

# southern

# write

Newsletter of the SA Writers' Centre Inc

March 2006

## Poets on Popeye

Join us as we cruise the River Torrens at sunset while local, interstate and international poets let their words float on over. South Australian wines and cheeses included.

Featuring:

Graham Rowlands (SA)

Judith Beveridge (Vic)

Simon Armitage (UK)

*Langmeil*

7.30pm Thursday 9 March 2006

Tickets \$25

For bookings call the SA Writers' Centre

on (08) 8223 7662 or email [sawriters@sawriters.on.net](mailto:sawriters@sawriters.on.net)

Simon Armitage and Judith Beveridge appear with thanks to Adelaide Writers' Week 2006.

Their photographs are courtesy of Adelaide Writers' Week 2006.



Simon Armitage



Judith Beveridge



Graham Rowlands

## Author Donates \$5,000

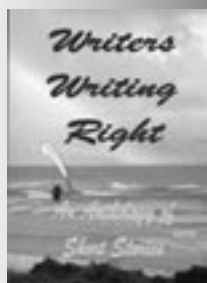


Thank you to Gillian Rubinstein (Lian Hearn) who generously donated \$5,000 to the SAWC. These funds will go directly to the reproduction of the next SA Writers' Centre Handbook and some yet to be determined projects.

'I've just completed the two final books in the *Tales of the Otori* series and wanted to make another contribution to the SAWC to express my gratitude to the South Australian writers' community who have always given me so much support and encouragement. I hope you can use it to help other writers in some way – I'm sure you have lots of good schemes.

Love Gillian.'

# Centre Information...



## So Very Resourceful

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

**The Association of SA Chinese Writers**, *Writers and Friends Magazine*, issue 1-7, 2004-05

**Wet Ink**, The Magazine of New Writing, Issue 1, 2005

**Writing Right**, *Writers Writing Right: an anthology of short stories*, 2006

**Sarah Brokensha**, *My Grace Ship*, Seaview Press, 2006

**Queensland University of Technology**, *Before You Get Eaten*, QUT Publications, 2005

**Heather Joy Reynolds**, *Love Passion and Despair*, Encompass Presentations, 2005

**The Little Big Book Club**, *Baby, Baby*, Phil Cummings and Greg Holfield (illustrator), Omnibus, 2006

**Richard Inwood**, *Pink Gins at Sunset*, Digital Reproductions, 2005

**Jennifer Di'ane**, *Ghost on the Ghan*, Writing Right, 2005

**Wilde**, Volume 1, Issue 1.

**Timothy Tuck**, *Creative Holiday Learning*, Pascal Press, 2005

**Tim Sinclair**, *Nine Hours North*, Penguin, 2006.

## Newsletter Folders

Thank you to the following folders of the December newsletter: Tony Brooks, Janos Pogany, Jo Vabolis, Robert Horne, Jo-Anne Moretti, Barbara Brockhoff, John Dikkenberg, Coie Dikkenberg, Catherine Jones, Margie Hann Syme and Graeme Rickard.

## Handyman/woman wanted

We are looking for a volunteer who can help our other handyman with jobs around the centre – hammering, nailing, putting things up, taking them down. If you think you can help, give us a call on 8223 7662. Any time donated is appreciated.

## Notice of Annual General Meeting

7pm Tuesday 4 May 2006.

Nominations for Board members must be made in writing to the Director by April 24 2006.

Individual members nominating must be financial members.

Pursuant to clause 17.6 of the Constitution, notice is hereby given of the 2006 Annual General Meeting of the Association in the Seminar Room of the SA Writers' Centre Inc, 2nd floor, 187 Rundle Street, Adelaide.

Barbara Wiesner

Dated 16/2/06

## Agenda

1. Present and Apologies
2. Minutes of Meeting held 24 May 2005
3. Business Arising
4. Reports: Chair, Treasurer, Director
5. Appointment of an auditor
6. Determination of Honoraria for Board members (currently \$150 / \$200 for executive members)
7. Determination of membership fees (recommended: an increase of \$2 on both waged and concession)
8. Election of Board members (there are four places to be filled)
9. Guest Speaker: Annie Fox
10. Close

## Writers' Week

The SA Writers' Centre will be closed during Adelaide Writers' Week ( 5-10 March. <http://www.adelaidefestival.com.au>). Come down to the tents to find us.



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



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

## Disclaimer

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

# Workshops and Special Events

2006 is going to be a big one for writing in South Australia. It's a festival year, which brings with it the lovely autumn-ness of Adelaide Writers' Week (5-10 March) as well as this winter's biennial Poetry Unhinged Festival, the Books. Be in It. Festival, the Salisbury Writers' Festival, and, yet again, three Young Authors' Nights dotted throughout the calendar. Aiming for attention through all of this is the SA Writers' Centre's Events Program for the first half of the year. If it didn't fall out when you un-sticky-taped your newsletter, contact us and we'll send you one. It's purple!

Some of our favourite workshop leaders return to tutor about topics that they are experts on. Among them are Fiona McIntosh on characters and authentic voices, Kirsty Brooks on presenting manuscripts, Ruth Starke on building gripping plots and Melbourne poet, Peter Bakowski, who returns to run his third workshop for the SAWC – 'Writer as a Diver'. As with previous years, the maximum number of workshop participants is limited to 20, so there are ample chances to get the help that you need.

