

southern

write

Newsletter of the SA Writers' Centre Inc

February 2007



Word Up!

In 2007, the Adelaide Fringe will be presenting WORD, a new three-day celebration of words and literature. This event will bring together emerging and established writers to share and showcase their works through a series of masterclasses, workshops, panels, debates and conversations. Featuring Richard Flanagan, Sean Williams, Andy Griffith, Sarah Armstrong, Jarad Henry, Stephen House, Stefan Laszczuk, Alice Pung, Fiona McIntosh, Tim Sinclair, Emma Balfour and many more.

Held from Wednesday 21 to Friday 23 March 2007, WORD aims to be a bit more fun and a bit less formal than a regular writers' festival. It will have a focus on crime, science fiction, fantasy and young adult fiction, as well as featuring scriptwriting, poetry, zines and blogs.

Masterclasses and open access workshops aim to address skills development in experienced and less experienced writers respectively. These classes will run each day, leaving each evening free for a program that will include Imprisoned Writers Readings, Meet-the-Author sessions, romantic read dating, compulsory conversations, readings performed by actors and comedians, poetry slams and word slams.

Romantic Read Dating

You're often told to judge a book by its content rather than its cover – so surely the same should go for prospective partners? Read Dating gives you the chance to find out what your date is really about – by listening to them read their favourite piece of writing. Is she turned on by Hemingway and delighted by Virginia Woolf? Does he lust after Jane Austen and model himself on Hunter Thompson? Find out with this novel take on speed dating.

In Conversation

When the novel ends keep the conversation going. Ask our authors more about what happened to their characters, what motivates them to churn out the words and where they get their inspiration. The authors at the In Conversation events will be able to give you an insight into the world of writing. Come along and join small group conversations with a variety of authors.

Imprisoned Writers

Around 200 writers are currently imprisoned around the world. Their only crime has been to exercise their right to freedom of expression. As well as seeking to bring attention to the plight of imprisoned writers, the Writers in Prison Committee of PEN monitors attacks on writers and journalists worldwide, including long-term imprisonment.

Zine Fair

Zinesters converge on Adelaide to sell and swap to their hearts' content. From the personal to the political, the deviant to the hip, it's all about DIY with loads of publications, patches, badges and comics. Pick up the Clag and scissors or kick back with a cup of tea and see how it's done. And there's more! – A limited edition official Fringe zine will be available. Saturday 24 March 2007, 12pm–5pm Fringe alley, off Vaughan Place, Adelaide. FREE entry (zines may be swapped or sold).

WORD is presented by the Adelaide Fringe in association with SA Writers' Centre and The Big Book Club.

Wednesday 21 March – Friday 23 March 2007

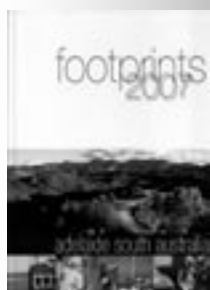
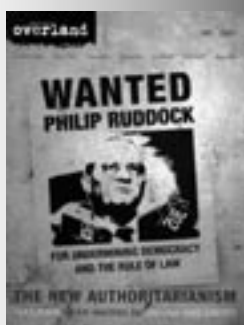
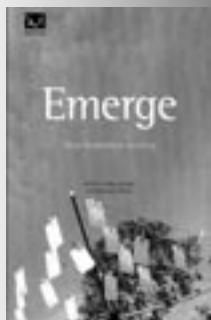
Held at The Fringe Factory, 21 Mellor Street (enter off Waymouth Street) Adelaide and the SA Writers' Centre.

Day Pass (all sessions) \$20 All tickets are available from FringeTIX

Full details of the WORD program will be found in the Adelaide Fringe Guide, or check out the website at www.adelaidefringe.com.au.

187 Rundle Street Adelaide 5000 • PO Box 43 Rundle Mall Adelaide 5000 • ABN 40 783 458 265
T (08) 8223 7662 • F (08) 8232 3994 • sawriters@sawriters.on.net • www.sawriters.on.net

Centre Information...



So Very Resourceful

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

Kansai Poets' Association, *Fire Work Poems III, An anthology of Modern Japanese Poems*, 2006.

Jo Whillier, *Once Upon a Billabong*, (Illustrated by Sally Hayes, photographs by Ray Whillier), A Whillier Children's Book, 2006.

Ashley Knoote-Parke, *Footprints 2007*, Adelaide, South Australia, tish'n enigma Books, 2006.

Wakefield Press, *She's a Beauty: the story of the first Holdens*, Don Loffler, 2006.

Wet Ink Magazine, *Emerge: New Australian Writing*, edited by Phillip Edmonds and Dominique Wilson, published by *Wet Ink Magazine* in association with the Australian Association of Writing Programs, 2006.

Society of Women Writers, SA, *So We Write Star Authors, an anthology*, 2006.

Write Away, *A Magazine for Creative Writers*, Vol 1, No 1, December 2006.

Sand Writers, *Water Music*, an anthology of poetry, 2006.

Sand Writers, *Stories and Poems from Writers of the Fleurieu Peninsula*, Summer 2006/07.

Association of Chinese Writers, *South Land*, No. 3, 2006.

Wakefield Press, *Unsettled Places: Aboriginal People and Urbanisation in New South Wales*, George Morgan, 2006.

Wakefield Press, *Tomorrow is Today: Australia in the psychedelic era, 1966-1970*, 2006.

Dave Diss, *Creatures of our Time ... in a land fit for heroes*, Dave Diss Publishing, 2006.

Volunteering SA, *Eighty Not Out* by Nick Olifent, 2006.

Alan Tucker, *Cyclone Tracy: the diary of Ryan Turner*, Scholastic, 2006.

The Chinese PEN, *Contemporary Chinese Literature from Taiwan*, Autumn 2006.

Dimitri Tsaloumas, *Helen of Troy and other poems*, University of Queensland Press, 2007.

Nicholas Fourikis, *Hollywood, Amaroo*, ARD Press, 2006.

Queensland University of Technology, *The Rumours are True, new writing from QUT*, 2006.

