



Annual Report 2010



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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 2011 Annual General Meeting

27th Annual General Meeting of the SA Writers' Centre Inc., held at SA Writers' Centre, Monday 16 May, 2011, 7.30pm

1. Present and Apologies
2. Minutes of meeting held 12 May, 2010
3. Business arising
4. Reports:
 Chair
 Treasurer
 Director
5. Appointment of an Auditor
6. Determination of Honoraria for Board members
7. Election

Minutes of the 26th Annual General Meeting (2010)

Minutes of the 26th Annual General Meeting of the
SA Writers' Centre, held on 12 May 2010 at 7.00pm.

1.1 Present:

Staff: Barbara Wiesner, Director, Jude Aquilina, Office Manager & Minute Taker.

Members: Elaine Barker, Patricia Best, Heather Britton, Jody-Ann Brockelbank, Tony Brooks, James Conrick, Greg Croke, Ross Duffy, Steve Evans, Barbara Fraser, Ruth Gilbert, Elizabeth Hutchins, Catherine Jones, Khalil Jureidini, Amy Matthews, Darren McGeachie, Threasa Meads, Helen Mitchell, Silvia Muscardin, Hugh Nield, Christine Ostermann, Eddy Pengelly, Anne-Marie Smith, Anna Solding, Doreen Spurdens, Adrin Tudini, Ray Tyndale, Sandy Verschoor, Ken Vincent, Bronwen Webb, Paul Wilkins, Sean Williams (52)

1.2 Apologies:

Jo Vabolis, Robert Moore, Louise Nicholas, Colleen Sweeney, Nan Halliday, Peter Lyons, David Mortimer, Mag Merrilees, Muriel Lenore, Kate Deller Evans

Meeting began at 7.30 pm

Bron welcomed Board Members and SAWC members.

2. Minutes of previous AGM

Helen Mitchell moved to accept the Minutes of the 2009 AGM. Seconded Ray Tyndale.

3. Business arising from previous minutes

There was no business arising

4.1 Chair's Report

Bron presented her Chair's Report, highlighting the many achievements of the Centre, the Board, staff and members. She congratulated all writers on their successes over the year and mentioned Kelly Vincent's recent election to the Legislative Assembly. Bron discussed the formation of Writing Australia, an amalgamation of Writers' Centres and explained that a 'national' approach is required. She asked SAWC members to forward any suggestions for national activities. Bron said that the SAWC survey conducted in 2010, assisted staff and Board in making planning decisions. She explained

that SAWC staff had been extremely busy and a review of staff duties and office hours was conducted, resulting in the Centre closing on Mondays and Fridays, as well as greater use of volunteers. Bron said that a new website will work harder than the old one, and that the introduction of consultations and feedback sessions was working well. She noted the staff changes over the year and thanked Librarian, Silvia Muscardin, for 13 year's excellent work with the Centre. She noted that Rachel Hennessy left to move interstate, Malcolm then became Newsletter Editor/Communications Officer, Jude became Writer in Residence for the disability program and Mark Caldicott became the new volunteer librarian. Bron ended by thanking all staff, Board and volunteers, with a special thank you to those retiring. Paul Wilkins moved that that Chair's Report be accepted. Seconded Heather Britton.

4.2 Treasurer's Report

In the absence of Treasurer Mag Merrilees, Ken Vincent (Deputy Chair) presented the Treasurer's Report. He said that the deficit of \$2,639 was not unexpected. He also advised that membership fees would have a small rise to account for CPI increases. Ken moved that the financial statement and auditor's report be accepted. Seconded Sean Williams.

4.3 Director's Report

Barbara thanked the 'fabulous community of writers', which make up the SAWC, for their support. She thanked the Board for their invaluable assistance and for all the extra duties, including helping at events and Young Writers' Nights. Barbara thanked volunteers and sponsors, mentioning them all by name and outlining how they have helped the Centre. Tony Brooks proposed to accept the Director's Report. Seconded, Heather Britton. Bron thanked Barbara for her tireless work for SAWC.

5. Appointment of Auditor

Ken proposed that SAWC retain Messenger Zerner as auditors. Seconded, Cathy Jones.

6. Determination of Honoraria for Board members

Ken moved that the Board Honoraria remain the same, at \$150 for Board members and \$200 for Executive Board members.

7. Determination of Membership fees

Ken advised that membership fees would have a small rise to account for CPI increases. Cathy Jones suggested a higher rise in membership fees next time. The fee rise for this financial year will be increased by \$1 for concession and general membership and \$2 for groups (No motion required).

