

## An AGM on the Wild Side

6.30pm May 10, 2007 at the SA Writers' Centre

Free-range books, wild animals and an untamed interview are on the agenda for the SA Writers' Centre's 2007 AGM. Come and hear Ed McCallister, former Adelaide Zoo CEO, speak about the secret lives of animals and emails, and Kirsty Brooks, writer and former SAWC Chair, relate the mysterious journeys of Book Crossing Books.

After the formalities, renowned interviewer Stephanie Hester will host the session, asking Ed and Kirsty some tail-curling questions.

SAWC Librarian Silvia Muscardin will also officially release three books by SA authors into the wild.

Please support your Centre and join us for this AGM with a difference.



Ed McCallister



Stephanie Hester



Kirsty Brooks

## Open Forum: Hot Topics for Writers

Monday May 14, 7.30pm

with Jackie French, Michael Hyde, Dyan Blacklock, Ian Bone and Ruth Starke. This forum, in conjunction with All Write! is for writers, teachers, librarians and anyone associated with books for children and young adults. \$33.

Please book on 8223 7662.

Hot Topics Include Jackie French discussing 'Six Myths for Writers' –

- . why spilling doesn't always matter
- . the myth of the starving writer
- . the myth of the eight rejections
- . the last year's bestseller illusion
- . talking animals and other no-nos
- . bums, farts and other phallacies

Jackie French



Ian Bone will talk about 'The desire to be published' and Dyan Blacklock will explain the idea of offensive publishing? What is it?

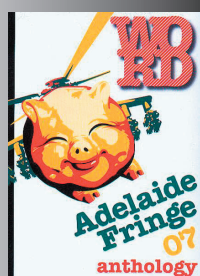
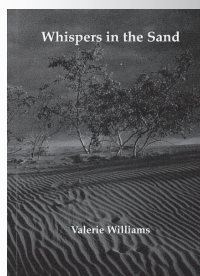
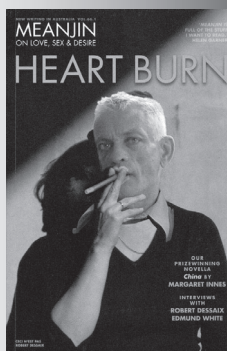
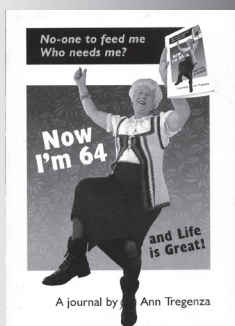
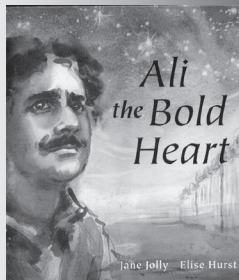
How does it offend, who does it offend and why does it offend?

### Notable Australian Children's Books 2007

Congratulations to the following South Australian writers whose books have become Notable Australian Children's Books.

Ian Bone  
D.M Cornish  
Helen Manos  
Jackie French  
Rosanne Hawke  
and Jane Jolly.

# Centre Information...



## So Very Resourceful

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

**Alice Shore**, *The Prosperous Nation, and Somers Commonwealth Immigration Camp*, by Marina Lutz (Edited by Alice Shore), Ginninderra Press, 2007.

**Aboriginal Studies Press**, *An Information Kit for Indigenous Authors*, 2006.

**Writing for Pleasure Group of Salisbury U3A**, *Take Five*, 2007.

**Ann Tregenza**, *Now I'm 64 and Life is Great!* and *Older Women's Experience of Participation in a Multicultural Folkdance Group*, both 2007.

**Jane Jolly**, *Ali the Bold Heart*, (illustrated by Elise Hurst), Limelight Press, 2006.

**The Adelaide Fringe '07**, *WORD*, an anthology from the Adelaide Fringe Writers' Festival, 2007.

**Valerie Williams**, *Whispers in the Sand*, Seaview Press, 2007.

The Centre also received the latest copies of *Wet Ink* and *Meanjin*, as well as many newsletters and magazines from around the country including the latest **Association of Greek-Australian & Artists Australia** newsletter.

## Newsletter Folders

Thankyou to the following people who helped to fold the April edition of Southern Write: Tony Brooks, Betty Collins, John and Coie Dikkenberg, Nicola Haywood, Gay Sanderson, Matthew Staker, Daniel Taylor, Ann Timoney Jenkin, Diana Whiley, Peter Swindon and Doreen Spurdens.

## Extra Extra Brochure

As part of the SA Writers' Festival, the SAWC will once again be producing a list of books that have been published in the last two years. If your book has come out (or is soon to be released) between September 2005 and September 2007, please provide the following details: your name, name of book, publisher, date and a one-sentence

blurb by the beginning of July 2007. Email [admin@sawriters.on.net](mailto:admin@sawriters.on.net) or post to the SA Writers' Centre, PO Box 43, Rundle Mall, 5000.

## Annual General Meeting May 10th, 6.30pm Agenda

1. Present and Apologies
2. Minutes of Meeting held 4 May 2006
3. Business Arising
4. Reports: Chair, Treasurer, Director
5. Appointment of an auditor
6. Determination of Honoraria for Board members (currently \$150 / \$200 for executive members)
7. Determination of membership fees
8. Election of Board members (there are four places to be filled)
9. Guest Speakers (see page 1)
10. Close

## SAWC Seminar Advance Notice

**The Art of Real Stories**  
Come and meet industry professionals and writers of non-fiction in this day long seminar. Discover the protocol for approaching and dealing with publishers. Learn how to attract their attention and get your work published. This seminar will include a chance to talk to the presenters in small group sessions.

Agent: Mary Cunnane from the Mary Cunnane Agency.

Publishers: Michael Bollen from Wakefield Press and Tim Whiting from Random House.