The Writing for Pleasure Group of Salisbury U3A, *Take Five No. 2*, November 2006.

The SA Writers' Centre has also received copies of the latest *Overland*, *Meanjin*, and other state Writers' Centre newsletters. Thanks also to **Tom Skinner** who donated a range of writing reference books to the SAWC.

Newsletter Folders

Thank you to the following folders of the December/January newsletter: Barbara Brockhoff, Cailean Darkwater, Jo Dey, Barbara Fraser, Margie Hann Syme, Elizabeth Hutchins, Janos Pogany, Justin Prime, Matthew Staker, Peter Swindon, Daniel Taylor, Ann Timoney Jenkin and Lindy Warrell.

Willunga Retreat

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



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



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

Disclaimer

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

Funding & Awards

Arts Grants Forum

Arts SA's Paul Rees will provide an overview of the funding opportunities available to writers for 2007 and beyond, at an arts grants forum at the SA Writers' Centre on Wednesday 28 February from 7 pm onwards. There have been some changes to the funding programs available for independent artists and this would be a good time to find out how these changes affect you. There will also be opportunities to seek general advice on approaching Arts SA for financial assistance and preparing your application.

For bookings call the SA Writers' Centre on 8223 7662 or email sawriters@sawriters.on.net Free.

Literature Board Client Meetings

Australia Council staff will conduct individual meetings to discuss the Literature Board's 2007 program of assistance to organisations and individual writers. Held at the SA Writers' Centre, these are by appointment only. They will provide an opportunity to discuss future projects and to get answers to questions about the Board's programs and the assessment process. Those attending these one-on-one meetings MUST have read the appropriate section of the 2007 Support for the Arts handbook. The handbooks can be downloaded from www.ozco.gov.au, or ordered on (02) 9215 9000, 1800 226 912 or 1800 659 291 (voicemail only), or mail@ozco.gov.au.

Where: SA Writers' Centre, 2nd Floor, 187 Rundle Street, Adelaide.

When: Tuesday 27 February 9.30am – 4.30pm (one-on-one meetings)
Wednesday 28 February, 9.30am – 4.30pm (one-on-one meetings)

Cost: Free, but bookings are essential.

For more information or to make an appointment, contact the Centre on 8223 7662 or email sawriters@sawriters.on.net

Congratulations to the Salisbury Writers' Festival.

The recipient of the 2007 City of Salisbury Australia Day Large Event Award.



Now held annually in October, The Salisbury Writers' Festival features workshops, meet-the-author events, the Northern Young Authors' Night and other writing related activities. Thankyou to everyone who contributed to the success of this event.

Literature Projects Funded in Arts SA's September 2006 project assistance round.

Established Artists

David Harris – development of new work. *Mad Mad Men Who Dug It*. 5 adventure books for boys - fiction based on archaeology. \$6500.

Martin R Johnson – development of new work. *City of Now* - a collection of poetry that portrays the contemporary world of a country town, Gawler, at the beginning of the 21st Century. \$8000.

Cath Kenneally – development of new work. *Thirty Days' Notice*. \$7000.

Miriell Lenore – development of new work. *A Poet's Garden* (a literary installation). \$3930.

Emerging Artists

Jason Fischer – professional development. Participation in the 2007 Clarion South Writers' Workshop. \$2660.

Nicola Haywood – development of new work. *The Cult of Dead Larry* second draft. \$3093.

Bel Schenk – development of new work. *Ambulances and Dreamers*. \$4640.

Festivals, events and commissions

City of Onkaparinga – writers' festival. The South Australian Writers' Festival 2007. \$10,000.

The Handbook for South Australian Writers

For more information on funding and submissions, have a look at the new edition of the SA Writers' Centre Handbook. Available for \$20 members or \$25 nonmembers.

the ultimate guide for writers ...
getting it down
getting it out
getting a foot in
getting it right
getting it on
and getting it together

Opportunities...

Write Away ...

is seeking submissions for poetry, short stories (up to 2,000 and also 4,000) and articles up to 750 words for upcoming issues. Contributors will receive a complimentary copy of the magazine. Please submit work either by email to writeawaystories@gmail.com or to Write Away Story Submission, PO Box 39, West Richmond SA 5033. If you would like to purchase the first edition (Christmas Edition) please contact the editor via email or snail mail. The first edition is available for sale for \$4.00 (note the following editions will be on sale for \$5.00).

Excitement Machine

Hip new art & culture monthly, *Excitement Machine*, is looking for original art, photography and creative writing. excitementmachine@gmail.com

Writer Required

'I am looking for a writer for a true story. Two brothers lost for 63 years, one in the UK the other in Australia finally meet in the new year 2007. Please call Mr Brian Hawthorn for more information: 83842158.'

Ex-Pat Writers

Heather Taylor Johnson is an American-born citizen who has chosen to live permanently in Australia. She has just submitted her PhD in Creative Writing at the University of Adelaide and is now working on a paper that will explore the role of the American-Australian in creative writing. What do we write about? Where do our stories take place? If you could contact her at kingstreet1@ozemail.com.au with the subject heading of 'ex-pat writer', she would love to have a correspondence with you.

