



# Annual Report 2008/2009



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Government of South Australia  
Arts SA



Australian Government



The SA Writers' Centre is assisted by the Australian Government through the Australia Council, its arts funding and advisory body.

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## Agenda for 2009 Annual General Meeting

25th Annual General Meeting of the SA Writers' Centre Inc., held at SA Writers' Centre, Tuesday 26 May, 2009, 7pm

1. Present and Apologies
2. Minutes of meeting held 13 May, 2008
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 (to be maintained at current levels)
8. Constitutional changes
9. Election

# Minutes of the 24th Annual General Meeting (2008)

Minutes of the 24th Annual General Meeting of the SA Writers' Centre, held on 13 May 2008 at 7.30pm.

## 1.1 Present:

Barbara Wiesner (Director), Jude Aquilina (Office Manager and minute taker), Bronwen Webb, Ken Vincent, Anna Solding, Heather Taylor Johnson, Mag Merrilees, Anne Bartlett, Helen Mitchell, Ashley Mallett, Ken Vincent, David Conyers, Silvia Muscardin, Richard Anderson, Patricia Best, Heather Britton, Ross Duffy, Steve Evans, Helen Halstead, John Howard, Elizabeth Hutchins, Lynette Icimsoy, Erica Jolly, Miriel Lenore, Louise Nicholas, Eddy Pengelly, Ruth Starke, Russell Talbot, Jo Vabolis, Richard Vabolis, Glen Woodward, Katherine Phelps, Andrew Pam, Nigel Ford.

## 1.2 Apologies:

Maisie McGeever, Jo Robinson, Bruce Lindsay, Doreen Spurdens, Valerie May, Peter Lyons, Meredith Harvey, Nigel Dey, Jeff Harris, Sean Williams (Chair), Alice Shore, Kate Deller Evans, Sharon Kernot.

- Meeting began at 7.35 pm
- Bronwen Webb (Deputy Chair) welcomed guests and explained that she was filling in for Sean Williams who was sick.

## 2. Minutes of previous AGM held on 10 May 2007

The minutes were moved as a true and accurate record by Louise Nicholas. Seconded by Ashley Mallett.

## 3. Business arising from previous minutes

- There was no business arising

## 4.1 Chair's Report

- The Chair's Report was read by Bronwen Webb on behalf of Sean Williams
- Ken Vincent moved that the Chair's Report be accepted as a true and accurate record. Seconded by Anna Solding.

## 4.2 Treasurer's Report

- Treasurer Mag Merrilees explained that the Centre made a loss of \$1,428. She advised that in previous years the Centre has received a number of one-off grants which have kept the accounts buoyant. Mag also explained that increases in funding did not match increases in expenditure. She said that the Board was looking at ways of raising funds for the following year, including the proposed rise in membership fees. Mag thanked Barbara Wiesner and Lesley Beasley for their hard work.
- Miriel Lenore moved to accept the Treasurer's Report. Seconded by Helen Mitchell

## 4.3 Director's Report

- Director Barbara Wiesner thanked all the staff, volunteers, sponsors, funding bodies, partners and members for helping to make this a successful year for the Centre. She made special mention of Sean Williams and Mag Merrilees for their help on the Board. Barbara advised that she will have been with the Centre for 20 years in June 2008.

#### **5. Appointment of an auditor**

- Auditors Messenger Zerner were appointed.

#### **6. Determination of honoraria for Board members (currently \$150, with \$200 for executive member)**

- Honoraria for Board members was kept at its current level.

#### **7. Determination of membership fees**

- A long discussion about raising membership fees was held. It was agreed to raise the fees as follows:
  - Individual concession up from \$33 to \$38
  - Individual full up from \$55 to \$65
  - Groups that meet at the SAWC up from \$99 to \$125
  - Groups that meet elsewhere to remain at \$88

#### **8. Appointment of Board members**

- The following Board members were elected unopposed: Helen Mitchell, Mag Merrilees, Ken Vincent and Bronwen Webb. Continuing board members were: Ashley Mallett, Anna Solding, Heather Taylor Johnson and Sean Williams.

#### **9. Recognition of Gillian Rubinstein (Lian Hearn) as a Life Member of the SA Writers' Centre**

- Director Barbara Wiesner, on behalf of Chair, Sean Williams, announced that Gillian Rubinstein (who writes under the penname Lian Hearn) has been made a life member of the SA Writers' Centre. She was unable to attend due to illness but will be presented with a trophy at a later date. Barbara thanked Gillian for her generosity and support for the Centre for over 20 years. Her donations have totalled \$10,000, which have enabled the SAWC to enhance and expand many services.



#### **10. Guest speaker: Krista Bell**

- Krista Bell, visiting May Gibbs Fellow, spoke about writing and publishing children's books.
- Meeting closed 9.05pm

#### **SA Writers' Centre Board 2008/2009**

Bronwen Webb, Chair  
Sean Williams, Deputy Chair  
Mag Merrilees, Treasurer  
Ashley Mallett  
Helen Mitchell  
Anna Solding  
Heather Taylor-Johnson (retired July 2008)  
Ken Vincent

Seconded to the Board:  
David Conyers (August 2008-February 2009)  
Bruce Lindsay (August 2008-May 2009)

# Chair's Report: Bronwen Webb



The years 2008/2009 have been challenging ones with a worrying issue for the Board to deal with. During 2007, the University of Wollongong conducted a research study, commissioned by the Australia Council for the Arts (ACA), to investigate Australia's literature infrastructure. Following the release of the research report<sup>1</sup> in July 2008, the Literature Board recommended that ACA Key Organisation funding be available only to literature organisations that can prove they are nationally focused. All state Writers' Centres are currently receiving Key Organisation funding on a three-yearly cycle. Key Organisation funding forms 20% of the SAWC's annual funding.