8. Constitutional Changes

Ken explained the proposed changes. He thanked SAWC member Hugh Nield for his assistance with wording. Ken explained the need to change 8.1.5 to allow a longer period to prepare and distribute AGM information. Ken moved that all AGM nominations must be received no less than 28 days before an AGM. Seconded, Ross Duffy. A vote was taken – all in favour. Steve Evans asked about providing for late nominations, but Ken explained that this should be a ‘black and white’ rule. Ken moved to accept all the changes in the constitution, with amendments to 21.2, which should read ‘principal’ instead of ‘principle’; and to 21.4, which should have one comma instead of two. Seconded, Cathy Jones. Vote taken – all in favour.

9. Election

Each person who nominated for the Board gave a short speech, with Anna Solding speaking for Mag Merrilees (who was sick). Votes were taken and counted, with the outcome of Ken Vincent and Mag Merrilees being re-elected; Sandy Vershoor being newly elected, and a tie-breaker between Chris Ostermann and Steve Evans. Steve and Chris were asked to leave the room while a show of hands decided that Steve Evans was elected.

AGM closed at 8.45pm

SA Writers' Centre Board from May 2010 to May 2011

Ken Vincent, Chair
Steve Evans, Deputy Chair
Mag Merrilees, Treasurer

Nan Halliday
Peter Lyons
Amy Matthews
Ray Tyndale
Sandy Verschoor

Chair's Report: Ken Vincent

The SA Writers' Centre: 25 Years Serving the Writing Community of South Australia



It is my privilege to report on the activities of the Board and the progress of the SA Writers' Centre Incorporated for the year, 2010: a year where we celebrated the 25th birthday of the Centre, making it the oldest of its type in Australia. Two events were held to mark this occasion. Firstly, a dinner at Jolly's Boat House in June, which was well attended by many of our members, including former Chairs and members of the Board. We were suitably entertained by Sean Williams and Garth Nix in conversation. The second event was our annual St Lucy's party. This was also an occasion to mark our anniversary and was possibly the best attended St Lucy's yet. Such a demonstration of support from the members gave a huge boost to the morale of the staff and to members of the Board. It was also the year we celebrated the twenty-second year of service of our Director Barbara Wiesner and we thank her for her loyalty and her work and congratulate her most whole-heartedly.

Mag Merrilees and I were re-elected to the Board in 2010 and two new members joined the Board for the first time: Sandy Verschoor and Steve Evans. Steve brought to the Board a sound knowledge of the writing and academia, while Sandy brought a breadth of knowledge gained in her former roles as CEO of the Fringe, WOMAdelaide and other festivals and events. Steven Evans was duly appointed as Deputy Chair and Mag Merrilees as Treasurer. In the last part of 2010 the Board strove to understand and respond to the challenges ahead and these challenges are difficult indeed.

During 2010 we became acutely aware of the financial barriers we have to overcome. The rather draconian cuts to the state budget were particularly harsh on the Arts. It would appear that the bucket of money from which the Centre is funded has suffered a cut of twenty-five percent. For the year 2011 we received a similar amount to that of previous years; however, it is clear that in future years we will face a significant cut to our funding from Arts SA. It is not clear whether these cuts will be made across the board or some organisations will suffer more than most. Members of the Board and Staff have been involved with Arts SA in developing a funding plan. At this point of time we have no information what this may mean for the Centre.

We are facing a cut of more than fifty percent in federal funding due to the formation of Writing Australia, of which the Board has decided the Centre will become a founding member. This was not a decision taken lightly and not all states and territories are taking part. Queensland, Western Australia and the Northern Territory have all decided to go it alone and have good reasons for doing so. We have decided that it is in the best interests of South Australian writers for the Centre to be

Draconian cuts to the state budget [means] ... the bucket of money from which the Centre is funded has suffered a cut of twenty-five percent.

actively involved from the outset. Having input into a new peak organisation may well mean the Centre is better placed to represent writers on the national stage. I congratulate Barbara Wiesner our Director for her contribution to this process and the commitment she has

shown in protecting the interests of the Centre and its members.

While facing these financial cuts, we endeavoured not to reduce services but to source income from other areas. We asked members to actively support a drive to increase the overall membership of the Centre, pursued lapsed members to encourage them to rejoin and actively sought sponsorship from the corporate sector. We also developed strategies to better market our product to the community at large. The new website is an example of this.

