

Saturday 3 June, 10am-1pm.

Character and Authentic Voices with Fiona McIntosh

or

The Art and Craft of Reviewing with Peter Rose.



Peter Rose is the current Editor of *Australian Book Review*. Prior to this he was Publisher at Oxford University Press throughout the 1990s. His own reviews and essays have appeared in a number of newspapers and anthologies.

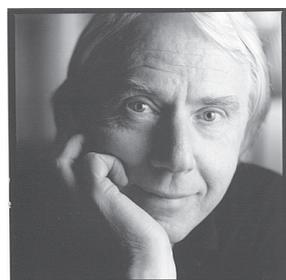
He has published poetry, fiction and biography. His most recent books are *Rattus Rattus: New and Selected Poems* (Salt) and *A Case of Knives* (Allen & Unwin), his first novel. His family memoir, *Rose Boys*, won the National Biography Award. This workshop will cover all aspects of print reviewing. Participants are asked to bring along a sample of a review they have written.

Saturday 3 June, 1-4pm.

Your Opening Chapter with Peter McFarlane

or

Styles: stylish and non-stylish with Tom Burton.



Peter McFarlane grew up in a converted barn in Brighton, South Australia, and spent most of his early life playing in the dunes and swimming at the end of his street, as well as looking after his grandfather's horses. He wrote about this time in his first novel, *The Tin House*. Apart from family, friends, sport

and the arts, Peter's other loves are teaching and writing; and he's combined all of these in his books for teachers and the novels, short stories and poetry he's written for people of all ages. *Rebecca the Wrecker* was the first of seven books for younger readers; *Kart Girl* is the third in a trio for ten to fourteen year-olds; and *More Than a Game*, Aussie Rules as seen through the eyes of an intellectually disabled young woman, his most recent novel for young adults. With another ten books published for teachers and the bulk of them on the teaching of writing, Peter has been in demand around Australia as a speaker and workshop leader. This workshop establishes criteria essential for a successful opening chapter and invites participants to have fun. Participants are asked to share samples of first chapters they have already written and wish to be discussed.



Fiona McIntosh is one of Australia's leading fantasy writers. Her popular books are now sold across the U.S., Canada, UK, parts of Asia and are being translated into various European languages including French, Polish and Dutch. Her passions include chocolate, Colin Firth, cooking and email. Do you have trouble creating believable characters? Make

them lively and credible in this workshop. Hurry, as there are only a few places left.



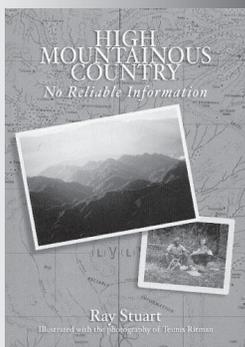
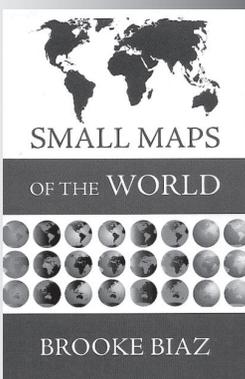
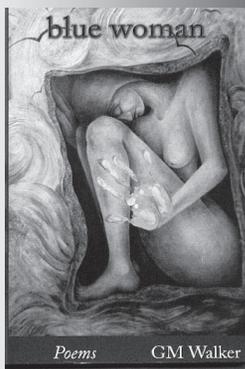
Tom Burton is a Reader in English at the University of Adelaide, specialising in medieval English literature and the history of the language. He has written two short books on changing English, *Words, Words, Words* (1995) and *Words in Your Ear* (1998), revised, expanded, and republished in one volume in the UK in 2004, with a new title, *Long Words Bother Me*. He is in demand as a speaker

outside the University, and makes frequent broadcasts on linguistic and literary matters on local and interstate radio stations. What makes turgid prose as appetizing as cold porridge? What makes good prose as crisp as a fresh iceberg lettuce? This workshop on prose styles looks at what works and what doesn't — and why — in both fiction and nonfiction.

Workshop Costs: \$44 for SA Writers' Centre members.
\$66 for non-members.

For bookings: ph: 8223 7662 E: sawriters@sawriters.on.net
All workshops to be held at the SA Writers' Centre, 2nd Floor, 187 Rundle Street, Adelaide, SA.

Centre Information...



Centre Donations

Thank you to the following people who donated books, journals and magazines to our resource centre.

Warren Boyles, *Tasmania*, 40

Degrees South, issue 38.

Westminster School, *Odyssey*,

Literary and Art Journal, volume 2, 2005.

Graeme Harper, *Small Maps of the*

World, by his alter ego Brooke Biaz, Parlour Press, 2006.

G.M Walker, *Blue Woman*, Bookends

Books, 2006.

Heather Taylor Johnson, *The*

Journal, Autumn/Winter 2005.

Andrew Zielinski, *April, May, June*,

2006.

Nikola Dragovic, *God's Heavens*

and Earth, Beyond Physical Dimensions, Starburst Publishing, 2006.

Betty Collins, *Friendly Street 1975-2005, The Friendly Street Reader Index of Poets*.

Seaside Writers, *Seaside Writers' Magazine*, issue 1, 2006.

Ray Stuart, *High Mountainous*

Country, No Reliable Information, 40 Degrees South, 2005. Donated by his family.

Owen Carmichael, *New Writing*, 2005.

Association of South Australian Chinese Writers, volume 1 of their magazine, 2006.