Black Dog Books

Black Dog Books is producing an anthology of new work for 10-14 year olds. The anthology will include works by established writers, new writers and young people. They are looking for submissions of stories, poetry and illustration. Interesting, funny, quirky, eclectic, and SHORT (the shorter the better!). The deadline for submissions is February 28. Proceeds from sales of the

book will go to Big Brothers, Big Sisters. The book will be published in August 2007. Enquiries to Lili Wilkinson at blackdoganthology@mac.com

Romantic Book of the Year Award

The Romance Writers of Australia, 'Romantic Book of the Year Award (the RBY's) are once again open for entries. This is an award for published novels of Australian and New Zealand authors with a strong romantic element. Novels published between 1 January and 31 December 2006 are eligible for entry. Entries close on the 9th of February. Complete guidelines and entry forms are available at <http://www.romanceaustralia.com/rby/index.htm>

Seeking Manuscript Assessors

Driftwood Manuscript Services is seeking experienced manuscript assessors to add to its 40-strong team of assessment professionals. Driftwood helps writers develop their manuscript to a stage where it is ready for submission to an agent or commercial publisher by providing objective, high quality reports on every fiction and nonfiction genre. These reports are conducted by experienced, published authors who understand the difficulties involved in completing work to a publishable standard. They provide professional feedback detailing everything that might prevent each manuscript being seriously considered by a literary agent or editor for publication, while drawing the writer's attention to positive aspects of the work. Driftwood has a vast resource of material to assist clients and assessors on submission and presentation of a manuscript. Assessors work on a case-by-case basis and each manuscript is discussed in detail before being commissioned. Assessors follow strict guidelines and must write a detailed report within a four week timeframe. Driftwood is particularly seeking assessors who specialise in specific genres. For example: SF, nonfiction (i.e. cookery, car maintenance, travel), thrillers, crime fiction, etc.

If you are appropriately qualified, enjoy providing feedback on writing and are interested in working on a casual basis (determined by your availability) please contact Kirsty Brooks at Driftwood

Manuscripts at PO Box 466 Kent Town SA 5071 or email driftwood@kirstybrooks.com. Please send your complete CV, any personal and professional interests and anything else that will assist in evaluating your professional credentials.

FICTION FACTOR

The E-zine for Fiction Writers visit <http://www.fictionfactor.com>

Writer Required ...

to edit and assist in the completion of a fascinating life story which begins in Hungary. The author was raped at 13, but went on to study engineering, graduated, and emigrated to Australia in the 1950s. Payment is offered to a writer who can edit this extraordinary story to publishable standard. Ph: Susan on 8337 9480.

Residency Opportunity In Brazil

Residency applications for the Sacatar/ South residency programme are now being received. The South Project and the Instituto Sacatar are once again offering a two-month residency in Bahia, Brazil for late 2007 early 2008. Details for the residency are available on the South Project www.southproject.org

Applications are due 28 February 2007. For all application queries please email info@southproject.org

Looking for a place to sell your book

We can help

For details

Contact us by email:

Klaebenterprise@optusnet.com.au;

by phoning: 0409 269 218;

or by writing to: 34 Melville Road, Salisbury East, SA 5109.

Other services available at Klaebe Enterprise:

- **Bookkeeping**
- **Unpublished Author**
- **Proofreading/ Editor**
(Just Beginning Cheap rates)

Legacy Books

Legacy Books is calling for essays and poetry from people over 45 years of age on the topic of what they remember fondly from their youth for the second volume of *I Remember When: a collection of memories*. To the generation that can't imagine life without a mobile phone, this is another chance to tell them what life was like before TVs and iPods. That is, to put in print the things the 'older' generations think are important for the younger generation to know about, or even just the fun things they remember. Particularly things which aren't experienced today – riding bikes around the neighbourhood until the street lights came on, fireworks in the park, knowing your neighbours and walking 'miles' to get to school. Publisher, Julie Athanasiou, says they are looking to put into print those common memories that will one day no longer exist.

If you would like to submit your story or poem to *I Remember When* email it to info@legacybooks.com.au or visit www.legacybooks.com.au for further contact details. Submissions close March 20.

ASA Mentorship Program

Applications are now open for 20 mentorships in 2007 in the areas of fiction, nonfiction, poetry, Young Adult, children's writing and picture book illustration. Applications close at 5 pm on 2 April 2007. Applicants must be over 18 with no more than two books published and have a work in progress to at least first draft stage. You must be an Australian citizen or permanent resident.

For more information about the program, full eligibility criteria, submission guidelines, judges and an application form go to www.asauthors.org

Longlines

Peter Bishop, Creative Director of Varuna, The Writers' House in the Blue Mountains, will be at the SA Writers' Centre on Wednesday 21st to Friday 23rd March for a second round of LongLines consultations with South Australian writers. This is a



partnership between State and Territory Writers' Centres and Varuna, funded by the Macquarie Bank Foundation. In 2006, Peter Bishop travelled around Australia talking with writers –160 of them!– and discovered a startling range of talent, experience and achievement. Through the LongLines Program, Varuna is able to offer 33 professional development places to writers living outside the metropolitan areas of Sydney, Melbourne and Brisbane. 23 of these places are residential and give writers the marvellous opportunity of working in an environment wholly dedicated to writers and writing. For those unable to travel to Varuna, there are 10 non-residential places available. Deadline for applications for the LongLines Program is APRIL 30.

Consultations are the backbone of the LongLines Program. A consultation lasts an hour and gives writers at all stages of development and experience the opportunity to discuss their projects and possibilities with an experienced professional. Many writers have made significant professional decisions as a result of a consultation.

11 South Australian writers were selected for the LongLines Program in 2006, and all who have so far visited Varuna have reported feeling astonishingly at home in this environment dedicated to writers.

Bookings for the LongLines Consultations may be made with the SA Writers' Centre by phoning the Centre on (08) 8223 7662. Please send 20 pages of material, plus a description of where you are at as a writer, what you hope for, dream of, etc to the Centre by the Wednesday before the week of the consultations.

Animate Quarterly

The live journal is still accepting contributions. For details go to: <http://www.myspace.com/animatequarterly>

Country Pubs and the Bush – Poetry in the Adelaide Plains

A Poetry workshop will be one of the events Adelaide Plains Poets Inc is running for the Adelaide Plains Cup Festival, 2-4 March

2007. They are also running a poetry competition. The workshop will take place at the Mallala Institute, and the winners of the Poetry Competition will be announced on the same night at Balaklava.

The workshop will be open to anyone living in the Mallala/Wakefield region, or other country residents interested in attending. It will run from 10.30am to 4.00pm on Saturday 3 March 2007, and will be held at the Mallala Institute, Dublin Rd, Mallala. Lunch will be provided to all attending. Cost will be \$25.00 (\$20.00 concession).

Jeff Guess, the workshop presenter, is a well-known South Australian poet, with much teaching experience, both of secondary school students and tertiary students. Jeff has had many collections of his poetry published.