Chair's Report (con't)

2010 was a rich year of activity with the Centre involved in regional festivals, orchestrating master classes and seminars, providing numerous workshops, twenty-four in number, attended by about three hundred members and others. The Centre continued with the hugely successful Young Writers' Nights in three different locations, involving 473 young writers between the ages of ten and twelve drawn from primary schools all over the state. The Centre continued to provide support to individual members through the Writer-in-Residence for writers with a disability, Sharon Kernot, in the one-to-one mentoring program and by providing a place for members to call in and discuss writing issues. A group muster for writers' groups was also part of the year's program and this was well supported by members from regional groups. Regular networking evenings allowed members to socialise and receive updates on the industry in general.

I would like to thank the staff for their dedication and hard work that goes well beyond

what could be reasonably expected of such a team. Without them the Centre would be nothing. My thanks go to Jude Aquilina for her unstinting service and support to members; to Malcolm Walker for always getting *Southern Write* out on time and for maintaining its standard as a quality newsletter and for his role in developing the new website. Thanks to Lesley Beasley for ensuring the books are balanced and finally to Barbara Wiesner, not only for her commitment and hard work, but particularly for her creativity in what was not, personally, the best of years. I would like to thank the members of the Board for their commitment during 2010 and to thank the members of the Centre who have frequently and willingly volunteered their time to plug the hole in the proverbial dyke.

Finally I would like to thank our sponsors: Langmeil Wines, Internode, Arts SA, the Australia Council and West Press, as well as our partners the City of Onkaparinga and the City of Salisbury for their ongoing and generous support.

Treasurer's Report: Mag Merrilees

SAWC finished the calendar year to 31 December 2010 with a deficit of \$13,485. Our income for the year was \$23,885 less than last year. And though we cut expenditure by \$12,039, this was not sufficient to prevent an increase in the deficit of nearly \$11,000.

One positive note was a doubling in income from workshops (from \$14,722 to \$28,820). This was achieved with an increase in expenditure of \$8,487, meaning a substantial gain over-all. The main challenge with income was a decrease in non-core funding. Membership income was static.

Expenditure on administration, predictably, increased by the equivalent of the CPI index. Other expenditure decreased over-all. The newsletter cost \$27,606 (mainly printing and postage). Once again we encourage members to get their newsletter on-line if they are able.

The Balance Sheet shows a bank balance of \$61,655, an adequate excess of current assets



over current liabilities, and Members Funds (or 'equity') of \$26,992.

Since we are now facing something like a halving in our Australia Council funding (which in future will come via Writing Australia) we need to find new members, and new sources of income and sponsorship.

Barbara Wiesner, Lesley Beasley, Jude Aquilina, Malcolm Walker and a team of volunteers do a wonderful job of providing services on a shoestring. My thanks to Barbara and Lesley in particular for their work on managing the finances.

Director's Report:

Barbara Wiesner

The complete list of activities carried out by the SA Writers' Centre during 2010 attached to this report doesn't include all the behind-the-scenes work carried out by staff, Board and members.

Our most challenging task last year was to completely overhaul the website, which is now up and running at: www.sawriters.org.au We wanted a sophisticated site which offered more information, actively promoted our authors, allowed more interaction with writers and saved time in processing sales such as memberships and workshops. We were fortunate in getting support from a young and enthusiastic web company Lightbulbdigital, which offered a hefty in-kind contribution towards the redesign job.

At the same time, our Communications Officer Malcolm Walker investigated social media marketing and has changed the way the SAWC is promoting itself. So, apart from the revamped website, we now have two active facebook pages with 746 friends on one and 605 on the other. We tweet regularly and have instigated a \$15 youth membership for under 18s. The changes to the website are ongoing with many new additions planned for 2011: an Indigenous writers' page, a vault containing articles about writing and publishing, a section titled 'shelf life' which will promote the latest books published by members and a 'poets corner'.

With a focus on involving more young writers, a successful funding application to Carclew has led to the SAWC recently appointing a team of six young writers aged 21 to 29 who will be ambassadors in 2011 (<http://www.sawriters.org.au/youth-intro/db-young-writers>). They will be working on a monthly supplement featuring creative writing by under 26 year-olds in *dB MagazinedB Magazine*, a street paper with a distribution of 12,000. The paper is delivered to Port Lincoln, Port Pirie and the South East of SA, therefore ensuring a good coverage for attracting young writers across the state. The group will also plan two activities aimed at drawing young writers from the northern and southern metropolitan areas into the literary community.