Along with all Writers' Centres across Australia, the SAWC Director and Board lobbied various Arts Ministers, and responded to the ACA, objecting against the decision to "nationalise" the criteria to be a Key Organisation. However, the ACA have now moved to national Key Organisations across all arts forms and none has been successful

in lobbying against this move. If the SAWC loses its Key Organisation status in the future, which is likely unless a national focus can be proved, it has the option to submit requests for ACA funding through Program Grants or Community Partnerships.

Following on from concerns raised by members about some aspects of Writers' Week's engagement with South Australian writers, the Chair and Director met with the new Chair of Writers' Week, John Coetzee. He gave us a very good hearing and took our issues to his Committee. A response

**it is important that the Board remains engaged in constructive discussion**

from the Committee has attempted to address some of our issues, while others remain. SA writers

will address these issues in their own way; however, it is important that the Board remains engaged in constructive discussion with John Coetzee and his Committee in the hope that, over time, there will be improved relations between the local writing community and Writers' Week.

During the past year, the Board has worked to further embed strong governance principles in its operations. It has reviewed the Constitution of the SAWC, benchmarking against constitutions of similar organisations and thoroughly debating each change. In our discussion tonight, Board member Ken Vincent will outline the reasoning behind each change.

The Board has noted the changes to the South Australian Occupational Health, Safety and Welfare Act which have increased the penalties and powers of

<sup>1</sup> Ommundsen, W and Jacklin, M, *Mapping Literature Infrastructure in Australia: A Report to the Literature Board of the Australia Council for the Arts*, University of Wollongong, 2008.

# Chair's Report (con't)

the Act. As an employer, the SAWC must of course comply with the Act. The Board has developed an occupational health, safety, welfare and injury management policy for the SAWC and staff now have procedures in place to monitor hazards and deal with them.

The SAWC is constantly looking to improve and expand its services and the appointment of a Writer-in-Residence was an initiative in 2008. Malcolm Walker's appointment to this position is already having a positive impact at the Centre. Thanks, Malcolm, for your substantial contribution to the SAWC.

Last year Barbara Wiesner, our energetic and dedicated Director, reached a milestone of 20 years with the SAWC. The Board presented Barbara with a trophy and gifts to mark the occasion. This seemed very little under the circumstances, but nothing we could give would ever thank Barbara enough for her service to the SAWC and the writers of South Australia. She has continued to demonstrate her skill, patience and determination throughout this difficult year.

SAWC staff Jude Aquilina, Lesley Beasley, Rachel Hennessy and Silvia Muscardin have continued to provide excellent support to members and the Board. We also couldn't manage without our volunteers: Doreen Spurdens (youth projects), David Mercer (research), Ann-Marie Smith (Assistant Librarian), James Ogilvy (proofreader) and Mag Merrilees and Helen Mitchell (office support). Our sincere thanks go to each of them.

I would also like to thank the members of the Board for their steadfast



**Barbara Wiesner is presented with a trophy and flowers by Bronwen Webb to mark her twenty years of service to the SA Writers' Centre**

commitment to the interests of the SAWC and their great assistance and advice during the year. Sean Williams, Deputy Chair, has decided not to re-nominate for 2009/2010 because of other commitments. Sean has served as Chair or Deputy Chair for several years and has been a tower of strength and support during that time. His commitment to the SAWC during what has been an increasingly successful and busy period of his career is greatly appreciated.

Also retiring are Anna Solding, Heather Taylor-Johnson, and Ashley Mallett. Bruce Lindsay and David Conyers were seconded to the Board for their specific skills and have subsequently retired from the Board. Continuing on for the next year are Mag Merrilees, Helen Mitchell, Ken Vincent and myself.

Thank you Barbara, Jude, Sean, Anna, Heather, Ashley, Bruce, David, Mag, Helen and Ken for your great contribution to the Board over the past year. It has been a pleasure working with you. Welcome to all new Board members elected tonight.

# Treasurer's Report:

## Mag Merrilees

**S**A Writers' Centre Inc finished the 2008 year with a surplus of \$4,838. This result was achieved with the help of a one-off grant from the Premier via ArtsSA of \$10,000, half of which has been carried forward into the current year, and the other half of which offset what would otherwise have been a small loss.

Overall, both Income and Expenditure exceeded last year's levels. In particular there was increased workshop activity.

There was an apparent decrease in *Other Grants*, but this is more than offset by the inclusion of two grants in *Other Income*. These items fluctuate according to funding for specific programmes.

Since the last AGM we have implemented increases in Membership fees (as discussed at that meeting). This essential source of income has increased as planned.

Increased Administration expenditure results largely from increases in Employee Provisions (leave entitlements), in Electricity and in Rent.