## **A WRITER IS A DIVER** with Peter Bakowski Saturday 25 March, 1-4pm

Melbourne poet Peter Bakowski, who has been writing poetry for 23 years, will provide invaluable advice, encouragement and insights regarding the following (and more):-

- 1) Positivity and the writer
- 2) Expanding your subject matter
- 3) Getting your poetry tight, to the point
- 4) Igniting your own imagination
- 5) Getting your poetry out there
- 6) Cures for writer's block
- 7) Questioning the adjective
- 8) Judging your own writing
- 9) New ways to think about writing

Cost: \$44 for SA Writers' Centre members  
\$66 for non-members

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

We've already had our first seminar, and the second – 'Going it Alone: the ins and outs of self-publishing' – aims to be as informative and as stimulating. Four successful writers – Tony Brooks, Kate Simpson, Helen Halstead and Jill Gloyne – each have different perspectives and experiences on the process of self-publishing. They will be joined by representatives from SALMAT, Lythrum Press and Peacock Publications, and, as with the first seminar, there will be a chance to mix informally with each presenter.

The addition of Open Forums to our program is one that we are certainly looking forward to. 'At Your Own Risk: perspectives on writing and publishing both personally and politically' just might be as gripping as the title is epic. Featuring Stephanie Luke, Nicholas Jose, Juan Garrido-Salgado and Sonja Dechian, it is hoped that audiences will be inspired to challenge and to participate in the discussion. Given the current climate, there will be much to talk about.

For the first time, SBS journalist, Dominika Dery joins us for a 'Meet the

Author' session. Dominika will talk about *The Twelve Little Cakes: a memoir from communist Prague*, which will soon be published by East Street Publications. Again, audience members will be encouraged to participate in discussions about both the book and the writer.

This year we are experimenting with the 'Pay What You Can' method for selected events. Used widely in museums and art galleries, and possibly the most self-explanatory payment method ever invented, it's not a time to be embarrassed about what you can and cannot afford. We'll accept \$1. We'll accept \$100. We just won't accept excuses.

We are also open to your suggestions about what to include in the July-December version of the program (and, importantly, what colour to use). We can't guarantee that we'll be able to include it, but we'll certainly try. So, drop us a line if there is a topic that you're burning to explore.

Bel Schenk  
Newsletter Editor/Project Officer

Peter Bakowski's poems continue to appear in literary magazines worldwide. Each of his last three poetry collections has gone into reprint. He has been awarded six-month residencies in Rome and Paris by the Australia Council. His collection *In The Human Night* won the Victorian Premier's Award for Poetry.



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# SAWC Workshops

**Thursday 6 April, 7-10pm.**

**Presenting and Submitting Manuscripts: so you've written a masterpiece, what to do next? with Kirsty Brooks.**

Don't let you, or your work, down at the last minute. Be professional and editors will treat you as one. Every editor and agent is swamped by manuscripts and they *will* look for reasons not to read your work. If you've got a great manuscript (and your first line, paragraph, page and chapter are gripping, engaging and exciting) then this workshop will take you through the final, necessary, and so often ignored, steps to getting published. First impressions do count. Be the author your agent and editor want to sign.

In this workshop Kirsty will look at all aspects of making the most of your work at this vital stage. From presentation of your work (Examples shown) to what to include (Synopsis or blurb? Cover letter and what is in that? How many chapters? How to package this?) and who to send it to (agent or editor? How to find them? How to turn your unsolicited MS into a solicited one?). You'll go through the important steps that will mean your work is actually read by the right person.



*Kirsty Brooks is the author of six books, with four more in contract. She is the director of Driftwood Manuscripts, an assessment and editing agency for writers, who sees far too many manuscripts arrive on her desk in a shameful, tatty and unprofessional condition. She has a Journalism Degree and an Advanced Diploma in Professional Writing, and in 2004, Kirsty was awarded the Barbara Hanrahan Fellowship. She has been a guest at every major Australian writers' festival.*

**Saturday 22 April, 10-1pm.**

**Gripping Plots and How to Build Them, with Ruth Starke. You may have a good story, but do you have a great plot?**

Great plots are made not born. Get a handle on beginnings, middles and ends, and some useful advice on theme, outlining, planning, motivation, conflict, clues, twists, revelations, climaxes and resolutions. Not to mention parallel and sub-plots. Bring a synopsis or chapter breakdown of any novel-in-progress.

*Ruth Starke has published over 18 novels. She is currently Writer-in-Residence at Flinders University, where she teaches Creative Writing. She also teaches Writing the Novel at TAFE.*



**Thursday 6**

**April, 7-10pm.**

**Not Feeling**

**Yourself: great**

**techniques for making fiction, with Graeme Harper.**



This workshop will explore the methods of creating fiction from fact and, if the truth be known, a fact or two from fiction! Graeme Harper (who is Director of the UK Centre for Creative Writing: Research Through Practice) will explore ways of creating fictional worlds in the short story and the novel, assist in developing techniques and extending possibilities, and give both a flavour and sense to the choices and applications a fiction writer can entertain and create.

*Graeme Harper, who writes as Brooke Biaz, is a former winner of the NBC Qantas Award for New Fiction and the NSW Premier's Fiction Fellowship. His latest work of fiction Small Maps of the World (Parlor, 2006) has just been published internationally. He is Professor and Head of the School of Creative Arts, Film and Media at the University of Portsmouth (UK) and Editor-in-Chief of the international journal New Writing. He was recently a BBC Talent featured fiction writer.*



**Saturday 22 April, 1-4pm.**

**Crossing Borders: Writing for Young Adults, with Rosanne Hawke.**

After a short discussion on what writing for Young Adults might be, this will be a practical session exploring some elements of writing as they relate to young adult literature such as point of view, use of tenses, dialogue and tone. There will be time for questions and marketing concerns.