In furthering our aim to incorporate our state's writers into the national, and ultimately the international scene, we were able to involve



many interstate and overseas guests into our program last year. By partnering with the universities and thanks to Brian Castro we were able to bring US writer Lee Gutkind to South Australia to run a masterclass on creative nonfiction. Varuna's Peter Bishop continued to support South Australian writers by offering consultations on their projects, and publishers Louise Adler (Melbourne University Publishing), Beverley Cousins (Random House) and Erica Wagner (Allen & Unwin) provided local writers a chance to pitch their proposals. Respected interstate writers Lorraine Marwood and Felicity Pulman (thanks to support from the May Gibbs Children's Literature Trust) each ran a workshop for the Centre, and at our networking functions locals had a chance to meet writer Cate Kennedy, publishers Henry Rosenbloom (Scribe), Julianne Schultz (Griffith Review) and Ben Ball (Penguin). Internationally regarded author Garth Nix generously donated his time and airfare to the Centre as keynote speaker, along with our own Sean Williams, at the SAWC's 25th birthday celebration. In the area of digital publishing we included three sessions courtesy of if:books and IP Publishing, both based in Brisbane, and for screenwriters the SAWC secured an opportunity for two of SA's most experienced writers to attend free-of-charge interstate conferences on 'The Art of Writing Romantic Comedy' – one in Sydney and one in Melbourne.

Another substantial achievement in 2010 was the Centre's involvement in helping to establish 'Writing Australia', a national organisation for writers that has now received funding from the Australia Council as an Emerging Key Organisation. Mary Delahunty was recently appointed its National Director and we aim to launch the organisation mid-year. We see this initiative as furthering local writers'

Director's Report (con't)

opportunities to become involved in the national literary scene.

At the other end of the spectrum, the SAWC was keen to offer more for writers living in country regions. We therefore ran a successful Groups' Muster for writing groups as far away as the Eyre Peninsula, Kangaroo Island, the Iron Triangle and the Yorke Peninsula. Consultation with these groups regarding the best times to hold a public forum in their regions led to 'Writers' Centre Road Shows' being staged recently in Pt Lincoln on the Eyre Peninsula and Moonta on the Yorke Peninsula. Both were extremely successful in attracting a substantial number of writers from the wider community in addition to member group participants.

Our 'Writer-in-Residence' is a unique program, which caters for writers with a disability, many of whom were unable to make progress in their writing careers as they weren't able to attend workshops, seminars and events. Two years ago we received funding from the Richard Llewellyn Arts and Disability Trust to set up this program as it was difficult financially, logistically and time-wise, to provide additional assistance to people with disabilities. During 2010, we involved around 50 writers whose disabilities included: acquired brain injury, dyslexia, leukemia, hearing impairment, blindness, vision impairment, bi-polar disorder, stroke, multiple personality disorder, cerebral palsy, Down's syndrome, Parkinson's disease, post-traumatic stress disorder and other mental and physical disabilities. Their writing projects and genres were also wide-ranging: 11 people writing memoir/life stories, 6 writing for children, 12 poetry, 3 nonfiction, 8 novels/short fiction, 3 speculative fiction, 1 film script, 1 play script and a libretto. We were extremely pleased to see Kelly Vincent MP acknowledge the benefit of this program in an article in *The Advertiser*. Aged 21 at the time of election, Kelly, who has cerebral palsy, is the youngest woman elected to any Australian Parliament.

Another progressive initiative for South Australia and involving many public libraries is the People's Choice Award, which promotes six books by first or second-time authors. Multiple copies of these books are distributed to book groups for discussion. The scheme began two years ago, mainly through approximately 30 reading groups in the Onkaparinga area. However, libraries as far away as Goolwa and Victor Harbor, Stirling, Gumeracha and Tea

Tree Gully have now joined: altogether 37 book groups involving 352 individuals. Following a review of the project in 2010 an additional award will be offered in 2011 for a children's picture book.

Our partnerships are strengthening and growing. The success of annual festivals run in conjunction with the cities of Salisbury and Onkaparinga has led to their continued contribution of between \$60,000 - \$100,000 towards literature. The Mental Health Coalition has been a keen partner for the third year and is increasing sponsorship for poetry by publishing an anthology this year, which will be launched at a national mental health conference. Channel 10's Sports Presenter Mark Aiston continues to be a strong advocate and regularly offers to chair these events.

Educational institutions continue to feature strongly in our list of partners and are also increasing in number. Not only do we have sponsorships from three of the state's most prestigious private schools, but also during 2010 we involved a record number of state primary schools (83) at our Young Writers' Nights. These are exceptional events for promoting SA's children's authors and have led to increasing work opportunities in schools for writers. A particularly good example was the receipt of \$20,000 in 2009 by the SAWC to employ a writer for a school term. We applied for follow-up funding in 2010 but this time were unsuccessful. Helping Hand Aged Care are also keen to work with the SAWC, but as yet funding applications haven't been successful and both organisations have been too busy to further develop a project.

