

Get Ready for 2008!



This year promises to be another successful year for the SA Writers' Centre and its members. Clear your diary for the week beginning 2nd March – support Friendly Street Poets' launch of four titles and come and hear our own Lian Hearn, Mike Ladd, Jared Thomas, Matt Rubinstein, Brian Matthews, Corrie Hosking and Garry Disher at **Writers' Week**.

And to whet your appetite, *Animate*

Quarterly will hold its 4th edition mid-February (see below).

The Longlines program, our collaboration with Varuna will again offer a fellowship and the chance to take part in a variety of masterclasses, all to be held in the NSW Blue Mountains thanks to the Macquarie Bank Foundation (see page 10). This scheme has already led to publishing contracts for both Marianne Musgrove and Siang Tay following their involvement in 2006.

For anyone belonging to a writing group or interested in joining one, a **Groups' Muster** will be held at the SAWC on the weekend of 8th & 9th March. Apart from sharing information and success stories, subjects to be tackled include programming on a shoestring, publishing and producing everything from recipe books to poetry, short stories and history books.

Funding – and how to get it – will also be on the agenda of both the groups' Muster and the SAWC's program. In February Paul Rees will provide tips in applying for various **Arts SA grants** (see page 7), while Susan Hayes, the Manager of **Copyright Agency Limited's** Cultural Fund, will fly in from Sydney to give an overview

of CAL and to talk about how the Cultural Fund can benefit Australian writers, illustrators and publishers. Susan will also be available for one-on-one consultations following her talk.

Award-winning interstate writers **Marion Halligan** and **Carmel Bird** along with many of our own State's talented writers will run workshops at the SAWC for those wishing to hone their writing skills. For members wanting to make industry connections, **agent Lyn Tranter** and **publisher Jane Palfreyman** from Allen and Unwin will be visiting the Centre in May. Apart from telling us about their current projects, they both will be taking small group-sessions to allow for more interaction with participants.

In the planning stages for the second half of 2008 are three **Young Authors' Nights**, a business skills course, increased activities in country regions, a joint venture with the Aged Care sector, **Poetry Unhinged Festival** and **the Salisbury Writers' Festival** with the Cities of Onkaparinga and Salisbury.

Given this expected growth we're also keen to involve more members in the organisational part of our programs. We'd love to hear from anyone with skills in the area of marketing, publicity and, yes, the ever-popular fund-raising, as expenditure seems to gallop ahead of income every year.

The Writers' Centre Board and staff hope to catch up with you sometime during Writers' Week. The Centre will be closed but come and say hello to us at the tents. We'll be wearing Writers' Centre badges.

Happy Writing!
Barbara Wiesner
Director

Animate Quarterly

it's a live literary journal

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

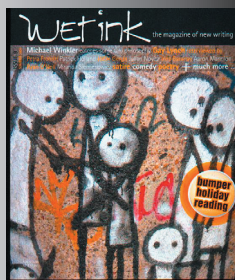
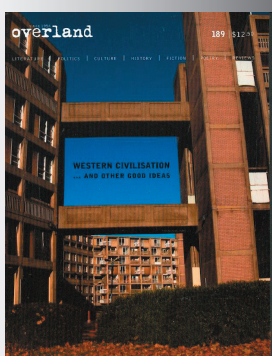
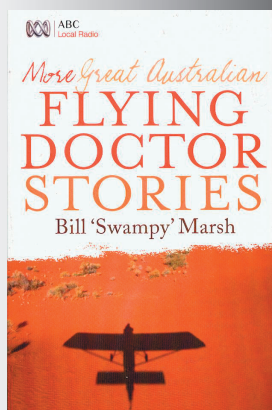
Issue 4 of *Animate Quarterly*, the live magazine, will feature poetry, some prose, a competition, your horoscopes, and our Agony Aunt will answer all your questions about life, love or animals.

There will also be an exclusive interview with Carl Schneider, Education Coordinator at Mobilong Prison, a medium security prison in Murray Bridge.

\$5. No booking required.



Centre Information



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.

So Very Resourceful

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

John p. Volkofsky, *Safety Tips to Start the New Millennium*, Progress Printers, 2007

Carers SA, *Reflections: Carer's Journeys*, compiled and edited by Christine Bulman, 2007

Kate Simpson, *Little Wombat goes to Childcare*, written by Kate Simpson and illustrated by Greg Holfeld, Jitterbug Books, 2007

Frank Gemignani, *And Then You Move On*, 2007

Amelia Walker, *Ad Verse ity: a story in poetry* by the students of Collingwood Alternative School in collaboration with Amelia Walker, 2007

The Reynella Writers, *Tales from the South*, a collection of poems and short stories by the Reynella Writers, 2007

Wakefield Press, *Mystic*, by Peter Eason, 2007; and *Roma: the first biography of Dame Roma Mitchell*, by Susan Magarey and Kerrie Round, 2007

Tony Brooks, *The Far Side of the Reef*, 2007

Ken Duthie, *The Book of Everything For the Single Dad*, 2007

Bill 'Swampy' Marsh, *More Great Australian Flying Doctor Stories*, ABC Books, 2007.

The SAWC also received the latest issues of *Wet Ink*, *Woorilla*, *FreeXpression*, *Voiceworks*, *Tamba*, *Blue Dog*, *Overland* and the last 5 issues of *Page Seventeen*.

SAWC Quiz Night

We invite you to attend the most exciting fundraiser of the year, the SA Writers' Centre Quiz Night. Put Friday 18 April 2008 in your diaries now to make sure it stays free. If you are able to donate any goods or services to the prize pool, please contact Jude at the Writers' Centre.