The workshop will encompass an initial talk from the presenter on contemporary poetry and will then involve students writing their own poetry. The main focus will be on the production of poems in a form that would be acceptable to contemporary poetry markets i.e. literary/poetry magazines and publishers of contemporary poetry.

Students will learn about the potential markets for their poetry and will also learn skills in critiquing the poetry of others, and most importantly, the ability to objectively critique their own work.

The poetry competition will be judged by another well-known and much published South Australian poet and has the themes of 'Country Pubs and The Bush'. Entries close on 9 February 2007. Entry costs \$5, for 'Country Pubs' poems (Adult section) and there is no cost for 'The Bush' poems (Secondary and Primary School sections). An entry form must accompany entries. The workshop is supported by Country Arts SA. The poetry competition is supported by Mallala Hotel, Wakefield Regional Council and District Council of Mallala. There will be a special prize for the best entry from Wakefield Regional Council and another for the best entry from District Council of Mallala. Contact Carolyn Cordon 85272412, gracar@twpo.com.au for further information.

What's On...

February Poetica

Presented by Mike Ladd

Saturdays at 3.05pm. Repeated at 3.05pm
Thursdays on ABC Radio National.

Program details:

3rd: Poetica's Tenth Birthday – we celebrate a decade on air with a selection of great poets and voices from the previous 500 programs.

10th: Roland Leach – poet Roland Leach lives by the ocean in WA and the sea figures prominently in his work.

17th: Bertold Brecht – a selection of Brecht's powerful poems written in exile in Denmark.

24th: Out of Fashion – an anthology about dress, fashion, love and death.

Friendly Street Poets

The guest reader for Friendly Street on Tuesday February 6 is Aidan Coleman. 7pm at the SAWC.

Poetry and Poetics Centre

The University of South Australia's Poetry and Poetics Centre brings you the latest news in poetry and poetics from South Australia and interstate. Members look at poetry from the point of view of the writer who puts his/her work in front of the public for scrutiny and also from the point of view of the theoretical inquirer of the making and understanding of poetry.

http://poetryandpoeticscentre.com/index.php/Main_Page

Independent Scholars (ISAA) ...

is an Australia-wide association for people whose research interests are outside institutional or organisational links. People in established research institutions and those who are interested but not actively engaged in research are also welcome to the support and fellowship of our groups. The objective is to present work-in-progress sessions, hold seminars and generally to support each other in our work. Included in annual membership is the opportunity to present your research at an annual conference and a refereed journal distributed to members.

SAWC members are most welcome attend a meetings of the Adelaide group as a visitor.

It meets bi-monthly in a seminar room at the SA Writers' Centre.

Enquiries: virginia@virginiakenny.com
phone 8344 7810

Independent Scholars Association of Australia Inc.: SA group
www.independentscholars.asn.au

**Are you an editor?
A ghost writer?
even a co-author?
Have a free look at:
<http://www.universal-publishers.com/book.php?method=ISBN&book=1581125909>
First 25 pages free
phone 0403-964-366
or email:
paul@sounding-board.org**

Serendipity Writers

Meeting place: Mitcham Library, 1st Saturday of each month.

Contacts: Ph: 0411019716 (Alexandra Alt)
or 82352815 (Irina LeMaire)

Email: helenros@aapt.net.au
(Helen Halstead)

Description: A small group of fiction writers, we give thoughtful criticism and encouragement in a supportive environment. The aim is to become published. Some reading at home is required.

Hills Poets

The next meeting of the Hills Poets will be on Sunday 11 February at 3 pm at the Crafers Inn, Crafers. New poets are always welcome to come and join us and read their work, or if they prefer, just to listen. For further information please ring Jill Gower on 8339 5119.

Book Launch

You are invited to the launch of *An Awkward Fit* by Helen Maczkowiack in the SA Writers' Centre Atrium 6pm, Thursday 22nd February
Light refreshments provided
RSVP Helen 08 82870141
Email: hmaczk@bigpond.net.au

Wordfire

Wordfire is looking for participants for its 'special' Fringe night at the Crown and Sceptre on March 12th (it will become officially special once we have participants). We are looking for people willing to read out samples of their work – prose, poetry, mini-plays, tell-all autobiographies and the like. They are looking for both 'straight' readings of poetry and prose (5-7 mins approx) and pieces with a more 'Fringey' bent – for example, pieces about theatre/cabaret/music etc, pieces that can be read out by more than one person, perhaps even pieces that involve audience participation (crowd plants can be arranged as required). Wordfire would also be interested in anyone with an 'alternative' talent that they might somehow work into the evening – so if you can sing/juggle knives/play the bagpipes/jump through flaming hoops we'd love to hear from you!

Please email wordfiremail@yahoo.com.au if you're interested in getting involved

Animate Quarterly

The second 'issue' of the live magazine will be held on Thursday, March 15 at La Boheme, 36 Grote Street, Adelaide from 8pm. This time, Animate will team up with *Voiceworks* for the Adelaide launch of their next issue. *Voiceworks* is a national, quarterly magazine that features exciting new writing by writers under 25.

Between Us

Manuscript Assessment Service

fiction • nonfiction
academic works

*Assessments by published authors
and professional editors*

**Director Meredith Whitford BA
Ryan Davidson**

165 Belair Road, Torrens Park SA 5062
T: 08 8274 1531
F: 08 8357 2110
meredithwh@yahoo.com
www.users.bigpond.com/between

Half a Page with ... Janeen Brian

Janeen Brian reads to relax and writes to create. She thinks it's a perfect cyclic lifestyle. She writes for children: from picture-books to poetry, nonfiction to novels and has had many of her 62 published books awarded or translated. Her website is www.janeenbrian.com

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

Not Only in Stone by Phyllis Somerville. It's the story of a Cornish woman in the South Australian pioneering era and set in the copper mining area of Yorke Peninsula. I read it first in my twenties and it proved to be a profound catalyst for my ongoing interest in Australian history. Cate Blanchett would be great as Polly Thomas.