Our tertiary institutions are becoming increasingly important as partners. Our latest project will be in conjunction with the Adelaide Centre for the Arts: a Fringe Writers' Festival for 2012 while in 2010, the universities combined resources with the SAWC to bring Lee Gutkind, as already mentioned, to Adelaide for a week. Flinders University has close involvement with Onkaparinga's writers' festivals, and in 2010 UniSA ran its summer course 'Writing the City' from the Centre. Apart from these joint projects, the SAWC has been using the universities' skilled students to carry out research for the Centre. Many of our changes in marketing and the website are as a result of recommendations following surveys carried out by third and fourth year students.

Director's Report (con't)

The SAWC will be making a concerted effort to raise its profile during 2011 to attract more sponsorships and members. We therefore sought help in marketing from AbaF's Advice Bank and as a result have been working with Carol Haslam to develop both a marketing plan and a sponsorship package. We also have confidence that our future involvement with Writers' Week will help to make aspiring writers more aware of our services. Discussions with its Chair and Executive Producer have been extremely positive.

In addition to the activities mentioned, staff and volunteers have also had to respond to around 14,000 requests for information and advice. Given the extra workload involved in creating 'Writing Australia', in that the workforce consists of only 2.8 paid staff and the fact that I was on leave for 2.5 months during 2010, it is remarkable how much the SAWC achieved last year. My thanks to the Board, staff and the many volunteers who have contributed an enormous amount of time, energy and commitment to this organisation.

2010 Program of Activities January-December 2010

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Masterclass

American writer Lee Gutkind, who was described by *Vanity Fair* as 'the godfather of creative non-fiction', ran a masterclass on creative nonfiction for 18 writers. His visit to Adelaide was made possible by partnering with the three universities.

Longlines Program

Our partnership with Varuna, a national Writers' Centre based in NSW's Blue Mountains, continued during 2010. Creative Director Peter Bishop visited the SAWC from 24 to 26 February and discussed major writing projects with 23 South Australian emerging writers.



Consultations

The SAWC offered a new advisory service during 2010 for writers wanting feedback on synopses, cover letters and creative writing. Consultations by appointment were made with the SAWC's resident writer, Jude Aquilina. Twenty-one writers took advantage of this service.

The Art of Writing Romantic Comedy by Epiphany International Artists

The SAWC secured an opportunity for two SA writers to attend an interstate conference on 'The Art of Writing Romantic Comedy'. Two of our most experienced authors, Annie Fox and Claire Baxter, subsequently attended this two-day conference – one held in Sydney, the other in Melbourne.

Writers with a Disability

Thanks to funding from the Richard Llewellyn Arts and Disability Trust, the SAWC has been able to continue its project to help writers with a disability. The Writer in Residence position was shared this year by Jude Aquilina (Jan to March, June, July), Corrie Hosking (April, May) and Sharon Ker-not (August till December). Around 50 writers with physical or mental disabilities have benefited from this program.

An adjunct to this program was our partnership with the Mental Health Coalition. For the third year we ran a poetry competition with a theme of 'mental health'. This year we received a record number of entries (146 poems) and a record audience (around 120 people). Channel 10 Sports Pre-

sender Mark Aiston was the host, accompanied by two guest speakers, SAWC members Kylie Harrison & Nina Pearce, a jazz guitarist and a comedy act. SAWC Chair Ken Vincent and Jude Aquilina were the judges and spoke at the event.

SEMINARS

- **Meet the Publishers: Fiction and Nonfiction**
Visiting interstate publisher Louise Adler (Melbourne University Publishing) joined local independent publishers Michael Bollen (Wakefield Press) and Stephen Matthews (Ginninderra Press) for a seminar discussing the process of getting published. Attendance: 24
- **Digital Publishing**
Thanks to if:books, Matt Lock (from 'smashwords') and Kate Eltham presented two sessions on digital publishing: Digital rights, licences and earning money and Digital Publishing Primer. Overall attendance for these sessions was 38.
- **Dr David Reiter, Director, IP** (Interactive Publishing) also offered the SAWC a session on digital publishing. This sessions was enjoyed by 9 writers.