Writer: Don Loffler, author of *She's a Beauty! The story of the first Holdens*.

**July 7th, 10am till 4pm.**



**Internode**

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

## Disclaimer

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

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

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



# May Workshops and Events

## The Novel – Beginnings with Peter McFarlane



Peter will help you to establish criteria essential for a successful opening chapter and how to incorporate them in a new story. Participants are invited to share samples of first chapters they have already written and wish to be discussed.

After a number of years as a teacher, Peter McFarlane has become a full-time writer of children's and young adult fiction. Apart from poetry anthologies and books on poetry teaching, Peter McFarlane's publications include two collections of short stories for teenagers, *The Flea and Other Stories* and *Lovebird* as well as two novels, *The Enemy You Killed* and *More Than a Game*. Peter is the 1994 Carclew Fellowship winner and was awarded a Category A Fellowship from the Australian Council in 1995.

**Saturday May 12, 10am-1pm**

## Tips for Running a Workshop with Ian Bone



This workshop will cover how to use your personal style to deliver a successful workshop. Starting with your own wisdom (and humility), we'll look at a few group work methods, responding to each moment and at pre-planning the workshop. For writers wanting to run

creative writing or other types of workshops.

Ian Bone's books range from early childhood picture books through to young adult novels. His young adult novel, *The Song of an Innocent Bystander*, was shortlisted for the Children's Book Council of Australia (CBCA) Book of the Year award in 2003 and the South Australian Festival Awards for Literature in 2004. Other novels by Ian include: *Sleep Rough Tonight*, *That Dolphin Thing*, *Tin Soldiers* and *Fat Boy Saves World*.

**Saturday May 12, 10am-1pm**

## Poetry Masterclass with Jeri Kroll

Poets are invited to apply for the SA Writers' Centres poetry masterclass with Jeri Kroll. The poetry masterclass is intended to focus on the work of a small group of writers (no more than 6) who are working on a collection of poems. It's hands on and intensive and each participant will have a chance to have individual attention from both Jeri and the other participants.

The cost of the series is \$350 for six two-hour sessions, held on Monday nights (June 18, 25, July 2, 9, 16, 23). Contact the Centre if you would like to work out a payment plan.

Writers need to apply for the masterclass by submitting a sample of six poems and a brief statement about why you want to participate to: Poetry Masterclass, C/- SA Writers' Centre, PO Box 43, Rundle Mall, SA 5000, or email to sawriters@sawriters.on.net

## Making Dollars out of Sense with Sharon Mascall



Back by popular demand. Practical, no-nonsense advice on how to make money from freelance journalism and professional writing. It covers: What is the difference between journalism and professional writing? What kinds of articles can you expect to sell and to whom? How do you make your pitch? How much can you expect to be paid? What are the pitfalls? How to build a portfolio and use networks to advance your writing career.

Sharon Mascall-Dare is an award-winning journalist. After six years at the BBC in London, she relocated to Australia with her family 1999 and went freelance. Today, she continues to work for the BBC as a documentary producer and presenter and writes for a number of Australian newspapers including *The Independent Weekly* and *The Age*. She is also a lecturer at the University of South Australia, teaching creative writing.

**Saturday May 12, 1.30-4.30pm**

## Short, Sharp and Shiny with Bill Marsh

This workshop will cover aspects of the short story from the idea to



the finished product. Attendees will be given guidance as to the process of turning that great idea into a solid, saleable short story. This workshop will cover the broad sweep from the setting up of an opening paragraph to grab

a reader's attention, right through to an ending that will catch a reader by surprise plus the writing tools needed to hold your story together.

Bill 'Swampy' Marsh is an award-winning writer/performer of stories, songs and plays. His recent book *Great Flying Doctor Stories II* is a follow-on from his very successful first collection of *Great Flying Doctor Stories* (1999) and is part of his series *Great Australian Railway Stories* (2005), *Great Australian Drovers Stories* (2003) and *Great Australian Shearing Stories* (2001).

**Saturday May 12, 1.30-4.30pm**

## About Jeri Kroll:

Dr Jeri Kroll is Professor of English and Program Coordinator of Creative Writing at Flinders University. She has published over twenty books for adults and young people, including poetry, picture books (two Children's Book Council Notable Awards), novels and anthologies, released both in Australia and overseas. *Death as Mr Right*, her first poetry collection, won second prize in the Anne Elder Award for best first poetry book in Australia. Her most recent novel is *Mickey's Little Book of Letters* (2004; audio book 2006). *The Mother Workshops*, a mixed genre collection of poetry and prose, was adapted for ABC Radio National's PoeticA in 2006. Also in that year a sequence from a verse-novel-in-progress was runner-



# Young Writers Get-together

## Open Forum:

### Young Writers Get Together!

Find out where you can get your work published or performed, how to get money, who can help and how you can approach them. The ins and outs of the young writing world. For young writers aged 16-30.

Featuring: Playwright Fin Kruckemeyer, poet Aidan Coleman, Georgie Davill from Carclew Youth Arts Centre and Alex Wheaton, from *dB Magazine*. **Thursday May 24, 7.30pm at the SA Writers' Centre. Pay What You Can. Please book on 8223 7662.**



**Aidan Coleman's** poetry has been published in numerous journals, anthologies and newspapers in

Australia and overseas, and in 2002 a chap-book, *The Main North Road* was published. His first full-length collection, *Avenues & Runways* was published by Brandl & Schlesinger in 2005.

**Georgie Davill** trained at Drama Centre, Flinders University of SA and has a Graduate Diploma in Community Cultural Development. Georgie has worked in many areas of the arts including project coordination, management, training, facilitation, tutoring and performance. In 2006 Georgie resigned as Training and Development Coordinator for CAN SA where she worked for nearly seven years to take up the position of Industry Development Project Manager at Carclew Youth Arts Centre. A large part of Georgie's role at Carclew is running the SAYAB Project and Development Grants.