Do you write with a computer or by hand?

Both. I do a lot of nutting out using pen and recycled paper – but when I sense a germ of something working, I go onto the computer.

Any tips for aspiring writers?

Free up with journal or practice writing every day – and only write what comes into

your head. Leave the critic and your clever self outside the door.

What are you currently reading?

A Year in Provence (Peter Mayle), *Crossing the Blue Mountains – Journeys through two centuries* (David Foster) and *VickyAngel* (Jacqueline Wilson).

What books have influenced you?

Because I'm an avid reader of both adult and children's books, it's difficult to answer. I'm a lover of picture books – the blend of art and concise language – and so the books of Pamela Allen, Shaun Tan, Margaret Wild, Martin Waddell and Stephen Michael King influence my writing and thinking, because their work explores the essence of story in poetical form.

I found *The Book Thief*, by Markus Zusak and *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time* by Mark Haddon both powerful and original, while Tim Winton's *Cloudstreet*, Ruth Park's *Harp in the South* and Harper Lee's *To Kill a Mocking Bird* are books I return to as friends.

What was your worst job ever?

Waitressing in a seaside pub aged 17 while waiting for my first teaching appointment. I

was a wimp and the owner was a tyrannical hellcat. She had me also cleaning silver, urinals, changing linen and washing uneaten salad from customers' plates, so it could be reused!

What started it all off?

Having my two girls I think, because I began to write simple poems for them. Also, at one stage when I was a single mum and broke, I wrote bits and pieces for magazines – for the money. But deep down, I loved reading and I loved children's books, and I guess writing became the flipside of the coin. My writing was okay at school, but I didn't consider I was a stand-out. When I was in my thirties, and a real writing rookie, I went to my first writing workshop – a weekend at Victor Harbor. It gave me impetus to have a go.

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

Any prize that meant children had voted for one of my books.

What's your favorite writing fuel?

Dilmah tea by the litre – and water alongside. After five, a chilled chardonnay or sauvignon blanc.

LOOKING FOR A PUBLISHER?



Sid Harta Publishers not only offers a full manuscript assessment service but publishes titles in the traditional sense, and also offers Partnership Publishing.

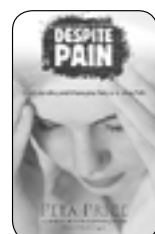
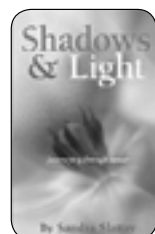
Partnership Publishing provides the distribution network, manages the project from line editing, typesetting, proofing, printing, book design, often co-funds production, provides promotional support including a personalized page for the author's work and bio. Sid Harta can arrange for author launches/talks 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.**

Contact SHP at: author@sidharta.com.au

Phone: (03) 9560 9920 or visit our website for submission details at:

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

Sid Harta



News and Views

The hunt begins for a Future Radio Classic

The time has come for Australian writers to pen the next radio classic. From a Goons-style comedy to the panic-inducing *War of the Worlds*, the quest for a Future Classic has begun with Insight Presents' inaugural radio script competition. Submissions are now being sought by Australian playwrights, who are being given the chance to have their script performed and recorded in front of a live audience and potentially broadcast nationally. Adelaide-based non-profit radio theatre company, Insight Presents, is seeking new half-hour radio play scripts until 30 March 2007. Two winning entries will be selected to make up the company's July season, with a cash prize also awarded to the successful playwright(s). Insight Presents is a unique theatrical troupe that returns its audiences to the heyday of radio entertainment. With sound effects and music created live on stage, the company records its plays in front of an audience for later broadcast, often using the audience itself for crowd scenes or small roles. Company founder and Artistic Director Rod Lewis is hoping the competition will encourage both experienced and novice playwrights. 'Writing for radio is a lost art form for most playwrights,' he explains, 'and even more so when writing for a live radio show. In that respect, new writers are going to be on an equal footing with most of their more experienced peers.' Full details of the competition, along with a range of online resources to help entrants, can be found on the Insight Presents website at www.insightpresents.com or by phoning Rod Lewis on 0402 027 891.

A POET'S GARDEN or WRITING THE GREEN WORLD

Can a tree ever be a tree or does it always carry a plethora of past experiences for us? Simon Schama has said landscape is always of the mind. The Adelaide Botanic Garden is for me a place where nature, culture and science come together. C.P. Snow's novels were concerned that art and science could never meet. Let him visit our Botanic Garden along with the 1.3 million visitors a year who make this South Australia's most popular cultural space.

Over the years the Garden has initiated many cultural events. Even though Captain Barry was once 'refused permission to play his harmonica', there have been many concerts, plays, films, art exhibitions and installations, even water puppets. But there has never been a poetry exhibition.

UNTIL NOW! As part of the Garden's 150th anniversary celebrations, A Poet's Garden will be presented this autumn. Ten of my poems on Garden subjects will be displayed near their originals on installations designed by John Nowland to complement their context.

The Botanic Garden has been a special place for me ever since I moved to Adelaide in 1981. My early training as a botanist gives me a continuing and frustrating interest in naming and classifying, and in the scientific work of the Garden. Every visit is a different experience – seasonal changes, new plantings, different flowers, leaves, barks to catch attention, a different light on the sculptures. And always the people, sometimes quietly alone or in wheelchairs, or partying, loving, reading, playing with kids. Over the years the Garden has inspired me to write many poems; this autumn Wakefield Press will bring out a collection of them, *In the Garden*. Choosing just ten for display has been difficult.

Funded by Adelaide City Council and ArtsSA, A Poet's Garden Exhibition will run from March 17 to April 10, 2007 in the Garden.

I will lead Poet's Walks from the Schombergk Pavilion in the centre of the Garden at 11 am on Wednesdays 21 and 28 March, 4th April and on Sunday 25th March at 2pm.

I will also run a Poetry Workshop, 'Writing the Green World' on Saturday 24th March from 10-2 in the Garden's Goodman Building, Hackney Road. The cost will be \$45, \$40 for SAWC members. Numbers will be limited. Contact Botanic Gardens of Adelaide on 8222 9311 or me (8271 2425).