Newsletter folders

Thank you to our May folders: Barbara Brockhoff, Lyn and Tony Brooks, Betty Collins, Cailean Darkwater, Jo Dey, Coie and John Dikkenberg, Nicola Heywood, Robert Horne, Catherine Jones, Jo-Anne Moretti and Graeme Rickard.

Donations

Donations to the SA Writers' Centre help us to maintain smooth running of the organisation and to run projects that enrich the writing community. All donations to the SA Writers' Centre are tax deductible.

Did you know ...

that the history of the SA Writers' Centre is available to look at, both on our board room walls, and on our website (www.sawriters.on.net)?

AGM

A big welcome to Moya Costello, Sussan Hill, Anne Bartlett and Helen Mitchell who join the board after a lively AGM last month. Thanks to Annie Fox for her fabulous speech and to all members who had a say about how the Centre runs. As of July 1, the membership fees will increase to \$33 concession and \$60 waged.

Wheelchair/lift access

is available at the 26 York Street rear entrance. Alternatively, come in from Rundle Street via Caffe Buongiorno's to reach the lift.

Member Discounts

The following businesses are offering 10% discounts to SA Writers' Centre members. Show your membership card when you purchase from these stores:

Bookshops: (N.B. conditions may apply during sales.)

Mary Martin • Dymocks Burnside • Borders • Imprints • Dymocks Rundle Mall • Molly's Bookshop • Cosmic Pages • Martin's Secondhand Books • Mindfield • Folio/Foliage • Quantum Books • Book City Rundle Mall • Wakefield Press Bookshop.

Related Businesses: • Palace/Nova – \$11 for full price tickets • Cope Centre for books and workshops • Discount on editing at Seaview Press.

Book Cover Exhibition

If you have a book cover that you would like block mounted for display in our seminar room, contact the SAWC office for prices and procedures.



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.

Director's Report

by Barbara Wiesner



In line with the SAWC's strategic direction set in 2003, members will be able to see, in the AGM reports, a list of activities that our program was different to that of previous years. We ran fewer small programs and, instead, liaised with partner organizations and groups to establish larger and more high profile events. Given that the SA Writers' Centre celebrated its 20th Birthday this year it was entirely appropriate that the majority of these events were celebratory festivals: the South Australian Writers' Festival, the Salisbury Writers' Festival, the Poetry Unhinged Festival, 'Poets & Platters' at the Barossa Vintage Festival and the Inaugural Indigenous Writers' Festival.

By running such successful events we've been able to strengthen partnerships with the Salisbury and Onkaparinga Councils, and with our long-term sponsor, Langmeil Winery. All three have committed themselves to ongoing literary activities with us in 2006 and 2007.

In addition, the Centre took on two more major projects during 2005. Firstly, in partnership with Allwrite! we ran RE:VIEWS, a national conference on the reviewing of books for children and young adults. Thanks to support from the Copyright Agency Limited (CAL) we were able to incorporate into the program not only two international guest speakers from Germany and Belgium, but also many of Australia's leading writers, reviewers and publishers.

Secondly, thanks to a grant of \$30,000 from the Telstra Foundation, we were able to run two Young Authors' Nights in the southern and northern metropolitan regions to complement our successful city-based event. The Foundation has approved an additional \$20,000 in 2006 to help establish these events as models for use by other organisations.

Another exciting development in 2005 was the establishment of the Longlines Project in partnership with Varuna, a national writers' centre in

NSW. The aim of this project was to gain professional development of manuscripts by establishing a two-week fellowship and a number of five-day master classes, all of which will take place at Varuna during 2006. Several non-residential mentorships will also be available through this scheme.

One of the highlights of 2005 was the documentation on posters and on the website of the Centre's 20-year history. This monumental task was carried out by Uni SA student Cheryl Jordan with support from Rachel Schmied. Following the launch of this pictorial history at our gala birthday celebration in November, the posters were moved to the Centre's board room where they remain on view.

On the business management side, the board and staff spent a considerable amount of time evaluating our activities and devising our next three-year Business Plan. Part of this process involved a staffing review, which led to the part-time newsletter editor's position being made redundant, the Project Officer's position being expanded to incorporate the editing of the newsletter, and two part-time staff members filling newly created positions of a full-time Office Manager and a one-day-a-week bookkeeper.

We were therefore extremely sorry to farewell our newsletter editor, Stephanie Luke, in December 2005. Having experienced every facet of the Centre's activities, she made an enormous contribution during her nine years of service here in helping to shape it into a highly professional and streamlined organisation. We look forward to her continuing involvement with us – now as a writer.

We were also sorry to see Tim Sinclair head overseas to New York. Tim had worked at the SAWC as a volunteer and later as a part-time Office Manager. Thanks to his efforts, the Centre was given a new look in 2005. Through a successful funding application and careful shopping, Tim was able to buy new foyer chairs, a range

of trestle tables, a good-sized fridge and several bookshelves.

On a brighter note, we were pleased to welcome Jude Aquilina to the full-time position of Office Manager, and I was particularly pleased to pass the job of bookkeeping on to Lesley Beasley, another of our stalwart office and library workers. We were delighted that Belinda Schenk agreed to take on the revised Project Officer's Position.

Thanks to the many writers who contributed to our success during 2005 and who made our 20th Birthday a year to remember.

Members are welcome to view the AGM reports on our website or to contact the Centre to have them posted out.



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Self-publishing Seminar

Saturday 24 June, 10am-4pm.

Seminar: Going it Alone: the ins and outs of self-publishing.