The Balance Sheet for 31 December 2008 shows a decrease in Cash from \$110,523 in December 2007 to \$76,120 in December 2008. This results partly from payouts to departing staff. In addition, however, the 2007 figure was inflated by a substantial grant received in advance. The 2006 figure was \$91,057



and the 2005 figure was \$75,409. In real terms we are not as well off as previously, but our reserves are still adequate.

SAWC faces a challenge in terms of maintaining income levels in the future. The Australia Council is likely to remove our 'key organisation' status, and therefore our triennial funding after 2010, as already discussed by the Chair. If this happens we will become dependent on program funding, which generally does not provide adequately for administration and infrastructure. We will need to maintain reasonable fee levels and generate as much of our own income as possible. This requires ingenuity and lateral thinking by Board and staff. Ideas and contributions from members will be appreciated, as always!

Thanks to Barbara Wiesner and Lesley Beasley for efficient management of the SAWC finances.

# Director's Report:

## Barbara Wiesner

I constantly marvel at the amount of activity generated by the SAWC, considering we have such a small team to service an increasingly diverse membership. The following are just a few highlights of last year's activities. A complete list is included at the end of the 2008 Annual Report (pages 10-20).



In 2008 we ran a networking dinner for experienced professional writers and promoted over 130 authors at events throughout the state. For writers at the beginning of their career we held a four-day business skills course, thanks to additional support from the Australian Society of Authors; and offered residencies at Varuna. Writers of all levels were also able to attend seminars, information forums and workshops, while writing groups took part in a Groups Muster to share information on topics such as how to access grants involving the community, and on writing a constitution. Our children's program grew, thanks to volunteer Youth Projects Officer Doreen Spurdens. She was instrumental in organising three Young Writers' Nights, an online writing club, WriteByte, and two Country Kids' Workshops.

When planning the program, we're very conscious of different writing genres and endeavour to cover as many as are manageable within a year. We were therefore delighted with Stephen House's offer to open rehearsals to interested playwrights, and for the Salisbury Writers' Festival, in partnership with the City of Salisbury, to focus on popular fiction, nonfiction and writing for children. For the poets,

the City of Onkaparinga, another of our partners, devoted an entire festival: Poetry Unhinged.

Another concern for the SAWC when putting together a year's activities is the fact that our members live in many parts of South Australia, so we were pleased to help fund workshops for groups in the Barossa, Goolwa, the mid-north and Pt Lincoln. In addition, our Deputy Chair, and celebrated writer, Sean Williams spoke at the Port Augusta Writers' Festival.

An initiative in 2008 was Writer-in-Residence Malcolm Walker who was able to work on a one-to-one basis with writers with a disability thanks to funding from the Richard Llewellyn Arts and Disability Trust. Writers without disabilities can access professional feedback and support by joining workshop groups, attending educational courses and literary functions. For many of Malcolm's clients this is not possible due to difficulties in mobility, communication or confidence.

Our team saw a number of changes last year with the departure of Belinda Schenk after eight years with the Centre. Her replacement, SF writer and



# Director's Report (con't)

marketing professional David Conyers, soon realised that a three-day-a-week job was not enough to support his family, so after three months he left. We were then extremely fortunate to have Rachel Hennessy accept the position of Communications Officer. She came with experience in arts administration and success as a writer of literary fiction. Her energy, enthusiasm and insight into writers' needs, not to mention her affable personality, had an immediate impact on the Centre's activities.

As already mentioned by the Chair, funding changes will certainly affect the Centre in the near future. However, I'm confident that our staff has the necessary skill set, determination and passion to deal with these changes. Apart from those already mentioned, our team includes the indefatigable and ever-welcoming poet Jude Aquilina, writer Lesley Beasley who is in charge of the finances, and as a volunteer helps to upgrade the database, which in turn is updated regularly by long-term volunteer David Mercer. Librarian Silvia Muscardin and her volunteer assistant Anne-Marie Smith continue to maintain an efficient and growing library of local authors' books. James Ogilvy has been indispensable in his role as resident proofreader. Richard and Jo Vabolis have generously offered their services for the maintenance of the Centre. We are also fortunate to have members Andrew Pam and Katherine Phelps skilled in the area of technical support for our computer network and design of the website.

Community support of the SA Writers' Centre has, and will continue to be, an important factor in our success.

Thanks go to:

- o Internode for its continuing internet sponsorship
- o St Peter's College, Cardijn College and Tyndale Christian School for providing their facilities and staff for the Young Writers' Nights
- o Varuna Writers' House in NSW and Macquarie Bank Foundation for the Longlines Program
- o Adelaide University's Creative Writing Program for sharing its guest speakers with us during 2008
- o Local publishers Wakefield Press and Omnibus Books for their book donations and publisher talks
- o Seaview Press and SALMAT for publishing an annual book by emerging writers
- o *The Advertiser's* Big Book Club for providing a guest speaker
- o Langmeil Wines for supplying wines for SAWC's functions

Of particular importance are our partnerships with the Cities of Onkaparinga and Salisbury, both of whom have committed themselves to ongoing writers' festivals. They have created a wide range of opportunities for writers through readings, competitions, workshops and author talks.

Finally, the SAWC has been blessed with an exceptional Board which has had to deal with the politics of funding changes as well as with the overall governance of the organisation. Members worked superbly as a Board and contributed individually to many of the Centre's activities. It was indeed a pleasure working with such a resourceful team in 2008.

