game design proposal, ready for pitching. Bookings and Further information: Gabrielle Aujard 8232 6852 or sa@awg.com.au

Blook and Blogs

by Graham Catt

Once the domain of students and techno-geeks, the blog world is now home to anyone with access to a computer, a little technical know-how, and something to say. The blog makes writers of us all. Even those already established in the literary world are embracing the form, using it to generate ideas, complement their existing writing, or as an outlet for unpublished work.

Adelaide-based author and editor, Kerryn Goldsworthy, has been 'blogging' since October 2005. Her blog, 'A Fugitive Phenomenon' (<http://austlit.blogspot.com>), focuses on the Australian literary scene, and includes commentary on literary events and publications, as well as links to related articles and websites. Kerryn was inspired to take up blogging after reading a thesis on the subject while examining for a local university. The form appealed to her for a variety of reasons.

'I like to keep my hand in daily as a writer and thinker, so blogging is ideal, because on the one hand it's a way to practise your craft, but on the other hand there's no pressure, either to meet a deadline or to write within a certain word length or in accordance with the conventions of a particular form ... And you're absolutely free to choose your own subject matter – you're not beholden to anyone.'

Unlike Goldsworthy's, the blog of local journalist, Petra Starke, (<http://blandcanyon.blogspot.com>), does not concentrate on any particular interest, but offers humorous commentary on topics as varied as rap music, reality tv and Iced Vo-Vo biscuits. Petra admits that her aim is to 'write funny stuff and entertain people' yet is considering using a series of blog articles as the basis for a book.

'... I guess my blog IS a bit of a testing ground, as it seems most readers like the style; it's a style I'd try and emulate if I were to put out a book.'

This transition from blog to book is something that others have already found successful. Just recently, the inaugural Blooker Prize (a 'blook' being a book born of a blog) was won by an American author who landed a deal to publish her series of blog articles which detailed her attempt to cook all 524 recipes in Julia Child's 1961 cookbook *Mastering the Art of French Cooking*.

She beat two British bloggers-turned-authors on the shortlist, the call-girl diarist Belle de Jour, and an online tribute to London cafes.

Conversely, blogs also provide the opportunity for established writers to publish work they have no intention of publishing commercially. Stephen Lawrence is one such writer. His blog, 'A Blog B Blog' (<http://www.stephenlawrence.blogspot.com>) is more a creative scrapbook than a series of articles, containing pithy observations and short poems.

'I make sure it doesn't overlap with writing projects, for fear it may devalue them in the eyes of potential print-based publishers. However, I succumb to occasionally flagging political or science-based thoughts in haiku form.'

However, overall Lawrence is cynical about the blog's value to the writing community, suggesting that, at worst 'it is genital-waving, or flagging material that is better left to posterity...'

A local writer with a more positive view on the potential of the blog is James of The Adelaide Index (<http://adelaideindex.com>), a website that tracks over 400 South Australian blogs. Initially attracted to the blog form as a means of communicating



with friends, James now operates two personal blogs as well as The Adelaide Index. He suggests that blogs might be used as a workshopping or collaborative tool for writers separated geographically, or used to complement existing forms of publication.

'Some authors use blogs to publish excerpts of their work with the intent that people who read the excerpts will become interested enough to buy the full version.'

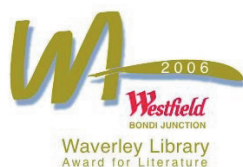
A recent article in *Wired* magazine by *New York Times* writer, Andrew Sullivan, suggested that 'weblogs are to words what Napster was to music'. According to Sullivan, with their ability to personalize journalism and bypass the 'ancient ritual' of editor and publisher, blogs have revolutionary potential.

Whatever your opinion of blogging and blogs and their relation to existing forms of publication, one thing is certain. The central concept of the web log – the ability to communicate ideas to the whole world, simply and cheaply, and without editorial interference – is here to stay, and will only continue to evolve over time. If and how you use that ability is up to you.