Featuring:

Writers:

Tony Brooks – Biography

Helen Halstead – Fiction

Kate Simpson – Picture Book

Jill Gloyne – History, Poetry, Short Story.

Cost: \$60 for SA Writers' Centre members

\$80 for non-members

For bookings: ph: 8223 7662 E: sawriters@sawriters.on.net

Publishers:

Michael Deves – Lythrum Press

Rick Dowsett – SALMAT

John Scardino – Peacock Publications

LYTHRUM

SALMAT



Helen Halstead self-published her novel *A Private Performance* in 2004, after submitting it to fifteen publishers. Having sold 400 copies, she then signed a distribution contract with Tower Books. Random House Australia offered Helen a two-book contract, and *A Private Performance* was published by them in 2005. Helen's next book, another

Regency intrigue called *The Imaginary Gentleman*, is due to be published in September.



Tony Brooks' first novel, *First of All*, about the reformer, Catherine Helen Spence, was published by Axiom press in 1995 and reprinted in 2001. A number of his film, television and stage projects have been funded by Arts SA and Film Australia. In 1994 his play *Games*,

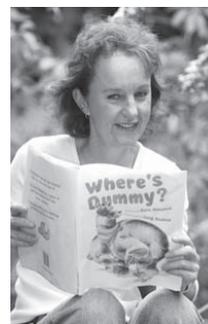
received an *Advertiser* award as the best new play of the year. In 2002, his novel, *Beyond the Reef*, was published by Geelong Small Press Publishing and Arwen Books. Tony is particularly interested in writing on South Australian and Australian historical and political themes. He has also written a trilogy of novels based on his TV scripts, *Curve of the Earth*, a family saga covering the sixty plus years of the life of the great copper mines of the Yorke Peninsula.



Jill Gloyne has never submitted a manuscript to a mainstream publisher. This is because her first manuscript was short stories, and publishers are not interested in short stories until you have written a successful novel. Just ask Tim Winton and Kate Grenville. So when she had a collection of prize-winning stories she applied for a grant through Country Arts SA. Her time with John Emery as mentor was invaluable. Even so, it was still a gamble to spend \$7,000 to self-publish 2,000 copies. However she has now recouped \$10,500 and re-orders are still coming in. She has been a member of the Dudley Writers' Group on Kangaroo Island for many years and her works are included in their anthologies (self-published) of poetry, oral interviews and short stories.

In 2004 she was chosen by Friendly Street Poets as one of three new poets to be published by Wakefield Press in their New Poets Series. In spite of the kudos of being launched at Writers' Week that year no cheques have arrived. With a print run of 500, divided by three, at 10 cents a copy (less if remaindered) this is not the way to wealth.

Her most successful enterprise, financially, was winning \$1,000 for a sonnet; each word netted her \$9, including the indefinite article. She is working on a repeat performance!



Kate Simpson is the author of *Where's Dummy?* a self-published picture book, illustrated by Greg Holfeld. *Where's Dummy?* was released in April 2005 and has already sold almost 3000 copies. From this positive experience, Kate plans to set up as an independent publisher.

Opportunities...

Happy Birthday Varuna

Varuna's Fellowship Program has been at work for fifteen years, offering residencies to writers in all genres, at all levels of experience and from all parts of Australia. The deadline for Fellowship applications each year is June 30.

This year, to mark their fifteenth anniversary, there are some stunning new opportunities for writers. For example, if you have your first book published or under contract, and you're climbing that well-known Mount Everest, the Second Book, Copyright Agency Limited and Varuna might be in a position to provide vital assistance.

The Second Book Project provides three three-week Varuna fellowships, one a year for three years. This program acknowledges the difficulty of writing that second book, the length of time it's likely to take and the need for sustained and dependable support. Creative Director Peter Bishop will be on hand to provide mentorship.

In 2006, Varuna offers 4 Flagship Fellowships of 4 weeks:

The Eleanor Dark Fellowship for Fiction
The Eric Dark Fellowship for Non-Fiction
The Dorothy Hewett Fellowship for Poetry
The Mick Dark Fellowship for Environmental Writing

For full information and application forms, go to www.varuna.com.au

Adultery Collection

Personal essays are sought for a proposed collection on the subject of adultery: mental and emotional as well as physical, from both sides of the equation, and in all forms of relationship (not just romantic or heterosexual). For more information on the project, please email sarahcam@bluebottle.com.

Artists in Schools

Application forms for Artists in Schools projects in 2007 are now available by going to the website at www.carclew.come.au (click on AIS on the Homepage). You can also receive an application form via email.

Applications are open to all South Australian schools and close at 5pm on

Friday 11 August 2006.

Schools can apply for funds to have an artist in residence (in any artform or more than one) for up to 20 days in 2007. If your school has a great idea for an arts project but require funding to realise it, consider applying to AIS. On Tuesday 27 June from 4.30-6pm, you are invited to attend an information session at the Odeon Theatre, Norwood (registration essential). PD certificates available on request.

To register for the Info Session, request an application form or find out more detail please call Leigh Mangin at the Carclew Schools' Office on 8333 3400 or email schoolsoffice@carclew.org.au

2007 Writers-In-Residence Program

The 2007 Writers-In-Residence program offered by the Fellowship of Australian Writers WA will provide residencies for one established, one emerging and two young writers with the financial support, facilitation and writing space to develop or complete work(s) in progress. The maximum duration of residency will be four weeks full time for established and emerging writers and two weeks full time for the young writers. Part-time residencies may be negotiated.