COURSES

For writers wanting a more intense professional development experience the SAWC offered a number of six-week courses:

- **Writers Café**
Carol Le Fevre ran a course for writers of fiction and nonfiction. The ten writers who took part formed an ongoing support group, which still meets at the Centre.
- **Poetry Intensive**
Five writers participated in an intensive poetry course with Jan Owen.
- **Children's Intensive**
Janeen Brian provided an in-depth course for writers of children's books. Eight writers participated.

WORKSHOPS

A total of 303 writers took part in 25 workshops held at the SA Writers' Centre:

The Craft Of Writing

Strategies to Keep You Writing Poetry	Lorraine Marwood	15
Children's Picture Books: Paths to Publication	Katrina Germein	17
Self-editing for Fiction Writers	Patrick Allington	14
Flawless Feature Writing	Renata Provenzano	12
Enhancing Your Creativity	Annie Fox	11
Talking about Dialogue	Astrid Cooper	12
Whodunnit – and Why?	Felicity Pulman	13
Story Structure	Lucy Clark	9
Planning Your Book	Ashley Mallett	12
Point of View, how many ways can you tell a story?	Anne Bartlett	9
Write Brain – Left Brain	Sue Fleming	5
World Building: from mundane to make-believe	DM Cornish	14
Short Story Writing	Bill 'Swampy' Marsh	8
Keep 'em in suspense: the secret of great storytelling	Ruth Starke	14
An insider's view on the children's picture book	Sascha Hutchinson	7
Be the writer you want to be	Kirsty Brooks	13
Put your blogging gloves on	Eleni Konstantine	10
Editing your own book	Rosemary Luke	13
Life Sentence	Eva Hornung	8

'Questions of editorial approaches . . . have been clearly and authoritatively addressed.'

— participant, 'Self editing for fiction writers'

'Inspiring and insightful'

— participant, 'A world-building workshop'

'Full of great ideas to help with creativity.'

— participant, 'Enhancing your creativity'

'Informative, interesting, entertaining and the resources provided were very good.'

— participant, 'Be the writer you want to be'

The Business Of Writing

Defining, Planning and Achieving Your Writing Goals	Chris Ostermann	18
Self-publishing: More than Vanity	Bruce Lindsay & Mark Thomas	15
Painless Book Marketing: New Options for Self-publishers	Bruce Lindsay & Jo Fiedler	19
Opportunities for Young Writers	Amelia Walker	9
Pitch-Perfect for Publications	Renata Provenzano	12
Self-publish with lulu.com – a step-by-step guide	Gary Macrae	14

A Groups Muster

Representatives from writing groups on Kangaroo Island, The Barossa, Yorke Peninsula, Pt Augusta and the Eyre Peninsula gathered at the SAWC in March for an opportunity to share ideas and concerns with groups from the metropolitan region. Guest speakers included Jude Aquilina, Malcolm Walker, Board members Ken Vincent and Ray Tyndale, Wakefield Press Publicist Angela Tolley and publisher Stephen Matthews. Attendance 33.

For Playwrights

Two times AWGIE Award-winning SA playwright/director Stephen House rehearsed his monologue *Appalling Behaviour* at the Centre and opened rehearsals to members of the SA Writers' Centre in July.

The SAWC also hosted a play, with a mental health theme, by award winning young playwright Kurt Murray. (Last year's young playwright, Nina Pearce, whose play was staged at the Centre during Mental Health Week, went on to win The Blewett Playwright's Award at Adelaide Writers' Week).

25th Birthday celebrations

The SAWC celebrated its 25th birthday at two functions during 2010. In June, around 60 people enjoyed a formal dinner at Jolley's Boathouse Restaurant where Gillian Rubinstein/Lian Hearn was presented with her Life Membership plaque for her support of the Centre. Internationally renowned writers Garth Nix and Sean Williams generously donated their time for the keynote address and local band 'Blind Mary' provided entertained free of charge for the evening. Jolley's kindly offered meals at a discount for the event and long-term supporter of the SAWC, Langmeil, provided free sparkling wine for the occasion.

The celebrations continued at our annual St Lucy's Party in December where around 150 members and friends heard writer Peter Goldsworthy and web designer Morgan Martin-Skerm launch the Centre's new website.

Networking Functions

The SAWC held several additional networking functions during 2010 allowing writers an opportunity to mix with their peers and industry professionals. In March, during Adelaide Writers' Week, special guests included Varuna's Peter Bishop, writer Cate Kennedy, publishers Henry Rosenbloom (Scribe), Julianne Schultz (Griffith Review) and Ben Ball (Penguin).