# 2008 Program of Activities

## January-December 2008

### I. PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

#### Maximising Opportunities Course

This four-day business skills course for writers at the beginning of their career was run in partnership with the Australian Society of Authors. Of 29 applicants, 21 were offered a place in the course. Guest speakers included:

- o **Pippa Masson**, literary agent at Curtis Brown (Aust) Pty Ltd: 'What can your agent do for you?'
- o **Jeremy Fisher**, Executive Director of the ASA: 'Rights and Writing'
- o **Hazel Edwards**, Victorian-based writer of children's books: 'Survival, not ego: Promoting yourself and your work'
- o **Christine Harris**: 'Nudge, nudge, wink, wink: how to use writers' networks'
- o Author **Sean Williams** and accountant **Simon Graetz** from Messenger Zerner Pty Ltd: 'Taxation, accounting and effective record keeping'
- o **Elizabeth Mansutti**: 'Workshops, school visits and residencies'
- o **Phil Cummings**: 'Talking down the demons'
- o **Ian Bone**: 'Effective use of the internet'
- o **Tony Love**, senior journalist at *The Advertiser*: 'Handling the Media'
- o **Stephanie Johnston**, publisher, Wakefield Press: 'Your book has been published – now what?'
- o **Helen Tiller**: 'Voice and performance skills'



*'Informative. Entertaining. Surprising. Challenging.'*

*'The Maximising Opportunities workshop was undoubtedly the best I have ever attended.'*

*'From website design to voice projection, from contract advice to entertaining kids, from agents to press releases and publisher's publicity departments, not to mention how to keep your accountant happy and the all-important skill of how to hand someone a business card — what more could an emerging writer want?'*

*'I learnt so much and made invaluable contacts.'*

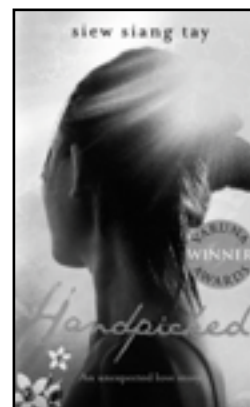
— Feedback from Maximising Opportunities participants

## Longlines Fellowship

Our partnership with Varuna, the national Writers' Centre based in NSW's Blue Mountains, continued in 2008, thanks to support from the Macquarie Bank Foundation. **Stephen Orr** was selected for the 2008 South Australian Varuna Residency and spent two weeks at Varuna in January. **Kim Mann** was accepted into the Poetry Workshop. Longlines non-residential readings and consultations were offered to **Abbie Thomas** and **Jane Jolly**.



Thanks to this partnership with Varuna, two South Australian authors who were involved in the program in 2006 had book launches in April 2009: **Siew Siang Tay's** novel, *Handpicked*, was published by HarperCollins Publishers Australia and **Kimberley Mann's** book of poetry, *Awake During Anaesthetic*, was published by the Australian Poetry Centre as part of The National New Poets Program.



## Funding Information Sessions

Representatives from Arts SA, the Literature Board of the Australia Council and CAL (Copyright Agency Limited) held information sessions at the SAWC in February and March 2008. Paul Rees from Arts SA attracted 24 participants; Josie Emery from the Literature Board and Susan Hayes, the Manager of Copyright Agency Limited's Cultural Fund, held 4 and 3 individual consultations respectively. Susan also spoke to 36 writing group members attending the Writing Groups' Muster (see page 14).



### Forum:

#### The On-line Revolution

Author and e-learning consultant, Ian Bone, and Amanda Hassett from V Media spoke to a group of 13 about the latest trends in the way writers are using the on-line world.



## Seminars

### *Tips on Getting Your Work Published*

Literary agent Lyn Tranter from Australian Literary Management\* and Publisher Jane Palfreyman\* from Allen and Unwin spoke to 36 attendees at a seminar. They also broke into two small group sessions to allow for more interaction.

(\* in partnership with the University of Adelaide's Creative Writing Program)

### *Successful Self-publishing*

This session provided an excellent overview of different methods of self-publishing. 34 people attended. Guest speakers sharing their experiences included: Bruce Lindsay, Jill Gloyne, Jenny Opie and, from Seaview Press, Stephanie Luke, Milton Haseloff and Glen Woodward.

## Workshops

A total of 328 writers took part in 27 workshops held at the SA Writers' Centre:

How You Can Tell?	Marion Halligan*	17
Romancing the Editor ....	Trish Morey	8
Writing for Younger Children	Janeen Brian	16
EROTICA: it's Hot!	Astrid Cooper	15
Essay Writing Workshop	Patrick Allington	8
Editing Your Own Work (2)	Rosemary Luke	23
Poetry: Plot and Presence (2)	Jan Owen	25
Three Tasks for the Emerging Writer	Eva Sallis	20
Writing Short Biographies	Tom Mann	9
Short Stories	Carmel Bird*	14
An Insider's View on the Picture Book	Sascha Hutchinson	17
Researching a Life Story	Kristin Weidenbach	14
Book Marketing for Writers	Bruce Lindsay	8
Character Development through Dialogue	Rory Barnes	16
Science Fiction & Fantasy World Building	David Conyers	17
Self-help books	Katherine Lockett	13
Crafting a Short Story	Rick Hosking	6
True Crime: Writing Killer Copy	Derek Pedley	9
Developing a Successful Media Campaign	Angela Tolley	11
Structure & Plotting Novels for Children	Rosanne Hawke	4
Writing a Love Scene	Lucy Clark	9
Effective Interviewing	Pamela Rajkowski:	5
Writing Creative Memoirs	David Harris	17
Exciting the Market	Ian Bone	19
Poetry for Children	John Malone	8