All positions are dependant upon and subject to funding.

Applications close: 30 June 2006

Further details are available by contacting FAWWA by phone: (08) 9384 4771, by email: fawwa@iinet.net.au, or by post: PO Box 312, Cottesloe WA 6911 (Please enclose an SSAE).

Page Seventeen ...

is going annual. And it's happening from now. Make a general submission (short story, poetry, haiku, B&W image) or enter their annual short story and poetry competition to be part of history as we produce our final biannual and first annual all-in-one issue. To make sure you don't miss out, we have extended the Issue 4 deadline to 31 August. Entries for the competition will also close then. We expect to launch in November. For more information, guidelines and entry forms,

see www.pageseventeen.com.au, email enquire@pageseventeen.com.au, or send SSAE to PO Box 566, Cockatoo, 3781.

Wet Ink

Wet Ink is the only South Australian magazine of new writing. They are currently accepting submissions of poetry, fiction, and nonfiction for their spring issue. Previous and forthcoming issues include work by such writers as Gail Jones, Nigel Krauth, Frank Moorhouse, Thomas Shapcott and Michael Wilding, along with a wide variety of new and emerging talent. They suggest that you look at previous issues of the magazine to get a sense of their editorial preferences. Please visit www.wetink.com.au for submission guidelines.

Submissions should be sent to

Wet Ink Magazine Inc.
PO Box 3162
Rundle Mall
SA 5000
AUSTRALIA

Blast Magazine

Blast Magazine, with the support of Arts ACT, has been funded to pay contributors in 2006. closing date 15th August. Contributions are open for Issue 4 now. To pick up a copy of earlier issues, or for further information and submission guidelines go to www.arts.shoalhaven.net.au/Blast-magazine.html

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Applications For Established Writer In Residence 2007

The Katharine Susannah Prichard Writers' Centre is now calling for applications for its 2007 Established Writer in Residence. The Writer in Residence will take up a four week residency at KSP, around May next year (negotiable).

The Established Writer-in-Residence should have achieved major publication and have demonstrated a commitment towards furthering the status and practice of writing among his/her peers and the community in general. Experience in preparation for and conducting of workshops and seminars is desirable.

KSP Writers' Centre is situated in the original weatherboard home in which Katharine Susannah Prichard lived for fifty years. The Resident would live and work in a private area of Katharine's house, with a window overlooking Katharine's large garden.

More information from

Ramona Janssen
Office Manager
11 Old York Road
Greenmount

WA 6056
Tel/Fax 08 9294 1872
<http://kspf.iinet.net.au>

Applications For YOUNG Writer In Residence 2007

Katharine Susannah Prichard Writers' Centre is also calling for applications for its 2006 Young Writer in Residence. The young writer will take up a two-week residency at KSP in November/December this year. One Young Writer, up to the age of twenty-five years, will be selected for a two-week residency at the Katharine Susannah Prichard Writers' Centre, Greenmount. The resident will receive a salary of \$880 and be given writing space and time to concentrate on, develop or complete a work in progress. The writer will also be invited to participate in Katharine Susannah Prichard (KSP) Writers' Centre activities. More information from the above address.

Applications for both close 30 June 2006.

Wanted

'Writer to help me to complete a manuscript. Book written and publisher

secured. Payment offered. Please contact Terry Galvin on 0402 335 458 or at celtic1960@aapt.net.au

Ilura Press ...

are now inviting entries to the Ilura Press 2006 Fiction Quest in search of the first two novels to be published by Ilura Press. A new literary journal, *Etchings*, featuring fiction, essays, poetry, art, and photography is accepting submissions for the first issue to be released in September 2006. www.ilurapress.com.

Wanted

Author required to help an injured person write his biography about the helicopter accident which changed his life. Payment offered. Phone Jude at the SAWC on 8223 7662.

4am Magazine

4am Magazine is seeking self contained short stories (1000 words - \$150), political rants (300 words - \$75) or short poems (\$50). Contact The Editors, 4am Magazine, GPO Box 1166k, Melbourne VIC 3001.

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 and Print on Demand for works that have merit.



Unlike Self 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 Internet

page for the author's work and biographical details.

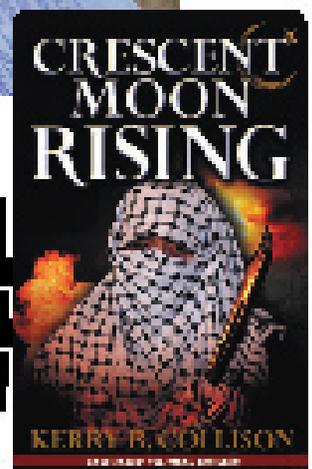
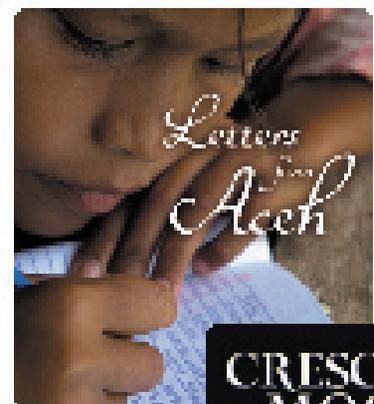
There are many problems with the alternative, Self Publishing, which places the onus entirely on the author and, in consequence, most fail.