I think James of The Adelaide Index sums it up nicely. 'I guess what happens in the future is mostly limited by the author's imagination.'

Graham Catt is a South Australian writer and poet. His pop culture and poetry blog, Nausea, is at <http://grahamcatt.blogspot.com>

Thanks to Kerryn, Petra, Stephen and James for their contributions to this article.



Westfield/Waverley Library Award for Literature 2006

Westfield Bondi Junction, with support from Waverley Council and the Friends of Waverley Library, is pleased to announce that this prestigious prize of \$15,000 will again be offered in 2006.

The Award will be presented for excellence in research in the creation of a literary work of merit, first published in book form between 1st July, 2005 and 30th June, 2006. Factors examined by the judges will include readability, innovation, knowledge and literary merit and value to the community.

All kinds of fiction and non-fiction are eligible.

Authors whose works are nominated must be Australian citizens or legal permanent residents of Australia and must be living at the time of entry.

The judges' decision will be announced and the prize of \$15,000 presented at an award function in November 2006.

Guidelines and application forms are available from Waverley Library Telephone: (02) 9386 7709 or can be downloaded from the Waverley Library website: www.waverley.nsw.gov.au/library/award

Closing date: 14th July, 2006



Congratulations...

David Mortimer's poem '4.20 from town between Adelaide and Bowden' was published in *The Peninsula* in March 2006.

rob walker's poem 'Breaking Mother's Back' has been accepted for Issue #3 of Canberra-based contemporary literature journal *Blast*. rob walker came clean: "Ethel Malley is not my auntie and 'Ethel's Sonnet' (*Cordite* #23) was actually written by me. I apologise for any angst this may have caused any innocent parties." 'flow-on effect' has been accepted for the journal *LiNQ*. His poem 'Lorem ipsum' appeared on *Australian Reader Online*. His performance poem/ music 'poem on the underground' will appear on the *Going Down Swinging* CD/anthology to be released at the Sydney Writers' Festival in May. *Honeycatacombs* which was Commended by Judith Rodriguez in the 2005 Woorilla Poetry Prize was published in *The Woorilla Magazine*. (Feb), and 'selfgoogling' won the inaugural *julain* contest on the *carter's little pill* poetry blogspot.

JH Fletcher's novel, *Der Ruf der roten Erde*, has been published in Germany by Rowohlt Taschenbuch Verlag.

Amelia Walker has been employed by Collingwood Alternative School (via funding through Arts Victoria) to run a series of workshops with students. As part of the project the students will present a spoken word performance showcase and visual poetry exhibition at the 2006 Overload Poetry Festival.

David Adès' poems 'Daybreak' and 'Heartsong' were published in *Micropress Oz* Volume 13, Issue 3 in April 2006. His poems 'Mapping the World', 'Red Cross Delegate', 'Measuring the Man' and 'This Space is Occupied' appeared in *Wet Ink* Issue 2, Autumn 2006, *Social Alternatives* Volume 24, No. 4, Fourth Quarter 2005, *Artstate* No. 13, 2006 and *Famous Reporter* 32 respectively.

Radio Adelaide broadcast some of **Judith Ahmed's** poems in March: 'Nostalgia',

'Tajweed in Ramadan', 'Daughter-in-law', 'Earthquake in Pakistan', 'Another Death', 'Airport', 'Morning Song', 'Grief', and 'Phone call from South Australia to Nigeria'. Kalimat accepted her poems 'Cairo Street', 'A View from the Bridge', and 3 haiku: 'Fushia-bellied cloud', 'the one you lost and 'gold brown leaves crunch'. *The Islamic Review* published 'Night of Power' in August 2005, and 'Dervish' in September 2005.

Janeen Brian's book, *Hoosh! Camels in Australia* has been shortlisted in the 2006 CBC (Children's Book Council) Awards in the Eve Pownall Information section. Winners will be announced in Sydney in August.