*Rosanne Hawke is the author of 13 books for young people. Soraya the Storyteller was shortlisted in the 2006 Adelaide Festival Awards and in the 2005 CBCA Awards. Across the Creek won the 2005 Cornish Holyer an Gof awards. This year she has an Asialink Residency to write a book in Pakistan. Her new books are Mustara and The Last Virgin in Year 10.*

**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.**

# Opportunities...

## **State Library Creative Fellowships**

The prestigious State Library of Victoria Creative Fellowships are once again on offer to Australian writers, artists, composers and researchers. Funded by the State Library of Victoria Foundation and awarded annually by the State Library on the advice of an independent committee of the Library Board of Victoria, the \$100,000 Creative Fellowship program encourages the scholarly, literary and creative use of the Library's rich collections. This is the fourth year the State Library of Victoria has offered the Creative Fellowships.

The Fellowships are for periods of three or six months, with stipends of \$12,500 for three months and \$25,000 for six months respectively. Research projects can be in any area of the Library's collections, and are open to Australian residents who may be independent scholars, creative writers, artists, composers, or developers of new media across a broad range of disciplines.

Applications close Friday 31 March and can be obtained on the State Library website: [www.slv.vic.gov.au](http://www.slv.vic.gov.au). The Fellowship recipients will be announced in July.

## **Vegetarian Action ...**

is dedicated to promoting vegetarianism as an ethical, humane, healthy and ecologically sustainable way of life. Send poems and short articles to their newsletter at PO Box 6062 Halifax Street Adelaide 5000. Or email [info@vegetarianaction.org.au](mailto:info@vegetarianaction.org.au)

No payment.

## **A Change of Plans ...**

but, we still want your EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST!

Due to unforeseen circumstances, including the fiery loss of its venue, the proposed Books. Be in it. Festival 2006 – celebrating SA children's writers and illustrators and their works – has undergone a significant revamp.

In accordance with the new venue, the Festival will now be a more intimate affair, running over a single afternoon, along the lines of the original event held at Burnside in 2001.

The planning committee would now like to hear from published SA children's writers and illustrators regarding their interest in participating in this fun, exciting and worthwhile event.

We need writers and illustrators to mix, mingle and chat with children and their families, tell stories, participate in and assist with an illustrators' art exhibition, sketch and draw in Show-offs' Corner and generally help create a fun and friendly atmosphere.

The proposed date for the celebrations is either Saturday 28th or Sunday 29th of October, 2006.

Expressions of interest must be received no later than 30th April, 2006. Please submit via email to

Matt Potter (chair)  
[sweetscrippen@hotmail.com](mailto:sweetscrippen@hotmail.com)  
or  
Louise Pike (secretary)  
[louise@louisepike.com.au](mailto:louise@louisepike.com.au)

or by mail to  
Matt Potter  
3 / 14 Jellicoe St  
Broadview SA 5083

## **Arts SA Project Assistance**

Applications close 5.00pm Friday 24 March 2006  
Professional practitioners, groups and organisations can apply for assistance for projects undertaken between July 2006 and December 2007.

### *How to apply*

Application forms and guidelines are available from Arts SA and can be downloaded from the Arts SA website: [www.arts.sa.gov.au](http://www.arts.sa.gov.au) under Support and Funding. To have information mailed to you contact:

Arts SA  
110 Hindley Street  
Adelaide, South Australia, 5000  
GPO Box 2308, Adelaide, South Australia 5001  
Telephone: 08 8463 5444  
[artssa@saugov.sa.gov.au](mailto:artssa@saugov.sa.gov.au)

## **Writer Wanted**

To help with nonfiction manuscript about the struggles, treatment and cure for Multiple Sclerosis. More information from Antonio Ferraro II on 0419 984 186.

## **Positive Words ...**

is seeking submissions of poetry, short stories and articles for upcoming issues. Work on all themes is welcome with special themes each month. The theme for April is 'Jeans', May is 'Jewels' and June is 'Good Advice'. Contributors will receive a complimentary copy of the magazine. Back copies for interested contributors and subscribers are available by sending \$2.00 in unused stamps to The Editor, Sandra Lynn Evans, 466 Old Melbourne Road, Traralgon, 3844, Victoria.

## **Looking To Sell Your Books?**

Sandra Mignone of Sonnets Books & Tea Room invites local writers to call in to her bookshop/coffeeshop at 54-56 Lambert Rd, Royston Park, and leave copies of their books to be sold on consignment. \$2 coffees for SAWC members.

## **Raising Awareness for Menopause**

Menopause is still something of a mystery. Many women reach their menopausal years unprepared for the physical and mental changes that could affect them. A new anthology seeks personal accounts from women to help inform and prepare other women during this challenging time. Do you have a story? Can you share your experiences? Will you contribute to this important piece of work? Confidentiality is assured. For full details, please refer your enquiry to:

Debra Vincombe, Coordinator  
Ph 08 8398 0678 or 08 8361 7257  
Fax 08 8398 0678  
Email [touchwood52@hotmail.com](mailto:touchwood52@hotmail.com)

## **Wet Ink still wants you ...**

"Send that poem, story, nonfiction piece, funny quirky very short column or whatever you consider your best work. We like surprises. There are no restrictions as to genres. If we like your piece, we'll publish it." Details are on the website [www.wetink.com.au](http://www.wetink.com.au) or can be picked up from the SA Writers' Centre.