**Finegan Kruckemeyer** has had 25 of his works performed around Australia, 22 of which have been commissioned by professional, independent and youth theatre companies. His plays have been part of Adelaide and Melbourne Fringe Festivals, the Come



Out Festival, the Ten Days on the Island Festival, the 2002 Festival of One, the 2003 Gorge season, 2005 inSpace season, and 2005 and 2007 State Theatre Company of SA seasons. Finegan was the recipient of the 2006 Jill Blewett Playwrights' Award for *This Uncharted Hour* for Brink Productions (the first work in the State Theatre's 2007 season), and the 2001/2 Colin Thiele Writers' Scholarship, as well as other scholarships and grants. He was one of five Australian delegates at the international 2005 World Interplay Conference. His Brecht Estate-approved translation of Brecht's *Drums in the Night*, first commissioned by Brink Productions and part of the 2005 State Theatre season, enjoyed a three-month season in Los Angeles with Tim Robbins' company, The Actors' Gang.

**Alex Wheaton** is the editor of *dB Magazine*, a free street press publication for the city of Adelaide and the whole of South Australia. *dB* publishes reviews and other writing by, and for, young people.

# 2007

## SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY WRITER'S PRIZE



An Australian Government Initiative

The 2007 Social Responsibility Writer's Prize will be launched on 27 April with a first prize of \$2000! The competition is a fun way for secondary school and tertiary students to express their opinions about socially responsible business practice. Australian students are invited to choose from a series of questions and respond in a creative style. As an Australian Government initiative this competition allows the Prime Minister to hear the views of youth in our community as Australia's future business and community leaders.



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For more information, go to [www.partnerships.gov.au](http://www.partnerships.gov.au) or call 1800 050 009

# Opportunities...

## **2008 Calibre Prize**

Australian Book Review (ABR) and the Copyright Agency Limited (CAL) are delighted to seek entries for the second Calibre Prize for an Outstanding Essay. With a first prize of \$10,000, this is one of the world's major essay competitions. The Calibre Prize is intended to generate brilliant new essays and to foster new insights into culture, society and the human condition. It is an inclusive competition. They welcome essays from leading authors and commentators but also from emerging writers. All nonfiction subjects are eligible: from life writing to literary studies, history to politics, biography to philosophy, natural history to popular science, travel writing to environmental studies. The guidelines and application form are now available on the ABR website: [www.australianbookreview.com.au](http://www.australianbookreview.com.au). Essayists must reside in Australia or be Australian citizens living overseas. They will have until 31 August 2007 to submit their works. Multiple entries are permitted, and all essays will be judged anonymously. Essays can range from 3000 to 10,000 words. ABR will announce the results in early December and will publish the winning essay along with other shortlisted essays.

## **Micro-Fiction**

Freelance writer Jenny Springett is in the early planning stages of assembling a book on the topic of Micro-fiction. Micro-fiction in all its various forms has been increasing in popularity overseas and is beginning to find some ground in Australia. She is extremely interested to hear from other writers with ideas, information, techniques, comments and contributions relating to this new wave of creatively utilising the written word. Anyone interested in this project can contact Jenny by email at [springettjenny@yahoo.com.au](mailto:springettjenny@yahoo.com.au).

## **ABAF Awards**

Nominations for the Australian Business Arts Foundation Awards are open until Friday May 18. <http://www.abaf.org.au/awards/> for more information.

## **The Arts Queensland Val Vallis Award for Unpublished Poetry**

Named in honour of a distinguished Queensland poet, The Arts Queensland

Val Vallis Award for Unpublished Poetry is committed to encouraging emerging poets throughout Australia. Now in its 9th year, this prestigious prize for an unpublished poem (or suite of poems) of 100 lines or less comes with a first prize of \$3,000. Second and third prizes are \$750 and \$250 respectively, and winners will be announced at the opening of the Queensland Poetry Festival on 7 September. Entries close Monday 23 July, 2007. For more details or entry forms, visit [www.queenslandpoetryfestival.com](http://www.queenslandpoetryfestival.com) or email [qldwriters@qwc.asn.au](mailto:qldwriters@qwc.asn.au).

## **2007 Victorian Premier's Literary Awards ...**

are designed to honour Australian Literature, innovation, ideas and learning. Nominations and entries are now open Closing at 5pm 4th May 2007.

2007 categories are:

The Vance Palmer Prize for Fiction  
The Nettie Palmer Prize for Nonfiction  
The Prize for Young Adult Fiction  
The Prize for an Unpublished Manuscript by an Emerging Victorian Writer  
The CJ Dennis Prize for Poetry  
The Louis Esson Prize for Drama  
The Alfred Deakin Prize for an Essay  
Advancing Public Debate  
The Village Roadshow Prize for Screen Writing  
The Grollo Ruzzene Foundation Prize for Writing about Italians in Australia  
The John Curtin Prize for Journalism  
The Prize for Science Writing

For guidelines and nomination forms visit [www.slv.vic.gov.au/pla](http://www.slv.vic.gov.au/pla)

## **PlayWriting Australia**

National Script Workshop Canberra, 25 June – 6 July 2007.

PlayWriting Australia is calling for entries for its National Script Workshop to be held in Canberra in June. PlayWriting Australia is the new national peak body for playwriting services, with a mission to develop great new Australian writing for performance. The workshop is the first major programme to be announced by PWA and is part of a major strategy to develop and present new Australian plays to a national audience. The

residential workshop offers playwrights the opportunity to develop their writing over a 2-week period of intensive work with the country's finest directors, dramaturgs and actors. This new event is for emerging, developing and established playwrights with unproduced work at an early stage of development. More info from [gm.playwritingaustralia@gmail.com](mailto:gm.playwritingaustralia@gmail.com) or from the SAWC.