Miriel Lenore.

Dear Editor,

I read in *The Australian* before Christmas that there is now just one Chair of Australian Literature across all Australian

universities; this at a time when sales of Australian authors are at an all-time high but when Australian literature is being studied more at overseas institutions than here.

This lack of study and debate about our own literature is truly shocking. Do we value our own voice so little?

It seems to me that Writers' Centres across the country should begin a campaign for an increasing study of Australian writers at all levels of education.

Chris Tugwell

Dear Editor,

Australian Children's Publishers are very concerned that some manuscript appraisal agencies are offering false hope to unpublished writers. These appraisal services are making assumptions to unpublished writers about how publishers will treat work that has been appraised or commended by them.

Manuscripts submitted to a publisher which have been through an editorial/appraisal service, with or without a covering letter, are treated exactly the same as any other unsolicited manuscript. Agencies can help shape a work, but the publisher responds to the words now on the page, not what work may have been done to get the manuscript to this stage. Similarly, a positive report only has merit if the person writing the report has the credentials and experience to make such judgements in the eye of the publisher, and that view can differ from publisher to publisher. Unsolicited manuscripts accompanied by a letter from the writer are generally sufficient for all Australian children's publishers.

A manuscript must stand on its own merit. Writers should be aware that claims by agencies that an appraised manuscript will be treated as a solicited manuscript or even moved up the unsolicited ladder are false.

Publishers' lists and requirements vary in response to market forces and we recommend that prospective writers carefully research the market before submitting their work.

APA CPC
(Australian Publishers Association
Children's Publishing Committee)

Congratulations...

Brett Stuart Williams's poem 'One Good Thing' was published in *The Mozzie*, November 2006. Other written work has been part of an exhibition with artist Anni Luur Fox, supported by Country Arts SA.

Peter Lyons's short story 'The Hamburger Cook' won the Tanilba House Award in the Port Stephens Examiner Literature Awards 2006. His story 'The Hole in the Fence' was included in the Legacy Books anthology *I Remember When*.

Ross Duffy's short story 'Unholy Deadlock' has been awarded third prize in the Port Stephens Examiner Literature Awards 2006. His story 'Know thy Neighbour' was published in November 2006 in *Idiom*, a publication of the Central Queensland University.

Elaine Barker's poem 'Dreamcoming' was published in *Cooking for One: On Surviving the Death of a Spouse. Poetry Monash* published two poems 'Shop Window' and 'Strategies' and *Blue Dog* published 'Noose'.

Martin R Johnson had three poems published in *Quadrant*.

Heather Taylor Johnson's poem has been published in *The Book of Hopes and Dreams*, an anthology published to raise money for Afghani refugees. She also had a poem appear in the final issue of *Egg*.

Mike Dumbleton's manuscript *Cat* was the winner of the Windmill Performing Arts and *The Advertiser* Little Big Book Club inaugural Picture Book to Performance project. *Cat* will be published by Working Title Press as well as being developed as a theatrical production and an e-book.

Sally Hunter performed her poetry at Sophia (a feminist spirituality centre) and had a number of her poems published in the anthology, *Fruit of Sophia*. She also produced and distributed a booklet called *Memories and Roses*. Her blog is wetlight.blogspot.com.

Bronwyn Blaiklock's poem 'Punctuation' was published in *Page Seventeen*. The poem also won second place in the associated competition. Her poem 'Blush' was published in *Four W*.

Bett Angel-Stawarz won first prize in Yellow Moon's Tanka competition and also received a Highly Commended in the same section, plus the Haiku competition.

Congratulations to **Alexandra Weaver** who won the SAYAB Independent Arts Foundation Scholarship. She will work with a professional editor on her master's degree novel, *The End of Knowing Everything*. Rebecca Ebert won the Colin Thiele scholarship, which she will use to complete a first draft of her novel, *Finding Laura Gibb*.

Howard Cuffe's short story 'The Evening Entertainment' was published in the *I Remember When* anthology. Eight of his 'Writing Your Family History' students at Tea Tree Gully U3A have been published in the same volume.

Graham Rowlands's poems 'The Clinic' and 'Warren's Story' were published in *Page Seventeen*. His poems 'Renting', 'Lineage', 'Famously Said' and 'Long Suffering' were published in *Eureka Street*, *Blue Giraffe*, *Idiom* and *Woorilla* respectively.

Marianne Vreugdenhil's story 'The Gift' has been published in *Page Seventeen*.

Joan Vandewerdt's article 'Woodcarving - Medieval Style' about English misericords was published in the December 2006 edition of *Australian Wood Review*. She has also had an article on '10 homes of the famous in England' published in the travel section of *The Weekend Australian*, an article on 'Feats of Waterway Engineers' published in the US magazine *Heartland Boating*, and an article on Essence of Bath, England published in travel section of *The West Australian*.

Adrian Flavell had the following poems published: 'bait' in *blue giraffe 4*, 'public toilet' in *Egg (Poetry) 4* and 'gypsy', 'early light' and 'she said' in *Beyond the Rainbow*.

Owen Carmichael's short story 'Carols on Christmas Eve' was published in *Write Away*, December 2006.

Carolyn Stirling Croshaw's short story 'The Carpet', was also published in *Write Away*.

Pascal Press have just published **Timothy Tuck's** latest two books: *Music Essentials: Arranging* and *Music Essentials: Songwriting*.

Margaret Griffin-Ward's short story 'Hooray for Virgin Blue' was published in *Write Away*.

Chris Snape's short story 'Invisible Man' has also been published in *Write Away*.

Colette Williams had her short story 'The Road to Bethlehem' published in *Write Away*; and her poem 'Panacea' was a finalist in the Yellow Moon Spirit of Place competition.

Dennis Wild's poem titled 'Pillow Talk Unexpurgator' was published in *Blue Dog*.

Debra Vinecombe's short story 'Uncle And The Duke' was published in *I Remember When* by Legacy Books.