# What's On...

## Book Launches

Sarah Brokensha's

*My Grace Ship*

Poetry book

SA Writers' Centre

Monday, 13th March 5:30pm

All welcome

Champagne, live music and vegan nibbles!

RSVP by Feb 25th

Ph 0421 380 573.

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SA writers, their friends and families are invited to the official launch of Friendly Street Poets 2006 books:

*Thirty*

*New Poets 11*

& *Women with their Faces on Fire*

at the West Tent, Pioneer Women's Memorial Gardens (behind Government House)

5:45pm Sunday March 5th,  
the first day of 2006 Writers' Week.

The anthology *Thirty*, edited by local poets Rob Walker and Louise Nicholas, contains the best 100 poems read at Friendly Street throughout 2005.

*Thirty* will be launched by ABC Radio National broadcaster, author and poet Sandy McCutcheon.

The Nova prize (awarded for the best poem by a new, unpublished poet) will be chosen and presented by innovative Queensland poet Jaya Savige.

*NEW POETS 11*, containing the first published collections of Cameron Fuller, Simone G Matthews & Rachel Manning will be launched by poet, novelist and academic Marion May Campbell.

The Friendly Street Single Poet Volume *Women with their Faces on Fire* by Annette Marner will be launched by Jerry Kroll.

Copies of all books will be available.

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Bookends Books invites SAWC Members to: *Blue Woman*, poetry by G.M Walker  
SA Writers' Centre  
Friday 21 April, 6.30 for 7pm.  
All welcome.

Mandy and Bruce Macky of Dymocks will be hosting the launch of

Rosanne Hawke's new book *Mustara*.

Dymocks, 136 Rundle Mall, 6pm March 10.

Members of SA Writers' Centre are invited to join us. Bookings essential. Please reply to [bruce.macky@dymade.com.au](mailto:bruce.macky@dymade.com.au) by no later than 4pm on 8 March.

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Issue 2 of *Wet Ink Magazine*

launched by Tom Shapcott

3.45pm Monday 6 March

East Tent, Pioneer Women's Memorial Gardens (Writers' Week site)

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Wakefield Press invites SAWC members to:

*Poinciana* by Jane Turner Goldsmith to be launched by Nicholas Jose. 3.45pm, Wednesday 8 March in the West Tent, Pioneer Women's Memorial Gardens (Writers' Week site).

*Drawing the Crow* by Adrian Mitchell

3.45 pm, Monday 6 March

Writers' Week West Tent

Pioneer Women's Memorial Gardens

*At the Flash & At the Baci* by Ken Bolton and

*beached rd.* by Neil Paech (both poetry)

6-8 pm, Thurs 9 March

Grace Emily Hotel Beer Garden

232 Waymouth St, Adelaide.



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AWA is proudly South Australian

## Friendly Street

The guest reader for Tuesday 7 March is Canberra poet John Stokes. 7.30pm, SAWC.

## Hills Poets

The next meeting of the Hills Poets will be on Sunday 12 March at 3.30 pm. This group meets on the second Sunday of each month at Crafers Inn, Crafers. New readers are welcome to come and join us. Enquiries to Jill Gower on 8339 5119.

## Emerging Writers' Festival

April 7-9 Melbourne Town Hall.

The 3rd Emerging Writers Festival, presented by Express Media, is taking over the Melbourne Town Hall from 7-9 April, celebrating the best Indigenous and Non-indigenous writers you haven't heard of - yet. The festival will promote, network and engage with a range of Australia's most exciting writers. It will be a celebration and investigation of writers of all ages and in all literary forms: from comics to screenwriting, journalism to activism, poetry to hip hop, and novels to plays. And in 2006 the EWF will feature Indigenous writers from around Australia. Over three days there will be workshops, panels, performances, magazine launches, films, lectures, and a party to re-define your ideas of literary performance! All this for only \$15/\$25 for a weekend pass, or \$10/\$15 for a day pass.

For more information go to :

[www.emergingwritersfestival.org.au](http://www.emergingwritersfestival.org.au)

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## Poetica March

Radio National, 729AM, Saturday at 3.05pm and repeated 9.05pm, Thursday.

4th – Eugenio Montale – a feature on the life and work of this great Italian poet.

11th – Melbourne poet, Lauren Williams talks about and reads her work.

18th – Jackie Kay – poems by this Manchester poet who has a Nigerian father and Scottish mother.

25th – Adelaide Writers' Week – the poetry highlights from this year's Adelaide Festival of Arts.

For further details contact Mike Ladd at the ABC (08) 8343 4928 or visit [www.abc.net.au/rn/arts/poetica/](http://www.abc.net.au/rn/arts/poetica/)

## Marian Keys ...

International author of *Watermelon*, *Angels*, *Rachel's Holiday*, *Last Chance Saloon*, *Sushi for Beginners*, *The Other Side of the Story* and *Lucy Sullivan is Getting Married* will promote her latest book *Is Anybody Out There?* in the Domain Theatre of the Marion Cultural Centre on Wednesday 15 March from 7.30pm to 8.30pm. Tickets are \$7.70 per person. Book by phoning the Marion Cultural Centre Box Office on 8375 6855.

## Parenting Express

Website for creative parents now online! Thanks to support from writers' centres around Australia, six months after collecting stories and poems, writer/editor (and SA Writers' Centre/ASA member) Anne-marie Taplin, has launched her website [www.parentingexpress.com](http://www.parentingexpress.com). The site is now live so writers and readers can check out the wide selection of stories, memoirs and poems about the joys and challenges of raising the next generation. The website is updated monthly and new stories are always welcome. Writers keen on submitting material will find detailed submission guidelines on the site or they can email [editor@parentingexpress.com](mailto:editor@parentingexpress.com) for further information.

**The Big Book Club** is pleased to announce that *The Ghost Writer* by local writer John Harwood is the Big Book Club's selection for March 2006. For state-wide and national events, author tours, new releases, competitions and give-aways visit their new site: [www.thebigbookclub.com.au](http://www.thebigbookclub.com.au)

## International Women's Day

Luncheon: Tuesday 7 March, 11.45 for 12 noon at the Adelaide Convention Centre. Tickets \$39 waged. \$27 unwaged. Featuring the presentation of the inaugural 2005/06 Women's Art and Literature

awards. For bookings contact Helen Pointon [helenp@bigpond.net.au](mailto:helenp@bigpond.net.au) or fax/ph 8338 3163

**'National Poetry Week'** will be taking place between 1st - 10th September 2006. NPW has grown each year and we are expecting an even greater participation in 2006, as we join forces with the Australian Poetry Festival. NPW is seeking volunteer Coordinators for SA, Tas, NT, Vic, ACT. As State Coordinator of NPW you will be the portal for activities in your state and will work with the Director of NPW to encourage and develop poetry events. If you would like to discuss this further or find out more about what's involved, please do not hesitate to contact me. I am able to help with letters of support etc. if you would like to seek funding for your role.'

Jayne Fenton Keane  
Founding Director NPW  
[www.nationalpoetryweek.com](http://www.nationalpoetryweek.com)  
Jayne Fenton Keane Mob:040 757 1190  
Email: [jfk@nationalpoetryweek.com](mailto:jfk@nationalpoetryweek.com)

## Adelaide PEN

The next Adelaide PEN meeting is on Thursday 30 March at 6pm at the SAWC. All welcome.

# 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.



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page for the author's work and biographical details.

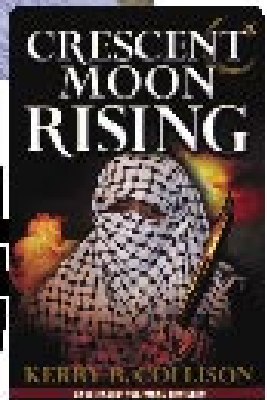
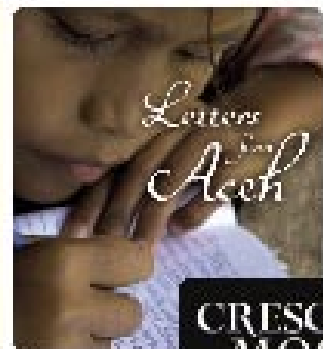
There are many problems with the alternative, Self Publishing, which places the onus entirely on the author and, in consequence, most fail.

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[www.sidharta.com.au](http://www.sidharta.com.au)

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Hartwell, Victoria 3124  
Australia



# News and Views

Dear Editor

To Publish, or not to Publish, that is the question!

Robert Stephenson's rightful indignation over the less scrupulous elements of subsidy publishing (*Southern Write*, February 2006) is correct as far as it goes but a little misleading. Perhaps it contains a kernel of accuracy when it describes what vanity publishers and subsidy presses don't do. If any organization accepts your work for publishing without a whim, it is probably more interested in your money than your writing. However, there is a case for writers self-funding their work.

In the case of musicians there is a tradition of artists using the income from performance to create CDs for sale at subsequent performances. It is now almost commonplace for bands to produce their own DVDs. Writers have existed in a separate category up to now because the technology itself made small press runs a liability. Effectively, the publisher and the author were bound together in a system geared to providing large quantities of material for a large, relatively stable marketplace.

Again the music analogy persists. Musicians now play wineries and restaurants or private gigs more than they play traditional pub venues. Relatively unknown authors are more likely to find a reading and buying public at readings and festivals than in major shopping chains and large bookstores, which together account for a great deal of the traditional Australian and international book markets.

Many publishers which once would not associate with subsidy publishing rely upon the fact that the author brings with them a grant or similar contribution to the publishing process. Sometimes they have agreements with particular printing firms which allow them to take on books which might otherwise be left unpublished. This is well removed from the idea of vanity publishing, although a payment or contribution secured by the author may be a necessary component of seeing the work in print.

The authors I want to work with are

those who are reaching out to an audience and who want to have a book to sell at public events and readings as well as having an opportunity to place them in bookshops. Unfortunately, producing an attractive, properly edited and designed book requires money. In the absence of external funding the author may have to be prepared to pay for the editing, layout, design and printing of a small run of their book to see it in print, or to see previously published works for which they hold the copyright back in print. Once paid for, these design elements, the edited text and the finished book are the property of the authors to do with as they wish.

In the case of a professionally designed and edited book, the author may well be able to sell the whole package to a larger publisher at a later date. I have personally sold such self-published books to the book trade, only to see them become part of the backlist of major international publishers.

I for one will resolutely refuse to publish any book which doesn't have the qualities of being readable and being amenable to having the decent layouts and designs which I want represented by a Bookends book. However, the experience I have gained in my 30 years as a bookseller and with the national and international trade distribution agreement I have with Wakefield Press, are valuable commodities, just as much as any money I might bring to a particular publishing project. In this sense it would be wrong to dismiss the possibility of paying someone to produce your book. A new era of technology and communications means that the old bookselling and publishing norms are no longer as dominant. The author can be the determinant of what gets published because despite the relatively large upfront costs they only need to print as many copies as they think they can sell. A run of 50 copies or less is still viable and an author could easily recoup most setup costs with a reasonable sale of their books at a launch or a book festival. Subsequent reprints can be significantly cheaper as the initial publishing costs will not apply to reprints.