Margaret Griffin-Ward's piece of reflective writing 'Seaside Therapy', which was published in the January edition of *Positive Words*, is being used as inspiration for a visual arts project. Her short short story 'A Tropical Encounter' is being published in the April edition of that magazine. 'What's Behind the Closed Door' is published in the March edition of *Positive Words*.

Owen Carmichael's article 'The Art of Sleep' was published in *Fitness Life* for March.

Congratulations to the South Australian winner of the Griffin Press Self-Publishing Competition. **Deborah Hamilton-Smith** of Balhannah has won a copy of Euan Mitchell's *Self-Publishing Made Simple* 2nd edition. Visit www.griffinpress.com.au for more details.

Andrew Byrne's publishing company has been a success, both nationally and internationally, with an increasing amount of authors publishing their work through his publishing business, Carpe Diem Publishing, which can be found at www.shaminosrealm.com.au/carpediempublishing.htm Congratulations also to Andrew on the success of his own published titles, with his novels and his poetry becoming highly recommended by

If you've had publishing success, let us know! Please supply your information for the Brag File page in writing or by email by the 15th of the month - admin@sawriters.on.net

many readers, along with being available through Dymocks Bookstores. Andrew's titles can be found at Shaminos's Realm <http://www.shaminosrealm.com.au>

Dr Nicholas Fourikis delivered two nonfiction multi-media presentations at the Hughes Theatre, Adelaide University as part of the Festival Hellenika 2006. The titles of these presentations were: 'Four Illustrious Ancient Greek Astronomers / Scientists (Making Sense of the Restless Cosmos)' and 'Graeco- Roman Art: The Fayum Portraits'.

D.M Cornish's fantasy trilogy, *Monster Blood Tattoo*, has been sold into 7 territories worldwide prior to publication, for advances totalling nearly a million dollars. Omnibus Books (Adelaide) and Penguin Putnam (US) are publishing the first title *Foundling* simultaneously in May 2006; other overseas territories include Sony in Japan and David Fickling books in the UK. Cornish is also illustrating *Fantastica*, a series of fantasy quartets by well-known Australian fantasy writers, the first of which will be published by Omnibus Books in July 2006.

Graham Rowlands' poem 'Lord & Lady Londonderry' was published in *The Canberra Times* (4/3).

Cailean Darkwater's story 'Silent Dawn', under the title 'Daybreak Reflected Upon' was published in the Chinese literary magazine *Kanshe*.

Eva Sallis is the Nexus Writer in residence. Nexus aims to create a two-way bridge between culturally and linguistically diverse artists and the mainstream in multicultural Australia.

Anne Bartlett's novel *Knitting* is one of 12 books long-listed for the Miles Franklin Award.

Literary Competitions...

☞ **12 May 2006**
Victorian Premier's Literary Awards 2006.
Eleven categories with a total of \$195,000. Formore info and entry form: www.slv.vic.gov.au/pla

☞ **18 May 2006**
The Marian Eldridge Award 2006. A professional development award to encourage an aspiring woman writer to undertake a literary activity such as a course of study, or to complete a project. Award is up to \$1,500. Further info from nfaw@nfaw.org or (02) 4422 2208.

☞ **26 May 2006**
Shoalhaven Literary Award for Poetry. The main prize is \$1,000 plus a two-week residency at the Arthur Boyd Bundanon Centre. There will be 4 secondary prizes of \$200 each. Judges will award up to 5 commendations. The competition is on an open theme; poems must be 50 lines or less. Ph 02 4429 3541 or <http://www.arts.shoalhaven.net.au>

☺☞ **31 May 2006**
Jewellery Literary Competition seeks entries in the following categories: A Poetry (free or rhyming verse) on the theme of the past (to 1 page); B Reminiscences (to 2 pages); C Mystical story set in the past (to 4 pages) Entry fees: single \$6, Three entries \$12 First Prize in each category \$125

☞ **31 May 2006**
Yellow Moon Nutshell. Cinquain, Poem: Bird, Epigram, Poem: humorous/nonsense, Tetractys. Entry for each \$5 Prize money \$30-\$70. www.yellowmoon.info

- ☺ 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.