Contact SHP at: author@sidharta.com.au or visit our website for submission details at:

www.publisher-guidelines.com

www.sidharta.com.au

Postal: SHP, PO Box 1102,
Hartwell, Victoria 3124
Australia



What's On...

June PoeticA

ABC's Radio National PoeticA. Presented by Mike Ladd, Saturday at 3.05pm, repeated 9.05pm Thursday.

3rd – *The Mother Workshops* – Jeri Kroll's moving sequence of poems about her late mother .

10th – *Views from the Pavilions* – an anthology of poems from ancient China.

17th – Byron – a selection of Byron's poems and letters, read by Paul English.

24th – *Dark River* – the poetry of John Jenkins recorded in and around the Yarra Valley.

Friendly Street Workshops

Mystic Poetry Workshop

Saturday 10 June 10am-1pm
SA Writers' Centre
Presented by Friendly Street Poets.
Conducted by Adelaide poet Peter Eason.

Cost:
Friendly Street members \$15
Non-members \$20
Concession \$10

This workshop will discuss the nature of mysticism and is a fundraiser for the Friendly Street 30th Anniversary History publication, with the presenter donating his time.

Application forms available from the SAWC.

Political Poetry Workshop

Saturday 8 July 10am-1pm

SA Writers' Centre
Presented by Friendly Street Poets.
Conducted by Adelaide poet Graham Rowlands.

This workshop will discuss the nature of political poetry and include a workshop and discussion. The workshop is a fundraiser for the Friendly Street 30th Anniversary History publication, with the presenter donating his time. We ask all poets to support this workshop.

Graham has agreed to edit three political poems which may, at the option of

registrants, be provided to Friendly Street for this purpose by no later than Friday 30th of June. Please clearly mark poems submitted for this purpose and send to Friendly Street PO Box 43, Rundle Mall, Adelaide SA 5000.

Cost:
Friendly Street members \$15
Non members \$20
Concession \$10

Application forms available from the SAWC.

Friendly Street Poets

The guest reader for June 6 is Stephen Lawrence. After 30 years, this monthly event now begins at 7pm, not 7.30. Entry is \$4.00 at the door of the SAWC. Wine and fruit juice are provided.

Anyone can read at Friendly Street – simply write your name in the Attendance Book before the readings commence. If you want your poems to be considered for publication in the next Friendly Street Reader please provide two copies – typed, double-spaced, printed on one side of white A4 paper. Include your name, phone number and address.

The Society of Women Writers SA

The society meets at the Writers' Centre every 4th Thursday morning at 10.30 am. Tom Burton from the University of Adelaide will be the guest speaker and conduct a special Poetry Workshop at the June meeting (22 June). Visitors are welcome.

The New LEE MARVIN READINGS

at Gallery de la Catessen:
9 Anster St, off Waymouth st, Adelaide
Mondays 7.30 for 8PM
JUNE 5th, 12th, 19th, 26th & 31st
PRICE \$5

1st Reading June 5th
LEE MARVIN BLOWS HIS COOL
Featuring:
Cath Kenneally
Bel Schenk
Simon Robb
Jordan D'Arcie
Eva Sallis

2nd Reading June 12
LEE MARVIN DOES HIS NUT
Featuring:
Linda Marie Walker
Steve Lawrence
Corrie Hosking
Ken Bolton

3rd Reading June 19
LEE MARVIN SHOOTS HIS FOOT
Featuring:
Nicholas Jose
Mike Ladd
Teri Hoskin
Andrea Jorss
Moya Costello

4th Reading June 26
LEE MARVIN BLOWS HIS WIG
Featuring:
Shen
Linda Marie Walker
Michael Farrell
Naomi Horridge

5th Reading June 31
LEE MARVIN SPITS THE DUMMY
Featuring:
Ryan Paine
Eva Sallis
Ken Bolton
Bel Schenk
Aidan Coleman

The Hills Poets ...

meet on the 2nd Sunday of the month at Crafers Inn, Crafers. The next meeting will be on Sunday 10 June at 3.30 pm. Please come and join us. New readers are welcome. Enquires to Jill Gower on 8339 5119.

Seminar and Workshop

Local researcher Eddy Pengelly is offering SAWC members a preview of his Introduction Seminar entitled 'Computer Technology depicted in Ancient Texts' that has been adapted for the internet. 'Show & Tell' workshops will follow in June 2006. The first 15 members to book a seat will have their workshop fee reduced. View the seminar and find workshop details at www.pphcstudygroup.org.au/sawc

Letters to the Editor

Dear Editor,

Having just attended my first SAWC AGM, I have to write to tell you my thoughts. I must admit, I did so this time mostly out of a sense of duty and responsibility. However, next time I'll go because I want to! It was a bit like eating something 'cause you're told it's good for you, and then discovering you like it.

From my (admittedly limited) experience of other AGMs, I expected it to be dry. An earnest and worthwhile use of my time, but dry. Instead, it was thoroughly entertaining! In hindsight I realise I shouldn't have been surprised – a roomful of creative, interesting, passionate people can only be so boring!

I look forward to the next one! (I NEVER thought I'd say something like that!!!)

Cheers,
Russell Talbot

Dear Editor,

Two words came to my mind while I was listening to Annie Fox (SAWC AGM): one 'boycott', and two 'education'.

One, we should vote with our remote control and change channel when the umpteenth series from the USA invades our screen, or switch off all together. There are so many good books one can read instead.

Two, it should be strongly suggested to the Department of Education that TV scripts with an Australian content be used in the school curriculum for Drama. The teaching of drama seems to focus on stage plays. That's very good, but it doesn't take into account the other media that has enriched the world of entertainment: TV, cinema, radio. Yes, teach stage plays, but introduce also a drama created for the other media to compare style and technique.

A few US products are very good, no doubt about it. The majority, however, is not, especially the spin-offs of major series. They are written to a formula: repetitive, predictable and aimed at an audience with the average mental age of ten. What they all have in common is that they are slick: men and women wearing the latest, 'perfect' suit and the 'perfect' hair style, living in the 'perfect' house out of a picture from

Vogue. Australian dramas show people the way they are. That rings more true, but it's not 'slick'. American products show people the way they would like to be. It's fluff. Unfortunately, fluff seems to sell more than substance.

Silvia Muscardin
SAWC Member

Dear Editor,

For the last few months I've been using an Internet Service Provider called TADAustConnect. This is an offshoot of a national organisation called Technical Aid for the Disabled, hence the TAD. They set up TADAust Connect exclusively for people with a Disability Support Pension, Aged Pension or DVA Entitlement Card. I receive a part age pension, so I switched to the TADAust Connect dial-up scheme because it offered unlimited time (disconnect 4 hours, 20 minutes idle), and unlimited downloads for a surprising \$5.50 per month plus a once off \$15.50 connection fee.

They use a combination of paid staff and volunteers, but it seems very professionally done and there's a help line as with other ISPs. They've now excelled themselves, offering broadband from as low as \$9.50 per month (on a 24-month term) with a setup fee of only \$59, including the cost of the modem. There are other plans offering higher speeds at, of course, higher fees. For the technically minded, the lowest speed offered (at \$9.50 per month) is 256k/64k. The only proviso is that you must bundle your broadband provision with a phone service from ISPOne, with whom TADAust have an arrangement whereby the phone bill and the internet bill come together from TADAust. As far as I could work out, and it was impossible to calculate properly, the cost of the phone service would be about the same as with my current phone service. And, yes, mate, I've already fired off my application for broadband. The website to visit is www.tadaustconnect.org.au

David Mercer

2006 Young Authors' Nights

Young Authors' Night is a unique celebration of budding young South Australian writers from years 5-7. Due to popular demand the SA Writers' Centre will be running three events this year – in the City, Salisbury and Noarlunga.

How does it work?

At each event, and following a brief talk by Phil Cummings (City), Christine Harris (Noarlunga) and D.M Cornish (Salisbury), young authors from years 5 to 7, will break into smaller groups to read their own piece of writing to peers from other schools, as well as to parents, teachers and friends. Group leaders – published South Australian writers – will talk briefly about their own writing, make encouraging comments about each young author's work and present participation certificates.

What do you have to do?

If you are a teacher, email the SA Writers' Centre on sawriters@sawriters.on.net to reserve up to three places for your school at the location of your choice. Or call 8223 7662. If you are a parent, contact your teacher/librarian.

When and Where?

City – Wednesday 21 June
St Peter's College.
Noarlunga – Wednesday 13 September
Cardijn College.
Salisbury – Wednesday 25 October
Tyndale Christian School.

Each event will run from 7.15 – 9.30pm.

Who?

Group leaders will include top South Australian published authors: Christine Harris, David Harris, Jane Turner Goldsmith, Peter McFarlane, Elizabeth Hutchins, Annette Wickes, Fabienne Bayet Charlton, Louise Pike, Alan Tucker, Fran Knight, Rosanne Hawke, Jeri Kroll, Phil Cummings, Robert Moore, Tony Shillitoe, Christobel Mattingley, Nicole Pluss, Ruth Starke, Robyn Opie, Ian Bone, Jane Jolly, D.M Cornish and Janeen Brian.

YAN is free, thanks to support from the Telstra Foundation and participating schools.

Congratulations...

New look Brag Page

As previously mentioned, your contributions to the Brag Page are important, (1) because we use this information for funding applications, and (2) because your successes are recorded on our database so we know what our members are writing and publishing.

We are, however, often short of space, so we ask you to limit your 'congrats' to work that has been published (not just accepted), and first, second and third places only in competitions.

All miscellaneous must be legitimate literary achievements – grants received, invitation performances, overseas publication etc. Please supply your information for the Brag File page in writing or by email by the 15th of the month - admin@sawriters.on.net

Aidan Coleman's book *Avenues & Runways* has been shortlisted for the New South Wales' Literary Awards, and is on the longlist for the Mary Gilmore Prize.

Alice Shore's haiku appeared in the May issue of *Positive Words*. Her poem 'Precious Droplets are Rationed' was published in *The Write Angle*.

Graham Rowlands' poem 'The Tantrum' was published in *The Mozzie* and his poems 'Inside Outside' and 'About the Other Day' were published in *Poetry Monash*.

Erica Jolly's collection of poems, *Pomegranates* has been favourably reviewed in the *Online Reviews of Australian Studies*, London.

G. M. Walker's first collection of poems *Blue Woman*, published by Bookends Books was successfully launched at the SA Writers' Centre by Jude Aquilina and Graham Rowlands. The book has been reviewed by rob walker (no relation) on users.bigpond.com/robwalker1 and she is currently the guest poet on Graham Catt's blog grahamcatt.blogspot.com

David Mercer's short story 'The Grandest Final' was published in *Page Seventeen*.

Max Merckenschlager's poem 'Men Of Skins', won the 2006 national championships for written bush poetry.