(\* in partnership with the University of Adelaide's Creative Writing Program)

*'I'm leaving wiser and still hopeful.'*

— participant, 'Exciting the Market' workshop

*'I will go home and spend the weekend writing poetry! Thanks!'*

— participant, 'Poetry for Children'

*'Passionate and enthusiastic presentation — the best workshop on writing I've attended.'*

— participant, 'Writing Creative Memoirs'

*'Funny, honest, real, informative, fantastic.'*

— participant, 'A Successful Self-help Book'

*'Wonderful teacher, her knowledge of writing and literature is awe-inspiring!'*

— participant, 'Three Tasks for the Emerging Writer'

*'This was extremely professionally run, well structured, full of information and v. tight.'*

— participant, 'Writing for Younger Children'

## Writer-in-Residence for Writers with a Disability

Thanks to funding from the Richard Llewellyn Arts and Disability Trust, the SAWC was able to appoint **Malcolm Walker** as Writer-in-Residence to work on a one-to-one basis with writers who have a disability.



Malcolm began in September 2008 working two days per fortnight: giving editorial advice, providing reading reports, researching for his clients, answering writer-related questions and liaising with the arts and disability sector. The service was so popular that, within a few months, Malcolm had over 40 clients. For most of these clients this is the first time they have had professional help with their work. Writers without disabilities can access professional feedback and support by joining workshop groups, attending educational courses and literary functions.

The program has been extremely successful in developing networks of support, improving writing skills and finding outlets for participants' work. Additional funding is being sought to continue the program.

*'Malcolm's role in this programme is professional, and his editorial skill and positive feedback are beneficial. His appraisal of written work is assisted by clarification with Malcolm's empathetic attitude.'*

*'...Thank you for being an inspiration in my life. You are an author that understands how I go about writing my stories and poetry. It transforms me and gets me inside my stories so that I am the character. Thank you again, Malcolm.'*

— feedback letters to Malcolm Walker, Writer-in-Residence for Writers with a Disability

## Professional Writers' Muster

A networking function was held at the Feathers' Hotel in November. Sixty-five writers were able to meet and interact on an informal basis with five special guests.

They were:

- o **Pippa Masson**, literary agent at Curtis Brown (Aust) Pty Ltd
- o **Jeremy Fisher**, Executive Director of the ASA
- o **Brian Castro**, Chair of Creative Writing at the University of Adelaide
- o **Peter Rose**, Editor of *The Australian Book Review*
- o Nobel Prize Winner **JM Coetzee**, Chair of Adelaide Writers' Week

Jeremy Fisher also presented a talk on the important issue of the parallel importation of books. The feedback on this event was extremely positive with many relishing the chance to meet such interesting and diverse literary figures.

## Open House

Award-winning SA playwright Stephen House rehearsed his play, *Borrowed Time*, at the SAWC and opened these sessions to anyone wanting to see the process of staging a play in action. Twenty people took advantage of this.

## 2. SUPPORT FOR WRITING GROUPS

### Writing Groups' Muster

An extremely successful Writing Groups' Muster was held over a weekend in March 2008. Thirty-six people attended the Saturday session and twenty took part on Sunday. Representatives came from country groups based at Port Lincoln, Middleton, Goolwa, York Peninsula, Yankalilla, Gladstone and the Barossa. Nine metropolitan groups also attended and one person came wanting advice on how to start a new group. Guest speakers discussed:

- o 'Good Editing Practice' – **Rosemary Luke**, Society of Editors (SA)
- o 'Combining a book-reading group with a writing group' – **Helen Ellemor**, Sandwriters
- o 'Publishing and producing everything from recipe books to poetry, short stories and history books' – **Gwenda Quinn**, Yorke Peninsula Writers' Group
- o 'Writing With and For Others' – **Anne Bartlett**, author of *Knitting* (Penguin 2005)
- o 'Collaboration with an Aged Care Home, the local school and council' – Wendelina Hawker, Yankalilla & District Writers' Group
- o 'Inspirational Writing Exercises' – **Julie Cahill**, Middleton Writers
- o 'lulu.com – free publishing on the internet' – **Jenny Opie**
- o 'Managing a mixed group' – **Diane Beer** and **Christine Ostermann**, Writing Right Group
- o 'Promoting yourself and your books' – **Jill Gloyne**, Dudley Writers' Group
- o 'Programming on a shoestring' – **Laurie Anderson**, formerly Salisbury U3A Writers' Group
- o 'To incorporate or not, and why? How hard is it to write a constitution?' **Ken Vincent**, North Eastern Writers
- o 'Expanding a successful statewide program for poets' – **Gaetano Aiello**, Friendly Street Poets
- o 'Sources of funding' – **Barbara Wiesner**, Director, SA Writers' Centre

### Writing Group Workshops

The SAWC contributed to writers' fees for the following writers who ran workshops for country and city member groups:

- o **Rosanne Hawke** – Barossa Writers' Group
- o **Sue Fleming** – Seaside Writers
- o **Mike Ladd** – North Eastern Writers
- o **Chris Tugwell** – Writers with Altitude (Adelaide Hills)
- o **Sue Fleming** – Flinders University Writing Club
- o **David Cookson** – Henley Scribblers
- o **Rory Barnes** – Ad Astra (SF group based at the SAWC)
- o **Bill 'Swampy' Marsh** – Society of Women Writers (based at the SAWC)
- o **Anne Bartlett** – Sand Writers (Goolwa)
- o **Anne Bartlett** – Rocky River 'Riters (Gladstone and Crystal Brook, mid-north of SA)
- o **Jeanette Squires** – Kensington and Norwood Writers' Group
- o **Sue Fleming** – Writers of the New Millennium (Melrose Park)
- o **Sean Williams** – Port Augusta Writers' Festival
- o **Jude Aquilina** – Eyre Writers (Port Lincoln)

### 3. PROMOTIONAL ACTIVITIES

#### Dirk Hartog Foundation

The SAWC worked closely with the Lord Mayor's Office in inviting over 100 guests to the Adelaide Town Hall for the official presentation of the Dirk Hartog Foundation's commemorative book *Tales of the Low Lands* by His Excellency Mr Niek van Zutphen, Ambassador for the Kingdom of The Netherlands in Australia during Adelaide Writers' Week.



#### Animate Quarterly

Thanks to additional funding from Australia Council's Write in Your Face Program, *Animate Quarterly*, a live literary journal, was held at the La Boheme in Grote Street. It featured new work by Shen, Heather Taylor Johnson, Courtney Black, Bradley McCann and three people who call themselves triple bottom line (Cassie Flanagan, Julia Winefield and Rachel Mead), presenting six poems in front of a photo stream. Regulars Judella Starwoman (Jude Aquilina) read the audience's literary star-signs and Agony Aunt (Sonja



Dechian) answered questions about a midlife crisis, lifestyles and dreams. Stephanie Hester interviewed Carl Schneider, Education Coordinator at Mobilong Prison. The evening was hosted by Bel Schenk.

#### Visiting Writers

Thanks to *The Advertiser's* Big Book Club, the SAWC hosted a talk by interstate writer **Toni Jordan** who talked about her first book, *Addition*, (Text Publishing 2008) to an audience of 33. A similarly-sized audience heard **Krista Bell** speak at the SAWC's Annual General Meeting. An award-winning author of 22 books for young readers, she was brought to Adelaide courtesy of the May Gibbs Children's Literature Trust.

### 4. COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES

#### Festivals

The SA Writers' Centre has continued its partnership with the Cities of Salisbury and Onkaparinga in staging the Salisbury Writers' Festival and the Poetry Unhinged Festival. As one of the aims of these festivals was to encourage more people to write, both ran competitions – poetry, short stories and SMS. The result being cash prizes for many, as well as the publication in 2009 of a single collection of poetry by **Julian Zytnik**, thanks to sponsorship by Seaview Press and SALMAT.



Don Henderson



Lucy Clark



Fiona McIntosh



Bill 'Swampy' Marsh



Michael Bollen



Phil Cummings



Angela Goode



## Salisbury Writers' Festival

The organising committee restructured the event in 2008, deciding to concentrate sessions on a weekend rather than spread them out over two weeks. It also decided to incorporate more publishers and to provide an opportunity for participants to have their work read by these publishers.

Guest presenters included: **Louise Thurtell** from Allen & Unwin, **Anna McFarlane** from Pan Macmillan, **Michael Bollen** from Wakefield Press and **Patrick Allington** from literary journal, *Etchings*.

South Australian writers taking part included: **Richard Maurovic**, **Angela Goode**, **Fiona McIntosh**, **Liz Harfull**, **Phil Cummings**, **Lucy Clark** and **David Cookson**. Workshops were run by **Sharon Mascall** ('Features with Flair: Writing Articles for Newspapers and Magazines'), **Martin Johnson** ('Developing Your Poetry') and Bill 'Swampy' Marsh ('From the Beginning: Writing Short Stories'). Writing groups were also involved in the festival. Adelaide-based **Friendly Street Poets** held a reading on the Sunday afternoon and the three groups who regularly meet in Salisbury came together to read and talk about their work at a session titled 'Between the Lines'.

Northern Young Writers' Night hosted by Tyndale Christian School For children in years 5 to 7 the Salisbury Writers' festival included the Northern Young Writers' Night organised by the SAWC and sponsored by Tyndale Christian School, the City of Salisbury's Community Grant and the Copyright Agency Limited's Cultural Fund.

The keynote address by **Don Henderson** was followed by a series of readings by 116 students from 18 schools as far away as Cowell, Watervale and Kapunda taking part. Along with their parents, siblings, teachers and grandparents the evening was attended by around 350 people. The readings were led by the following published writers:

°Don Henderson °Rebecca Burton °D.M.Cornish  
°Rosanne Hawke °Sally Heinrich °Elizabeth Hutchins  
°Peter McFarlane °Helen Manos °Robert Moore  
°Robyn Opie °Louise Pike °Nicole Pluss  
°Alan Tucker °Malcolm Walker °Allayne Webster

## One Book One Salisbury

The Salisbury Library Services promoted **Eva Sallis's** *The Marsh Birds* in its One Book One Salisbury scheme, the city's biggest bookclub throughout its five libraries. A follow-up 'Meet the Author' session featuring Eva Sallis was enjoyed by around 40 readers.