☞ **31 May 2006**
Yellow Moon Villanelle
Australian and NZ poets only. A villanelle is a nineteen line poem with a fixed structure that encourages lyricism, rather than narrative. Prize money \$100 and publication in Yellow Moon. Entry fee \$5. www.yellowmoon.info

☞ **31 May 2006**
Australasian Poetry Awards. Poem up to 100 lines. Open Theme. First \$300; second \$150; third \$50. Entry fee \$5 or \$20 for 5.

31 May 2006
KT Publishing 7th Annual Short Story Competition 2006. Theme – Open, Length - 2,000 words. Prizes - 1st \$350, 2nd \$175 & 3rd \$100 (AUD) Entry Fee - \$7.50 per entry. Entry form at <http://www.ktp.com.au> or send SASE to: Annual Competition 2006, PO Box 2011, Inala Heights Qld 4077.

31 May 2006
Tarralla Short Story and Poetry Competition. Open theme. Stories to 3000 words. Poems to 50 lines. \$1,200 cash prize pool. Entry fee \$5. For more information see: www.netbay.com.au/~tarralla or telephone (03) 9751 1078.

☞ **2 June 2006**
Share your story – travel writing competition. Articles between 800 to 1500 words

about a travel experience within the Northern Territory. The winning writer will receive a trip of their choice to and within the Northern Territory to the value of \$3000. No entry form. Guidelines from the SAWC.

☺★ **9 June 2006**
The Young Writers Award 2006 (sponsored by *The Advertiser*, The SA English Teachers' Association and Australian Literary Educators Association) is open to all students from junior primary to high school. Entries of poetry or prose may be submitted. To download an entry form visit www.theadvertiser.com.au/nie

☺ **25 June 2006**
Entries of 2000 words or less are sought for a Sci-Fi or Fantasy Story Competition run by The United Federation of Planets Fan Club Inc. For more info, email Lexie on holonovel@ufpofsa.org

☺☞ **30 June 2006**
The annual Bruce Dawe National Poetry Prize awards \$1,500 to an unpublished poem not exceeding 50 lines. For more information visit: www.usq.edu.au/daweprize

☺☞ **30 June 2006**
Friendly Street Poets Inc are calling for entries for 'The Best Mystical Poem Competition', judged by Peter Eason. Entry Fee: \$5. Prize: \$200 Title of poem only to appear on manuscript. Author name, contact details, etc. to appear on entry form.

☺☞ **31 July 2006**
The Mornington Peninsula Prize, offered by the Fellowship of Australian Writers (Vic) is awarded for a short story to 3000 words. Entry fee \$5. First Prize \$250, Second \$100, Third \$50.

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Board's Eye View...

by John Fletcher

Let me ask you a question. Whatever happened to humour? I look back on the year that is just ending and I find that the Board members are made up of a cross-section of the writing community. A children's author, a brace of poets, a fantasy writer, a couple with their feet in academia, two with administrative experience - just as well, because that's the Board's function, right, to administer your money and promote your interests in the big bad world of writers and writing? - and two novelists.

No humorists.

Come to think of it, when did you last read a humorous modern novel? A handful of American works, perhaps, but I can't think of one Australian. When did you last sit in a bus or train or even a plane and laugh out loud at what you're reading? Do that today and the next thing some sky marshal is pointing a gun at your head. Because humour ain't funny, baby, and you'd better believe it.

It's a pity, because humour - I don't mean the crass garbage that passes for jollity on our TV screens, those paroxysms of fake laughter with which chat show hosts try to bulldoze us into believing, contrary to instinct and common sense, that we really are having a great time - is a precious and increasingly endangered commodity.