Your correspondent's piece was commendable in its denigration of vanity publishing, yet there is now a nether world which exists between that of the monolithic, huge publisher with millions to burn and the backyard publisher of books suitable only

for parking under your bed in place of your sorely mistreated cash. The future is here and part of it is the possibility of producing great books in very small quantities on behalf of their authors. I look forward to being part of this new world.

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## Great New Aussie Drama Hits (Computer) Screens

AustralianReader.com, online publisher of fiction, nonfiction and poetry by Australia's emerging authors, invites Australians to enjoy a great new Aussie drama ... online.

Every Friday for 13 weeks (which started Friday February 24), a new instalment of Kate Smith's wry crime serial, *Wishbone Street*, will be published on AustralianReader.com alongside the colorful and sensitive illustrations of Melbourne artist Ashley J Higgs.

A sample of the work can be viewed at: <http://www.australianreader.com/index.php?section=articles&articleID=207>

"The story combines elements of the supernatural, crime, romance, humour and drama," explains author Kate Smith. "It's set in some pretty atypical backyards in a town called Pandora's Edge." The publishers say that the publication will be a boon to Australians crying out for entertainment at the tail end of another long, dry summer of no-ratings television.

The story follows the adventures of the cool, capable Captain Ariel Thorne as she and her colleague, George Casterian, reluctantly investigate murders, mysterious disappearances, apparent kidnappings and the odd sacrifice in the curiously eventful cul-de-sac of *Wishbone Street*. "As soon as we saw the story, we knew two things: that it was fantastically entertaining, and that it demanded to be illustrated," comments AustralianReader.com Editor Georgina Laidlaw. Local artist Ashley J Higgs stepped up to the mark.

"*Wishbone Street* will entertain, amuse, and intrigue readers," Laidlaw summarised. "It's fabulous, it's fun, and it's free -- it's the perfect thing to keep us entertained this summer!"



# Congratulations...

## 2006 FESTIVAL AWARDS FOR LITERATURE SHORTLIST

The 2006 Festival Awards for Literature will be announced at Adelaide Writers' Week in the East Tent on Sunday 5 March 2006 at 4.30pm. The Carclew Fellowship (\$15,000) and the Barbara Hanrahan Fellowship (\$15,000) will also be announced at the ceremony.

### \$15,000 Award for children's literature

*The Running Man* by Michael Bauer  
*Fireshadow* by Anthony Eaton  
*Jetty Rats* by Phillip Gwynne  
*Soraya the Storyteller* by Rosanne Hawke  
*It's Not All About You, Calma!* by Barry Jonsberg  
*The Spare Room* by Kathryn Lomer

### \$15,000 Award for fiction

*The Lost Thoughts of Soldiers* by Delia Falconer  
*The Ghost Writer* by John Harwood  
*Sixty Lights* by Gail Jones  
*The White Earth* by Andrew McGahan  
*The Marsh Birds* by Eva Sallis  
*The Last Ride* by Denise Young

### \$10,000 Award for innovation

*<More or Less Than> 1-100* by MTC Cronin  
*The Lost Thoughts of Soldiers* by Delia Falconer  
*The Bone House* by Beverley Farmer  
*East of Time* by Jacob G. Rosenberg

### \$15,000 Award for non-fiction

*Papunya: A Place Made After the Story* by Geoffrey Bardon (deceased) and James Bardon  
*Twilight of Love* by Robert Dessaix  
*Joe Cinque's Consolation* by Helen Garner  
*Professional Savages* by Roslyn Poignant  
*Velocity* by Mandy Sayer

### \$15,000 John Bray poetry award

*Wolf Notes* by Judith Beveridge  
*Walking to Point Clear* by David Brooks  
*Totem* by Luke Davies  
*Friendly Fire* by Jennifer Maiden  
*Freehold* by Geoff Page  
*The Well Mouth* by Phillip Salom

### \$10,000 Jill Blewett Playwright's award for the creative development of a playscript by a South Australian

*Black Crow Lullabies* by Duncan Graham  
*The Uncharted Hour* by Finegan Kruckemeyer  
*The Sea Bride* by Caleb Lewis

### \$10,000 Award for an unpublished manuscript by a SA emerging writer to be published by Wakefield Press

*Life Before Plastic* by Libby Angel  
*Black Dust Dancing* by Tracy Crisp  
*Anthems for Before* by Sonja Dechian  
*The Quakers* by Rachel Hennessy  
*Play the Devil* by Henry Sheppard

### And now we return to our regular programming ...

**Jenny Opie's** book *Simple Truths* was published by Axiom at the end of last year. Samela Harris gave it four stars and a delightful review in *The Advertiser* (Review section). She said it falls into every and no category, but labelled it "Fables".

**Alice Sladdin** won the Adelaide University's 2005 Bundy Prize for Poetry for 'Old Dog' which can be found in the special collections section of the Barr Smith Library.

**James Dalgarno** won *The Advertiser* Summer Short Story Competition. He also had his poem 'Embrace of Light' published in *Yellow Moon* Issue 18, summer 2005.

**Lyndell Joy Morkunas** was awarded first prize in the Whyalla Poetry Competition for her poem 'A Dream'.

**Zenda Vecchio's** short story 'Phone Box' was published in *Tamba*, issue 37. This issue also features a book review of her short story collection *Children at the Gate*, published by Ginninderra Press. Her short story 'Baby Crying' was published in the Jan/Feb issue of *Quadrant*.