Newsletter Folders

Thanks to the following people who helped fold the December newsletter: Graeme Rickard, Laurie Anderson, Belly Collins, Jo Dey, John and Coie Dikkenberg, Barbara Fraser, Denise George, Jeanie Klopper, Jeanne Mazure and Peter Swindon.

National Poetry Slam 2007 Final Results, by Alice Sladdin

First: Marc Testart, Vic. Second: Omar Musa, ACT. Third: Vivienne Glance, WA

At 6pm the NSW State Library was sweltering with humidity and excitement. We were all awaiting the culmination of months of organisational and poetic endeavor. The adroit MC Miles Merrill informed the capacity crowd that 675 competing Australian poets had been winnowed via State heats to just sixteen finalists. Five judges were chosen from the audience by randomly throwing chocolates amongst them. Maximum stress was afforded with names being drawn from a hat to determine the running order. I was third and the first two were devastatingly good. Alas, I froze under the performative headlight. Uncannily, the other SA finalist and I wore Boy Scout belts proclaiming 'Be Prepared' which we mistakenly took as a given, rather than a necessary warning. They would have been more accurate had they read 'ill prepared'. Our poems were on par, but not our performance. Embarrassingly, the only two sheets of paper seen on stage, (other than Marc Testart's absolutely deserved giant winners cheque), were in SA hands. The talent of the other contestants was formidable. Awe-inspiring. It was also heartening to witness the interest and enthusiasm with which poetry is met elsewhere. Marc Testart, Omar Musa and Vivienne Glance promise a provocative and professional gig at the Opera House's 'Studio' season on March 6-8th, 2008. I urge any SA poets seriously considering entering 2008's National Slam to get to NSW if at all possible and see these three winners in action.

Check out the National Poetry Slam web site for 'Slamming' inspiration. <http://australianpoetryslam07.org/>

From the Front Desk

Happy New Year! I look forward to working with you in 2008. Please don't hesitate to phone, email or visit if you have any writing questions.

Jude Aquilina
Office Manager.



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

Centre Matters

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 nonfiction, 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.



Marion Halligan. Photo by Juno Genes

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

New in the Library

Lesley Beasley reviews *The Memoir Book* by Patti Miller. Allen & Unwin, 2007

Australian author Patti Miller is better known for her books on writing memoir than her published works in the field. There's a good reason for that and it's not that her own memoirs are bad. It's that her how-to books are so good. The SA Writers' Centre has been recommending her *Writing Your Life* for years. Now we can add *The Memoir Book*, a new guide for anyone writing memoir or biography.

Patti Miller has a wealth of experience to draw on. Apart from her own writing, she has been teaching writing and reading manuscripts for twenty years. She knows what makes a good memoir.

It all starts with the fundamental question, 'What is it like for you to be in the world?' This is what we want to know when we delve into someone else's story. No one else has lived your life and no one else can tell your story, whether you are the ancient mariner stopping one in three, Anne Frank in her attic or a geisha girl in Japan, or simply a boy on a horse in outback Australia.

Whatever the specifics we have a fascination with life and how others have lived it. All the writer has to do is tell the tale. That's where Patti Miller comes in, for there's as much art in the telling as there is in the living and as much craft in a memoir as a novel.

Patti Miller tackles all the usual dilemmas of writing, from the particular perspective of the memoirist. At what point, for example, do you stop thinking and start writing (not too soon, she says, the 'composting' is important)? How do you 'follow the heart' rather

than getting bogged down in a morass of facts and figures? Perhaps most central of all is how to decide whether your story should be fact or fiction, a novel or memoir, and, once decided, how far across the borderline should you allow yourself to stray?

There are exercises to trigger memory, readings from a diverse range of memoirs, and guidelines on everything from voice and texture and structure, to how to draw your reader along a narrative path as you might tempt a bird with scraps of bread.

None of it is prescriptive. There are many ways to write memoir and only you can find the path that works for you, but Patti Miller can help in that process. Whether you are about to start or stuck at some pivotal point part way through, or wondering how to improve a tenth draft, *The Memoir Book* will be a good companion.

The only dilemma is whether to keep reading or dash back to the computer and get to work.

Lesley Beasley is the SAWC's Administrative Assistant. She's written short stories, poetry and book reviews and is currently working on a nonfiction project..

Opportunities

APA and Literature Board Launch 2007 Residential Editorial Program

The Australian Publishers Association and the Literature Board of the Australia Council have announced their continued commitment to Australian literary editing, calling for applications to attend the fifth biennial Residential Editorial Program (REP), to take place at Varuna – the Writers' House in Katoomba, NSW, between 26-31 May 2008.

Mid-career editors will take part in an intensive five-day program to develop literary editing skills with highly respected industry practitioners, including Judith Lukin-Amundsen, Bruce Sims and Jo Jarrah. Having acknowledged the importance of her editors, Bruce Sims and Ivor Indyk in the success of her book *Carpentaria* – Alexis Wright, 2007 Miles Franklin Award winner, will speak at this elite editorial mentoring program. Other speakers will address topics such as editing young people's literature, Indigenous publishing issues and story structure.

Chair of the 2008 REP Committee, Linda Funnell, said: 'Nurturing a strong editorial culture is vital for writing and publishing, and since its inception in 1999 the REP has consistently provided high-level development for mid-career editors, focussing on the particular demands of editing creative work.' Chair of the Literature Board, Imre Salusinszky, confirmed that 'Literary editors deserve such support and nourishment.' And one past participant in REP called it 'the most beneficial professional development program I have ever taken part in.'

In 2008, the REP will again offer editors a unique opportunity to refine their talents. <http://www.publishers.asn.au/>

The Write Stuff: Helping Build A Literary Tradition

The University of New South Wales (UNSW) is helping to build Australia's literary future – well beyond academic and student circles. Nominations are being sought from distinguished writers for the University's Literary Fellowship to be taken up during 2008-2009. The Fellowship, valued at \$12,000, is awarded every two years to a writer in any field, who has a

work in progress that would benefit from time at the University. The Fellowship lasts for a minimum of two months. Award-winning playwright John Romeril was the most recent recipient of the prestigious Fellowship.

He is in good company, with other leading writers such as Linda Jaivin, Frank Moorehouse, Alex Buzo, John Derum, Oodgeroo Noonuccal (formerly Kath Walker), David Foster, Les Murray, Sue Woolfe, Kate Grenville and Mandy Sayer also previous recipients.

Nominations close on 28 February, 2008 and the award will be announced in April. The University's volunteer Committee sponsors the UNSW Literary Fellowship.

For more information on applications, please contact Meg Brewer, Office of the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic), (02) 9385 1094, Fax (02) 9385 1385 or email m.brewer@unsw.edu.au

Small City Tales of Strangeness and Beauty

Writers are invited to submit short stories and poems for a Wakefield Press anthology, *Small City Tales of Strangeness and Beauty*, planned to be launched in 2008. Pieces should have an Adelaide setting, reflecting the city's unique qualities.

Please send stories to Gillian Britton, PO Box 538, Macclesfield, 5153, or email gillian.britton@adelaide.edu.au. Poetry submissions to Stephen Lawrence, 22 Bushy Park Drive, Auldana, 5072, or email stephen.lawrence@adelaide.edu.au. Submit no more than 3000 words of fiction, or up to three poems. Submissions must be unpublished. Please send contact details, and SSAE for return of manuscript. Author payment is subject to funding. Closing date for submissions is 31 March 2008.

Positive Words Magazine ...

is seeking submissions of poetry, short stories & articles for future issues. The special theme for February is 'Ambition' and for March it will be 'Travel' but work on any theme is always welcome from new and established writers. Please include SSAE. Sample copies of the magazine are available

by sending \$2.00 in unused stamps to The Editor: Sandra Lynn James, 466 Old Melbourne Road, Traralgon 3844, Victoria.

Colloquy

<http://www.colloquy.monash.edu.au>
Colloquy is currently seeking unsolicited submissions for Issue 15, a general issue to be published in March 2008. Academic articles, review articles, reviews, translations and creative writing will all be considered. The deadline is upon us so please forward any potential submissions as soon as possible.

We are also seeking submissions for Issue 16, a special issue devoted to Walter Benjamin's *Critique of Violence*, to be published in November 2008 and guest edited by Michael Fitzgerald. Articles or reviews should explicitly address, at least in part, either Benjamin's text or Jacques Derrida's response to it in *Force of Law*. Contributors are invited to extend their analyses to include the cognate works of such thinkers as Schmitt, Agamben, Arendt and others in the continental tradition. In keeping with the interdisciplinary character of *Colloquy*, explicit applications of Benjamin's or Derrida's insights to literary and cultural production are also welcome. The submission deadline for Issue 16 is March 15, 2008.

2008 Watermark Literary Society

The Watermark Literary Society is offering a residency for an emerging Australian writer of natural history, nature and place. The Fellowship includes: single/double accommodation in the Camden Haven, on the mid-north coast of New South Wales, for a 6 week period during June and July 2008; assistance with travel; a living allowance; mentorship by Martin Harrison, a widely published poet and critic who directs the program in Writing and Cultural Studies at University of Technology, Sydney. More information is available at www.watermarkliterarysociety.asn.au/fellowship
Email enquiries should be directed to fellowship@watermarkliterarysociety.asn.au Application close 31 March 2008.

POETRIX 30

After fifteen years of publication, Issue 30 of *POETRIX*, Australasia's only magazine for the work of women poets is being celebrated. Submissions for Issue 30 close on 28 February 2008. They invite poems on the theme of 30 (you can interpret it any way you like!), but we are also inviting poems on any subject of your choice. Maximum of 6, please post to P.O. Box 532, Altona North Vic 3025. Submissions without an SASE will not receive a response. (For more info on our magazine, go to www.sherrylclark.com and click on Poetrix.)

Pocket Book Publishing

'Big news for short story writers. Our editor was a frustrated short story fiction writer. So she created a pocket book specifically for these writers. Our editor has given us the task of gathering thousands of stories to be published into the new pickapocketbook series of short stories. The writers' must register direct to the publisher and submit their stories. The writers' get paid for the story and quarterly payment on pocketbook sales. There is no cost to the writer for publishing. Check it out : www.pickapocketbook.com This is a Melbourne publisher'.