## Poetry Unhinged Festival

The SAWC worked in partnership with the City of Onkaparinga to stage the fourth Poetry Unhinged Festival, held biennially on alternate years to the South Australian Writers' Festival. The festival was made up of the following events:

### Poets & Pizza at Coriole Wines

The evening featured the following four poets: **Peter Goldsworthy, Steve Evans, Patricia Irvine** and **Amy Bodossian**.

### Wine, Candles and the Classics at the Leconfield Wines Cellar Door

An evening of poetry by candlelight with light classical music from a string quartet featured poets **Graham Catt, Barbara Preston, Peter Colling** and **Peter Chapman**.

### Storybook Walk at Thalassa Park

Artworks by South Australian artists, based on much-loved Australian characters and poems, were unveiled on the Storybook Walk in Thalassa Park. New works, including Banjo Paterson's *Mulga Bill's Bicycle* and C J Dennis's **The Circus**, created by artist David Archer, were added to the four existing pieces. They will be popular additions to the park, proudly supported by the Thalassa Parks and Garden Trust.

### Poets on Parade

**Amelia Walker, Peter Chapman** and **Elizabeth Mansutti** brought poetry to life for around 550 students in nine primary schools throughout the City of Onkaparinga and the Fleurieu Peninsula.

### Library Events

The six City of Onkaparinga libraries conducted a variety of sessions about poetry. Guest speakers included: **Stephen Matthews**, publisher of Ginninderra Press Publishers; poets **Jan Owen, Daniel Watson, Max Merchenslager, Debbie Matthews-Zott** and **David Mortimer** with songwriter son, **Jon Mortimer**.

**30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Friendly Street Poets** at the Arts Centre, Port Noarlunga  
**Friendly Street Poets** hosted a special reading at the Arts Centre in Port Noarlunga to celebrate the launch of *Best of Friends: the first 30 years of the Friendly Street Poets*. A number of poets included in *Best of Friends* read their work, followed by an open reading that gave local poets a great opportunity to showcase their own writing in front of an appreciative audience.

### Playing with Poetry Tour

**Janeen Brian** introduced poetry to 130 children, visiting eight preschools on the Playing with Poetry tour.

### Bush Poets Bonanza at Amande B&B

Local bush poet **Peter Chapman** hosted an 'Aussie evening' of bush poetry featuring three of SA's top bush poets: **Anne Rogers, Tim Strauss** and **Maurie O'Brien**. Virtuoso guitarist and singer **Chris Finnen** completed the line-up, which entertained an audience of around 100.

## 5. YOUTH ACTIVITIES

### Young Writers' Night at St Peter's College

For children in Years 5 to 7 the SAWC organised the city-based Young Writers' Night sponsored by St Peter's College and the Copyright Agency Limited's Cultural Fund.



The keynote address by **D.M.Cornish**, author of *Monster-Blood Tattoo* (Omnibus Books 2006 and 2008), was followed by a series of readings by 173 students from 41 schools as far away as Wudinna, Curramulka, Orroroo and Padthaway. Along with their parents, siblings, teachers and grandparents the evening was attended by around 450 people.

The readings were led by the following authors:

°Ian Bone °Janeen Brian °Rebecca Burton  
°D.M.Cornish °Phil Cummings °Rosanne Hawke  
°Don Henderson °Christine Harris °David Harris  
°Sally Heinrich °Elizabeth Hutchins °Jane Jolly  
°Christobel Mattingley °Robyn Opie °Ruth Starke  
°Jane Turner Goldsmith °Malcolm Walker

### Country Kids' Workshops

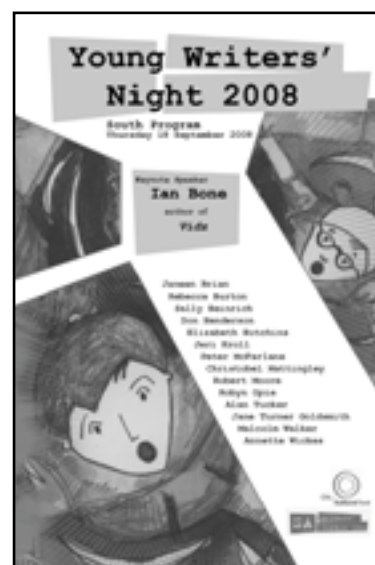
Many of the country students attended the city-based event because of the added bonus of participating in the Country Kids' Workshops the day after the Young Writers' Night. From 9.30am to 12.30pm authors **Phil Cummings** and **Sally Heinrich** worked at the SA Writers' Centre with 52 students from 13 country areas.

### Southern Young Writers' Night at Cardijn College

The Southern Young Writers' Night was sponsored by Cardijn College, the City of Onkaparinga and the Copyright Agency Limited's Cultural Fund.