Ruth Starke has been contracted for an unprecedented third time by Tokyo's Asahi Weekly to write a 26-part serial for its English readers. This will also be her second collaboration with local illustrator Greg Holfeld, following the success of *The Psychic Dog* which was serialised in 2005. In the UK, her children's novel, *Stella by the Sea* (shortlisted in both the NSW and Queensland Literary Awards) and published by Penguin, has been chosen by a national cake mix manufacturer, Green's, as a free book giveaway this summer. Ruth is anticipating lots of delicious product!

Alma Iris Ramirez has published the following by the University of Texas history department: 'Invisible Child', 'A Mother's Curse', 'One Year of my life', 'Petticoats, Bells and Dog Collars', 'Driving Distance', 'Lucia's Girls'. The View', 'Celebrating Motherhood', 'Old Women, Hags, and Crones', 'Travelling Light' have been published on the Bonzer.org. website. 'A Woman's Country' has just been published on the auspics.org/human rights website.

Dorothy O'Neill has had an article accepted by *Psychology for Living* (U.S.A.) for the summer edition. Another article has been published by *Woman Alive* (U.K), and a continuing series of short, inspirational pieces have appeared in *The Advertiser* (Articles of Faith). Two devotionals appeared in the May/June edition of *The Upper Room* (USA). *Creative Writing Bouquet* – a collection of pieces written by the 'Creative Writing Group' that she started in a retirement village 18 months ago, was launched in December 2005 and is now nearly sold out. (All writers are aged 80 and 90 plus.)

John Fletcher's novel *Der Ruf der Roten Erde*, released in Germany in January

2006, was sold out and reprinted the same month.

Owen Carmichael's article, 'How to Make a King Jealous' was published in *Open Skies*, Emirates Airlines' inflight magazine for March.

Margaret Fensom received a Highly Commended for her poem 'Moths' in the Nature Poetry section of the Yellow Moon Seed Pearls # 19 competition and the poem will be published in *Yellow Moon 19*.

Irene Butte received a Highly Commended in the Haibun section of Yellow Moon, Seed Pearls #19 for 'The Party'.

New Poets Ten (Friendly Street/ Wakefield Press), featuring the collections of

Libby Angel, Robert Bloomfield and **rob walker**, has been very favourably reviewed in the prestigious *Cercles, Revue pluridisciplinaire du monde Anglophone* (University de Rouen, France) www.cercles.com/review/r27/angel5.htm

rob walker's poem 'A beginner's guide to postmodernism' was published in *Artstate # 14*, and 'love at the physio' and 'the bird leaves its cage and enters another' were published in *Blue Giraffe #3*.

David Mortimer's poem 'Collecting' was published in *Artstate # 14*. He was guest poet for 'Nausea', Graham Catt's blogspot, in April 2006 with 'Red in the Morning', 'The Joy of Precision: Robert Johnson' and 'The Facts' featured there.

Lynette Zander's poem 'Jeans' was published in *Positive Words*.

Georgia Xenophou has been appointed as the 2005 International Best Poet of the year, by the International Poetry Translation and Research Centre (IPTRC).

Ross Duffy's short story 'Know Thy Neighbour' was selected in the top five in the 2006 ArtsNet (Victoria) Short Story Competition.

Literary Competitions...

☺☞ **15 June 2006**

The Lyndall Hadow/
Donald Stuart Short Story
Competition. Max 3000 words.
Prizes from \$50 - \$400. Entry
fee \$7 per story.

☺☞ **16 June 2006**

The ABC Fiction Award
seeks the best, original,
unpublished, adult fiction
manuscript, written by an
Australian resident over the
age of 18. Entry \$25. The
winner receives a \$10,000
advance and their book will be
published through ABC books.
Entry from SAWC or www.
abc.net.au/abcfictionaward

25 June 2006

Entries of 2000 words or
less are sought for a Sci-Fi or
Fantasy Story Competition
run by The United Federation
of Planets Fan Club Inc. For
more info, email Lexie on
holonovel@ufpofsa.org

☞ **25 June 2006**

The Dogwood Playwrights
Initiative: \$5000 One Act Play
Competition. The focus is on
rural issues: powerful, original
theatre scripts that show
the struggles, problems and
successes that are unique to
rural and remote Australia.
Free entry. Plays must be
new, unperformed works
between 50-70 minutes in
length with a maximum cast
of six. For more info visit
www.murilla.qld.gov.au or
call (07) 4627 1707 or email
tedgibbons@bigpond.com

☞ **30 June 2006**

The annual Bruce Dawe
National Poetry Prize awards
\$1,500 to an unpublished
poem not exceeding 50 lines.
For more information visit:
www.usq.edu.au/daweprize

- ☺ 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.

☞ **30 June 2006**

Friendly Street Poets Inc
are calling for entries for
'The Best Mystical Poem
Competition', judged by Peter
Eason. Entry Fee: \$5. Prize:
\$200 Title of poem only
to appear on manuscript.
Author name, contact details,
etc. to appear on entry form.

☺☞ **10 July 2006**

Arts Queensland Val Vallis
Award for Unpublished
Poetry. Prize for a poem 100
lines or less by an emerging
poet. Entry fee \$20. Total prize
money \$4000.

☺☞ **28 July 2006**

The Broadway Poetry Prize.
Winning poem \$3000. Entry
from at www.poetsunion.com
or from SAWC. Entry fee \$10
or \$7 Poets Union members.

☞ **31 July 2006**

The Mornington Peninsula
Prize, offered by the
Fellowship of Australian
Writers (Vic) is awarded for
a short story to 3000 words.
Entry fee \$5. First Prize \$250,
Second \$100, Third \$50.

☺★☞ **31 July 2006**

Salisbury Writers' Festival
Writing Competition.
People of all ages are invited
to enter poetry or short
stories. Junior, Young Adult
and Adult short story and
poetry sections. Free entry.
Prizes from \$75-\$250.

☺☞ **1 August 2006**

Friendly Street Poets Inc
are calling for entries for
'The Best Political Poem
Competition', judged by
Graham Rowlands. Entry Fee:
\$5. Prize: \$200 Title of poem
only to appear on manuscript.
Author name, contact details,
etc. to appear on entry form.

☺★☞ **31 August 2006**

Gawler Poetry Competition
Free Entry. Adult, Youth (to
age 17) and Junior (to age 12).
Entry forms available from
SAWC. Prizes from \$30 to
\$120. Free entry. For further
information phone Denise at
the Gawler Library on 8522
9213.

Literary Comp. Guidelines

The Australian Society of
Authors recommends the
following guidelines for the
entry and administration of
literary competitions.

Entry

The sponsoring body should
bear the main costs of
conducting the competition.
Entry fees are acceptable so
long as they are in proportion
to the prizes on offer. A \$5.00
fee is appropriate where the
prize is more than \$1000.
Entry fees of more than \$20.00
are unacceptable.

Advertisements should

include:

- Presentation details (eg.
typed, double-spaced, length
etc)
- Requirements relating to
previous publication
- Details of prizes and the
names of judges
- Date and place of
announcement of results
- Closing date, publication
plans and fees to be paid for
published entries
- Name, phone number and
street address of the organisers
(be cautious if only a PO Box
address is given).

more information on [http://
www.asauthors.org/](http://www.asauthors.org/) under
'rates and conditions'.

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Board's Eye View...

by Jason Fischer

It was my first time, and I will admit to feeling nervous. When I turned up at the hotel I didn't know quite what to expect and found myself looking for groups of strange folk. I was almost too embarrassed to ask for directions, wondering what the help would think.

No, I was not at a swingers' rendezvous, nor on my way to a seedy assignation. I was at a gathering of the geek, a nexus of nerds if you will. I had fronted up to my very first science fiction & fantasy convention, without a clue what would happen over the next four days. Over the Easter holiday muggy Brisbane hosted Conjure, and it was an eye-opener to say the least.

For those who've never been to a convention, there are misconceptions I must lay to rest. There was nary a pointed ear in sight, and nobody spoke in Klingon (although many were speaking fluent drunkenese at the bar later on). What I found instead was an impressively organised group of fans and professionals, presenting an action-packed program that covered nearly every facet of writing and enjoying SF.

Panels of authors and fans hosted open discussions on topics as diverse as 'Castles, Swords and Killing Your Horse', 'Everything your Mother Didn't Tell You

About Getting Published' and 'Superheroes Have All the Fun'. The convenors had included something for everybody, with events ranging from the educational to the absurd. Indeed it was impossible to get to everything, with several events being run simultaneously. One quickly learns that it is not considered rude to 'room-hop'.

A group of best-selling writers (including a notorious local!) had the audience in stitches as they gave readings of their earliest attempts at the craft, and if their juvenilia and teenage angst wasn't enough there was an amazing demonstration of sword-fighting by a Brisbane based martial-arts group. In a packed award ceremony for Australian speculative fiction, Adelaide's favourite son picked up a well-deserved Ditmar for *Geodesica: Ascent*. Well done, Sean Williams!

For the first time in Australia, the convenors of Conjure had arranged a novel-pitching contest in conjunction with Harper Collins. Of over 80 applicants, only 11 were chosen for this unique opportunity: the chance to sell the idea of their novels directly to Stephanie Smith, publisher of the Voyager imprint.

Stephanie Schembri of Adelaide was one of the lucky finalists. 'I read my letter a few times, looked at it for 20 seconds in shock, then jumped around the house,' she admitted, still flustered from the intense workshop she had just sat through. She was given training in her pitching techniques, including the art of summing up the typical doorstep fantasy novel in only 25 to 50 words.

'I thought it (the pitch) was an invaluable experience and I learnt a lot from it. The questions Stephanie Smith asked gave me a valuable insight into what an editor might be looking for,' she said later, her feet barely touching the ground.

What I most gained from going to a convention was the chance to finally meet some of my favourite writers, people I'd been corresponding and working with over a few years but had never actually seen. Names that had only ever appeared on an email finally attached themselves to a face,



and it was worth going just to meet these like-minded folks and talk about the writing that we all love.

If you write speculative fiction or are a fan, I highly recommend that you go to a convention. If you have relatives or friends in the eastern states, use them for free accommodation. If not, the convenors can usually line you up with somewhere to stay. The opportunities for networking and meeting people with similar interests are there, but most of all you will have a ball and probably learn something useful along the way. Pointy ears are not required.

Jason Fischer is a local author with stories and articles placed in various magazines and web-zines. Winner of the Colin Thiele Literature Scholarship (2005) and the Salisbury Writer's Festival 3-Day Novel Race (2005), he'd like to remind all insomniacs that the closing date for entries in this year's NovelRace is fast approaching. 'Don't think about it, just do it!' he says enthusiastically. 'It's amazing what you can do, with the right amount of coffee.'

POETRY UNHINGED
JULY 1-9 2006

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www.sawriters.on.net

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