Flash Fiction Postcard Series

Brascoe Publishing, a new independent press in Adelaide, is seeking submissions for an innovative series of publications. The 2008 Flash Fiction Postcard Series will be produced on postcards, featuring new and emerging talent in both literature and art. The Brascoe Publishing 2008 Flash Fiction Postcard Series, published under the imprint Brascoe Books, will see a return to innovative independent publishing in South Australia. 'Independent publishing is becoming a strong force in Australia. We feel that it's time to join in the fun by producing something really exciting,' commented Brascoe Publishing principal Leticia Supple. 'This flash fiction series will be perfect for those readers searching for new and exciting fiction, but who maybe don't want to spend a lot of money on taking a chance with a new writer.' But the postcards will offer much more than just

new writing. 'The beauty of them is that they can be read and posted to someone else,' Leticia said. 'Or they can be bluetacked to the wall after they're read, or they can be collected. Art and literature go hand-in-hand, and these postcards will offer the best of both.' Brascoe Publishing is after the best in cult, shocking, left-of-field fiction, and exciting new art by emerging artists. While priority will be given to Australian talent, Brascoe Publishing is not excluding work from other emerging artists around the world. 'Our mission is to support, and develop young, new and emerging writers. While we look primarily to the fantastic talent Australia has on offer, we will not turn our backs on those from overseas,' Leticia said. 'Young, new, and emerging writers and artists need support and opportunities wherever they reside.' www.brascoebooks.com.au
brascoebooks@gmail.com
Deadline for submissions
8 March 2008.

Evolution Publishing ...

is sourcing talented gay and lesbian writers to contribute on a freelance basis to a website of news, opinion and culture for the queer community in SA. They are looking to provide SA with an informative and entertaining online resource beginning in 2008. Please contact Andrew Shaw, Online Editor of Evolution Publishing on Andrew. andrew-shaw@bigpond.com or on (03) 9602 2333.

Blast ...

is a sturdy and discerning literary magazine. It aims to provide space for the publication of high quality contemporary Australian poetry and other critical writing. Short stories with an edge, and succinct prose essays, are also sought. *Blast* is serious about poetry and the magazine has already built a reputation for publishing poetry of the first rank.

Blast has received a grant from artsACT to pay writers in 2008. Submissions are now being received for *Blast 7* due out March 2008. Deadline for *Blast 8* is July 31.

Blast is published twice a year (March and September). An annual subscription to *Blast* costs \$20 including postage.

Contributions, and subscriptions (cheques payable to Blast) should be sent to:

Blast
PO Box 134
Campbell ACT
2612
anugent@annsverandah.com

For more information visit:
www.annsverandah.com/blast/

Congratulations to the following Arts SA Successful Applicants ...

Tracy Crisp – \$5000 for completion of second and final drafts of novel, *Locked In*.

Rosanne Hawke – \$6000 for completion of *Stolen Bride*

David Hodson – \$4600 for *Anyhowtown*, an adult graphic novel

Jules Koch – \$7900 to research and develop 60 poems

Helen Lindstrom – \$6000 for *Cold Comfort*, a poetry project

Cathy Young – \$5000 for *The Nearest Seat*

Heather Rogers – \$3,500 for assistance with travel, accommodation and conference fees to attend a writer's conference in the USA.

Ruth Starke – \$5,000, Conference attendance, author tour and book research in the UK.

And, the Latest Australia Council Successful Applicants ...

Wet Ink – Funds towards fees for contributors and printing costs for *Wet Ink* in 2008.

Children's Book Council of Australia – Funds for Australian writers to participate in the 9th CBCA conference.

Radio Adelaide – Funds for writers' fees for the 2008 series of Writers' Radio.

News and Views

Dear Editor,

In Sydney recently I visited the impressive Jessie Street National Women's Library in Ultimo. It was established in 1989 and named after the well-known activist, Jessie Street. This self-funded organization holds the specialist library which collects, preserves and promotes the literary and cultural heritage of Australian women. It currently holds over ten thousand books, some of which are not available in any other Australian library. It also has a collection of over one thousand posters. It invites membership from interested Australians.

The library welcomes donations of books written by or about Australian women. If you are moving house or cleaning up, think of contacting the library to see if they would like your unwanted books or indeed your own publications. They have a few books by South Australian authors. The address is GPO Box 2656, Sydney, 2001 and phone (02) 9265 9486. www.nationalwomenslibrary.org.au

Elaine Barker

Success for Writing & Publishing Co-op

Members of an SA Writing cooperative, Writing Right, have published 77 books with more in the pipeline. Of those, more than 49 were printed within the last two years and 27 were published by Writing Right and Kerrinda Printing for members. In an exciting move the group has now set up a website to sell books for members online, and the aim is to sell internationally on the web. Apart from publishing and printing, the group has two monthly meetings with writing skills workshops and critique groups to help writers become published, and an online critique group where members critique each others' writing.

In 2008 Writing Right is inviting other SA groups to become associate members to enable them to print, publish and sell their books. And Writing Right now has top speakers available to address groups and capable writers available to conduct writing workshops in the community. The main aim is to get more South Australian authors published, and read.

'Our writers can compete world-wide

but breaking into international markets is getting more difficult and more expensive, especially when our market is flooded with cheap overseas books,' according to Writing Right President Diane Beer.

'We are looking at niche markets and giving our writers a fighting chance to get their work into circulation,' she said. Some of their writers are published overseas and they are helping local writers.

'For example, Christine Ostermann has published nine books and printed two with Kerrinda Printing and Writing Right. Jennifer Di'ane has published four with Writing Right and is marketing overseas. Some of our interstate members, who work with us online and through the newsletter have also been published with us. Our members are selling their books and that is the main aim. We recognise it is just a step up the ladder into the international publishers but that is the toughest step. So many of our writers are multi-published and we are very grateful that they are sharing their talents with members.'

For further information or interviews contact: Diane Beer 8332 6085 dyo2@ozemail.com.au

The Prime Minister's Literary Prize

The Australian Society of Authors (ASA) congratulates the new Rudd Labor government on the announcement on December 4 of two major new literary prizes. In 2008, there will be a Prime Minister's Literary Prize for fiction and a Prime Minister's Literary Prize for non-fiction.

The annual awards will be worth \$100,000 in each category, with a further budget of \$100,000 to be spent each year on promotion and administration of the prizes. The ASA is pleased to note that the prizes will be awarded tax-free, a policy the organisation has been encouraging the government to adopt for all awards and grants to creators.

The Prize will be the richest in Australia, and will rank among the top literary prizes in the world. Some details are still to be confirmed, but it is anticipated that the award will be open to Australian writers working anywhere in

the world, and writing on any topic. The award will be run through Arts Minister Peter Garrett's office.

One Book One Burnside 2007 Garden Party – Podcast finale

On Saturday 24th November the Burnside library was transformed into a garden with flowers, shrubs, tables and umbrellas as they hosted the finale to their One Book One Burnside program. This provided the ideal setting for a High Tea to conclude the inaugural program and was very much in keeping with the theme of the book – *A Private Performance* by Helen Halstead, which is a sequel to Jane Austen's *Pride and Prejudice*. The event was attended by approximately 60 guests including 12 members of the Victoriana Society whose attendance served to evoke the bygone era of Jane Austen's England. The atmosphere was further enhanced by the background music of accomplished harpist Moira Lawry.

The session was also podcast and placed on the One Book One Burnside blog www.onebookoneburnside.blogspot.com. The blog can also be accessed from the City of Burnside's website.

The One Book program has been very successful with the book being borrowed by hundreds of library patrons and so we look forward to planning next year's program. The next book has already been chosen and we anticipate a very different experience for readers next year.

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What's On



PoeticA

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

Program details for February:

- 2nd Simon Armitage Live – back by popular demand, recorded at the 2006 Adelaide Writers' Week.
- 9th Glass Cathedrals – a feature on the poetry of Nicolette Stasko.
- 16th Letters Lifted into Poetry – the poetic correspondence exchanged between Douglas Stewart and David Campbell.
- 23rd River of Forgetfulness – a selection of poems by Rachel Hadas.

Independent Scholars Association of Australia Inc.: SA Group

Thursday February 21 at 2.30pm.

John Howard will speak on 'Making a Pitch.' Creating a film that reaches cinema or television screens may seem to demand a special set of skills in pitching a case for one's work and for significant investment in the project: yet we all have the need to develop those skills in marketing our ideas. Enquiries: virginia@virginiakenny.com phone 8344 7810. www.isaa.org.au; info@isaa.org.au

The Hills Poets

The next meeting of the Hills Poets will be on Sunday February 10 at 3.30pm at the 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.

North Eastern Writers

Meetings are held on the third Thursday of each month. The next meeting will be held on Thursday the 21st of February from 7.30-9.30pm at the Tea Tree Gully Memorial Hall. Please bring poetry or prose to read on the night. Enquiries to Ken 8380 5348 or Sharon 0403 831170.

The Wild Water

This years Macclesfield Fringe Arts

presents:

A Writers Event 'Dreamshare.'

8th March at the Macclesfield Institute.

Opened at 11.30 by guest of honour and writer Audrey Windram.

9.00 – 11.30 am: workshop – Writing Made Easy: Plots that sell.

11.30am – 12.30pm: Opening/workshop: Audrey Windram, 'Dreamshare.'

12.30 – 1.30pm: Lunch

1.30 – 3.00pm: 4 Local writers share their journey, readings/ discussion.

3.00 – 3.15pm: Stretch break.

3.30 – 5.00pm: Panel: top-selling author, a printer, Writers Right press: How to self-publish.

Poetry@MaccyArts Club Lounge

Sat 22 February, Sat 1 March, Sat 8 March, Sat 15 March.

Poetry open mic. 7.30pm. SLAM event (date tba).

Live Jazz, 'DJ dark. Food /coffee/license. Till late.

Support and Sponsorship from Longview Winery, Dist. Council Mt Barker, Writers Right and the SA Writers' Centre. Contact info: Graham 08 8388 9089

Grammar Gremlins

Dr Isobel Grave will showcase her course 'Grammar Gremlins' at Writing Right's next meeting at the SA Writers' Centre 15th February 2008 at 6.30pm.

Book Launches

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!

Maurice Whelan's novel *Boat People* will be launched at the Centre on Sat 1st March at 11.00 a.m. The novel was written against the backdrop of the Tampa and the treatment of refugees in Australian Detention Centres. All welcome.

Arts SA grants information sessions

In 2008, funding through the Independent Makers and Presenters program will be available in the following categories:

- Professional development, including Individual development, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander artists development initiative, the Bank of Tokyo-Mitsubishi Japan travel fund, Last minute presentation and Building pathways.
- Major Commissions
- Artists in residence
- Fellowships.
- Project development and presentation
- Triennial project grants

If you or your group are considering making an application to the above funding categories, or in the future, Arts SA recommends you attend an arts grants information session.

These sessions are an opportunity to get practical advice on which program best fits your project and how to prepare an application. Each session will focus on a specific artform and arts practice, but general information will apply no matter what your artform.

If you are considering applying to Arts SA for grants now or in the future then you cannot afford to miss these sessions.

The info session directly related to writing will be held on:

Thursday 14 February 2008

6.30 pm to 8 pm

SA Writers' Centre

2nd Floor, 187 Rundle Street
Adelaide

RSVP to SA Writers' Centre 8223 7662
or email sawriters@sawriters.on.net

Area of focus: Literature - practitioners from all artforms welcome.

Congratulations...

Murray Alfredson's 'Agnus dei' was published in *Overland*. His translation of Friedrich Hoelderlin's 'An die Parzen' ('To the Fates') was published in *Orbis* (UK). He also had a translation from Paul Celan published in *Overland*, Autumn 2007.