The keynote address from **Ian Bone**, author of *Sleep Rough Tonight* (Penguin 2004) was followed by a series of readings by 130 students from 23 schools on the Fleurieu Peninsula, including one from Kangaroo Island. Along with their parents, siblings, teachers and grandparents the evening was attended by around 350 people. The readings were led by the following published authors:

°Ian Bone °Janeen Brian °Sally Heinrich  
°Don Henderson °Elizabeth Hutchins  
°Peter McFarlane °Christobel Mattingley  
°Robert Moore °Robyn Opie °Alan Tucker  
°Jane Turner Goldsmith °Malcolm Walker  
°Allayne Webster °Annette Wickes

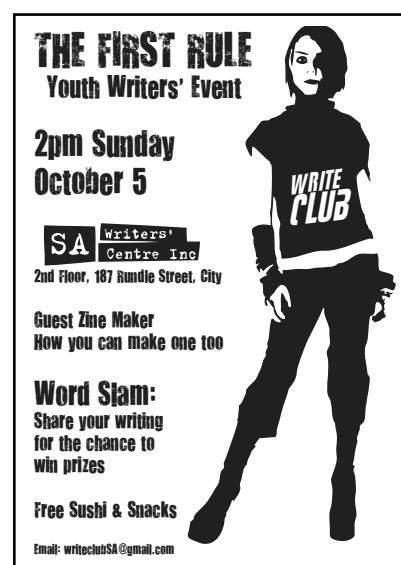


## Write Club: The First Rule

A group of five young writers under twenty-five years of age met regularly to devise activities to support young teenage writers. The culmination of their efforts was an afternoon of readings and word games in October at the SAWC.

## The WriteByte Club

Following many requests over the years to build on the enthusiasm created by the Young Writers' Nights, the SAWC proposed a series of writing clubs in schools. However, with too many hurdles to overcome and, following much consultation, a new model evolved: an on-line writers' club, membership of which is open only to participants in the Young Writers' Night program or students who have been referred by Writers' Centre members.



WriteByte — [www.sawc.org.au/writebyte](http://www.sawc.org.au/writebyte) — went live on 2 November and has proved a success beyond all expectations! By the end of 2008, WriteByte had over 80 members from 50 different schools. Of these, 11 were country schools. Almost 300 pieces of writing have been posted.

*Dear writebyte club,*

*I just love your club and i am enjoying posting poems and my pieces of writing on there. Thank-you for such a great club!*

— email from WriteByte member

*'to say this site is a writing site would be a lie, it is practically a community of young people and it is great. If only there was a place like this in the real world... and high five to whomever came up with the fab idea of this website!'*

— posted on the WriteByte site

## School Visits

Prince Alfred College brought 24 gifted and talented students from Years 3 to 5 to the SAWC for a series of workshops by **Jude Aquilina**, **Laurie Anderson** and **Amelia Walker**. Teachers then invited poet John Malone to the school to continue developing students' enthusiasm for writing.

Forty-five Year 12 students from Valley View High School came to the SAWC for two short workshops by **Jude Aquilina** and an introductory session about the SAWC by **Barbara Wiesner**, Director.

## 6. SUNDRIES

◆ Membership rose from 1,105 to 1171 in 2008.

◆ A total of 30 book launches were held at the SA Writers' Centre in 2008 – 10 more than the previous year.

◆ Eleven editions of *Southern Write*, the Centre's newsletter, were produced in 2008, and mail updates were regularly sent to members each month and occasionally twice a month.

◆ A total of 22 member groups used the SA Writers' Centre as their meeting space. An additional 25 groups met in metropolitan and country regions.

◆ A successful Quiz Night was enjoyed by around 100 members and friends.

◆ Two stand-up comedians used the SAWC for their FRINGE shows which featured their original material.

◆ The SAWC supported PEN, *Wet Ink*, Australian Business Arts Foundation and the Arts Industry Council by providing its venue free of charge.

◆ The Centre's library received 195 books, all of which were donated by members.

◆ Six writers have been using the Centre regularly for their quiet writing space.

◆ SAWC's expertise has been sought by librarians from the Cities of Onkaparinga, Unley, Burnside, Port Adelaide and Enfield, and Seaford Libraries.

◆ Meetings were held following a suggestion by Ian Bone that the SAWC investigate establishing on-line writing workshops. Sadly, the idea has had to be postponed, primarily due to high costs.

◆ The SAWC offered a prize for a secondary student winner in the English Teachers' Association Spring Poetry Competition, High Achievement in the Professional Writing Course at the Adelaide Institute of TAFE and for the Burnside Library crime writing competition (paid for by the library).

◆ A series of interviews were taped at the SAWC by Community TV Channel 31. Guests included Jude Aquilina, Amelia Walker, Martin Johnson, Steve Evans, Peter O'Leary and Betty Collins. Unfortunately, due to poor sound quality, they could not be aired.

◆ The SAWC partnered the following events during 2008:

- o Mental Health Week, at which the SAWC ran a poetry competition, judged by Jude Aquilina. The Centre also hosted the award ceremony compered by Channel 10's Mark Aiston and attended by more than 50 people. SAWC member Helen Maczkowiack gave the keynote address.
- o The 2008 International Women's Day Young Women Writers' Anthology which was launched by the Hon. Gail Gago at the SA Writers' Centre in December 2008.
- o The Feast Gay and Lesbian Festival which held an extremely successful reading at the SAWC.
- o 'Love Poetry, Hate Racism', organised by Amelia Walker, attracted 60 people during National Poetry Week.



Thank you to all our partners:

