



## St Lucy's Christmas Party

Come and join us celebrate the Patron Saint of Writing at the St. Lucy's Christmas party on Thursday 13th December, 6pm in the SA Writers' Centre Atrium, 2nd floor, 187 Rundle Street, Adelaide.

Please bring a drink or a plate to share. All welcome.

*Langmeil*

### How You Can Tell? A workshop with Marion Halligan Saturday 9th February, 10am – 1pm

This will be a workshop about structure. Whatever you are writing, a short story, a novel, a memoir, a screenplay, any kind of narrative, it needs to be structured. There are only so many plots in the world but there are a great many ways of telling these stories. The aim of this workshop is to help you tell your story.

There is no need to bring any work with you, but Marion would like you to think of a story you want to tell. It may be fiction, or non-fiction, you may wish to write it as memoir or a novel, but to begin with come along with the story. These will form the basis of the workshop; the group will examine each story and we will explore the ways in which it might be told.

**Marion Halligan** has published eight novels including *Spider Cup*, *Lovers' Knots*, *The Golden Dress*, *The Fog Garden*, *The Point*, and *The Apricot Colonel*, collections of short stories, books of autobiography, travel and food, and a children's book, *The Midwife's Daughters*. *Taste of Memory: An Autobiography in Food and Gardens*, was published in September 2004. Her next novel is *Murder on the Apricot Coast* (Allen and Unwin), a second mystery set in Canberra, where she now lives and finds a most fertile ground for writing. She has been short-listed for most of the prizes on offer, and has won some.

**Workshop costs: \$55 for SAWC members or \$77 non-members**  
**Bookings on 8223 7662 or sawriters@sawc.org.au**



Marion Halligan. Photo by Juno Gemes



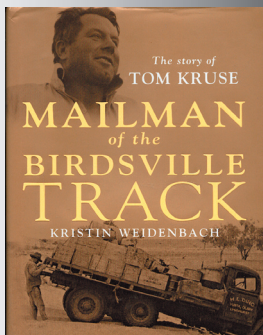
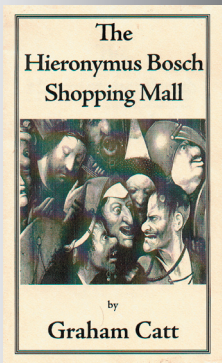
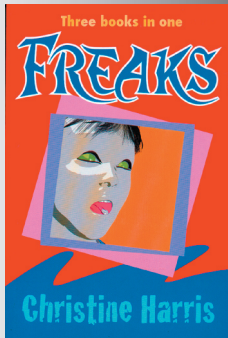
## Animate Quarterly

it's a live literary journal

**Thursday February 21, 8pm at La Boheme, 36 Grote Street**

Issue 4 of *Animate Quarterly*, the live magazine, will feature an interview, some poetry, some prose, a competition, your horoscopes, and will answer all your questions about life, love, animals or agony. If you would like to submit, you have until January 21, 2008. Please limit prose to 2000 words and no more than six poems. Previously published pieces are acceptable as are extracts from novels or long prose pieces. The writer of each piece will be encouraged (but does not have to) read his or her own piece on the night. Please state if you are under 30 in your cover letter. All contributors will be paid: Poems and letters \$50, Prose \$100, Reviews and Columns \$60. Send submissions to: *Animate Quarterly* c/o The SA Writers' Centre, PO Box 43, Adelaide, SA, 5000 or to [animatequarterly@yahoo.com.au](mailto:animatequarterly@yahoo.com.au) \$5 at the door.

# Centre Information...



## So Very Resourceful

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

**Christine Harris**, *Freaks*, Launch Press, 2007

**Graham Catt**, *The Hieronymus Bosch Shopping Mall*, Picaro Press, 2007

**Carol Faulkner**, *The Hunt for Houdini*, illustrated by Binny Talib, Funtastic, 2007

**Kristin Weidenbach**, *Mailman of the Birdsville Track: the story of Tom Kruse*, Hodder Australia, 2003

**Jennifer Benkhauser**, *The Mystique's Cry*, 2007

**Malcolm Reid**, *Nasty Business*, Peacock Publications, 2007

**Audrey Kemmett**, *Letters From Nana*, 2007

**Janeen Brian**, *Cross Currents*, Lothian, 2007

## From the Front Desk

As we wind down from a busy year at the Centre, I'd like to thank members and writers' groups for your support and for helping make 2008 a successful year. We've had three Young Authors' Nights, three festivals, two Animate Quarterly evenings, dozens of workshops, seminars, forums and book launches, along with the Wirra Wirra competition and anthology, a new website and numerous other events.

We have exciting things planned for next year, too, including another Literary Quiz Night, so if you are able to donate any goods or services for prizes, I'd love to hear from you.

Don't forget, we have great Christmas gift packs for writers, including combinations of *The Australian Writers' Marketplace*, *The Handbook for SA Writers*, the latest Wirra Wirra short story anthology and SAWC Commemorative Port.

Wishing you a safe and happy festive season,

Jude Aquilina  
Office Manager

## PORT WILLUNGA RETREAT

For more information about staying at the Catherine Cleave Writers Studio down at Port Willunga contact us on 8223 7662. Kaye Cleave is making this studio available free of charge, though a small key fee will be required by the SAWC.

## Newsletter Folders

Thanks to the following people who helped fold the November newsletter: Claire Bell, Jo Dey, John and Coie Dikkenberg, Barbara Frazer, Louise Friebe, Sharon Kernot, Jeanie Klopper, Gay Sanderson, Jo Vabolis, Ken Vincent and Lindy Warrell.

## Lost Something?

All lost property found at the SAWC will be displayed at St Lucy's Party and, if unclaimed, disposed.

## Your Centre

If any members are interested in joining sub-committees in 2008, please contact the Centre. We're looking for energetic and enthusiastic fundraisers and people to help with marketing.



**Internode**

STRAIGHT • FORWARD  
<http://www.internode.on.net>

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.



## 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.

# Denied a Voice – Adelaide PEN

Approximately 80 people gathered in front of the State Library on Thursday 15th November (International Day of the Imprisoned Writer) to hear some of Adelaide's best authors and speakers on the subject of freedom of speech. An empty chair represented the writers who are imprisoned, while PEN members and school students taped their mouths in recognition of those who are denied a voice. Two musicians performed and three high school classes attended. Drummer Sam Oshodi entertained the crowd with his hypnotic African rhythms and invited audience participation.

M.C. Dominique Wilson acknowledged Kurna land and opened proceedings by explaining that International PEN is a non-profit organization that rallies for the release of imprisoned writers. In the past twelve months, she said, 42 writers have been killed, and about 1,000 are serving jail sentences.

Professor Nicholas Jose, Chair of Creative Writing at Adelaide University and past President of Sydney PEN, then dedicated the day to two recently persecuted writers: Hrank Dink, the Armenian/Turkish editor and writer who was shot dead in Istanbul, and Father Ly, a Roman Catholic priest, active in the pro-democracy movement in Vietnam who has already served fifteen years, yet has been arrested again and sentenced to another eight years.

Poet Juan Garrido-Salgado followed, telling how he was arrested by the secret police under the Pinochet regime, his typewriter and poetry were confiscated, and he was thrown into jail as a political prisoner. He spoke of killings and torture and of his own despair in prison during 1985. He then read his poetry in Spanish, accompanied by local political poet Erica Jolly reading them in English.

Dominique Schwartz was introduced as an ABC television presenter and foreign correspondent who'd been hijacked, shot at, charged by elephants and kidnapped by an orangutang! She explained how, when researching stories on social injustices, she is sometimes in danger, but she fears more for the people who speak to her who have to stay behind and possibly face retribution. Schwartz emphasised the plight of

Burma where recent pro-democracy demonstrations have led to bloodshed. She read a poem by Zargana, a Burmese poet, comedian, actor and activist, persecuted for his writing.

Chika Anyanwu, lecturer in New Media and Creative Arts at Adelaide University, spoke about the tragedy of Nigerian poet Ken Saro-Wiwa, executed 12 years ago to the day. He paid tribute by reading a poem by Saro-Wiwa. Anyanwu then read a moving alliterative poem of his own about the power of the pen, 'the double edged sword', followed by his poetic dedication: 'A Gun Salute to Enemies of Freedom'.

Producer and presenter of ABC Radio National's Poetica, poet Mike Ladd, also spoke about the situation in Burma and urged people to boycott Burmese products and to cease travelling there. Ladd read an extract from a poem based on a symbolic plant that refuses to bow down. He ended by saying that writers are also imprisoned in Australia: those in detention centres, who often turn to writing during their incarceration.

Nobel Laureate and Booker Prize winner, JM Coetzee gave a brief history of PEN, which, he said, began in Britain in the aftermath of WWI. 'Writers should be free to criticise governments,' he said. 'Once it was poets and novelist who bore the brunt of the State, now it is editors and journalists.' Coetzee named the main countries that persecute writers and expressed the need for Australians to show their concern by urging our Government to speak out.

Indigenous author Dylan Coleman spoke next, acknowledging her parents' stories. Her mother had urged her from a young age to speak out about social injustice and to be proud of her Indigenous heritage. Coleman then referred to the 1967 referendum which allowed Indigenous people to vote for the first time, expressing her disappointment that after 150 years there are still no Aboriginal people in South Australian parliament. Coleman recalled Don Dunstan who tried to make progress in this area, to acknowledge Indigenous people and give them a voice.

The Hon. Mark Parnell MLC, Greens Representative in State Parliament, spoke of two South Australian stories. Firstly, David Hicks who was treated appallingly



by the USA and abandoned by Australia, and whose freedom of speech has now been shackled by a new law that bans him from writing his story. Secondly, Parnell stressed the need for free speech law reforms: for example, under present laws, people can be sued and bullied by lawyers for speaking out about a company that is abusing the environment. Parnell ended by congratulating Adelaide PEN and quoting, 'The price of freedom is eternal vigilance'.

Sean Williams, author, Chair of the SA Writers' Centre and multiple award winner, spoke about the significance of Remembrance Day and the visible tributes to the dead in war memorials. He compared this to less visible deaths, the 'slow burn of oppression and political injustice,' then asked, 'where are their monuments?' Williams quoted from Australian prisoner Cheikh Kone, a journalist/refugee who described the grim life in Port Headland's detention centre. Williams concluded with a string of pertinent quotes including: 'Remember that when another writer in another house is not free, no writer is free,' by Orhan Pamuk.

School students and adults danced to the beat of Oshodi's drums as a cool breeze eased the heat. One could sense the ripples of passion, empathy and respect that emanated from the speakers and fanned out over the audience. Congratulations Adelaide Pen, and in particular Lindy Warrell, for organising this important event.

**Jude Aquilina**

# Opportunities

**The Charles Pick Fellowship ...** is a six-month residential Fellowship, with an award of £10,000. The Fellowship will be awarded to a new writer of fictional or non-fictional prose. This competition is open to unpublished writers only.

The David T K Wong Fellowship is a residential Fellowship which lasts one academic year, with an award of £26,000. The Fellowship will be awarded to a writer planning to produce a work of prose fiction in English about some aspect of life in the Far East. Established published and unpublished writers are welcome to apply.

Both Fellowships have an application deadline of 31 January 2008. Application documents and further details are at <http://www1.uea.ac.uk/cm/home/schools/hum/lit/awards>

## Buzz Words

An online professional fortnightly magazine, *Buzz Words*, is targeted at children's writers, illustrators, librarians, teachers and editors. On the 1st and 15th of every month the Australian e-zine features a free-entry writing contest – with prizes – as well as interviews with editors, authors, illustrators, agents, booksellers and publicists plus writing markets, opportunities, competitions, courses, conferences, book reviews and other valuable industry information related to the children's book industry. If you wish to download a sample issue, go to [www.buzzwordsmagazine.com](http://www.buzzwordsmagazine.com) Compiler/editor Dianne (Di) Bates, a children's author of 90+ books. *Buzz Words* pays for articles and interviews. As a bonus, subscribers receive 6 issues pa of *Books Buzz*, a review e-zine of children's and YA books.