Margaret Griffin-Ward's 'Reflections by the Sea' was published in the Spring 2007 edition of *Footprints*.

rob walker's music/poetry composition 'Leaving school @ lunchtime' appeared on the double spoken word CD *Going Down Swinging #25*. Poems 'Danny in detention', 'cello' and 'the koan before the satori' were published in the third edition of the new online poetry journal *Mascara*. He performed work with Yahia al-Samawy and the Zephyr String Quartet at Resonance (Nexus Cabaret.)

Mark Spezzano's fantasy story, 'Unwold the Unlucky', was recently published online in Issue #10 of *Chaos Theory: Tales Askew*.

Patricia Irvine's adaptation of Pascal Khoo Thwe's autobiography *From the Land of Green Ghosts* was repeated on ABC Radio National's First Person during November.

Elaine Barker's poem 'In the Raphael Room' was published in *Studio* no. 106 and 'Hedged In' was published in the summer edition of Poetry Monash. *Blue Giraffe* 6 published 'Light Lifting' and 'Toy Boys' was printed in the December issue of *The Independent Weekly*.

Ross Duffy's short stories 'The Demon Booze' and 'An Uncommon Plea' were published on the *Best of Times* website.

Graham Rowlands' poems 'Unexplained Absence' and 'Noise' were published in *Pendulum* 2007 and *Studio* respectively.

Alice Shore's poems 'Life in a Paradise' and 'Words of an Aboriginal Woman Protesting at the Federal Government's Plans to Dump Nuclear Waste on Her Tribal Home Lands' were published in the *Gawler Poetry Reader 1*.

Dennis Wild's poem 'Cut Piece' has been published in *Blue Dog Magazine*. He recently gained runner-up placing in the Canberra based Slam Poetry 2007 heats and performed at the Australian Poetry Slam grand final which was held in Sydney late last year.

The City of Unley Young Writers Group was profiled on Channel 9's 'Out of the Ordinary'.

Annie Fox was nominated for an AFI Award in the Best Children's Drama category for an episode of 'The Sleepover Club', produced by Southern Star Productions and screened earlier this year on Channel 9. The episode is called 'And the Winner is...'

In August 2007, **Cameron Raynes** published a collection of poems by the award-winning writer, Wallace McKittrick. Entitled *Sand*, it is Cameron's first venture into book publishing. Visit www.peninsulapress.com.au for a look.

Ruth Starke's children's novel *Noodle Pie* was published by Omnibus Books on February 1. Instead of a launch, 150 takeaway noodle boxes containing a fortune cookie, chopsticks, letters, plus the book were sent out to leading booksellers across Australia. Omnibus have produced 5000 bookmarks, with a recipe for a traditional Vietnamese dish on the back. (It's a foodie book!).

Bernice Cohen won second prize in the Feast Festival Short Writing Competition 2007 for her short story 'The Stall in the Mall'.

Valerie Williams had her poem 'Salt Spray' published in *The Adelaide Independent Weekly*.

The first chapter of **Alexandra Weaver's** novel 'The End of Knowing Everything' was published by *The Adelaide Review* in December.

Jill Wherry's poem 'The Older Woman's Lament' was published in the December 2007 edition of the SA newspaper called *The Senior*.

John Griffin's short story 'Primo' was published in the December issue of *Quadrant*.

Adrian Flavell had the following poems published: 'for children' in *Thirst*, 'Sunday Dinner' in *Woorilla*, 'prison fast', 'last call', 'dog-day' and 'her argument' in *Beyond The Rainbow*, 'a storm', 'blue iris', 'the sea' and 'off the coast' in *Studio* (no. 107).

Stephen House received a Tasmanian Island of Residencies – funded by Tasmanian Writers' Centre, Copyright Ltd and Arts Tasmania. 'Also Men of India' – an exhibition of street snaps and words has just been included in a curated exhibition titled 'brave new worlds' at a Sydney gallery.

Jill Gower has had poems published in *The Mozzie*, *Artstate*, *Independent Weekly*, *Valley Micropress* (NZ), *Positive Words* and *Gawler Poetry Reader*.

Erica Jolly's article, written to launch Juan Garrido-Salgado's collection, in Spanish and English, 'Once Poemas, Septiembre 1973, Eleven Poems', translated into English by Stuart Cooke and published by Picaro Press, was published in the December 2007 issue of 'Adelaide Voices'. Her poem 'Garden of Australian Dreams at the National Museum' was published in 'Blue Giraffe 6' edited by Peter Macrow.

Playwright **Gemma Sneddon** has had one of her plays, *Perfidy*, selected to be part of the Sydney Short and Sweet festival. It is going to be performed from February 4-9.

Chris Snape's article 'On Christmas Day in Brumidgham' was published in a UK magazine, *The Black Country Bugle*.

Thanks to all members who sent in their brags. Due to space restrictions, some will be held over until next *Southern Write*. Just a reminder that this year we will be not be able to acknowledge competition commendations, letters to editors, and publication acceptances. They must have already been published. Ed.

Literary Competitions...

☺☞ **14 February 2008**

Eaglehawk Dahlia and Arts Festival 2008 Literary Competition. 1. Short Story to 3000 words. 2. Poetry to 30 lines. 3. Bush Verse to 52 lines. 1st prize \$100-\$200. Entry fee \$3.

☺☞ ★ **15 February 2008**

Adelaide Plains Cup Festival Poetry Competition 2008. 1st, 2nd and 3rd cash prizes, plus highly commended and commended certificates. Entry fees: \$5. Junior class free. Theme: Homesteads, Tin Sheds & Everything in Between. Poems no longer than 60 lines.

★☺ **18 February 2008**

2008 International Women's Day Young Women Writers' Award. The Award acknowledges and celebrates the creativity of young women [under 30] within the community and the winners will be announced at the International Women's Day Committee Luncheon on Friday 7 March at the Convention Centre. Developed to support first-time and emerging young writers, the Award provides an important forum for young women to share their stories. For further information contact Toni Jupe on email: iwdcommitteesa@bigpond.com

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

- ☺ 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.

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

★☞ **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. For more information email artsinfo@nillumbik.vic.gov.au or telephone (03) 9433 3359.

February 28 2008

Positive Words Mini Challenge Prize: Six months subscription to Positive Words. Entry Fee: \$1.00

in unused postage stamps per entry. No entry form required.

Challenge for February: Write a short story in 100 words or less, or a poem in ten lines or less using the word SCHOOL at least once. Entries must be postmarked by the last day of February and the winning entry will appear in an upcoming issue. The winner will be notified. Please include SSAE or email address for results. Send entries to: The Editor, Sandra Lynn James, 466 Old Melbourne Road, Traralgon 3844.

☺☞ **10 March 2008**

The Henry Kendall Poetry Award. 1st prize \$500. Entry fee \$7 per poem. No theme or style. Max length 32 lines. Download from www.fusionarts.org.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 or phone (07) 4159 1010.

☺ **27 March 2008**

The Inverawe Nature Poetry Competition 2008 is for poems of up to 28 lines, on a nature theme. First prize \$500, single runner up \$200. Additional \$200 prize for a Tasmanian resident poet and a \$200 prize for an emerging poet who has not yet been published. Limit of three entries per poet, \$5 entry per poem. All entries must be accompanied by an entry

form which is available at www.inverawe.com.au

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 or telephone 07 5477 3437. Supported by a Maroochy Shire Council Community Wellbeing Grant.

☺ **31 March 2008**

The Best of Times short story competition. For humorous short stories (any theme) up to 2500 words. Mystery prizes (non-monetary) for first, second and third place. No entry form is required. Include a cover sheet with your name and address, story title and word count. Entry fee is \$5 per story. Send a cheque or money order made out to Chris Broadribb or if you have a PayPal account, you can pay cabbook-5@yahoo.com.au Post your entry to Chris Broadribb, PO Box 116, Burwood NSW 1805 or email it to cabbook-5@yahoo.com.au. If you enter by post, include a large SSAE so that your story can be returned afterwards, along with a results sheet. If you would like an electronic copy of the results then provide your email address. Winners will be notified by the end of April. Winning stories will be published on the website if the authors agree. Competition webpage: www.geocities.com/spiky_one/comp5.html

Half a Page with Mike Ladd

Mike Ladd is currently producer and presenter of ABC Radio National's Saturday afternoon poetry program *Poetica*. In 2006 he was awarded the Barbara Hanrahan Fellowship at the Adelaide Festival Awards for Literature. He has published six books of poetry. The most recent, *Transit*, was released by Five Islands Press in 2007.

Any tips for aspiring writers?

Read widely. Be happy to write for yourself first, then for others. Don't give up because you get knock-backs, but, equally, don't blind yourself to the possibility that the writing needs to be better.

Do you listen to anything while you write? What?

Yes. The birds in my backyard.

What's your opinion of the SA literary scene?

There are good things and bad things. The SA Writers' Centre, Lee Marvin readings, *Animate Quarterly*, *Wet Ink*, Wakefield Press, *The Adelaide Review*, Friendly Street, Arts SA, Martin Johnson's Gawler readings, the centre for poetry and poetics at Uni SA and other venues, are providing opportunities for writers of all kinds. You really can't say that literature is not supported in this state. It's far better than it was a generation or so ago. On the not so

good side, Friendly Street Poetry reading is too long, and the ratio of duds to gems is too high. I don't know what can be done about it because the democratic tradition of Friendly Street says you must put on all-comers. I was an adviser on the Lit Board recently and there were not enough applications from SA - Tasmania had more, and that is a much smaller state. I think the poetry scene here is too insular and not enough SA writers get out to the other states to show what they can do.

What are you currently reading?

Betty Collins's poetry book - *Not About Frogs*. It's funny, and feisty. Also Angelo Loukakakis's novel *The Memory of Tides*. I stayed on Crete for a couple of months, so it brings back memories. Nonfiction - *Ochre and Rust* by Philip Jones. Brilliant!

What books have influenced you?

As a prose writer, *Inside the Whale* and other essays by George Orwell and all of John Berger's prose. In poetry, Robert Frost, the Chinese classics, Basho, Nazim Hikmet, actually, I'd need a half page just for this ...

What was your worst job ever?

An actor in an experimental film. I had to stand there in grey overalls and rake a pit of human excrement at a sewage farm.

Do you have a non-writing job?

Not really. My work at ABC Radio is a writing job - mostly other people's, but a lot of scriptwriting as well. I also teach Writing for Radio at Adelaide TAFE.

What started it all off?

I can't say. From early childhood I was making lines up in my head, and as soon as I could write, I was scribbling things down. Is it genetic? I grew up in a house full of books and was surrounded by words. Both my parents are great readers, and my grandfather was a Presbyterian minister and closet poet. I had a couple of good English teachers along the way who helped too. I was encouraged by Rodney Hall and Marcia Kirsten at a young age, and then there were the early days at Friendly Street and Radio 5UV ... it kicked on from there.

What's your favorite writing fuel?

Coffee before, a nice cocktail afterwards.

Transit will be launched by Robyn Rowland at Writers' Week, Friday 7th March, 12.30-1.00pm in the West Tent, Pioneer Women's Memorial Gardens. All SA Writers' Centre Members welcome.

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

Adelaide author Siew Siang Tay's novel, *Handpicked*, will be published by HarperCollins Publishers Australia in April 2009. The novel is set in Renmark in the 1990s and traces the parallel journeys of Laila, a young woman from a rural village in Sarawak, and Jim, a fruit picker living in Renmark, as they overcome obstacles within themselves in their search for happiness in marriage. The novel was developed and completed with the assistance of two Varuna awards that she won - the Macquarie Bank Foundation Longlines Masterclass and the HarperCollins Varuna Award for Manuscript Development in 2006 and 2007 respectively.



Macquarie Bank
Foundation

Searching for Space

by Anna Solding

My writing life has changed forever. I am a bit nostalgic about it, but not sad. Change isn't necessarily a bad thing. Often change makes you consider your new situation carefully and make the best of it. You might even make things work better than they used to. For me, the huge change came at the end of last year when I had to pack up my office at the University of Adelaide because I had, finally after five years, managed to finish my PhD in Creative Writing.

Suddenly I had nowhere to write, no space to escape to when words wanted out. No window to stare out of for inspiration, no printer, no place for my photos, no hope of ever again writing a single word. I have a laptop and a desk in my bedroom but I also have two small children who would drive me absolutely insane if I tried writing at home. I have always agreed wholeheartedly with Virginia Woolf when it comes to her ideas about having a room of one's own. I envy people who can write while their kids run around their desk screaming, or even in spare minutes while one child is having a nap and the other is entertaining herself by listening to 'The Wiggles'. Figuring that my writing life would be so much easier if I was one of those people, I decided to try a more flexible and less precious approach to my writing space.

On the net there are endless tips on how to find a writing space. Here is a selection:

* If you can't have an office, settle for a corner.

I have friends who have their computers set up in their lounge rooms and I tried to convince my partner that this arrangement could work for us too but he made it clear that he would move out before the desk moved in. So no corner for me.

* Erect a visual boundary around your writing space.

Unfortunately, this would only serve to make the space more interesting for my four-year old computer literate son.

* Consider working in a café or a restaurant.

This did cross my mind but since I am a person who really craves silence while working it isn't for me. Though I have friends who do it regularly.

* Rent a writing space.

For people who have begun earning some money from their writing, this might be a good option as it makes you feel more professional, as if you have a normal job to go to every morning.

* Use the library.

One reason why libraries are so wonderful is because they are set up for both readers and writers. However, nowadays libraries are a bit like internet cafés and it might be more difficult to find a quiet corner than it used to. This was one option that my partner suggested and I considered it carefully but as it happens I haven't yet made it to the local library because now, when I have opened my eyes to all kinds of opportunities, I can suddenly see an even better one; a church which I pass on my way home from the gym.

* Be creative about finding a writing space.

This is what actually

happened. I brought out the trusty old journal and began jotting things down as they came to mind late at night when my sons were in bed. I also stop at the church as often as I can, sometimes for half an hour sometimes longer. It is always open and always empty. When there happen to be people rearranging fliers or cleaning the floor they seem to scuttle off as soon as I enter. It is a cool, soothing space on a hot day. I have invited myself in and the church has greeted me with hard pews and stern silence. You certainly don't have to be religious to appreciate the peacefulness of a church, being a writer in need of space is enough. So a couple of days a week, this is where my new novel takes shape.

* Bring your work to the Writers' Centre.

This is an option I added to the list because it seemed like the one most attractive to someone in my situation. You might not get a room of your own but the friendly staff will do their best to

accommodate your needs and there are often other writers to chat with if you feel like taking a short break.

Apart from a new mindset, another great thing that my desperate need for writing space has produced is offers from friends. Two of my dearest friends simply offered me makeshift offices in the disguise of their own homes. One I had to turn down simply because of the distance but the other I gratefully accepted and this is where I sit in front of my laptop writing these very words. Here I have a window to stare out of and, most importantly of all, I have hope that there will be more words. Not just today, but tomorrow and the day after that.

Because now I have a room of my own and that is actually more than I ever did at uni.

Source: fictionwriting.about.com

Anna Solding has had stories and photographs published in a variety of collections and literary magazines. In 2007, her second novel manuscript The Hum of Concrete was shortlisted for the Varuna Awards and currently it is shortlisted for the Penguin/Varuna scholarship. Anna has worked as an editor for the magazine Wet Ink, live journal Animate Quarterly and independent publisher Ilura Press. She holds a PhD in Creative Writing from The University of Adelaide and is a regular reviewer for The Independent Weekly. As often as possible, she spends her days playing with her two sons and writing her third novel – preferably not at the same time.



Membership Application Form

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

Name/Organisation

Address

Suburb/Town Postcode

Telephone..... Fax Email

- \$99/\$88 organisation (inc GST) Renew
 \$60 waged (inc GST) New
 \$33 student/healthcare cardholder (inc GST) Concession number

Method of payment: Cheque/money order attached Bankcard Mastercard Visa

Credit card number | _ _ _ _ | _ _ _ _ | _ _ _ _ | _ _ _ _ | Expiry date

Cardholder's name Cardholder's signature Date of application.....

(Please enclose a SSAE for return of receipt and membership card. If a tax invoice is required, please tick)

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Southern Write
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The SA Writers' Centre is assisted by the Australian Government through the
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