In honour of Lee Gutkind's visit we held a networking dinner in June and also invited special guests Jane Covernton (Working Title Press), Deborah Bogle (Book Editor of The Advertiser), Jill Jones (Adelaide University), Nan Halliday (May Gibbs Children's Literature Trust) and Mike Ladd (ABC Radio).

Overall approximately 120 writers attended these sessions.

COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES

Mental Health Coalition of SA

The SAWC continued its partnership with the Mental Health Coalition in 2010. Jude Aquilina judged the mental health poetry competition, which received around 80 entries. Channel Ten's sport presenter Mark Aiston MC'd the awards evening in October in front of an audience of approximately 50. Winning entries were painted on canvas and illustrated by a local artist. The exhibition remained on display at the SAWC atrium for a month, then toured various disability agencies.

Salisbury Writers' Festival

The SA Writers' Centre partnered the City of Salisbury and the Salisbury Library Service for the sixth annual Salisbury Writers' Festival. The overall attendance was around 700, while a further 250 writers entered the competitions.

Opening Ceremony

Feature film writer and comic book artist/writer Dave de Vries was the keynote speaker at the opening ceremony. His talk 'Live the Dream' followed the awarding of prizes for winners in the short story and poetry competitions.

Writers' Forum

Special guests for the Writers' Forum included Angelo Loukakakis from the Australian Society of Authors and local writers Christine Harris, Lolo Houbein, Helen Halstead and Jude Aquilina. Joining them for the afternoon sessions were publishers Beverley Cousins (Random House), Erica Wagner (Allen & Unwin), Michael Bollen (Wakefield Press) and Stephen Matthews (Ginninderra).

Workshops

- Slash and Burn: Self-Editing for Fiction Writers with Patrick Allington
- Children's Picture Books: Ploughing a Path to Publication with Katrina Germein
- Editing Your Poetry with Mike Ladd

Friendly Street Poets

Friendly Street Poets held a Sunday afternoon of poetry readings for 25 participants at the John Harvey Gallery.

One Book, One Salisbury

Salisbury Library Services hosted a talk by Nicki Greenberg who adapted *The Great Gatsby* into a graphic novel format.

Between the Lines

A total of 35 writers involved in three Salisbury writing groups shared their work at an afternoon event titled 'Between the Lines.'

Young Writers' Night North

The event was supported by grants from Carclew Youth Arts and the City of Salisbury's Community Fund. We had 140 students enrolled from 24 schools from the following areas:

Blair Athol
Gilles Plains
Highbury
Northfield
Pooraka
Watervale

Cambrai
Glen Osmond
Ingle Farm
Paracombe
Tanunda

Craigmore
Grange
Kapunda
Golden Grove
Modbury Heights

Dernancourt
Hewett
Wynn Vale
Playford
Gawler

Salisbury:

Junior & Primary
Salisbury East
Salisbury North (Burton)
Salisbury North West

The keynote speaker was author and illustrator Sally Heinrich. Group leaders were:

Rosanne Hawke
John Malone
Marianne Musgrove
Malcolm Walker

Don Henderson
Peter McFarlane
Robyn Opie
Allayne Webster

Elizabeth Hutchins
Robert Moore
Alan Tucker

Competitions

The festival also ran poetry and short story competitions for both adults and writers 16 and under, attracting over 300 entries.

Winning entries in the second Haiga Art Competition were exhibited in the John Harvey Gallery throughout August.

Poetry Unleashed 2010: 3 – 12 September

The SA Writers' Centre also strengthened its partnership with the City of Onkaparinga which staged its fifth poetry festival, Poetry Unleashed, with an overall attendance of 1,252. An additional 320 writers entered the competitions.



The launch involved hip-hop artist Taiaha Newnham, One Lap Dance Crew and Wayne Anthoney.

Activities included:

- Poets & Pizza at Coriole: Geoff Goodfellow, David Cookson, Alice Sladdin and Jill Wherry.
- Candles, Wine & Classics: Rob Walker, Julian Zytnik, Mary Bradley, Jill Gower, Ray Tyndale
- The Great Debate: Poetry Sux
(The 'Yes' team) Steve Evans, Stephanie Johnston (Wakefield Press), Tracey Korsten
(The 'No' team) MC Delta, Mark Lloyd (Coriole), Clementine Ford (journalist)
The 'Yes' team were successful.
- Competitions:
Spoken Word, Single Collection, SMS, Bush, Youth, Multicultural, Adrian Kavanagh Award
- Poets on Parade (in primary schools): John Malone, Jules Koch, Amelia Walker
- Speed Poetry Assessment at Noarlunga library: Steve Evans, Tess Driver, Deb Matthews-Zott
- Friendly Street Poets Southern meeting at the arts centre, Pt Noarlunga
- Poets on Canvas: Flinders Medical Centre Gallery & various public places

YOUTH ACTIVITIES

In addition to the Young Writers' Night at the Salisbury Writers' Festival, the SAWC organised two similar events for children in Years 5 to 7 – one in the city at St Peter's College, the other at Cardijn College, Noalunga Downs

Young Writers' Night City – 10 June 2010

The keynote address by Christobel Mattingley, author of 48 books, was followed by a series of readings by 187 students from schools all over South Australia. Along with parents, siblings, teachers and grandparents around 500 people were in attendance.

The readings were led by the following published authors:

Ian Bone, Janeen Brian, D. M. Cornish, Phil Cummings, Rosanne, Sally Heinrich, Don Henderson, Elizabeth Hutchins, John Malone, Christobel Mattingley, Peter McFarlane, Marianne Musgrove, Robyn Opie, Ruth Starke, Alan Tucker, Malcolm Walker and Allayne Webster.

Young Writers' Night South – 19 October 2010

Sponsored by the City of Onkaparinga, a keynote address was presented by Marianne Musgrove, author of four children's books. A total of 145 students from 26 schools on the Fleurieu Peninsula read their work aloud in small groups. Along with parents, siblings, teachers and grandparents around 450 people were present.

The readings were led by the following published authors:

Rebecca Burton, D. M. Cornish, Sally Heinrich, Don Henderson, Elizabeth Hutchins, Jeri Kroll, John Malone, Peter McFarlane, Robert Moore, Marianne Musgrove, Robyn Opie, Ruth Starke, Alan Tucker, Malcolm Walker, Allayne Webster and Annette Wickes.

The Country Kids Workshops were run the day after the city-based Young Writers' Night. Janeen Brian and Phil Cummings ran two extremely successful sessions for 44 participants from schools from the following areas: Cowell, Naracoorte, Strathalbyn, Watervale, Farrell Flat, Saddleworth, Karoonda, Yunta & Angaston.

The WriteByte Club – www.sawc.org.au/writebyte

Following its launch at the end of 2008 this on-line writers' club continues to provide a valuable outlet for creative works by young writers who'd taken part in previous Young Writers' Nights. It also offers young writers an opportunity to mix with like-minded students. Throughout the year they made suggestions on how to improve the site, gave each other feedback, writing tips and encouragement.

SUNDRIES

Membership dropped slightly from 1150 in 2009 to 1116 in 2010.

A total of 21 book launches were held at the SA Writers' Centre in 2010 – 2 more than the previous year.

A new website was developed thanks to support from Morgan Martin-Skerm from Lightbulbdigital.

The SAWC supported performances by stand-up comedian Stephan Sheehan and Ruth Buttery during the FRINGE. Both are members of the SAWC and write their own material – a criterion for use of the Centre.

Eleven editions of *Southern Write*, the Centre's newsletter, were produced this year, and mail updates were regularly sent to members at least once each month.

A total of 12 member groups used the SA Writers' Centre as their meeting space. An additional 37 groups met in metropolitan and country regions.

The SAWC supported PEN for its 'Day of the Imprisoned Writer' – poets, novelists and essayists – rallying for the rights of imprisoned writers. We provided the facilities and photocopying for the event, included speakers, poetry and music. Approximately 50 people took part.

The SAWC has continued its support for national literary magazine *Wet Ink* by providing its venue free of charge for their business meetings.

The SAWC offered a prize for a secondary student winner in the English Teachers' Association Spring Poetry Competition and high achievement in the professional Writing Course at the Adelaide Institute of TAFE.

The SAWC nominated Ben Chandler for a South Australia Young Achiever Award in the arts category. He was a semi-finalist.

SAWC regularly contacts a library distributor with updates of new books by local writers.

The SAWC staff and volunteers dealt with over 14,000 enquiries by phone, email and in person.

The SAWC is proud of the many industry partnerships it has developed over its 25 years, including the following:

- Onkaparinga Council – SA Writers' Festival and its Poetry Festival
- Salisbury Council – Salisbury Writers' Festival
- Langmeil Winery – Poets and Platters
- Seaview Press and SALMAT
- Express Media - Buzzcuts
- Internode
- Lightbulb Digital
- Carclew Youth Arts Centre
- and the Mental Health Coalition of SA



Thankyou to all our partners:

