

southern

write

Newsletter of the SA Writers' Centre Inc

March 2005

20th Birthday Celebrations

2005 marks the SA Writers' Centre's 20th birthday, and to celebrate we've come up with a bumper program.

We begin the year in March with RE:VIEWS, a national conference on the reviewing of children's books, run in conjunction with Allwrite!. Anne Provoost, a Belgian writer and Siggie Seuss, one of Germany's top critics of children's literature, together with our own nationally acclaimed writer, Frank Moorhouse, head the line-up of guests, which include many from Australia's most influential children's literary organisations.

At the other extreme—thanks to a \$30,000 grant from the Telstra Foundation—the SA Writers' Centre will involve around 500 primary school-aged children in a series of Young Authors' Nights.

Our strengthening partnerships with the Salisbury and Onkaparinga Councils will bring a variety of literary activities to the community. The Poetry Unhinged Festival, the SA Writers' Festival and the Salisbury Writers' Festival will feature competitions, readings, workshops, publishers and meet-the-author sessions. Similarly, our involvement in the Barossa Vintage Festival through Langmeil Wines enables us to showcase our talented poets to a new audience.

Plans are under way for an annual Writing Groups' Summit, a Professional Writers' Muster, further visits by publishers and agents, and a promotional campaign to make South Australians more aware of our successful, published authors.

The addition of an Indigenous Project Officer, Yaratji Green, to our small band of organisers will bring another dimension to our activities. Work has already begun on Australia's first Indigenous Writers' Festival to be held at the SA Writers' Centre in 2006.

And as for our actual celebrations, they will take place in May—the month of our incorporation. Stay tuned for information on a pictorial history of the SA Writers' Centre and the biggest party we've had in a long while.



re:views re:views

Conference Dinner Everyone Welcome

Guest Speaker Frank Moorhouse

**Saturday, 12 March 7.30pm @ Finlayson's on the Terrace
140a North Terrace, Adelaide**

Cost \$45 per head.

Topic: The Writer and the Publicity Machine

How 'writers are expected to perform at festivals and literary events, and how this has swallowed us up,' as well as views on reviews.

Recent Accolades

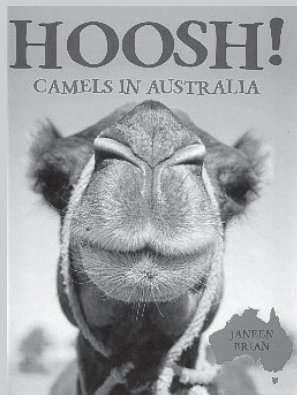
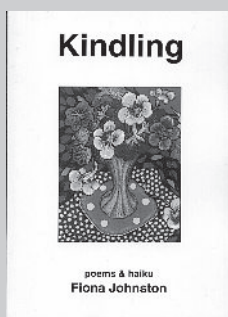
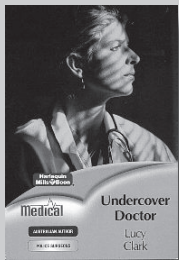
Frank Moorhouse : A Celebration

Since 1999, the Friends of the National Library of Australia have organised an annual celebration of the 'work of an eminent figure in the world of Australian literature and publishing'. In 2004 that honour went to short story writer, novelist and essayist Frank Moorhouse.

The book was launched at the National Library, 14 Nov. 2004, by Professor Bennett who spoke of Moorhouse's talent for writing 'from within his times ... but with a certain skeptical detachment which enables these times to come alive beyond the decades in which they were spawned.'



Centre Information...



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 news-

So Very Resourceful

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

Author donations ...

Glenda Bowen, *Shards: SA Studio Potters Celebrate 50 years (1954–2004)*

Andrew Byrne, *The Magic of Love*, Booksurge Publishing, 2004

Owen Carmichael, *Tamba: a selection of poetry and prose*, Spring/Summer 2004 published by the Goulburn Valley Writers Group inc.

Lucy Clark, *Undercover Doctor*, 2004; *His Pregnant G.P.*, 2004; *The English Doctor's Dilemma*, 2004; *Diagnosis Amnesia*, 2004, all published by Harlequin Mills & Boon, Medical

Coral Hartley, *Write it Right: A 'Must Have' Guide for Writers*, Writespot Publishers, 2001

Geoff Hastwell, *My Sky Blue Trades (a sketch of war and after)*, Seaview Press, 2004,

Rosanne Hawke, *The Collector*, Lothian, 2004, Illus. by Anna Pignataro and *Soraya, The Storyteller*, Lothian 2004

Lian Hearn, *Le Clan des Otori, I: Le silence du Rossignol*, Gallimard Jeunesse, 2002; *Le Clan des Otori, II: Les Neiges de l'Exil*, Gallimard Jeunesse, 2003; *Across the Nightingale Floor*, Hodder, 2002; *Grass for his Pillow: Tales of Otori, Book Two*, Riverhead Books, 2003; *Brilliance of the Moon*, Macmillan, 2004

Janeen Brian, *Hoosh: Camels in Australia*, ABC Books, 2005

Ross Johnson, *Sentenced to Cross the Raging Sea: The Story of Sam Johnson, Victim of Oldham's Bankside Riot of 1834*, Openbook, 2004.

Miscellaneous donations ...

Allen & Unwin, *The Writing Experiment: Strategies for Innovative Creative Writing* by Hazel Smith, 2005

Common Ground Publishing, *Mission Possible: How to Make Money from your Writing* by Rhonda Whitton and Sheila Hollingworth, 2002 and *A Decent Proposal: How to Sell Your Book to an Australian Publisher*, by Rhonda Whitton and Sheila Hollingworth, 2001

Melbourne Poets Union, *This Vision Thing*, 2004, Anthology.

Newsletter Folders

Thank you to the following folders who helped with the February newsletter —John and Coie Dikkenberg, Peter Swindon, Jude Aquilina, Cailean Darkwater, Dale Smith, Graeme Rickard, Elizabeth Hutchins, Anne Timony Jenkin, Margie Hann Syme and Betty Collins.

Volunteers Needed

The SA Writers' Centre is looking for more volunteers to fold newsletters. We provide a friendly, stimulating environment, training and lunch! If you are interested call the SAWC on 8223 7662 and ask for more details.

Attention SA Authors

If you have had any books published between Sept. 2004 and Sept. 2005, send the following details: Title; Author; Publisher; Date; a short blurb and an author photo plus a copy of the book to the SAWC by the end of March 2005 to be included in a brochure promoting SA writers to readers, bookshops and libraries.

Editor Speak

Writer Ruth Starke and illustrator Greg Holfeld have been contracted to produce a 24-part serial for a leading Tokyo newspaper. Both of them treasure the haiku-like email communications from their Japanese editor:

To Ruth:

Your story is welcomed by our readers.
I thank you.

I need more episodes
Maybe Greg, too
Not so hurray.

To Greg:

Thank you very much
They are very fine
Attractive.

Please continue fine works.
So, nice.

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.



Board's Eye View

by Jude Aquilina

As a writer and a poet I have faith in the power of serendipity: that chance meeting with an expert on the subject you are writing about; the ideal end line which you derive from a dream; the poem which ends up completely different to what you intended. Many years ago, the SA Writers' Centre held a seminar on creativity. Peter Bishop from Uni SA spoke on the benefits of keeping an open mind while writing and told us of the importance of the old saying, 'Keep one eye straight ahead and the other to the side'. Some of man's greatest discoveries have been made by chance. In my first drafts, I like to go off on tangents and put down every thought, even if it seems incongruous or stupid or if it's about something taboo. As Rudyard Kipling wrote, 'When your Daemon is in charge, do not try to think consciously. Drift, wait and obey.'

I agree with novelist Evan Hunter, 'The only true creative aspect of writing is the first draft. That's when it's coming straight from your head and your heart, a direct tapping of the unconscious. The rest is donkey work. It is, however, donkey work that must be done.' Yes, writing the first draft is the most exciting stage. If only I could have this creative rush every day, although I enjoy the editing process too. It's like nutting out a crossword puzzle,

finding the right words, making everything fit together. It is important to have written down every idea in the first draft so you have enough to work with in subsequent drafts.

Sometimes my handwriting is barely legible and I read a phrase or word wrongly, and it ends up being better. A misread word or misheard conversation often arouses the imagination. In her prose piece 'The Glass Boy', Gwen Harwood recalls that as a child she misinterpreted the word 'buoy' and visualised a boy, 'translucent green the colour of marbles' floating in the water. The image of the glass boy was far more powerful than that of the buoy and the real meaning was a let-down. My mother liked the Kenny Rogers song 'Lucille' and thought that he sang, 'Four hundred children and a crop in the field / You picked a fine time to leave me Lucille'. She assumed he owned an orphanage and didn't feel nearly as sorry for him when she realised he only had 'four hungry children'.

Misprints can turn a mundane piece of writing into something utterly absurd or thought-provoking. A respected English newspaper published an obituary on a high ranking military figure. They printed that he was 'battle scared' instead of 'battle scarred'. This caused an uproar and the following week they published an apology



and erroneously printed that the colonel was 'bottle scarred'. Oh, what a difference a rogue letter can make! I read an apple pie recipe which suggested adding 'a glove or two for extra flavour'. Anyone new to English cookery would give this line some thought. They may not realise it was meant to read 'a clove or two', and wonder what flavour a glove would produce ... Do you use a leather glove? A well-used sweaty glove? Surely not a rubber glove?

No matter how many times you proofread, and your friends and colleagues proofread, there will always be a typo or two that get through to the published book. Some poets may shrug this off as 'poetic licence' but the typos remain like warts on the faces of our masterpieces. As writers we tend to feel worse than others when we slip up. Rove McManus has based his popular segment 'What The?' on misprints and published oddities. We often hear spoken errors and these too can tickle the imagination. For example, a friend pronounces 'obese' as 'obeast', which I suppose gives him a corresponding visual image. When we think we know that a word is spelled or pronounced correctly, we don't question it. And sometimes it's just a slip of the tongue. A friend recently attended a function where the speaker claimed that a book had been launched to 'clitoral acclaim'. He meant 'critical acclaim' of course, but his speech is now guaranteed to be remembered. I think the odd literary slip up gives spice to life and adds a human element. And if you find any errors in this article, I put them there to test your proofreading skills!

Jude Aquilina writes poetry, short fiction and articles and is currently involved in a performance poetry project: WomanSpeak. She has published two collections of poetry *Knifing The Ice* (2000) and *On a moon spiced night* (2004).

Fiji writing in paradise

Advert –Word file

Centre Activities...

re:views re:views

11–13 March

RE:VIEWS is the second National Conference on the Reviewing of Children's Literature. Reviewers, authors, publishers, editors, teachers, librarians, academics and other industry professionals will discuss topics as diverse as:

- 'What makes a good review?'
- 'Reviewing Indigenous Books'
- 'How Kids Discover Good Books'
- 'Reviewing on the Web'
- 'Who are Reviews for?'
- '10 books and 800 words, please'
- 'Revealing Attitudes: Reviewing YA Fiction'
- 'Words about words and pictures'
- 'Soft Centres, Soft Criticism—the problems of being a writer, judge and reviewer in a small community'
- 'What's a Review Worth?'
- 'The Media's Responsibility'

An international perspective will come from Anne Provoost, a Belgian writer whose books are controversial and highly literary and Sigi Seuss, one of Germany's top critics of children's literature.

Celebrated Australian writer, Frank Moorhouse, will speak about *The Writer and the Publicity Machine* at the conference dinner (see page 1 for details).

For a detailed outline of the program, costs and accommodation information go to: www.sawriters.on.net or contact the SA Writers' Centre on (08) 8223 7662 or email: sawriters@sawriters.on.net

Full Conference Fee:

\$210 per person for the whole weekend, excluding dinner

\$140 concession / full-time student

Daily Fee:

\$120 per person

\$80 concession / full-time student

Dinner \$45 per head.

ALLWRITE LITERATURE PROGRAM

14–18 March



Children and young people across South Australia will be inspired by authors, illustrators and digital artists during Allwrite! young people's literature festival as part of Come Out 2005.

Through workshops and interactive meet the writer sessions, South Australian children will rub shoulders with their favourite authors and illustrators. Convenor of Allwrite!, Helen Bonet says the 2005 Festival is the biggest ever literature program for young people in Australia.

They will be hosting two special sessions: 'From Doodle to Digital' and 'Sci Fantastic!'

'From Doodle to Digital', is a day of workshops and lectures devoted to illustrators, cartoonists and digital artists, involving noted artists Glenn Lumsden and Carol McLean-Carr.

A whole day will be devoted to science fiction and fantasy in 'Sci-Fantastic!' Workshops and lectures will be presented by Isobelle Carmody, Glenn Lumsden and Adelaide-based Sean Williams, who has written for *Star Wars*.

'Allwrite! gives children and young people the chance to meet their literary idols while honing their writing skills and developing their passion for the written word,' Ms Bonet said.

Allwrite is supported by the Australia Council, the Australian Government's arts funding and advisory body, through its Literature Board. Also supported by Dymocks and the State Library.

Venue: State Library of South Australia North Terrace, Adelaide.

All Meet the Writer Sessions and Workshops \$5 (\$4 discount). All training room sessions are \$10. Regional touring information and all bookings can be made through the Come Out Booking Office on 08 8267 6920 or www.comeout.on.net

Poets & Platters

29–30 March

7–10pm at Langmeil Winery
Corner Para & Langmeil Roads, Tanunda.

Guest Poets:

Lidija Simkute
Aiden Coleman
Patricia Irvine
Bob Magor and
Stephen Lawrence

The evening features poetry about contemporary life, our place in history, a bit of philosophy and even some experimental ideas. Humorous, satirical or just plain outspoken.

This event is proudly supported by Langmeil Winery and the SA Writers' Centre Inc. Premium wines are available by the glass. Limited bookings on (08) 8563 2595 or mail: info@langmeilwinery.com.au Admission: \$30 (includes supper and a glass of wine).



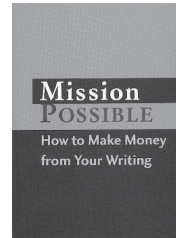
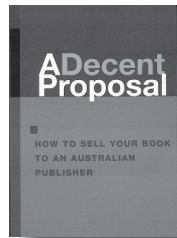
Langmeil
WINERY

Book Reviews... Letter...

Mission Possible: *How to make money from your writing*

A Decent Proposal: *How to sell your book to an Australian publisher*

by Rhonda Whitton & Sheila Hollingworth.
Common Ground, Altona.



New additions to the SAWC library:

Reviewed by Ruth Starke,
Lecturer 'Writing the Novel', AIT

Mission Possible takes a wide-ranging approach that in under 200 pages covers a great many varieties of writing, from greeting cards, obituaries and restaurant menus to film scripts, corporate reports and novels. This is both an advantage—it might suggest areas you've never considered—and a disadvantage: no particular topic is covered in quite enough detail. The exception is an excellent chapter on creative writing competitions - the benefits and rewards of, and a multitude of useful tips. A couple of the references cited are outdated (a 'writing for television' guide published in 1988 and a 'freelancer's guide' published

in 1989), but there's good advice on the business side of writing and contributions from 40 professional writers.

Writing is a business, the authors stress, and your manuscript is a product that needs to be marketed to a publisher. To help you, *A Decent Proposal* is divided into four parts: an overview of Australian publishing; essential elements of the book proposal; information regarding contracts and copyright; examples of proposals. There's little that's not covered here and, despite a reliance on previously published material from *Writer's Digest* books and magazine (USA), the fact that the focus is on Australian publishers and their requirements makes this a very useful book for anyone currently completing or about to submit a manuscript.

Dear Editor

Eyre Writers recently received a cheque for \$100 from Rocky River 'Riters, to buy writing materials for any writers we know of who have lost everything in our recent disastrous fires. Considering what a small group they are, we think this is a most generous gift. We are also impressed with their perception of this need.

They know none of our own members lost their houses, but have given us carte blanche to administer the money as we see fit. We have come to believe that not only creative writers, but others in the community might also find a use for a packet of assorted stationery. So Eyre Writers have added another \$100 and have made up a number of these packets for distribution when we hear of writers and families in need.

We on Eyre Peninsula have all been affected by the disasters and the tragedies of the fires. The thoughtfulness of people like the Rocky River 'Riters have made some of it easier to bear.

Regards
Alison Manthorpe
President

TAKING THE EXPRESS LANE THE 12TH TYE WRITERS' CONFERENCE

More than twenty books have now been published as a direct result of previous conferences! Lots of others under contract or under offer!

The Tye Estate Writers' Conferences are open to anyone who has a finished manuscript, or part of a manuscript, fiction or non-fiction, adults or children's. After enrolling, each author is paired with an editor. The editors are all currently employed full-time by major publishers like Penguin, Pan Macmillan, HarperCollins, Allen & Unwin and Lothian.

The conferences last for three days, and included in the program are the following:

- A half-hour one-on-one meeting with the assigned editor. She will have read your manuscript before the conference!
- Each author has the opportunity to pitch his or her manuscript to two of the other editors.
- Panel sessions with representatives of publishing companies including editors.
- Many talks and workshops from well-known authors

The success of the Conferences can be seen in the acknowledgments made by authors of books already published. The children's novel *Dragon's Tear* (Lothian) by Sue Lawson contains in its acknowledgments the words 'Special thanks... to John Marsden for his generosity and foresight in conducting the Tye Estate Writers' Conferences'. Eve Martyn, in her novel *Killer MacKenzie*, acknowledged 'Grateful thanks to all at Tye Estate... Denys Peek (*One Fourteenth of an Elephant*, Pan Macmillan) wrote 'My decision to enrol has changed my life.' Jane Watson, (*The Hindustan Contessa*, Picador) described to the Melbourne Writers' Festival in 2002 how she arrived at Tye 'with a letter of agreement in my hand' - her editor had already rung her and made an offer! And Lynne Kelly, author of *Avenging Janie*, wrote: 'I received my first trade publishing contract directly due to the Tye Estate weekend. But even more than that, I came home knowing I was a writer and had found my voice. Who could ask for more?'



TYE ESTATE

Date: March 12 to 14, 2005
Phone: 03 5427 0384
Fax: 03 5427 0395
Post: Tye Estate
RMB 1250 Romsey 3434
E-mail: johnmarsden@bigpond.com
Website: www.johnmarsden.com
Cost: Three days start at \$818.
Accommodation packages are available.

Opportunities...

Cheap Tickets

Palace Nova Eastend Cinemas are giving discounts to Writers' Centre members who want to see 'The Door in the Floor', based on John Irving's best-selling novel, *A Widow for a Year*. Season starts 2 March. Present your members card at the box office. Details on 8232 3434.

NSW Premier's History Awards

Works published between 20.3.2004–11.3.2005 may be entered. Prizes: \$15000 for each History category including: Australian; general; community and regional; young people's, audio/visual and state records. For more information contact (02) 9228 5533 or ministry@arts.nsw.gov.au. Deadline: 18 March 2005

Creative Fellowships 2005–6

The State Library of Victoria invites writers, scholars, artists, composers, academics and creators of new media to explore the collection. A private study plus stipends of \$12,500 (3 months), \$25,000 (6 months) or \$50,000 (12 months) will provide both the means and uninterrupted time. More information at www.slv.vic.gov.au. Deadline: 31 March 2005.

Daffodil Day Arts Awards

Inspire others by telling your cancer story. Create art, short stories, poetry or film about your experience with cancer. Cash prizes awarded to an outstanding entry in each category (Open, under 18yrs, under 11yrs). Entry fee \$5. Selected works will be exhibited in the Daffodil Day Arts Awards Exhibition in Melbourne and tour regional Victoria. More information at www.cancervic.org.au/artsawards or call 1300 65 65 85. Deadline: 1 April 2005.

It's Poetry Punk!

'Starting on 1 May Vibewire will bring you the best of Australia's young poets (10 in all) so if you think you have got the words we are looking for, then send a maximum of 3 poems (up to a total of 100 lines) with a short bio in Word format to mandy@vibewire.intranets.com by the 21st April You will get national exposure, judging by some of Australia's top poets and that nice warm fuzzy feeling you get in your belly when you see your name somewhere other than a speeding fine.' More info at www.vibewire.net.

Varuna Longlines Masterclass

If you are a writer of poetry or prose and you would like to spend one week of writing, networking, developing projects, intensive one-on-one consultations, reading and meeting with industry professionals then send about 10 000 words of a project, with a brief description of yourself as a writer to Peter Bishop at Varuna. More info at www.varuna.com.au. Deadline: 29 April 2005.

Playwriting Competition

Prizes of £2500 for the best radio plays written by writers with English as a first language, and as a second language, plus a trip to London. Plays should be 60 mins with max 6 main characters. More info at <http://bbcworldservice.com/competitions>. Deadline: 30 April 2005.

Challenging Experiences

Submissions are now being accepted of poetry and short stories for an anthology titled *Whisper to the Moon*. Topic: Must be a life experience of grief, loss, disability or personal challenges with a positive outcome. Entry forms at SAWC. Deadline: 1 May 2005.

Abe Amaterstein Short Story

A national competition with over \$2000 worth of prizes. Winner will be published in *Overland* journal. Entry fee \$8. More details at www.abeshortstory.org.au or call (03) 9662 3744. Deadline: 20 May 2005.

Young Writers Award

Open to all students (there are six categories from junior primary to high school). Submit original poetry or prose on any topic. More information and entry forms at www.theadvertiser.com.au/nie. Deadline: 10 June 2005.

Studio Anthology Seeks...

submissions of poetry and prose for a quarterly journal exploring the theme: digital age in relation to faith, God and religious experience. Guest editor is Jeff Guess. Max 6 poems plus a short bio. Send to A Digital Spirit, c/o *Studio*, 727 Peel St, Albury, NSW 2640. Deadline 31 June 2005.

Poetry Postcard Competition

Send an original postcard that you have made with this address on one side: c/o PO Box 94, Berry, NSW 2535 along with your

name and address. Theme: Impossible. 1st prize \$250. Entry fee \$5. Dimensions recommended 23cm x 12cm. Winners will be hung in the Shoalhaven Poetry Festival, 9–11 December. More info email writerslink@ozemail.com.au. Deadline: 30 November 2005.

Asia-Pacific Writers Network

Asialink and PEN will launch a multilingual website with sections on Writing; Forums; Announcements; News and a Directory/Links. The aim is to create a portal to the writing culture/s of the region. One way to do this is to begin with a good links section and a directory of writers, writing organisations, publishers, magazines (online/print), festivals, bookshops etc. You do not need to have a website to be part of the Directory. Anyone who is interested in being on the database or has contacts in the AsiaPacific region should email berni.mjanssen@net2000.com.au or 03 8344 4800.

Melbourne Poets Union

Martin Downey, a Melbourne Poets Union representative, would like to invite Adelaide poets who are planning to visit Melbourne to contact the MPU regarding their regular poetry readings. Email <http://home.vicnet.net.au/~mpuinc>.

Illustrators Wanted

Perth Zoo is seeking expressions of interest from illustrators who would like to be involved in future projects. Contact Kate McMurtrie on (08) 9474 0377 or visit www.perthzoo.wa.gov.au.

Softblow

The newest online poetry journal from Singapore at www.softblow.com, featuring writing from around the world and 'making poets feel less lonely'. The website is updated every month. If you would like to be featured, email 4–6 poems plus a biography.

Festival Hellenika ...

is looking for writers/poets willing to perform short works (max 10 minutes) of prose, or poetry which deal with Greek themes: life, travel experiences, historical or local characters for a night of 'New works in Progress' at the Iris on 23rd March 2005. Contact Maria Tsounis on 82942140 or mariatsounis@hotmail.com

Arts SA Grants

Writers, groups and organisations can apply for assistance for projects undertaken between July 2005 and January 2007 in the following categories: • Emerging artists • Professional attach-ments • Established artists • International presentation and marketing, et al. Application forms and guidelines at www.arts.sa.gov.au under Support and Funding or call 08 8463 5444
Deadline: 11 March 2005.

BLOG poems

Singaporean, Gilbert Koh (lawyer by day, poet by night) invites all poets to submit 3-4 poems to his blog at <<http://readerseye.blogspot.com/> or email to gilbert_kcw@yahoo.com.sg

Updating Deadline for 2006

The Australian Writer's Marketplace, published annually, lists over 2000 contacts. It is the comprehensive guide to the Australian writing and publishing industry for writers. Contact publisher@qwc.asn.au to update your details or inquire about a new listing. Advertising opportunities are also available, visit www.australianwritersmarketplace.com.au. Deadline: 14 April 2005

Skive Magazine ...

have changed their web address to www.skivemagazine.com/.

Queensland Poetry Festival

spoken in one strange word (26-28 August) The committee is calling for expressions of interest from poets and other artists/performers working on projects which explore the relationship between poetry and other art forms. Proposals for discussion panels and other related events are also welcome. More information at www.queenslandpoetryfestival.net.
Deadline: 17 March.

Shoalhaven Poetry Festival

NSW 9-11 December 2005.

If you would like to put your name up as a possible participant in the festival please email Chris Mansell at writerslink@ozemail.com.au, provide a short bio and tell her what you would like to do. Past festivals have included a visual poetry component (including multi-media), a poetry cruise down the Shoalhaven River, readings, workshops, book launches etc.

The Glenelg Writers ...

have been given new life. They are now The Writers at the Bay and their logo is the dolphin. They meet at the Glenelg Community Club, 4 Colley Terrace, 1st & 3rd Monday in the month at 10-noon. They are a small group of talented poetry and prose writers, who aim for both pleasure, and profit to the community, with a good measure of teaching. They welcome both young and older members who want to learn their craft and have fun doing it. For more information, call Edna on 8376 4401.

Seaview Press Interviews

Susan Rintoul or Bill Phippard of Seaview Press will be available on Thursday, 3 March & 7 April to talk to authors personally about their manuscripts—specifically book production and/or editing and indexing. Seaview Press acts only for self-publishers. Appointments at the SAWC of up to an hour will be free but bookings are essential.

Please ring 8235 1535 to book or email: susan@seaviewpress.com.au

Poetry Unhinged

13-20 March 2005

Mad About Poetry!

Sunday March 13 11am onwards

Noarlunga College Theatre Foyer, Hannah Road, Noarlunga

This event officially opens the festival week with readers:

Maurie O'Brien, Kate Deller-Evans, David Cookson, Cathy Young, Martin Johnson, Gaetano Aiello and Peter Chapman.

An open mike session will be included in this event.

Richard Hamilton wines by the glass available.

No entry fee, no bookings required.

Candles, Wine and the Classics

Thursday 17 March 7-9pm

Richard Hamilton's Cellar Door

Main Rd, Willunga

An inspiring evening of 'classical' style poetry - an event for all art, literature and wine lovers. Music by the Bacchanalia String Quartet.

Entry fee \$15 - Buffet dinner included - Bar available

Bookings essential - 8384 0733

Beat Poet night!

Saturday 19 March Doors open 6pm

The arts centre, Port Noarlunga

Miss that rhythmic poetry that you can 'bop' to? Join us for a cabaret show of beat poets and jazz band Kanga Bentley's Hot Foot Seven.

BYO Supper - no BYO alcohol - Bar available

Tickets \$5 Bookings essential - 8326 5577

Chocolate Box Readings

Various readings by local South Australian poets reading their works at City of Onkaparinga library branches. See program for further details.

Download festival program at www.onkaparingacity.com

or phone 8326 5577 or 8384 0594



What's On...

Poetica – March 2005

presented by Robyn Ravelich, 729 AM on Saturday, 3.05pm and now repeated on Thursday at 9.05pm, Radio National.
5th Vegemite Sounds So Sexy in German, part 1 of the Berlin Poetry Project.
12th Found in Translation – the Berlin Poetry Project, part 2.
19th Time Dancing, the poetry of Jan Owen.
26th Leunig – Michael Leunig speaks about his life and writing and Geoffrey Rush reads Leunig's poems.

Grote Street Library...

and Community Centre is now open. Themed as food, wine, learning and culture with resources in 20 languages, visitors can also listen to music, access personal laptops or general PCs, photocopy, print and fax. There are also rooms available for hire. 18 Grote St, Adelaide, 8203 7990

March 2005

City of Salisbury's On the Fringe Festival, a month-long celebration promoting and encouraging cultural events. For a program, or if you would like to become involved, contact Cultural Liaison Officer, 8406 8469 or fmulholland@salisbury.sa.gov.au

Saturday 5 March 2005

'Serendipity', a fiction writers group, under the leadership of Helen Halstead, will begin meeting at Holdfast Books, 81 Brighton Road, Glenelg. Ph 8294 0347. The group will meet on the first Saturday of every month at 1pm. Open to all interested fiction writers who have a short story or novel that they are working on. Participants must be prepared to critique others' works at home between the meetings (min. commitment of 2 hours a month). Come to the first meeting and see if the group suits you!

8–19 March 2005

Australian Festival for Young People (aka Come Out) aimed at 3–18 age group across Australia attracts 200,000 people to youth focussed, youth driven performances and workshops. Allwrite! (14–18 March), a component of Come Out, is Australia's largest literature festival for children and young people, featuring Meet the Writer/Illustrator sessions, workshops, and special events to be held in the newly refurbished State Library on North Terrace. More information at www.comeout.on.net.

18–21 March 2005

Two Fires Festival of Arts and Activism, Braidwood, brings together artists, writers, filmmakers, poets, activists and environmental thinkers. Inspired by the legacy of Judith Wright. More information at www.twofiresfestival.com or call (03) 9925 2725.

Tuesday 8 March 2005

Australian Writers' Guild (AWG) is pleased to present an evening with Adam Cook, Artistic Director of the State Theatre Company, to discuss opportunities for playwrights in South Australia. Free, 6–7.30pm at the SAWC. BYO bottle of wine.

9/18 March 2005

Reading groups meet on the 2nd Wednesday and the 3rd Friday of each month. Contact Holdfast Books to find out the monthly title on 8294 0347 or jgaebler@ozemail.com.au

Sunday 13 March 2005

The Hills Poets will meet at the Crafers Inn, Crafers, 3.30–5.30 pm. New poets are always welcome to come and join us and read their work. For enquiries please ring Jill Gower on 8339 5119.

13 March–April 2005

Free Writing Workshops - Beyond the Word Writing Project at the Port Community Arts Centre, 66 Commercial Road, Port Adelaide. The Zest of Haiku with Martina Taeker, plus Getting Words onto Paper, Words into Paper (papermaking), Expressions onto Clay, Exploring the Left & Right side of the Brain. Beyond Words Exhibition launch - Sat 9th April 1.00p.m. with guest speaker, Elizabeth Mansutti. Sunday Reading Afternoon – 10 April, 1-4p.m. Open mike. More information contact Bev Bills 8443 6102 or beyondtheword@hotmail.com

Sunday 13 March 2005

Marion celebrates 'Many Cultures, One Earth' in their community festival, 12–5pm. Free family entertainment including storytelling, Vietnamese lantern making, Indigenous workshop, breakdancing, giant puppets, drumming, Indian dance. The street will be transformed.

Where: 287 Diagonal Rd, Oaklands Park

Tuesday 15 March 2005

The May Gibbs Children's Literature Trust is hosting a welcome reception and book launch for SA fellow, Nette Hilton, 5pm, SAWC, cost \$20. If you would like an invitation, email contact@maygibbs.org.au

19–20 March 2005

A personal journey with Loucas Loizou performing original music and international folksongs from Greece, Cyprus etc based on his experiences as a refugee and migrant after the 1974 Turkish occupation of Cyprus. 8pm SA Folk Centre, cnr George St and South Rd, Thebarton. \$12/10. Call 8354 4606.

24–30 March 2005

Writing in Bali with Jan Cornall. Meet local writers, be inspired by the local culture and artists of Ubud. Cost \$790 (Does not include airfare, accom., lunches, dinners, excursions). More info at www.jancornall.com or call 0415174921.

TBC April 2005

An introduction to writing for electronic games with Christine Sweeney and Joe Veliskovsky plus other key industry speakers. 2-day workshop costs \$125 (includes catering). For more info and to register your interest contact Gabrielle at AWG on 8232 6852 or sa@awg.com.au

Sunday 3 April 2005

SA Writers are invited to a visual presentation of the history of Greek traditional dancing by Frank Kalogeraky, with audience participation, free coffee and cakes, presented by the Association of Greek Australian writers and artists. 3pm, West Torrens Library Auditorium, 1 Brooken Tee, behind West Torrens Council.

Tuesday 5 April 2005

Friendly Street Poets invite you to attend the next reading at 7.30 pm at the SAWC. Guest readers on the night are Libby Angel, Robert Bloomfield and Rob Walker, reading selections from the forthcoming New Poets Ten collection. Admission is \$4, and an open mike reading will follow. Contact Gaetano on 8231 4757 for details.



Internode

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

Congratulations...

Murray Alfredson's translation of Rainer Maria Rilke's 'Ninth Elegy' and his poem, 'Sacred Space', were published in *Overland*, November 2004 and February 2005 respectively.

Jo Beresford had her short story, 'The Perfect Accompaniment', accepted for inclusion in the *Whisper to the Moon* anthology.

Bob Bolton is the featured poet in *Wagtail 40*, the February edition published by Picaro Press.

Andrew Byrne had three books published: *The Magic of Love*; *Revenge is a Dish Best Served Cold* and *Through the Eye of The Beholder*.

David Cookson had a poem accepted by *Social Alternatives*. National Radio accepted 2 poems and 2 short stories, and AustralianReader.com took a short story.

Four of **Ross Duffy's** short stories: 'In the Lift', 'Know Thy Neighbour', 'The Advocate' and 'Twenty-three Years On', have been chosen by National Radio's program, Words and Music, broadcast nationally on Sunday morning.

Margaret Fensom had her poem, 'Spring Passes', published in the latest *Social Alternatives*. Also her work was highly commended in the second Tom Howard Poetry Competition and her poem, 'Afterwards', is in the anthology,

Travelling, available on the web, and in hard copy in the USA and Canada.

Jason Fischer had his short story, 'Song for the Lost', published in *Antipodean*. His interview with Tony Shillitoe was published in *Andromeda Spaceways Inflight Magazine* # 16.

Rowohlt, the major German publisher, has taken up two of **John Fletcher's** books. Another novel, *Voice of Destiny*, is being released by HarperCollins locally this month. The final book in the *Inheritors trilogy*, *Spirits of the Earth*, his speculative history of the coming of the first humans to Australia, is being published by HarperCollins in April.

Jill Gloyne had 3 stories and 2 poems accepted by National Radio's Words and Music program. Her short story, 'The Picnic', was highly commended in the Copper Triangle Writers' Group Short Story competition. She also received a commended for her short story, 'The Sand Castle', and a highly commended for her poem, 'The Crab', in the Tom Black Poetry section.

Ruth Ivens, a member of the Copper Triangle Writers' Group, has published a book of poetry entitled *The Music of What Happens*.

Erica Jolly's poem, 'After the Election', based on a performance of 'The Man of La Mancha', was published in *Adelaide Voices*, Dec 2004.

Simon Kleinig's article, 'Pioneers of Tasmanian Wilderness', was recently published in *Wild* magazine, Summer edition (Jan - Mar 2005).

David Lewis won 1st prize in the Copper Triangle Writers' Group Literary Competition with his short story, 'Scat Bal'.

David McGuigan had 'Sirens' published in the April edition of *Polestar*. 'Lyrup 1967' was accepted for publication by *Idiom 23* and 'Picnic' appears on the Australian Reader website.

Mag Merrilees's story, 'The Red Shoes', appears in the latest issue of *Island*.

Molly Murn's poems 'New Moon', 'Cracks', 'Pause' and 'Post-Natal Ward' have been accepted for broadcast by Chas Eeles for The Words and Music Program on National Radio.

Ioana Petrescu's poem, 'Then it was time to say something again', was published in *Island*, No 99, Summer 2004.

Nicole Pluss's latest book for children,

If you've had publishing success, let us know! Please supply your information for the Brag File page in writing or by email by the 15th of the month - admin@sawriters.on.net

Hope Bay, is being published by Penguin in April this year.

Graham Rowlands's poem, 'Emma on a Rainy Day', was published in *Southerly* (3, 64).

Alice Shore's poem, 'Silence of the Trees', was published in *Positive Words*, 2/05.

rob walker's review of Tony Page's poetry collection, *Gateway to the Sphinx*, was published in *Cordite Poetry Review*.

Other published poems include: 'wow!' (*The Oracular Tree*, US); 'Apricots and Bushfires' and 'Buffalo Grass' (Australian Reader online) and 'Hotel room' in *tryst* (US) X-XI. The poem 'Speech of parts' has been selected for *Friendly Street's 29th Annual Reader* (March, 2005). rob's collection 'sparrow in an airport' will also be published in March as part of *Friendly Street's New Poets Ten*.

Sean Williams's book, *The Crooked Letter*, won the 2004 Aurealis Award for Best Fantasy Novel. The other SA nominee was *Brilliance of the Moon* by Lian Hearn.

Kate Willson's anecdote, 'Oh the Joys of Motherhood' has been selected for publication in the Jasmine Publications Annual Writers Competition anthology.

LOOKING FOR A PUBLISHER?

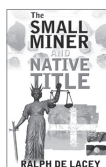
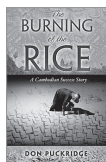
SID HARTA PUBLISHERS not only offers a full manuscript assessment service but publishes titles in the traditional sense, and also offers Partnership Publishing.

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 page for the author's work and a short biography. Sid Harta can arrange for author launches/talks to promote their title.

There are many problems with the alternative, Self Publishing, which 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 or visit our website for submission details at: <http://www.publisher-guidelines.com> and <http://www.sidharta.com.au>



Postal: SHP, PO Box 1042, Toorak Road, Hartwell, Victoria 3124.

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

Literary Competitions...

☞ 4 March 2005

Swancon XXX in conjunction with the Australian Science Fiction Foundation is sponsoring the Science Fiction and Fantasy Short Story competition. Entry fee \$5. Max 5000 words. 1st prize \$150. More info from Swancon30@westnet.com.au

★☞ 11 March 2005

Kingaroy Eisteddfod Inc. Prizes include medals, ribbons and cash. Entry fees: \$7 for adults, \$3.50 for youth: 10 yrs and under, 12 yrs and under, 13–14 yrs, 15–18 yrs. Categories include short stories, poems, humorous sketches, crime stories, bush poems, stories for children, newspaper articles. For further info call (07) 4162 1009.

☞ 15 March 2005

A Touch of Mirth and Merriment. Short stories and anecdotes, max 1200 words, poems to 24 lines, suitable for adults and children. Entry fee \$4. All entries must raise a laugh, chuckle or smile.

☺ ☞ 24 March 2005

Ballarat Writing Council Inc, A Body in Bourke Street. Short stories, max 500 words. Entry fee \$5. Prize: publication + gift voucher. More info at www.ballaratwriters.com.

☺ ☞ 30 March 2005

Seed Pearls, International Yellow Moon Literary Competition. Categories: Prose, Haiku, Tanka, Haiku Sequence,

☺ 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 (to cover photocopying and handling costs). The closing date for each competition is placed at the beginning of each entry.

Poem to 28 lines on the theme of nature. 1st prize \$100, 2nd prize \$50/40. Entry fee \$5 or \$10 for 3. More info at www.yellowmoon.info.

☞ 31 March 2005

Slippery When Wet Short Story Competition. Theme: Truck driving, trucking, long hauls or road trips. Max 2000 words. Entry fee \$7.50. 1st prize \$500. 12 finalists. Best student's entry receives \$500. Funniest receives \$100. For details call 1800 810 385 or email keli@soltek.com.au

★☞ 31 March 2005

Kerewek Lowender Writers' Competition. Theme: 'Times Past'. Adult category: Max Fatchen (MF) Short Story Award, 2500 words, 1st prize \$100. MF Poetry Award, max 50 lines, 1st prize \$100. Entry fee \$5 (\$2.50 for subsequent entries). Children's Category: Entry fee: Free, 12–18 years. 1. Short Story, 2500 words, 1st prize \$50 2. Poetry, max 50 lines, 1st prize \$50. Under 12

years. 1. Short story, max 1000 words, 1st prize book voucher. 2. Poetry, max 30 lines, 1st prize gift voucher. Winners will be presented with prizes at the Kernewek Lowender Festival.