## **Max Harris Poetry Award**

Offering a prize of \$3,000 for the winning entry, the Max Harris Poetry Award aims to recognise the work and talent of Australian poets. The entry fee is \$10 for one poem and an extra \$5 per poem for up to two additional poems. The closing date for entries is 1 August 2007. Please visit [www.poetryandpoeticscentre.com](http://www.poetryandpoeticscentre.com) for entry forms and the conditions of entry.

## **SAWT Workshop**

SAWT in conjunction with the State Theatre will be presenting a workshop with assistant artistic director Michael Hill. Saturday, May 26, 1-4pm. The theme will be Dramatic Action. Rehearsal Room One (assemble at the Playhouse Foyer at 12.45). Fee, payable on arrival: \$10 (SAWT members & members Urban Myth); \$20 (non-members).

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# What's On...

## May Poetica

Presented by Mike Ladd

Saturdays at 3.05pm. Repeated at 3.05pm

Thursdays. ABC Radio National.

Program details:

5th. Gillian Clarke – an encounter with this leading contemporary Welsh poet.

12th. Birdsong – an avian celebration in poetry and sound.

19th. T.A.G Hungerford – a selection of Hungerford's poems read by Jack Thompson.

26th. Jane, Lady Franklin – Adrienne Eberhard's poetry about the extraordinary wife of a Tasmanian colonial Governor.

## BOOK LAUNCHES

*Outcast*, by Moonta author,

Roger Norris-Green, will be launched at 2.30pm on Friday May 18th

in the Moonta School Library, as part of the Kernewek Lowender celebrations.

Launched by Tricia Stringer

All welcome.

## Also ...

You are invited to the launch of

*Picking Up Sunshine*

by June Stephenson

& Elizabeth Mansutti.

To be launched by

Anne Levy

4.30 for 5.00pm, Thursday 17 May

at the SA Writers' Centre.

Books will be on sale for \$10 each

Refreshments will be available.

## And ...

*Hungry Ghosts*

a junior novel by Sally Heinrich

to be launched by Rosanne Hawke

6pm Friday 25 May

at the SA Writers' Centre.

## One More

SAWC members are invited to the launch of *Three Agendas and One Slim Hope*,

a novel of humorous far fetched fiction in the tradition of Douglas Adams, Tom Holt and Robert Rankin by 'Wizard of Odd' Brandon Roberts. Friday 4th May, 6.00pm for 6.30 start at the SA Writers' Centre. A little live music, some light refreshment and big heavy author provided.

Excluding babies and documents pertaining to power of attorney, the author

will be on hand to sign anything you can get up the stairs.

## Dave Diss Talk

Dave Diss will be giving a talk at Marion Cultural Centre, 287, Diagonal Road, Oaklands Park – in the new Library Building near Marion Shopping Centre from 10 -11am, Tuesday May 8th. Book with Renya Spratt 8375 6754. Renya is also seeking expressions of interest in a monthly creative writing group to be set up at one of Marion Library Service's libraries. Contact her to register interest 8375 6755.

## Ubud Writers & Readers Festival Writing Workshop

Sweet Mangoes – Writing for the Senses 5-day workshop for both memoir and fiction writers, with Patti Miller.

Bali, Indonesia. 1 - 5 October, 2007.

'The feel of velvet under fingertips, the smell of coconut oil on a summer beach, the taste of sweet mangoes. The cost of this 5-day writing workshops is AUD\$1,700.

For more information, please go to the Ubud Writers & Readers Festival website [www.ubudwritersfestival.com](http://www.ubudwritersfestival.com) or email [info@ubudwritersfestival.com](mailto:info@ubudwritersfestival.com).

## Emerging Writers' Festival 2007

From 25-27 May the Emerging Writers' Festival takes over the key venues of Melbourne to celebrate and promote the best writers you haven't heard of ... yet. The EWF brings cutting-edge writers from across Australia to Melbourne for three days jam-packed with events, and features the best in emerging and established writers in all forms of writing.

The festival is for writers, readers and thinkers of all kinds and features a free launch and keynote speech; a weekend of panels, seminars & performances; a film program; an exhibition of text in art; an independent press fair; a performance night; literary speed dating; and a 48-hour play generator.

Immerse yourself in the 2007 Emerging Writers' Festival and celebrate the future of writing. Registrations open now. For details go to: [www.emergingwritersfestival.org.au](http://www.emergingwritersfestival.org.au)

## Hills Poets

Please note that there will not be a meeting in May. The next meeting will be on Sunday

10 June. For further information please ring Jill Gower on 8339 5119.

## Gawler Poetry Readings

Cath Keneally will be venturing to the leafy country town as guest of the Gawler poetry readings on Sunday May 27 at 2pm, in the Prince Albert Hotel, 109 Murray Street, Gawler. 'Open Mike' with a three short poem limit. Inquiries to Martin or Cathy on 8522 4268.

## The Kernewek Lowender Writers' Event

runs from the 15th-18th May 2007. Featuring workshops, local writers, guest speakers, including Peter Goldsworthy and Fiona McIntosh and special events. For more info and a complete program contact the SAWC or go to: <http://www.kernewek.org/events/Writer.asp>

## The Byron Bay Writers' Festival ...

will be held on 26-29 July. It includes panel discussions, conversations, book launches, kids' events, theatre, film screenings and comedy. The workshop series begins on Monday 23 July and offers half and full-day workshops for emerging and professional writers. For all the details: <http://www.byronbaywritersfestival.com.au/>

## Community Partnership Grants Program, Adelaide Information Sessions.

Community Partnerships invites Adelaide artists to attend their information session on Thursday 10 May from 12.30pm-2pm at the SA Writers' centre.

Community Partnerships offers a range of programs to support arts and cultural activities involving collaborations between artists and community groups. Come and hear how the Australia Council for the Arts supports and promotes community-based arts and cultural activities and receive detailed information about the 2007 Community Partnerships grant categories.

Half hour individual meetings to discuss projects with Community Partnership staff are available on the day from 9/30-11.30am and 2.30-5pm.

To register for the session or to book an individual meeting, please contact Sabine Horner on (02) 9215 9126 or toll free 1800 226 912 or email [s.horner@ozco.gov.au](mailto:s.horner@ozco.gov.au)



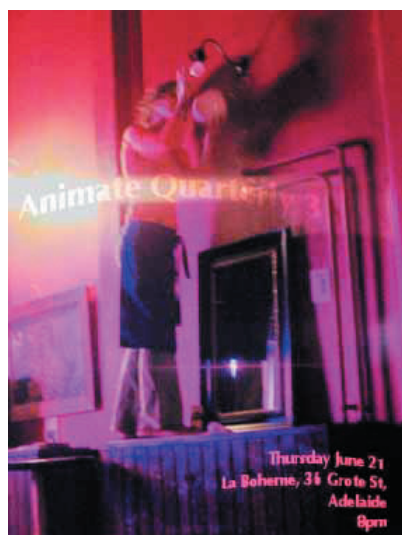
## VALE SUE WILLIAMS

Sue Williams, the co-founder of Omnibus Books and Working Title Press, children's author, publisher, designer and art director extraordinaire died peacefully on Sunday 4 February 2007 after a long illness. Sue began her publishing life in 1974 as a production manager and art director with Rigby Education. In 1981 she left Rigby to set up the children's book company, Omnibus Books, which published some of Australia's quintessential picture books, including *One Woolly Wombat*, *Possum Magic*, *The Nativity* and *Wombat Divine*. As a designer and art director, Sue was without peer. She always encouraged illustrators to go to the heart of the story and favoured simple, direct imagery that captured the essence of the emotion. Early Omnibus picture books were characterized by their elegant use of white space and airy composition. During that time Sue also wrote picture books of her own, including the best-selling *I Went Walking*. In 1991 Omnibus Books was sold to Scholastic Australia, thus beginning a long and valuable partnership between the old and the new owners, which continued after the establishment of Working Title Press in 1997. In 2001 Sue left the industry to pursue a glittering academic career that culminated in the completion of a PhD thesis.

## Animate Quarterly

it's a live literary journal

Animate Quarterly is still accepting submissions for the next 'issue' which will be held on June 21. Go to [www.myspace.com/animatequarterly](http://www.myspace.com/animatequarterly) for all the details.



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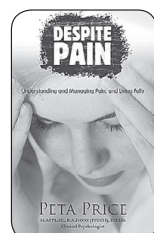
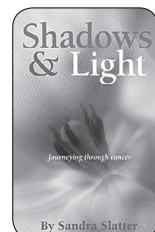
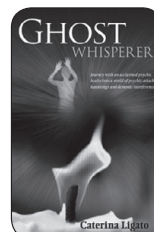
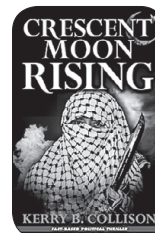
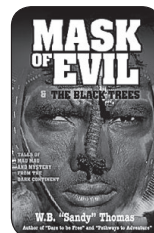
Partnership Publishing provides the distribution network, manages the project from line editing, typesetting, proofing, printing, book design, often co-funds production, provides promotional support including a personalized page for the author's work and bio. Sid Harta can arrange for author launches/talks to promote their title. The alternative, Self Publishing, places the onus for the above entirely on the author and, in consequence, most fail. **This is NOT Vanity Press. SHP only publish works that have merit.**

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<http://www.publisher-guidelines.com> and

<http://www.sidharta.com.au>



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# News and Views

## A Medical Narrative

My name is Barbara and I am a rheumatologist. I have spent years learning how to meet people in a small room, urging from them enough information to categorize the cause of their fatigue, pain and mechanical dysfunction.

At some point it dawns on you that the stories you hear are bloody fantastic. As Dr. Rita Charon noted early in her medical career, “what people paid me to do was to listen to extraordinarily complicated narratives – narratives with words, gestures, silences, tracings, images and physical findings”.

And so I introduce you to Narrative Medicine. NM is the practice of medicine with narrative competence, or, the ability to recognize, absorb, interpret and honour the narratives of patients, their families and caregivers. These words are heavily referenced to Dr. Charon, who went on to get a PhD in literature at Columbia University in New York. She transformed Columbia’s Department of Medical Humanities to the Department of Narrative Medicine in 2000.

As a thing, NM is 7 years old. It has a journal, *Literature & Medicine*, out of Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore. This journal is academic and suitably obfuscating.

But NM includes, really, all the patient stories, how these stories work and the work stories do in the literature of medicine. It embraces the writings of wounded healers, doctors who write and great writers with shocking diseases. And yes, reading Dostoyevsky makes you a better doctor. NM encourages immersion in literature, reflective writing, group sharing and even a bit of social activism.

But it is the recognition, the embodiment, reflection and the honoring of narrative that I love, that brings the near-sacred and the language of healing back into clinical practice, where use of these words has become almost punishable by law. It is deeply ethical and empathetic. The power of it is difficult to express in easy language.

Thanks to the SAWC, especially to Barbara Wiesner who first introduced me to someone else as a “medical poet”, I’ve written lots and lots, met helpful people (gems Graham Rowlands, Peter Goldsworthy,) and have recently been published (*Ars Medica*, Toronto]. I am founding tiny Gum Boot Press, to forward works of healing and non-violence within the broader context of Narrative Medicine. I am publishing my own collection of poetry first (*My Body Never Lied*, 2008). Who wouldn’t?

Gum Boot takes its name from a line of my poetry. “Words glued in clumsy blue boots are all I’ve got to walk with” speaks of the awkwardness of appropriating art forms for the healing of the self. This must be okay. The Hippocratic Oath is made to Apollo (pre-Christian, after all these years) the god of poetry, light, healing and music.

**Barbara True**

## Asialink Literature Touring Program

It is with regret that Asialink announces that its Literature Touring Program, which has supported leading Australian writers to tour in Asia over the last nine years, will wind up in June. Unfortunately the key supporter of the program, the Australia Council, has decided not to continue its funding and the program is unviable without these core funds.

The program was initiated in 1998 and has enabled writers such as Peter Carey, Tim Winton, Kate Grenville, Thomas Kenneally, Geraldine Brooks, Alex Miller, Doris Pilkington Garimara and Melina Marchetta to engage with audiences in India, Japan, China, Taiwan, Singapore and Korea and talk about their work and Australian writing. They have met colleagues throughout the region, as well as publishers with the aim of encouraging book and rights sales for Australian titles. Many of the authors have been key speakers at major book fairs and festivals and spoken to keen students and faculty from schools and universities, eager to learn more about Australian books.

Australian children’s literature has also been a strong component of the program, with writers and illustrators talking

to audiences, running workshops and having their original artwork on display in numerous countries.

Asialink has worked with publishers overseas to produce local editions of major Australian titles for sale and distribution in Asia, as well as linking Australian publishers and agents to counterparts in the region via representation at and funding for participation in major trade fairs such as Beijing International Book Fair and Taipei International Book Exhibition.

Final activities for 2007 have seen Australia take centre stage as Focus Country at the Kolkata Book Fair and a picture book and artwork exhibition travel to four venues in Taipei and Beijing.

The program has:

- initiated and managed 15 Australian writers tours to 6 countries
- toured 42 Australian touring authors
- represented over 50 Australian publishers
- displayed over 800 Australian books
- achieved hundreds of print and electronic media responses
- sold rights to 90 books
- drawn audiences of over 400,000

Please note: Asialink’s Writer in Residency Program remains unaffected and information for 2008 places will be available from Asialink in July.

Enquiries to Alison Carroll, Director, Asialink Arts 03 8344 3595, [a.carroll@asialink.unimelb.edu.au](mailto:a.carroll@asialink.unimelb.edu.au); program information available at: [www.asialink.unimelb.edu.au/our\\_work/arts/literature](http://www.asialink.unimelb.edu.au/our_work/arts/literature)

## WANTED

**Writing student to assist with writing of biographical story. Must have some medical knowledge and reside in City or Northern Suburbs. Strict confidentiality required. Payment negotiable. Contact [bpf@twpo.com.au](mailto:bpf@twpo.com.au)**



# Congratulations...

**Cailean Darkwater's** short story 'Idiot' was published in the American mental health journal *Open Minds Quarterly*.

**Ross Duffy's** short stories 'The Pragmatist' and 'In the Lift' have been published in **Write Away** magazine.

**Jo Vabolis'** pieces, 'Laundromat' and 'Lucky Dip', were published in the inaugural Fringe Writers Festival Anthology *WORD*.

**Margaret Griffin-Ward's** short story 'Cockroach Nightmare' was published in the March edition of *Positive Words*.

**The Seaside Writers' Group** at Hove have been successful in a selection of competitions in 2006. **Steven Davey** won first prize for his poem 'The Bathysphere' and second prize for his short story 'The Bridge of Orcas' in the *Page Seventeen* competition. **John Horwood** won second prize for his short story 'A Dark Unease of Mind' and was shortlisted for 'Vince's near death experience' in the Austral/Asian short story competition. **Ann Wurlod** received a Highly Commended for her story 'Sacrifice on Beltane Rise', also in the Austral/Asian Short Story Competition.

**Graham Rowlands'** poem 'Luck' was published in *The Independent Weekly*. His poems 'Behind the Eight-ball' and 'London Bomb Blasts' were published in *The Mozzie*.

**Owen Carmichael's** short story 'Making Batik' was published in *Australian Reader* last December, as was his literary feature 'Zola's Mysterious Death'. His article 'Balzac & his Region' was published by them in January.

**Jane Turner Goldsmith's** novel, *Poinciana*, was shortlisted in the 'Best First Book' award category of the Commonwealth Writer's Prize for the South East Asia and South Pacific region. She has also had an article entitled 'The rise and rise of depression' published in the March edition of the Australian Psychological Society SA branch newsletter, winning the 'best overall article'.

**Stephen Lawrence's** story 'Repartnered' was published in *WORD*, the Adelaide Fringe Writers' Festival Anthology; an extended version of his review of Stephen Edgar's poetry book *Other Summers*, previously published in December's 'Wet Ink,' was recently placed on the Black Pepper Publishing website, <http://members.dodo.com.au/~ghannah/edgaros.html>; and his letter to the editor, 'Much Australian poetry is, let's face it, terrible,' was published in *The Weekend Australian Review*, 31 Mar - 1 Apr 2007.

Congratulations to **John Malone** whose poems 'Mousetraps' and 'Boy in the Photograph' appeared in *English In Australia* and *Orbit* [school magazine] respectively.

**rob walker's** poem 'Camellia in the Bush' was published in *Famous Reporter #35 Website* (& hardcopy upcoming, June), 'Roly poly pudding' appeared in *Staples #8* and 'Catsyntax' was published in *Unruly Sun* (Friendly Street Reader #31). He performed work at Langmeil Winery, the Staples #8 Launch (Jahz) and the Fringe's Hard Rubbish Café. rob was accepted into World Poets Society, a literary organization for contemporary poets.