I had a woman write to me once. She claimed to have, as she put it, a GSOH. You could have fooled me. She offered to be my friend, this lady I'd never met - what an offer! - and listed four conditions that I was required to observe if I wished to enter into the nirvana of the proffered relationship. I didn't have to be rich or handsome - just as well - but I had to be obedient. Those who know me will smile. I laughed. The relationship never materialised - possibly the only truly humorous aspect of the whole episode.

How can you place conditions on friendship? On love? On kindness?

'We're prepared to give aid to stop your children dying provided you behave the way we want you to.'

And we're shocked when our bribe is

rejected by those who, clearly, have no sense of gratitude. Humour - our own, other people's - might have saved the day but it doesn't because people have lost the habit of it. And the kids would probably have died, anyway. What a laugh!

It's true that not many writers can carry humour off successfully. It needs a combination of quiriness, individuality and timing - and perhaps a generosity of spirit - that not all of us can command.

It's a pity because humour, surely, is one of the most positive influences on our culture. 'Pack up your troubles in your old kitbag and smile, smile, smile.' That WWII song may not be high art but its words still resonate. The first quality of civilised behaviour has to be the ability to laugh AT ourselves, laugh WITH others.

So what's all this got to do with writers? I would say everything. We are - or should be - in the business of promoting what Conrad called the potential of the human spirit. Besides, we - surely? - are the lucky ones.

Those who write for pleasure, for the delight of proving they can do it, are writing for fun. Those who are professionals in the field, or hope to become so, are also doing what they want to do. How many, in the big, bad world, can aspire to that?

As for quiriness...

I'm writing this over the Easter weekend, the season when Christians celebrate Christ's death and resurrection. You'd never know it by looking at the box. You'd think it was all about fluffy golden chicks and rabbits fashioned improbably from chocolate. So, yes, a sense of humour is a necessity. Not that I'm complaining. In comparison with Christmas, it's a relatively unsullied time.

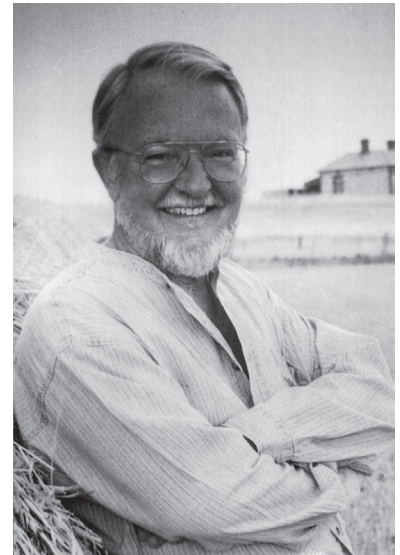
Some years ago I learned that Christmas music - or some of it - can be a serious danger to your health.

'I'm dreaming of a white Christmas -'

In Australia? That'll be the day.

'Just like the one I used to know -'

Bing's long gone, safe at last from his own relentless, ubiquitous warbling. Would that we all could say the same.



Because there are others.

Paul McCartney assures us, over and over and OVER again, that he at least is 'Simply having a wonderful Christmastime.'

To say nothing of Rudolph the red-nosed bloody reindeer.

Open season on antelope and related species. Perhaps that would fix it.

'I'm dreaming of a white Christmas -'
In bars, in shops, in streets -
'Just like the one I used to know -'

I have nightmares of Kim Beazley in a jolly red coat ho-ho-hoing about the Christmas tree. Or John Howard. Or George W Bush.

Now that really takes a sense of humour.

When I started this piece I intended to talk about what I see as the future of our chosen art form. It's not how it's worked out. But what the hell. If you can't smile you can't survive. I've learnt that much, at least, in my life.

John Fletcher is the current chairman of the SA Writers' Centre. He is the best-selling author of 14 novels published in Australia. Some have also appeared in England and Germany.

His radio and television plays have appeared in the United Kingdom and South Africa and his short stories have been published around the world.