Rebekah Clarkson's short story 'My Eighth Autumn' was published in the first edition of *Etchings* and an abridged version of the story also appeared in the summer reading edition of *The Advertiser*.

David Kernot's short stories 'Set Up' and 'Fishing Trip' were published in the November and December edition of *Positive Words*. 'The Sentinel' was published in the Dec-Jan edition of *AlienSkin Magazine*. In November he won 1st prize in the United Federation of Planets Fan Club of SA Science Fiction and Fantasy writing competition with 'Genesis'.

Owing to the overwhelming number of submissions to the brag file over the last two months, some entries will be held over for the March issue of *Southern Write*.

Literary Competitions...

19 February 2007

3rd Kathleen Julia Bates Memorial Writing Competition. For an unpublished short story to 1,000 words suitable to be read by children aged 7 to 10 years. The theme is open but the main character should be human. All entries are to have a separate title page with full contact details (no staples) and to include a stamped self-addressed envelope for results. Manuscripts will not be returned. Entry fee \$5 per piece. Money order or cheque payable to Di Bates. Open to Australian residents only. There is no limit on number of stories entered. Prizes: \$250 first prize, \$150 second prize and \$50 third prize. Judge will be award-winning children's author and editor, Dianne (Di) Bates. Send entries c/- Di Bates, PO Box 21116, Woonona East NSW 2517.

★ **23 February 2007**
Laura Literary Awards. The Flinders News Prose Awards. Open. Entry fee \$7 for a short story to 1500 words. Prize \$200. Young Adult (13 to 18). No entry fee. A short story to 1000 words. Prize \$50. Junior (up to 12 years). No entry fee. A short story to 500 words. Prize \$25. Free Choice of Subject. No entry form required but guidelines available from SAWC. Address entries to Laura Literary Awards Laura Folk Fair Inc Box 18 Laura SA 5480.

★ **23 February 2007**
Alan Marshall Short Story Award 2007. Nillumbik Shire Council invites writers from across Australia to enter this annual short story competition held in memory of the great writer and former resident of Eltham, Alan Marshall. \$2000 Open Section Award for stories up to 2,500 words. \$1000 Local Writers' Award for writers who live, work or study in the Shire of Nillumbik.

- ☺ 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.

Are you aged between 15 and 19 years? Try the \$400 Young Writers' Award for stories up to 1,000 words. Competition details and entry form may be obtained from: www.nillumbik.vic.gov.au email artsinfor@nillumbik.vic.gov.au or telephone (03) 9433 3126

☞☺ **28 February 2007**
Two Fires Festival Poetry Competition: Poems (in whatever mode or mood) suggested by the themes of Identity and Environment are invited; maximum length 30 lines. First prize \$500, runner-up \$200. Entry fee is \$5 per poem. For the entry form email geemonga@bigpond.com or send SSAE to Two Fires Poetry Competition, P.O. Box 257 Braidwood NSW 2622.

28 February 2007
Leafy Sea Dragon Festival Open Short Story Competition maximum words: 3,000 prizes: first \$1,200 plus a year's subscription to *Wet Ink* second: \$200 plus one issue of *Wet Ink* third \$100 plus one issue of *Wet Ink* entry fee: \$5.00 conditions on entry form available on www.yankalilla.sa.gov.au

☺ **30 March 2007**
Write Away Short Story Competition. First prize \$50. Entry fee of \$3.00 for one story, or \$5.00 for two stories. Stories up to 2,500 words – must ac-

company entry form which can be obtained by sending through SSAE to Write Away Short Story Competition, PO Box 39, West Richmond SA 5033 or via writeawaystories@gmail.com.

☺★ **31 March 2007**
Voices on the Coast – a youth literature festival - are seeking writing competition entries for an unpublished manuscript by a new (previously unpublished) author. The competition is for a prose story for younger readers (ages 8-13 years) – length up to 30 000 words. Prizes: \$2000 (includes a cash prize, and a trip to the Sunshine Coast to receive the prize and the opportunity to visit the Voices on the Coast festival); \$500 second prize. Entries open to all Australian residents. Shortlisted manuscripts will be judged by a University of Queensland Press representative. Further details and Entry

Form www.immanuel.qld.edu.au/voices

Entries to be posted to: Writing Competition - Voices on the Coast PO Box 5025, Maroochydore BC QLD 4558 Enquires to voices@immanuel.qld.edu.au or telephone 07 5477 3437

☺★ **31 March 2007**
Woorilla Annual Poetry Prize 2007. Judged by Judith Rodriguez. Open Section: Prize \$1000 Youth Section: Prize \$100 Conditions of entry:
– poems must be typed and on A4 paper, one poem to a sheet
– poems 50 lines or fewer
– neither published nor have won a prize
– coversheet showing name, address, tel no. and section entered
– do not put name on poems
– Judge's decision will be final
– Copyright remains with author
– Publication in Woorilla may be offered to the winners
– The right is reserved not to award a prize
– include a SSAE for notification
– \$5.00 (\$3.00 youth) per poem (\$20 / \$10 for 5 poems)
– Send entries and fee to: Woorilla Magazine, 255 Macclesfield Rd. Macclesfield, Vic 3782.

EAGLE EDITING

Editing and manuscript assessment services

Specialising in short stories and novels in all genres

- Proofreading grammar, spelling and punctuation
- Assessing structure, continuity, plot, language, characterisation and dialogue
- Constructive feedback in a written report
- Recommendations for improvements

Take advantage of our experience and watch your words fly!

Contact: Margaret Arena
Ph: (08) 8353 3490
Mobile: 0431 686 605
Email: margarena@ihug.com.au
ABN: 97 97 42 90



Word in the City

By Heather Taylor Johnson

In a time not so long ago in our modest city of Adelaide, lovers of the spoken word met once or twice a month. There was cask wine, perhaps an open bar and, between sets of spoken word (usually poetry), there was chattering and laughter, intermittent kisses of hello and goodbye. We considered these occasions to be big events; they went down in our diaries for sure. Now, in this same modest city growing bolder by the year, spoken word has become the weekly norm.