**Fleur Lewis's** short story 'Bicycle' has been accepted for publication in the next edition of *Going Down Swinging*. Last year, she also had several poems published in *Positive Words*.

*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*

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Adelaide writer **Katerina Arnaoutopoulos** is celebrating a year of literary achievement, with the young Greek-Australian winning in both state and national writing awards. The 30 year-old took out the Multicultural Award in the 2005 South Australian 'Mad About Poetry' Festival with her piece 'Kori Mou', and most recently won the CJ Dennis Commendation Award for 'The Women of Souli'. Katerina is appealing to a new generation who would prefer to decorate their walls with words than necessarily fill their bookshelves. "My pieces are designed to be displayed rather than hidden within the pages of a book," Katerina said. *Pieces: An Exhibition of Written Works* was exhibited at The Natuzzi Parade Food, Wine and Music Festival, in February 2006.

**Graham Rowlands'** poems 'Doing Something' and 'Losing the Melbourne Cup' were published in *Social Alternatives* (24.4) and *The Mozzie* (14.1) respectively.

**Owen Carmichael's** short story 'Making Batik' was published in *The Australian Reader*, December 2005. His travel article 'A Fiery View' was published in *Open Skies*, Emirates Airlines inflight magazine for December 2005.

**Dirk Zadra's** poem 'Waltzing with M.' was published in the February edition of *Overland* Magazine.

**Barbara De Franceschi's** poems 'On the Mundi Mundi Plain' have been published on line in the USA in *Eclectica*. The English editor of *Poems Niederngasse*, (a tri-lingual ezine) accepted another poem called 'The Works of Emile Zola leather bound'. Both are presently on line. She was also featured as 'Meet the Artist' in a new local weekly called *The Barrier Miner*.

Some brag file submissions have been held over until April due to space restrictions.

# Literary Competitions...

**10 March 2006**

Henry Kendall Poetry Award. Open theme max 32 lines. 1st prize \$500. Entry fee \$5. For further info [www.fusionarts.org.au](http://www.fusionarts.org.au)

**24 March 2006**

The Bundaberg Writers' Club competition. Short story to 2500 words. Open theme. 1st prize \$200. Entry fee \$5.

**30 March 2006**

Yellow Moon Seed Pearls. Prose, Haiku, Tanka, Haiku Sequence, Free Verse. Entry for each \$5. Prize money \$45-\$100. [www.yellowmoon.info](http://www.yellowmoon.info)

**31 March 2006**

The Catherine Mary Gilbert Essay Prize. The History Trust of South Australia is keen to stimulate further research and writing about the history of Adelaide and is offering an annual prize of \$1000 for the best essay or article which encompasses any aspect of the history of the city. Best entries will be published. Words: 3000-5000 max. A style guide is available from the History Trust. For more info go to [www.history.sa.gov.au](http://www.history.sa.gov.au) or call 8203 9888.

**31 March 2006**

Midlands Vacation Literary Competition. A. Short Story to 3000 words. B. Poetry to 60 lines. C. Children's Story (written for ages 7-12) to 3000 words. D. Prose (a strange experience) to 1500 words. First prizes \$150-\$200. \$5 each entry.

**13 April 2006**

Greater Dandenong-Ames Writing Awards. Open Short Story up to 3000 words. 1st Prize \$1500. Entry Fee \$10. Open Poetry up to 50 lines. 1st Prize \$800. Entry Fee \$5. Also Teen, Junior, ESL and Eds. Choice. PO Box 200, Dandenong, Vic 3175.

- ☺ 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.

**13 April 2006**

ArtsNet East Gippsland Short Story Competition 2006 Open Theme. Prize: \$100. Entry fee: \$5.50 (Inc GST) Entries are to be previously unpublished original works in English not exceeding 2000 words. Manuscripts must be typed and double-spaced on one side of A4 sheets only. The author's name is not to appear anywhere on the manuscript. A separate sheet is to be supplied providing the title of the story, the author's name and postal and email address. All entries must be received with the entry fee (payable to Arts Network East Gippsland) and a SSAE to be eligible for the competition. The judge's decision is final. Entries meeting the competition criteria to: ArtsNet East Gippsland Short Story Competition, PO Box 1496, Bairnsdale Victoria 3875.

**23 April 2006**

Positive Words Short Story and Poetry Competition 2006 1. Open Short Story up to 2000 words. 2. Open Poetry up to 48 lines. \$2.50 per entry First Prize \$50.00, Second Prize - six months subscription to Positive Words. For entry forms please send SSAE to The Editor, Sandra Lynn Evans, Positive Words, 466 Old Melbourne Road, Traralgon, 3844, Victoria.

**27 April 2006**

Sunshine Coast Writers' Group Inc 14th Annual Short Story and Poetry Competition. Entry forms available from [rjwiseman@bigpond.com](mailto:rjwiseman@bigpond.com)

**30 April 2006**

The Wannabee Publishing Short Story Competition. 1st prize \$500. Open theme to 3000 words. Entry fee \$6.60.

**26 May 2006**

Shoalhaven Literary Award for Poetry. The main prize is \$1,000, plus a two-week residential at the Arthur Boyd Bundanon Centre. There will be 4 secondary prizes of \$200 each. Judges will award up to 5 commendations. The competition is on an open theme; poems must be 50 lines or less. Ph 02 4429 3541 or <http://www.arts.shoalhaven.net.au>

**31 May 2006**

Yellow Moon Nutshell. Cinquain, Poem: Bird, Epigram, Poem: humorous/nonsense, Tetractys. Entry for each \$5 Prize money \$30-\$70. [www.yellowmoon.info](http://www.yellowmoon.info)

**31 May 2006**

Yellow Moon Villanelle Australian and NZ poets only. A villanelle is a nineteen line poem with a fixed structure that encourages lyricism, rather than narrative. Prize money \$100 and publication in Yellow Moon. Entry fee \$5. [www.yellowmoon.info](http://www.yellowmoon.info)

**31 May 2006**

Australasian Poetry Awards. Poem up to 100 lines. Open theme. First \$300; second \$150; third \$50. Entry fee \$5 or \$20 for 5.

**31 May 2006**

KT Publishing 7th Annual Short Story Competition 2006. Theme - Open, Length - 2,000. Prizes - 1st \$350, 2nd \$175 & 3rd \$100 (AUD) Entry Fee - Only AUD\$7.50 per entry. Entry form at <http://www.ktp.com.au> or send SASE to: Annual Competition 2006, PO Box 2011, Inala Heights Qld 4077.

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# Board's Eye View...

## Defining the Pro by Sean Williams

"Eighty percent of success is showing up."  
(Woody Allen)

What makes a writer "professional"? At first glance, that seems an easy question to answer. A pro is someone who earns enough from writing to support him- or herself, through book sales, royalties, speaking engagements, grants or any other source.

This definition, however, is in my view both too narrow and too broad at once. It ignores all but the most successful poets, for instance, and includes advertising copywriters and government speechwriters, who although they do definitely write for a living aren't the sort of scribes covered by the SAWC. Not everyone wants to be "professional" in the monetary sense of the word, and this is reflected in the membership of the SAWC, which embraces writers of all kinds and aspirations. So perhaps a better definition is needed.

In 2003, the SFWA (Science Fiction and Fantasy Writers of America), an international organization of professional science fiction and fantasy writers, attempted to define what exactly they meant by the P-word. Competence wasn't enough, they quickly decided. True pros also exhibited a standard of behaviour that reflected well upon all levels of the field. The SFWA's Board of Directors ultimately proposed a "Code of Professional Ethics" to make such standards explicit.

The Code was not enforceable: it could not, for instance, be applied to determine an aspirant or existing member's qualification. But it does provide interesting guidelines for writers in their

everyday dealings "with each other, their editors and publishers, and the public". The essential elements of the Code – as I see them and in my words – are as follow. A professional writer in any genre should:

- Respect intellectual property. That is, writers should not plagiarise, pirate or pilfer the work of others, or encourage anyone else to do so.
- Honour commitments, both explicit and implicit. That is, writers should enter into contracts in good faith and do their best to fulfil them. These contracts include more than just delivering novels on time. They cover rewrites, appearances and other forms of publicity.
- Deal honestly and courteously with members of the public.
- Refrain from spreading falsehoods, rumours or innuendo with the intention of damaging the careers of other writers.
- Neither seek nor grant unfair advantage. That is, writers should not try to influence editors or reviewers except by the quality of their work.
- Present one's self and one's field in the best possible light.

This list is a condensation of ten original points. Others included respecting other writers' time, privacy and the right to ignore the Code completely, if they chose to. It could be whittled down even further, I'm sure. Ultimately, all social guidelines come back to consideration for those around you, and these are no different. With a healthy dose of respect for colleagues, readers, bookstore staff, and reviewers – for community – I'm certain that all these principles are self-evident.

Where does this leave us on our search for the ultimate definition of a professional writer? Someone who is earning money from writing (not necessarily enough to support oneself, but at least something) and who respects and is respected in turn by those in their field would have a chance of qualifying, in my opinion. But even these two points are insufficient on their own. There is one important consideration that's buried in the assumptions of what we believe a writer to be, one that needs to be teased out and considered before anyone comes close to being a true pro.



A professional writer writes.

Perhaps that sounds like a stupid thing to emphasise at this point. Perhaps it's hard to imagine someone earning money as a writer without actually writing. In fact, it's quite possible. One could be subsisting off foreign or reprint sales of existing works without ever once putting pen to paper. One could have drifted from writing into related industries like teaching, editing or publishing. One could be blocked. These developments are temporary in many cases, but are sometimes permanent. And when they are, the status of "writer" must eventually lapse.

So a professional writer is someone who is actively writing, and being paid to do so. A professional writer is a functional member of the community around them, in whatever fashion suits them. I like to think that a professional writer also makes a point of giving back or paying forward to that community when they can, but I'll admit to some bias there. This composite definition may not help you obtain membership in organisations like SFWA or the ASA, but it will serve you in good stead throughout your writing career.

And ultimately, in the words of Dr Seuss, "Be who you are and say what you feel, because those who mind don't matter and those who matter don't mind."

(For the full SFWA Code of Conduct, see <http://sfwa.org/contracts/code-conduct.htm>.)

*Sean Williams is the author of over sixty published short stories and eighteen novels, including the Books of the Change and (with Shane Dix) the bestselling Evergence and Orphans trilogies. He has co-written three books in the Star Wars: New Jedi Order series and is a multiple recipient of both the Ditmar & Aurealis Awards. For a change of pace, he likes to DJ and cook curries.*

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Credit card number | \_ \_ \_ \_ | \_ \_ \_ \_ | \_ \_ \_ \_ | \_ \_ \_ \_ | Expiry date .....

Cardholder's name ..... Cardholder's signature ..... Date of application .....

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

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**March 2006**

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