**David Mortimer's** poem 'Grenfell Centre Christmas Week' appeared in *The Independent Weekly* in March 2007. His poem 'Wharf Market' from the collection *Fine Rain Straight Down* (Friendly Street New Poets 8) was heard on ABC Radio National's *Poetica* in November 2006.

**Juan Garrido Salgado's** poem 'Seeds of Corn in a Tray' was published in *Trout #14* (New Zealand). His sonnet was published in Friendly Street Poets *Unruly Sun* and his poems have been translated into Hindi by Vehbl Tasar-Dunya Siiri. A selection of poems from *The Garden of the Spanish Poet* were published in Chile (*La Pata de Liebre-Digital*) and they were translated into Portuguese and published in Brazil by Antonio Miranda.

**Ashley Arnold's** short story 'The River Man's Spirits' has been published in the *Shadow Plays* anthology, launched on 21st April. His short story 'Milk Across

the Nation' has also been accepted for the anthology *The Workers' Paradise* from Ticonderoga Publications. See <http://ashleyarnold.com.au>.

**Lidija Šimkute's** recent publications include: seven poems were translated into Bulgarian by Aksinia Mihailova for the *20th Century Lithuanian Poetry* anthology; two poems appeared in the Friendly Street Reader 31; three poems in Lithuanian were published in *The Spring Poetry Anthology*, 2007, Lithuania; Essay in Lithuanian on Adelaide based WW II refugee writer Pulgis Andriušis (1907-69) was published in *Musu Pastoge*, Australia & 'Draugas'; 5 poems from Lidija's book *Spaces of Silence* have been set to music for voice in Lithuanian & English by Composer Vytautas Germanavicius. Lidija has been invited to a poetry reading in St. Peterburg, Russia in May and has been commissioned to translate the first act of a libretto from the third act IHOS Opera 'OLEGAS' by Constantine Koukias from Tasmania.

**Peter Waugh's** poem 'Holding Hands' was published in *Write Away*.

**M.L. Emmett's** poems 'At the Crematorium', 'Sonnet CXXX: My Lover's Eyes', 'Chemotherapy', 'Predicting Death in Winnipeg' and 'Lunch Time Sortie' were published in *The Mozzie*. 'Chemotherapy', 'Predicting Death in Winnipeg' were also published in the New Zealand Magazine *Valley Micropress*. 'Feeding Molly' was published in *Studio Magazine*, 102.

**Zenda Vecchio's** short story 'Fulham Cave' was published in *Studio* 104.

**Alice Shore's** collection of political poetry *The Prosperous Nation*, has been published by Ginninderra Press. A Manuscript written by Marina Lutz (deceased) has been put into book form called *Somers Commonwealth Immigration Camp*, edited by Alice and also published by Ginninderra Press.

**Georgia Xenophou** won an International Society of Greek Writers Arts award for her contribution to letters and Greece.

# Literary Competitions...

## ★ 12 May 2007

Slippery When Wet Short Story Competition 2007. Entry open to all amateur writers across Australia and New Zealand Open Theme.

Special prize for the best story with a road theme.

Max length 2000 words. Entry Fee \$7.50.

Prizes: 1st \$500

2nd \$200

3rd \$100

<http://home.alphalink.com.au/~vanselow/>

## ☞ 22 May 2007

Grampians Writers' Group Literary Awards 2007.

Section 1 - Short Story up to 2500 words. Section 2 - Poem of 20 - 60 lines. Prizes - Sections 1&2 : First - \$200Au - Second - \$100Au plus certificate in both sections. Enquiries - Rhonda Poholke - 03 53521100, or email Jennie at [jamalloy2@bigpond.com](mailto:jamalloy2@bigpond.com)

## 25 May 2007

2007 Shoalhaven Literary awards for Short Stories. Open theme, max 3000 words. First prize \$1,000. Up to 4 highly commended awards of \$200. Fee \$8.00. Entry forms from [www.arts.shoalhaven.net.au](http://www.arts.shoalhaven.net.au)

## ☞☺ 25 May 2007

Marian Eldridge Award. The National Foundation for Australian Women is offering the award for the eighth time. \$1500 is available for an aspiring woman writer. Open to a woman resident in any state or territory of Australia. There is no age limit.

## ☞☺ 30 May 2007

Vignette Press Short Story Competition. First prize: \$500 and your story will be published as a book in the *Mini Shots* magazine series. Second prize: \$200 and your story will be published on the website. Open theme to 3,000 words. Competition entry is \$6.60 per story. [www.vignettepress.com.au](http://www.vignettepress.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.

## 31 May 2007

KT Publishing 8th Annual Short Story Competition. Open theme. Length - 2,000 words. Prizes - 1st \$350, 2nd \$175 & 3rd \$100 (AUD).

Entry Fee - Only AUD\$7.50 per entry. Entry form at <http://www.ktp.com.au> or <http://www.writingaustralia.com/comp.html> Listing can also be found at <http://www.shortstorycompetitions.com>

## ☞ 31 May 2007

Australasian Poetry awards A. Poem up to 100 lines, open theme. B. Best Feline Poem up to 60 lines. entry fee \$5. Prizes from \$50-\$200.

## ☞☺ 1 June 2007

Maureen Vale Nature Poetry Competition. Prize \$200 and publication in *Friendly Street Reader 32*. Entry: \$5 per entry or \$12 for three.

## ★ 1 June 2007

The Dorothea Mackellar Poetry Awards is the oldest and largest poetry competition for children and young adults in Australia. Students can win up to \$500, plus a trophy and books. There's \$1000 for the school with the highest standard of entries. [www.dorothea.com.au/](http://www.dorothea.com.au/)

## ☞ 1 June 2007

Bush Lantern Award 2007 Written Competition for Bush Verse, max 100 lines. Entry fee \$6.00. First prize - trophy and \$200.

## ★ 8 June 2007

*The Advertiser* Young Writers Award. Open to all students in South Australian schools. Poetry or prose. Open theme. Prizes and certificates to 1st, 2nd and 3rd place in each group. More info at [www2.advertiser.com.au/nie/](http://www2.advertiser.com.au/nie/)

## 30 June 2007

Geebung Writers Short Story Award for murder stories between 2000 and 5000 words. 1st prize \$350, 2nd prize \$150. There will also be certificates of commendation. Entry fee \$5. Entries must be postmarked no later than 30th June 2007. Please send for conditions of entry and entry form to Geebung Writers, P.O.Box 122, Geebung, QLD. or phone 07 3265-4577.

## ☞ 30 June 2007

The Bruce Dawe National Poetry Prize is open to all Australian citizens or perma-

nent residents of Australia. The Prize will be awarded to an original, unpublished poem not exceeding 50 lines. There are no generic or thematic constraints. Award of \$1,500.

## ☞ 30 June 2007

Avoca Press Short Story Competition for Seniors. Submissions are invited for short stories, either fiction or nonfiction up to 10,000 words in length.

Authors must be 50 years or over on 1 January 2007 and the aim is to encourage the act of writing, so please submit new works. Also, please ask your friends to do so. Every entry to the competition will be reviewed and each entrant will receive a short critical evaluation of their work by an experienced author.

A minimum of twenty winners will be chosen and a book will be commercially published, containing all winning entries. All royalties from the book shall be shared equally among its authors.

\$10 entry fee with maximum of three entries per author.

For further information and entry forms, contact: [www.avocapress.com.au](http://www.avocapress.com.au), Email:

[competitions@avocapress.com.au](mailto:competitions@avocapress.com.au), Write: Avoca Press, PO Box 6790, BAULKHAM HILLS BC, NSW 2153. Phone 0425 330 303.

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# Celebrating Writers' Festivals

by Anna Solding

I'll be honest with you from the start: I love writers' festivals! I love everything about them: the smell of new books, the confident – and not so confident – writers talking about their work, the general buzz in the air. The fact that emerging writers like me can rub shoulders with the people we admire, famous writers who have created indelible reading experiences for thousands of people. Margaret Atwood, Vikram Seth and Nobel Prize winner J.M. Coetzee are only a few of the inspiring guests that have attended Adelaide Writers' Week in the past few years. There have been times when I have spent an entire day lying in the shade on a forty degree day, listening to stories from writers whose names I had never before encountered. I especially remember a wonderful balmy day at Adelaide Writers' Week in 2002 when Elizabeth Knox spoke about her novel *The Vintner's Luck*, which is set in a vineyard in France over a hundred years ago. She said something to the effect that 'many people ask me if I've been to France and are astonished when I tell them I haven't. But no-one ever asks me if I've been to the nineteenth century'. Writing is a celebration of the imagination, and so are writers' festivals.

When I arrived in Adelaide from Sweden in 1999, I had never attended a writers' festival in my life even though I had always known I wanted to be a writer. In a strange way, attending my first Adelaide Writers' Week in 2000 was like coming home. The issues I wanted to think about were being explored here. How does one write? How does one read? By the end of the week-long journey into the minds of writers, my disappointment was immense when I found out that Writers' Week would not be back for another two years. Therefore it was with great pleasure that, a few weeks ago, I attended the first *WORD* festival, a smaller writers' festival with a slightly different focus, which will run every year as part of the Adelaide Fringe. Because Adelaide is an ideal place to celebrate great writing, the city needs an annual writers' festival and now it has finally arrived.

I don't pretend to have a huge experience of writers' festivals but in this case I suspect it is quality and not quantity that counts. In June 2005 my partner, our two-year old son and I set out to explore the uncharted territory of green and sunny Wales. We visited church ruins, villages no larger than the back of our road map and an exciting literary festival in Hay-on-Wye. Unlike at the free and fabulous Adelaide Writers' Week, you had to buy tickets to attend sessions at the festival and popular writers had sold out well in advance.

The Hay Festival has grown from miniscule to gigantic in the space of a few years. In humble white tents dotted on a lawn, big literary personalities speak about their craft and what it means to be a writer. The year in question Ian McEwan was there, as was Terry Pratchett and Booker prize winner Kazuo Ishiguro. Though, for someone accustomed to the inclusiveness in the Pioneer Women's Memorial Garden, the Hay Festival felt slightly

unwelcoming. The queues to the ticket box were endless, people pushy and prizes inflated. But the grumbling feeling of dissatisfaction only lasted until I entered one of those white tents and become part of the audience, able to watch the writer, listen to her speak, hear her laugh and get the opportunity to experience the exquisite connection between a writer and her audience.

At the end of my session with Ali Smith, I left the tent on a high. Walking back through the small town, along the narrow, winding streets, past some of the thirty odd book shops Hay offers its visitors, I felt a bubbling joy to have experienced this moment and a sudden urge to sit down and write. Write something really good, so that perhaps one day I could be the writer on stage in one of those white tents. In turn telling the audience about my first experiences at a writers' festival, way back in the year 2000, across the globe on a sweltering day in amazing Adelaide.



*Anna Solding is an award-winning writer who has had stories published in a variety of collections and magazines. In 2007 her manuscript *The Hum of Concrete* was short-listed for the Varuna awards. She was fiction co-editor of *Wet Ink* from 2004 to 2006 and now co-edits the live journal *Animate Quarterly*. She spends as much time as possible playing with her two sons and writing her third novel, *Collecting Freaks* – preferably not at the same time.*

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(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 Newsletter  
May 2007**

COPY DEADLINE  
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The SA Writers' Centre is assisted by the Australian Government through the  
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### Opening Hours:

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