## Reviewers Needed

*The Reading Stack*, an online monthly magazine, is seeking reviewers. For further information, check out a copy of *The Reading Stack*. Back issues can be downloaded from [www.thereadingstack.com/backissues.htm](http://www.thereadingstack.com/backissues.htm)

## ABC TV Arts and Science Documentary Pitching Competition

ABC TV Arts, Entertainment & Comedy

and ABC TV Documentaries (Science) will finance the development of a Science and Arts documentary project to the value of AU\$10,000 in a pitching competition at the AIDC, February 20-22, 2008.

The collaboration between these two highly divergent cultures is now a dynamic area of practice. Increasing numbers of artists and scientists are exploring each other's ideas, materials and working methods. Artists are inspired by science and technology as well as providing fresh critical viewpoints of the consequences of new knowledge. The artistic impulse is itself an area of research by scientists.

ABC TV Arts and ABC TV Docs are calling for treatments of up to 3 pages for either a one-hour documentary or a documentary series for prime time slots on ABC TV.

The deadline for applications is January 14 2008.

For more information please go to <http://www.abc.net.au/tv/aide>

## The Queensland Poetry Festival

... is calling for Expressions of Interest from poets and other performers and artists interested in being part of the 12th Annual Queensland Poetry Festival. The festival is held at the Judith Wright Centre of Contemporary Arts over the weekend of August 22-24, 2008. For more information and to download guidelines and an application form please visit [www.queenslandpoetryfestival.com](http://www.queenslandpoetryfestival.com). Any queries can be directed to Julie Beveridge by emailing [julesbev@yahoo.com.au](mailto:julesbev@yahoo.com.au)

## Penguin/Varuna Scholarship

Penguin Publisher Ben Ball was so impressed with the number and quality of Australian writers discovered and developed through the Macquarie Bank Foundation LongLines Program and the NSW LitLink Program that he devised an excellent way of getting these writers on to the desks of the very highest editorial levels of Penguin. Varuna's task is to select 8 well-developed manuscripts from the LongLines and LitLink areas (that is: the less-populous

states, the territories and the regional areas of NSW, Victoria and Queensland) – and Penguin's task is to look carefully at the manuscripts and to choose one for a \$5000 scholarship, plus up to 30 hours of editorial attention from a Penguin senior editor. The scholarship is offered with a view to publication, and Penguin reserves first rights to publish the resulting manuscript.

The Penguin/Varuna Scholarship is an annual award. Selection for presentation to Penguin will take place by invitation rather than by application. Varuna will invite outstanding projects from eligible writers across the whole range of its programs: Fellowships, Macquarie Bank Foundation LongLines, NSW LitLink, Pathways to Publication, Professional Development Residencies and the Varuna Community Program.

## Are You Passionate & Knowledgeable About South Australia's Arts &/Or Disability Sectors?

Arts Access SA Incorporated (AASA) is establishing two voluntary stakeholder committees: Disability and Arts. The committees, to meet no more than 4 times a year, are designed to help AASA with a greater understanding and service the Sectors' needs.

To find out more, visit Arts Access SA's website or ring the Executive Director (08) 8224 0799 to obtain a copy of the terms of reference.

To apply, send a letter of interest with your CV to: Stakeholder Advisory Committee Application  
Arts Access SA  
101 Halifax Street  
Adelaide SA 5000  
E: [petert@artsaccess-sa.org.au](mailto:petert@artsaccess-sa.org.au)

Applications close: Friday 21 December 2007

- [www.artsaccess-sa.org.au](http://www.artsaccess-sa.org.au)

People identifying with a disability are strongly encouraged to apply.

Arts Access SA is the State's peak body for arts and disability

### Call For Submissions

Adelaide-based author and editor Martin Chipperfield (with co-founding editor Trace Sheridan based in California) announces that the *34thParallel* is accepting submissions of fiction, poetry and artwork and will have rolling submissions on a continuous basis. Recognising the challenges authors face, *34thParallel* was created with the goal to provide a platform for new and emerging authors of poetry and fiction. Milan Kundera wrote that fiction is like a parallel history (okay, so he didn't say that exactly) still, at *34thParallel* they are looking for photography, fiction, and poetry that goes beyond parallels.

*34thParallel* is looking for writers who question life, challenge boundaries, confront our perceptions and misconceptions, using words of unparalleled beauty and clarity.

Previews of the magazine can be found at our website <http://www.34thParallel.net>

### Calling all science fiction and fantasy writers!

Hachette Livre Australia and Queensland Writers Centre (QWC) are proud to announce an exciting new national program for speculative fiction novelists.

The Orbit/QWC Manuscript Development Program for Speculative Fiction Authors will bring up to ten emerging writers together with senior editors or publishers from Hachette Livre Australia's Orbit imprint to develop high quality fiction manuscripts.

Over five consecutive days, participants will consult with Bernadette Foley, publisher of Hachette Livre Australia's Orbit imprint, and senior editor Deonie Fiford, and also hear about the publishing industry from professionals such as literary agents, booksellers and established authors. The program will run at a retreat location in southeast Queensland in May 2008.

Applications open in early December 2007 and close on 23 January 2008. For full guidelines and application forms, contact Queensland Writers' Centre on (07) 3839 1243 or visit [www.qwc.asn.au](http://www.qwc.asn.au).

This program is a partnership initiative of Hachette Livre Australia and Queensland Writers' Centre and is supported by Arts Queensland and promotional partner Fantastic Queensland Inc.

### Proof Reader Wanted

Riverland Pensioner and author requires proofreader/ghost writer for an autobiography which includes some sexual abuse. Phone 8582 3171 or 0420 698 570.

### Wet Ink Submissions

*Wet Ink* Magazine welcomes new contributors, for both writing and images. They give their work as much consideration as we do that of established professionals. The magazine publish fiction (including genre fiction), creative non-fiction, poetry, memoir, essays and opinion pieces. The one thing they look for is high quality, so please send only your best work. Submission guidelines can be found at <http://www.wetink.com.au/subs.htm>

### Overland

Publishing features, fiction, poetry, reviews, comment, artwork and opinion pieces, *Overland* is committed to engaging with important literary, cultural and political issues in contemporary Australia. It has a tradition of publishing dissenting articles with a political and cultural focus. <http://www.overlandexpress.org/> for submission details.

## Between Us Manuscript Assessment Service

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and professional editors*

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Ryan Davidson

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T: 08 8274 1531

F: 08 8357 2110

[meredithwh@yahoo.com](mailto:meredithwh@yahoo.com)

[www.users.bigpond.com/between](http://www.users.bigpond.com/between)

page  
seventeen



Issue 5

### The friends of Page Seventeen

invite you to  
Jah'z cafe

7 Cinema Place, East End, Adelaide  
on Thursday December 6  
6pm for 6.30 start  
for an evening of readings  
and fine company.

Some nibblies will be provided.

If your work has appeared in any issue of *Page Seventeen*, come along and read and if not, bring along a short piece for an open mic section (time permitting) or come along just for the fun of it.

If you wish to read (5 min limit),  
please contact

Tiggy at [enquire@pageseventeen.com.au](mailto:enquire@pageseventeen.com.au)  
or 03 5968 9493  
before 1st December,  
or just come on the night  
[www.pageseventeen.com.au](http://www.pageseventeen.com.au)

# News and Views

## Dear Editor,

I respond to Dave Diss, November *Southern Write*. The works credited in the Congratulations page have achieved publication and are rightly acknowledged as a successful final draft by a writer. Not all Letters to the Editor are printed in full. Editors edit those letters, sometimes changing the intent or meaning the writer was trying to express. How would the staff at SAWC know which were and which weren't? How do they acknowledge a writer for something that may have been finished by someone else?

I agree with the board and the staff of the SAWC

Nigel Ford

## Record Australian literati presence at world's largest book fair

A record 69 Australian exhibitors participated in the world's largest publishing industry trade fair, the Frankfurt Book Fair, held between 10-14 October.

Peter Rasmussen, Austrade's Frankfurt-based Senior Trade Commissioner, said the increased size of the Australian talent pool at this year's fair demonstrated not only the high standards of Australia's literary and writing community, but the export focused business acumen of Australian publishing overall.

'The Frankfurt Book Fair attracts authors, publishers, booksellers, agents and journalists, information brokers and readers from all over the world. It is also the world's largest marketplace for trading in publishing rights and licences. It is a great forum to showcase Australia's strengths in traditional and digital publishing,' Mr Rasmussen said.

'More than 7300 exhibitors from 110 countries participated, with almost 2500 events held for the five-day fair this year. Frankfurt is an important vehicle to introduce Australian literature to key world markets – particularly in Western and Eastern Europe,' he said.

## Notes from the ASA

### Copyright Registration Scams

The Australian Society of Authors (ASA) would like to remind Australian authors that there is no need to register your

work to have it automatically copyright protected, despite the scare claims of organisations such as the Writers Copyright Association. There is no need to pay for copyright registration.

For detailed, accurate information and advice on copyright issues, please visit the Attorney-General's Department ([www.ag.gov.au](http://www.ag.gov.au)), Australian Copyright Council ([www.copyright.org.au](http://www.copyright.org.au)), Copyright Agency Ltd ([www.copyright.com.au](http://www.copyright.com.au)), the Arts Law Centre of Australia ([www.artslaw.com.au](http://www.artslaw.com.au)) or the ASA ([www.asauthors.org](http://www.asauthors.org)). Scriptwriters can take advantage of the ethical script registration service offered by the Australian Writers Guild ([www.awg.com.au](http://www.awg.com.au)).

### Digital Publishing Matters

The recent announcements by Dymocks and the ABC that they will be offering digital downloads of books (only audio files in the case of the ABC) highlights again the importance of the ASA's continuing message to members – retain your digital rights! Granted, this can be difficult, but if we do not resist the continuing usurpation of our rights we will find we are receiving even less for our writing, while publishers make even greater profits.

It does not cost a publisher as much as a book to offer a digital file for sale – distribution costs are negligible, there is no inventory, there are no print costs and there is no worry about sale or return.

Don't let publishers bamboozle you about digital rights! And don't let them pay you a pittance for them! Australian authors are worth more than that. But the only way we can make any headway is to stand united on this matter.

Please contact the ASA office for assistance and advice on digital publishing matters.

Dr Jeremy Fisher  
Executive Director  
Australian Society of Authors  
[www.asauthors.org/](http://www.asauthors.org/)

### Helping Kids Read

Issue 2 of Australia's first ever storytelling magazine for young children

and parents, *Little Ears*, is now available. *Little Ears* is a bi-monthly magazine with illustrated stories, poetry and plays by Australian authors, which hopes to inspire busy, modern parents to revive the lost art of storytelling with their children while fostering a love of reading.

*Little Ears* magazine has an academic advisory board. This board includes some of Australia's top early childhood educators, children's storytellers and authors to ensure that the content of every issue reflects the literacy requirements of *Little Ears* readership.

According to the magazine's editor and well known children's writer Di Bates, '*Little Ears* magazine is the best thing to come out of Australia for young children since the Wiggles, and I'm honoured and delighted to be a part of it.' Di is a highly awarded children's writer who has written over 90 children's books and is best known for her *Grandma Cadbury and the Bushranger* series.

Father of seven, actor and play school presenter, Jay Laga'aia is passionate about storytelling and is *Little Ears* magazine's first honorary ambassador. Along with other high profile parents, Jay plans to provide some of his own favourite children's stories for *Little Ears* magazine. The magazine also aims to raise environmental and social awareness in young children with its mascot, Nuno the Bilby. This character not only connects with young children through fun activities such as colouring-in but also introduces some important messages about endangered wildlife in Australia.

*Little Ears* is currently available via subscription on the *Little Ears* website and can be addressed in the name of the child so that eager pre-school readers can also experience the thrill of their own magazine arriving in the post. The magazine is also available at selected newsagents in Australia.

Further information and a free electronic preview of the magazine can be accessed from [www.littleears.com.au](http://www.littleears.com.au).

# What's On



## PoeticA

Presented by Mike Ladd, Saturdays at 3.05 pm, repeated 3.05pm Thursdays. Program details for December:

- 1<sup>st</sup> Varieties of Gazelle – the work of Arab-American poet Naomi Shihab Nye
- 8<sup>th</sup> All the Iron Night – poetry, prose and 'ruined piano' music by Ross Bolleter
- 15<sup>th</sup> *Upon Clouds* – an anthology of cloud poems
- 22<sup>nd</sup> The Earthbound Spirit – a feature for Rumi's 800<sup>th</sup> birthday
- 29<sup>th</sup> *Road Train* – new poetry from the Northern Territory.

## Xmas Wordfire

The December 2007 Wordfire salon will be held on Monday 10th December 2007 – their second literary Christmas show. As usual the venue will be the Red Room, Crown & Sceptre, 308 King William Street, Adelaide. 7.00pm for 7.30pm. Readers include Stephen Lawrence, Cameron Fuller, Amy T Matthews, Steve Brock, Gemma Parker, and there will be music from Mandy Treagus and Emergency Crank Radio. Gold coin at the door. For more details go to: [www.wordfire.onestop.net](http://www.wordfire.onestop.net)

**Independent Scholars (ISAA) ...** is an Australia-wide association for people whose research interests are outside institutional or organisational links. They meet bi-monthly (on the first Thursday in even months, from 2.30 - 4pm) at the SA Writers Centre.

Thursday December 6 at 2.30 pm will be a Round Table about conceptualising and developing research for publication. Many independent scholars feel a responsibility to represent the importance to society of promulgating research to the wider public; and this may involve a radical shift of authorial voice. Whatever your approach to this issue, this is a chance to share thoughts and experiences to find new audiences for our work.

Enquiries: [virginia@virginiakenny.com](mailto:virginia@virginiakenny.com)  
Phone 8344 7810  
Independent Scholars Association of Australia Inc.: SA group  
[www.isaa.org.au](http://www.isaa.org.au); [info@isaa.org.au](mailto:info@isaa.org.au)

## Hills Poets

The next meeting of the Hills Poets will be on Sunday 9 December and they will celebrate the Christmas meeting with an a la carte lunch at 1pm. Poetry readings will be as usual after lunch. If you would like to attend the lunch, please phone me to make a booking. We will also welcome Maggie Emmett as guest reader. Please note new venue: Bridgewater Inn, Mt Barker Rd, Bridgewater. The meeting will be in the dining room in the cellar of the hotel. The car park on the left-hand side of the hotel is easiest access. For information please ring Jill Gower on 8339 5119.

## Ghostwriter Wanted

SAWC member Stan Kontos is looking for someone to write up his book *Good Vibes* so that it is easy to read by the target market.

The ghostwriter will have the following qualities:

- 1) An interest or passion in self-development, personal growth and motivation
- 2) Be able to complete work over the next 3 months
- 3) Have examples of past works for Stan to review

The successful applicant will be paid for their time and effort.

Stan Kontos 0413 488831  
email: [stan@solinstitute.net](mailto:stan@solinstitute.net)

**The Friendly Street News** website is up and running:  
<http://spannerfile.com/spannerfile/>

## Book Launches

*Essential Skills for Science & Technology*, by Peter Zeegers, Kate Deller-Evans, Sandra Egege and Chris Klinger and published by Oxford University Press, will be launched by Associate Professor Derek Leinweber, at the SA Writers' Centre on Thursday 6th December, 6 for 6.30pm. All welcome.

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Please join **Heather Taylor Johnson**

at the Tin Cat Café

for the launch of *Exit Wounds*, poems of birth and death

Friday 1 February 2008

6:30 pm, on 107 Rundle St, Kent Town

light nibbles and drinks

bookings for dinner after the event at 8362 4748

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*Mary Thomas, Founding Mother*  
by **Beth Duncan**

Time: 6.00 pm for 6.30 pm

Date: Wednesday 6 February 2008

Venue: Atrium, SA Writers' Centre

Launcher: John Scales – journalist, former editor of *the Advertiser* and great, great grandson of Mary Thomas.

All SAWC Members welcome!

## Expressions of Interest

Mostly Books are looking for expressions of interest from people who would like to be involved in a poetry group to be convened by Bronwyn Ellis. Possible times are the second Thursday evening of each month, or a Sunday afternoon at Mostly Books, Mitcham. Please email Jacqueline Cookes at [mostlybooks@internode.on.net](mailto:mostlybooks@internode.on.net) or call 8373 5190

# Congratulations...

The following SAWC members were winners in various Salisbury Writers' Festival 2007 competitions:

**Margaret Visciglio** won first prize for *The Blue Roses of Orroroo* in the Three Day Novel Race. Second prize went to **Peter Furnell** for *Sparks*. **Louise Nicholas** came first in the adult poetry section for 'A Man and his Dog', **Alison Manthorpe** came second for 'In the Straits' and **Betty Collins** came third for 'Heaps cool.....'. **Gwendoline Quinn** came second in the short story section with 'The Real World' and **Robyn Cadwallader's** 'Cherry Blossoms' came third.

Congratulations to **Phil Cummings**, **Jane Turner Goldsmith** and **Patrick Allington** who all received Australia Council Literature Funding in the last round.

**Graham Rowlands'** poems 'Dame Margot Fonteyn' and 'George Negus' 2000 Tomorrow' were published in *Blue Dog* and *Linq* respectively.

**Bradley McCann's** short story, 'Lost in Japan' was published in the October 2007 issue of **FreeXpression** magazine.

**Kami's** poems 'In A Café In Newcastle', 'My Baby Likes Western Movies' and 'Cotton On' appeared in the September issue of *Excitement Machine*. His poem 'Supermarket Blues' is in the inaugural issue of *Beer Swill Romanticism*.

**Janeen Brian** has recently had *Cross-Currents*, a novel for older readers, published by Hachette-Livre/Lothian.

**John Scholz's** story, 'Code', won the Mallacoota Arts Council 2007 EJ Brady short story competition.

**David Conyers'** recent published works are: *Cthulhu's Dark Cults*, a horror anthology (as editor), Chaosium Inc (USA); *Cthulhu Australis Part 2* a chapbook featuring 'From the Sick Trees', 'Vanishing Curves' and 'The Swelling', Rainfall Books (UK); 'Sweet as Decay' with David Witteveen, was published in *Macabre*,

*Brimstone Press* (Australia); 'Stomach Acid' with Brian M Sammons, appeared in *Cross-Genre Cthulhu*, Permuted Press(USA); 'Soft Viscosity' was published in 2012, Twelfth Planet Press (Australia); 'The Hag of Zais' appeared in *Eldritch Steel*, Elder Signs Press (USA); and 'Aftermath' was in *Apex Online*.

'Scent, Comb, Spoon' by **Jan Owen** won the Max Harris Poetry Award 2007.

**Ann Tregenza's** poem 'The Butterflies Are Dancing' was published in *Footnotes*, the bi-monthly magazine of Folk Dance Australia Inc.

**Moya Costello** wrote on her PhD thesis, (a faux biography of Harriet Chandler, a minor character in Murray Bail's *Holden's Performance*), in the 'My Journal' column of the Review in *The Weekend Australian* on 20th Oct. She also has a paper in the October issue of the online journal *Text* on learning to write by imitation: <http://www.textjournal.com.au/oct07/costello.htm>.

**Owen Carmichael's** travel feature, 'A Warrior's Reward,' on the restoration of Prince Eugene's country house & garden, was published in *Open Skies*, Emirates Airlines inflight magazine for October.

**Marianne Musgrove** has sold the German translation rights to her first children's novel, *The Worry Tree*.

**Katrina Germein's** article 'Grand Designs (Sydney's Child)' was the joint winner of the 2007 OPSO Award (Older People Speak Out) in the national category of Intergenerational Journalism.

**Fiona McIntosh** has just signed a deal to become a worldwide HarperCollins author for her next fantasy series. All her current titles are published by Orbit in the UK. As well as the English speaking markets, her existing novels are published in six European languages. Fiona presently has 10 adult novels and a quartet of children's fantasy to her credit. Her next release will be for Christmas 2007 with *Goddess*, the final volume of the *Percheron* trilogy.

On top of winning 1st Prize in the Geebung Murder Short Story Competition, **Nigel Ford** also had his poem, 'The Plight Of Dr Haneef' published in the *The Times* of Victor Harbor.

**Dane Nielsen** has had 'Surgical Strike', 'Unbidden Memories' and 'Who am I?' published in the September/October edition of *The Write Angle*, and 'Politics' in the November/December Edition.

**Adeeb Kamal Ad-Deen** had his poem 'Sleeplessness' published in *The Best Australian Poems 2007*, edited by Peter Rose.

**Gwen Leane** book *Reflections - Carers Journey*, which consists of stories of the carers for the Northern Carers' Association was recently launched in Port Augusta.

**Rod Hamon's** story 'Clash of the Mutants' was published in the US magazine *Bewildering Tales*. 'The Cinema' was published in the Australian literary magazine *Beyond the Rainbow*, and 'Split Infinities' appeared in the UK magazine *Twisted Tongue*.

**Annette Wickes's** story, 'Classic Catch' was published in *Orbit* (School Magazine), November 2007.

**Amy T Matthew's** short story 'Venetian Glass' has been published in *Black Inc's Best Australian Stories 2007*, edited by Robert Drewe.

**Bronwyn Blaiklock's** poem 'Migrant Song' has been published in *pendulum 2007*.

**Amelia Walker's** students have launched their verse novella. The project was funded by the School Focussed Youth Service. Amelia ran poetry workshops with the students and helped them to write a verse novella with a positive mental health focus. The story they came up with is about TJ, a 16 year-old boy whose 18yo brother is diagnosed with schizophrenia.

Thanks to all members who sent in their brags over the year. Due to space restrictions, some will be held over until February's *Southern Write*. Ed.



# Literary Competitions...

★ 14 December 2007  
Campbelltown Celebrates 140 Years Literary Awards. Entries that reflect the uniquely diverse culture and surrounds of the City of Campbelltown: Athelstone, Paradise, Newton, Campbelltown, Hectorville, Tranmere, Magill or Rostrevor. Entries to 2500 words – all forms of prose. Four categories from school-aged to established. Free entry. A grand prize of \$2500 and category prizes from \$200 to \$1000.

15 December 2007  
ABR Poetry Prize. Single poem to 100 lines. 1st prize: \$3000. Entry: \$18 or \$10 for ABR subscribers. Contact: (03) 9429 6700, abr@vicnet.net.au or visit www.australianbookreview.com.au

15 December 2007  
Tom Collins Poetry Prize. Maximum 60 lines per poem. First Prize \$1000. Second Prize \$400. Four Highly Commended Prizes of \$150. In addition, four Commended entries will receive certificates only. Entry Fee \$5 per poem, maximum of three poems per author. Entry form available at Tom Collins House, or download from: www.fawwa.org.au

Send entries to: Competition Secretary, Entry for TCPP, PO Box 312, Cottesloe WA 6911. Queries? Contact FAWWA on (08) 9384 4771, or email admin@fawwa.org.au  
Winners announced late February 2008.

☞ 31 January 2008  
Fellowship of Australian Writers Queensland Inc. Lovers of Good Writing Competition. PO Box 6488, Toowoomba Qld 4350  
Open Theme. Maximum 40 lines. Entry fee: \$5 per entry, or \$12 for bracket of three.  
First Prize: \$250  
Second Prize \$100  
Two runner up prizes of \$50  
A FAWQ entry form must accompany each submission.  
Send a stamped self addressed envelope to convenor or down-

- ☺ 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.

load entry form from web site:  
www.connectqld.org.au/fawq

31 January 2008  
The Josephine Ulrick Literature Prize 2008: \$10,000 and The Josephine Ulrick Poetry Prize 2008: \$10,000. For entry forms and further info: <http://www.griffith.edu.au/arts-languages-criminology/school-arts/news-and-events/josephine-ulrick-prizes>

31 January 2008  
Black Dog Institute 4th Annual Writing Competition. This year's topic is mood disorders in adolescence. Essays and poems from people who have, or have had clinical depression or bipolar disorder in adolescence and their carers, to share who and what helped them most, their strategies and the responses of family members, friends and professionals. [blackdoginstitute.org.au](http://blackdoginstitute.org.au)

28 February 2008  
FreeXpresSion Literary Comp. A. Short Story: Open Theme up to 2,500 words. B. Traditional Rhyming Poetry: Open Theme up to 80 lines. 1st prize \$250. 2nd Prize \$150. 3rd Prize \$100. in both A & B categories. C. Free Verse: Open Theme up to 80 lines. D. Article/Essay: Open Theme 1,500 to 2,000 words. 1st Prize \$200 – 2nd Prize \$100.00 in both C & D categories. E. Haiku: Open Theme. 1 page of four represents 1 entry  
1st prize \$100 for the best single haiku. Entry fee \$5 per entry or \$25 for 6 entries.  
For entry form (not essential) send SSAE to PO Box 4 West Hoxton NSW 2171 or email [frexprsn@tpg.com.au](mailto:frexprsn@tpg.com.au)

14 March 2008  
Bundaberg Writers' Club Short Story Competition  
Short Story to 2,500 words. Open theme. First prize \$300, Second prize \$100. \$5 per entry or 5 entries for \$20. For entry form and conditions, email [novels@sandycurtis.com](mailto:novels@sandycurtis.com) or phone (07) 4159 1010.

☺ 22 February 2008  
Kathleen Mitchell Award. For authors under 30 years of age at the time of their book's publication. The author must be a resident of Australia for the 12 months preceding the closing date and must be either Australian or British born. Prize: \$7,500. For more information telephone (02) 9326 5507 or email [trustawards@cauzgroup.com.au](mailto:trustawards@cauzgroup.com.au)

☺★☞ 22 February 2008  
Alan Marshall Short Story Award 2008  
Nillumbik Shire Council invites writers from across Australia to enter this annual short story competition held in memory of the great writer and former resident of Eltham, Alan Marshall. There are three sections:

- Open Section with a \$2000 first prize and a \$1000 second prize for stories up to 2500 words by writers who reside anywhere in Australia
- Local Writers' Section with a \$1000 prize for a story up to 2500 words by a writer who lives, works or studies in the Shire of Nillumbik
- Young Writers' Section with a \$400 prize for a story up to 1000 words by a writer aged

between 15 and 19 years who resides anywhere in Australia. Competition details and entry forms may be obtained from [www.nillumbik.vic.gov.au](http://www.nillumbik.vic.gov.au). For more information email [artsinfo@nillumbik.vic.gov.au](mailto:artsinfo@nillumbik.vic.gov.au) or telephone (03) 9433 3359.

☺ 28 March 2008  
Voices on the Coast 2008 Writing Competition. Voices on the Coast – a youth literature festival, is seeking writing competition entries for an unpublished manuscript by a new (previously unpublished) author. The competition is for a prose story aimed at younger readers (ages 8-13 years) – length up to 30 000 words. Prizes: \$2000 first prize and \$500 second prize. Entries open to all Australian residents. For guidelines and entry forms - [voices@immanuel.qld.edu.au](mailto:voices@immanuel.qld.edu.au) or telephone 07 5477 3437. Supported by a Maroochy Shire Council Community Wellbeing Grant.

☞ 27 June 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](http://www.nswwriterscentre.org.au) or from the SAWC.

# Half a Page with David Mercer

**D**avid Mercer spent fifteen years in advertising agencies and nine years as a publicity manager for Rigby Limited, at that time a leading Australian publisher. He concluded what he describes as a non-meteoric career with far too many years in the public service. He writes humour and virtually nothing else except letters to Centrelink explaining why he didn't inform them his income increased by thirteen dollars and fifty cents last year.

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

Any of P.G.Wodehouse's Blandings stories. I don't know about the lead, but if the Brits produced it, as they should, I'm sure they'd find the right bloke to play Lord Emsworth. I don't know who could play the important part of the pig, Empress of Blandings.

## Do you write with a computer or by hand?

Computer. It's faster and the copy's easier to read. The catch is that the page looks so neat and tidy you can kid yourself the writing's OK.

## Any tips for aspiring writers?

Never pay any attention to talk of writer's block. Writer's block was invented by

writers so they could find either (1) an excuse for not writing or (2) a reason to sit around exclaiming over this terrible cross that writers have to bear. The latter, of course, is much the same as the first.

## Do you listen to anything while you write?

No way.

## What's your opinion of the SA literary scene?

I don't know enough about it to have an opinion. What I do know is that I went in for a novel writing competition once and found that they received an amazing 400 entries. Four hundred slaves to the pen scribing away all around Australia! How's that for a literary 'scene'?

## What are you currently reading?

Biographical stuff about Damon Runyon.

## What books have influenced you?

Authors rather than specific books – Wodehouse, James Thurber, Sidney Perelman, A.P.Herbert, Alan Coren, Flann O'Brien, Runyon, Peter Cook.

## What was your worst job ever?

Publicity Officer in the SA Public Service. Durance vile.

## What started it all off?

I fiddled about with writing humour for umpteen years. About 25-30 years ago, for some reason

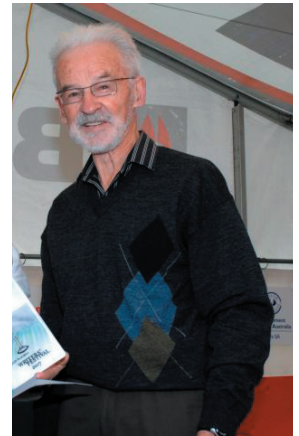
I can't fathom, I decided to work at it, which eventually resulted in my dicing nearly all of what I'd previously written. My writing had improved out of sight with fairly constant work and self-criticism and the previous stuff was simply not good enough to inflict on the world.

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

The Adelaide Festival Award for an unpublished manuscript. I was going to have a belated crack at it this year, but at the very last minute my printer packed up and I couldn't make the deadline.

## What's your favourite writing fuel?

As physical fuel, coffee, but always in small amounts and never after about four in the afternoon. It wakes me in the middle of the night, thinking lickety-split about not much at all. As mental fuel, the stimulus of reading any of the really great humorists.



# LongLines

The Longlines program is back. This is a partnership between State and Territory Writers' Centres and Varuna, funded by the Macquarie Bank Foundation. Through the LongLines Program, Varuna is able to offer 33 professional development places to writers living outside the metropolitan areas of Sydney, Melbourne and Brisbane. 23 of these places are residential and give writers the marvellous opportunity of working in an environment wholly dedicated to writers and writing. For those unable to travel to Varuna, there are 10 non-residential places available. Deadline for applications for the LongLines Program is APRIL 30. For more details of the program and other Varuna residencies please refer to [www.varuna.com.au/longlinesprogram.html](http://www.varuna.com.au/longlinesprogram.html)



Macquarie Bank  
Foundation

# Board's Eye View

by Sean Williams



Stories are remarkable things. Despite being just strings of words, artfully arranged, they can evoke every possible aspect of human experience, and some experiences far beyond that.

No less remarkable is our fascination with stories. Our hunger for narrative, for insight into the lives, minds and hearts of others, appears to be endless. Stories about how stories come to be written, too, are popular: *Eragon*, *Suite Française* and *The Lovely Bones* come immediately to mind. No doubt there are others.

Then there's the thrill of discovering a great new read – via a friend's recommendation, say, on a resort bookshelf, or through BookCrossing – which itself becomes part of the greater narrative. We love finding new stories, and we are diminished without them. They illuminate and inspire us – and they can change our lives, as some books are proud to declaim. They are a fundamental part of what makes us human.

The power of stories is very much on my mind at the moment, and not just because I'm wondering which titles will make the bestseller lists at the end of 2007. The time of year is almost upon us when we remember and re-tell two particular stories, both of

which have survived more than two thousand years. One concerns a child born in a stable, the other a flame that burned seven days longer than it should have. Whether they're fictional, historical or something in between, these two stories have not just lasted longer than the individuals who first told them; they've outlived buildings, governments, languages and entire cultures. Forget lives: these stories have changed history. That is truly amazing.

It also highlights the double-edged nature of our love of a good tale. Writers have occasionally remarked on the inability of real life to satisfy us in the same way as fiction. Screenwriter William Goldman relates the difficulty of adapting certain true-life events in World War II, which, when told exactly as they happened, completely failed to convince viewers of their reality. Award-winning American author Tim Powers agrees: 'Fiction is not a portrayal of real life,' he tells emerging writers; 'Fiction is concocted and planned, to be suspenseful and then satisfying, which real life is not.' Reality is first draft material, from which something much more convincing can be made.

How convincing depends on the way it's told and the audience it's told to. Some stories have limited markets and are never intended to sweep the world. Others are designed specifically to spread, across all demographics and regardless of what truth lies behind them. Consider the children thrown overboard, or Iraq's weapons of mass destruction. These stories were later revealed to bear little relation to what was real in the world, but nonetheless their effects were profound.

Such stories are intended to do much more than provoke a

laugh or to bring us to a deeper understanding of ourselves. These stories exploit our willingness to believe what feels true in order to suspend our natural scepticism. Some might say that stories of miraculous oils and mangers do the same thing. It's up to the listener to decide, when the telling is over, how great an influence they'll let it have over them, once real life resumes.

Australia has just passed an important milestone in its history (that other great story, of which we are all part). As I write this, the results of the Federal Election are unknown. I hope that we, as

writers and tellers of stories, remembered that we're not the only ones who use words to spin reality into something else, be it a more palatable version of the truth or a lie that's been cleverly disguised. All political parties do it; it would be wrong of me to point the finger at any particular one. Suffice it to say that stories can be more effective at toppling regimes than bullets, and they have maintained more than a few long past their use-by date. We who share the same skills as the spin doctors and speechwriters must listen with ears carefully attuned for comfortable fictions. An uncomfortable truth will always serve us better, when the storytellers fall silent.

So this year, after we've wished each other Happy Hanukkah or Merry Christmas and eaten our fill with family and friends, let's remember the power of story and resolve to tell our own to the very best of our abilities. Whether they're about family members no longer with us or lands that never existed, let's devote ourselves to using words to capture a reality very different from the one experienced every day. For that is the true magic of the written word: to take us out of our lives and into someone else's. And therein lies the key to compassion, multiculturalism and a moral society.

*Author of over sixty published short stories and twenty-two novels, New York Times-bestselling Sean Williams writes for young adult and child readers and has been published around the world in numerous languages, on-line, and in spoken word editions. Multiple winner of Australia's speculative fiction awards and judge of the international Writers of the Future Contest, he recently achieved a MA in Creative Writing from Adelaide University. A familiar face at literary festivals and science fiction conventions, he is also a long-standing committee member of The Big Book Club Inc., a peer assessor for Arts SA, and a supporter of PEN. Sean is the current Chair of the SA Writers' Centre.*