★☞ 31 March 2005

Woorilla Annual Poetry Prize. Open section, 1st prize \$1000. Youth section, (under 18) 1st prize \$100. Entry fees: per poem \$5 adult/\$3 youth. Up to 5 poems. Max 50 lines. More info woorilla@nex.net.au or louiserockne@datafast.net.au

18 April 2005

7th Smiling Politely Competition. Max 1500 words. 1st prize \$1000 plus publication. \$6 entry fee. For more info go to www.smilingpolitely.com.au/newcomp.htm

★☞ 23 April 2005

Positive Words Short Story and Poetry Competition. 1. Open Short story max 2000 words. 2. Young Adults (12-18 years) Short Story max 1000 words. 3.

Junior (to 12 years) Short story to 500 words. 4. Open Poetry to 48 lines. 5. Young Adults (12-18 years) Poetry to 32 lines. 6. Junior (to 12 years) Poetry to 20 lines. Entry fee. Adults: \$2.50, Children \$1. Entry forms available from Sandra Lynn Evans, Positive Words, 466 Old Melbourne Road, Traralgon, 3844 Vic.

★☞ 27 April 2005

Sunshine Coast Writers' Group Inc 13th Annual Short Story & Poetry Competition. Poems: free or rhyming verse not exceeding 40 lines, open theme. 1st prize \$150. Entry fee \$4. Short stories 600–2000 words, open theme. 1st prize \$150. Entry fee \$4 per poem or 3 poems for \$10. Guidelines available. Contact reklein@bigpond.net.au

★☞ 29 April 2005

The United Federation of Planets Fan Club of South Australia presents Holonovel 2005, the Sci Fi and Fantasy Short Story Competition. Winners announced at their club meeting 29 May 2005. Prizes awarded in two categories Best Senior (over 18 yrs), Best Youth (under 18 yrs). Ages both under and over as at Oct 31st 2004. Entry is free, story length set at 3,000 words. Further information contact us at www.ufpofsa.org or visit them at the SA Writers' Centre on the last Sunday of every month from 4pm to 8pm.

THE EAGLE HAS LANDED!
NOW IN ADELAIDE:

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 8347 0917 Mobile: 0431 686 605

Email: margarena@ihug.com.au

The Manuscript Appraisal Agency



Offering publishing information and professional feedback for over six years

• Skilled • Senior • Efficient • Experienced

Recommended by the industry

Please contact us for a brochure outlining our service and scale of fees.

Manuscript Appraisal Agency

P.O. Box 577 Terrigal NSW 2260

Telephone (02) 4384 4466 • Fax (02) 4384 4600

Email: briancook@manuscriptagency.com.au

Website: www.manuscriptagency.com.au

The Curious Inspiration from the Graffiti on the Wall

by Bel Schenk

The movie-like dash from terminal three to four in Washington International could have provided inspiration for some kind of literature, but by the time I arrived in Toronto I was too worn out to think about it. Similarly, the cobbled streets of Prague, the Polish pierogi and the concentration camps were all muse-worthy, but the biggest inspiration during my seven months overseas came from the markets and side streets in downtown Toronto, where the name of the decreasingly popular actor Val Kilmer had been graffitied. I counted seven in the six months I lived there.

And for four of those months I agonized about how to turn this discovery into a poem. That's the thing about inspiration: it brings out the best and the worst. Once you get some, you wonder if you would be better off to leave it alone.

On election night in October, the guests at my party gave an impromptu spoken word performance in the living room of my apartment. Perhaps I was to find guidance in my fortune cookie – *you will find the perfect outlet for your creative talents*. The fortune cookie readings, as they became known, featured the literature of Chinese philosophers (well,

that's what I like to believe) and the performances of various politically disillusioned partygoers. *You will find love and happiness* was speedily delivered after the preceding three-minute explanation was received with boos and hisses; *Your emotions are very emotional* was performed to interpretative dance moments; and my favorite – *You like/ Chinese/Food* – spoken with all the heartbreak of a Shakespearean sonnet.

But, alas, neither method nor ideas were to come. I tried; I workshopped it. I dreamed about it. Heck, I even wrote home about it. 'Dear Mum,' read my postcard, 'weather is nice. Wish you were here. Val Kilmer is haunting me.'

Maybe I could take advantage of the fact that Margaret Atwood lived in a leafy street full of brownstones only two blocks away. Perhaps I could camp on her doorstep and gain some direction by osmosis. Somehow obtain her leftovers. Go through her trash. Surely she must recycle her unused drafts. 'Hi Maggie,' I could say as she opened her door each morning. 'Got anything for me today? Have you seen those Kilmer references? Would you like to comment? If so, could you do it in iambic pentameter into this tape recorder?'

Or I might find further inspiration in the plethora of

legitimate (and some not so legit) spoken word events held in Toronto – the slams, the library readings, the readings in the park, the poets on the streetcars and the drunken pub performances. Use your imagination for this one: two women, one stage, one sewing machine, one overhead projector, laughing, heckling – they call this performance art.

And then there's always nature. Canada has some, you know. Bears. Skunks. Moose. Mountains ...

Eventually, I did write that poem. It took an afternoon walking the streets of Toronto to find an angle. It's a three pager called 'Val Kilmer is in my fortune cookie'. And if indeed I am obsessed with celebrity graffiti or Chinese food, I figure that there could be worse.

Back in Adelaide, I type 'Val Kilmer+Toronto+Graffiti' into a search engine. Many theories later, I decide that it's sometimes better not to have explanations for certain happenings. The truth can dilute perfect moments of inspiration.

Bel Schenk is the Office Manager at the SA Writers' Centre. She took a seven month leave of absence during the last half of last year where she travelled some parts of Eastern Europe and lived and worked in Toronto, Canada.