Wordfire is the initiative of Carol Lefevre, Steph Hester, Katherine Doube and Emma Carmody, all post-graduate students from the University of Adelaide, so expect the crowd to be mostly of the academic sort. This should not imply a highbrow feel; Wordfire is hot. Short fiction, novel excerpts, poetry, live music and a great venue. In fact spoken word couldn't ask for a better spot than the Crown & Sceptre. A big stage, cushy couches and a front bar to enjoy if you want to have a catch-up with a friend away from the entertainment (not that I condone leaving a writer in mid-speech but it's better than causing even the quietest of ruckuses). A slight development from last year will introduce more of a 'salon' flavour to the proceedings, like integrating some readings around the creative process and the inclusion of readers sharing works written by their favourite writers. Find out more at wordfire.onestop.net.

Staples is another Adelaide Uni venture, this one from three honours students: Gavin Schultz, Emily Cock and Shannon Burns. Each event celebrates the latest issue from the zine publication of the same name and most of the readers at the event are people who were published in that issue. The cool thing about that is after you hear the performance, you get to revisit the poems and prose pieces on the page (\$5 at the door gets you the issue). The readings can be saucy or experimental and are most likely surprising. Finger food decorates each table of the Jahz Café upstairs lounge and there's a bar downstairs for drinks. Intervals between readings are frequent, which allows for a fair bit of socialising and a casual feel. Staples happens on the last Thursday of each month. Check out st.aples.org.

Hard Boiled takes the most organic approach to its proceedings with an open mic following the scheduled readings. It's my opinion that open mic makes way for a grittier type of evening, real grassroots stuff, the sort of event your average non-writer could stumble upon and unwittingly discover that poetry can be accessible and entertaining. Matthew Smith organises Hard Boiled and in 2007 he plans on moving in a new direction with the hopes of drawing a more diverse crowd. His idea is to mix music with words, bands with poets, and he'll top it off with the merchandising of CDs and books. If you or someone you know would be interested in performing

spoken word or live music for this event, contact Matthew at sooty@senet.com.au.

The Lee Marvin Readings take place in a tiny gallery on a quiet alley. There are rows of fold out chairs and a wine cask on a table in the back. The reader is elevated on a box stage, behind a table,

next to Radio Adelaide's red-light recording devices. If it sounds serious, that's because it is. The focus is not simply poetry or prose: there's a strong emphasis on ideas, form and experimentation. Audience, expect intelligence, skill and inventiveness from a highly professional line-up. Readers, expect a rapt audience (and an opportunity to be recorded for the radio). The readings are organised by Ken Bolton and happen every Tuesday during alternate months (this year April, June, August, October, December) at 7.30 for a sharp 8pm start. The inconspicuous venue is the Gallery de La Catessan, 9 Anster St (off Waymouth, near the Fad Bar).

I'm not sure if I can call **Animate Quarterly** a spoken word event but because there is poetry, fiction and non-fiction read aloud, I will. Bel Schenk and Anna Solding have shaken things up by creating a live journal that combines readings with interviews, questions for the Agony Aunt, even horoscopes. Hecklers are encouraged and laughter is a given. Frocking up wouldn't be unheard of, nor would drinking too much. It's a fun night and you don't have to be a writer to enjoy it. If you couldn't tell by its name, the event only happens four times a year. Check out www.myspace.com/animatequarterly for the next animate experience.

Along with Adelaide's oldest tradition, **Friendly Street**, this near-frantic state of affairs in the spoken word scene is just what we've been waiting for. Don't let 2007 go by without checking out what's happening on our streets. It's just as important as what's happening on the published page.

Heather Taylor Johnson has a PhD in Creative Writing from the University of Adelaide and is one of the poetry editors of Wet Ink.

the
Manuscript
 *Appraisal*
Agency
www.manuscriptagency.com.au
• Skilled • Senior • Experienced • Efficient •
Offering publishing information & professional feedback from industry professionals
Recommended by the industry ~ Established 1996
Visit our website, write or phone for a brochure outlining our service and scale of fees.
P.O. Box 577 Terrigal NSW 2260
Phone (02) 4384 4466 • Email: briancook@manuscriptagency.com.au

Membership Application Form

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

Name/Organisation

Address

Suburb/Town Postcode

Telephone Fax Email

\$99/\$88 organisation (inc GST)

Renew

\$60 waged (inc GST)

New

\$33 student/healthcare cardholder (inc GST)

Concession number

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

Credit card number |__|__|__|__|__|__|__|__|__|__|__|__|__|__|__|__| Expiry date

Cardholder's name Cardholder's signature Date of application

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

[FOR OFFICE USE ONLY: Rec No: Rec Date: On database: Feb '07

Print Post Approved
PP535341/00014

If undelivered please return to:
SA Writers' Centre Inc
PO Box 43
Rundle Mall SA 5000

Surface Mail

Postage Paid
Rundle Mall 5000



Southern Write Newsletter
February 2007

COPY DEADLINE
March 2007:
15 Feb 2007

SA Writers' Centre Inc: Providing resources, support & encouragement for SA Writers
Fostering the development of writing culture in South Australia

Board of Management 2006–2007

Sean Williams – Chair
Anne Bartlett – Deputy Chair
Dirk Zadra – Treasurer
Sussan Hill
Anna Solding
Louise Nicholas
Helen Mitchell
Bronwen Webb

Staff

Barbara Wiesner – Director
Jude Aquilina – Office Manager
Lesley Beasley – Administrative Assistant
Cheryl Jordan – Administrative Assistant
Bel Schenk – Project Officer and
Newsletter Editor

Volunteers/Consultants/Support

Petra Starke – SAWC Website
Silvia Muscardin – Librarian
David Mercer – Research
Jo-Anne Moretti – Assistant Librarian and
Cleaner

Opening Hours:

9.30am–5pm Monday–Friday
Wheelchair/lift access is available at
26 York Street – rear entrance
Stairs at 187 Rundle Street, Adelaide, 5000



Government of South Australia
Arts SA



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